

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Friday, 28 March, 1980

Time: 10:30 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Presenting Petitions .
. . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . .

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. ABE KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, The Committee of Supply has adopted a certain Resolution, directs me to report same, and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Virden, report of Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN introduced Bill No. 28, The Sanatorium Board of Manitoba Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed any further, I have been asked to draw to the honourable members' attention a problem that seems to be occurring with Manitoba Telephone System in the use of the telephones out in Room 269 here. Members are being asked not to direct-dial between the hours of 8:00 and 5:00. Direct Dialing should only occur after that time when you're making calls outside the province. Under the present, system you're supposed to use the Operator, I guess, between the hours of 8:00 and 5:00. There will be a directive circulated to all members.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At the same time, I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the Speaker's Gallery where we have a visitor, Mr. Gian Bettamio, the General Secretary of the European People's Party, here from Brussels. He is here on a parliamentary visit. On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this morning.

I should like to also draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery on my left, where we have 40 students from Westgagge Mennonite Collegiate, under the direction of Mr. Leonard Wiebe. They also have, as their guests, 40 students from Rockway Mennonite School in Kitchener, Ontario. On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this morning.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he can inform us as to the number of hopper cars that he now has in service on a lease basis on behalf of the province of Manitoba?

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): The first group of cars, Mr. Speaker, there were 300 cars in the lease that are supposed to be in service by approximately the 15th of March. The additional 100 cars are being negotiated on at this particular time.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate the length of the term of the lease, whether it is by the month or by the year, or what is the commitment of the province with respect to that operation?

MR. DOWNEY: The 300 cars that I speak about, Mr. Speaker, the first term of the lease is for six months with the option to renegotiate the lease at that particular time.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister in charge of MHRC whether he can inform the House as to who the purchaser was of the properties in East Selkirk that he reported on to the House just a few days ago?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. C.V. Waytiuk put in a bid of \$67,250.00.

MR. USKIW: Could the Minister also indicate what is the disposition of the other lands held by MHRC. Are they also being sold, or has there been a settlement with Triangle Farms or Saunders, the former owner of the parcel adjacent to the village? Has that been dealt with or finalized, Mr. Speaker?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaer, I know that parcel of land the honourable member is speaking of, we have had negotiations with some people on it. When he asks, finalized, I don't think it has but I would like to be accurate for the member, and I will check into it and give him an answer. I don't believe that piece of property, that there has been anything finalized on it.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, just to be precise, I would like to know whether the purchase has been completed, or whether there is still some litigation on that one.

MR. JOHNSTON: I will get the member the information, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, I wonder if I can direct my question to the Acting Minister. Would the Minister consider meeting with the operators of supermarkets to discuss possible legislation, or if that is not enforceable, at least the uniform regulation for shopping carts? I think there is quite an abuse and this high cost of food, the consumer is paying for that. I can say that a couple of days ago, I saw at least 10 shopping carts in about three blocks. A couple of months ago, there was one night coming back around 11:30 on a slippery street, there was one in the middle of the street, and I couldn't do anything but hit it; I saw it at the last minute and as I say, at night.

I wonder if that is possible? There is such an abuse and it is certainly cost the consumer something. I have seen broken ones, all kinds. I wonder if that could be done, if he would discuss it?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I would be quite happy to take that question, that suggestion of the honourable member, as notice for the Minister of Consumer Affairs, and say to him that in the meantime, perhaps the Attorney-General could enlighten us as to whether or not there is a sufficient

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body of law, either in the Criminal Code or otherwise, to prevent the kind of misuse of this convenience which is often found in circumstances just as my honourable friend describes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Transportation and Highways. Would the Minister of Highways and Transportation project a target date re weight restrictions implementation to give rural, especially farmers, some advance warning or lead time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. DON ORCHARD (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Member for Virden for giving me advance warning of this. As I mentioned yesterday, restrictions come on when the road deflections indicate that harm will come to the road surface. The deflection reports are coming in Monday, and we expect that we will have to implement road restrictions on either April 7 or April 10.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Highways. Could he indicate to the House when he will cease violating the Highways Department law and table his Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1979?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, it is expected that my Highways Annual Report will be available the first week in April.

MR. HANUSCHAK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate to the House the reason for the delay?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris) Mr. Speaker, I wonder if my honourable friend would mind if I undertook to provide an answer to that particular question, since the Queen's Printer comes under the jurisdiction of my department.

In October, there was rather an unusual set of circumstances connected with this particular project, and perhaps my honourable friend would be well advised to get this information so that he will know exactly what has happened. In October of 1979, Mr. Glen Charles, a Department of Highways employee, passed away. Mr. Charles was the person who was responsible for the preparing of the department's Annual Reports. The ensuing restructuring in the department caused the delay in the Department of Highways getting their printing request in to the Queen's Printer. A requisition dated February 14, 1980, was received by the Queen's Printer asking that "rush" printing of the department's report take place: 100 copies wanted by March 10, 1980, for the Minister's office and 300 copies wanted by March 17, 1980, for the department. The Queen's Printer tendered out this request because of the time frame, four weeks request, and economies of scale, that is, the number of pages could be done more economically by a printing company than by the Queen's Printer, or basically a photostating operation.

On Tuesday, February 19, the tender docket was prepared. On Thursday, February 21, a bid table set up. Printers are made aware of the job and may come to the actual table to see the type of work to be done. On Wednesday, February 27, quotes are due by 4:30 p.m. from prospective tenderers. On Monday, March 3, since there were no quotes received, the printing of the Annual Report, the Queen's Printer contacted the previous year's printer for the job, Graf-Tech of Gimli, and asked them if they would be willing to accept the job. The company agreed. And because of those delays, the report has not been received yet.

We regret that this took place, but I could assure my honourable friend that every effort will be made to ensure that report is tabled as quickly as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

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MR. VIC SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. Could he advise the House as to what progress, if any, has been made at Elkhorn School, and as to whether the children are back in the school in Elkhorn?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the two parties are still negotiating, and the children are not in school at this time.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary to the Minister of Education. Can he advise the House as to whether there has been a further meeting arranged between him and the Residents' Committee from Elkhorn in order to solve this matter?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Member for Rossmere that there is not a meeting scheduled at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere with a final supplementary.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Attorney-General. Last week he took a question as notice dealing with the matter of the 2,000 truants in the City of Winnipeg. He indicated that it was his view that something had been done by this administration to improve the situation. I would ask the Attorney-General what exactly it is that has been done to improve the situation with respect to truants in Winnipeg, and what he is proposing to do to ensure that this government is not involved in contributing to the delinquency of these juveniles by not requiring them to be in school.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I took that question as notice, I believe, earlier this week. I hope to have an answer for the member early next week.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

Was there a meeting held yesterday with the official delegation of the City of Winnipeg relative to the right of the Municipality of Rosser to make its own determinations in zoning matters?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, there was a meeting held yesterday with the official delegation of the City of Winnipeg to discuss the additional zone in general, and in particular, the application of the Municipality of Rosser to join a planning district.

MRS. WESTBURY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister advise the House what answer was given to the official delegation relative to the Municipality of Rosser's application?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, there was no determination. We discussed with the city of Winnipeg the provisions of The Planning Act, the protection afforded to the City of Winnipeg under The Planning Act, and in general, planning concerns of the city. On our side, Mr. Speaker, we have a Committee of Cabinet in caucus that were part of the discussions yesterday. We intend to meet with the Municipality of Rosser and other additional own municipalities to also discuss their concerns with respect to this matter before any final determination of the matter is made.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with a final supplementary.

MRS. WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister of Urban Affairs advise the House whether there has been an approach made by the official delegation of asking the government to intercede in the matter of diverting the transportation of dangerous chemicals by railroad from the centre of the city, so that they will go outside of the city? Has this government been approached by the official delegation on this matter?

MR. MERCIER: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health. In view of the fact that the College of Physicians and Surgeons has ruled that Dr. Owen Schwartz be suspended for three months and be required to pay costs even greater than that recommended to it by the inquiry, is the Minister now going to do what he promised us a few weeks ago in the House and look into this matter to ensure that the College of Physicians and Surgeons is not discriminating against a doctor who is practicing preventative medicine?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, we have already done what the honourable member suggests I promised to do in this House in terms of looking into this matter. I have been kept informed of the proceedings and the disposition of the proceedings. I understand that the question of costs and the levying of those costs is a matter that Dr. Schwartz is considering taking to appeal at this juncture on the basis of interpretations of certain sections of The Medical Act. I would have no further comment on that at this point in time. I don't think it would serve any useful purpose to offer my opinions as to his course of action with respect to an appeal against the costs.

MR. PARASIUK: Yes, in view of the fact that Dr. Charles Green, who was physician to the late Prime Minister of Canada, John G. Diefenbaker, in view of the fact that Dr. Green was prevented from appearing before the inquiry of Dr. Schwartz by the the inquiry panel, and that he in fact has been quoted as saying that Dr. Schwartz is in fact receiving dirty pool from the inquiry and from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the light of those comments by Dr. Green, is the Minister of Health satisfied that justice has been done by the College of Physicians and Surgeons in this inquiry of Dr. Owen Schwartz?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Health indicated, this matter is still subject to appeal to the courts and is under consideration, Mr. Speaker, and I therefore suggest that the question is out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, to the point of order, it is my understanding that only the issue of costs are presently the subject of appeal. My colleague is enquiring from the Minister as to general policy direction on the part of his ministry pertaining to those in medicine that are practising preventative forms of medicine, and surely my honourable friend is stretching the rules of sub judice way too far under these circumstances.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that I can answer the main thrust of the honourable member's question within the parameters of propriety. What the honourable member is asking me, as I read it, whether I think there has been come "discrimination" invoked against the practice and the concept of holistic

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medicine. I am assured, and I am fully satisfied in my own mind, Mr. Speaker, that that has not been the case. This was not an inquiry into holistic medicine. It was not a critique of holistic medicine. It was a critique of specific management and administration of individual cases between the doctor and individual patients, and the College didn't initiate this process. There were eight complaints that were levied from the general public, from patients of the doctor in question. The College then found it incumbent to investigate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: I would like to ask the Minister if he would investigate whether in fact Dr. Charles Green, who is a practitioner of holistic medicine and the physician to the late Prime Minister of Canada, John Diefenbaker, whether in fact that man was prevented from appearing before the inquiry, as he intended to do, to support Dr. Owen Schwartz, and whether in the light of that, the Minister feels that justice has been served?

MR. SHERMAN: My answer to the honourable member with respect to whether justice has been served is an answer that has to be made in the context of the responsibilities of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. If he is asking me, do I think that the College has met the ethical requirements, the requirements of its responsibility as a body to protect the public of Manitoba and ensure the highest standards of medical practice, yes, I believe justice has been met and justice has been served. I think that is the question that the case really turned on, Mr. Speaker, not different philosophies or concepts of medicine.

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable First Minister. The report that the Minister tabled yesterday on the Western Power Grid in support of his statement was dated February of 1979. The Minister of Energy made a statement in October that economic feasibility studies were under way and were expected to be ready by February I'm sorry, by December. Can the Honourable First Minister now inform the House whether those economic feasibility studies have been completed, and would he table them in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I regret I was otherwise engaged and didn't hear the first part of my honourable friend's question.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Member for St. Vital repeat his question, please?

MR. WALDING: I'll try, Mr. Speaker. The report that the First Minister had tabled in the House yesterday in support of his statement was dated February 16th, I believe was the date of the transmittal. The Minister of Energy stated in October of 1979 that economic feasibility studies were under way and were expected to be completed by December of 1979. Can the Minister inform the House whether those studies are now completed, and would he table them in the House?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to take that question as notice for the Minister. He will be back with us on Monday, God willing.

MR. WALDING: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I notice that the report that the Minister had tabled was a grid study for four provinces. The agreement that the Minister also studied was for three provinces only. Does the fact that British Columbia has now opted out of this agreement invalidate the present study, and has the Minister other studies that would show a feasibility for a prairie grid as opposed to a western grid that was originally proposed?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I had reiterated and made it clear yesterday in my statement, and certainly I know it has been a matter of public record for some

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considerable time, that the original concept of a four-province grid had been readapted to a three-province grid on the basis of the decision of British Columbia that they, at this time, did not wish to participate in the four-province grid. And it is subject to that decision, that report that my honourable friend has in his hand, which was tabled yesterday, was based on the four-province grid. I suggested in my statement yesterday I don't have the exact words in front of me, Mr. Speaker that the report necessarily then is out of date and is altered in concept with respect to the four-province now becoming a three-province grid. I hope that helps my honourable friend.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it helps me somewhat. I have another question for the Honourable First Minister. Can he inform the House whether the discussions with Alberta to export Manitoba power are separate and distinct from the discussions involving the concept of a prairie grid, or are they part of those negotiations?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I would have to say and I have not been first of all, I would qualify by saying that I have not been personally involved in the ministerial discussions, and the answer might better come from the Minister of Energy. My impression is, however, that it's a little bit of both; that individual discussions go on between the provinces and, as well, in the case of Manitoba and Saskatchewan from time to time, between the utilities with respect to their needs. Some of the inter-ties, as my honourable friend is well aware, between Manitoba and Saskatchewan are, of course, and have been for some time, in place. What we are talking about is a kind of transmission capability that would permit power in the amounts that were mentioned yesterday to be transferred through to Alberta with the possibility, which is an encouraging one at the present time, of Saskatchewan being interested in firm power purchases from Manitoba as well.

MR. WALDING: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. A matter of clarification, if I may, from the First Minister. Since the concept of a prairie grid suggests that savings can be made by deferring capital expenditures in new generation facilities being brought on stream, can the Honourable Minister explain to us why he is now talking about bringing forward the development of limestone, if he is not also talking to Alberta about a dedicated production of that power to Alberta alone?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, if my honourable will refer back to the earlier answer, he will find in it exactly what he is alluding to, namely that separate negotiations have been going on at the same time as the grid discussions with the province of Alberta at the governmental level because, of course, in the province of Alberta, the major utility, that is, electric utility companies, are privately run they are not operated by government with the result that those discussions go on at the governmental level as between Saskatchewan and Manitoba at the ministerial, as well as at the utility level. But I'm sure that my honourable friend, if he will have patience until Monday, he might get further elucidation from the Minister of Mines and Energy, who has been the key person involved in the discussions.

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

MR. SAUL M. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to address a question to the First Minister who, on March 14th, undertook to investigate whether any public opinion polls have been commissioned by any agencies of the government. Is he now in a position to report?

MR. LYON: No, Mr. Speaker. The ministries are being canvassed, however. We have not lost sight of my honourable friend's question. When I get a response, I'll let him know.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I thank the First Minister. I now would like to address a question to the Minister of Health who is reported in the newspaper to have given an interview or made a statement in relation to a study of the Dental Health Program as comparing government and private dentists' costs. Is

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the Minister, in having made this statement, and having announced some of the conclusions, is he prepared to make the report available to those us who have as keen an interest as he has in it?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am prepared to do that. I would only say to my honourable friend that I made very few references to conclusions in the report. The report was submitted to my office some 10 days ago, and the Chairman of the Review Committee, Dr. Storey, has requested a meeting with me in connection with it, and that meeting will be held very shortly. I would like to hear from Dr. Storey prior to any further action, but it's certainly my intention to make that report available to all members of the House.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that the Honourable Minister has not yet met with Dr. Storey, but has announced that the Committee has concluded that the program can be run as cheaply by private dentists as by government staff. Will the Minister inform us the extent to which he has investigated the true cost of the dental plan within the Manitoba Dental Association of which he has no control, as compared with the two costs of the dental plan, governmental, over which he has complete control.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, that's one of the questions, no doubt, on which Dr. Storey wants to enter into discussion with me, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, the true cost has to be the cost arrived at, the figure arrived at, for determination of a future course of action with respect to the plan. I want to meet with Dr. Storey to receive his comments relative to the conclusions that are contained in the report, and that is one of them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. BOB ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like direct a question to the Minister of Cultural Affairs. In the light of the financial crisis currently facing the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, what initiatives has the Minister undertaken to reduce the severity of this situation in the long term?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

HON. NORMA L. PRICE (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have already initiated two meetings with the Mayor of Winnipeg, the Chairman of the Manitoba Arts Council, and some members of the Symphony, and we are going to make a more formal presentation, although I've had an formal meeting with a couple of men from the Secretary of States Department in Ottawa. This meeting resulted in the fact that we have to have the assurance from the Symphony Board that they are going to have a responsible program, that they will be able to reduce the deficit in a very positive manner, and we are prepared to work with them in order to achieve that result.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Mr. Speaker, I have opportunity to follow on that well-orchestrated question of the past few minutes.

In a short preface to my question, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to extend our sympathy to the families and the friends of those involved in the tragic accident on the Trans-Canada Highway yesterday.

I'd address my question to the Minister of Highways. Can the Minister inform the House as to the extent of the spill of liquid fertilizer labelled 28-0-0 in ammonia nitrate solution, and in specific can he indicate how many gallons of that material did spill?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

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MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, the volume of 2,875 gallons of nitrogen solution fertilizer were spilled in that accident.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, with a spill of this nature of a confined area, one would expect that any contamination problems would be ground-water system contamination problems. Can the Minister outline what procedures are being followed to capture and contain the spilled fertilizer? And can he also indicate what is being done to monitor any possible contamination that would result out of a spill of this quantity occurring in a small area?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's interest today on this subject and I'd like to inform him on it. I'll answer half the question, then I'll let my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister responsible for the Environment answer the latter part.

The clean-up operation was undertaken yesterday by removal of the snow with a bulldozer, and significant quantities as a matter of fact the information given to me is that no quantities of the nitrogen solution fertilizer were discovered at the spill site.

Further tests are being undertaken today in the area to determine where that quantity of solution fertilizer went. Since the tanker overturned and was laying on the railway right-of-way, it is suspected and this should be confirmed later on today that that nitrogen solution fertilizer was absorbed by the gravel base in the rail roadbed.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased that the Minister of Highways seems to take more of an interest in this than the First Minister.

Can the Minister of Environment --(Interjection)-- The Minister spreads it every day in the House, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Environment, if I may, Mr. Speaker. As there have been a number of contradictory reports as to the date of the actual spill of chromic acid at Canadian Bronze, can the Minister now confirm that the material was accidentally spilled several weeks ago but was not discovered until late last week, at which time notification was made?

And can he further confirm that some chromic acids are suspected carcinogens and that they may pose a health hazard in respect to their carcinogenacy, as well as in respect to their acidity?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, the information that we have received is that the spill took place on Thursday. Now if my honourable friend has information beyond that, then I would be interested in learning of it. But we were told that the accident took place, and it could well be that it wasn't noticed at that particular time. I'm not going to suggest that that is a definitive answer, because all I am reporting is what we were told. So I hope that my honourable friend will come forth if he has information to the contrary.

With respect to the other part of his question, I think I can't confirm that there are some carcinogenic properties contained in the acid, under certain circumstances.

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Health and ask him, in view of the recent Lakeshore District Health Board's unanimous decision after a meeting with the Manitoba Health Services Commission, to stay with the original plan of health care on the west side of the Interlake, with the additional inclusion of the Community of Lundar, for nursing home facilities is the Minister now prepared to amend his original announcement that he made into this House and proceed with the original proposal as recommended by the Board?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

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MR. SHERMAN: I don't anticipate having any great difficulty with that course of action, Mr. Speaker, either with the Honourable Member for St. George or with the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister then, when is he prepared to let the tenders go on the nursing homes of Eriksdale and Lundar, plans of which were completed and ready to go to tender in 1977; and Ashern which was tendered and then stopped by the provincial government after the election?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, if we can ignore the references and the propoganda in the latter part of the honourable member's question, let me say that the --(Interjection)-- government will be proceeding as quickly as possible, Mr. Speaker. The obvious result of the meeting held this week will be the forwarding of a formal resolution from the Lakeshore District Health System Board to my office, through the Health Services Commission.

I believe that may have already taken place within the last 24 hours. Once I have that formal resolution in front of me, we will proceed very quickly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George with a final supplementary.

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker. While the Minister indicates he will proceed very quickly, could he indicate what that "quickly" means, in terms of the program that was recommended by the board? What does that "quickly" mean with respect to the specifics of the program that has been recommended by the board, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George has been in government. He knows what "quickly" means.

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

MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister of Transportation a question pertaining to his meeting with Mr. Pepin in regard to the crow rate.

Would he agree that since he did not deny that he had made a recommendation to abolish the crow, that that in fact means that he did make such a recommendation?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Ste. Rose is making certain agreements and conclusions.

In the course of the discussion with the Honourable Jean Luc Pepin, Minister of Transportation for the Canadian government, the subject of grain transportation came up, and whenever one discusses the subject of grain transportation in western Canada, naturally the subject of statutory and compensatory rates comes up, and those matters were discussed with Mr. Pepin. I would not like to have the Member for Ste. Rose leave the impression that a recommendation was made by myself to the Honourable Minister in regards to that subject matter. A recommendation as to finding a solution to that problem was made.

In other words, we in this province would like to see a resolution to the whole question of compensation to the railway companies for the movement of grain. We would like to see a resolution to that whole question very shortly, so that, Mr. Speaker, the farming community, not only in Manitoba, but in Saskatchewan and Alberta, can properly gain the revenues that they so need when and if we can move the quantities of grain that they are capable of producing.

MR. ADAM: Yes, could the Minister then advise if he did recommend to the Minister, the federal Minister, that the Crow rate be retained in its present form; if he did make that recommendation to the Minister?

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MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I did not recommend to the Honourable Minister that the Crow rate should be retained or disbanded.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose with a final supplementary.

MR. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister of Highways could advise if he did recommend to the federal Minister, Mr. Pepin, not to proceed with a compensatory rate for the railways, whether he did make that recommendation.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, in my discussion with the federal Minister of Transportation, I suggested to him that one of the greatest obstacles in front of the farmers, who are the most industrious group of people in Western Canada, one of the major obstacles, Mr. Speaker, I pointed out to the Federal Minister of Transportation, was the fact that they are unable this year, last year, the previous year, and in all years with the possible exception of 1973, our farming community have not had the opportunity to move the total volume of their production. They have been stifled in their efforts to more efficiently produce greater quantities of grain. And I suggested, Mr. Speaker, to the Federal Minister of Transportation, as many other farm groups have suggested to the Minister of Transportation federally, that one of the major obstacles to the movement of that grain has been proper compensation for the railroads. And I urged him to come up with a solution whereby the federal government would undertake proper compensation to the railroad so that the farming community in this province can derive the proper revenues that they so deserve. And furthermore, Mr. Speaker, that they deserve and need.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Question Period having expired . . . the Honourable Member for Logan.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, could I have the leave of the House to make some committee changes?

MR. SPEAKER: Has the member leave? (Agreed) The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the following committee changes: Public Accounts, the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet for the Honourable Member for St. Johns; in Municipal Affairs, the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge for the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet; on Law Amendments, the Honourable Member for Rossmere for the Honourable Member for St. Vital; the Honourable Member for St. Boniface for the Honourable Member for Flin Flon, also on Law Amendments; on Private Bills, the Honourable Member for Rossmere for the Honourable Member for Churchill; on Economic Development, the Honourable Member for Rossmere for the Honourable Member for Flin Flon; Statutory Orders and Regulations, the Honourable Member for Flin Flon for the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

I have a copy here for the Clerk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the First Minister, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of Ways and Means for raising of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair.

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COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS

MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson): This Committee of Ways and Means will come to order. Interim Supply. Resolve that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty, on account of certain expenses of Public Service for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1981, the sum of \$568,587,270; \$568,587,270 being 30 percent of the total amount to be voted for departments as set forth in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1981, laid before the House at the present Session of the Legislature, be granted out of the consolidated fund. Pass?

The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, this committee deals with the manner in which the funds will be provided, as compared to the committee yesterday which dealt with the authority to spend the money. I see the Finance Minister is absent. I wonder who can tell us how this sum of over half a billion dollars will be raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, just on a matter of House business, the Chairman of the Treasury Board will be advising the honourable members in this matter.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Chairman, we have some staff coming so we can provide the answers.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, since the government seems not to be quite ready with this, I think we can pass it and discuss this question at a later time. If the Minister is not able to respond, I wouldn't press it. I think I know the answer that might come. I wanted to discuss interest rates that the government would have to pay for the money, but it's not too important. If you want to pass it, you may.

MR. RANSOM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we would appreciate that. Being the Acting Minister, I would have to have my staff here in order to be able to communicate the answers to the honourable member, and the staff are on the way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution. Pass?
Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Ways and Means has adopted certain Resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Emerson, that Report of Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. RANSOM, by leave, introduced Bill No. 22, An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money for the Public Service of the Province for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1981, and to Authorize the Commitment of Expenditure of Additional Money in Subsequent Years.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - SECOND READING

BILL NO. 22 THE INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

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MR. RANSOM, by leave, presented Bill No. 22, An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money for the Public Service of the Province for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st day of March, 1981 and to Authorize the Commitment of Expenditure of Additional Money in Subsequent Years, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

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

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Johns that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Acting House Leader.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I just wonder if, to expedite the rather cumbersome exchanges that we have to go through here now, whether it would not be appropriate at this time to allow the Minister of Natural Resources to explain, or to introduce the Bill for second reading, and then it would of course be in order for the Honourable Member for Wellington to do precisely what he is indicating he may wish to do.

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

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I was sitting waiting for the Honourable Minister to give us an explanation on second reading, and it was when you stood up to pass the matter that I rose to move adjournment. I would willingly withdraw my motion with the approval of the seconder, if the Minister wishes to continue.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed that we allow the Minister of Natural Resources to speak on second reading?

The Honourable Member for St. Boniface on a point of order.

MR. DESJARDINS: What we are agreeing, so the First Minister doesn't make any mistake, is that we revert, not that we withdraw the motion, we revert to give the Minister a chance, who I guess forgot to speak, but we certainly intend to make the same motion.

MR. SPEAKER: It is agreed that we revert, then, to the introduction of the Bill for second reading.

The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I guess it pays to be a little quicker on the feet than the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

As will be recognized by most members of the House, Mr. Speaker, this Bill merely provides for Interim Authority necessary from the start of the fiscal year of the province, April 1, 1980, until such time as The Main Appropriation Act is passed by the Legislature.

It permits staff in the various departments to be paid for necessary expenditures incurred during the period when the House is in session and debating the Estimates of Expenditure. Without the authority provided by The Interim Appropriation Act, it would be impossible to pay the ongoing costs of education, health and all of the other necessary expenses, including the salaries of the Civil Service provided for in the Provincial Estimates of Expenditure.

Over the years, an amount has been determined, which is the estimated maximum amount that would be spent up until such time as the Legislature would normally take to pass The Main Appropriation Act. It will be readily recognized that this is a necessary and straight-forward commitment, more of a housekeeping nature than a substantive nature. The authority requested here is for 30 percent of the amount, not including statutory expenditures, as set out in the Estimates under review. It is anticipated that this will be sufficient authority to carry on the normal day-to-day operations of the government until such times as official authority for all of the Estimates of Expenditure have been reviewed by this House and passed as legislation.

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This, of course, is the manner in which all other governments carry out their continuing role until the Main Estimates of Supply become legislation. I would hope that this House will provide authority for government to carry out its undertakings in the normal manner by permitting the Bill to proceed through the legislative process without undue delay.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HANUSCHAK: I wonder if the Honourable Minister would agree to a question? Will he confirm that payday is two weeks today?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: No, I believe it is earlier than that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Does the Honourable Minister then indicate that it is a week today?

MR. RANSOM: I believe so, Mr. Speaker, but given the long weekend, with Good Friday next Friday, then there is a necessity to advance by a day, I believe.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. George, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Acting Government House Leader.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the First Minister, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Natural Resources, and the Honourable Member for Virden in the Chair for the Department of Fitness, Recreation and Sport.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - FITNESS, RECREATION AND SPORT

MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor (Virden): Call the Committee to order. We were on Resolution 69, 2.(d)(1).

The Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: I'd like to ask the Minister where it might be appropriate to ask some questions about the Field House Task Force? Would this be the area of Recreation Resource. It strikes me that there is some grant assistance involved. I guess it could be . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Sure, Mr. Chairman, there isn't any specific place for it, so if the member wants to ask it.

MR. PARASIUK: Well, I'd like to know how that task force review is progressing. I gather it's chaired by a legislative assistant, and I would assume that the legislative assistant to the task force will be reporting to the Minister. Is that correct?

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MR. BANMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, he's not a legislative assistant, he's a member of the Legislature. He's not a legislative assistant to the Minister of Fitness. He will be reporting, hopefully, the committee will be reporting some time in May or June. They are now going to go through the process of having some public hearings. They have met with, I understand, the last time I was talking to the member, with some 20 different concerned groups, including the Y's, the University of Winnipeg, the Sports Federation and a number of other people. They now hope to hold a series of public meetings to get public input.

MR. PARASIUK: Just to clarify my thinking on this, what is the purpose of the task force? Is it to just see what the various needs are, or to determine the location of a field house, or what? I really can't remember the press releases on it, and I'm wondering if the Minister would refresh my memory on this.

MR. BANMAN: The terms of reference are rather broad, and would encompass exactly what the member is saying, the needs with regards to indoor track and field facilities, the need for jogging facilities, the needs of the University of Winnipeg. It's a pretty broad mandate, and we hope that they will be providing us with a report which will indicate to us what the perceived needs and the needs of the community are with regards to that indoor facility, as well as a location that might best serve all the people involved.

MR. PARASIUK: Well, in this connection, I'd like to make some observations that perhaps - or at least will be recorded, and I'll then pass on to the Minister and he can pass them on to the task force. I think it's very important that there be a facility in the downtown part of Winnipeg, and that it be a facility that does take into account community needs, not just the needs of the Y's, or the needs of the University, or the needs of the good athletes who are looking for a facility which is easily accessible to them by being in the centre. All of those are, I think, worthy objectives, but at the same time, the inner core of the city is the most rundown part of the city and has the worst recreational facilities in the city. When you look at some of the major facilities that have been built in the city for sports or recreation, something like the Pan-Am track. It's at the University of Manitoba. It's really not that accessible to people. In the downtown part of Winnipeg if you look at the Pan-Am Pool on Grant Park, again it's not in the downtown part of Winnipeg. It's not accessible to the inner core residents and yet those were things that were paid for by ratepayers, generally. Even if you look at the Re-Fit Centre, again it was not too easily accessible for residents downtown.

I guess, just in passing, and I think it's almost as part of a grievance, is it's rather strange that these very good public facilities indeed are in areas that are fairly affluent. I think that's probably just as a coincidence but I think sometimes we should be a bit more careful in locating these facilities so that they are easily accessible to those people who are poorer and have just as much need, in fact, probably in some cases greater need for them.

I look at the Ys and they're good facilities but they charge. They charge probably more than these other facilities might charge. And I think that's unfortunate.

I would hope therefore that the facility that is built - if one is built and I think there's strong grounds for one being built - be located downtown and be at the centre - so that the various suburbs can use the public transportation facilities which are geared to transporting people from one suburb to the centre but not from one suburb to another suburb of the city, so that people can in fact have access to it and that it's located in such a manner that people in the downtown area, the inner core, can in fact walk to that type of facility and have just as great a claim to it as the elite athletes or the University of Winnipeg students, or other people.

I think that it's very important to take that consideration into account because I think that these people probably aren't the most organized; they aren't the most articulate in putting forward their needs; and that's why I raise this today and hope that the Minister will take that under advisement and pass those concerns on to the Task Force.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like the Minister to give us the permanent reference of this Task Force. I'm somewhat mixed up. I don't if it's for mostly recreation or for fitness or for all these things. Is it a track? Is it a basketball thing? I think that this is important now.

I share some of the concern of my friend who just spoke but maybe I see it somewhat differently, depending on what you're trying to do.

My main concern, if we're dealing with the University of Winnipeg, is we want to be assured one way or another. Is it mostly for university students?

We've had certain facilities at the University of Manitoba and I remember a few years back that the people around there were not too pleased because there were very few other people, outside those and their families - those attending the university, I'm not saying this is bad - I think the university should have that. It's just a question of prioritizing.

Now, if it's the university, well then we should know what's going in there; what the terms of reference are; and if it's for the community it's something else; and if it's the community, will it be run by the university?

Of course, the Minister probably can't answer all these questions until he gets the report but I'd like to have at least the terms of reference.

We're on item Recreation Resources Development, and I know that the Minister, in a spirit of co-operation, agrees that there could be some flexibility. That might be better, though, discussed under Sports Development; I don't know. If it's community recreation, well then it's not quite the same thing. And if it's under Fitness Development, it's not quite the same thing. The way I read it, many people fortunately think that recreation is only sports and we know that recreation is not that all. It could be watching TV; it could be a library. Recreation is anything that is being done by the people outside of their hours of work. In other words, in their leisure time. And there are all kinds of different things. It could be jogging; it could be walking; it could be meditating; it could be anything. So I don't know if this is the place that we should discuss this because I don't know the terms of reference. I'd like to have the terms of reference. If it's for fitness, I think this would take a long time and I'd like us to be pioneers in this thing.

I would like to see any new hospital, any new construction of any new hospital, instead of having some waste space. If you do it just where you construct the hospital, if there was a track, I think that would be the best thing. You know, we live in a pretty cold country, cold climate, many months of the year, and there's more and more. . . it's phenomenal, I think, the progress that Manitoba has made since the last few years. Before that, we were just a nation of watchers. I don't know if we owe that to the Duke when he came into the. . . and the statement that he's made. He's been quite concerned about that, and I think the governments - different governments, I'm not talking in a partisan sense - have tried to improve the situation. And now, no matter what morning, even in cold weather, you see some people even running outside. But I think the facilities, we could see how it's used now, that the Reh-Fit Centre had to freeze their membership. They had to freeze that because there were too many people. And you have the Pre-Fit and the Reh-Fit and the Reh-Fit eventually get . . . The people on the Reh-Fit Program could get a clean slate and then they can go back and do it somewhere else. This is mostly for, you know, you haven't got all the athletes in that; it would discourage the guys in my class if you saw all these guys like your Deputy Minister whizzing by. You know, it wouldn't be too interesting for the guys like me.

But, Mr. Chairman, I think that I'd want to discuss this under Fitness, because I think the government is doing quite well in this Recreation Resources Development. I think they're progressing. I don't see that much difference in what we were trying to do, what we were trying to achieve, and the way they are doing it, but I'll have something else to say on Fitness. I think they're going backwards on the question of Fitness. I don't think enough is done, I think they froze too many programs.

But I wonder if the Minister, before we discuss that, because unless we agree to take the three event, it's a mini-Minister's salary, I don't know, maybe we should wait on that. There has been no obstruction in this committee so far.

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Maybe we should look at the Recreation Resources Development line by line and then wait on the Minister's Salary and then we'll have a catch-all bunch of questions.

But I would like to - I wonder if during that time if somebody, if the Minister hasn't got the terms of reference here, if somebody could be sent to try and get this term of reference, so we could have it. I thought it was only on the question of the University of Winnipeg. Now the Minister said it's the whole community. Now, does that mean the whole province, or the City of Winnipeg, or what? You know, it changes things quite a bit.

So I certainly don't want to curtail the other members and if the Minister wants to make comments on what was asked before and then maybe we should - it's just a suggestion of - try to stick to line by line, with the understanding that we might come back on something that normally might have been covered line by line, because it's quite difficult.

MR. BANMAN: Well, I'll send somebody to try and get a copy of the press release.

Maybe if I could just very briefly; what sort of triggered this is last summer Saskatoon hosted the Western Canada Summer Games and they built a fieldhouse for that particular event. The fieldhouse was a facility which was built by the city, with grants from the provincial government, and was built on land donated by the University of Saskatoon.

What happened was that it's a fairly attractive facility and one which I think was something that we might be interested in. As the members know, the University of Winnipeg does have some capital proposals to put on the drawing board, I think their main concern right now is a proper basketball-volleyball team handball facility. This was all included in that fieldhouse, the one in Saskatoon, plus a running track at which athletes could compete on, whether it be the Manitoba High School Athletic Association, whatever.

The facility was owned and operated by the City of Saskatoon and I think the member will appreciate, from St. Boniface, who wrestled with some of this, one of the problems that we have had, and I have no magic way of overcoming it and we're working with it, is to try and utilize to a fuller capacity many of the school facilities that we have, and we've got some beautiful ones, some of the regional schools, but there seems to still be an aversion in people themselves, of using a school facility versus a public facility. I don't know what it is. There seems to be somewhat of a block to that. So we are concerned about that.

But I will get the terms of reference. They are quite broad. They were to look at the needs of the U of W. They were to look at the needs of the amateur athletes involved in track and field sports. They were to look at the needs of the downtown area, especially the north side of Portage where we're seeing some problems with the business community, trying to create a traffic flow; and things such as the buses, the bus schedules and that.

The Member for Transcona is quite right. The facility out on Taylor, for instance, for Reh-Fit does not have any proper bus routes there at all and it becomes very difficult for people to move back and forth.

So the idea is to see if these things can't all be brought together and accommodate as many interest groups within that structure as possible. It's a pretty onerous task for the committee to go ahead with, but I understand, from talking to the Chairman right now, that they are receiving a lot of encouragement from many of the different groups that have an interest in this thing. So I'll get a copy of the press release and maybe, if we want to discuss it on the next item or whenever, it doesn't matter.

MR. DESJARDINS: Now that we started on that, I guess we might as well finish that. I would like to add a bit to what has been said. I might be wrong but I think that we are dreaming if we feel that we could go to the university and take something that will - I shouldn't say benefit, it will benefit - but that will serve the whole community. I think that's dreaming; I think that's impossible. I think that we need something at the university - I'm all for it. I'm not trying to change that and I think that it could probably take maybe a small group like a community club around that area, but there is no way that with all the intermural sports, and you're trying to get everybody into the university and you have a big enrolment, that you'll have much time, that you could use that

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much time for the community at large. I think that would be wrong. I think that maybe we could be careful and not spend excessive funds for that, get a track for the athletes and if at all possible, try to get it co-ordinated with the understanding that when time permits, that other people will be able to use it. But I think we are kidding ourselves and I think that we're not going to be successful if we try to be too rigid on that and say that the university is only one of them. I think that they have to have the first choice.

Now, I don't give up too easy and I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister. Maybe it's a dream, but oh, what a dream. I would like to see a facility here run by the Sports Federation for athletes. You see that in many countries. We are talking about the Olympics; we are talking about everything and if you are going to have those kinds of athletes, you need facilities. I think it's all part of the program. You know, when a fellow like Bobby Hull comes here and plays hockey, there is more interest for the kids and so on. So what I am trying to say is you need excellence; you need quality to have quantity.

I think the main responsibility of the province is not necessarily quality. I think it is important if you can develop good athletes that will compete and maybe bring some medals to Manitoba and then, as Canadians, bring medals to Canada. I think it is important but I wouldn't say it is the first priority of the provincial government. I think that they have to foster that and promote that, but I think that the first priority of a provincial government is to make sure that every single Manitoban has a chance to participate and is encouraged to participate and has the tools, the means and facilities and the know-how to participate.

Now, as I say, I hesitate to say that and many people will probably think it's a dream, but I think it is realistic. I always forget the name of - is it Lipsett Hall at the end of Grant - you know, that was constructed - there's Osborne, there's many places for the Armed Services. They get the best, and they're not used that much. I think you can't do it alone but I would certainly be ready to accompany the Minister and as a group, a non-partisan group, to try to knock on the door of Ottawa, who maybe are looking to do something for the west, to turn that over, not to the province and the province would probably have to do its share and maybe commit itself to a few million dollars, but to try to have a facility such as that where you have soccer pitches - there's enough acreage out there that you can do quite a few things. There is a swimming pool; there is a gym; there is a curling rink; there's an outdoor track and you can probably have an indoor track. There's all kinds of facilities. I'd like to see the Sports Federation run this kind of complex and that, in effect, would serve to train the better athletes and also to have direction that would radiate all over the place, and then you have to coordinate everything.

And this is why I mentioned the other night how important an inter-departmental committee would be; and I think the Minister is missing a bet if he doesn't pursue that. I don't think that he could do it alone. I doubt his word, he says, that the public are not too anxious to go to the school, they have been discouraged for so long. You've had principals of schools - I'll always remember, one place up north when I had that responsibility, I wanted to know whether they wanted a gym, a small place, and I said well you've got a fantastic gym in your school. Oh, yes, but at 3:30 we've got to close the door, there's white tiles there and the principal doesn't want us to dirty their tile. Well, this is ridiculous and assinine and the government has to take the lead in that and we have to open the schools. It is the same type of people and it is a made-to-order thing because those schools are situated in an area; you try to get the school close to the population and as many schools as are needed.

And what a way, instead of just duplication, I could even see the schools, if we had a plan that even the community clubs would disappear and the community clubs would be in the school, especially in the city; I guess in the rural area it doesn't matter that much because there's more land, but in the city, with the price of land it would be made-to-order if you planned - maybe it's a long-range thing but if you planned the schools and if certain areas could be closed off. It's the same people paying the same taxes and you would have the facilities. The hockey rink, at 4:30 or 3:30 the schools are over anyway. In the summer holidays and during the winter break and so on these places are closed; so you would have

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the facilities, you would use the same land, you would have the same traffic restrictions and so on, instead of duplicating that.

And I can conceive that anybody, a group of people, for some reason or other could say, no, you can't use this gym. It think that is to be encouraged and there is only one way to go with this recreation; and there is more. And this is very important you know some people, and there's not too many members present here who might think that this is a minor portfolio or it is not an important portfolio; and I disagree with that very much.

What are we looking at? We are looking at a better lifestyle of the people of our province and our country; and I think this is a very important department but I think they've got a challenge. It is something fairly new; the governments weren't participating in this before; I think it's extremely important. You know, what are we doing; what are we doing in the economy and so on? We go and try to make a living, for what? To make a better life for our families and ourselves. And what does this department deal with? This department deals with what you do in your leisure time. And I think that's the name of the game and I think more has to be done. Not necessarily just spend money, of course, you have to spend money, but that's not the only thing.

And if the Minister wants to try maybe we could, together with some other members, look at the situation and maybe approach the federal government and see if we can have . . . you know, that's just a thought but a facility like that where you could house the Sports Federation where you could train better athletes and where you can have somebody from your department, your fitness group, out there working from there, radiating all across the city. And you have to work, also, with the YMCA, YMHA. I think that they're quite concerned with these new facilities, they think they're going to lose some customers. I don't agree with my friend here that they are charging that much. I think it is pretty reasonable and I don't think that we want to duplicate anything like that. I think if you go to Reh-Fit it costs you more.

Now, eventually there will be more money coming from the government but I think that this is one of the things we can do. There is no limit to what we can do; you can use the schools; you can use the hospitals; but you've got to plan. Why is it that a hospital is there just to go and see somebody die. I'm exaggerating to make a point; but more and more, we were talking about this Doctor and I don't know what the doctor did wrong but I think in this concept of trying to keep people happy is certainly a worthwhile endeavour, a worthwhile project. And I think that this department should be doing that. It's not just fun and games. If you can have fun and games doing it, and I think that you can, so much the better.

So, you know, if there was a facility like that, and that doesn't mean that there's no need for a facility for the University. Other cities have private enterprise in the system. In Toronto, there are facilities that have private enterprise; in Edmonton they have a fantastic track that was built with grants from the province, but I think it's run by the City. It's turned over through the City of Edmonton, the same as Saskatoon. But I don't know if any of those at the University. The University, let's keep those facilities going at all times. Okay, if you have it at the University, the University students need something like that but make sure that the place is not closed and the place is not half empty.

So, we'll get back on that, I'm sure, but I wanted to express my concern on this and also show that I think that the Minister has an important responsibility. I, for one, do not consider this as a minor portfolio, as an unimportant portfolio. I think it is one of the most important things, because what's the use of trying to make a living and all that if you're not changing their lifestyle. That's the most important thing of all. You know, I've met people who were talking that they were tired of the rat race, they were going 18 hours a day. And you ask them, "Well, why are you doing it?" "Well, he says, "I'm doing that so I can give my child the same benefit that I had when I was young and poor." In the old days, where you could see a bit of nature and now, with this rat race and all, that makes it difficult.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2). The Member for Transcona.

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MR. PARASIUK: Yes, I just want to clarify a statement I made with respect to the Ys. I wasn't saying that they are too expensive for large chunks of the population, I think many people can, in fact, afford them and I think they are fairly heavily used. The groups that I'm concerned about are, in a sense, the kids of Main Street and the kids of Portage Avenue. At night, there are a lot of kids on the street. On Portage, I think people, in a sense, complain about the kids on Portage Avenue or they're complaining about the kids on Main Street. These kids are 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 years old. It strikes me that they don't have very much in the way of recreation; and I think it's quite important for them to have some role models and that's why, if you can tie in that recreational thrust with some other facility and some other activities, and I know it can be designed architecturally.

I'm just, you know, I think the challenge is probably more to design it in a programmatic and administrative sense, but a lot of these children don't have very many role models. Their role models are the street role models. They see the tough guy in the beer parlor and the tough guy just coming out of the beer parlor, and that tends to be their role models. When are they going to come in contact with some other people, not just at one banquet per year but on a more continuing basis. I would hope that is the dimension that might be taken into account, because I think the income levels of families in the inner city is changing. I think we have a very high percentage of single parents in the inner family. We probably have large families; we have situations where probably parents won't, or in many instances, can't spend that much time with their children. I think we have to concentrate our efforts to try to do something for that particular group in society, which I think is growing, and growing very very visibly over the last 10 years. And it's just not a matter of sort of complaining about them as delinquents, you know, the kids of Main Street are delinquents or the kids of Portage are delinquent and they're harassing the passersby and shoppers, and the shopkeepers are mad about that. I think that all we're talking about is the symptom then, and I think we have to start talking about the causes and try and do something in this area to try and deal with the cause. I think that the cause is that these children don't have that much to do; they don't have anything that interests them; they don't have too much in the way of role model; and I think that is going to be one of our big challenges as a city and as a province. I just wouldn't like to see that dimension overlooked, and I don't think that this is that type of phenomenon that the wise can deal with that effectively. I think that it's probably beyond their scope, they may be part of a process and I'm hoping that maybe the Field House Task Force, in meeting a number of these different groups, and through the process of public hearings will, in fact, keep this dimension in line and possibly come up with some solutions to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1)--pass; 2.(d)(2)--pass; 2.(d)(3)--pass.

The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: (3) I think I know what these grants are; I think the Minister has made some, but there is also a mix-up with the lottery money. Can he tell us what the \$236,000 and can he break that down please?

MR. BANMAN: This does not involve any lotteries' money, this is the program . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: No, not this, but I say . . .

MR. BANMAN: This is the program dealing with the District Recreation Directors Program, where two municipalities can get together with the school board and then receive a grant up to \$10,000 to hire a full-time recreation director. This year we budgeted for 26 districts, last year there were 18, so we've had as I mentioned . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: It's the same program that's improving all the time, that we have for a number of years.

MR. BANMAN: That's right.

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MR. DESJARDINS: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(3)--pass; 2.(e)(1)--pass.
The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, in Fitness Development, I can't be as kind to the Minister as I've been so far on the other side, because I don't think there's too much being in that. I think we're going backwards and I can't help but feel that maybe the Minister doesn't really understand that responsibility, or maybe he's taking the easy way out and just giving the bulk of the money to maybe different sports organizations, sports groups and that's good. But you can't do it all, there's certain things that are less glamorous and that's the role of the government to make sure that they can do something in that.

I see a very few programs in Fitness; I think that in Fitness, the Minister is talking about the Sports Injury Centre. That was one of them and - if you'll bear with me a minute, I think I've got four - there's the Fitness Instructors Courses, that's an old program that's going on; and the education in pamphlets and posters but there's less money spent now than there was previously in this area. I can't see of any other programs.

We had some good programs. I think that I was very proud of what we were trying to do a couple of years ago and we announced quite complete programs and those were frozen by the previous Minister, and there's no sign that this will start again. Now, I might say that I was glad that the Minister gave me some information, and even some of the information that he hasn't read, I think, and I don't want to be hard on him but he had no idea of what the Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport is, and it's right in your organizational chart. It's there and it doesn't exist. According to the Minister, he's not certainly not making use of it, if it exists or not; and I don't want to be tacky on this and I asked him to check. That was for his own use, but I think he's missing a bet. I think if he would have had that committee he wouldn't have needed this. You know, it's okay, maybe politically it looks good, your naming a commission of three and so on; an MLA at that. Maybe to keep them happy, I don't know but I think there's better ways of doing those things. I don't dare look at the Minister; I don't want to put him on the spot, but I think that an Advisory Council, when you have those kind of people, I think that they can do a much better job. And it's a pity because that committee was very good. And I am going to take the time of the committee to read some of the things that were announced and that have been done and as a former Minister I'm not taking credit for that, I'm taking credit only for being smart enough to know my limitation in getting people around me that could do the work and that come in with good recommendations.

And I'd like to refer the Minister to 1977, to some of the things that were done, and I'll mention some of the programs. I think that in fitness alone, in fitness and lifestyle, there were quite a few programs. There was the Partici Community project and I'd like, for the indication of the committee, give you an idea of what this was all about. It was aimed at getting community groups, organizations, institutions, and individuals of a community to work together on a comprehensive campaign to stimulate positive health habits and encourage citizens to take part in regular physical activities of their choice. The project would be modelled on Participaction-like projects in Kitchener, Waterloo, Peterborough and Saskatoon. Interested communities could apply to become models for fitness and lifestyle development. For funds to be allotted, the community would have to indicate willingness to contribute funds and services itself. Volunteer help would be emphasized.

And then there were provincial fitness recognition schemes. And there was the Manitoba Marathon, the sports special. . .well, the fitness incentive grant programs; I think that is still in existence. And fitness instruction training and certification program. I think the amount of money, if I can find that, was in excess of \$200 . . . No, that was, well, there was a quarter of a million dollars for the Reh-Fit that couldn't be frozen; they were too well advanced, and I am certainly pleased with that. The same as some of the personal care homes, but we will discuss that later on. And there was, I think that advice. . .

MR. BANMAN: Not in my Estimates though; not in my Estimates.

MR. DESJARDINS: No, you're too nice a guy. You know, we had about \$140,000.00. There was money from the Lotteries and there was money from the government's share of the Lotteries going in that. And I think the government is backing down. I don't blame the Minister, only if he's too soft in Cabinet. I think that they're talking about this period of restraint, and I think it was a joke when you got the Sports Federation in and that you said that now sports will be better served than ever. I want to explain. Not that that the Sports Federation was a partner, because that was meant to be from Day One until they came to their senses and had to realize that their lottery wasn't going to achieve what they were doing and they were left out because of their own reasons, and I'm not going to go into that again.

But, Mr. Chairman, I think that there are certain things in your Estimates; you know, it's okay to say, well it's vague, there's money here and there's money there, the Lotteries, we don't know how long this is going to exist and the indications are that the Minister and the government are going to follow the same policy or the same programs we are on Lotteries, that eventually, all the revenue will go outside of government. I would hope that this is going to be done. This was done. We started the first step in my days and this was announced publicly. I heard the Minister speaking on this resolution that we have in the House and I think that eventually, instead of having taxes, and no doubt - I'm not going to try to play games - no doubt if that is done, if you surrender a source of revenue, they will have to accept certain responsibilities. But in your Estimates here, Mr. Minister, there are certain things that must be protected, that must be there; in other words, that are needed and that will not change or be volatile, as a revenue. The Lotteries might be.

You know, you can give more money to each sport, to develop sports and facilities and the Administration Centre and so on, okay, that's good, but there are certain things that we should do now. Nowhere do I see anything about games. I'd like to know about games. We had the Brandon Games. Again, that was too far down the pike. The present department had nothing to do with it except maybe pay the bills that were committed, and there was quite a bit of money on that, and then the Minister in Manitoba accepted an invitation to go to the Western Games, which was set in another province. I haven't heard. I can't comment on that until the Minister tells me what is the future of those games. You know, there is no doubt that the games were not the most popular when they started because these sports groups wanted more and more money themselves to develop their own players. But we felt, and I still feel, that this is the responsibility of the government to see that there is mass participation. There was nothing but praises for those games and they were difficult, starting with the Northern Games that we had at one time. Then we went to Neepawa for the first summer games, Manitoba Summer Games, and Dauphin had games. I'd like to know what is going on there. Maybe before I discuss this any further, could the Minister tell us. . . I'd like him to elaborate on, well, all the games, what is done for athletes who might compete, who might try for the Olympic teams, and then the Canada Games team - that's development of athletes, that's something else - but then, our own games in Western Canada. Has Manitoba invited the other provinces? I think it's about our time to do it and I could understand that you don't want to have Manitoba Games the year of Canada Games, for instance, or the year of the Western Canada Games, but what is the future of those games here in Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BANMAN: Well, first of all, maybe I can deal with the items one at a time. The Western Canada Games, which were held in Saskatoon last year and were hosted by the Province of Saskatchewan. . .

MR. DESJARDINS: For the second time, right?

MR. BANMAN: Right. The first year it was in Regina, the second year in Saskatoon. It was agreed by the Ministers and ratified by my colleagues that Alberta is planning to host the next games, B.C. wants to take them after that and by the year 1991, I believe, it's Manitoba's turn. So there is a schedule that

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has been laid down and we had to determine whether or not we would continue with those games and, if we were to continue, we wanted to lay down a schedule. So Manitoba will be hosting. . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Excuse me, did I hear the Minister say that every year they will be in Western Canada. . . ?

MR. BANMAN: No, every four years.

MR. DESJARDINS: What year did you say Manitoba. . . ?

MR. BANMAN: 1991.

MR. DESJARDINS: 1991, oh.

MR. BANMAN: So it's down the track but we have committed ourselves to that type of a game.

With regard to the preparation of athletes, we do provide certain funds, as has been provided over the last little while, for the training of athletes to go to the games, provide them with certain uniforms and that type of thing. The Man-Plan Program, which has been around for three or four years, will receive out of the Lotteries funds again, \$100,000 to provide our athletes in each sports discipline that the sports governing body decides. . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Excuse me, to make it easier, if the Minister doesn't mind if I interrupt him, the Man-Plan, is that financed strictly by the province or is that a cost-share with the Sports Federation, and who administers it? Is it strictly the province now?

MR. BANMAN: No, it's the Province of Manitoba and a rough figure is about \$100,000 on that. With regard to the Manitoba Games or the Regional Games, we have earmarked something, I believe, in the neighbourhood of \$175,000 and are right now talking to the different regional recreation councils to see the type of format that we want to undertake with regard to the Regional Games. I hope to have something on that within the next few months to see if we want to culminate the Regional Games in a Manitoba Games set-up, the way it has been done previously, or if we will stick to the regional concept. And as I mentioned, I hope, over the next while, to have that resolved after talking to the people in NorMan and in EastMan and all the other different regions.

There are some regional councils that are becoming very active. We've got on in WestMan and some of the other areas, who are doing a good job to liaise with the department and we will be working with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister a question or two and then possibly make a statement.

Could he outline what the provincial government's involvement is in the preparation and training and development of Olympic athletes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, it's all provincial governments' feeling, and I think this goes back in Manitoba for many years, that the training of Olympic elite athletes is the responsibility of the federal government. We've had certain sort of delineations in which we say that if somebody is of Olympic capabilities, that Sports Canada has certain responsibilities with regard to that.

As the member will appreciate, the jurisdictional matter with regard to sports is something I think that's been fought with by recreation and sports Ministers through the last 10 years.

It's a field of importance that touches so many people, as the Member for St. Boniface indicated before. But there has to be delineation of authority and we feel that if the federal government has a role to play within the field of amateur

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sport, it is one in making sure that our Olympic athletes are looked after properly; and they do, I know, right now the national athletes in Manitoba do receive, under a program very much like our Man-Plan Program, receive certain travelling costs and certain financial assistance from the federal government with regard to that. For instance, like Monica Gorman, Martin Riley, Sylvia Burka, these are people of a world calibre class that receive help from the federal government.

MR. DOERN: Well, do any Olympic calibre athletes have they in the last few years - I mean I speak in terms of this administration - have they received any grants or allowances from the province, because I recall raising a year ago, the suggestion that some sort of supplementary program to the federal program be instituted. For example, I recall that we had a shotputter named Bruce Pirney - I don't know if Bruce is still in town or not - but he was of Olympic calibre, although he would never finish in the top six, and I think one of his problems along with other people who were able to make the standards of entry, was the fact that they, say, could not get time off work, or if they took time off work it would be at their own expense, so you get into kind of a chicken and an egg situation.

It's all very well to assume - let's say an athlete should train after hours but we all know that many of the world's finest are full-time athletes and that Canadians who are going to prepare for the Olympics have a handicap if they, say, cannot get time off work, sometimes to compete internationally, sometimes to prepare for international competition.

Right now it's the end of March, 28th, and the Olympics are, I guess, in July and August in Moscow and the . . .

A MEMBER: I doubt that, but . . .

A MEMBER: She won't go.

MR. DOERN: Well, Mr. Chairman, there's no question that the Olympics will be held and in my judgment there will be a Canadian team and there may even be an American team present, in one for or another. But most of the nations of the world will be there.

I'm just asking whether the Manitoba athletes, some of whom I assume will be there, are being given time off or special consideration by the provincial government in a supplementary way. I mean, I might also ask the Minister, whether any provincial governments have programs that complement or supplement the federal program or is he, in effect, leaving it up to the Feds or is he washing his hands of the Manitoba athletes who are of sufficient calibre.

MR. BANMAN: On the contrary, Mr. Chairman. The gentleman that the member refers to did receive Game Plan Assistance from the federal government, which I might add, does provide some funds for people who lose time at work while competing at different international events.

That particular individual did receive some money from Man-Plan last year, which is the Manitoba equivalent to the Canadian Game Plan Program, so he did receive some assistance.

I also understand that he did some technical coaching work for the sports out at the Sports Admin Centre, so that he was involved and he did receive some assistance from the provincial government.

I understand that as far as the Olympic competition this year, I know of one that's going from Manitoba, one or two - one is Monica Gorman and maybe Russ Pryor. So we have a few and we, as I mentioned, have set aside certain funds which are for that purpose.

Now, I'm not talking about giving somebody \$15,000 or \$20,000, we haven't got that kind of money. But there is some small assistance that's provided to these individuals.

MR. DOERN: And what are the conditions under which a person can obtain assistance and again, what kind of assistance is it?

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If a Bruce Pirney came to you today and said that he was hoping to make the Olympic team and he wanted six months off work, off a teaching position or he wanted three months training, or he wanted to go to New York to compete, or to London, England to compete in an international competition, are there funds available to him?

MR. BANMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, if the person is that kind of a calibre, a world athlete calibre, the Canadian Olympic Association, the Game Plan that I referred to as well as the Canadian Track and Field Association, I know would do everything in their power to try and provide funds for that particular athlete to do that.

We, under the Man-Plan system, ask the different sports governing bodies to forward to us names. The people in that particular sport can apply to their group. The athlete usually is the one that is just below the international class that the ones that the federal government does not take and should usually be ranked in the top 10 in Canada, so that we do have a criteria for them to draw down on these funds.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I then gather that the Minister and the Manitoba Government intends to support, in whatever way they can, the sending of an Olympic contingent to the 1980 Olympics and any Manitoba athletes who qualify in that regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure the Minister didn't hear that last comment and I certainly would like a comment from the Minister because it's on the record now and if the Minister doesn't comment or deny or confirm, it's going to be on the record that Manitoba is encouraging the people, come what may, to go to the Olympics. I would hope that we are going to do what the other provinces will. I don't think we could take the lead on that, but the Minister might have a suggestion or a recommendation to make. But I hope the heck that it is not going to be left to the provinces to say if there is going to be a team from Canada at the Olympics in Moscow.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member for St. Bonifce bringing that up. I wouldn't want to leave that on the record at all. It has been established that the world and international class athletes and the preparation for the Olympics is the responsibility of the federal government and the provinces, in dealing with this, would not want to, on an individual basis, start sending athletes all over the world.

I would just like to say, on that particular issue of the Olympic boycott, I think that Canada's position is going to rely very heavily on what Europe and what the United States does. I would not want to bury my head in the sand here today and say that we're going regardless, because I think if the United States, England, Germany and France and all these people don't go, we won't be going either.

I understand, from listening to some news clips the other day, that the Federal Minister in charge of Sport, Gerry Regan, has indicated that the federal government will be making a decision with regard to that in the next month and hopefully we can come up with another world competition. Unfortunately, we all know that the athletes that have been training for this very often reach their peak only once in their lifetime and if they miss that one particular competition they never have that opportunity again.

But on the other hand, it has to be realistically understood, too, that one of the biggest propoganda machines that the Russians have created in the last number of years is their so-called, and I call it so-called, "amateur" athletes that they send to - whether it be hockey teams or whatever. It is ludicrous for us to think that they are sending amateur hockey teams over here if they can be paid through the army or somewhere else. But these people are pros as far as I am concerned and they are using it as propoganda for furthering their particular political cause.

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I think that the federal government has that decision to make. I won't second-guess them but I think that it is going to be very difficult. But for the sake of the athletes, I hope the decision is made shortly so that they are not left hanging in mid-air on this thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, this is a very interesting topic and I assume, I think correctly, from listening to the Minister and from public pronouncements or the absence of public pronouncements, that the provincial government is not opposed to the sending of a team. I point that out in contrast to his federal counterparts in the late great Clark government that took a stand against the Olympics, which I think was pretty shabby in this particular regard, that there was an election campaign on. Prime Minister Clark at the time, not only, first of all, took a position of support of an American position but he began to, in my judgment, rattle the sabre and, along with Flora MacDonald, there was an impression created that not only was Canada going to boycott the Olympics but probably going to invade the Soviet Union. All we saw during the election time at one point was ads about re-arming Canada and building up our defences and all sorts of other outrageous, impassioned and irrational responses.

I would say to the Minister, as someone who is first and foremost a track and field athlete in the past sense and as one who has been involved in this sport all my life, that I think it would be an egregious error to not attend the Olympics. And all this talk about boycott, I think, is really incorrectly based on the assumption, I guess, that somehow or other the events of Afghanistan are directly related to the Olympics. Well, of course, if that's true, then it was also true that the events in Vietnam were related to the Olympics in the 1960s. There was a Games in 1960 which I attended in Rome; there was a Games in 1964 in Tokyo; and in 1968, Mexico City. Nobody at that time proposed a boycott of the Olympics because of the American intervention in Vietnam.

I say that once you start that process, once you start making the Olympics into a political football, you will destroy the Olympics. You may do other things. You may put pressure on certain countries. You may complicate international affairs. But in terms of the Olympic games, which were established, I guess, in the 1890s or so - maybe first held in the 1890s or 1904, I can't remember - but what you do in effect is demolish and destroy a vehicle of international understanding.

I can tell you that in the mid-1950s I was a member of the Canadian Olympic Training Plan; that there was such a thing where they took promising young athletes and trained them, not necessarily because they would make the Olympics, but because they had the potential. I have attended three Olympics. I was at the Olympics in 1960; I was at them in 1972 in Munich; I was at them in 1976 in Montreal. I wouldn't mind going this year but I don't have the \$2,000.00. I intend to go in four years to Los Angeles, which is --(Interjection)-- Well, Los Angeles is not that expensive and I have a lot of relatives there.

So I'm saying, Mr. Chairman, as it was said in 1972, and you might remember 1972 at the Munich Olympics, which was really one of the best ever held, the dark insertion of Arab-Israeli conflict came into that Olympics, almost destroyed the Olympics. It caused, first of all, a postponement of a day and there was also a feeling on the part of some people that the Olympics should have been stopped right then and there. It was also as a result of that that I think the first heavy searches went in terms of international travellers. It was the first time that they began to hand-check and search and frisk people and check luggage and from then on until the present time we have security checks at airports. Avery Brundage at that time was quoted as saying, "We cannot allow a handful of terrorists to destroy the nucleus of international co-operation and goodwill. The Games must go on."

So I just think that this whole business is really a question of a reaction to, you know, a conflict in Afghanistan and I suppose one could tie anything to that conflict. I think there are ways and means of dealing with the Russians in Afghanistan. They are diplomatic and economic and I believe that it is an incredible error on the part of certain politicians to promote the destruction of the Olympic Games. I give you a reference made on this subject from Macleans where

somebody made an interesting comment, Charlie Fisher - I don't know if he is familiar to you but he was a coach of the Canadian National Swimming Team - and he said certainly the athletes are a minority, a very small one, but if we boycott the Games their individual sacrifices will be enormous. He said if the Canadian people were told that their cars were needed as ambulances in Afghanistan I would like to see how many lined up to hand in their keys.

So I am simply saying, Mr. Chairman, that the Games should go on. And I suppose it could be argued and I suppose a case could be made that the Russians are trying to score propoganda points with the Olympics. I don't think that's surprising, because I know very well that in 1964 the Japanese sure tried to score propoganda points in Tokyo and nobody complained. They tried to put their best foot forward. The Mexicans in 1968 tried that; the Germans sure tried in 1972; and there is no question that Canada, which had the games in 1976, tried to show to the world - I mean, my God, we spent billions of dollars, blew billions of dollars, I might say, on some of Mayor Drapeau's schemes and dreams --(Interjection)-- Yes, got re-elected and will get re-elected another 25 years. --(Interjection)-- I might remind the honourable member that I am much younger than he is, and he is younger than Mayor Drapeau as well.

So I simply point out - now he has broken my train of thought - I simply point out that it is hardly surprising that a nation, any nation that hosts the Olympic Games and puts a great deal of money into it, would try to maximize that for publicity. That should come as a surprise to no one. So I think it is redundant to even say that. But if there is dickering now with the Summer Olympics then it may destroy the whole Olympic movement and it will certainly, I suppose, destroy the Olympics in Los Angeles in 1984. I watched with some interest, along with a lot of other people, as to whether the Russians would send their team to Lake Placid. I think that was an interesting point, the Winter Olympics and the Summer Olympics. They did, and we'll see what happens.

But all this talk about holding other games and substitute games, I mean, is pretty feeble. The Minister said that often for an athlete it's once for a lifetime, because if you miss you're talking about eight years. You're talking about four years on either side, so if you miss a Games, chances are you may never compete again. It is unusual for athletes to compete in two and three Olympics. They do; there are people who have competed in a number of Olympics and won medals, but most people it is once and if you can make it in two Olympics teams, then you know you are beginning to get into the rarefied atmosphere.

This talk of substitute games, I mean I have an article here from 10 days ago in the Free Press about a meeting in Switzerland to discuss alternative games and the meeting was organized . . . Here are the people who were at the meeting: Britain, Australia and the United States; The Sudan - they're not known for their Olympic contingents; Saudi Arabia; the Netherlands; Kenya; the Dominican Republic; Philipines; Portugal; Costa Rica; and Canada sent observers. So when you take that group together, the big group is Britain, Australia and the United States; that's a big group. The other nations are smaller and, in terms of the Olympics, they tend to be inconsequential and the Canadian government did not participate, but sent an observer.

So, I'm simply saying that I think that the people who have taken this step are really doing a disservice, first of all, to international sport and, secondly, to international co-operation, because there are not very many vehicles that we have where people can communicate and get together, as opposed to fight each other. The United Nations is one such organization; the Olympic movement is another and if we start demolishing these things, well, it will be all very well and we can all get very tough and we can re-arm and ultimately we can fight each other and see who's the strongest.

But I think it's a mistake and I think that the Canadian government should send a team and I think that the provincial government should do whatever it can to support the Manitoba contingent on that team.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, that was quite interesting. But I'm afraid that I have to disagree on many points with my colleague and maybe I find myself more in sympathy with the attitude of the Minister, who - and I certainly

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don't want to decide with the hawks or the dove - the member has covered a lot of points, but I resent the fact that the last member who spoke made it appear just black and white. It's not that simple. And the thing that he kept repeating that bothers me is that the governments and the politicians, and so on, would be responsible for destroying the Olympics. If the concept of the Olympic is destroyed it's going to be destroyed by the Olympic Association themselves. I don't think it's the government.

The member certainly will be much more popular with the sports editors in this province and other places, but I think that you have to realize when the government and the same member repeatedly wanted the governments to do more - and when you say the governments, this is not a magic name, it's with funds from the taxpayers - and I think they have a responsibility.

The Olympic Association, I think, has gone so far from the original concept and it isn't black and white. There is more politics, I think, within the Olympic Association than you'll find in the House, even on the worst days.

MR. DOERN: What kind of politics?

MR. DESJARDINS: Internal politics with the different groups, the different countries, looking at the judging, for instance. If you look at certain judges in the figure skating, if they've got a chance and they've got somebody from their country, they're going to mark the opposition very low, which is ridiculous.

And the rules of the games, what are they? It used to be that an amateur could not even compete with professionals. Anybody in his right sense knows that there is a different lifestyle in different countries, countries behind the Iron Curtain and countries around here, and the concept of the Olympics was for fun and game and competition and fitness, and so on, and you can't tell me there's fitness when different countries encourage the drugging of some athletes, or different hormones, and so on, to develop the different athletes by the age of 14 and after that they're on their way down.

It's not out and dried, Mr. Chairman, and then who has to bail these countries out? Who had to bail out Montreal? Who had to come to the help of Munich? But the governments and therefore the taxpayers in these provinces.

So I think it is a disservice to paint the politicians all black, even Joe Who - God, he has enough problem without blaming him for everything - and then to make the athletes . . . Not the athletes, I'm not faulting the athletes at all but the Association and the countries, and so on, to paint them all white; everything is fine.

You know there's a lot of other people in different fields that don't get this help. I haven't got the answer, and I'd like to know what is being done but there is no doubt that if it's going to have an impact on it, fine, somebody will have to make sacrifices, not if there's only one country, and so on.

MR. DOERN: So you don't want any government aid for . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: I didn't say that; I didn't say that at all. But you can't have it only one way. If the government is responsible to train athletes or to develop athletes - and this is what the member said - and if they're supposed to pick up the bills and the pieces for different cities, different provinces or different countries, I think it's wrong to say that they have no business in sticking their nose in that.

There is no doubt, I would much prefer the Olympics, sure, as a spectator of sports, it's terrific. But there's lots that wrong in that. For instance, they had Formosa for years, what did they do? When Red China never wanted to participate, when they started participating they threw a country out. If that's not politics, what is it?

MR. DOERN: What would you have done?

MR. DESJARDINS: I would have said to China, "If you want to come, fine, but we're not going to throw this country out". And I think that we should do . . .

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MR. DOERN: You would have banned them then . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: I wouldn't have banned anybody.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One member at a time.

MR. DESJARDINS: I wouldn't have banned anybody. But I wouldn't choose and kick somebody that faithfully came in for years and on what grounds were they banned, if it wasn't political? Did they break any other rules?

MR. DOERN: But you would have banned the country . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: I did not say that and I would hope that the member will not put words in my mouth. If he wants to say that, fine, but he cannot say that I said it.

I would have said if a country who did not want to participate and then changed their mind or something - and this is their prerogative if they want to come in - but at the price of excluding somebody else, is that the spirit of the Olympics? And, Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt, like the Minister said, that those communist countries, in most of them, these people are all professional. That's all they do. Take the Russian hockey teams and they're professionals.

I also attended the Olympics. I attended the Winter Olympics in Grenoble in 1968, where we had the last - until this year - the last Canadian hockey team and they they were supposed to be able to play with the Russians and take some pros who had been reinstated amateur, and after that was allowed at the last minute because the Russians made a lot of noise, we had to say, "No, you can't have it", and then throw the Canadian team out.

I would hope that you start by looking in your own backyard - I'm talking about the Olympic Association - and I think they have to be tough; I think that there's too much money spent to start with; and I think there's too much emphasis on countries. You are going there to compete and for health and an example to the world, and that's not what it is. It's political with a capital "P". There is no doubt about that at all and you can make a lot of noise if you are a big power and you're listened to.

And the member himself said, well, dismiss these people that met because they're small countries. Is that the spirit of the Olympics, that if you're a rich country or a big country you're No. 1 and the others don't count? Certainly.

MR. DOERN: You're being political, now.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, nobody is being more political than the spokesman who spoke before, Mr. Chairman. He brought in the war in Vietnam, and so on. Now, this is not party policy; it's my own point of view, the same as what's the member's point of view and I didn't even want to touch on that. But I resent the fact, as I say, to try to blame the politician, therefore the people, for destroying the Olympics. Because if it's going to be destroyed it's going to be destroyed by the Olympic Association, themselves.

So, Mr. Chairman, I think that we're doing the right thing. I'm not going to go blindly and say at all costs the athletes must be able to do, to go and you spend the money, and so on. It is a problem. We don't know everything. I'm not ready to say right now that the athletes shouldn't go, but it is not as simple as that and I don't like to see the politician criticized for certain things that are none of their doing.

There is no doubt that there is politics and I think they should clean house and then they could maybe . . . It could be that with some smaller grants that country can compete, but small countries can't host the games any more. It's ridiculous the money that is spent for a sporting event. It is propoganda and it was encouraged by the Olympic Association. It is propoganda for the country. They don't give a damn about the athletes. You know, if you lose a game they're talking about firing the coach of the Russian teams because he lost the game.

We know, and even my honourable friend will know what they're doing to the swimmers, how they developed their swimmers or the weight lifters and so on with the hormones and different things that they give them. What is that going to do

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to the youth of the world? And what kind of a training is it giving that you've got to win at all costs? You see that in the pro; you see that everywhere; you see it here in kids playing hockey because that is the concept and that's what the Olympics should be fighting. That is the concept.

I attended a tournament of 10 year olds not too long ago playing hockey and the coach instructed one of the players to take another player out, the smallest guy on the team; it was a two-handed swing and practically broke his arm and when he came back in the box, he said, "Good, get him again. You've got him on the run".

MR. DOERN: Good coach.

MR. DESJARDINS: Good coach but that's the spirit of the thing, that you've got to win at all games and the parents are the worst because we're not doing anything about it, because money talks. All right, let the politician take their lumps, but don't exclude the others because I think it is mostly their responsibility.

So I am not saying, I want it clearly understood, Mr. Chairman, that I am not advocating that we boycott - and that's why I was going to keep my mouth shut - but after the statement from the previous member I couldn't let that go on the record without some other comments because I think it is wrong. And I say again that if it's destroyed it's going to be destroyed by the Olympic committee themselves, because they've been catering to stronger nations, to big nations and it's been politics all the way. Maybe, just maybe this could be the best thing, if that could be a fiasco, maybe they'll rethink the spirit and the concept of proper Olympics, of what it was meant to be and of more even competition and maybe less emphasis on winning countries.

What do you see in the newspaper? Medals by Russia; medals by United States, and so on. And maybe we should compete as equal also, you know, for a certain thing, not to make that as a tool of a nation.

You talk about Hitler. That's what you're getting, you know, to show that your nation is better. It's not the nation as a whole. They take a few and they're a sacrifice for political reasons, to push a country. And it might be, I don't know what's going to happen and it's a tough decision. But I want to sympathize with the people who have to make the decision and not just say they have no business there at all.; all they are supposed to do is pay the bills.

Until this is clear - and I'm not saying the countries are not to be faulted - but the Olympic Association has got to be able to be strong enough to be able to have fair play. Would you see anywhere else . . . ? I can just imagine the member and myself and the Minister yelling if we had some of the judging like we have on diving, where you can't measure by height or by speed and so on in some of the judging.

It's a very well-known fact that in figure skating - and we saw it again - for instance, if the two top people are Russian and a Canadian, let's say, that the Canadian judge will, in most instances, will low-grade the Russian and the Russian will do the same thing and sometimes their friends are part of the game, and I don't think that the member can deny that.

A MEMBER: We need Swiss judges.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, maybe we need Swiss judges or somebody else. But I think that this might be a good thing, to have the people think again and what are we trying to achieve?

The member is looking at one good part of it. He's looking at the future of the athlete who can have all kinds of endorsements, and so on, if he wins and that's not bad. But are we going to sacrifice everything to the elite in sport? That's not the philosophy that we should have, at least on our side of the House, that we're talking about maybe not just going for the elite and take care of the other people, and that is a dangerous thing.

Now, leaving that. . . oh, I guess it's practically 12:30. I wanted to go back to the Games and the training and all that, but we have two minutes. Well then, I might say that the Minister also said something that I don't like. He is saying that he is studying the region now for the future of the Games. I don't

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see why. That was done after the Games, and by the Games Committee, the same Mr. Fabro that the Minister has a lot of confidence in and by the way that I have also, his group, when he was chairman of the Games, and again, all the results were very good. And if it's a question of money, it's something else, and I kind of suspect that maybe it's the restraint program of present government. But I can't see with the Games the way we have the concept, I was very surprised to say we're going to keep the same concept or is it going to be changed. If it's a question, if the Minister feels that he doesn't want to spend all that money in that area or he is not sure, that's something else, but there was no criticism of the Games at all. It was good.

Back to my friend from Elmwood, I think the point that he was covering, I think that we have to remember that indirectly, in a way, these Games are helping the world class athlete. You're going to discover somewhere. . . And you're giving everybody a chance. You're not going to have only athletes from Winnipeg, people that will have the facilities, you might find a native boy in the north that could throw the javelin for miles, and where does he go from there? He goes to the Manitoba Games where you encourage mass participation.

In the Summer Games in Neepawa I saw a baseball game that the first baseman and the pitcher were practically as fat as I was, but they had a lot of fun and they were practically the age of my friend from Elmwood and they were still playing. Well, that's mass participation. But then you will develop athletes who will graduate from there and only the athletes that have not participated in Canada Games were allowed to participate. The next step would be the Canada Games. And if you competed in the Olympics in that you couldn't go in the Canada Games. So you know you're helping at least on the bottom of the ladder. And I couldn't agree more that when an athlete represents his country the federal government should have this responsibility, with the help that we can give him but the main responsibility is to the federal government because then they are a Canadian athlete, no longer a Manitoba athlete, and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour of 12:30 having arrived, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 2:30 p.m.

SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson): This committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members to Page 78 of the Main Estimates, Department of Natural Resources. Resolution No. 105, Item 6, Lands (a) Administration (1) Salaries--pass - the Honourable Minister.

HON. A. BRIAN RANSOM: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, but I think by agreement that we had thought that we would move the item Acquisition and Construction up for discussion because I have information available, if the honourable members wished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On Page 84, Item 13, Acquisition and Construction. I would direct the honourable members to Page 84 of the Main Estimates, Natural Resources, Resolution No. 112, Item 13, Acquisition and Construction, Item (a) Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement. The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: First of all, Mr. Chairman, let me table some information, responses to some questions that were asked earlier relating to Park Maintenance salaries and expenditures and some questions with respect to native land claims.

I think, Mr. Chairman, I will deal with the Acquisition and Construction item perhaps as one item in my explanation because some of the Northlands program is included along with our regular ongoing program. I can distribute some copies, Mr. Chairman.

Three packages of information, Mr. Chairman. The first, on the long sheet, is just a comparative listing between 1979-80 and 1980-81 and has some brief explanatory notes attached at the back. I am also distributing a package dealing with the Capital Budget for Parks, which goes into some detail. It gives the regional summaries and then goes into some details of the types of projects that are being

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undertaken. In addition, there is a package covering the Maintenance Program. This is not a Capital item but this question was asked previously so this information is included in this package that gives some fairly detailed information on the Maintenance Program. It also includes a map and a listing of the Capital projects by region and some estimated dollar figures as well. I think on the basis of this information, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable members will be able to understand fully the program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister, when we are handling this particular item, can we handle (a), (b), and (c) as one item or should it be separate?

MR. RANSOM: I would suggest we deal with one item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On one item at a time?

MR. RANSOM: Just as one total item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, one total item. Because, rather than jumping...

MR. RANSOM: I'll just explain as I go through, that in the Parks item, for instance, if the honourable members would look inside the cover on the first page, they will see the projects and the amount of money that appear under Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement, Parks, broken down according to region as well as the normal 100 percent cost paid by the province agreement.

I am pleased to say that in our Park Program this year, Mr. Chairman, that in the northern park development under the Northlands Agreement, whereas last year we were expending \$722,500, that this year we will be expending \$1,513,000, which is more than double last years. Then in the southern, we have loosely termed it the Southern Park Program, which means that it doesn't qualify under the Northlands Agreement - you'll find this about the fourth page of the long summary - where last year we had a budget of \$650,000; this year we have a budget of \$2,068,000 which again, is a substantial increase over what we had last year.

Then, going into a bit more detail under the Northlands, we'll see that in the northeastern part of the province, Mr. Chairman, we will be expending this year \$649,000; in the northwestern region, \$542,000; in the western region, \$208,000; and in the eastern region, \$381,000 for that total of \$1,780,000.00. Under the . . .

MR. SAM USKIW: I wonder whether the Minister could indicate which document he is now reading from. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet on a point of order.

MR. USKIW: Yes, I just want to know which document he is now reading from?

MR. RANSOM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm reading from the Parks, the detail of the Parks' Program. I'd just like to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: The Minister gave us figures, when he was reading from the document, I believe which didn't match up in the total figures of what the overall summary was. He gave figures that were either increased or less than what are shown on the document. I didn't quite follow him. I wonder if he could explain it.

MR. RANSOM: Yes, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. To explain that, that's because there is an amount of the Northlands' funding that goes into the enabling vote. This is what? - 10, 15 percent - if you add those two figures on the front page of the long sheets, then it comes to the other figure. On the 100 percent provincial program, in the western region, we will be expending \$213,700; in the southwestern region, \$963,000; in the interlake region, \$312,300; in the eastern region,

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\$250,500; and in the southeastern region, \$710,500.00. Our Cottage Lot Development Program for this year, we have \$445,000.00. That amount of money, of course, is expected to be recovered when developments are completed; and the figure for the ARC Agreement, as well, the agreement for recreation and conservation within Winnipeg \$575,300.00. I won't read all the detail, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to just briefly put on the record some of the types of developments that will be . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. George on a point of order.

MR. URUSKI: Yes, I wonder whether the Minister wouldn't consider going through it on a regional basis, region by region, so that we know what's happening in what part of the province. He seems to be skipping over the whole province from one region to another in his introductory comments. If we could follow it through region by region, it would be much easier to follow and we could have a better debate.

MR. RANSOM: That's what I'm doing, Mr. Chairman. I, first of all, was putting the various regions in context because I'm sure that the honourable members are interested in knowing the overall distribution of funds on a regional basis within the province to see the kind of equitable treatment that we are giving to the park requirements throughout the province. And, then, I am going to deal a little bit with some of the items within the region.

Within the northeastern region, we expect to be doing some extensive work on the road and parking lot and marina at Paint Lake and Troy Lake area, generally some improvements to the campgrounds there and to some of the other lesser infrastructures. But the amount of money is a substantial amount of money devoted to that, some \$468,000.00.

Granville Lake, we expect to be spending about \$50,000 on water supply, sewage system and campsite improvements. Some similar improvements at Setting Lake and for our wayside parks in the northeastern region, there's a little better than \$100,000 devoted to improvements there. In the northwestern region, money will be expended at Clearwater, about \$136,000; at Bakers Narrows, some \$50,000; Grass River Park, \$274,000; and at the wayside parks, about \$82,000.00. Those items are for improvements in campgrounds, improving parking lots, access roads, general landscaping and campground developments.

In the western region, the Duck Mountain Park, will be \$208,000 spent on campground development, water systems and sewage systems. In the eastern region, we again are hoping to be able to complete the bridge on Manigotogan River, and in Nopiming Park, we will be spending about \$81,000 on interpretative displays, improvements to crossings and garbage disposal. The Manigotogan Bridge, by the way, is estimated to be a \$300,000 item.

We have undertaken some activity over the past few weeks, for the information of the Honourable Member for Rupertsland, to get some clearing and some stockpiling of gravel and that sort of thing in hopes of getting this project under way. Those items, Mr. Chairman, are all under the Northlands.

And under the regular development in the western region: Rainbow Beach Recreation Park, water system, trailer dump and washrooms, \$69,000; at the Asessippi Park, \$97,700 for shower facilities, hydro upgrade, water system improvement, trails; Manipogo Recreation area, sewage lift stations and marina improvements \$37,000, and \$10,000 on wayside parks.

In the southwestern region, the Lake Max Campground, \$103,500; the Lake Adam Campground, things like buildings, landscaping, group-use facilities, \$65,500; Lake William Recreation Park, upgrading of washrooms, change rooms, trailer dump and sewage disposal system, \$50,000; and wayside parks along Trans Canada, general infrastructure, \$132,000, that's an item that perhaps will do something about the situation that the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet was raising a couple of days ago.

In the Spruce Woods Park, upgrading of the sewage treatment plant is \$100,000; Lynch's Point Recreation Park, upgrading of the boat-launch, washroom, concession building, \$44,500; \$27,000 at Rock Lake Recreation Park for road, walkway improvements and some improvements in the privies there. The Rivers Recreational Park, rehabilitation and site improvement, \$13,500; and then a general item of \$45,000

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for trying to improve, make our recreational facilities more accessible to disadvantaged persons, wheelchair access and that sort of thing; and the International Peace Gardens, this is a continuing effort to complete the water system which was started there some years ago, and the costs of which have been escalating much beyond what was originally intended and it is going to take an estimated \$382,000 to complete that system.

In the Interlake Region and the Grindstone Point Recreation Park, beach development, parking lot, \$86,800; Norris Lake campground improvement, \$100,000; and at Hecla, \$125,500, improvements to playground, parking lot, water systems, landscaping, right-of-way improvements. General item of \$84,500 at Birds Hill; \$8,000 at Patricia Beach; \$158,000 at Grand Beach for roads, parking lots, shower building, water systems.

In the Southeastern Region, Stephenfield

MR. ENNS: Nothing for Lundar in Interlake?

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I don't see anything here specifically for Lundar. In the Southeastern Region, Stephenfield Recreation Park, \$14,500 for landscaping and road surfacing; Norquay Beach, \$26,000; St. Malo, \$37,300, general infrastructure; in the Whiteshell, Seven Sisters District, \$43,000, boat launch, beach improvements, washroom improvements re handicapped access; the Rennie District \$36,000 in the Alf Hole sanctuary and sewage infrastructure; West Hawk, \$189,800, townsite, sewage treatment, upgrading electrical system and building improvement; in the Falcon District, townsite, marina, sewage treatment, road improvements, campground completion and electrical systems, \$279,000; and for the Birch Point and waysides, a total of \$84,500.00.

I have to point out, Mr. Chairman, I believe that this sort of detailed information has perhaps not been provided earlier in other years and that while this is the intention, as far as capital spending goes, it often happens that as we get into a given project and find that perhaps there are costs that are greater or lesser than anticipated, then there have to be adjustments made in the overall program, but that is the intention that we will be pursuing. I believe that it will lead to substantial significant upgrading of park facilities to make them more accessible and enjoyable to all Manitobans as well as to visitors to our province.

I will just very briefly, going back to the longer summary sheets, Mr. Chairman, we will see some items there under Forestry, which are some resource access roads to upgrade the access for forest harvesting operations to be able to take advantage of our forest resources and create some additional employment, generation of wealth in the province, as well as some silvicultural equipment to upgrade our forestry management or reforestation programs. An item for lightning detection equipment, this item I think has been referred to earlier, it's a system of tying in with other provinces to try and track storms and anticipate where lightning strikes are going to occur and when they do occur in order to take prompt action to lessen the amount of damage in our forest fires.

There is an item on polar bear cages. You may recall that last year we had an item to construct polar bear cages at Churchill in order that bears, nuisance bears, or bears that were creating nuisances, could be held in cages until the ice formed and they were able to be released and let go. And this was as opposed to try to fly them out from Churchill and then ending up having many of them come back and causing damage. And I think it's perhaps appropriate to point out, Mr. Chairman, at this time, to some of the people of our province and elsewhere who are perhaps not familiar with the polar bear problem at Churchill, that there have been over the years some very serious problems caused by bears at Churchill. There are still problems caused. There have been others, at least one case I know of where a child was killed by a polar bear at Churchill, and perhaps those people who don't put up with the kind of problems that the residents of Churchill do, who live in other parts of our country and other parts of the world, may feel much greater sympathy for the bears than perhaps they should be feeling for the people who have to face the problem, and they should realize that they are not only a danger to property but actually to life in Churchill as well. And we hope that by constructing these cages, that we will be able not only to lessen the danger to life and property in Churchill but that we will in fact be able to handle the

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bears in a more effective and humane fashion than has been the case in previous years.

There is a general item for equipment purchases and an item on renovations, Mr. Chairman. Then if we go to the Water Program, I don't think that I will go into any detail on the Land Drainage Reconstruction Program, Mr. Chairman, because it is a rather detailed one and I have provided a map. I think the honourable members can follow that one through quite readily on their own. I just would say that there is an increase from \$1,140,000 in 1979-80 to \$1,630,000 in 1980-81, so we have been attempting to move on our commitment to give greater emphasis to water management and drainage construction and reconstruction.

The Bridge Replacement item of \$500,000 is the same as it was last year. Then the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet will be pleased to see that we again have the item for the Waterway Reconstruction at Lac du Bonnet, relating to the sewage problem there. Then there is an item \$750,000, Mr. Chairman, for an upgrading of the dike system to protect the towns in the Red River Valley. Now we're all familiar, of course, with the flood that took place in 1979 and the fact that the ring dike system did work very well, very effectively, but it was discovered that there were a number of weaknesses that needed to be shorn up and some improvements that could be made, so we are asking for an expenditure of \$750,000 to do that. We expect that over the next few years that it could be necessary to spend perhaps a few million additional dollars to upgrade them further. There is a necessity, a necessity is not the right word, but an advantage to having some stop-log-type closures rather than the present kind of earthfill closures that are used.

We have an item of \$400,000 for an initial start on the Carman Diversion. I might also refer at the same time to a \$50,000 item for some flood protection at Gimli and a \$150,000 item for flood protection at Ste. Rose, those three items are all of a similar nature, Mr. Chairman. We have discussed these in the House previously; these are situations that, under previous policies, flood protection has not been provided to these communities because the cost benefit analysis were not thought to be high enough. We are adopting a new policy now to the effect that we recognize that many communities that have experienced rather frequent flooding, particularly during the past ten years of experience, that the time has come now when we must move to provide some flood protection to them in order that further development of the towns can take place and that people who are interested in making investments and living there will not be faced with the kind of constant threat that they have been recently. As an example; Carman, from 1923 to 1969, I don't believe experienced a significant flood, and then the period of 1969 to 1979, they had three bad floods and a fourth close call in that period of ten years. So we're moving on the basis here of seeking cost-sharing from the federal government on that portion of the cost which is covered by a benefit.

For example, if the cost benefit was .8, we will seek from the federal government, 50/50 sharing on 80 percent of the cost. We then will go to the local government and offer to share on a 50/50 basis with them the other 20 percent that is not covered by a positive cost benefit. Because we're dealing in a range that is below a positive cost benefit, at least by the way that we calculate them now, we think that it's necessary to have some local government input of money, otherwise, we would be faced of course with a never ending demand for essentially free service. We expect that this will be a long term program. There are many many communities in the province that probably will move over the years to ask for flood protection. We are making a start on these three which we consider to be of high priority. I trust that the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose would concur in that.

The Value Added Crop Production Agreement, Mr. Chairman, was discussed to some extent last year when it was signed. This is some of the first money that's going into upgrading of drainage in order to be able to allow those areas affected to produce at an increased level, an increased level is not a correct description, it's to allow generally to move to a higher more intensive type of production than previously was the case.

We have an item also here for the Interim Subsidiary Agreement on Water Development and this is an agreement which has been under negotiation with the federal government for about a year now, and for various reasons we have not been able to conclude it. We hope to be able to conclude it shortly because there are some items that we think are essential to the management of water which are

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included in that agreement; an upgrading of the Morden reservoir being one example, Mr. Chairman.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: To the Minister, if I could just interrupt for a moment, we have some visitors in the gallery and I'm not sure of their length of stay and I would like to introduce them.

I would like to direct the honourable members' attention to the gallery on my left, where we have 60 students of Grade 11 standing from the Edward Schreyer School at Beausejour. This school is under the direction of Mr. Koss, and is in the Constituency of the Honourable Member of Lac du Bonnet.

On behalf of all of the members here this morning, we would like to welcome you here today. Thank you.

The Honourable Minister.

SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES Cont'd.

MR. RANSOM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and since you rightfully took the liberty of interrupting me to introduce them, perhaps I could ask the students to pass on my greetings to the principal of their school, a gentleman who formerly taught in Boissevain.

Three items that will be shown as having been in the 1979-80 Adjusted Vote on Vermilion River Dam, on Shellmouth and Grandview are either completed or not anticipated to require expenditures this year. Grandview has unfortunately had an ongoing water supply problem for many years and while it was thought that there was a solution in the offing a couple of years ago, it was discovered on further engineering investigation, that the proposal was not a viable one and we have been attempting to develop a new proposal and at the moment the one that is being settled on hinges on the re-alignment of the highway because part of that reservoir is going to go on the present highway right-of-way. When we are able to do that, naturally we will be providing funds.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that covers the Capital Program in some detail. I apologize for perhaps taking longer to describe it than might have seemed necessary but I think many of these items are important to the people in the areas that are going to be affected.

If I could just refer the honourable members to Page 3 of the long summary of the descriptive notes which lists those projects that are taking place under the Value Added Agreement, the Cook's Creek Area Project, the La Salle River, Marsh River, Domain Crop Area and the Morris River Area Project.

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J.R. (Bud) BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity on a matter of privilege to correct a remark that I made the other night in the heat of debate with the Minister when one of his items was under consideration, to the extent that the Minister was not interested at all in the people of my constituency. I don't believe that to be true. I said it in anger and I would like to withdraw the remark.

Having withdrawn the remark, I would ask the Minister to read what I had said with the invectives deleted and to see if he can't see some validity to my basic argument that in cost benefit analysis consideration it is difficult, and to this day almost impossible, to build into a cost benefit study social costs. The Minister, being an engineer, I think he will see that there may be some validity. Not an engineer but --(Interjection)-- I'm sorry, I always thought that the Minister was an engineer.

A MEMBER: No, no; he's a social worker.

MR. BOYCE: A social worker? I never had seen it anywhere but he talks almost like an engineer.

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But anyway, perhaps his colleague, the Minister of Finance, who is an engineer, will see the validity of an argument, should he use it in Cabinet, that, as it is with atoms, you get critical masses and if you pack them too close together, then they blow up and it's the same thing with people. And when he is considering some of the expenditures of money, I know it is difficult and I agree with his point that you can only give so much to people and that you lose the benefit of what you are trying to accomplish by giving people too much. But nevertheless, perhaps he might even consider the establishment of a program to relieve some of the pressures in the Winnipeg Centre constituency by establishing a camp, which was suggested by the Member for Inkster, in the constituency the Member for Lakeside represents.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I just would like to commend the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre for rising on that point of privilege and I have to admit that his remarks the previous evening were not made without some provocation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I don't intend to abuse the privileges of a member on this side to take away the time from members of the opposite side to get into the detailed discussions of this very important item, but I do feel that I particularly want to have a few words on the record of commendation to the Minister at this time and to this government at this time. I say that because it was my privilege back in 1966 when Water Control was then housed in the Department of Agriculture and later again in 1969 when I had the privilege of being the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources at that time when the division transferred over to that particular department.

I just want to indicate how tremendously pleased I am that this administration who at that time, in the latter Sixties, in the better part of the Sixties, spent a great deal of time and effort and money in providing the major flood protection of our major community, namely Winnipeg, the \$64 million floodway around Winnipeg, the structures at Portage, the Asessippi or Shellmouth Dam, and at that particular time I was, understandably - the government of that day was understandably - under considerable pressure to begin to resolve some of the problems of the smaller communities, whether they were on the Boyne River, the La Salle River, the Whitemouth River, the Whitemud River, Dauphin River up at Ste. Rose du Lac, the Icelandic River up in the Gimli area, and I find it tremendously gratifying that we have been able to, and this Minister has been able to, acknowledge those concerns and that we have now begun on a program that will extend the kind of flood protection to the lesser communities or the smaller communities, I should say, that Winnipeg has enjoyed for the last decade. Because, you know, water is water. Granted that a flood of the proportions of the 1950 meant devastation to thousands of homes and cost millions of dollars, but to a person living in Gimli or to a person living on the Dauphin River in the Ste. Rose du Lac area, flooding is just as bad on an individual basis. I can recall having put myself on record on numerous occasions, both in this Chamber and in the communities involved, that once the major projects were underway, that we would address ourselves to them.

Well, of course an unfortunate incident happened, Mr. Chairman. The NDP got elected for eight years and nothing happened. Eight years of happenings, sir, in all other fields, but not in this particular field. Honourable Members opposite, and the Minister who was then responsible - not in this Chamber right now, the Honourable Member for Inkster - would have to acknowledge that precious little was done to even address themselves to the problems of Carman, to address themselves to the problem of Ste. Rose, to worry about Gimli or these other areas. I think this is a demonstration that when you prioritize your funds, when you prioritize what is available in terms of public spending, you can resolve these problems.

So, Mr. Chairman, without taking any greater time and simply wanting to comment on that aspect of the Estimates now under discussion, and certainly not to take away from the very exciting and expanded program that this government under this Ministry is developing for upgrading and expansion of our parks and recreational facilities, my particular interest at this time was to acknowledge, with some satisfaction, that the Minister has seen fit to extend the same kind of concern to the people that are living in the smaller communities throughout rural Manitoba,

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as far as flood protection is concerned, as the 1960s administration had for the majority of people in this province, if you like, living in such centres as Winnipeg.

Mr. Chairman, I think history will record that the decisions now being made by the Department of Natural Resources are going to be of long-lasting benefit to growing numbers of Manitobans.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I would acknowledge the next speaker, if I could just make a remark that what seems to be prevalent in the House these days is making reference to honourable members who are not present, particularly when this committee is in two locations at the same time. I know that the Speaker has mentioned it previously and I would hope that the honourable members would take note that mention of members who are not present is out of order and I would hope that maybe we cannot make reference to members who are not attending in the House at the same time.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, you correctly admonish me and I would certainly want the record to show that I did it without any malice or forethought. I simply made reference to my friend, the Member for Inkster, who for many years was responsible for the Department of Mines and Natural Resources. But I do accept your admonishment, Mr. Chairman, and I humbly, humbly ask your forgiveness.

POINT OF ORDER

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On a point of order?

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I believe that it is the practice of this assembly, of this committee, that we alternate speakers, one from the government side, one from the opposition. We have just witnessed two Ministers give two speeches to the Chamber when the Member for Churchill was on his feet and was not recognized. Mr. Chairman, the Member for Winnipeg Centre rose on a matter of privilege. He was not contributing to this debate. And so did the Minister respond to the point of privilege that was raised.

I believe it is an innocent oversight. I just wanted to draw it to your attention, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To honourable members, it wasn't an oversight. I was anticipating that the honourable member was speaking on the same point of privilege and I didn't expect it to get into a debate. I will accept the remarks of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

The Honourable Member for Churchill.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Cont'd

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to discuss in a moment some very specific constituency matters with the Minister in regard to the Capital Projects in the north but, before that, I would just like to address very briefly some remarks to a matter that the Minister brought forward in his initial address on that and that is the problems that we seem to be experiencing around the experimentation on the polar bears as of late. I'm a bit concerned because the Minister seemed to want to confuse the issue a bit and talk about the comparison of apples and oranges.

No one denies the fact that polar bears are an endangered species. Anyone who has seen a polar bear up close is well aware of the fact that they are very large. They are very mean looking, irregardless of the pictures that you see in the paper. Up close, they take on a sinister appearance. They are very quick and they are very dangerous and any person who has lived in Churchill or who has visited Churchill is well acquainted with the dangers of the polar bears.

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But that does not condone what has happened in the experiments of recent days. It has nothing to do with the experiments. The bears do present a problem to the people of Churchill on occasion, just as people present problems to the polar bears on occasion; it works both ways. But those that have criticized these particular experiments that the Minister made reference to have done so sincerely, Mr. Chairperson. They have questioned...

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

MR. RANSOM: I believe the record will show I made no reference to experiments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am trying to think back to the debate. I can't recall any reference made on experiments.

The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. While the Minister made well not have made any specific reference to the experimentation, I am certain that the inference that he was making at the time would lead one to believe that - at least it led me to believe on this side - that he was in fact condoning or he was in fact - I shouldn't say condoning because he did say that - that he was in fact addressing himself to a very topical issue that is before us, and he had used the vehicle of the polar bear cages that do show up in the Acquisition and Construction figures to present that point.

I would just like to answer it very briefly. I don't want to become involved in a wrangle, but I think the people that have questioned those experiments have done so sincerely. They have questioned the necessity of them, number one, and the value of them, number two, and mostly importantly, they questioned the procedures. You do not have to be a scientist to anticipate what would happen when you soak a polar bear in an oil slick. It's going to lick the oil off; it's going to ingest the oil by doing so, and that's a health hazard of no small significance to the polar. And if one does anticipate that scenario, then one would be ill-advised to try to suggest that if this experiment was performed on such an animal, that that animal would walk away from that experiment unharmed. They might say that it's a possibility, but they would be ill-advised to suggest that it would actually happen. They would be ill-advised to say that, after these experiments, the animal would be cleaned, given a bath and sent out into the wild and would live happily ever after.

Therein lies the problem, not that the experiments were performed; the experiments are necessary. There will be those who will argue with myself on this, but sometimes experiments on animals are necessary. That's a fact. It is a part of progress, so be it. One has to judge each specific instance on its own merits but one cannot categorically say that no experiments are necessary or that no experiments on animals should be performed.

So the individuals that have criticized these experiments have done so, I think, out of a sincere concern for what has occurred and many individuals, including the Minister, I believe, and myself, I know for certain, were assured that there would be no harm that would come to the animals. That was the assurance that we were given. So when the harm did actually occur, that is why we had a strong protest. That is why we had a justifiable anger and appropriate and necessary questioning of the whole procedure.

Without commenting on the validity of the protest or on the anger or the justification for the inquiries, or even on the validity or the necessity of the experiments themselves - because there will be other times during the proceedings of this House to discuss those matters - without commenting on that, I would just like at this point to set the record straight, to commend those that have spoken out on the issue, to encourage the Minister to continue his investigations, which he has promised us and to the appropriateness and the value and the procedures followed during the experiment.

And I, among many, I've had calls, Mr. Chairperson, as far as from London, England. I have letters from the outside of the country on this particular issue. So I, among many, await the results of his investigations and I think we

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can leave the matter at that for now, until such a time as we have more information.

But it has nothing to do with the polar bear cages. We commend the Minister for the fact that there are polar bear cages going into the area of Churchill. It is a problem. The polar bears do present a specific hazard and any way in which we can humanely deal with that hazard is appreciated.

I think the Minister was absolutely correct when he says, being able now to capture and contain nuisance bears is a much better option than having to fly them out again and then let them find their way back into the townsite area, and if that happens enough times those polar bears are eventually destroyed, very quickly and humanely, I might add. But if that is not necessary, if we can contain them in cages and then let them go out onto the ice when the ice is ready, that is a much better procedure and I'm certain that not only the people of Churchill appreciate that specific step that is being taken but the polar bears themselves, if they were able to, would show their appreciations for the fact that they are no longer being put in any undue jeopardy.

The Minister in his regional detail, and I thank him for the regional detail; the specifics of it enable us to have what I believe to be a comprehensive debate on what is happening in regard to park development throughout the province and in specifically, northern Manitoba.

I would ask the Minister if he has received representations from northerners in regard to a campsite at Lynn Lake, outside of the Lynn Lake area and, if so, if any progress has been made in reference to initiating such a project, because I don't see it listed on his regional breakdown.

MR. RANSOM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, indeed we have had. We are carefully examining what can be done there and I expect that we will be able to initiate some action. But at this time we're not completely certain about what's the best way to spend the limited amount of money that's available.

But we have been in consultation with the Mayor, Mr. Morberg, at Lynn Lake and counsel on this matter for a year or so now and I'm happy to say that with the advent of our systems that we're implementing now, we hope that we will be able to get some more comprehensive planning in place and deal with that kind of requirement. Because with the road being completed to Lynn Lake, it's an area that needs some kind of facilities because people travelling that road, travelling that long distance, don't have adequate sorts of facilities when they get there.

So I can assure the honourable member, Mr. Chairman, that we are looking at that situation and we plan to rectify it.

MR. COWAN: Well, I thank the Minister, Mr. Chairperson, for that information and welcome information in fact.

I had anticipated using this part of the Estimates to encourage the Minister to give some thought and give some planning to the needs and the necessity for a facility to accommodate tourists travelling into the Lynn Lake area. I am glad to hear that he has done so, so I will content myself with encouraging him to do so in the most expedient manner. So perhaps during the next Estimates we will be able in fact to discuss exactly what sort of project he will be putting in place to serve the people in that area, because it is now a need that is of great topical interest with the fact that the road not being completed, but the paving of the road being completed from Leaf Rapids to Lynn Lake, which only leaves about 132 miles of unpaved road from Thompson to Leaf Rapids as a barrier to increased tourism in the area.

I'd ask the Minister if he has received representation from interested persons in Gillam in regard to a campsite there that would serve people travelling through on the train, who might want to stay overnight in Gillam at a tenting campsite, because you wouldn't be talking in this specific instance about a road access, or a long distance road access to the campsite. The people in the community have approached me and I'm certain that they have approached the Minister in regard to incorporating some tenting campsite in the Gillam area to serve tourism trade that uses the train to travel on through to Churchill.

MR. RANSOM: I don't recall that specific item, Mr. Chairman, but that doesn't mean that my department doesn't have it and aren't dealing with it. Certainly it sounds like an idea that would justify some careful thought.

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MR. COWAN: Again, without taking up much time of the committee, I would only encourage the Minister to investigate the possibility of coming back before us next year with some funding for such a campsite.

I'd ask the Minister if this would be the appropriate place to discuss the wildlife designated area outside of Churchill, that has been talked about over the past number of years. The Minister indicates no. Perhaps I can just ask him where we would discuss that. If we have not already passed it, perhaps then we can discuss it in Minister's Salary. But I'd seek some direction from the Minister in that regard.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Albert Driedger (Emerson): The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: Under the Wildlife Branch on Page 81.

MR. COWAN: Yes, I thank the Minister for that information and look forward to being able to discuss in detail at that time what exactly is happening in that area.

I would like to close then. I promised I would be very brief and I think this is one of the few times that I've managed to keep to that promise. I would just like to close in encouraging the Minister when the representations from the north do come - and I'm not intending in any way to infer that he does not already welcome them with open arms - but that he give them every opportunity to make their representations to him and that he listens very carefully because they are bringing forward to him concerns which have been felt for a long time, including not only the last three years but the last 10, 20 years in regard to the development of their area for tourism trade. And at the same time there are others who will be approaching the Minister with the opposite opinion. They will suggest that perhaps tourism is the wrong way to go and I would hope that the Minister would give them ample opportunity to speak their minds, too, because they do speak for a number of the constituents who question the validity of tourism as an economic factor in the community's existence.

So I would hope that the Minister continue. Perhaps if I put it in this way, I am not making an inference that he has not in the past because I believe that he is --(Interjection)-- That's right. I believe that he has acted responsibly in this matter but I would hope that he continues to encourage those representations and continues to allow northerners ample opportunity to discuss these matters which are of no small significance to them.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I notice that we are moving from one area of the Minister's department to another, and I suppose that's the way it can carry on throughout the course of the debate, but I want to take the Minister into the Parks branch now and discuss the Hecla Park development. I notice in the Estimates of Expenditures that the Minister is proposing to spend some \$125,000 at Hecla Park, and he makes reference to playground, parking lots, storage buildings, water systems, landscaping, right-of-way. There are so many items mentioned that it indicates to me, Mr. Chairman, that there isn't a great deal of expenditure on any one item, and perhaps the Minister might want to give us a bit of a breakdown on what amount of money is proposed for right-of-way as an example, right-of-way improvement.

I raise that question because there is a tremendous amount of work yet to be done in order to make Hecla Park properly accessible for vehicular traffic. The entrance to the island doesn't have a good surface highway or road. I think there's a lot to be done before we can appreciate the full value of the park facility.

It seems to me that the department should be looking at doing something about making that stretch of work completely dust-free, as an example. It may require a considerable amount of upgrading and drainage before they can do that but I would have thought there would have been a little more money allocated to Hecla Island, Mr. Chairman.

MR. RANSOM: If I might just respond briefly, Mr. Chairman, I don't have any further detail on these items listed here, but I certainly would invite the

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honourable member to avail himself of the opportunity to meet our new Director of Parks and to discuss the general park development program with him when he can make an opportunity to do so.

I agree with him in principle on the item of the access road. This item would not be intended for the general road access but would be within the actual sites having arrived there. I would hope that before too much time had passed that we would be able to find some funds to upgrade that road to satisfactory standards. For some of us that travel on gravel roads extensively it doesn't seem too bad, but for a lot of the users of that park they are accustomed to driving on better roads and there's no question that a completely paved access to the park would allow for fuller utilization of the investment that's already been made.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I'm not certain as to the number of the road that enters the park and therefore I'm not sure that I can find it in the Highways program. Perhaps the Minister might be able to tell us whether there are any expenditures planned in the Highways Department on that road into the Hecla Island Park.

MR. RANSOM: I would have to check that with the Minister of Highways, but I don't think that there's any significant new expenditures. There will be on-going maintenance and that sort of thing.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the number of the road is 233 and I don't see any new dollars allocated to it for this year, and that is somewhat of a disappointment, Mr. Chairman, because there are tremendous numbers of people driving in and out of that park facility, and my perception of it is that it's just a beginning, that that is a park that's going to get much more use as people become acquainted with it and the word of mouth technique that will get back to all parts of the province and the country. I believe that's going to be a very, very important attraction to many tourists within Manitoba and without Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, but it seems to me that upon entry into that park or island one is immediately disappointed with the access that is now there, the condition of the road and so on, and the drainage condition relative to the road and so on. There are flooding problems, drainage problems, road problems, dust problems, Mr. Chairman, that have to be contended with, and if you have any volume of traffic you can imagine the problem that it presents to the visitors.

So I would suggest to the Minister that perhaps his department might want to persuade the Department of Highways that they should spend additional sums of money, unless it is a departmental expenditure; perhaps it is within the Department of Parks to build the roads in the park system. I don't know just what the responsibility is of this Minister. Is it his responsibility to provide capital for road building and maintenance or is it the responsibility of the Highways Department, Mr. Chairman? Perhaps the Minister would clarify that.

MR. RANSOM: Some of the roads are still under the responsibility of the Parks Branch and some are Highways. The general tendency is to be moving them to Highways. When you're Chairman of the Treasury Board it doesn't much matter whether the funds are in Highways or whether they're in Parks. I agree with the honourable member in that the value of the park and the future potential that it has and the necessity and the desirability to have that road improved, it has been under consideration and I hope that we will move on it before long.

MR. USKIW: The other area, Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with is the Eastern Region as a whole. I notice that all of the moneys, a total of \$158,000 in the Capital Budget Summary of the Parks Branch makes reference to projects all along the western part of that region, along the Red River basically, Bird's Hill, Patricia Beach, Grand Beach. I don't see anything in the eastern part of the region in terms of new moneys for any new programs or continuation of programs. It seems to me that there is a lopsided approach to the spending program in that region.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister more specifically just why it is that so little money is being allocated to Patricia Beach, namely \$8,000.00? I know that for a period of years there was a flood problem there but it seems to me

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that that is somewhat behind us. I'm not sure if the government is still anticipating flood problems. It seems to me if we can project with a fair degree of accuracy that we don't foresee flooding in the area, you know, in the foreseeable future, then it would seem logical to try to improve the area for the people that want to visit that beach during the summer months. It is close to Winnipeg; it is a good beach and if there is not going to be any flooding then perhaps there should be some additional facilities.

There is also the question of - no, I'm thinking of Grand Beach here. What is happening with respect to the hotel facility in Grand Beach? I believe the hotel was burnt at one point in time. I don't know whether it has been restored and who is operating the hotel facility at Grand Beach?

MR. RANSOM: With respect to the Patricia Beach situation, Mr. Chairman, I would just have to take the member's comments really as notice if that's the amount of money that was requested as I am not familiar with the reasoning behind it. I know that the intention of the overall program has been to try and balance out and deal with needs on a balanced basis and in some cases an area has received money in the past and has a standard that's higher than another, and although one might like to see some further advancement, there are other areas that haven't been raised to that standard. I would have to enquire into that.

I would like to draw the honourable member's attention, with respect to the Eastern Region, that he was only looking at the 100 percent provincially-funded item and not the Northlands funding. He will see that in there is a \$300,000 item for the Manigotogan Bridge and \$81,000 in Nopiming Park. Now, there's only one bridge, Mr. Chairman, but it happens to be a fairly expensive item and \$300,000 would do an awful lot in our wayside parks or if it were more widely distributed.

In the Grand Beach Hotel situation, the province has finally been able to secure the ownership of the remaining assets there after it was destroyed by fire in 1975 and it has been involved in some legal complications since then. This is one of the situations where we are going to be calling for proposals from the private sector with respect to rehabilitation and redevelopment of these facilities. Perhaps the action that I referred to a few days ago of removing the park from the municipality may help to make this a more viable proposition.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I raised the question of Patricia Beach in the context that it was virtually abandoned for a period of years because of Lake Winnipeg flooding. This goes back quite a number of years. But I'm also impressed with the fact, Mr. Chairman, that there may be a new sort of position on the part of Water Resources as to the expectations of continued flooding; and I say that because of the Lake Winnipeg Regulation which does control the level of Lake Winnipeg, and there are mechanics there that can determine to some degree as to the risk that the province finds itself at with respect to that question, and what it might be able to do about it in terms of preventative measures by the use of Lake Winnipeg Regulation; and if it's concluded that there is an improvement and an expectation that we will not have flood problems recurring relatively frequently, that perhaps we should be talking about upgrading that facility, the access to the beach and the beach itself, because it indeed is a beach that was enjoyed by tens of thousands of people for a long time before the flood problems arose, Mr. Chairman.

MR. RANSOM: I want to draw one item to the attention of the members. Some of my colleagues here noticed when they were looking at the map that the funding for the Conservation Districts Program which has some drainage reconstruction involved in it, appeared under the Water Resources item as an operational expense rather than a capital expense.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether he can advise as to whether or not Lake Winnipeg Regulation is going to improve, or otherwise, the Patricia Beach facility as a beach; whether the Minister has any studies or any interpretation on the part of his department as to whether or not we can now look at that beach as a viable beach for the future?

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MR. RANSOM: I will ask my staff to have a look at that situation, Mr. Chairman, and then we'll provide the honourable member with a statement?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I'm intrigued with the statement that the Minister gave with respect to the acquisition of the Grand Beach Hotel. Is the Minister saying that it's his department that acquired the facility and if it's so could the Minister indicate from whom the properties were purchased and at what price?

MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats: The Honourable Member for Minister.

MR. RANSOM: Yes, the Parks Branch of Government has acquired it. I'll have to get the details. We may be able to get them by this afternoon. That transaction took place perhaps a year ago, I think.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering why it is that the Parks Branch decided to purchase the facility. I understand the building was burnt, the facility was not in use for a number of years and I would like to just know what the Parks Branch interest is in that facility, if the Minister would care to elaborate.

MR. RANSOM: I will get the details of the sequence of events that led to the acquiring of it but in general the interest is that we want to have some facilities provided in the park for the users of the park.

MR. USKIW: Could the Minister then indicate just what his intentions are with respect to then replacing that facility with either a public facility or new private facilities, just what is the policy of the government and what is the government's financial involvement with respect to what they plan to do deal with that problem?

MR. RANSOM: As I pointed out earlier, Mr. Chairman, we plan to call for proposals for the development or handling of those facilities. Until we see what kinds of proposals we can get, it's obviously not possible to say what kind of an agreement we can get.

MR. USKIW: Again, Mr. Chairman, can the Minister confirm then that he will have for the benefit of the committee the ownership of the facility, that is the parties from whom they were purchased; the cost to the province; the particular interested parties in that facility and what it is that the Minister intends to do with it some time later today perhaps?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to put into the record a few brief remarks and commend the government and the Minister for some of the long overdue programs that we are finally addressing ourselves to and doing something about in this province and some of them go back to recommendations when advisory boards back as far as 1972, which for some unknown reason by the government of that day were likely swept under the carpet or put back on the shelf to gather dust.

But nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, there are some very interesting things taking place in this Minister's Estimates and I think that they should be put into the record, some of them specifically. And the one that my attention is drawn to first, Mr. Chairman, is the diversion of the Boyne River at Carmen, a matter of serious proportions. That town has experienced terrible problems over the years and I don't why the former government of this province never got themselves addressed to it; they never could find the money to deal with it. Basically I don't suppose that they understood what these problems are. But nevertheless here it is, Mr. Chairman, before me today in this document, a matter of maybe some \$5 million.

We come down to the problems of Pelican Lake that have been, as I mentioned earlier, sitting, when the members opposite were in government, sitting likely in

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the Member for Rupertsland's office with recommendations back as far as 1972; finally the problems are being addressed to by the government and this Minister.

Mr. Chairman, the matter of Gimli, I noticed is in here. These are very interesting things that we're dealing with and that brings us back to some of the debates that were held in this Chamber yesterday, that if in fact is there going to be problems of erosion at Gimli. I have heard people from the area, I have heard it in the halls and I have talked to many people. It appears there are problems and I have recognized the concerns of the Gimli people for some time on this particular matter and I am most appreciative that the Minister and the government are addressing themselves to that problem at the earliest possible date to hopefully bring the erosion, if it is a problem, bring it under control, at least try to bring it under control and save that community from further anxieties and concerns re this matter.

Mr. Chairman, the village of Ste. Rose, for the great member over there and I can't believe that the years he sat on those benches over there with his colleagues that he was never able to draw some dollars out of the treasury to look after the drainage problems of Ste. Rose. I have recognized the concerns of those people for years and I'm sure there are many members on this side of the House, have recognized that difficult problem that they have experienced for years. And I had thought, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose did have some input into that former government or did have some say in what actually should take place in his jurisdiction, but unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, it was not to be. It has to be this government, a Conservative government, that's going into Ste. Rose, the honourable member's constituency, to help those people with their drainage problems. That, Mr. Chairman, certainly is not the way I hear the comments from the honourable members opposite about political biases and that we are only doing works in Conservative areas, we're only building roads in Conservative constituencies. Mr. Chairman, there is a classic example of a government that's got some initiative, some concerns for the people and this problem and some dollars to help correct the problems.

Mr. Chairman, I became most interested in the Canada-Manitoba Value Added Crops Production Agreement that is before us in this document and some of the works that's going to take place in this program. Mr. Chairman, I don't know, I don't have a pencil before me but the amount of acres of farmland that's going to be addressed to in this program; the first one at Cooks Creek is 125,000 acres of crop land that's going to be improved; the LaSalle River project, another 68,000 acres of crop land to be upgraded by drainage; then comes the Marsh River area, 105,000 acres of crop land. Mr. Chairman, the Domain, 50,000 acres; the Morris River area, 50,000, and so on and so forth. That, I think, is a direction and an understanding of where this government intends to go and how it intends to proceed. Agriculture is our number one industry in this province and never let the day come that we are going to back off from continuing to develop and drain farmland, and improve the production of it. I look forward, Mr. Chairman, to the future, to see the further development of this agreement and I'm certain we are going to gain many rewards and benefits in this province.

Mr. Chairman, I could go on for maybe the next hour, with leave, on some of the programs that . . . --(Interjections)-- Not in my constituency at all; I'm just dealing with other constituencies and these problems, longstanding problems that have been neglected and finally this government is addressing themselves to it and I doff my hat to them today, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. ADAM: Yes, the Member for Roblin is making a very interesting speech today and I am wondering if he was as concerned with the farmers around the Grandview area in his constituency that were being flooded out by the Grandview Dam for the town of Grandview. I wonder if he expressed as much concern for those people who were being flooded out by a dam that was being filled without a permit, and I wonder if he could comment on that. But that is one of the questions that I wanted to ask the Minister, whether that problem has been resolved in the constituency of Roblin, where the Grandview Dam is apparently flooding out some farmers.

I saw an article by Al Werier that didn't mention any names but it was obvious that he was referring to this particular problem that has been outstanding for years and years. So I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if that has now been rectified.

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I would also thank the Minister for continuing further protection to the village of Ste. Rose. We are pleased to see that extension to the already dam around the town is going to be extended. I would like to ask the Minister, as I read here, if this is only a preliminary undertaking, when can physical construction be undertaken in regard to this program?

I was out in the Highways Department so it may have been brought up before, but I would like to ask the Minister if he could give me some information in regard to a planned project in the Whitemud Watershed in the Big Grass Marsh Area, whether that is going to proceed or not. I understand that there are a lot of farmers that are pretty upset with a proposal to do some works in that area, along with Ducks Unlimited, that would probably flood a lot of agricultural land that is now being used by ranchers and farmers to provide themselves with a viable living and for their families as well. I would like the Minister maybe if he could enlighten me on what is happening in those particular areas --(Interjection)-- Well, the area of Ste. Rose, he could perhaps tell me when the work is going to proceed and also the Grandview situation, which the Member for Roblin has never addressed himself to, and also the Big Grass Marsh projects.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to spend the rest of the day addressing myself to the Grandview problem and the years of the NDP struggling with that problem, and it's still unresolved. This Minister is going to resolve it, with my help and the people of this province and the government, we are going to resolve it. The members opposite were not able to resolve it. They saw fit to build a structure at Gilbert Plains that they thought would work and we found out what happened to that structure. The ice floes came down the river in the spring and out went the dam. Luckily we didn't build that kind of a structure in Grandview or we'd be facing serious consequences today. The matter is under control, I can assure the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose; this government will correct the problem and it will be done well, I assure you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Member for Roblin whether or not those structures that he claims were built that shouldn't have been built, whether they were built on the recommendations of the engineers of the department. I would like him to answer that question.

MR. MCKENZIE: Certainly. Mr. Chairman, the struggle is a long problem in the area there and I certainly, I am sure as far as I know, I wasn't brought into the discussions of the Gilbert Plains project. I knew it was taking place. I knew there were some concerns about ice that maybe should have been discussed a little more at length than they were. Ice is a problem in this country that we maybe don't pay enough attention to in capital works of this nature and one only has to relate himself to some of the Hydro development projects and the problems that they are having in the north today with oil exploration and that in trying to deal with the matters of ice. It is an unknown factor and one is never sure of what a river is going to do in the spring, how it is going to react, and how in fact the ice is going to react.

But I certainly have no quarrels with the engineering that went into the project. It is only a warning for us to be a little more careful the next time, and I am indeed, and so are the people in Grandview, most grateful because they are on the same river as Gilbert Plains. I can't stand here today and say that the Grandview Dam would have went out at the same time but it is quite possible that it would have. The town of Grandview was at the time quite concerned that that project didn't proceed and have been trying to convince me for some time that we should not go for a reservoir type of water storage program and that. But I think now that there has been more study and the engineers have taken another look at it that the project is going to be finally resolved, and maybe we did save the taxpayer some dollars by delaying it a few months. But I have no quarrel with the engineering. I am not an engineer, but I was never aware that the proper engineering studies had never been conducted on that project.

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MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, it is rather amusing to see the Member for Roblin stand and criticize the decision to build a structure on the part of any government in the past, on the basis that he knows better, and then two minutes later admit that he can't quarrel with the engineers who made the recommendations, who designed the structure.

I would like to ask him whether there is enough cause in his mind that he would recommend to his Minister that someone in the Engineering Department be dismissed for not having been competent in this matter, Mr. Chairman, because that is really what he is suggesting. He wants the politicians to take the blame for a decision - and I don't even know what the decision was - based on engineering recommendations. But then when it comes around to dealing with the engineering recommendations he says, no, but the cause isn't sufficient to reprimand an engineer or to dismiss an engineer for his incompetence or whatever.

He can't have it both ways, Mr. Chairman. Either there was a colossal mistake made through someone's miscalculation or incompetence, or there wasn't, and the member knows that the government of the day, their government, has to function and there is no other way of doing it rightly or wrongly, has to function on the recommendations of the best engineering advice made available to them. The Member is right, some of those decisions are proved to be the right ones, some proved to be either marginally right or even wrong from time to time, and I don't believe you can attribute that, if they are wrong, to any particular government. It has happened in your government; it has happened in our government. It has nothing to do with the government. It has to do with some discretion on the part of the staff that have to make some decisions based on their engineering findings, based on what they can project in terms of, in this instance, the volume of water flowing through the channel, the force with which it flows, the ice conditions that arise. All of these have to be calculated, Mr. Chairman.

And so for the member to stand up and say, well the former government didn't know what they were doing because they built a dam, you know that is absolute nonsense. He should address himself to the Engineering Department of the Minister and say they don't know what they are doing, change the engineers. Don't look back and point at politicians who have to function on the advice of the engineering people, Mr. Chairman. --(Interjection)-- Well, that is nonsense; that is absolute nonsense.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister has five seconds.

The hour is now 12:30 p.m.. I am now leaving the Chair and will return at 2:30 p.m.