

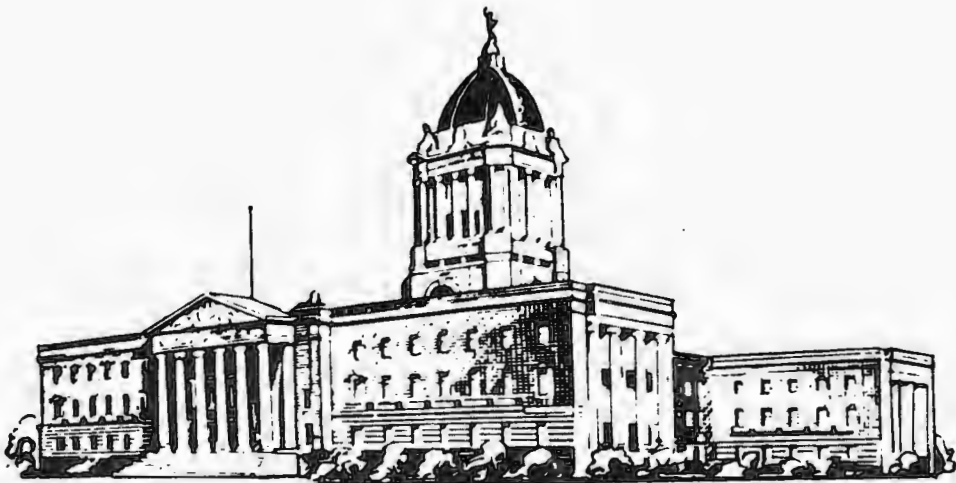


Second Session — Thirty-First Legislature  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

26 Elizabeth II

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8:00 p.m. Monday, May 8, 1978

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA**  
**Monday, May 8, 1978**

**Time: 8:00 p.m.**

**SUPPLY — PUBLIC WORKS**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. James R. Ferguson:** Gentlemen, we now have a quorum and we will be considering Page 71 of your Estimates Book, 3.(d) Purchasing Bureau—pass; 3.(d)(1) Salaries—pass — The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, on (e) could we have the SMYs again? There's been an increase of \$30,000 in Salaries here.

**MR. ENNS:** No, there's an increase of \$18,900 here. Salaries position remains at 42 SMYs, that is 42, 42 — I think I said this just before the supper hour adjournment, I think we passed that.

**MR. DOERN:** No, you're on the wrong item. You're on (d) but we're on (e).

**MR. ENNS:** (e) — The SMY situation here is unchanged at 36 SMYs. The increase of \$29,400 provides for the general salary increase and the annual merit increment.

**MR. DOERN:** Could the Minister indicate, does he have any general comment here about the Materials branch, whether he intends to continue it as is or possibly expand its activities in terms of warehousing, distribution of materials, etc.?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to answer the honourable member's question seriously, I suppose the overall future of the Department of Public Works I see encompassing something that probably the former Minister of Public Works would have liked to see encompassed. In other words, that it could become in fact, the government services department. And therefore I don't see any curtailment or decrease in this thing, and I say this as a Conservative, not because I wish to empire-build, but simply because even in the short time that I've been in this portfolio, that there are different aspects of government service as distant as MDS, for instance, the Manitoba Data Service group, and encompassing totally the purchasing aspects of all government departments which, despite the efforts of the previous Minister — and I don't fault him for that — but simply because of the tenacity of line departments that insist on doing it themselves. I don't see a diminution of the activity of the Materials Branch in this sense and I'm really expanding that to the department as a whole. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I'd say that despite the overall impression that is left by the Lyon administration, I predict a substantial growth in the Department of Public Works.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(e)(1)—pass; 3.(e)(2)—pass; 3.(f)(1)Salaries —pass.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, could we have the SMYs here?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the SMYs in this appropriation are 28. The Estimate for 1977-78 unchanged; for 1978-79, 28 SMYs. There is an increase of \$19,800, provision again for general salary increase, annual merit increment, and we have an addition there due to the installation of the Centrex at the Fort Osborne Complex Funds, for which one SMY was deleted. Just funds again, the SMY position remains.

**MR. DOERN:** Has there been any loss of staff because of automation here? There obviously has in MTS been some reduction in operators, and we have operators working for the Provincial Government. Has there been any reduction because of automation?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I am advised to date that there is none at the present time, but there is a possibility that one position will be lost here.

**MR. DOE:** There has also been a reduction. . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Elmwood. Gentlemen, could I request that you be acknowledged before. . .

**MR. DOERN:** There has been a reduction of staff again, using my figures of \$1,000 to \$1,500.00. The Minister doesn't give us a figure, but he doesn't think it's that large, but there has been some reduction by attrition and some firings in the government. Whatever the percentage is, 10 percent or less, has there been any corresponding reduction in the number of telephones because of the lessening number of staff and some sort of consolidation of existing telephones?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, while there may be some less telephones, it hasn't done away with any

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exchanges and I can categorically state that there has been no firings and no reductions of staff in that manner.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(f)(1)—pass; 3.(f)(2)—pass; 3.(g)(1)Salaries—pass; 3.(g)(2)Other Expenditures—pass — The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, again, could we have the SMYs here again?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(g)?

**MR. DOE:** Yes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Post Office, SMYs are 27.26, no change; the modest increase of \$8,300 represents the usual provision for general salary increase and the annual merit increment. One SMY has not been funded in this Resolution, the SMY position being maintained, however, by the department.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(g)(2)—pass — the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering in terms of policy here, whether the Minister has given any thought to the question of the ever increasing use of private couriers. There seems to always be a number of these pink ladies and zipper services and all these. I'm just wondering whether the Minister has given any thought to either attempting to curtail this or whether he's thinking of instituting possibly a government service that would perform a similar function, because this obviously is a costly factor. It is being used by the Civil Service and being used between departments. Does the Minister know, for example, how much money is being spent in this area? Do we have a ball park figure, and has he given any plans or directions to curtailing it or limiting it, because it's an ever expanding field?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, before I answer that question, perhaps you could, as a general directive, ask some of the members to the left of the table to join the Honourable Member for Elmwood. He does look so lonely there. Thank you, thank you. It appears to add some substance to his questioning. — (Interjection)—

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Kildonan on a point of order.

**MR. FOX:** I'm just wondering whether the Minister's picking on the Member for Elmwood. After all, I was in the room and I was quite able to hear everything that was being said, and I resent having it on the record that the Member for Elmwood is alone — he's not. He's got me here, and a moment ago he had the Member for St. Vital, and we have a P.A. system which lets us all hear, and of course we can always get up to the microphone when we want to speak, so there should be no problem. Now, if that's a concern, I want to put the Minister's heart at rest that everything's under control — no problem.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That's a very good point of order, Mr. Member. Now, we're back to 3.(g)(2). On the same point of order, the Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, on that point, I was merely expressing what I would expect to be an acceptable Christian sense of charity to the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(g)(2)—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I didn't get an answer. I asked a question of the Minister about these pink ladies, etc. Is he going to do something about it?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I admit to exercising a diversionary tactic because I did not want to put the Member for Elmwood on record with agreeing to one of the recommendations of the Task Force, which, whether it's particularly stated in the report, has sent or circularized to the departments the very same concern that the Member for Elmwood now expresses, that is the abuse or the over-use of the special high-priced courier service. I concur with the honourable member, and we have circularized to all ministerial departments, that we should (a) either use the internal means of transmitting information or just use Her Majesty's post office, even acknowledging that that's getting more expensive every day. But nonetheless, I accept the member's question in this regard as being legitimate and I think that ought to be one that the administrative people within the departments ought to consider before they phone up the courier service, sometimes perhaps covering up their own negligence in not getting information out on time, or doing their work on time, and here now I'm chastizing the entire staff. There should be time enough to move that information between

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governmental offices without the use of special courier services.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(g)(2)—pass. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Does the Minister have a figure, a ball-park figure, on the amount of moneys spent on these courier services?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, within the Department of Public Works, we don't as a rule use that service. I think that's a legitimate question for an order for return and we would certainly be prepared to compile that figure for him. I think it's a legitimate question.

**MR. DOERN:** Speaking of orders for return, I just want to clarify something we debated a few days ago, and if the Minister wants an OC, I'll give him one; otherwise if he'll give me an undertaking I won't submit one. And that had to do with the question of vacant space. I'm just wondering, there are certain things I've asked in the last couple of days, I'm just wondering whether the Minister would on his own authority ask for the compilation of vacant space and which buildings and so on and so on, or would it be best for me to submit an order for return?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, it can go either route, but I'm prepared with the staff present to undertake, and I would ask staff to take note of that, that this information will be forthcoming. Now, I would ask the member's indulgence, if it's not forthcoming in due course then he may have to prompt my memory about it, but we have submitted some information. If he needs a redefinition of that we will do that, but there's no problem with supplying that.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, if I could just clarify, I would like . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Just a moment. Let's just stop the dialogue between one another. I think you have to be recognized by the Chair so that the reporting equipment picks it up. The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** If I could have a list of the vacancies and the number of square feet and the buildings in which they are contained?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(g)(2)—pass; 3.(g)(3) Postage—pass; 3.(h)— pass — The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, on Recoverables, I wanted to make a general comment. The Task Force appears to contradict itself in regard to that matter in regard to this department. They talk on one particular page, on 129 of the Task Force under Public Works, about how they want a system for allocating the full costs to user departments and agencies for the services provided to them including rent for the use of facilities provided. So this is what they are pushing, charge-backs, and there are charge-backs in many portions or aspects of Public Works. Yet further on under the section relating to land acquisition on Page 133 they come up with the following quote, "The charge-back system is really just a nuisance to the department and its elimination would produce negligible cost-savings and minimal improvements in the Branch's efficiency." So I say, I don't know what the Minister makes of this. I see this as a direct contradiction and I simply caution him when he's reading the Task Force Report, not to take it too seriously because there are internal inconsistencies.

**MR. ENNS:** The Member for Elmwood, who has some knowledge of my background, will recognize that I will weigh heavily all recommendations made by the Task Force.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(h)—pass. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,957,700 for Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Page by page, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 107: 4.(a) Salaries—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, this is an area of considerable interest to our MLAs, namely the future of the Gimli Industrial Park, and I wonder if the Minister first of all would just give us the SMYs, then I'd like to put a few questions to him.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the allotment of SMYs remains constant at 74. The increase allows for the usual general salary increase and the annual merit increment. There is a decrease of 2 SMYs for which salary hasn't been provided in this . . .

**MR. DOERN:** Two vacancies?

**MR. ENNS:** Two vacancies, yes.

**MR. DOERN:** Can the Minister give us a general statement — well, could he answer this question as

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well. He tells us that there are 74 SMYs, Public Works personnel, etc., on the base. Can he tell us how many private people are employed there?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I am advised that that's a pretty difficult question to answer. I can say in a general way that the overall industrial expansion or use of that facility is encouraging, that if you take it from the first dark days when the armed forces removed their presence from that base, we have a growing list of private and industrial and commercial firms that are operating at the Gimli Industrial Park. We have a problem with it in Public Works; I don't particularly assess that as being my major responsibility in the sense that Industry and Commerce as such has an on-going responsibility. If they in fact wish to be part of the encouragement of the industrial growth at Gimli Park, then they have to be part of it. We have a problem whereby our rental system is still basically subsidizing the entire operation of the Gimli Industrial Park as was the case throughout the tenure of the former Minister of Public Works' responsibility in this area. I can only indicate that we have not made any changes at this time, although there are pressures to bring rental rates, revise them upwards to a more realistic level. I can indicate to the honourable member — and I think it's worthwhile reading into the record some of the activity that is taking place at Gimli Industrial Park. We tend to think that subject to the massive and colossal failure of Saunders Aircraft, for which the people of Manitoba will have to pay for many years, dearly, but nonetheless there have been important strides taken to offset that situation. In total I am advised that we now have upwards of 210 people employed in the private sector in the Gimli Industrial Park.

**MR. DOERN:** That's three times what we have.

**MR. ENNS:** And this involves such diverse situations as the CNR training School, the Gimli Children's Centre, Colonial Sawmill, Dawsco Industries, Global Plastics, Graf-Tech, the Kinsmen Club which runs the recreational hall, Lake Winnipeg Boat Works, EEE of Canada, Ontario Central Airlines Limited, Misawa Homes, Original Wooden Works, Saunders Aircraft is still in there with some employees, and some of them may be gone, this is the list that is being supplied to me at the moment; Shorepoint Village, Thomas Upholstery, VIP Modular Construction, Ano Roofing Services, Cook's Sporting Goods, the Department of Mines and Resources has a complement in there, Gimli Motors, Gimli Motorsports Park, Interlake Aviation, Interlake Avionics, Mid-Canna Para Sports, Northland Freight and Forwarding, Patricia Air Transport, Peter's Northland Missions, Red River Community College has an adult education complement and Aspen Lodge.

So, in other words, the activity at Gimli Industrial Park is there. We hope that it will continue to be there. We hope that we can put it on a base, an economic base that it will in the future not require the subsidization of the Member for Elmwood's hard working constituents in that constituency to pay from their pay cheque to allow an industry to survive in Elmwood. I would just as soon they do it on their own and we are working towards that end.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 4.(a)—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I think that my constituents would rather help support a viable industry like . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Have you asked them lately?

**MR. DOERN:** Rather than support these people on welfare. That I believe is the option. But the Minister is saying that he has some confidence in the Park at least that's the way I understood him, and therefore, even though there is some loss on the yearly balance sheet, that he doesn't intend to either sell the Park in some fashion or close the Park, that he intends to continue to operate it as best he can.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, there will be no fire sales within the Department of Public Works during my tenure of office.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(a)—pass; 4.(b) — the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, just another question here. Does anyone have a figure on the payroll, first of all the Public Works payroll and secondly the private payroll. My figure was it was of the order of \$4 million a year. I don't know if we have any comparable figures there?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, just off hand without consultation staff, the payroll as indicated in the Estimates before you, the individual payroll of the private companies involved in the industrial park are not within my realm of competence to answer. I suppose they could be complied with, but not during this stage of the considerations.

**MR. DOERN:** Just on simple mathematics, it would indicate that the payroll, government payroll is \$937 thousand and since the private sector has three times the number of employees, we could

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assume that the total would probably be of the order of \$4 million, which is pretty vital to the community.

The other question is on the CNR which is a very successful operation, people from all over Canada take their training there, has the CNR construction been completed? I believe there was a \$3 million capital item there for their requirements. Has that now been fully constructed?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the construction is ongoing and will be completed on or about June 27th, towards the latter part of June.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 4.(a)—pass; 4.(b)—pass; 5.(a) Land Acquisition (1) Salaries—pass— the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Could we have the SMYs there, there's an increase of \$35,000 for Salaries, could we have a breakdown?

**MR. WALDING:** On a point of order, did we pass the resolution for No. 4.—107?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I may have neglected that, 4.(a), 4.(b)—pass; yes, they were all passed. The total of \$1,695,800.00. Okay, now 5, 5.(a) Land Acquisition Branch (1) Salaries —pass;

**MR. DOERN:** Could we have the SMY breakdown?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the SMY breakdown in this division is 48.26, that has remained unchanged. That was the SMY allocation for the year 1977-78. The same is being asked for the year 1978-79 for an increase of \$29,900, provides again for the general salary increase in the annual merit increment. No vacancies in this appropriation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 5.(a)(2)—pass; 5.(3)—pass; Item (b) Land Value Appraisal Commission (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Selkirk.

**MR. PAWLEY:** My question is one the Minister may not be able to deal with, I don't know, but in the proceedings under the Land Acquisition Branch, in preparation for the hearings before the Land Value Appraisal Commission, usually the owner that has his land being expropriated hires a private accredited land appraiser in order to provide a counter appraisal to that which is being provided by the government. My information is to the effect that the accredited land appraisers doing the work for the private land owner find that they cannot get the work sheets or the field sheets from our municipal assessors — that's why I say it may not be the proper area to deal with it — but it is creating a problem in obtaining all the full and complete information for the Land Value Appraisal Commission hearings, insofar as the owner, the one that is affected, obtaining that type of information.

I see no prejudice to the government in opening up all its files wherever they be so there can be the fullest co-operation. I don't see where the government is being prejudiced by making available field sheets from its files, so that all the information can be made available to both the government agency and to the owner for a fair hearing. I just would wonder how the Minister would feel about that type of situation.

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

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm prompted to ask the honourable member a question, as a lawyer dealing for instance, in a criminal case in law in the courts, does he expect the opposition, the Crown Attorney, to provide him with dossier of all the material gathered, so that he can present a better case?

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

**MR. PAWLEY:** Could I answer that please? What has happened, and in fact I'm pleased to say that during the period I was Attorney General, and the present Attorney General is wisely carrying on, is a system of pre-trial disclosure in which all pertinent information is disclosed, in that way and the advise that I'm receiving, is that both the Crown and the accused are saving a great deal of time and money, full disclosure. Because, it's not a game of trickery, it's really a situation by which all pertinent information should be set on the table.

For instance, in the very type of situation the Minister referred to, if the identity of the parties is not in doubt, then it should be freely acknowledged before trial. If the Crown puts on the table all its information then frequently its found that there is no need for a trial. The matter is dealt with in a preliminary fashion, eliminating a great deal of time and money. You know, Mr. Chairman, traditionally the attitude of the Crown has been in criminal matters to some way or other feel that it's a tug-of-war, and you keep back certain information, but it's been found, not only in Manitoba but

throughout Canada now, that it's better to provide all pertinent information, cutting down on time and money. And, I would think the same principle — I'm glad the Minister has raised the example he did — I think the same principle should be applied here and money could be saved for both government and the private sector without hurting anyone, as long as there's full and complete disclosure, I see no problem. Why can't we all work with facts, why does there have to be some sort of chess game.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, firstly, the appraisal made by the Land Value Appraisal Commission, is binding only on the government in the sense that it sets the seal of approval, of being what is considered to be a reasonable and fair compensation for land being expropriated. It is not binding on the party that the land is being expropriated from, and in no way does it inhibit that party from pursuing his recourse to the courts to argue any findings of the Land Value, or any decision of the Land Value Appraisal Commission.

But, Mr. Chairman, I'd rather, if I can, suggest to the honourable Member for Selkirk that it's my intention to open up the Land Acquisition Act during the course of this session for some amendments, and the points raised by the Honourable Member for Selkirk I would invite and suggest are valid points to be argued in the House when that bill is being reviewed. The honourable member has been a member long enough to realize that even though we may open the bill to what the department may consider minor amendments, it does open up the bill, and I might say the amendments being proposed are not so minor. There will be, in my judgment, the opportunity for a relatively major discussion of how the public, in the name of the government, acquires land — it will be open for that kind of a debate within the House. And, I, not to curtail the member's comments tonight at this committee stage, suggest to him in all sincerity that that opportunity will be there to raise those matters with respect to the manner and way in which the public acquires land.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate very much what the honourable member has indicated and I am pleased to hear that the Act will be reopened.

With respect to the particular comment relating to the question I raised, the problem with appeal is that if the party is taken by surprise at the Land Value Appraisal Commission with information they didn't have before and they haven't had an opportunity to refute that information, then in fact we are driving parties to appeal to other courts, which is really not what any of us would want. Our courts are clogged up sufficiently as it is. Where if there is full disclosure, then there is less likelihood that it requires adjudication by higher courts in order to deal with the findings, in this case, by the Land Value Appraisal Commission.

Secondly, I want to ask the Minister — and I shouldn't reflect upon my own profession — I can't help but wonder if sometimes the costs that are awarded, legal costs that are awarded, taxed. I was somewhat concerned during the final period of our term in government when I saw a tax bill of costs that was allowed re the legal fees of a lawyer acting for a landowner. If there is need of some tightening up there, if in fact the Provincial Treasury is not paying a lot of money out to the legal profession, well the legal profession may in fact be operating under some abuse? Now, I don't know whether they are or not, but I do believe that it is an area that should be examined as to potential abuse.

Another area that I would like to just ask the Minister as well for his comments. Did the Member for Wolseley agree with me? Another area that I wonder about is that I do believe that there are instances when landowners successfully process their land toward a rezoning, knowing full well that the expropriation process is underway, thus upping the price of the land, thus costing the Crown much more. I believe that this has been quite a problem. It seems to me that our planning authorities have to exercise tighter control in respect to this type of situation.

Secondly, I want to ask the Minister whether or not the Land Value Commission is still operating on the basis of trying to dicker out negotiated settlements prior to the filing of the Notices of Expropriation, because in that process they tend to up the value of the land? The Notice of Expropriation, as you know, determines the value as of the date that notice is filed in the Land Titles Office, whereas the dickering and processing through negotiations can up the price before the notice is filed, to the detriment of the provincial treasury. I think it was changed, I think the process was changed in 1976 or 1977 but I am wondering if that still is the process by which the notice is filed first, the negotiations take place afterwards, rather than as had been the case for a number of years, negotiation and then notice and thus the inflating of the value of the land because of the dickering that had taken place.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I will take most seriously the advise from the former Attorney-General that some monitoring of the charges that sometimes occur when members of his profession are involved in the transaction of lands take place. I think that is appropriate advice that I am receiving from the Member for Selkirk.

In the bigger question of the method of notice, the entire procedure of government's intention when they begin to express an interest in a property, and the then domino effect of what the member indicated that then gets parlayed through different means to in effect increase, through various means, either through rezoning tactics, which I again remind the honourable member, is usually spurred on and often encouraged by the use of good counsel.

**MR. PAWLEY:** In which the Crown pays a legal bill for it.

**MR. ENNS:** In which the Crown pays the legal bill for it. No, Mr. Chairman, I find myself in a great deal of empathy with whatever the Member for Selkirk is saying right now. I can only say that there is the kind of double responsibility, I suppose, on the Crown to on the one hand — just as the honourable member argued just a little while ago with respect to providing full and complete information to such a body as the Land Value Appraisal Commission — that, where does the fine line come? A moment ago the member argued that whether it is government or municipal offices, should open up their files completely to all parties with respect to whatever plans municipal authorities or government authorities, provincial government authorities had, with respect to certain properties. He said that without that you were not really giving the property owner a full and fair opportunity to present his case before that kind of a tribunal.

Well, what the honourable member is now suggesting is that in some way — whether it is an awkward way or not — by predicting the potential use, or serving notice of the government's intention to acquire or want to acquire certain lands, without the formal Notice of Expropriation coming first of all, that that in effect is driving up needlessly the price to the public purse for those lands. I would have to suggest to the honourable member that it is rather difficult to have it both ways, that if in fact plans are within the municipal offices or within the Department of Highways or Water Control to effect certain public works in this particular area, and I have some empathy for that position, to make that known in public to those persons that that will have an effect in terms of their position vis-a-vis a body such as the Land Value Appraisal Board. But I ask the member to reconsider just the contradiction within his own statements of a moment or two ago. He is now suggesting to me that we should tighten up our Act somehow or other and not forecast by way of notice in advance government intentions or use of certain lands because it does precisely what the member says it does, it escalates the cost up.

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

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I want to, in response to the Minister, and I understand the comments made by him, but I do believe that there is a difference between release of fact and release of intention. I believe that intentions are one thing, but actual facts, actual information is another thing. I do believe that there is very little excuse at any time to hold to one's chest actual facts, because if you do some will know and some will not know, and some information will leak out to certain individuals, other individuals will remain ignorant and will be prejudiced, but if the policy is that all factual information is available then none are prejudiced. I believe that factual information should be released fully after the notice is actually filed.

I say this for another reason, and I would like to refer to an incident which occurred in the honourable member's own constituency back in 1965 I believe it was when the Hydro transmission lines were built in the Warren district. I recall Hydro dickering with various land owners, and some land owners sold ahead of other land owners, and those that were tougher in the negotiations, and this happens from time to time still, and I don't want to be critical of the land value appraisal people because I know that their job is a tough one, but some land owners realized a much better sum per acre than other land owners. The end result of it was that some that had signed, if I recall, earlier for a lower price, then found that neighbours had realized a larger price, were so bitter, the Minister can recall — I believe there was one gentlemen, I know the man's name and I won't mention it publicly, who threw himself in front of the bulldozer when the bulldozer was going to enter upon his property because he felt that he had been rooked signing an agreement then finding out his neighbours were realizing a much larger sum. I think the Minister recalls the incident that I'm referring to.

Now, if notices had been filed all at the same time affecting all the land owners in that area, they would have all felt that they were being treated alike. So that that land owner that was toughest to deal with wouldn't end up with a larger sum than the other land owner that had tried to be very reasonable with the government and then find that by his reasonableness he was being taken. So in fairness to all it's best that the notice, I think, be served, the intention be served, all at the same time so all are treated alike in the first instance, then the information is then made available with full disclosure after that date.

I am not saying that I'm right, I'm just saying to the Minister that I do believe these are areas that should be examined. I believe in fairness to the Land Acquisition Branch, I believe for the last year or two they have filed notices ahead of the negotiation process. Mr. Brako may know from the Highways Department. I just wanted some confirmation that they were still following that practice because it had not been the practice prior to, I believe, 1976 or 1977.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, it's difficult not to accept the Member for Selkirk's advice as being good advice as given. I would perhaps just expand to this extent, that I have not been happy, in fact in 1968 attempted to do something about it, that is to bring under the authority of the Land Acquisition Branch the total responsibility when the public, in the name of the government, you know the immediate line departments of government and its agencies in fact acquires land under one agency which at least has, right or wrong, but has a tendency of treating all land owners in the same uniform



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manner. That is, bringing such agencies as Telephones and Hydro, which are presently excluded from the Land Acquisition Branch, under the jurisdiction of the Land Acquisition Branch, which would at least resolve some of the difficulties that we come into, where in some instances, and I particularly mention the example that the honourable member mentioned, where you have within the course of a year Highways expropriating some land, Water Control expropriating some land, and doing that under the cover and the control of the Land Acquisition Branch; then you have Hydro identified in the public as government, requiring some land, but they do it outside of the jurisdiction of the Land Acquisition people. And very often they are in there to acquire the land as quickly as they can, and don't operate under the same rules that apply when Highways expropriates lands or when Water Control expropriates lands, or you know, the Department of Education or any other line functioning department of government expropriates lands.

Mr. Chairman, I go so far as to invite the honourable member to perhaps support me in my amendments to The Land Acquisition Act, to indeed bring all acquisition of land by government and its agencies under one agency, namely Land Acquisition Branch, so that these anomalies that occur can be lessened. I concur with the honourable member's comments that there have been incidents, but I am sure the Honourable Member for Selkirk will also particularly concur that they arrive mainly in the area of Hydro acquiring land, not so much Highways for instance, which is another major acquisitioner of land. We are totally under the jurisdiction of the Land Acquisition Branch and the Land Value Appraisal Commission and although we acquire land no easier than any other agency of government, but in total I think perhaps more openly and with more facts being displayed.

On the question that the honourable member raises with respect to fuller disclosure of facts, I again tend to agree with the member, and I'll ask the department to review our practices in that manner.

**MR. PAWLEY:** I just want to emphasize that it really spills into the Department of Municipal Affairs — and I don't want the Minister to interpret it as a criticism of his department re release of information — really spills into the Municipal Affairs Department, the Assessment Branch, insofar as these work sheets are concerned.

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

**MR. WILSON:** Well, I would be remiss if I didn't say how delighted I am that two senior members who have watched these land appraisal people work for a number of years agree that something has to be done. I don't have to go back to 1960, I can think of how ill it makes me when I think of the disclosure not only by the former Minister when a number of rumors started that we were going to build an Autopac building and a garage and a number of other things which led to a new breed in the legal profession — they call them ambulance chasers — who were able to stir up the people and cost the taxpayers a great deal of money. Even our late and former mayor and his future partner in the log business, the now Leader of the Opposition, who let the politicians go to the public forum and announce the Trizec Development and cut ribbons before the notices had even been served, causing the taxpayers to lose another 4 or 5 or 6 million dollars or maybe even greater. How a commercial desert, which I had the pleasure to work in for eight years, all of a sudden there seemed to be bricks under the mortar and I can't help but think that the cost of the Trizec garage would have been a lot less, so the fault is not solely with the land value appraisal people, the politicians have to take some brunt of the responsibility for making public statements before the notices are filed. I can't help but think that if we are going to do something, we do have members of the legal profession making all sorts of money out of the particular mistake that is made by intention versus fact or political ideas saying that we're going to build an Autopac building here, all of a sudden the Brunswick Hotel which was possibly half empty becomes full and the beer all of a sudden the volume sales go up and leases are signed for 10-20 years.

**A MEMBER:** You can't trust free enterprisers.

**MR. WILSON:** Well, the point is, to the former Minister of Public Works, part of the problem may have been with his announcement of the \$50 million development and part of the problem may have been the massive hard-hat production at Portage and Main before the notices had been served with Trizec, and these are the kind of things that I've watched Mr. Nugent and Mr. Arenson make, both their clients and themselves, very handsome legal fees by getting this advance information.

So, I am very pleased that our new Minister is going to look into this and I look forward to lending any information I have to see that we don't, and maybe we'll serve notice tonight that we, the political people that are in power now, are going to see that it doesn't happen and I'm delighted.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 5.(b)(1)—pass —The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister again on this item on staff — I assume that there are only two employees in the LVAC and yet there is a \$1,400 reduction in salary, what is the present staffing complement and how can there be a reduction in salary?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm simply advised that a secretarial position was filled that was vacated and hired at the bottom rung of the salary.

**MR. DOERN:** So, there is a director and an executive secretary, and a secretary?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 5.(b)(1)—pass; (b)(2)—pass; (b)(3)—pass; Resolution 107—pass: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,695,800 for

Public Works—pass. 8Resolution 10, 6.(a) Fire Code Upgrading—pass — The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, this is a fairly big topic and I would like to get an update. I know the Minister gave us a brief outline the other day, but I have a number of questions for him here, and I wonder if he could start again. I asked him the other day for a copy of his statement as to where the money will be spent, but there is a \$5 million figure here. I have a number of questions concerning it. Could he tell us which institutions will be upgraded and give us a general breakdown, at least of the largest expenditures.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the honourable member to perhaps avail himself of Hansard. I do not have a specific dollar cost that is being allocated to the individual institutions other than the specific \$750,000 allocation to the East Grove improvement at the Portage Home for the Retardates. I can tell the honourable member just this, that we have very rough Estimates that the costs of providing the kind of service that we are talking about, the installation of sprinkler services runs at roughly \$1.10 per square foot. That depends again on site service and the water available. It depends on whether or not fire pump installation is necessary, and it depends on some of the cost of any special zoning features that may be applicable to any particular installation.

The Department has a further 10 percent location factor, but what that means, if the honourable member wants to, and I'm repeating this so that the honourable member can have it on Hansard, he need not worry about the figures right now, but we're looking at servicing at these costs, of \$1.10 per square foot, of some 360,000 square feet at the Portage home, a further 340,000 at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre and some 410,000 square feet at the Brandon Mental Health Centre. These being the major ones.

I indicated in my opening statements, and I would ask again the member to refer to Hansard those statements made with respect to the Headingley Correctional Institute, which is being handled by in-house staff. There are still some negotiations taking place with the officers or the officials of the department as to what precisely the requirements are. I indicated to the committee that we have a difficulty with the electric alarm system being tied into the sprinkler system. These negotiations are on going. These are the three major areas for which we are trying to meet the initial Fire Commissioner's recommendations of installation of fast and easy exit for the inmates and the installation of early warning systems, smoke detectors or sprinkler alarm systems. I have given the honourable member the rough estimated cost by the department as coming in at roughly \$1.10 per square foot. I've indicated the square footage that we are involved with and I think he can transpose them into the total dollars that we are involved with.

I said at the beginning, the \$5 million obviously don't cover these requirements, but I'm advised by staff and by the department and I remind the honourable member, the same staff, the same department that advised him for the last 7 or 8 years that physically speaking, this is what the department realistically thinks we can do in terms of actually getting contracts out, getting tenders out and getting the work done.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, just on that very last comment, the Minister has given me about one million square feet, roughly one third, one third, one third, at Portage, Selkirk and Brandon, at about \$1.10. So, it's about \$1 million for those institutions. Is the Minister saying that there is in smaller bits and pieces another \$4 million worth. I mean am I to believe that these are the largest, but that there is another 4 million square feet lying around in bits and pieces that they are going to do? I think we own 6 million square feet, you are not surely going to do it all.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I have heard around this committee table during our last sitting, and indeed today, in the House at Question Period, the the Member for Elmwood expressing great concern, indeed one might say, Mr. Chairman, with tears running down his cheek, about those poor underprivileged people that he has shown such a tremendous concern for as of late, namely the architects. The architects who after all are you might say at the lowest rung of the economic ladder in the society of Manitoba, and he expressed such deep concern about their welfare. I would have to say to begin with, there is at least another one million plus involved in designing the work that I've just referred to. Furthermore, these figures that I read to you, the \$1.10 per square foot, relates only to the installation of the sprinkler system, it has nothing to do with the additional requirements such as smoke detectors or fast and easy exit, the provision of fire doors, the provision of fire exits, the provision of the numerous — and they are numerous and voluminous — recommendations of the Fire Commissioner's Code.

I think I also indicated, I thought I was being reasonably fair, for instance, the \$750,000 that is being earmarked — probably one of the first project of the East Grove Centre, very little of that can really be attributable to actual fire commissioner's recommendations. It essentially is, while it serves

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in the greater and general sense of allowing us to depopulate the second floor and giving us room while we're making some of these changes otherwise, but if the Honourable Member for Elmwood would ask me, this \$750,000 that is coming under this \$1 million, very little of that is directly attributable to Fire Commissioner Codes recommendations.

So, these are some of the areas that I do not wish to belabour, I do not wish to stonewall the Honourable Member for Elmwood with, I just ask his indulgence, recognizing the immense problems and the responsibilities that he left on my frail and weak shoulders when he chose to abdicate that responsibility for reasons I know not why. But here they are, and I have to work with them and I'm doing my very humble best.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 108, 6.(a)—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, you know, I must say that I do have some concern for architects and I must tell the Minister quite frankly that he is being referred to outside the House as hardhearted Harry

**MR. ENNS:** That's better than hardhearted Hanna because I would be going against Anita Bryant then in front of the Convention Centre.

**MR. DOERN:** But I have quite a few questions that flow from the Minister's, comments here. He is telling us now that out of this \$5 million figure, that about \$1 million of this is for Portage, Selkirk and Brandon for sprinkler systems. My recollection is that the Fire Commissioner did not recommend that these buildings be fully sprinklered. That I suppose is the Cadillac version as the Minister is so inclined to indicate. I would like to know whether the Minister is sort of on his own deciding whether all of this property should be sprinklered, etc., etc., etc., because you know, I tell him that I went through a great deal in terms of trying to dig into this question of fire safety and fire protection. The level of protection starts in the following way; the best protection against fire is people, they are the front line of defence because they can sense fire, they can detect fire, they can save lives under those circumstances.

Sprinkler systems are fine. They are very good. They sometimes malfunction. They sometimes don't work at all. But it seemed the best kind of fire protection that one could have would be — let us say in addition to certain types of panic hardware etc. — smoke detectors seem to be excellent for either the home or the institution, and of course a 24-hour a day staff cannot be beaten. Nothing has been found to equal human beings in that particular area. So, my first question here to the Minister is you are spending over a million dollars in the three institutions, is this in line with a recommendation of the Fire Commissioner, because when I was Minister my understanding was that there were certain people who wanted to sprinkler everything. There were other people — I'm talking now about Fire Commissioners' staff — who took the position that if there was 24-hour staff sprinklers were not needed and that smoke detectors were very effective in the prevention of fires and loss of life.

So I ask him, is he acting on his own, making his own judgment, or is this a new recommendation of the Fire Commissioner that he is complying with?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, to begin with our advice is that in some instances the Fire Code doesn't give us a great deal of latitude, and that is the alternatives that the Honourable Member for Elmwood suggests that we can put off, complying with certain physical requirements by the Fire Code can be met simply with additional staff. Our information is such that that is not the case. The fact of the matter is that the code is there and has to be complied with. Further information is that the route of going through a sprinkler system covers the greatest number of the Fire Commissioner's recommendations in the most economical way.

But even more than that, I would have to be the first one to agree that there are of course the people immediately involved with the institution, and let me refer specifically to the Portage Home. The professionals, the people who are involved day in and day out and the unfortunate plight of those people in that institution, quite frankly don't want to see us spend a dime at that institution. They want to see us de-institutionalize the population at Portage. They want us to go to community homes and they will not be thankful to this Minister or this government for spending \$750,000 at East Grove. They see that as money being not wisely spent and I put that candidly on the record.

The difficulty between their position and my position is that I have to, to the best of my ability, cope with the situation, to hope that my colleague, the Minister of Health, will in his program be able to further that program — with which we have no quarrel — and have proceeded with at least the one home that caused a great deal of publicity during the last five or six months — I am referring to the home on Shaftsbury. The efforts of de-populating Portage are ones that I am in accord with and thus I find no difficulty accepting the advice from my department in saying let's take that route which will cover most of the ground and spending the least money, because I do not see, and I concur with the professionals involved that the final answer isn't in maintaining the present population at the Portage Home for Retardates. I think that some of our difficulties if we de-populate — but we can't de-populate until we have the alternate residences available to them — but when that program begins to take effect over the next year or two, it is difficult for me to ask the government or ask the taxpayers of Manitoba to put multi-millions of dollars into upgrading to the final degree a facility that the very

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people who are using it, say is outdated, both from a professional point of view and from a physical point of view.

So, Mr. Chairman, those are my comments about the situation generally.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, again, just so I understand this completely then, you are intending to spend \$5 million. Most of the money will be spent at Portage, Selkirk and Brandon and this will be for complete sprinklering — Headingley as well — complete sprinklering, smoke detectors, fire doors, etc. etc. etc., and those institutions that I mentioned comprise, what, 80 or 90 percent of the \$5 million?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, with the exception — and I would defer, I may not be entirely clear on this — but I believe that the Department of Health has an additional amount of money scheduled in their appropriations. I'm being waved off from the side benches here but it was my understanding that — well, you know, I am trying to be as candid and as honest as I can be. I am being asked for a total expenditure. It appears to me, my recollection in going through the Estimates schedule, that there were some moneys set aside in the Department of Health, which I would ask the honourable member to pursue in the Department of Health's Estimates. But insofar as the Department of Public Works is concerned, and I note the honourable member is noting that and he will now nail my good friend and colleague, Bud Sherman . . .

**MR. DOERN:** You will get part of the credit, though.

**MR. ENNS:** . . . but at least refer him to the source, that is, the Minister of Public Works. But within these Estimates, we have set aside as a realistic figure of dollars that we can physically spend, the sum of \$5 million, and we have prioritized them in those institutions that the honourable member has mentioned, with the addition of Headingley and I think there was the School for the Deaf. Again, I think, if I can refer the honourable member to some of the earlier comments that are recorded in Hansard, he will have the complete record of those.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 6.(a)—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, is the Minister telling us that he intends to spend \$5 million in those institutions in the next fiscal year? Is that a realistic objective or will it be spread over several years?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I am advised, and I repeat for the third time, and let me put on a political hat for a moment . . .

**MR. DOERN:** I didn't think you took it off.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, it has just been off to the side of my halo. The fact of the matter is, having put the former Minister of Public Works through the wringer on this particular subject matter during the election, you know, I would just appeal to him as a man of reason, as a man of some understanding of what the political process is all about — can you not imagine the pressure that has been put on me by my feisty little Leader, saying, "For God's sake, get to work on the Fire Commissioner's reports," and we have done that. We have received, as the member knows the global figures are massive — the global figures run into figures of \$48 million, \$50 million, \$60 million — that we have to expend to bring total compliance within the Manitoba Fire Code Act. This is why there is no attempt being made by this Minister saying that by spending these \$5 million, that all public buildings will be in compliance with The Fire Code Act. That is not happening.

But I am also advised that in a physical sense, in terms of getting the work done and getting the architectural work done, getting the design work done, \$5 million is a reasonable figure of what we hope to keep, that staff that the member questioned a little while ago is what they are doing, because we are not building Woodsworth Buildings these days.

**MR. DOERN:** You are leasing them, you're not building them.

**MR. ENNS:** Or Autopac Buildings these days. That's a great deal of the work that the staff is going to be doing. I will tell the member quite frankly, and I will tell the committee quite frankly, if the staff would have indicated to me that \$7 million or \$8 million ought to be expended, then I would have gone for that.

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

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I am not finished yet, I think I still have the floor.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Very well, the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** The Minister just gave us a figure which I intended to ask for and that is that by

spending \$5 million, he is only scratching the total requirement throughout the system, that the total requirement — he threw out a figure and I don't know if he stands by that — he said, "Forty, fifty, sixty million dollars may be required." Is that his estimate of what would be required to put government-owned properties up to complete compliance with the new Fire Code? Is it that high?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I can't go on record as Minister of Public Works as saying definitively that that is the figure. All I know is that I am not attempting to pass off the \$5 million as being full compliance with the Fire Commissioner's Code. I have had estimates ranging to those levels. Now, the Fire Commissioner's office will indicate that there is a fair amount of leeway and variances allowed and the Fire Code itself permits appeals to be made to the Fire Code's rulings, as the member knows, and what might appear as a major expense could be offset as, in fact, the member himself suggested a little while ago, by perhaps adding staff in one instance or by changing the operational procedure of a building or by doing a number of things.

But I am not backing away from the fact that in total it could be substantial dollars that we are talking about and, you know, just at first flush, when faced in the early occupancy of this office and the department, in just kind of going through the buildings that we occupy and the responsibilities that we have for these buildings, these kind of figures were talked about.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that a great deal of care and discretion will have to go into this particular item. I assume that the Minister is intent on meeting these requirements of the new Fire Code but that he is also not going into a panic response, that he is also at the same time attempting to prioritize what he is doing and to discuss with people, say, in the case of the institutions, future requirements and needs and uses and so on, because in spite of this dramatic attempt, the Minister is telling us that he is still only able to attempt, with a \$5 million expenditure, which is a considerable amount of capital, he is still only able to attempt maybe 10 percent of the total requirement. The sad fact remains that at this point in time, and I know he would freely admit this, that he is in fact in violation of the Fire Code. If you want to take the Fire Code as it is written today and say that if we applied this rigidly right across the board, then — (Interjection) — Yes, you would close up most of the buildings operated by the province. Therefore, the Minister is of course aware of this, that he is presently in violation of the new code.

And I simply make this point which I made earlier, that if he were so unfortunate, as was the case when I was the Minister, to be hit by a case of arson, under the right circumstances, and people die, then he will be tagged as well with being responsible for not complying with the Fire Code because he was not meeting certain requirements of the Fire Code and will be condemned for it. That is a risk that he runs, that I ran, and that any other Minister responsible for that portfolio will run.

Can the Minister indicate what he intends to do in succeeding years? Is he going to go at the rate of \$5 million a year, or is this the main priority now and then once this is met — I doubt seriously myself whether the department can spend that \$5 million in the next fiscal year. I would suspect it's going to take a couple of years to implement, but does the Minister have any projections for the future in terms of what he intends to do after this? Is he going to maintain a \$5 million expenditure each year or is he going to maybe do a lesser amount in succeeding years?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I think what the dedication of the \$5 million really means is that certainly there was an option open to me and to the new government, and I welcome the opportunity of making this very clear and I regret that initially, perhaps through my own inadvertent remarks that I might have made, I suggested of course a solution to this. And that is revising the Manitoba Fire Codes Law and making it less stringent. The option that we have chosen is to run the risk, as the Honourable Member for Elmwood correctly points out, of in fact being in violation of the fire code during that time period that we are attempting to comply with it within our fiscal capacity. I want to make it very clear we are not tampering, or changing, or suggesting, or putting pressure on the Fire Commissioner's office to in any way modify or reduce the standards set by the legislation that was passed by the previous administration. But what we are doing, and we are getting the co-operation of the Fire Commissioner's office, that only so much can be done under reasonable circumstances, and we are working in close co-operation with the Fire Commissioner's office, and the staff of the Department of Public Works to achieve these changes. Now I can't comment further on that.

The member's remarks are taken in the manner in which they're given. He's quite right that if an unfortunate situation should occur, that I may well be in the same position that he was in last summer. All I can say is that within the physical means of the department, and I believe even during a period of restraint, the dedication of \$5 million is substantial and not to be slighted in any way as our dedication to trying to bring government buildings and institutions into compliance with the Fire Commissioner's recommendations. We make no apologies for it, we have prioritized the area that we're going to place those dollars into, namely into those places, those institutions that house unfortunate people that are either bed-ridden or, in forced inhousement such as Headingley, or mentally deficient, that they receive our first priority.

Now that means a lot of other buildings, including I might say, this building, this building which is in contravention of the Fire Codes Commission. Does the committee suggest that we should adjourn for the next nine years and resume this session ten years hence when I get this building under compliance with the Fire Commissioner's Code? That would make it much easier for me to fulfill the prediction that, of course, this present Conservative government is going to be in office for sixteen years.

**MR. DOERN:** If there's no election.

**MR. ENNS:** Because if I don't see you for another ten years. . .

**MR. DOERN:** Providing there's no election.

**MR. ENNS:** If I don't see you for another ten years to resume discussion in this building then it won't be that hard, but you can go from the ridiculous to the sublime, but the seriousness of this is that we are putting \$5 million into a program to try to meet the Fire Commissioner's . . .

**MR. DOERN:** I have two more questions before I yield the floor to my colleague here. We spent apparently some \$7 million on maintenance at the Portage Home during our administration, \$7 million on maintenance and I don't have a figure on the amount of money that was spent on fire code up-grading, new code or old code. I just wonder if the Minister happened to have a figure of how many hundreds of thousands, or millions, were spent on upgrading in regard to fire prevention, safety, etc.

**MR. ENNS:** I'll have to take that question as notice, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. DOERN:** A final question at this point is it's important that even with that \$5 million expenditure that there not be a reduction in staff vis-a-vis fire protection. I'm just wondering if the Minister is aware of whether or not the staffing levels will be maintained in relation to fire safety or whether there will be any reduction because of his expenditure?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm advised insofar as the Department of Public Works responsibility, our staffing will be maintained at present and existing levels. The greater question of staffing would have to be asked of the Minister directly responsible, the Minister of Health.

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

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we began the Estimates for this particular department, opposition members were asking about the matter of capital carry-over and Minister did give an indication that when we reached this item he might be in a position to enlighten us on the amount of capital carry-over and how much extra capital was going to be spent this year that does not appear under this particular appropriation. Can the Minister now tell us how much is going to be spent under this heading that does not appear in the Estimates Book?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I believe I indicated these figures to the Honourable Member for St. Johns in an earlier session of the committee when I, in my usual gracious manner, was allowing a great deal of latitude in terms of questioning even though the question should be asked at this particular point in time, which I now acknowledge the Member for St. Vital asking at the appropriate time. But. . .

**MR. WALDING:** So, what's the answer?

**MR. ENNS:** The total amount of monies that have been allocated in the carry-over capital is \$4,801,314.79, and I also indicated at that time that there is a further submission currently before Management Committee of Cabinet for approval of a further amount of \$941,000 and that comprises the total of \$5,742,000 that there is an intention to spend in addition to the Estimates from capital carry-over.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, the \$4.8 million that the Minister mentioned, is that spending authority or is that borrowing authority, or is that money that the Minister intends to spend or both.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm saying this is money that has been raised under various loan acts dating back from 1973. In 1973 the Loan Act provided us with some \$15 in 1974 some \$410 thousand; in 1975 \$102 thousand; in 1976 \$1,233,000,000 and in 1977 \$3,039 carry-over capital, and this figure comprises the total of \$5,700,000 of carry-over capital of which at the moment, \$4.8 million is committed to specific projects. Am I right gentlemen? To specific projects of the nature which I spelled out in my initial remarks, Stedman School Berens River, you know, the different capital projects I mentioned in my opening remarks.

There's a further submission of 941 that is before Management Committee at this time.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, is any of that \$4.8 million scheduled to be spent under 6.(a) Fire Code Upgrading.

**MR. ENNS:** No.

**MR. WALDING:** Can I then go on to the matter of the Portage Home, Mr. Chairman, and raise first of all the matter of the three-quarters of a million dollars for the renovation of East Grove. That was the figure that was given to our Caucus members when we paid a visit to the school earlier this year. We were taken on a tour of the premises and shown East Grove. I presume that the Minister also has been out there and has seen what East Grove is, and what the damage done by the fire is, however, maybe some of his colleagues may not be aware of East Grove and the fire that was there. What we're talking about there is a room that's perhaps half as long as this, maybe a shade wider and about as high, a very sturdily built structure, but we're talking about one room. The interior is quite badly damaged by fire particularly at one end of it, but the room itself is structurally sound. Is the Minister satisfied that three quarters of a million dollars is a proper amount of money to spend to renovate one room? I understand that there were approximately a dozen boys resident within that room. The room is big enough to accommodate, at a guess maybe double that number but it's not presently in use, of course. For a sum that would purchase maybe ten or fifteen suburban homes in the Winnipeg area, does the Minister consider that to be a reasonable amount to refurbish one room at the Portage Home?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not satisfied that that is in the total picture perhaps the most appropriate way of spending those moneys, but I am satisfied that there is no immediate suitable alternative, partly by the pressures placed on us by the Fire Commissioner's office, partly by the time lag that it takes to develop these — you know the Honourable Member for St. Vital can say to me, fine, three quarters of a million dollars will provide ten or fifteen residential homes, and I think I try to recognize that that indeed is the route that I think we ought to be going. But, firstly, I'm not the Minister of Health, I'm not the Minister charged with that immediate responsibility. I don't mean to say this in any way of criticism of my colleague the Minister of Health. I'm saying as indeed the former administration experienced, one does not simply create these homes overnight. It creates staffing problems, it creates community acceptance of these homes and members of this committee know whereof I speak, it takes a great deal of effort to bring about this depopulation, this de-institutionalizing of this kind of facility. The Department of Public Works is responding in the way that it has been asked to respond by the client department, in this case the Department of Health.

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

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, I realize that we have an overlap here of two different departments, and I will tell the Minister that when I went out there and received this tour of the whole complex and saw East Grove, I didn't think it was worth putting \$750,000 to renovate that room. The Minister is probably aware that the staff up there consider that an appropriate use for East Grove would be for a storage area, that the room could be cleaned up and cleared away and put into use as a storage area, for which there is need, at a far less amount than three-quarters of a million dollars.

It brings up the much wider question of the government's policy of the Portage School. Now, the Minister of Public Works may not have the main responsibility or authority in that area, but as a member of Cabinet he shares the responsibility for the government's policy in deciding on the future of the whole Portage School. The Minister is probably aware that at one time that that complex housed up to 1,350 residents, that that is a number that has been slowly decreasing, partly because of opening community residences and it's now down in the region of 900 residents with a staff of about 700 people I am told; that the buildings vary anywhere from five years old to maybe 50 years old; that the fire problems in the oldest parts of the complex are very severe when you have no means of access to the second or third floor but a very narrow stairway, and that the residents up there who can only be moved out in the event of a fire, by actually picking up their mattresses and trying to manoeuvre them down a very narrow stairway, it's an instance of what the staff there are up against.

There seems to be a very major policy area to be decided upon by the government whether they are to go the whole route of implementing the Fire Commissioner's Report to keep the complex where it is and in use as it presently is, foreseeing a population of 900 residents or even more, or whether there is on the other hand going to be an attempt to gradually bring down that 900 figure in which case perhaps less space will be needed and perhaps less buildings will be needed.

Maybe the Minister can tell us what the government's policy is in this regard, whether it in fact wants to keep one major provincial institution in a location 65 miles from where most of the relatives and parents of the inmates are, whether he sees some diversification of the facilities there into two or three or more smaller institutions, but still being institutions, because quite obviously, particularly if you have read the report that the staff prepared back in November, that many of the residents simply will never go into community residences, there are only certain categories of residents that can do.

So, depending on the policy that the government decides on will have a very major effect as to the route that involves this Minister in upgrading these buildings or not upgrading them because they simply won't be used in the future, or demolished.

Now, maybe the Minister can tell us the government's policy or maybe they haven't got one yet?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I can simply say that I appreciate the honourable members comments. The remarks were as pertinent 7 years ago or 6 or 5 or 4 or 3 years ago, the 8 years that he

was a member of government, that of course action could have been taken in this instance, but I don't say that in a provocative way. I say we regrettably have had focus directed towards this particular institution as a result of an unfortunate incident this last summer. The Department of Public Works, let me make it very clear, is not the principal department in setting the policy with this respect, as the member acknowledges and appreciates. We are there to attempt to accommodate interim responses. Let me put it on the record that the dollars referred to is not just the refurbishing of this room that the honourable member described graphically as being half the size of this building, it includes the complex. It is an addition to the actual room that's there.

Mr. Chairman, I can't really say much more, other than say that the Department of Public Works, as the former Minister of Public Works is so much aware of, you know, we're always the department that is there to put out the fire kind of thing, and we are literally now responding to some immediate and urgent pressures. We have the responsibility of providing a facility, not necessarily the facility that the people that are running the institution, the professional people there would say is ideal, but to do anything we have to provide a facility where we can house inmates, or residences, pardon me, I shouldn't use that term, residences of the school, while other things are happening. I can indicate to the honourable member that I for one have no difficulty in supporting his point of view that if that downward trend in terms of that population should continue, that efforts shall be and ought to be made and will be made into providing the community residential facilities that the member speaks of. While the \$750,000 may appear to be, you know, a large sum of money being spent for facilities that may be of an interim nature, I'm faced with the same responsibilities that the former Minister was faced with, that is namely to do something. I have been advised by the Department of Health and by my Department of Public Works people that this is what I can do and ought to be doing. I don't hold that up as a panacea for the problem, resolving the problem, not for one moment, but you know we have to do things a step at a time, and I suggest that this is the step that we are trying to take with respect to the Portage Home.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I did hear the Minister to say that he hopes that the trend in reducing the number of residents will continue. I wonder if he could be a little more specific as to the government's policy on this, first of all whether or not there has been a definite policy set by the government as to the future of the Portage School. Do they in fact continue to . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The honourable member who is a veteran of the House and an estimable chairman of many committees of this type, knows that we are here to discuss the Estimates before us and not to deliberate on potential or future policy of the government. When policy is to be changed or policy directions, new policy directions are to be taken, they will be duly and properly announced in the House for the benefit of all Members of the House, not just to the private exclusion of the few members around this committee room.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. Vital on the point of order.

**MR. WALDING:** No, I was about to continue, Mr. Chairman. I will grant that much of what the Minister says, that he is the Minister of Public Works and that we are on the matter having to do with fire code, but I would remind him, as I mentioned before, that the whole future of the Portage School does have a bearing on the matter of fire code upgrading that we have before us. Obviously if, for example one-third of the buildings at Portage were not to be used next year because of a diminution in the number of residents there, then there would seem to be no point in putting sprinklers or smoke alarms or anything else in there. What I am trying to get at from the Minister is first of all whether the government has a policy on the future of the Portage School, and if so, what is it? Will they see an indefinite future for the buildings at Portage? Are they going to be phased out gradually? And if that is the case, is the Minister wasting money by pouring some of this capital into buildings that will not be used?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, we are attempting to respond to the requests of the client department, in this case being the Department of Health and Social Services. Their recommendation to us, obviously based on the fact that for some period of time, there will be a population at the school, hopefully diminishing, because the Minister of Health has also indicated, as I've indicated, support for and belief in the movement towards community residence for these people that are currently housed at an institution such as Portage. Based on their recommendations to us we have the dual responsibility of what the Member for Elmwood said, like today, never mind tomorrow, I'm responsible for whoever is housed in that institution, and we have to respond to it.

**MR. WALDING:** Can I ask the Minister what responsibility the Department of Public Works has for either acquiring or running any new community residences that might be set up through the Portage School?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not capable of answering that kind of a question or those kinds of questions. I think the member recognizes that those questions have to be directed towards the responsible Minister.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I'm asking the Minister if he, as the Minister of Public Works, has any



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responsibility towards acquiring or setting up community residences?

**MR. ENNS:** No. We will assume responsibility when we get a request from the appropriate department to acquire a building, to manage the building, or if need be build one, but that's where our responsibility begins not prior to that.

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

**MR. BROWN:** Are you completed?

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

**MR. WALDING:** No, I had a couple of more questions. Is the Minister presently in receipt of any requests for setting up or obtaining housing for the use of community residences?

**MR. ENNS:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, can I then ask the Minister if the government has any policy regarding the future of the Portage School?

**MR. ENNS:** I am sorry I didn't get the . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Would the Member for St. Vital please repeat the his question.

**MR. WALDING:** I would like to ask the Minister if the government has any policy regarding the future of Portage School?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, we have a great deal of policy regarding the future of the Portage School and we will tell you at the appropriate time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** MThe Honourable eMember for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was a little disappointed. I thought that the Member for St. Vital was going to ask that East Grove be reinstated to the level that it was before, but he did not do this. But, I just was at a meeting very recently with the CAMR, and they certainly are not recommending any more money being spent on East Grove and as already was mentioned previously, they are recommending de-institutionalizing rather than institutionalizing. And, of course, this would change the Portage Home situation drastically, and I know that many meetings have been going on in the recent weeks with the CAMR, with the Minister of Health, and I don't know if the Minister of Public Works attended these, but they are trying to arrive at some possible solution as far as the Portage Home is concerned, which would possibly be of benefit to all concerned without spending too much money on needless renovations.

These were my comments. I thought the member was going to ask that East Grove be instituted to its previous level.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Thank you , the Honourable Member Rhineland, for your comments.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Thank you , the Honourable Member for Rhineland, ffor your comments. Mr. Chairman, both the Minister and I are claiming the Member for Rhineland at the moment.

I had a couple of specifics yet under this particular item, but I wanted to make this one point. Last August, the First Minister when he was leader of the official opposition attacked our administration . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Fine fellow, hell of a fine fellow. /

**MR. DOERN:** . . . regarding the Portage School and regarding fire safety, and said that we couldn't find the few thousand dollars it would take to lessen the danger to the lives of persons who are unable to fend for themselves and so on and so on. I simply make this point, that he talked then of a few thousand dollars, and today we're getting the actual figures out, and the figures appear to be of the following order, \$750,000 for the specific building that burned in the fire for one room, in that building that burned in the fire, \$750,000.00. According to Dr. Lowther, \$4 million to \$6 million to do Portage. Now, I would like to get an explanation there of how it is that the Director of the school claims a figure of \$4 million to \$6 million for the Manitoba Home at Portage, and yet the present Minister gives us a figure of probably anywhere from \$300,000 to \$1 million, if I could sort of assume that he's given us a

number of institutions and about a quarter or so of them would be allocated to Portage. He's obviously giving us a figure of around a million. If Dr. Lowther is talking \$4 million to \$6 million, and then the Minister's giving us a complete figure of what it would cost of \$40, \$50, \$60 million to do the Provincial Buildings.

Now, I say that when we look back into August of 1977, the First Minister, Mr. Lyon, at that time was talking of a few thousand dollars, when in fact, he wasn't aware of the fact that it would cost millions of dollars to bring provincial institutions up, and that even given a will and a desire and fiscal responsibility or not, it would still take a number of years to implement that program. If I take the present Minister at his word, it sounds as if it's going to take about \$5 million a year for a 10-year period to bring everything up to scratch. So, I'd simply point out that the Honourable Sterling Lyon at that point in time did not know what he was talking about. He was not aware of what a costly and time-consuming job this would be. It wasn't a case of a few thousand dollars.

I then ask the Minister if he can reconcile Dr. Lowther's figures which he gave to the Member for St. Vital and myself — he talked about architectural estimates of \$4 million to \$6 million for Portage — if he can reconcile that with his own figures of probably about a million dollars to put it up to scratch?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Well I think the difference probably indicates that the government doesn't foresee the necessity or the desirability of rebuilding the Portage Institute as such to house the 1,000 or 1,200 patients in a fully rebuilt building that will meet compliance of all health and fire code recommendations. I think that's probably the difference in the figures right there without announcing policy, that the difference is that we are doing what we have to do, foreseeing the day that the desired results that the Member for Rhineland spoke about, the Member for St. Vital spoke about, will in effect take place. We'll perhaps look at Portage as a temporary home for perhaps 400 or 500 patients, rather than the 1,000 that are presently there, as a clearing house, while the people can be placed into what the mental health people are asking us to do, you know, into residential homes.

I can foresee the continued need for a central facility for patients being placed prior to their being quartered or put into residences after staff has had some experience as to terms of their disability, terms of their capability and where they can be fitted into with different groups, smaller groups of 12 or 14, or 15 people which can bring about a compatible situation in these residential homes. But, I can always foresee the need for a central institution where this process takes place. Now I would say, and I'm not, you know. . . what the hell am I talking here as Minister of Public Works as though I'm a child psychologist or a doctor, or something like that, or replacing Dr. Lowther? I don't know what I'm talking about but I can see the need for some facility where somebody, professionals in the field, make these determinations.

So, when Dr. Lowther says it takes \$5 million or \$6 million to refurbish the whole facility as is, I don't dispute that figure, but he has not forecast and Dr. Lowther does not make government policy. In fact, I think what our figure forecasts, is tacit recognition of the direction that the people intimately and directly concerned, including the parents and the professionals who want to see us going.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 6.(a)—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I have a couple more questions here and then after that I would suggest to the Committee, and we can wait until that point in time, but I would suggest to the Committee that we conclude after a few more questions, because I can assure you there are a couple more hours, which I'm sure we can easily finish tomorrow, on the capital. There are quite a few projects I'd like to go over in detail, so I'd like to just get some answers to these questions and then I intend to move that the committee rise.

In regard to the Fire Code upgrading, in regard to The Pas Jail, there were some tremendous speeches made in Cabinet about moving on The Pas jail, that were made by the former Minister of Labour. He had a speech which characterizes the charred bodies speech, about the dangers of that particular institution and so on, and I was just wondering if the Minister had any comment about the existing The Pas jail in terms of when we might anticipate. . . —(Interjection) — The old Minister of Labour, not the new Minister of Labour. The Pas jail is really a fire-trap in the classical sense, an absolute fire-trap, one of the worst in the Province of Manitoba, and I'm just wondering if the Minister can indicate when there might be some action on that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I was not privy to those torrent days of the previous Cabinet meetings, when fiery speeches were being made with respect to the facility at The Pas. All I can answer to the honourable member is that again, the Department of Public Works responds to the requests and direction of its client departments, in this case, again it's perhaps a combination of the Attorney-General's office with respect to the Court House at The Pas which is part of the complex, and the Minister responsible for Corrections.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, doesn't the Minister receive copies of the Fire Commissioner's reports, and in so reading them and being responsible for them, he has to act on those reports.

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**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I can't say that I've been a recipient of a report since my term of office. I undoubtedly expect that some have come in the last little while, but my staff advise me that I haven't had one during my term of office. That's not to deny the general description and the problems that we have in the situation. We also are operating under licence, if you will, under acknowledgment of temporary status, with the temporary facilities that were moved in some time ago, and until the question is resolved by the appropriate departments, the Department of Public Works is not in the power to make policy in this direction. We have, as the honourable member is aware of, a tender that's been received and acted upon and we're ready to build.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, a final question on this section. On the environmental lab, is the Minister aware of the fact that he is in violation of the fire code or he has a situation which is not a very desirable situation, which has been going on for years, probably prior to our administration, through our administration, and now into the present, whereby there is a lab on the top floor of the Norquay Building where there are materials which are not necessarily desirable to be close proximity to people in an office in complex, and does he plan to take any action to get that lab out? The most intelligent action being to commence completion of the environmental lab. What is he going to do about the lab in the Norquay Building?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, upon completion of the new environmental lab we expect to remedy that problem.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to pass 6.(a) and then I intend to move that the committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** . . . Item 6.(a)—pass

**MR. DOERN:** Committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is it the will of the committee to rise?

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, if I could just make a comment, I assure the committee I have at least two hours more of questioning, so I therefore recommend that we finish tomorrow night, rather than go past midnight. So, I move that committee rise.

**MOTION presented and lost.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 6.(b).

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, could we have a recorded vote. I'd like to know what the vote is.

**A COUNTED VOTE** was taken, the results being as follows:

Yeas 2, Nays 7.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Very well. Item 6.(b)—pass . . .

**MR. DOERN:** All right, Mr. Chairman, if you want two hours or more of debate, I'm prepared to dig in and keep going, so you better sit tight. I'm not joking.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 6.(b)—pass. . .

**MR. DOERN:** Okay, let's start with 6.(b), Mr. Chairman.

**A MEMBER:** We have passed it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** There are about 10 buildings that I would like to go through very carefully and let's start at the beginning.

Okay, the Environmental Lab. Can the Minister bring us up to date on where the Lab is in terms of construction or in terms of what his plans are to complete the Lab?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, further contracts have been awarded . . .

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I bring to your notice that there is not a quorum present in the committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Eight. There's a quorum, can't you count?

**MR. DOERN:** We need 10.

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**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That's a quorum; it's that metric that gets you every time, you know.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that according to the rules, you are required to note those members present. . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That is correct.

**MR. WALDING:** . . . and recess, retire, rise, whatever.

**MR. ENNS:** We will have a quorum count by the Clerk, please.

**MR. CLERK:** Eight.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I declare there is no quorum. Committee rise.

### **SUPPLY - EDUCATION**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would direct the honourable members to page 28, Department of Education, Resolution 48, Clause 6. Universities Grants Commission. 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

**MR. JAY COWAN:** I would ask the Honourable Minister if he could, for my own edification, explain exactly how the funding to the Inter-Universities North Program comes about under this specific section?

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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Churchill, the government, as I am sure he now understands, gives the Universities Grants Commission a sum of money each year to operate the Universities and the programs that they in turn operate, and Inter-Universities North is one of those programs.

**MR. COWAN:** I note in the report of the Universities Grants Commission that it lists several other programs for the last year along with Inter-Universities North and I am wondering if the Minister could inform us as to what funds those programs are getting for this upcoming year?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, that is at the discretion of the Universities Grants Commission. I suppose I could enquire from the Commission and get that information for the Member, but that is certainly at the discretion of the Universities Grants Commission.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, I would appreciate if the Minister would get that information for me. Can he tell me at this time, we know that the funding for Inter-Universities North for this year has been cut, can he inform me if any of the other programs under that Section, and I am looking for it right at the moment here, have been cut also?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the Universities Grants Commission has cut several of the programs in order to meet their budget requirements.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Honourable Minister then inform me as to the substance or the nature of those cuts?

**MR. COSENS:** Once again, Mr. Chairman, that would have to be in the information that I would get from the Universities Grants Commission as to what action they took in that regard. As I mentioned before that is completely within their discretion. They receive a sum of money, they make those particular decisions.

**MR. COWAN:** Well, I would hope that the Minister would try to clarify those questions for me. What I am attempting to do in this case, Mr. Chairman, is to determine as to whether or not the Inter-Universities North Program has been singled out by way of reduced funding and without knowing the funding that was allocated to the other support programs it comes under in the Budget, the Computer Network and the Unicom, without knowing what funding they got, it would be hard for me to determine as to whether this one particular cutback is a specific singling out of a northern program, or whether it is a general cutback, but I note that the Universities Grants Commission got an increase of three percent in funding for this year over the previous year. And yet this Program in the beginning was initially cut back, entirely eliminated. I quote from a News Service release dated March 10th, the last sentence says, "Several small programs operated through or by the Commission including the Inter-Universities North Program have been eliminated." And then I see on a News

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Service dated March 31st, that the Program would be limited, but that it would continue to some extent. I am wondering if the Minister could explain the obvious contradiction or what happened in the meantime to make that Program continue?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Churchill, an attempt to clarify the situation in this regard — on making enquiries to the Grants Commission I found out that originally in their cuts in their particular budget, the Inter-Universities North Program had been cut with the understanding that the Universities through their extension services would provide university courses in the north and in the rural areas as they have been accustomed to do to some extent. However in view of the budget received by the Universities it was their decision not to extend their Extension Program and as a result the Universities Grants Commission reconsidered, rather than seeing the delivery of courses to the north cut off completely, and did in turn find some moneys for that particular Program.

**MR. COWAN:** Are these Extension Services that the Minister speaks of now, were they programs that were funded last year that were cut off this year, or were they new programs that were to be begun under his administration?

I am not quite clear, Mr. Chairman, on the sort of thing that the Member for Churchill is referring to. I wonder if he could be more specific.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be more specific. I am not quite clear myself so we may muddle through this, but I am sure we will get to the bottom of it soon enough.

Those Programs that the Minister mentioned by way of Extension Programs going into the north to allow northerners to take advantage of the University system, which is by far and large based in the south, were those Programs ongoing programs for a number of years now, or were they new Programs that were to be initiated under the Minister's direction as part of the new administration?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, my understanding that Programs have been carried out through the Extension Service of the University for some years, so I suppose by the definition of the Member for Churchill, these would be ongoing Programs in that each year they deliver so many courses in the rural parts of the province.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister will have to excuse me because while he was going through that one part of his statment before I was trying to compile my notes here and I might have misunderstood him, I would just like to check. Did he say that those Extension Programs were being cancelled for this year?

**MR. COSENS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I did not say they are being cancelled. It is quite possible they will be limited, that is at the discretion of the Universities once again, how many courses they deliver and in what location they deliver these courses.

**MR. COWAN:** Could the Minister then undertake to find out the limitations, if there are any, of these courses going up into the north this year under his administration as compared with the course that went up in previous years?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, that might be somewhat difficult as once again that is at the discretion of the universities and whether they, at this point, have determined the number of courses and the locations, I would find that rather difficult to determine at this point myself whether they have that determination made. I know it depends on the demand that they receive, the number of potential students in a particular area as to the courses that they offer throughout the province.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm somewhat concerned here that we can't get this specific information and I'm concerned because of what has happened to educational opportunities in the north since your administration, your government took office. I'm concerned because first we saw Focus being totally eliminated, which was an educational program, experimental in nature for the most part but serving some needs in northern communities, and we saw the Native Extension Services also eliminated under your administration. And we saw an attempt to eliminate the Inter-Universities North Program and I'm wondering if the Minister could take time out for just a philosophical statement of some sort because I find these specific eliminations to be contradictory to his professed concerns for the needs of northerns and I'd like him to explain how he, in his own mind, reconciles the fact that they are cutting out, hacking away some of what some of us consider to be the better educational programs for the north and yet, at the same time, defining a need, accepting a need and declaring that they intend to fill that need.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, once again I think the Member for Churchill has to realize the rather unique situation of the universities as opposed to the government. They operate much differently than any other particular branch or part of our province in that they are at arms length from the government in their operation. I can tell him personally if he wants to talk about philosophy, that I do consider that it's essential that university courses be offered in the north; I'm concerned that teachers in the north have that opportunity to take university courses during the winter in particular when they don't have an opportunity to get out to take those courses and I'm concerned that those

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courses would be available to them. But the amount of courses that are offered, the type of courses that are offered, are at the discretion of the Universities Grants Commission and the universities.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, is the Honourable Minister then saying that he has no influence whatsoever over the internal allocations of this funding to the Universities Grants Commission?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I suppose the government has no influence other than the amount of money that it gives to the Universities Grants Commission which, I suppose, in some way has some effect on the programs at the universities.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister have us believe then that his administration coming in in late October, one of the first actions they do is to eliminate the Focus Program in the north, an educational northern program; one of the next actions that takes place is elimination of Native Extension Services, another educational northern program and that operating in a vacuum on the side, the Universities Grants Commission at the same time decides on their own after 6, 7, 8, 9 years of existence that they are going to cut out the Inter-Universities North Program. He's telling me that this is just a coincidence?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm telling the Member for Churchill that the decisions made as to university programs and so on are made by the Universities Grants Commission.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Minister is telling me — I would just like him to reaffirm that he is telling me that the Universities Grants Commission took the action of eliminating the Inter-Universities North Program on their own without any mandate or any direction from the government.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I would state that the answer to the Member for Churchill is emphatically yes.

**MR. COWAN:** Then can the Minister stand up also and tell me that the reinstatement, partial or limited as it may be, of the Inter-Universities North Program was also taken without any direction from himself or any of his other Ministers or his government?

**MR. COSENS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think I attempted to clarify that matter earlier. On inquiry to the Grants Commission as to what had happened there, I was told that they had originally planned that that type of course delivery would be handled through the Extension Services and when they found out that that was not going to be possible, then they did consider an alternative and I believe it's some \$120,000 that they found that could be used for this purpose in the year coming.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like at this point read a very short statement from the Thompson Citizen dated March 27th, Monday, in regard to the Inter-Universities North Program and it is entitled "Inter-Universities North to Continue on Limited Basis." The last paragraph goes on to say, "Northern Affairs Minister, Ken MacMaster, told the Citizen on Thursday that he had not been satisfied with earlier statements that despite the cutoff of IUN funds, the three universities involved in the program could continue to offer courses individually in the north. He said that he and the Education Minister met with the Grants Commission during the past week and reached an agreement on the continuation of the Inter-Universities North Program next year."

Now, is the Honourable Minister telling me that this did not happen?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, there was no meeting between the Minister of Northern Affairs and myself with the Grants Commission. I, at different times, have been in contact with the Grants Commission on matters that affect the university where the Grants Commission feels it necessary to come in contact with the government but certainly no meeting in that regard.

**MR. COWAN:** Well, now I'm confused. Now I'm confused because I've got this statement here from the — (Interjection) — It's a statement from the Minister of Northern Affairs, Mr. Ken MacMaster, who told the Citizen, now perhaps the paper is incorrectly quoting him but it seems such a substantial statement, and coming in the wake of all the controversy and the protests about Inter-Universities North, and coupled with the fact that when we had this program discontinued, eliminated on March 10th, there was quite an uproar from the north. There was protests from almost every community that had been serviced by Inter-Universities North. There was protests in this House as to the elimination and cutbacks in the program. It became, so to speak, a hot potato in the hands of the new government. On March 23rd or 22nd, I am not sure of the exact date, a full week before this Information News Service release stated that the program was going to continue on a limited basis, we also have in the Thompson Citizen an article concerning Inter-Universities North. I'll read just a the first couple of paragraphs of that if I can, Mr. Chairman. It says, "A phone interview with Churchill MP, Cecil Smith, last night offered hope that the IUN Program would be continued. Smith commented that he was very upset when he heard that the IUN might be discontinued." Just as the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs was very upset, just as I am sure the Minister of Education was upset, I know I was upset, my colleagues in the north were upset, and a good three-quarters of

the north was upset.

Mr. Smith continued. He said it was one of the better programs in the north, and I am sure that all those that I mentioned in the previous sentence agree with that also, that it was one of the better programs in the north. Smith said that he had been in constant contact with the Provincial Cabinet and has been assured that the IUN Program will be retained on the basis of need, that is, of course, it will not be offered for two people. He went on to say that the government is looking for money to put into the program and an announcement will be made within a week's time. The Northern Affairs Minister Ken MacMaster could not be reached for comment.

Now, again we could question the validity of a news article in a written press as saying perhaps the reporter had misinterpreted what the Member of Parliament said, but this is taken directly from a phone interview, which I did not have the opportunity to hear, but which many of my constituents and many of my friends in the north, had an opportunity to hear, and they have assured me that it is substantially correct.

So Now we have a non-political organization, the Universities Grants Commission, eliminating a program on a non-political basis, on their own deciding to obviously follow the example of the government and hack away at some of our best northern educational programs, and we are told that they are doing on their own without any sort of direction, without any sort of interference from the politicians and then. . .

**MR. MCKENZIE:** How can you speak for Canada, you were only down here two weeks before the election?

**MR. COWAN:** I would be perfectly willing to sit, Mr. Chairman, and let the Member for Roblin have the floor and I would be perfectly willing to sit and listen to him comment on where I came from and when.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** I'd sure like to know how you can be an expert, you only were here two weeks before the election.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Would the Honourable Member for Churchill continue.

**MR. COWAN:** I would be pleased to continue, Mr. Chairman, if you could quiet down the Member for Roblin so that I could continue in some manner of peace on this side of the House.

I would ask the Minister then to explain why a non-political issue, why the Universities Grants Commission that operates outside of the realm of partisan politics, outside of the realm of this government, would supply information to the Member of Parliament, Cecil Smith, in regard to the continuation of the Inter-Universities North Program.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, in regard to this particular matter, I am informed that Mr. Cecil Smith at no time was in contact with the Universities Grants Commission so if, in fact, he received the particular information that the Member for Churchill mentions, perhaps he received it from the Minister of Northern Affairs who I understand that he confers with a great deal. They certainly have mutual concerns.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows on a point of order.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I'm just rising on a point of order. It's not up to me to indicate to you how to run the affairs of this committee but I do have the distinct impression that the Honourable Member for Roblin has a contribution which he wishes to make to this debate.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 68—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you Member for Burrows. We'll continue on with this. I'm somewhat concerned that either a lot of misinformation is being put forth before the public or a lot of people are speaking out of hand. I am wondering just who gave the indication to the politician, either the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs or to Cecil Smith, the indication that Inter-Universities North Program would be continued on a limited basis? Their information seems to be substantially correct so we can rule out that they are just making things up out of their own mind and presenting it to the public as fact. The information does seem to be essentially correct, therefore, they must have a source and I'm wondering who that source would be.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Churchill, I can assure him that Mr. Smith was not in contact with me and I understand he was not in contact with the Universities Grants Commission so I would speculate just as much as the Member for Churchill as to where he might get his information.

**MR. COWAN:** Mr. Chairman, I am trying awfully hard not to speculate but I am trying to pin down because I think that there is an issue at hand here which is important to the continuation of the Inter-

Universities North Program. If the Inter-Universities North Program has become a political football then its continuation is not on the basis of need or on the basis of the service that it gives but its continuation is on the basis of fulfilling some political need at a specific time. Now, as much as I want to see the program continue, I want to see the program continue because it is a good program and I want the Minister's assurances that the program is continuing on that basis because it is a program that is serving a need and it is a program that is filling a vacuum of educational, university opportunities for northerners. I'd like his assurance at this time on that if I could.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I have no hesitation in telling the Member for Churchill that should a situation arise next year where the Universities Grants Commission and the universities decide that they do not have the funds to continue this program, that the province in fact will attempt to continue the program so that these courses are delivered in the north. I would hope that that type of guarantee would, to some extent, satisfy the concerns of the Member for Churchill.

**MR. COWAN:** I'm to understand from the Honourable Minister then that if the Universities Grants Commission should independently decide that for the next year, or within the next year, that they would not fund the Inter-Universities North Program, that the province would step in and fund those programs on an ongoing basis.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think I said words to that extent, yes, that if the Universities Grants Commission made the decision — and they have every right to make that decision — that they were not going to fund such programs then I have given the Member for Churchill the guarantee that it then would become the obligation of the province to see that such courses were delivered in the north.

**MR. COWAN:** Then I would ask the Minister that if he would be willing to continue those programs, would he be willing to continue them on the basis of last year's allocations which was in the neighbourhood of \$270,000 or this year's funding which is in the neighbourhood of \$120,000 — he can correct me if my figures are wrong.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, we will certainly review that particular situation and take a very careful look at the demand and the need in the northern communities for this type of university course and the funding I would then hope would come close to meeting that particular need.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well the need has been apparent for some time now and has been filled for some time now. I don't think that the Minister — and I'm not telling him how to do his job — but I would think that the obvious procedure for him would be to look at the past needs and look at the population base which is remaining substantially the same if not somewhat lower and to say that those programs should continue on the basis of the previous year which was a higher funding. I would ask him for a commitment to that particular aspect, that he will continue the programs on the basis of the \$270,000, \$300,000 funding for one year.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, at this time I can't make a definitive commitment a year from now. I think I've given the Member for Churchill the commitment that we will certainly see that courses are delivered in the north. The extent, the scope of those courses will have to be left to our discretion after careful review and consultation with the people in those communities.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad the Minister is finally coming around to the philosophy of reviewing and consulting with the people in the communities. I might just ask him, where any of the people in the communities consulted when it was decided to eliminate the Inter-Universities North Program on March 10th?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I have no idea of how the Universities Grants Commission comes to its determinations, what type of process it goes through in making decisions as to what particular economies it will practice or what particular courses it will follow so I can't really give the member the answer to that question.

**MR. COWAN:** Well, while the Honourable Minister is undertaking to answer several of the other questions along the same realm that were asked earlier in the discussion this evening, perhaps he could indicate to us that he would undertake to answer this one question as to whether the Inter-Universities North Program was cut off after consultation with northerners or whether it was cut off with no consultation with northerners?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I can certainly approach the University Grants Commission with that query for the member and ask him as to what type of determination was used.

**MR. COWAN:** I would appreciate that from the Honourable Minister, yes. Can the Honourable Minister, while he is answering questions this evening about the Universities Grants Commission and the Inter-Universities North Program, can he indicate to us any details as to the upcoming program for this year which will be operated on a limited basis, as to what communities it will operate



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in, what courses it will offer those communities, what student body it intends to answer itself to?

**MR. COSENS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I cannot. That is left to the Grants Commission and to the universities to make those determinations.

**MR. COWAN:** There was a press article — and I am looking for it right at the moment — indicating that the Inter-Universities North Program would continue with eleven full-time courses and five part-time courses for a sum total of \$120,000.00. Can the Minister indicate to me if that is substantially correct?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the only part that I know as being correct is the \$120,000.00. As to what determination on courses and locations, I couldn't give him that information.

**MR. COWAN:** As this has been reported in the press and it will take me one minute to find the article, so perhaps one of my colleagues would care to pursue this a bit further, unless the Minister would have the information or access to the information right now as to how many courses there will be?

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

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I am assuming from the questions and I was a couple of minutes late, that the Minister hasn't been able to tell us exactly what the reinstatement of Inter-Universities North means. I have heard from the north and I wonder if the Minister could confirm this, that in fact a good part of that \$120,000 that he talks about is to finish off this year's program, is to cover the rest of the school year program that will finish up whenever the university courses are finishing up north, whether it is June or whether it was just in the first part of the fiscal year, whether or not a good part of that \$120,000 has already been spent, and therefore the amount for the next school year is very significantly reduced — as a matter of fact, there is very little left in the Inter-Universities North account?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the IUN Committee and the Presidents have not decided as yet what courses and where they will be offered.

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

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I don't believe that that was the question and I certainly would appreciate it if the Honourable Minister would respond to the question put to him by the Honourable Member for The Pas. The concern is that most of the \$120,000 will be spent on the program which is being completed during this first part of the fiscal year, which means for the program which either has ended now or will end some time during the month of May or June or whenever it is that the Inter-Universities North academic year ends, and hence very little funds, if any, for the academic year commencing next fall in September, October, or whenever it shall commence.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I understand that we will be hearing probably in about a month's time as to how the Presidents of the Universities are going to spend this money.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Yes, would the Honourable Minister tell the Committee whether the \$120,000 is earmarked to cover the operational expenses, the delivery expenses for the balance of the Inter-Universities North Program for the academic year 1977-78 or whether it is earmarked for the academic year 1978-79, or for both?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I am informed that it is for both.

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

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. In that brief span of time I had opportunity to find the article. It is from The Bulletin, which is published by the University Relations and Information Office, University of Manitoba, dated May 3rd, 1978. In The Bulletin, Page 2, we have an article under the title "Scaled-down Version of IUN Continues." It is the news of how that program is going to continue, comes from no less a source than President Campbell himself, "who reported to the Board of Governors" and I am reading now, "at its April 27th meeting, that Inter-Universities North Program could continue in 1978-79 as a result of a special grant from the Universities Grant Commission, of about \$127,000.00. This will permit the offering of five summer courses, and eleven regular session courses, although the courses and locations have yet to be finalized. Last year the UGC supported the program in the amount of \$247,500, which provided funding for 26.5 courses."

I am wondering if the Minister can indicate that this information is substantially correct or incorrect?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I have no knowledge of the number of courses and so on that may be offered under that particular program. The Member for Churchill is quoting a bulletin or a newspaper article that quotes one of the presidents of the universities, I would assume that if it is quoted

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accurately, then it has some veracity.

**MR. COWAN:** In that case, could the Honourable Minister explain the difference between a regular course under Inter-Universities North Program and a summer course under Inter-Universities North Program?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest a summer course is taken in the summer, a regular course, I suppose, is taken during the winter season.

**MR. COWAN:** I could have assumed that myself and probably would have, given the time. I would ask the Minister then, can we assume that a summer course is of a shorter duration than a regular course is?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, it has been the custom with university courses in this province, that in the summer portion courses are offered over a six-week period. The number of hours in those courses are equivalent to the winter course, a course that spans some seven and one-half months, the regular university season. As far as credit is concerned, as far as number of class hours they are equivalent.

**MR. COWAN:** And I can assume from the Minister's last statement then that a summer course would be of the same number of hours as would a winter course under the Inter-Universities North Program, realizing that the situation may be somewhat different? I am just seeking further clarification on that, that they are in effect the same length of time?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if the Member for Churchill means the same number of lecture hours — yes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

**MR. COWAN:** The same number of lecture hours — is the cost to the Universities Grants Commission the same on a program that is a summer program in respect to a program that is a regular program?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would have to check into that to determine whether they are exactly the same, and of course the instructor would receive essentially the same salary for offering the course. The transportation costs possibly could differ, whereas the summer school course would run daily, one day after another, and the instructor if he had to come in from some distance would remain as opposed to the winter course, where the instructor might leave, come back south and then go up again the next week. There might be some economies achieved through a summer course.

**MR. COWAN:** While on the subject of economies, there has been great mention made throughout this whole public debate, which has been going on for some time now on Inter-Universities North, on economic measures that can be taken in regard to Inter-Universities North to make the program less costly for the Universities Grants Commission, and I'm wondering if the Minister could explain to us just what some of those economies that are being reviewed now are.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, it's with some difficulty I can explain those economies because, once again, this operation is operated through the universities and it is not the position of the government to be telling the universities how they should operate each particular course that they offer, and I think the Member for Churchill seems to have some difficulty in more or less appreciating that particular situation.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have quite a bit of difficulty and I'll explain why I have quite a bit of difficulty in understanding that situation right now because the Minister stands here and assures us that the continuation of the program, that the program itself, that the nature of the program is all up to the Universities Grants Commission and yet we have the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs, Ken MacMaster, giving us announcements as to the program, the continuation or non-continuation of the program. We have the member of parliament for the Churchill Federal constituency, Cecil Smith, giving us information. We have President Campbell giving us information. We have everybody but the Minister who stood up in this House and said that he is the Minister responsible for making announcements for the University Grants Commission in response to a question from the Honourable Minister for The Pas, or the Honourable Member, excuse me — it was wishful thinking on my part, Mr. Chairman. I apologize.

It seems that we have everybody giving announcements as to what this program is, how this program will continue, when and where and how much money will be spent, except for the person who is responsible for giving announcements, which is the Minister.

And when I questioned him here before the House in this committee he tells me that he can't say anything because it's up to the Universities Grants Commission — that they are an independent body

and he is not going to force his views on them in any way, manner whatsoever.

At the same time the Minister of Northern Affairs or the Member of Parliament for Churchill don't seem to have the same reservations because they're in contact with — somewhere they're getting information. Either they're getting information — I see one of the gentlemen opposite shaking their head no — either they're getting information or they're coming up with some awful questionable coincidences.

**MR. JENKINS:** They're clairvoyant.

**MR. COWAN:** Perhaps they're clairvoyant, as the Member for Logan informs me. I don't think they're clairvoyant. I think something is happening here that the Minister is not giving us the full story on, and I would like to get the full story on it. I cannot understand how it is that the Minister of Northern Affairs, can say the program is going to be continued on such and such a basis, the Member of Parliament for Churchill can say the program is going to be continued on such and such a basis, President Campbell can say that the program is going to be continued and tell me how much it's going to be and how many courses and what kind of courses there's going to be, and the Minister responsible for making announcements in regard to the Inter-Universities North Program stands up here and hides behind the independence, or the so-called independence of the Universities Grants Commission. I would like him to explain just how that's happening so that I can perhaps pursue this in a little less confused manner.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Churchill should study the Universities Grants Commission Act. But I would suggest to him that he is quoting one university President, and from what I can gather from Inter-Universities North it was operated by all three universities in Manitoba: The University of Winnipeg, the University of Brandon and the University of Manitoba. So if, in fact, he is quoting from what one university President said about their particular delivery of courses, then I would suggest to him that perhaps he should contact the President of the other two universities involved.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will continue then with the article from the bulletin, May 3rd, where I left off with the last statement, the amount of \$247,500, which provided funding for 26.5 courses.

The next paragraph, Sir, reads, "President Campbell said that three university Presidents" — these are the three university Presidents that the Minister was just giving me a lesson about — "the three university Presidents and Dr. Condo, Chairman of the Universities Grant Commission, met with a delegation of five from the north last week." And it's after that meeting that he came forth with this information that I am reading here into the record as to the number of courses — five summer courses and 11 regular session courses.

So I would suggest to the Minister that I am not reading a statement of one President, but I am reading a statement of one person on behalf of the three Presidents and Dr. Condo himself, and I'm just wondering how it is that they are privy to this information and can make it public, yet the Minister cannot tell the House or inform the House as to the same information.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I suppose they can do it in the same way as the university Presidents can decide what courses they are going to offer in physics this year, or what courses they are going to offer in any particular faculty of their universities — in much the same way. They have that right and it is within the autonomy of the particular university concerned to make those decisions.

**MR. COWAN:** So the Minister is telling me that he is not providing us with the information not because he cannot because it is not known, but because he himself does not know it but that the information is readily available, and that this information that I have read into the record tonight is substantially correct.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would repeat once again that if this information that the Member for Churchill is reading to us comes from the university bulletin and a direct quote of the President's words in regard to a particular program that the university will be offering, I would think that that would be a reasonable indication that they would be offering that program.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past the normal procedure as to deciding what program would be offered in what community was to do a survey of that community. Inter-Universities North would have a community contact person that would prepare a survey that would be presented to the community as a large and those people wishing to answer it would answer it, and the results of that survey would be compiled and then they would pick a course that would be acceptable to that community, to the residents of those communities, and that would apply itself to the needs as perceived by the residents of the communities. And that was the procedure that I believe — and perhaps the Minister can correct me if I'm wrong — I believe that the survey for this year, for this upcoming academic year, had already been completed in the communities serviced by the Inter-Universities North Program and I'd like the Minister either to confirm or deny that.

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**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, once again I don't know what particular activity has been conducted by the universities in that regard.

**MR. COWAN:** Then we can assume that the information I have is basically correct, that the surveys have been completed.

**MR. COSENS:** If the Member for Churchill has received his information from the universities that they have completed a survey then I would suggest, yes, the universities have completed a survey.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify it, I'm sure that the Minister is not misinterpreting what I'm saying; it's probably a bit convoluted but just to clarify it, it is not the universities themselves that do the survey, it is the community resident co-ordinators under the auspices of the Inter-Universities North Program that do those surveys. And that is how the courses are decided.

Now, we have cut down on the number of communities obviously served and we have cut down, also, on the number of courses. And I'm wondering how the Universities Grants Commission is going to decide now which communities will be served by Inter-Universities North Program and which courses will be offered by that program.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I understand in the latest information I've received, that the Grants Commission has a recommended budget from the IUN Committee, which is to be considered at their meeting on May 18th, and I suppose at that time that particular type of determination can be made, the budget having been settled and the determinations, I suppose, then would follow as to what particular situations they would follow.

**MR. COWAN:** Then will they be using the same criteria of need as perceived by the residents of the communities that are serviced by the Inter-Universities North Program?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, that particular determination is up to the Grants Commission and the IUN Committee.

**MR. COWAN:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I apologize to the Honourable Minister. One of my colleagues was talking to me at the moment. Can he repeat that answer, please?

**MR. COSENS:** I would repeat, Mr. Chairman, that that particular determination would be left up to the IUN Committee and the Universities Grants Commission.

**MR. COWAN:** So it's conceivable then that we have taken the responsibility for deciding what courses will be given in certain communities, . . . out of the hands of northerners, and put that responsibility into the hands of a select committee in Winnipeg or Brandon, or at least in the southern part of the province.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, that type of speculation, of course, precludes the fact that the IUN Committee probably has northerners on it. —(Interjection)— That's what he's . . .

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Honourable Minister inform me as to who are the members of the IUN Committee and their place of residence?

**MR. COSENS:** I understand that the IUN Committee is made up of the university presidents and people that they select to act on that committee.

**MR. COWAN:** I don't know of any northerners who are presently university presidents. Could the Honourable Minister then indicate who they have selected to serve on the committee at this time so that we know if there are any northerners making this decision?

**MR. COSENS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I don't know who the people are selected by the presidents to act on that committee.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you. While undertaking to find out the answers to several other questions, I would ask if the Minister would undertake to find out the answer to this question also.

**MR. COSENS:** I'm sure that's not classified information, Mr. Chairman. I can get that for the Member for Churchill quite easily or, of course, he could get it by phoning any one of the presidents himself.

**MR. COWAN:** Could the Minister indicate as to when he would have that information for me, otherwise I will take the opportunity to make the phone call if he sees some problem with timing?

**MR. COSENS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I'd be pleased to endeavour to get that information for the Member for Churchill.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister know the size, the number of people who sit on that committee at the present time?

**MR. COSENS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I do not know the size of that committee, or the number of people who sit on it.

Once again, I think the Member for Churchill and perhaps again he does not appreciate the way in which these particular university activities function, but they do function separately from the government and not directly under the control of the government; and as a result as the Minister I have not found it necessary or felt it was fitting for me to be checking into all of the particular activities of what, in fact, are responsibilities of the universities and are unique unto the universities.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate how it should work. I appreciate how the Minister is telling me that he thinks it should work. I don't appreciate how it has worked in that we have Members of Parliament who have no jurisdiction over this program whatsoever, using it as a political football, to their own political advantage, to inform us that it will continue on a limited basis on their weekly radio program. I don't appreciate that at all; and that's why I'm taking what may seem to be an inordinate amount of time to clarify the matter. But I feel quite concerned that this has become a political issue and I'm afraid of the politics of the members opposite in respect to northern programs.

Could the Honourable Minister tell me who the members of the Universities Grants Commission are, itself?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I will have that particular information for the member in a minute. Perhaps if there is some other aspect of the program that he wishes to comment on while I'm getting that information, he would feel free to do it at this time.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes. The reason I was asking — I'd like to explain — the reason I was asking as to the number of members on the IUN Committee, which the Minister seemed to have found somewhat amusing at the time, I was wondering how that compares with the number of respondents to surveys given in northern communities in the process of deciding which courses are given where, and I would assume that the input from the IUN Committee would be far less numerically; and I would also assume that it would be far less realistically, or apply itself realistically to the needs, because southerners will have to perceive the needs of the north from their own particular southern bias; where as northerners know quite well the needs of the north and I think, therefore, are more capable to make the decisions as to what courses should be presented in their communities for their benefit than would a board sitting here in southern Manitoba. So that is the reason that I asked that one particular question. That is the reason that I would like to find the answer to that question.

I think that because this whole affair has been so badly mismanaged, okay, and I say that "mismanage" because of the way the Minister who is ultimately responsible for the Universities Grants Commission and therefore ultimately responsible for the Inter-Universities North Program, has gone about, if not developing the program under his administration, controlling the program under his administration.

We have all sorts of politicians giving very partisan comments on the program. We have them using it for their own political advantage, which I think is unfair to the northern participants of the course.

We have a great deal of unrest. We have a great number of questions as to how the program will continue; whether the program in fact will continue and whether it will continue on the basis that it has always been presented in the past few years.

So I'm wondering if the Minister has the answer to the question I asked previously. Thank you.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the members of the Universities Grants Commission are: Chairman, Dr. Condo; Dr. Lorimer from the Department of Education; Dr. Skinner, from Brandon University; Mr. Tufford, I believe lives near Portage or Gladstone, in that area; Mr. Chevrier; Dr. Couture, from the St. Boniface College; Mr. Rachlis; Dean Conner, from the University of Manitoba; and a Mr. Hope, I believe, a private citizen.

I certainly will remark as the Member for Churchill might, there is no one on that particular Grants Commission from the north. However, I can commiserate with the Member for Churchill, the Universities Grants Commission Board was all appointed by the former government. Perhaps this government will see fit to put someone from the north on that board.

**MR. COWAN:** The Minister is stealing my thunder. I will agree with the Minister that there seemingly is no one — I don't know where Mr. Hope is from — but there seemingly is no one from the north on that committee.

I think that it was probably a shortfalling of our government, if I may, we were not a perfect government, although we were a far sight better than what we're faced with today.

I hope that the Minister is sincere and I hope that he is also hasty in his commitment to appoint a member from the north to the Universities Grants Commission because I think that will forestall problems such as we're faced with now, with the Inter-Universities North Program.

I'd like to know, then, from the Honourable Minister, if he agrees with the statement in his Estimates Book, under line No. 6. The Universities Grants Commission, that the Universities Grants

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Commission provides grants to the Universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Brandon and St. Boniface College as a supplement to other income to enable them to maintain the quality of service at the existing level.

Now, I'm wondering if he can reconcile that statement with the statement that the Inter-Universities North is going to be operating at approximately half the level of the previous year.

**MR. COSENS:** The determination once again, Mr. Chairman, of how the funds are allocated and spent by the universities depends on the allocation that the Universities Grants Commission makes to them.

**MR. COWAN:** We always go back, Mr. Chairman, to the Universities Grants Commission and they being responsible for this.

Does the Minister have any influence whatsoever over the Universities Grants Commission?

**MR. COSENS:** I think, Mr. Chairman, once again, that if one reads the legislation and the Act governing the relationship of the government to the university, the answer to that question is no.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Excuse me. The questions appear to be repetitive. I do recall questions of that similar nature being asked previously. I would hope the member would change his direction and not repeat questions. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if the questions were, indeed, repetitive, but I have trouble understanding some of the statements made by the Minister in light of some of the statements made outside of this House by other politicians and would, therefore, seek absolute clarification from the Minister on certain items and I beg your indulgence as we pursue that line of questioning. But while the questions themselves may at times repeat themselves or be similar to questions previously asked, I think we are still going towards one direction into finding out just how the Universities Grants Commission came about the decision of eliminating and then limiting the Inter-Universities North Program, which I think is something that is important that we know. Because it has been mismanaged in my opinion and I would like to avoid that in the future.

So, if I could then, I would ask the Minister, does the government have any influence over the decisions of the Universities Grants Commission?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the same answer as previous holds. The government allots the money to the Universities Grants Commission, who in turn determine how it will be allotted to the universities and to the programs that the universities operate.

**MR. COWAN:** Well, there is a certain amount of obvious control in the fact that they are the ones that hold the purse strings and the old — how many number of sayings — as to "He who pays the piper calls the tune; The Golden Rule: He who owns the gold makes the rules," any number of sayings trite, or whatever, that we can apply to this.

Does the Minister feel that if he had a certain concern such as the Inter-Universities North Program being eliminated, and he went to the Universities Grants Commission, and he asked the Universities Grants Commission to reconsider the decision that they would, in fact, reconsider that decision in light of his personal intervention?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Exc me. I believe that question to be hypothetical.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** What if it is?

**MR. COWAN:** Sir, I see he was perfectly willing to answer it. If the Minister is willing to answer it, I'll be . . .

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

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to direct a question to the Honourable Minister. But may I suggest to you that hypothetical questions are not questions that are asked during the Question Period but when you're dealing with a Minister who presumably has a philosophy and a policy representing a government that presumably has a philosophy then it is a legitimate question to ask. If the Minister doesn't want to answer, that's his right, I presume.

The question I have is — I don't know whether it's hypothetical or not — but I've been listening to the Minister responding and it seems to me that he takes no credit nor blame for any of the decisions that are made by the universities in their curriculum, nor for those decisions made by the Universities Grants Commission. That being the case, I wonder if the Minister can enlighten us as to how he thinks his role as Minister responsible for Universities should be — I can see that it's nothing — but what should it be and what is he other than a paymaster if that's all it is that he just sloughs off all responsibility onto the Grants Commission and through them onto the university.

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

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I imagine the Member for St. Johns is well aware of the Act governing the relationship of the government to the universities and if he's suggesting that the Minister of Education should be dictating to the universities what they should do, what courses they should offer and so on, then in fact there would be no need for a Universities Grants Commission.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** I would assume that the Honourable Minister is now telling us that he thinks it should be that way. The fact it refers to the Act does not really answer the question which I asked, which was, what does he think it ought to be? And the fact that he relies on the Act would imply that that's the way he thinks it ought to be which means, that he has nothing whatsoever to do with the entire program of the delivery of services at the universities other than to hand over a cheque.

If that is the case, then I must ask just how does he justify being involved at all as Minister responsible for Education in the university level. Indeed, maybe it ought to be the Minister of Finance, because if the money comes from the Treasury, then he could do the same kind of work by just sending on a letter to the Universities Grants Commission saying, "This much is available to you this year and we have no input in the program."

I just want to enlarge on that. Mr. Chairman, I would think that a government which is concerned about the needs of people in Manitoba, would indeed be concerned to ensure that the Grants Commission and the universities, through it, are looking at various parts of Manitoba and various groups of people within Manitoba. And to say, "Well, they decided to spend what they did in northern Manitoba," would imply that this government has no policy whatsoever regarding the higher education in northern Manitoba and is leaving that policy determination entirely to the universities.

Now that is the clear picture that I have received from the Minister this evening and, having received that, I asked him what he thinks ought to be his role and I got the answer that, "Read the Act." That means that he has no intention of changing the Act, or no desire to change the Act, which means to me that he is not prepared to develop any sort of program or policy in the north by the government but leaves it entirely to the universities over which he says he has no influence. I'm not suggesting he ought to have control but, Mr. Chairman, if that Minister doesn't wish to attempt in any way to influence the programs of universities as they may be directed to areas of Manitoba which were — I suppose the Member for St. Matthews would say culturally or educationally deprived for many years of Liberal and Conservative administration — that he ought to feel that maybe he ought to get involved and concern about attempting to influence the people who are making the decisions, which I think, from what he said this evening, he has no intention of doing whatsoever. Leave it to the universities.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, let me suggest that when the Member for St. Johns talks about influence and I'm sure with his background in law he is well aware that influence is not very far from control and he is also well aware that the day that governments are able to influence universities and control universities then we have departed a long way from the type of thinking and the type of philosophy that has existed in the university community and in fact in governments in this particular country.

We have seen what has happened in other countries where governments have had direct control and direct influence on the universities; every time the government changes then half the courses at the university change, also several of the professors. We have, thankfully, been preserved from that type of thing happening and that type of interference by the Acts and the legislation that we have now governing the relationship of the government and the universities. I don't think that has ever precluded people in the government and the university Presidents sitting down and discussing common problems, and talking about possible solutions. That has gone on and I hope will continue to go on — in fact as recently as about a month ago I had the pleasure of a meeting with the Presidents of the three universities, along with the Premier and the Minister of Finance of this province — a common discussion of problems.

But the idea of influence and control, Mr. Chairman, is very much opposite to anything that has ever held true in this province.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I never knew what the expression "tunnel vision" meant, and I have heard expressions of that, but I am beginning to think that that is one of the deficiencies of the present Minister of Education. He seems to think that it is a form of control to become interested in the delivery of educational services. And I have to clarify this, because the last time he and I engaged in some conversation dealing with universities, he started to talk about control from outside and there are other countries that try to decide how people will be taught. And I want to straighten this out with him; I want him to understand that there are different ways in which government ought to or can be involved. Control is one thing; firing of staff is one thing. His government has shown how one fires staff, like no other government I have ever seen in Manitoba.

So let's understand what control is. Control is the two days before you are appointed to head the government, you call in Deputy Ministers and fire them. That's what control is. And I never faulted that right so to do; it's the manner which I think was abhorrent. But of course this Minister, who lost a Deputy Minister that very way, probably . . . — (Interjection) — Ah, good! The Minister is now . . . I am getting through to him. Well, then, let him listen. Because control is one thing, and this government has shown how it can control.

Now, the other thing is, what it is that government wants to accomplish for the people that it serves. And I am not suggesting for a moment that one should go to the academics and tell them, "Let the Minister listen for a change." I am not suggesting for a moment that the government should go to academics and tell them what subject to teach and how to teach that subject, nor to set out at the university level what textbooks to use and what philosophy to discuss. But where to teach, what people to serve is a matter for this government that the Minister cannot, by attempting to suggest that I am talking about control of education, suggest that I am not concerned about the north, which that government — the Conservative government of 1958 to 1969 — neglected so badly that it has lost its own member from its caucus, who served the north, that they would not care to try in some way to persuade or influence a teaching institution to deliver services in northern Manitoba. That's what I was talking about, Mr. Chairman. And he can try all he likes to put words in my mouth that I wanted to control the universities method of delivery; I have never suggested such a thing.

Then if he cannot, through tunnel vision, see the difference between being concerned with service to various sectors of Manitoba . . .

Now, Mr. Chairman, I can't help but notice that one of the great intellectuals has contributed to the Minister's knowledge. It has been suggested, Mr. Chairman, that the member is finally prepared to produce the hydro bills, which he promised on his word and with his integrity and good faith to produce.

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

**MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I regret very much the remarks the Honourable Member for St. Johns, who said the former Member for Churchill left this caucus due to matters of university education. He left because of a bottle resolution. Let the record be straight. And let the Member for St. Johns espouse again about my hydro bill. When we get the report of Jenpeg and the return from the Honourable Minister of Education, I've got my hydro bill right here in my desk, I'll present it — have no fear.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I didn't quite follow the point of order. And I must say, Mr. Chairman, I would not joke about Gordon Beard. I treat his memory with great respect. I know in my mind, and I was never a member of the Conservative caucus . . . I know nothing about bottle problems that the Member for Roblin seems to have but, Mr. Chairman, I do believe in my own mind that Gordon Beard left the Conservative caucus because of neglect by the Conservative government of the people of the north. —(Interjection)— I didn't talk about education.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, again on a point of order. Let the record be straight. Let the record of this province not be misled by the Honourable Member for St. Johns. He wasn't in this caucus those days. He is only surmising. Let the record be straight that the Honourable Member for Churchill left this Legislature and sitting on that chair on a bottle resolution when the House was closing off on a certain day, because it wasn't heard. He walked out that day and the record is loud and clear.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I assure you, Mr. Chairman, this is some matter of concern because I do believe the Member for Roblin is distorting statements made by . . . Well, I'm not sure the Member for Roblin who sat beside anybody would necessarily know what that person thought or said.

Mr. Chairman, Gordon Beard made it clear, I believe, to enough people that he rejected the government's inactivity in the north. And I mention that because I believe that the New Democratic Party government showed a great deal of concern about the north and never did enough. I say that. But to suggest, as the Honourable Minister . . . Well, he stated he will not interfere even to that extent. And the point I was making before I was interrupted by the Member for Roblin, who still has not kept his own word and whose integrity is in great question because he clearly promised to produce hydro bills on the basis that I claimed he had exaggerated them unconscionably, is now looking for all kinds of excuses not to honour his own word and therefore using excuses which are childish, he thinks he is getting away from doing that.

I have a memo before me that the present Member for Churchill quotes Mr. Beard, who represented Churchill as a Conservative under the Weir administration, resigned his seat because, as he put it, "northern Manitoba was not being properly represented by the Conservative government," and this was according to the Throne Speech that Mr. Beard said.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, under the rules of this House, any member who reads from a document — it must be tabled.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. If I could remind the honourable members that we are on Page 28, the Department of Education, Clause 6. Universities Grants Commission. Could we make reference to the Universities Grants Commission?

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I still insist, on the rules of this House, any member that reads from a document, I, as a member of this House, have a right to ask that member to table that document. If they don't table the document — fair ball. But I do have the right to ask that that document be tabled.



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**MR. CHERNIACK:** I wish to make it clear that I used notes which purported to quote the Member for Churchill in his Throne Speech — I mean the then Member for Churchill, Gordon Beard, from the Throne Speech. And I will be glad to try and find that reference, if the honourable member wants it. On the other hand, this may be a challenge to his intellectual capacity. He has been in this House long enough to be able to know how to look at Hansard and find speeches.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin on a point of order.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I still insist that that document be tabled. Make a ruling, Mr. Chairman, on the letter being tabled.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** I will have to get Hansard out of the library.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Let's not get it tonight. If you would care to table the letter . . .

**MR. CHERNIACK:** No, Mr. Chairman, I don't have a letter.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Or not table a letter; it doesn't matter . . .

**MR. CHERNIACK:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** . . . let's get back to the Department of Education, Universities Grants Commission, Clause 6.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** I'm doing my best. Mr. Chairman, the only thing that could distract me from making the comments that I am making to the Honourable Minister of Education is if the Member for Roblin would honour his pledge to produce the hydro bills. Until he does that, I will address myself to the Honourable the Minister of Education and point out to him . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** On a point of order, the Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order, I have told him many times I will table this document — this hydro document — the day that the Minister of Agriculture gives me that order for return, which is three years waiting, and also . . . —(Interjection)— Oh, no, just let the honourable members of the House cool it. The day that I get the order for return, which I've said many many times in this House, and I know I'm never going to get it, then I'll table my hydro bill.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, now that you have allowed the Member for Roblin to make his statement under a point of order, may I point out to him that the Minister of Agriculture is a member of his caucus, sits immediately in front of him, and if that member had any persuasive capacity whatsoever he surely ought not to have too much difficulty with a member of his own caucus, who sits right in front of him, to persuade him to table whatever it is he wants him to table. If he wants a subterfuge for not honouring his pledge, that's his privilege. I cannot force him, Mr. Chairman, and I want to address myself to the Minister of Education. Will I be allowed to?

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order, I wonder if the Honourable Member for St. Johns can give me any idea of how many civil servants would be fired if I tabled that document.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I didn't know that the Honourable Member for Roblin had control of a document which he doesn't want to table. But, Mr. Chairman, I want to make it clear that I am trying to deal with the Minister of Education. I am being interrupted by the Member for Roblin, and as long as you permit him to keep on interrupting, I am going to be responding. —(Interjection)— Now, he is straightening this matter out, Mr. Chairman, he is permitting me to deal with Education.

I was talking about the neglect of the Conservatives in the north of Manitoba, and I was talking about the fact that New Democratic Government made certain positive efforts to deliver services to the people of the north, and I am now under the impression that this Minister will not make any effort whatsoever to see to it that the universities are concerned enough to deliver services to the north. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, the suggestion he has left us with tonight is that if the three Presidents and their several advisors, whoever they are — unnamed — decide not to deliver any service of education to the north, but deliver it all in some esoteric subject in and around Winnipeg and Brandon, he would not interfere. Now that is the picture I got from him, and I would believe that, that maybe he wouldn't interfere, because he seems to take his job so seriously he reads the Universities Grants Act and says, "Okay, I am just a Paymaster." Then what happens to the Minister for Northern Affairs, and what happens to the MP for Churchill? Are they going to be having to talk to the presidents of the universities to try and persuade them to do something in the north and by-pass the Minister of Education.

Mr. Chairman, I take this rather seriously, because I believe there is a very important distinction between ordering academics how to teach and what to teach, and discussing with academics the areas of concern of the government, which presumably has some motivation and some policy. He has made it appear as if either they have no direction within themselves in the government, and if they

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have that they would not, they would not discuss with the Universities Grants Commission or with the university presidents their special interest in seeing to it that all segments of Manitoba are covered.

Now I challenge the Minister to reconsider whether or not he believes that he ought to try to — I forget the word I used — influence, persuade — (Interjection) — Yes, the universities to take into very serious consideration the needs of the people of the north. I believe that he has refused to do that on the basis that that implies control, and if I interpret him wrongly and only because maybe we don't agree on the words to be used, on the semantics of what we are talking about. If I am wrong I wish you would correct me, because then I would have a little bit of respect for the Conservative Government, but if I am right, I think the people of Manitoba should know that they have abrogated, through their interpretation of the Universities Grants Commission Act, any role whatsoever in education at the university level in Manitoba.

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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I've listened with some interest to the Member for St. Johns, and of course we had a certain interlude there on another matter of which I am not familiar, however, I think the Member for St. Johns and the Member for Roblin enjoyed their little interchange.

I haven't been to an eye specialist lately, Mr. Chairman, but I know the Member for St. Johns diagnoses these vision problems very readily. He suggests that I have tunnel vision; he is the first person who has suggested that lately, however, he is quite free to hold his own opinions. I would hesitate to diagnose any frailties he might have and try to stick to the topic that we have here.

I think we may be hung-up, Mr. Chairman, somewhat on semantics here. I perhaps over-reacted to his word "influence", where I saw it as indicating control and that is something that I do not think is a fact that sits well with the legislation and the particular relationship of the universities to the government, but certainly consultation with the universities, certainly discussion with the universities, where items of mutual concern are discussed, that takes place. I mentioned to the Member for St. Johns that that took place no less than I believe some three weeks ago, and certainly topics like delivery of courses in the north were discussed at that time. I can assure him that they were discussed, and I can assure him, as I did the Member for Churchill, I believe before the Member for St. Johns was in his seat, that we are concerned that courses will be offered in the north and will continue to be offered in the north, and if that is enough to satisfy the Member for St. Johns, Mr. Chairman, I would leave it at that.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, it certainly satisfies me to know that the Minister is carrying on discussions and presenting points of view. I know very well that if a Minister makes a suggestion it is listened to very carefully. I think it is a form of attempt to persuade and I see nothing wrong with that. So let me reassure the Honourable Minister that when I spoke about tunnel vision it was only because I thought that he could only see the Act and not beyond it. But if he is now prepared to agree that it is his role in government to concern himself and to express his points of view to the people who make the decisions about the delivery of the service in the north, then that certainly changes the picture substantially in the last half hour.

Now that we know that that is the case, then I would hope that the Minister will become better acquainted with how the Universities Grants Commission operates, because he indicated that that was their own affair earlier. He said, "Well, I don't know how they operate, that's not part of my role." I think he ought to know that and I think too he ought to know what courses are being offered and the extent of the courses, so that he can report to the Legislature these various — answer the questions that are asked in that respect. I do recognize that to my knowledge he has not yet refused to get the information requested by the Honourable Member for Churchill. I do, however, conclude by expressing amazement that publicity comes out in the north, which would seem to indicate that the Minister for Northern Affairs has a much bigger role, much stronger persuasive abilities, much greater influential efforts, and as well the Member of Parliament for Churchill, that apparently is the case of the Minister of Education. I do express some amazement at that, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate the frustration of the Member for Churchill in the answers he received from the Minister of Education.

I think we on this side appreciate the importance and need for universities to be as independent as possible so that freedom of thought flourishes, that no discrimination is exercised by government with regard to what universities teach, that there be complete freedom to pursue studies, research, as the academic group that is gathered together within our three institutions of higher learning deem advisable in their expertise and their professional pursuits.

There seems to be, however, some confusion and concern as to just how far this Legislature can go in probing the spending of \$89,108,000.00. As one who appreciates the need and necessity and who would be a defender of the intellectual independence of universities in this province, nevertheless I think that this Legislature and the various members here who are asking questions deserve something a little bit more than they have been getting. I believe the Minister has hid too much behind the Universities Grants Commission pact, I think he has gone so far to the extent that we are getting no answers and as the Member for Churchill indicated, he can obtain more information from reading news releases of Federal politicians and other members of the government,

other than the Minister of Education.

I repeat, Mr. Chairman, I am very surprised that a member of a professed cost-conscious government, one that is very concerned, that protest day-in-day-out about how concerned it is about costs, about spending, that, you know, it is not prepared, that the Minister of that government is not prepared to spend more time in answering some questions relating to a great deal of money — \$89,108,000, one line, and you know maybe there should be a better system than we have now. Maybe the Chairman of the Grants Commission should be called before a Legislative Committee and be permitted to answer various specific questions. I know it would make the role of the Minister a lot easier, because I do appreciate as a new Minister he hasn't got as much information as he would like to have at this point with regard to the operations of the Grants Commission, or perhaps with regard to the problems that are facing our universities, and indeed there are some very great and very major problems facing our universities. So I do appreciate his own position, but it seems to me that there has got to be some better way. If the Minister finds himself very handicapped by the Act, there has got to be some way, some better way.

If the Minister isn't able to answer the questions for members of the Legislature, who in the last analysis, of course, represent the people who are paying piper, the taxpayers, there has got to be some better way for the representatives of the taxpayers to find out just how this \$89.1 million is being spent. I don't think we really care that much with regard. . . in fact I know there is some interest, there is obviously interest on various kinds of courses taught, and I think that is legitimate. I think it is legitimate that we should be concerned with equality of educational opportunity throughout this province, and particularly with regard to Northern Manitoba, which is the one largest disadvantaged area of the province.

When I listened to the Minister half an hour or so ago hiding more or less behind the Act, professing that he doesn't have this information, that he can't provide it, that the universities are independent, having listened to him I asked myself, well how on earth was it that all of a sudden when shortly after this government took office that an announcement was made — I don't know whether it was by the Minister of Education or by his colleague, the Minister of Public Works — that no money shall be spent on university building construction, because the New Democratic Party Government had permitted, had stated to the universities through the Grants Commission, and I am not sure of all the mechanics, but it was well known by the universities that certain construction projects could take place, without going into all the details. One of which I recall was the extension to the Brandon University building, and lo and behold within days of the election an announcement was made, not by the University President at Brandon University, it was made by an official of the government, that no construction would be proceeded with at the three universities. So, you know, if there's this great independence on the part of the universities, how come all of a sudden a major construction programming is stopped. Now you could argue that is not with regard to course content. Well, of course, it isn't. It is not with regard to hiring or firing of individual professors, it is not with regard to organization of departments and so on, of course not. But nevertheless, the Minister must recognize that there are some very legitimate areas for government to be involved in, and I think personally that that is a legitimate concern. I really think that is a legitimate concern.

So I think maybe you can carry the Grants Commission idea a little too far. Let's face the facts. I think maybe, I say the idea too far, I think the Minister has carried it a little too far in his own mind. I think he is being perhaps overly pure in the matter, because there are many areas where the government is involved in discussion with the Grants Commission, I am sure, and perhaps the Minister in the years ahead or the months ahead. And if he examines his past meeting with the Presidents, will see that there are areas of mutual concern where he has to give some guidance to the Grants Commission and perhaps to the universities, with regard to a number of things. And certainly their operation, their method of operation, is affected and the extent to which they have a student body is affected in a very major way by some government decisions.

I recall the decision by this government to assist in native education in this province — the Brandon University Native Teachers Education Program. — (Interjection) — The former government — the New Democratic Party government. The various programs to help disadvantaged people. Many of them were of a pilot project nature, but others carried on. And I do believe that we were trail blazing in Canada, if not in many other countries of the world as well, in this area of providing higher educational opportunities to people who were disadvantaged by reason of economic circumstance, by reason of geographical place of residency — particularly northern Manitoba, by reason of some cultural background or for whatever reason that those people were disadvantaged, we provided, through these various programs at Brandon University, an opportunity to develop human resource potentiality that would have never been developed otherwise.

So there is an example where government has had an influence, and I think that's a legitimate influence on the universities and the way they operate.

The whole concern with tuitions, the whole concern that the New Democratic Party government had with assisting students to go to university, the fantastic bursary program that we brought into being, where really nothing existed, and the year that we left office, I'm not sure what the level was, but it was many millions of dollars. Was it \$12 million or \$14 million? Education bursaries to enable students to go to university. And I know from personal experience from young people that I have run into — I really don't know them well but I have run into them in different parts of the province — who were enabled to go to university because of the bursary program instituted by the New Democratic

Party government, by the Schreyer administration.

The fact is that these are very fundamental influences, and I think they were good influences. I think it's quite proper. I would also remind the Minister that the Task Force or the task farce, as my colleague the Member for Inkster likes to refer to it — and this is an organization that was set up by the Minister's own government, with the blessing of his Premier and his colleagues, where they have gone way out on a limb with regard to governmental influence on universities. The Minister is very puritanically protesting the need to keep universities independent. So please don't ask me very many questions. I say that we have got a report on government organization and economy, which goes a great deal of the way, in my view, to interfering and undermining the academic freedom of universities.

The suggestion that academic tenure be investigated. The Minister is so concerned about independence and not being involved with the universities, I ask him how is he going to even look into this question? How is he going to carry out this Task Force recommendation of looking into the question of academic tenure? It states, I'm reading from Page 60 of the Task Force Report, and I'm sure the Member for Roblin will not ask me to table it, because he should have a copy, Page 60, I quote, "Close to 75 percent of Manitoba's university faculty members are tenured; adjustments will be difficult because of the high proportion of tenured faculty who are relatively young. We recommend a major investigation into the entire tenure issue to determine whether viable options to tenure or modifications in current practices can be introduced, and we further recommend that serious consideration be given to freezing further granting of tenure until such an investigation is completed."

That recommendation, Mr. Chairman, goes much further than any of us have suggested on this side, with their questions, into the whole matter of independence of universities. This is a very, very serious matter. Without arguing the pros and cons of it, I ask the Minister how does he expect to pursue this matter and still maintain the position that he has given in answering, or perhaps I should say in not providing answers, that were asked of him by the Member for Churchill, by the Member for The Pas and other members, the Member for St. Johns and others, about the operation of universities?

It is unfortunate, but we have got one line to deal with, Resolution No. 46 — one line. And there is no breakdown for us to get into detail, so I guess we wander all over the place and make our comments and ask our questions. But I do think that this Legislature deserves answers. The people of Manitoba deserve answers. The taxpayers deserve answers. The people of the north deserve answers. —(Interjection)— We are talking about, for the banker from Minnedosa, \$89.1 million, and that is a lot of cheese sandwiches. We are talking about \$89.1 million, and we are going to be here a hell of a long time if we don't get some answers. We want some answers. We are entitled to those answers. The taxpayers are entitled to those answers, and the people of Manitoba are entitled to the answers. Everybody has got the answers but the Minister.

So we are going to ask some questions. If we are here for another two weeks, we will ask these questions. But we want to get some answers.

But the point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that the Minister is trying to be pristine pure, or whatever the expression is — very puritanical in this matter. And I point out to him that there have been many governmental programs over the years that have quite obviously indicated that governments do have an influence on universities in a general way. His own Task Force, if it is implemented, will make very serious inroads into academic freedom in this province.

At any rate, I would like the Minister to give the members of this Legislature, the representatives of the taxpayers, 51 percent of the people that are represented on this side of the House, information as to what guidelines or what formula that the Grants Commission of Manitoba uses in establishing the budgets of the three universities. Now, that's a very fundamental question, but that is a question that we want an answer to. How does the Grants Commission set the budgets of the universities of this province? What guidelines are used, and what formula do they use? And what, if any, priorities has the Minister given to the Grants Commission in the establishment of guidelines, and in the administration of the funding of those universities?

I have other questions, but rather than put the whole series of them, I will content myself with that question because I think it is a very basic question to which the members of this side want some answers.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East, he has covered a number of areas, some of them that I think are readily answerable. He refers to the capital projects at the universities, and these are directly funded by the government, and it does certainly have a direct say in whether the funding will take place or not. Certainly in the projects that he refers to, he is quite correct in saying that the government said that it would be freezing certain projects in this particular year; even though it had agreed in principle to these projects it would not be prepared to fund them until the financial position had changed somewhat.

I think the Member for Brandon East is perhaps getting ahead of himself a little bit when he refers to certain projects that are undertaken at the universities in the training of native teachers, for instance. These are directly under the government's control and under the Department of Education and they, in turn, contract with the universities for the training that takes place there. So that is a somewhat different situation than university programs, themselves. Whether or not these programs should exist directly under the university is another topic. But they have, since their inception I understand, remained separate in their administration, from the universities. That may be a sore

point with some people and perhaps a matter of debate with others.

The Member for Brandon East mentions the fact that the people have no idea what the Universities Grants Commission is doing. I suggest to him that we had an annual report tabled a couple of weeks ago on the Universities Grants Commission, that outlines, I think in reasonable detail, the financial picture of the universities and their operation, considerable information on courses and so on that are offered at the universities and enrolments. And I would commend that report to the Member for Brandon East. I would hope that it could answer some of his questions.

The member, Mr. Chairman, also mentions bursaries, which perhaps indirectly are related to this topic, but I would suggest to him would come under 7.(b) Student Aid.

I am a little bit puzzled by his statement that the previous government handed out some \$12 million in bursaries last year. I have some difficulty finding any account of bursaries being paid to that amount. I would suggest if he stated it was \$5 million he might be closer to the amount that was paid out in bursaries. However, that is something we can come to when we get to that particular section of the Estimates. However, I would suggest to him that the statement might be misleading to some people, who would wonder where the \$12 million was spent.

He mentions, of course, the Task Force recommendations. They have come up before in the Estimates and I can only say to him that in due time we will get to a consideration of those Task Force recommendations, and give them due consideration and consult with the university people on them.

But I think the most significant thing, Mr. Chairman, is that I would recommend that the Annual Report of the Universities Grants Commission, I would recommend it to the Member for Brandon East and I would hope that a great deal of the information that he is looking for would be found in that report.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, when I mentioned the bursary figure I was looking around for someone to give me the number. I had thought it was up to that high. But regardless, it went from just about zero to almost infinity in comparison to . . . It seemed like infinity because there was very little that existed before.

The programs that I referred to at Brandon University dealing with disadvantaged people and native people and Metis, people on low incomes, people from the north, and so on, he said the programs were administered by the government, by his department. Maybe so; there may have been direct involvement. But at the same time, do not suffer the misimpression that these programs exist by themselves. The courses are taught by faculty at the University of Brandon. The funding of these programs has had a great impact on the staffing at the university and indeed, I would say, to a degree, to some of the emphasis that is being placed in some of the departments.

I do not want to get into the detail, but I simply make that as a point. It is true that there may be some direct funding, but nevertheless you cannot separate the administration of that program purely from the impact on the teaching. And I appreciate that we have a separate line for capital grants but I made the point because it seemed the way the Minister was talking as though absolutely no way was he involved in any decision whatsoever, and I got the impression that maybe he was thinking that this included capital construction.

Indeed, there is a report submitted by the Universities Grants Commission. But I am not so sure if the member can tell me that the guidelines and the formula for setting of budgets are in here. I would like him to advise me just whereabouts in that report they are.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, I believe, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Brandon East asked how the Universities Grants Commission decides how it will allocate its funds. I would suggest to the Member for Brandon East — he may interpret it as he wishes — but within the existing legislation, and if he finds it unsatisfactory, I don't know why he hasn't changed it in the last eight years when he had the opportunity, but within that existing legislation, the UGC has that prerogative and responsibility to allocate those funds as it sees fit.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, I am not at this point disputing that. I am simply asking a straightforward question for which I would hope to get straightforward answer. What are the guidelines and what are the formulas now used by the Grants Commission? That has nothing to do with academic freedom and it has nothing to do with whether or not the Grants Commission should have this authority. That is not an issue; that is not a point that I am attempting to make. I am simply seeking information and that is, at this time, in this Year of our Lord 1978, under the Conservative administration, today, what guidelines or formula is the Grants Commission using to establish the budgets of various universities?

**MR. COSENS:** I am informed, Mr. Chairman, that they don't follow a formula, that the decision is made by the Commission as to what they will allot to each particular university.

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

**Monday, May 8, 1978**

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, I have one question on this. The figure of \$89,108,000, do I take it then that that was the figure submitted by the Grants Commission and the government approved it? Is that correct?

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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think the Member for Burrows knows full well, and I don't think he will hide behind this one by saying he wants the people of Manitoba to know, in the same way as anyone else submits an estimate of their expenses for the year, I suppose the Grants Commission submits an estimate. In turn, the government looks at that and decides, in relation to the amount of moneys they have available, what amount the Grants Commission will receive.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Is the Minister telling me that while he agrees and acknowledges that the government, which is caring for the purse-strings of the province, after the Legislature has voted that money to them, that while he has some jurisdiction, the Cabinet has some say over the total amount of funding, that he has no idea how the Grants Commission arrived at the number that they have asked for? Now, my question is, what are the guidelines used by the Grants Commission to establish budget levels of the three universities? — we are talking about global budgeting at the moment. There must be some formula, some guidelines that are used by the Grants Commission to arrive at some figure. There has to be some rationale, some logic, some intelligence, somewhere, somehow in this universe when we are dealing with the universities in this province. I am simply asking the Minister to enlighten the members of the Legislature, the media and the public of Manitoba as to what are the guidelines and what is the formula used to establish the budget in this Year of our Lord 1978-79?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East, the usual budget procedure that is followed in all departments, I suppose, are similar to the procedures in government. Each individual university in turn hands in its estimate of expenses for the coming year to the Grants Commission who considers these and in turn makes its submission to the government.

**MR. EVANS:** On what basis, then, did the government decide that the budget, the total amount should increase by the amount that it has increased, by the percentage that it has increased, as opposed to the percentage increase requested, I presume, by the universities via the Grants Commission? I am not sure whether the Grants Commission turned down the universities, or whether the government turned down the Grants Commission, who then turned down the universities. I am not sure of the sequence here but obviously the government has not met the needs of the universities, at least according to the statements that have been made by university representatives, and without getting into that at this point, just what is the order here? What is the basis for the government to decide on this particular level, after the Grants Commission has submitted a global budget?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think government in funding any particular aspect of government or in this case the block grant that it gives to the Universities Grants Commission, which is a little bit different but in reality parallels, I suppose, the funding of any particular department or line department, looks at the available moneys that it has, decides on a certain percentage that it can allot in that particular area and that percentage becomes the grant that is produced for that particular need.

**MR. EVANS:** I guess we understand the mechanics, but what I don't understand is the reasoning on the part of the government as to limiting the Grants Commission to this particular level of funding this year because it has been made plain to many people in this province that the limitation of spending imposed by the government is hurting the universities in various ways. Without going into detail, I'm sure the Honourable Minister has read these statements, probably more frequently and has spent more time on it than I have. I can understand one or two methods of going at this, but I gather that the Minister really can't tell us how he arrived at that particular level. I know that the Cabinet has final say and some decision has to be made, but he cannot advise us why the particular percentage of increase of the budget this year over last year was provided for? What is the rationale for this particular percentage increase in funding?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, of course the rationale, and I don't want to sound too simplistic with this, was the financial situation that we found ourselves in at the time we were completing our Estimates and the proposed deficit that we had facing us and in relation to that we had to come to some determination as to what would be a level of funding, not only to universities but to hospitals and to all other departments of government, that would in fact enable us to bring the province back to something like fiscal responsibility.

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

**MR. McBRYDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister just responded in the old argument in the

area of fiscal responsibility now and the huge deficit of \$225 million left by the previous government, and I wonder if he is still back there yet or whether he realizes that the Minister of Finance has slowly revealed new information as time has gone on and that the deficit wasn't quite what the Minister of Finance led the people of the Province of Manitoba to believe. I don't know if the Minister of Education has been able to keep himself aware of that situation.

I have a couple of questions, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to get back to the Inter-Universities North Program. I wonder if the Minister could indicate how much has already been spent? I am assuming that the program over the winter — it started in the fall and into the winter — has already spent some of this year's budget. How much would be allocated to that, how much would be allocated to the summer program, and how much would be allocated to the next year's winter or regular session program?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that it operates on a fiscal year so we have been into this particular fiscal year now for, what, one month and eight days. I could get the exact figure as to what has been spent in that one month and eight days if that is what he requires.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, maybe he could tell us then when the regular season program ended, or is it still continuing, or has it terminated at the same time that the other university programs end? Has it ended, and if so, when? If it hasn't ended, when does it end?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I understand that the courses offered in that particular program parallel pretty well the ones offered at the university in length; however, it is also my understanding that there are some courses being offered in an intercession in the period starting about now through June.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, on the Inter-Universities North Program, one of the biggest users of the program, I think, are teachers who go up into northern Manitoba and have the opportunity to use it. Since we are on this item, I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether in his other role as Minister of Education, if he has expressed concern to the Grants Commission that it will hurt their recruiting of teachers for northern Manitoba, this drastic reduction and the almost elimination of the program will hurt the ability to get good, competent teachers, teachers that the people in northern Manitoba deserve up there, teachers who are well-qualified and capable but might restrict themselves to coming north because they want to take further courses. I wonder if the Minister is concerned about this and whether he has expressed that concern to the Grants Commission.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think I certainly affirmed that concern to the Member for Churchill earlier, and I have had discussions to that extent with the members of the Universities Grants Commission and with the presidents of the universities.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, we have been trying to get some indication, I think, of the decision-making within the Universities Grants Commission and certainly the Commission has to work within the reduced program moneys that are available to them and therefore they have to cut programs somewhere. What we have is a reduction to the Universities Grants Commission in light of inflation, etc., a fairly serious reduction in the moneys available and I suppose I want to probe again how the Universities Grants Commission decided, "Cut the Inter-Universities North Program; leave the other programs," and then, how the Universities Grants Commission, having already determined a budget without the Inter-Universities North Program, then where do they have to go back and take some money back to get the \$120,000.00? How did they manage that trick?

**MR. COSENS:** It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that when the Grants Commission found out that the universities would not be able to meet that particular need in the north through their Extension Program, that they then went to a small reserve that they had in the Commission to supply the \$120,000.00.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if there is any money left in that small reserve and if there is any consideration being given to applying the remainder of those funds to the Inter-Universities North Program?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I understand there is now money left in the reserve.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the decision of the Universities Grants Commission, of course, was brought about because of the cutbacks in programs that this government wanted to implement, and again, I'm not sure that the Minister of Continuing Education has that much control over those cuts, they are pretty well determined by the Premier, I think, and passed on as a directive to his Ministers. —(Interjection)— I heard, "Not true," from the other side, Mr. Chairman. When I said it when the First Minister was in the House, he was quite pleased with that, that I recognized that was the situation, how the present government operates.

But anyway, Mr. Chairman, the new government decided to drastically reduce the funds available to the Universities Grants Commission. The Universities Grants Commission then notified the universities — have I got this thing correct? — the universities then decided, I guess, that they would

have to cut the Inter-Universities North Program. So the Minister not only passes the responsibility to the Grants Commission but the Grants Commission passes that responsibility on to the university.

So, the deliberate policy of the government to reduce programs of benefit to the citizens of Manitoba reflects itself in an area where the education opportunity has not been equal, and was still not equal even though the previous government — the NDP government — made tremendous strives to try and equalize the opportunities for education in northern Manitoba, and the program that was chosen to be cut was the Inter-Universities North Program.

When that program was cut, Mr. Chairman, a tremendous outcry came from the people of northern Manitoba, the people of the many communities that had benefited from the Inter-Universities North Program, the people who saw this program as, at least, some equality with people of southern Manitoba, and then, Mr. Chairman, we had a very strange series of events take place.

When this outcry came from northern Manitoba and this particular program — because it does affect people who already have some education and want to further their education — they're able to articulate their concerns, they're able to put pressure on the government quite effectively, whereas some of the other programs that this government has seen fit to cut, the groups directly affected aren't able to put that kind of pressure on, aren't able to articulate in the same manner, or the people that are upset by the program don't happen to be the president of the Conservative Party in Thompson or other persons who are influential with the members opposite.

Then, Mr. Chairman, we came across the phenomena of the announcement of the reinstatement of the program. And where did that announcement come from? Not from the Minister of Education. Not from the First Minister. Not from the Universities Grants Commission; but from the M.P. for the Churchill constituency.

And, Mr. Chairman, we can only surmise what took place. We can only surmise what took place. And I can see it now, Mr. Chairman, the Member of Parliament for Churchill calling up the Minister of Northern Affairs and saying, "Look, Ken, you know that I've got a bad problem, because the way you guys have been cutting programs up north, the way you guys have been hurting the programs up north, I'm in bad trouble. I'm going to lose the Federal election just because of the provincial government. Isn't there some little tidbit you can throw me? Isn't there something you can give me to announce so that I can at least show that I'm trying to do something for the north. Because you know, Ken, I haven't been out there doing my homework in the isolated communities. I haven't been consulting with people. You know that I haven't said anything or done anything yet about all the government cutbacks that are hurting the people in northern Manitoba. So can't you give me something that I can announce?"

And, Mr. Chairman, I can only assume that the Universities Grants Commission has more political sense than the government; because the Universities Grants Commission, under pressure, changed their decision. The Universities Grants Commission, under pressure, from residents of northern Manitoba and perhaps from some of the members opposite, changed the decision which, Mr. Chairman, was a very smart thing to do. The pressure was there. The government was in trouble. And that shows that the Universities Grants Commission has a lot more political sense than the First Minister of this province, who refuses to change, refuses to budge, when he's done something that doesn't make any sense.

So the Universities Grants Commission did change a decision. At that time, Mr. Chairman, I addressed a question — and it's in Hansard on Monday, March 27th, 1978, Page 149.

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs. Since the Minister was able to do such a good job in having the Inter-Universities Program partially reinstated, I wonder whether he might be able to influence the other programs such as the FOCUS Program and the Northern Affairs Extension Program to see if they might be partially reinstated, or whether he agrees with these reductions and will not influence the change in those programs?"

The Minister of Northern Affairs: "Mr. Speaker, I think the member is aware that these will be coming down in the Estimates and I can assure him that any programs or any deletions in Estimates, I will be prepared to discuss with you, as I'm sure you will question me on; also any additions that you may wish to question during the Estimates, I'll be prepared to discuss them with you."

Then Mr. Chairman, back to myself: "Mr. Speaker, I wonder if he might be able to tell us if, in his discussions with the Grants Commission or Mr. Condo, whether he received any more information in terms of what partial restoration of the Inter-Universities North Program means? How much is partial restoration?"

Then back to the Minister of Northern Affairs: "Mr. Speaker, that itself will be detailed to you if you wish, within I think three or four days."

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt in my mind that not only did the Member of Parliament for Churchill constituency get this goody to announce from the Minister of Northern Affairs, but the Minister of Northern Affairs directly dealt with and attempted to influence the Universities Grants Commission.

Mr. Chairman, that's an embarrassment to the Minister of Education, the Minister of Continuing Education, but I think he'll have to admit that that's what took place. We see it in the announcements in the Thompson Citizen, from the Minister of Northern Affairs. We see it in the announcement through the CBC north country program, from the M.P. for Churchill constituency, that they had the information long before the Minister of Education.

The next day we addressed questions to the Minister of Education and he did not know the answer. He did not know what was happening at the Grants Commission. And yet the Minister of Northern Affairs knew what was happening at the Grants Commission. The M.P. for Churchill



constituency, who desperately needed something to announce, knew what the Universities Grants Commission was going to do. But the Minister of Education had no idea — had no idea — he said, well, he would take it as notice and he would find out what the Universities Grants Commission. It took him even more than the three or four days that the Minister of Northern Affairs said it would take him, to get that information. But there's no doubt in my mind, Mr. Chairman, that that is what took place.

**MR. COSENS:** I have to reply to the Member for The Pas because certainly some of his speculation — most of his speculation, all of his speculation I would suggest — is incorrect in this case.

I have a press release from the News Service, dated March 23, 1978, which states that: It will be possible to operate the Inter-Universities North Program on a limited basis in 1978-79 as a result of a further review of the program, Universities Grants Commission Chairman, W.J. Condo, has announced." That was on the 23rd of March.

The member states that he asked his question in Hansard on March 27th. That's four days later. The news release came out on March 23rd.

Now I believe the question he addressed me on Inter-Universities North was the amount of the funding that was to be allotted to Inter-Universities North; I did not have the exact amount at the time and I took the question as notice. So I would like to correct that particular position, Mr. Chairman.

I'm also informed by the Grants Commission that there was no political influence whatsoever, that Mr. Smith, who was referred to by the Member for The Pas, never did contact the Grants Commission and, in fact, their determination to continue on the Inter-Universities North Program was made after they found out that the universities did not see fit to do so. And rather than see the program fold and courses not be offered in the north, they decided that they would dip into their reserve in order to operate those courses.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister is aware that the announcement of the partial reinstatement of the Inter-Universities North Program was made before that press release came out, by the M.P. for Churchill constituency. It was made before that press release came out. And the statement by the Member for Thompson appeared in the Thompson Citizen of March 23rd; Mr. Chairman, if the member knows anything about the mail service he will know that the Thompson Citizen — yes, Mr. Chairman, it was — it was a telephone conversation with the Minister of Northern Affairs who indicated that the program would be partially reinstated.

It was the Minister of Education — and I'm sorry I can't find the Hansard quote — but when I asked him how come the Member of Parliament for Churchill constituency was making the announcement, that he didn't know — he yet didn't know — if the program was reinstated or not. I suggested at that time maybe he should check with the M.P. for Churchill constituency and find out.

But, Mr. Chairman, the announcement was made on the radio program before the government press release was issued and I think the Minister should be careful to categorically deny the inference that the Minister of Northern Affairs and the M.P. for Churchill constituency knew what was going to be happening to the Grants Commission before the Minister of Continuing Education knew what was going to happen.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would once again deny that these gentlemen knew before I knew. March 23rd was the date of the News Service release. The Minister of Northern Affairs, is a colleague in the Executive Council, and I am sure that he was party to any information that I am party to. As to the date that this came out in the Thompson papers, we have telephones, I am sure that a reporter can telephone his MLA at any time and ask for what information they may have on a particular program. In fact, I would suspect that is what happened.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could then tell us, I assume that press release came from his office or did it come from somewhere else? I wonder what time of day the press release was issued by the Grants Commission and what time it was available to the Minister of Continuing Education.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I have no idea what time that particular press release was issued. I certainly have no way of even determining that. I don't think press releases are timed as to their point of issuance at all.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the announcement was made on Friday morning, March 23, by the M.P. for Churchill constituency and at the Question Period at 10:00 o'clock I asked the Minister of Education a question at that time.

Mr. Chairman, I'm just checking here the record of Hansard to see what the response of the Minister of Education was. —(Interjection)— Yes, on Page 107, I have, that he indicated that he wasn't sure the program was cancelled or not. I suppose my concern was at that day that the public announcement had come from persons who were not members of this Assembly and persons who have no responsibility for that particular program, and I assume that someone had to give that person the information and had to allow them to make that announcement before the Minister made that announcement in the House; because of course that person was having severe political problems in northern Manitoba because of the programs and policies carried out by this government.

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Mr. Chairman, I wanted to also check with the Minister, I understood earlier he said that the northern residents who formed themselves into a committee had not met with the Minister, but with the Grants Commission. I wonder if I heard him correct or who did the submission go to from the northern residents and who responded to the submission; who met with the northern residents; and has anyone answered all the numerous letters from northern residents on the Inter-Universities North Program, and if so, who?

**MR. COSENS:** It's my understanding, I'm not sure that we're referring to the same delegation, but I did receive a delegation of northern residents in my office on this particular topic; and it's also my understanding that they met with, at least, the Chairman of the Grants Commission. There may have been other members there, I'm not aware of that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister, who wasn't able to enlighten us very much on the formulas used by the Grants Commission in establishing the budgets, I wonder if he could advise us whether the Grants Commission has — and I'm sure they have — conducted forecasts of enrolment in the three universities. If not, in the next ten years, perhaps in the next five years or if not in the next five years, in the next two or three years.

Can the Minister advise us as to what the prognostications are for student enrolment at universities in Manitoba will be in the next few years?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of how definitive the Member for Brandon East wishes me to be on this topic, but there have been, certainly, projections and studies on this topic. And of course, I think he is probably aware of what they do say. They indicate a drop in regular daytime university enrolment for the next several years — in fact up to about 1985.

However, perhaps compensating somewhat to that rather gloomy picture as far as the universities are concerned, is the fact that part-time attendance at the universities has been increasing and there is every indication that it will continue to increase in the years ahead. Whether that will compensate for the drop in the regular daytime programs or not is another matter. However, those two indicators, I think, are quite obvious.

**MR. EVANS:** Could the Minister break this down between the three universities? I appreciate his general statement. I am particularly concerned about Brandon University, which has a relatively low enrolment. It has a small market area, I suppose you might say. But could the Minister advise us as to what he believes the future enrolment might be at Brandon University?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I am sorry, that information is not available, as to the future enrolment at this time, or in the next few years at Brandon University.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister says that that information is not available. Is it not available because the Grants Commission has not conducted such studies, such forecasts, and has not entertained any idea of long-run planning for that institution? In other words, I would find it very strange indeed if the Grants Commission and its capable staff, who are very knowledgeable about finances of these universities and I think if you talk to some of the staff there, I'm sure they are most knowledgeable and can give you a lot of information on enrolment trends, and so on.

Is the Honourable Minister saying that he cannot give that information because he doesn't think it is reliable, or is he saying that the Grants Commission has not engaged in any long run — by long run I will say five years — planning such as a five-year plan for the universities? At this point, I am particularly talking about Brandon but it applies to the others. Or has Brandon University, itself, presented a five-year plan to the Grants Commission for consideration? And, if that is the case, what is the Minister's view of this planning? What are the major proposed developments?

It seems to me, the reason I am asking this is because I think it is obvious to anybody that looks at the enrolment figures that it has probably . . . Well, it has the lowest enrolment, of course, but it is probably perhaps one of the most expensive universities to operate, simply because of that low enrolment. There is a phenomenon of small classes, which always creates relatively high costs. It doesn't matter how efficient you may like to be, if you have a small class the cost per student is always going to be higher, on the assumption that you have some variety of courses being offered to the students.

It seems to me, then, that in this case it is particularly important that some planning be done. — (Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Public Works is making his usual comments, but this time from his seat, but this time not from his own seat. And I'm sure that we would all be delighted if he would like to participate in the debate. Well, I don't know, I always enjoy . . . It was said from across yonder that I wouldn't be delighted; I have always enjoyed listening to the Member for Lakeside, or the Minister of Public Works. Whether I agree with him is beside the point, he is always very entertaining and lots of great humour and so on.

At any rate, I wonder if the Minister could then enlighten the members of the Legislature on just what concerns do they have, in terms of planning for Brandon University. If the Grants Commission doesn't have a plan, does the university have a plan? And if it has a plan, has it discussed it with the Grants Commission, and just what are the, sort of, major parameters? What are the major concerns

and what are some of the major proposals?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that on the projections for enrolments for Brandon for the next five years, I always have some reservations when anyone tells me that they can project five years accurately, however the projection is that they will not increase by more than two percent per year over the next five years. Now, with a small enrolment that certainly is not a large increase each year. However, certainly over a period of five years, there are other factors that can enter into the picture and can distort that particular projection very easily, particularly when you are dealing with a smaller number of people.

As far as future plans, I have had some discussions with the President of Brandon University and I know that they are very carefully looking at their future. I would hope that in a few months that they will be coming forth with some recommendations and some proposals in relation to that particular institution. At the present time, I have no specific proposals that I can put before this House or the Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, it seems that in the interest of getting the most for our bucks that the government would have, or should have, the vested interest in seeing to it that various new programs, perhaps, are made available at that university in order that it can operate more efficiently. I am talking now, by efficiently — I hesitate to talk about efficiency in terms of the quality of education, because you can argue that the smaller classes are more efficient than the larger classes — but taking a very crass commercial point of view it would seem to me that it's in the interests, perhaps, of the government and the Grants Commission, and the taxpayers to see to it that there is some sort of long-term planning. And I, too, share the Minister's concern about long-run forecasts, and so on, and I have some hesitancy about long-run forecasts and I know long-term plans are almost useless and I agree with Lord Maynard Keynes in the long run we will all be dead, anyway.

But take five years, because that's a good . . . — (Interjection) — Well, take three years, if you like. Maybe that has got more realism in the political arena in which we live and work and fight.

But it would seem to me that from taking a commercial definition of efficiency, that it might be in the interests of the government and the Grants Commission to plan some additionality to the programs that the university can offer.

Now, that's not easily done. I appreciate that. There are some problems. It seems to me it's very very obvious that the university suffers from having a very small market area. There is maybe one exception. It is the School of Music, which has a national reputation and indeed does draw on young people from right across the country and, indeed, from other countries. It has a national reputation. It is one of the finest Schools of Music in Canada.

Unfortunately, even though it has grown significantly over the years, it is still relatively small and it is still very expensive. Let's face it; it's a very expensive operation and let's not fool ourselves. Let's not hide from the fact. And Brandon University is a relatively expensive operation. Let's recognize that, and I say that with a little bit of knowledge.

But I wonder if the Minister could advise us, therefore, whether he has some idea or can make some suggestions as to what kind of new programming — maybe the term is rationalization — is it possible for some rationalization among the three universities? I think that has been a concern of the Grants Commission, and it is a good concern. It is a legitimate concern that unnecessary duplication be avoided as much as possible. I think that has been a concern of the Grants Commission for some years, particularly in the graduate schools because the graduate training is expensive. You cannot avoid, and I don't suppose you should avoid that on the undergraduate classes.

But is there some way in the rationalization process that one may wish to engage in, to somehow bring about additionality of programming at Brandon University, without necessarily adding to the total costs? I am suggesting rationalization to bring about greater efficiency — commercial efficiency. I am not suggesting rationalization by means of additional expenditure.

So I am asking the Minister could he enlighten us as to whether he has any thoughts, or whether the Grants Commission has any thoughts, on what could be done to perhaps make Brandon University a more efficient institution, in terms of the output received from the expenditures made? Again, I repeat, I am talking from a crass commercial point of view. I am not talking from quality of education, because that's another story again. I think you could make a very good case that you have, perhaps, greater quality of education in smaller classes than you do in these large classes, and I'm sure the Minister will agree with me.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think the Member for Brandon East certainly states a problem that Brandon University faces, and has faced for several years. I think that they have been attempting to grapple with the problem. And as he also states, and quite fairly so, there is no easy solution. A smaller institution has some trouble, has some problem, in offering a wide variety of courses in comparison with a larger institution. He knows that, as certainly I do.

I think the strength of a smaller school, of course, is not necessarily in the quantity of courses it offers but in the quality. I think this is something that Brandon has attempted to do and has been reasonably successful at doing.

He mentions the School of Music. Indeed, one of the very very fine musical schools in Canada and as he mentions, internationally famous and justifiably so.

I really believe that in the years ahead that studies will have to be taking place and I understand that the Universities Grants Commission has been studying the situation, has been talking to the

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Senate of the Brandon University and the President, and trying to, as he suggests, rationalize the particular situation. But there comes a point where we have to say to ourselves, Mr. Chairman, is there anything more you can do? Perhaps they have reached the limit of efficiency and perhaps the only way you offer new courses is when you drop older courses that are no longer required and alternatives like this have to be considered.

The only other alternative, of course, is additional funding so that you can offer additional courses. And at this time that doesn't seem like a reasonable alternative, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, just let me pursue that for a moment, if I might. It has been stated perhaps this is a typical viewpoint of a member of a faculty, of any faculty, speaking in the abstract here, that the universities — and I'm talking about the three universities — and I'm asking this by way of question, not in way of assertion, ask themselves and ask others whether the universities are spending too much in administration as opposed to teaching, maybe that's a long-standing observation I'm not sure.

As a former president of a university faculty association, I can tell you that it was the consensus, this goes back 10-12 years, that there was consensus at that time among teachers, among the faculty, that the universities in the province perhaps tended to spend too much on administration as compared with teaching per se. This is difficult to separate I realize because some administrators are also engaged in part-time teaching. My question is, and I know that there is a great deal of interest on the part of the faculty associations, I know there is interest in knowing just what is the breakdown of administrative costs in the total budget, and I'm not talking about maintenance costs, and I'm not talking about janitorial services, the cost of heating and so on, I'm talking about the administrative payroll as compared to the teaching payroll. I think this is a question that is still being asked. I know it's being asked. It's being asked of me by various members and various universities and some of the students have asked this, and if you read some of the student papers you'll see too that from time to time there are letters to the editor and so on questioning whether they could truly get more for the buck, so to speak, and I know that the Honourable Minister is concerned with that, and his government is concerned with that, and as I said earlier today, we are all concerned with elimination of fat. I mean it's like being in favour of motherhood.

So, the faculties and the students have often raised this question whether the universities couldn't obtain better performance with their given budgets by reducing expenditures on administration and making those moneys available for teaching and research. So, you could hire good quality professors so that you wouldn't have to be confronted with this situation that is reported recently in one of the Winnipeg newspapers. I think there is a quotation or a reference made to a Dean Stambrook who said that five of his faculty members have recently resigned to take positions out of the province. There is reference made to higher salaries elsewhere. Higher salaries in other provinces and other universities adversely affecting the University of Manitoba. I think this goes in spades now for Brandon University. I understand Brandon University is the lowest paid — the professors there are the lowest paid of any university in Canada — and that is going some when you'd be lower than the University of Prince Edward Island or whatever that institution is called.

You are going some when the Maritime universities are paying higher wages or higher professorial salaries than the Brandon University, but this is affecting the University of Manitoba, the largest, the senior university in this province. I guess you could call it the mother university, because both the Brandon University and the University of Winnipeg were colleges of the University of Manitoba, Brandon College and United College. The restraints in funding, accordingly to the article are driving some University of Manitoba academics to other provinces, the University of Manitoba Dean of Arts said Wednesday. I think this is from the Winnipeg Tribune just a few days back. The faculty salaries in Manitoba are among the lowest in Canada and the lowest in Western Canada according to the University of Manitoba Faculty Association. Increases averaging 2.7 percent in 1978-79 operating budgets have left no room for catch-up increases which the University of Manitoba President Ralph Campbell has acknowledged are needed. Each of the University of Manitoba faculty has been forced to squeeze into a budget 3 percent lower than last year. I guess that's in real terms.

Dr. Stambrook is concerned about a climate of opinion he sees developing as academic staff decide there is no hope of their salaries rising to competitive levels in the near future. He doesn't know whether he will be able to fill the vacated positions at the pay levels he must offer. The University of Manitoba Faculty Association President Dr. John Finlay said it is too early to detect a definite trend but he tends to agree that faculty members are being lured out of the province by lacking salaries and increased research backing. Attracting bright graduates to fill the vacated positions will be difficult at current salary levels he said, my biggest fear is that really highpowered people who might otherwise consider Manitoba, won't come here. This is a quotation from the Faculty Association President, Dr. John Finlay, that's at the University of Manitoba.

Well, okay, given the fact that the government is operating under severe restraint, for all the reasons that it has stated, is it not therefore some responsibility and would not the Minister therefore not be interested in insuring that his Grants Commission, that the Universities Grants Commission make sure, makes very certain, that the greatest return is received for the dollars spent. And therefore I think it is a legitimate, a very legitimate concern that certainly in no way infringes on academic freedom to find out whether the universities are over-spending if you will in the area of administration personnel.

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Now, I cannot stand here, Mr. Chairman, and state that categorically. I am not asserting that. I am not making that as a statement. What I am doing, Mr. Chairman, is raising this matter, because it has been raised with me on a number of occasions, not recently but over a number of years, and it is a continuing question. Part of the reason that it is a continuing question that has not been resolved is because that information isn't necessarily available including the Faculty Association. The Faculty Association sometimes also are not privy to that information. Perhaps the Board of Governors of the universities involved may have that information, but a lot of the faculty are not — most of the faculty, maybe all of the faculty — are not aware of this and there is this feeling that too much perhaps is being spent on Administration payroll. Therefore, could the Minister advise us how the three universities compare with one another and how do they compare with other universities, if that is possible? And the Grants Commission, has it any ideas on the matter? Is it concerned with the matter of perhaps excessive numbers of administrative personnel, excessive number of administrative personnel, executive personnel— I am not talking about the clerks, the people who have to file the tuition forms, the entrance forms and all the paper work — I am not talking about the clerical staff, I am talking about the high-priced executive staff that are engaged in administration as opposed to the professional staff who are engaged in teaching and research.

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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East, I am sure that the problem that he highlights as he states from his own particular bias, having been a faculty member. I know that faculty members always look with a jaundiced eye on administration, and administration in turn looks with a similar eye on the board, and I suppose they in turn look at the people who provide the funding with somewhat of the same type of attitude, but I would suggest to the Member for Brandon East that in a time of restraint, and at a time when funding is not as liberal or as bounty as the universities would wish it to be and at a time when they are required, in fact, I suppose by the amount of funds that they have received, forced almost, that we can expect they will be taking a very hard look at their total operation and at all aspects of it and not just the administration, but at all other aspects of that particular operation. I would hope that out of that very hard look would come some solutions to university costs and some efficiencies. I know that they have done this in the past to a certain extent. I'm in no position to judge how successfully, but I'm sure that as in any large organization there are always places where further efficiencies can be achieved.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his remarks, but he didn't answer one of my questions. The basic question is how does the Administration payroll compare as part of the total payroll? What percentage is spent on administrative salaries, or executive salaries if you will, as compared with salaries of the teaching faculty staff. We would like to know what the percentages are, and preferably broken down by universities. I asked — and I think this is a legitimate question — it is information that the Grants Commission should have, and it's a question of great interest.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the Grants Commission would have to get that information from the annual financial statements from each particular institution. I suppose those financial statements are available and that information could be drawn from them. In fact, I suppose it's in that particular . . . not in the Grants Commission report. I understand, Mr. Chairman, the financial reports of each university are tabled in fact in this House.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, I think there may be a problem however because I'm not sure that they are on a common set of books, I'm not sure that their accounting classification is universal. So, I don't know whether it's possible to make that kind of comparison. I know that the Grants Commission staff has access to the numbers that we don't have access to. It would be rather difficulty I think, for any member of this legislature just taking those reports and making the comparisons. I am not that familiar, I haven't studied those reports so I can't say categorically that I couldn't make those comparisons, but I think the Minister would be doing us a service if he could have the Grants Commissions break out for us the percentage of the total payroll, what percentage is administration and what percentage is faculty excluding from that — well, you can do it in various ways. I'm not as interested as I said before, in the salaries to maintenance people, the salaries of clerks and so on, I am more or less trying to compare the professional and executive people and I'm not so sure that I can get that information or that any member can get that information from the annual reports of the universities. And not only that, the annual reports of the universities are always a year behind.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for The Pas. The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I will endeavour to get that information for the Member for Brandon East. It may take a couple of days because once again, just as it's difficult for him to sift out that particular type of information, and I believe if I understand him correctly, he wants a distinction made in the administrative salaries as opposed to those who are involved in the maintenance functions at

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the universities to those who are involved in the administration per se of the academic function of the university. Am I correct in that assumption?

**MR. EVANS:** Well, perhaps it is simpler if we do take the totality of payroll and I wouldn't be displeased to receive additional information, but perhaps the Honourable Minister could obtain a tabulation that would provide, let us say the total payroll for each university, the total payroll, the total amount or the percentage of that total payroll spent on administrative-executive functions. The percent spent for teaching salaries — and then you could include in that separately in the total if you wish to get to 100 percent of the payroll, others, you can include if you wish the clerical and maintenance components if you like, I am not adverse to getting more detail. But I would like to know of the total payroll of each university, what percentage is spent on the relatively senior administrative-executive category and what percent is spent on teaching salaries or teaching and research salaries. Then if he wants to throw in other categories to get to the 100 percent, that's fine, but I would like to get that type of a break down. Is that clear?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, as a new member to this House I'm not aware of the best way of accomplishing some things, but could I suggest to the Member for Brandon East would this be better handled through an order for return. I also understand that these figures aren't available to the Grants Commission for about another 3 months from the three institutions, so, if he can wait for some time and then have this delivered through an order for return it perhaps might be a little better, or a little more satisfactory.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, I appreciate the problem the Grants Commission may have in getting current information, therefore I'm not so sure — and I don't really know — but I have no way of knowing until we see the figures, but I'm not so sure whether last year's pattern would be that dissimilar from this year's pattern.

So, if it would make it any easier then, perhaps the Commission could use the data that it has in its possession of last year and give us that percentage breakdown. I've always thought that that is not a long detailed report. It doesn't seem as though it is to me and I don't know whether we have to go that route in requiring this information. I had understood that in the Estimates process my experience has been that we give out all kinds of facts, figures and all kinds of detail, pages of material, and that it is proper and in order to seek this information and to obtain this information, even though we may wait a few days, even though we don't get it within a few hours. I don't think anyone is trying to be unreasonable as long as we have a commitment that that type of information will be forthcoming within the reasonable future. I don't know whether three or four months is satisfactory. I would like to know and I think members on this side would like to have that type of information sooner than that.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps if I give the Member for Brandon East my undertaking to provide this information as soon as I can readily get it together, that he will accept that. I would suggest that three or four months is a long time too. I would endeavour to get it before this Session is complete if that would satisfy his requirements. That may be three s, or four month Mr. Chairman.

**MR. EVANS:** Okay, just one other area then, it is related to this. Would the Honourable Minister also undertake, while they are in this area of statistical compilation, to give us an idea of the average salaries, I'm not asking for individual person's salaries, but I'd like to have some idea of the average salaries of different categories in each of the three universities separately. In other words, what is the average salary paid to a lecturer, the average to an assistant professor, the average to the associate, the average to the full professor, the average to the deans, and I guess the president's salary is more or less public information anyway, or at least I think I've read about it in the papers, at least the University of Manitoba or perhaps it's in the annual reports.

But I think that that is a figure that could be obtained and it would be one of general interest in the community, and that is how do the salaries of these categories compare with one to another and also how do they compare among the three universities?

I suggest that the various categories in the academic class or classification, and then on top of that the deans or heads of schools which may be — I think they are comparable — and then the vice-presidents and presidents, perhaps if you want to break those as well that's fine by me, although I believe there's not always a vice-president. I believe there is no vice-president at Brandon University and if the Minister could provide additional detail that's fine. What I would like to do is to get some idea of the comparable salary levels of teaching faculty versus administrative personnel within the university and as I said among three universities.

And that is information I believe that is in the hands of the Grants Commission and I think we're entitled to have that type of information.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, that information certainly is available and I will endeavour to get it to the Member for Brandon East.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister during previous questions mentioned a news release

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and my colleague from Churchill and I are having trouble locating that release. We have one from March 31st, 1978. It says "Limited Universities Program for the North. It will be possible to operate the Inter-Universities North Program on limited basis in 1978-79 as a result of further review of the program, Universities Grants Commission Chairman, W.J. Condo has announced."

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could read that date and that press release. Is it a news service release, because we cannot find it in our news services releases, the date and the context of the release to see how different it is from this one?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the release dated, March 23rd, 1978 is entitled, "Limited Universities Program for the North", and it reads, "It will be possible to operate the Inter-Universities North Program on a limited basis in 1978-79 as a result of a further review of the program University Grants Commission Chairman, W.J. Condo has announced. Dr. Condo said the decision will involve co-operation among the Commission, Manitoba's three universities and the Inter-Universities North Committee. An additional announcement regarding definitive plans will be made as soon as the details have been worked out. Inter-Universities North has been operated for the past nine years as a co-operative program by the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg and Brandon University and has been a Support Program of the Universities Grants Commission. Through IUN, professors from the three universities have travelled to northern communities to give university credit courses to northern residents."

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

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, I'm very confused. The Manitoba Government news service release I have is dated March 31st, 1978 and I would like to read it into the record. "Limited Universities Program for the North. It will be possible to operate the Inter-Universities North Program on a limited basis for 1978-79 as a result of a further review of the program Universities Grants Commission Chairman, W.J. Condo has announced. Dr. Condo said the decision will involve " — if the Minister picks up his one that he just read, if he could follow he might find some similarities — "Dr. Condo said the decision will involve co-operation among the Commission, Manitoba's three universities and the Inter-Universities North Committee. An additional announcement regarding definitive plans will be made as soon as possible as the details have been worked out.

Interuniversities North has been operative for the past nine years as a Co-operative Program of the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg and Brandon University and has been a support program of the Universities Grants Commission. Through IUN, professors from the three universities have travelled to northern communities to give university credit courses to northern residents."

Mr. Chairman, this release of the 31st of March, 1978 is identical and I wonder if maybe the Minister could explain or get Mr. Condo to explain why two identical releases were issued, one apparently on March 23rd and one on March 31st, and have the identical text.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, I have no explanation for that apparent discrepancy between the two dates, but I would be quite prepared to table this particular news release dated March 23rd, if the Member for The Pas so wishes.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister volunteered that Mr. Smith had never directly contacted the Universities Grants Commission. I wonder if he could tell us whether he himself, or the Minister of Northern Affairs were in direct contact with the Universities Grants Commission with Mr. Condo on the Inter-Universities North Program before and during the time the decision was made to reinstate the program.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I can't say that I was never in contact with the Chairman of the Grants Commission at any time in March. I certainly had contact with that gentleman on different occasions on different matters, so I would not be able to stand here and say that I had not met with him or had discussions with him in any particular time period. I suppose there would never be a week go by that there was not some contact of some form.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, maybe the Minister could confirm that he had a specific meeting on the Inter-Universities North Program with Mr. Condo and that the Minister of Northern Affairs had a specific meeting or discussion with Mr. Condo on the reinstatement of the Inter-Universities North Program?

**MR. COSENS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any meeting of that sort on the particular program.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if he could check with Mr. Condo and check if the Minister of Northern Affairs ever met with him on that subject.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

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**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to read from the Thompson Citizen, dated Monday, March 27th, 1978. Perhaps if the member for wherever it is listens for a moment, he might learn something in this House. I am quoting from an article in the Thompson Citizen for the member's information. "Northern Affairs Minister, Ken MacMaster, told the Citizen on Thursday that he had not been satisfied with earlier statements that despite the cut off of IUN, funds of the three universities involved in the program could continue to offer courses individually in the north. He said that he and the Education Minister had met with the Grants Commission during the past week and reached an agreement on the continuation of the Inter-Universities North Program next year."

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Northern Affairs is lying in this newspaper, or the Minister and the president of the Grants Commission is lying because we have two direct contradictory statements and I wonder if they could clarify that for us.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for The Pas can quote whatever he wishes from the newspaper, but at no time did the Member for Thompson, the Minister of Northern Affairs and myself sit down at a meeting with the Chairman of the Grants Commission.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I can only make an assumption then that the Minister of Northern Affairs, and the Member for Thompson is in such bad political trouble that he has to make up stories for his own local newspaper to make it look like he's done something that he hasn't done.

Mr. Chairman, in relation to the press release the Minister said that since there was no announcement made previous to the 23rd, and therefore that there could have been no influence used and that the Federal Member of Parliament did not have information that was not public information, I would like to again for the Member for Pembina and the Minister of Education read from a newspaper and this is the Free Press, dated March 23rd, 1978. "Thompson Manitoba Staff. A program of university credit courses in northern Manitoba communities called Inter-Universities North will continue. M.P.C. Smith, P.C. Churchill said in a telephone interview from Ottawa on Wednesday," and Mr. Chairman, Wednesday would have been the 21st, of March, 1978, "the \$250,000 program was chopped by the Universities Grants Commission last week. The Commission cut the entire \$250,000 grant given to the program which includes 450 students in 13 northern communities. The Commission suggested that the provinces three universities finance the operation. Smith said that he had spoken with Northern Affairs Minister, Ken MacMaster and other Manitoba Cabinet Ministers by phone Wednesday, and was informed that the 6-year old program would continue unchanged."

Mr. Chairman, I can only assume that not only the Thompson Citizen does not correctly quote Conservatives, but the Winnipeg Free Press does also not correctly quote Conservatives.

"Details of the new finance arrangement will be announced shortly, Mr. Smith said." Wednesday night, Thursday, Friday, that's fairly shortly. "Smith said he received numerous phone calls from northern residents protesting the cut. In Flin Flon more than 1,000 local residents signed petitions."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that these quotations from the Thompson Citizen and from the Free Press are coincidences. I think that some of the members opposite, including the Member for Churchill are misleading people, that are not being misquoted. —(Interjection)— The Federal Member for Churchill, the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Member for Thompson, maybe it's not the Minister of Continuing Education, maybe it's only the Member for Thompson, the Minister of Northern Affairs and the Federal M.P., you can understand them misleading people, because they are in a fairly desperate situation in northern Manitoba right now. But, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister of Continuing Education would care to comment on these direct contradictions of the information that he has given us this evening.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there seems to be some confusion regarding dates, but my information and the information that I have before me on the press release is March 23rd and I would suggest that if a decision had been made it may have been made on the 22nd, and the press release came out on the 23rd, so it could have been possible that that was information that was common to both myself and the Minister of Northern Affairs on the 22nd.

I'm not surprised that it would be in the Thompson paper the same day as the news service here had it because certainly the telephones were ringing from the Thompson news service in regard to this very regularly. When they phoned me I usually referred them to the Universities Grants Commission who were in charge of that particular program.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, maybe the Minister didn't hear what I said, I'll have to repeat it for him. Yes, the Thompson Citizen, sorry, the Free Press article is dated the 23rd, but the announcement from the federal MP was given to them before the announcement was made, it says on Wednesday, the federal member had confirmed that the program would be reinstated. So, I wonder if the Minister could just maybe explain to the House, why the federal Minister made the announcement, and who gave him the information. Was it the Universities Grants Commission, that gave him the information? Was it the Minister of Education that gave him the information? Two days before the press release was issued? Or, was it the Minister of Northern Affairs who gave him the information? And, I have to assume, Mr. Chairman, that it was the Minister of Northern Affairs, who is claiming in the Thompson Citizen that he met, he and the Minister of Education met with the Chairman of the Universities Grants Commission and now everyone is denying they had such a meeting. I don't know why the Minister of Northern Affairs would make that statement if, in fact, it didn't happen, but then how did



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the federal member who has nothing to do with this program, nothing to do with this House, make an announcement before the official announcement was made? How did that come about? Could the Minister explain that to us?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that myself and a few colleagues including the representative of the Liberal party have considerable more comments to make on this section. I wonder if the House Leader would want to consider calling it a day, or should we stay for the night.

**MR. JORGENSON:** Mr. Chairman, we're going to stay here until this particular item is passed, then the committee will rise.

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

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, then I have further questions for the Minister of Education. I wonder if he could tell the House if the Inter-Universities North Program will be available during intersession, summer session, or next regular session in the community of Churchill, Manitoba?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I'd have to check with the committee in charge to find out what locations they are offering the courses at in the coming term.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, in the community of Churchill last year, they offered two courses, according to the Grants Commission report. They offered Marine Geography and they offered Sub-Arctic Alpine Environments, both geography courses. In the community of Cranberry Portage last year, they offered an anthropology course, excuse me, two courses, Culture Man and Nature, and Ways of Mankind. I wonder if the Minister could tell the House, will any Inter-Universities North Programs be offered in Cranberry Portage, either inter-session, summer session or the next regular session of Inter-Universities North? .

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think I stated earlier to the Member for Churchill the location of the courses, the number of the courses, the titles of the courses, our information that is not available as yet and will be forthcoming from the committee after they meet and study the needs of the particular areas, and the amount of funds that they will allocate to each particular area.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, in the community of Flin Flon, they offered courses, one course in geography, one course in psychology, and one course in sociology. I wonder if the Minister could let the residents of Flin Flon know, that because of the policies and programs of this Conservative government, whether the people in Flin Flon will receive any Inter-Universities North Programs during the next inter-session, summer session or regular session of the InterUniversities North. —

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, the last session the Inter-Universities North offered a program in sociology at the community of Gardenhill, a program entitled Social Problems. I wonder if the Minister could inform the people of Gardenhill that because of the program policies of this government, whether the people of Gardenhill will be deprived of a course from Inter-Universities North Program during the upcoming year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, in the report of the Inter-Universities North Program the Grants Commission, Inter-Universities North offered a program in Gillam history, History of Canada, 1867 to the Present. I wonder if the Minister of Education could tell us whether the policy of this government will lead to no program being available to the residents of northern Manitoba in Gillam?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the community of Leaf Rapids had two programs in psychology. They were both offered by Brandon University, one in child psychology and one in adolescent psychology. I wonder if the Minister could tell those teachers that are contemplating teaching in the community of Leaf Rapids, — I notice an ad in the paper for the principal of that school in the last week or so — I wonder if he could tell the teachers that are contemplating going there, and may not go there if there's not courses available to them, whether there will or will not be courses, and give them some assistance in making this decision that they have to make very soon, as to whether or not they should go to Leaf Rapids, whether or not there will be a course available in that community.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The community of Snow Lake had two courses in

anthropology offered by the University of Manitoba, Culture Man and Nature, and Ways of Mankind, which sound fairly similar to the courses that were offered in Churchill or Cranberry Portage. I wonder if the Minister of Education could give any guidance to teachers that might be considering working in the community of Snow Lake, applying for positions in the community of Snow Lake, whether because of this governments programs and policies of the Conservative government, whether or not they should, in fact, go to Snow Lake, Manitoba, or whether they'll be deprived of equal educational opportunities if they do so?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, in the last session there were a number of courses offered in The Pas, Manitoba. There were two courses in anthropology, there are two courses in education, there were three courses in geography, there were two courses in sociology, offered in the community of Thompson. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Education probably knows that Kelsey School Division, as all northern divisions, have to hire and recruit teachers early on. Kelsey School Division has already held interviews for positions. Teachers are giving notification now whether they're going to stay or leave. For those teachers that are trying to decide whether they're going to stay or leave Kelsey School Division at The Pas, I wonder if the Minister could tell them whether Inter-Universities North Programs, credit programs, will be available to the teachers to help them make up their mind whether they're going to remain with that school division, or apply for a transfer to southern Manitoba where they can have access to educational opportunities?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the community of Thompson had a number of courses. They had two courses in anthropology, one course in economics, one course in English, one course in geography, and four courses in psychology. Two courses were offered by the University of Manitoba, one by the University of Winnipeg, and four by the University of Brandon. The teachers in Thompson are forced at this time to make a decision and I know that the Minister has many representations from the community of Thompson, from the Thompson City Council as well as the other northern councils. I wonder if he could give any indication to the teachers trying to make up their mind or whether the Member for Thompson might give any indication to these teachers because I am sure they're phoning him, although I understand there's some problem getting his phone number or reaching him, but I'm sure that the teachers are very concerned about what is going to take place in the upcoming year. They have to make a decision. Are they going to apply to go to Thompson, are they going to remain in Thompson? I wonder if the Minister could tell us whether this government's policies, this government's programs will allow for Inter-Universities North to offer programs in the community of Thompson during the next school year?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the honourable Minister has stopped answering questions, or perhaps he's just waiting for staff to come back so he can give some answers to the honourable member from. . . (Interjection) — You've answered the question. I didn't hear it. Didn't hear the answer. What I would like to ask the member. . .

**A MEMBER:** About three times he gave the answer.

**MR. EVANS:** I'd like to ask the Minister of Education whether he could give the members of the House some indication as to the future of the various special programs at Brandon University? Earlier on I referred to one or two and there are others, and I know that there not necessarily funded entirely they're or totally through the Grants Commission but nevertheless it's a question that it does involve the teaching faculty at the university, and I must say that there are people who are being paid through the Grants Commission, teaching courses in native education, native studies for example that are tied into these programs, and there are others who teach various liberal arts and science subjects, and therefore, there is a link, there is an inter-relationship, so I think this is an appropriate place to ask the Minister what is the future, what does that university have in store for it with regard to these very progressive programs? Programs I think that cause many people, not only in Canada, but many other countries, to look with some envy on what we were doing to help disadvantaged people, and I know that there has been some concern about expenditures and the costs involved, therefore, there is some concern as to what is in store for these programs in the future and, therefore, I think it is appropriate for me to ask at this point, what can the Minister tell us, to what extent can the Minister enlighten us in this respect?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think the topic we're on is the Universities Grants Commission. I would suggest to the Member for Brandon East that the programs he refers to come under 7.(d) and 7.(e) Special Projects. I would be quite prepared to go into detail on those programs at that time.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, I don't know whether the Minister was listening. I suppose we could discuss them, but I made the point that there are moneys being spent through the Grants Commission. I don't

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know how the costing is done, but there are people at the university teaching various subjects in the liberal arts and in the sciences that have these people as students, so there is an inter-relationship. And, that is the reason that I raise it at this time because you cannot neatly and nicely, you know, cut it off and say it's all funded under these other expenditures, because there are teaching activities that go on in the university by members of the faculty — Brandon University Native Teachers Education Program. Somewhere, somehow, the members of the Faculty of Education are involved in teaching these students, I would think. And if that's the case, then where does the money come for those teachers in the Faculty of Education to teach students under the BUNTEP Program?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, that particular money that is referred to by the Member for Brandon East is found in 7.(d) and 7.(e), for those programs.

**MR. EVANS:** Is the Minister saying, then, that moneys are taken out of those other allotments and paid to the professors of the Faculty of Education — not directly of course — but is there an accounting? When a student under the BUNTEP Program — and I'm not that familiar with that — These programs came to that university a few years ago and I'm not that close to it, but I am not sure as to the procedure. I would have thought that those students under that particular program are students of the Faculty of Education, and while moneys are paid to help those students take these courses and provide living costs, if necessary, travelling costs and so on, nevertheless the process of teaching — the process of lecturing — is done by a member of the Faculty of Education, who is paid out of this particular vote. And therefore I don't see how you can argue that that cannot be discussed under this particular line.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the Minister has got tired of answering questions or whether he is waiting for some answers to be fed to him, which is quite legitimate, which is fair enough. —(Interjection)— Well, you know, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Roblin, I wish his constituents were here tonight, because all he has done is interfered with the due process of the Estimates Review, talking from his seat, making inane comments that are supposed to be points of order that are not points of order, and he is babbling away now, as he has been all night, and I'd like his constituents to watch this process. Well, I think the Chairman has been remiss. I'm not criticizing the Chair, but I would like to point out to the Chairman that we could be more efficient and more expeditious in this whole process if we weren't interrupted by certain members speaking from their seats, especially making derogatory and provocative remarks. And that has happened. I have been here for many hours this evening and that has been the case; that has happened: And the members of the press who have been here most of the evening and members of this Legislature who have been here most of the evening can tell you and verify that that has been the case.

So I am asking the Minister; I have put the point to him, I think he may be in a position to answer me.

**MR. COSENS:** In regard to the lecturers at Brandon University, the Universities Grants Commission allocation covers those courses that they teach that are university courses. Courses that are taught for special projects or special programs that are funded directly by the university, or by the Department of Education, are found under 7.(d) and 7.(e), but the courses that are taught by university professors that are university courses as such and are not funded directly by the Department of Education would come under No. 6. The Universities Grants Commission.

**MR. EVANS:** . . . there is a inter-relationship. So there is a relationship; there has to be a relationship.

At any rate, I don't know whether the Honourable Minister wants to give us any of his thoughts with regard to the future of these programs. Maybe it is more legitimate and more proper to discuss it under another item, but, as I say, there is a relationship. It may be fuzzy, but if you were there I think you would observe that. And as you have recognized yourself, in your remarks, that the faculty who are engaged in regular programs — regular teaching — also, of course, get involved in teaching students who are funded under these other special programs.

On a different subject, Mr. Chairman, there have been a number of recommendations made by the Task Force. In particular, the Task force, generally, is very concerned about costing, about funding, and I'm afraid it hasn't been as concerned as it should be on the other end of the ledger — the other side of the ledger — and that is with the benefits that accrue to the province, that accrue to our communities to our people, from the existence of the universities and the various programs they engage in, whether it be teaching or research. And there are a number of very, I would say, shocking recommendations made in the Task Force on Government Organization and Economy with respect to the Universities Grants Commission and how it should relate in the future to the universities and, indeed, it goes beyond that I believe, suggesting major investigations and so on. And as I mentioned before, "The Task Force believes that present provisions for academic tenure result in considerable inflexibility. Close to 75 percent of Manitoba university faculty members are tenured. Adjustments will be difficult because of the high proportion of tenured faculty who are relatively young. We recommend a major investigation into the entire tenure issue to determine whether viable options to tenure or modification in current practices can be introduced, and we further recommend that

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serious consideration be given to freezing further granting of tenure until such an investigation is completed." Page 60 of the Task Force Report.

This is a matter to me, it could be argued, that strikes at the very heart of academic freedom. And that is the feeling of security that an individual academic or individual professor may have or should have in order that he might pursue his studies unfettered by the fear of losing his job. And this recommendation, in my view, is a challenge to that very independence of the university that the Minister professed to be concerned with earlier this evening.

I believe I understood him, in so many words, to say that he was concerned about not interfering with university affairs. You know, that the academics should be over here and the government over there, and the Grants Commission somewhere in between, and that there shouldn't be control — I think that was one of the words that the Minister used — that it should not be control by government. Fair enough, and I can assure him that we are concerned as well that there be no interference with the intellectual pursuits, that there be complete freedom in the academic community.

But here, in this recommendation, you are striking at one of the foundations of academic freedom and it is a serious recommendation that is made. I ask the Minister, now, whether he and his government intend to set up a special investigation commission or committee, or to require the Grants Commission to establish such a special investigation of the tenure issue or, as it is referred to here, the entire tenure issue to determine whether viable options to tenure or modification in current practices can be introduced? I think that is a vital concern to many in the community, in the province, and I would like to get the Minister's views on whether the government plans to institute such an investigation or set up such a committee.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, all I can assure the Member for Brandon East is that we will give that recommendation, as we will all other recommendations, due consideration, I would hope shortly.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 6.—pass — the Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, that's a very reasonable answer but it really doesn't tell us anything. It's like the answers we were getting for awhile from the Minister in charge of Environmental Management. He was going to, with regard to the problems caused by feedlot operations, hog ranches and so on, his solution was to study the matter further. They were going to engage in additional research. And that's just what we need, is some additional research in the matter of hog ranches and the odour pollution, which as the Member for Inkster observed, will be with us forever and it's a problem that will never go away, and I agree. It's not likely to go away.

But can the Minister be more definitive than he is that, in due course this matter will be taken under advisement? Because of the seriousness of it it leaves a cloud of concern. Many question marks are left, in fact, with the whole report, but this in particular. We are talking about universities and I think that the university community and others would like to know are you serious? How serious are you in this question of investigating the matter of tenure? Or is it one of the many recommendations that are going to be turfed aside and ignored?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East, I can only assure him that this recommendation is going to get due consideration, as will all other recommendations. And if consultation is needed in order to get further information then there will be consultation.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, how will this consultation occur? Does the Minister expect to use the offices of the Grants Commission or will he and his colleagues set up a special commission on higher education in Manitoba? You know, some provinces have set up Royal Commission on Higher Education. It's nothing new under the sun. But is the Minister intending to go that route, along with the Cabinet, to set up a special investigation, whether it be a Royal Commission or special committee, or is it simply a low key review that is going to take place by the offices of the Grants Commission?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to the Member for Brandon East that different recommendations will require different types of treatment. And as to what type of approach we will use on this particular recommendation I am not prepared to suggest at this particular time.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, what about the matter of eligibility for sabbaticals? Without going into the pro's and con's of sabbaticals, what they mean and what benefits they may have, or what abuses there may be, one way or the other this is another very specific recommendation made by the Task Force. And it says that it's concerned with sabbaticals because of costs, of course. And I read again on Page 61, I'm quoting, Mr. Chairman, "The Task Force is unable to make comment on the quality of post-secondary education in the province because of a lack of quality measurement information. Such measurement would clearly be desirable. The Task Force was impressed by the research grants attracted by the University of Manitoba."

Well, that follows after the other comment. But my question is really how does the Minister intend to look into this matter, the problem raised, or the recommendation of a study. It says, quoting on Page 60, "We recommend a study of sabbatical concept8 with a view to establishing a ceiling on what percent of total university revenues can be allocated in this direction." How will that particular

recommendation be dealt with?

**MR. COSENS:** In much the same way, Mr. Chairman, as the former recommendation.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, I gather that the Minister really doesn't know how his government is going to proceed. This is really the case I would think. At this point we are getting what I would consider to be bureaucratic answers, they sound very good, they are very non-committal, they're very precise in some ways, but very imprecise in other ways. Generally they're characterized by what little they tell you and I suggest that the kind of answers we're getting now are bureaucratic answers of the worst kind, which really tells the members of the House and the public nothing. —(Interjection)— We're not getting any information as to just how is the government going to treat this series of major recommendations by the organization, the Task Force on Government Organization and Economy.

After all the hoop-de-doo by the Minister without Portfolio, the Member for River Heights, about the importance of all these recommendations and how they're going to save the people of Manitoba fantastic sums of money, and how it's so urgent that this report be done so quickly, I might add very superficially therefore and really without consultation. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that there was not the kind of consultation with the university community that should have taken place with respect to the recommendations that we find under the heading Universities Grants Commission in this report, pages 58 thru 61.

There was not the consultation and recommendations were made, I would say, in haste. They were made without due consideration. They were made without the consideration of the degree to which the government was going to infringe or impose itself upon the academic community. And, whether they like it or not, we've been told that we've got a very important report here.

We're going to remake the province maybe. We're going to save the people of Manitoba lots of money, maybe. But we're also going to do a number of other things, and I say, Mr. Chairman, that it's quite obvious that we've got a lot of very serious recommendations here, recommendations that will have a bearing on the future course of universities in this province; will have a bearing on the quality of higher education in this province; will have a bearing on the degree to which we have universities that offer the same quality of education as other universities in this country, including universities in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and such other places. Therefore, I would have thought that the Minister of Education would have concerned himself with this and would have been able to comment as to what degree we should take these recommendations with any degree of seriousness.

I'm beginning to think with his rather nonchalant bureaucratic non-answer replies, that these recommendations along with the other recommendations of the Task Force are really not worth the paper they're written on. Is that the conclusion we should draw, that these recommendations aren't really worth the paper they're written on? They perhaps should have been used to save the day over at the Archives Building when they ran out of toilet paper, maybe that's what should have been done with the reports because the answers and the attitude of the Minister is very nonchalant about the whole thing and I sort of gather that he doesn't think that these recommendations are very important.

So, specifically then, can the Minister advise us if he's going to proceed expeditiously with implementing some of these recommendations? I asked him about two specifically. There are several other recommendations — I could enumerate them — but in totality how quickly and how expeditiously might the Minister proceed with these? I don't think he's going to tell us how seriously he treats these questions. I get the feeling though that he's not treating them very seriously.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East. I think he's assuming too much perhaps. I believe these are serious recommendations, and certainly will be treated in that manner. In due course when time is available they will be considered, and I think I made it quite clear at the beginning of my Estimates, that I had not had that opportunity as yet to give them that type of consideration, and until I did have that opportunity, I would not be prepared to comment.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Government House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSON:** I'm going to move that the committee rise, but I think I should advise my honourable friends that our rules do provide that the government does have the opportunity of getting the business of the House through, and unless there's some progress made on these particular Estimates, I'm going to have to take the step that is necessary to ensure that we do move along. Will the committee rise?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

*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 Radisson.

**MR. ABE KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Dauphin, that the report of Committee be received.

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**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Speaker, I . move, seconded by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, that the House do now adjourn.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.