



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

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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30 Elizabeth II

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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty - First Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

Name	Constituency	Party
<b>ADAM, A. R. (Pete)</b>	Ste. Rose	NDP
<b>ANDERSON, Bob</b>	Springfield	PC
<b>BANMAN, Hon. Robert (Bob)</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>BARROW, Tom</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>BLAKE, David</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>BOSTROM, Harvey</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>BOYCE, J. R. (Bud)</b>	Winnipeg Centre	Prog.
<b>BROWN, Arnold</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>CHERNIACK, Q.C., Saul</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>CORRIN, Brian</b>	Wellington	NDP
<b>COSENS, Hon. Keith A.</b>	Gimli	PC
<b>COWAN, Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>CRAIK, Hon. Donald W.</b>	Riel	PC
<b>DESJARDINS, Laurent L.</b>	St. Boniface	NDP
<b>DOERN, Russell</b>	Elmwood	NDP
<b>DOMINO, Len</b>	St. Matthews	PC
<b>DOWNEY, Hon. Jim</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>EINARSON, Henry J.</b>	Rock Lake	PC
<b>ENNS, Hon. Harry J.</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>EVANS, Leonard S.</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>FERGUSON, James R.</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>FILMON, Hon. Gary</b>	River Heights	PC
<b>FOX, Peter</b>	Kildonan	NDP
<b>GALBRAITH, Jim</b>	Dauphin	PC
<b>GOURLAY, Hon. Doug</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>GRAHAM, Hon. Harry E.</b>	Birtle-Russell	PC
<b>GREEN, Q.C., Sidney</b>	Inkster	Prog.
<b>HANUSCHAK, Ben</b>	Burrows	Prog.
<b>HYDE, Lloyd G.</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>JENKINS, William</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>JOHNSTON, Hon. J. Frank</b>	Sturgeon Creek	PC
<b>JORGENSEN, Hon. Warner H.</b>	Morris	PC
<b>KOVNATS, Abe</b>	Radisson	PC
<b>LYON, Hon. Sterling R.</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>MacMASTER, Hon. Ken</b>	Thompson	PC
<b>MALINOWSKI, Donald</b>	Point Douglas	NDP
<b>McBRYDE, Ronald</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>McGILL, Hon. Edward</b>	Brandon West	PC
<b>McGREGOR, Morris</b>	Virden	PC
<b>McKENZIE, J. Wally</b>	Roblin	PC
<b>MERCIER, Q.C., Hon. Gerald W. J.</b>	Osborne	PC
<b>MILLER, Saul A.</b>	Seven Oaks	NDP
<b>MINAKER, Hon. George</b>	St. James	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Hon. Donald</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PARASIUK, Wilson</b>	Transcona	NDP
<b>PAWLEY, Q.C., Howard</b>	Selkirk	NDP
<b>PRICE, Hon. Norma</b>	Assiniboia	PC
<b>RANSOM, Hon. Brian</b>	Souris-Killarney	PC
<b>SCHROEDER, Vic</b>	Rossmere	NDP
<b>SHERMAN, Hon. L. R. (Bud)</b>	Fort Garry	PC
<b>STEEN, Warren</b>	Crescentwood	PC
<b>URUSKI, Billie</b>	St. George	NDP
<b>USKIW, Samuel</b>	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
<b>WALDING, D. James</b>	St. Vital	NDP
<b>WESTBURY, June</b>	Fort Rouge	Lib
<b>WILSON, Robert G.</b>	Wolseley	Ind

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, 3 April, 1981

Time — 10:00 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 the 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.**

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

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

**HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur):** Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make. I have copies for the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make to the House which will provide members with an update of our current moisture conditions around the province and my department's plans to extend some drought assistance programs into this fiscal year.

To begin with, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the members of the House that the soil moisture reserves around the province appear to be much better than they were at this time last year. Reports indicate that the moisture reserves at 70 to 90 percent of normal, due on a large part to the rainfall we received last fall. This combined with a minimum amount of snow cover which has since melted and been absorbed into the ground should provide our farmers with adequate soil moisture for germination of their crops to take place. However, we acknowledge some problems with dugouts and water reservoirs around the province. Despite high levels of precipitation recorded last fall, some dugouts and ponds are well below average and significantly lower than at this time last year. This is also due in a large part to the fact that the below normal snowfall within the province this past winter has resulted in a very little runoff to replenish the ponds and dugouts.

Mr. Speaker, because of this situation we've extended our Dugout Filling Program and other water-related drought assistance programs until June 30, 1981. We will continue to waive the 200 cost of filling dugouts and will continue to provide the 100 percent rebate up to \$200 for custom filling of dugouts. If drought conditions continue through until June we're prepared to take further steps at that time to deal with the water supply problem.

In the meantime, we are continuing our discussions with the officials of the Federal Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration to seek their assistance with water supply programs. I will continue, Mr. Speaker, to press for better co-ordination for federal support for our drought programs in the future. Our staff are continuing to discuss with federal officials the possibility of developing a longer term approach to deal with any droughts that may develop in the future.

The Provincial Hay Transportation as well, Mr. Speaker, the program that was in place last year for assisting with in-province transportation of hay will continue until the end of April of 1981. Hay movement is still taking place in all five regions of the province with about 10 applications being made per region per week.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, the Drought Committee of Cabinet will continue to review our drought-related activities. In the meantime, based on the soil moisture conditions, I remain confident that our producers can look forward to a better spring planting season for 1981.

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

**MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We thank the Minister of Agriculture for his statement this morning. We think that at least the Minister is showing a little more concern of what happened last year. We raised it very early in the session last spring, early in April, that there would probably be a severe drought last year. We're pleased that the Minister is moving a little faster this year. We know that there will be required additional moisture this spring if we are not to be in the same position as we were last year. Because the water table in our area, Mr. Speaker, is approximately the same as it was last spring at this time and that is about five feet lower than it should be. As we are in a low sea level area, next to Lake Dauphin, there's a good indication of what the level of the moisture is.

What we'd like to see is a more permanent group that would be set up, made up of federal and provincial officials to co-ordinate the programs because last year, Mr. Speaker, we saw a lot of confusion between the provincial programs and the federal programs. We want to have a long-term group that would be able to address themselves to the drought problems of this province. Also in the event of floods, Mr. Speaker, there should be an independent group on the side, because there seems to be some conflict between the provincial and the federal groups. Nevertheless we thank the Minister and we're pleased to see that he's moving a little faster this year than they did last year.

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

**HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Annual Report of the Workers Compensation Board for the year ending December 31, 1980.

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

**HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside):** Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to leave members of the House some copies of this week's report regarding spring runoff and water conditions as we anticipate them this spring.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Notices of Motion

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**HON. GARY FILMON (River Heights)** introduced Bill No. 46, An Act to Amend the Corporations Act.

### ORAL QUESTIONS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. Would the Minister of Finance acknowledge that prior to the mailing and distribution of his letter pertaining to Interim Supply, subject of debate yesterday, he was urged by the President of the Manitoba Government Employees Association not to send that letter out, that the letter indeed could be contrary to the provisions of The Civil Service Act?

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

**HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney):** Mr. Speaker, I certainly can confirm that the President of the MGEA was in touch with me on that matter, but I do not take legal advice from the President of the MGEA.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I don't anticipate that the Minister of Finance would obtain legal advice from the President of the MGEA, but I would surely hope that he would obtain legal advice from somewhere within the government. Mr. Speaker, further by way of supplementary to the Minister of Finance, can he advise whether or not he has received legal advice from within the government to the effect that printing and sorting and distribution and delivering of political mail to the civil servants of this province is contrary to the provisions of The Civil Service Act, if that printing and sorting and distribution is done during work hours?

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member is alleging that the letter which I wrote was a political document, then he's incorrect; but if he would like me to investigate, to see whether or not there have been political materials reproduced at government expense, I'm prepared to look into that, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, all that I have to ask the Minister in view of his response is has he not indeed read the very letter that he signed prior to it being mailed and distributed, not only to I understand 1,000 civil servants not receiving their paycheques today, but all 13,000 civil servants in the Province of Manitoba including all those civil servants that received their cheques today? Did the Minister not read his own letter prior to signing that letter and sending it to the civil servants of this province?

**MR. RANSOM:** Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I wrote the letter because it was necessary to provide the civil servants with a factual explanation of why their cheques were late.

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

**MR. SIDNEY GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs. Has the Minister of Consumer Affairs received any notice with regard to a group of citizens in the Willow Park housing development relative to charges that they have incurred as a result of having to reconnect gas lines which the Greater Winnipeg Gas Company would not pay for?

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

**MR. FILMON:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Honourable Minister. About a week ago he said that he would consider conferring with the Minister of Labour relative to having an industrial inquiry into the matter which affects matters which fall within his jurisdiction and matters which fall within the Minister of Labour's jurisdiction. Has he had an opportunity of discussing it with the Minister of Labour?

**MR. FILMON:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister has had an opportunity of discussing it, would he be so kind as to inform the House as to whether or not there is some reasonable expectation that such an inquiry will be held so that the citizens of Manitoba will be able to have more factual, more reliable information relative to the matters involved in that industrial dispute and failure to provide service?

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not in a position to answer that question.

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

**MR. SAUL CHERNIACK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance to how many persons the letter we referred to yesterday and this morning were sent?

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

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the precise number, if the honourable member wants to place an Order for Return for that type of information we'd consider it.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Speaker, did the Honourable Minister intend the letter to be sent and did he instruct it to be sent to all civil servants?

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, I think that the honourable member will find that some of the cheques are distributed and picked up by the

individuals and some go through the mail. I think you will find that there is one notice that went to the central areas where cheques are picked up and those cheques that are mailed have the advice contained in the letter.

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

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Does the Honourable Minister of Finance then state that the letter which he sent saying that the government could not make the payment was sent along at the same time as the government made the payment and in the same envelope?

**MR. RANSOM:** No, Mr Speaker, there was one notice that was provided to the civil servants so that they would be aware that when they were not getting their cheques what the reason was. Others, who would receive their cheques late, got a notice contained with the cheque saying why the cheque was late.

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

**MS. WESTBURY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the First Minister in his capacity as Minister responsible for interprovincial relations and if he is not the one to whom I should address this question I hope he'll refer me to the correct Minister. I wonder if the First Minister has investigated reports to the effect that the Saskatchewan government is following preferential policy in reference to out-of-province bids on contracts within the Province of Saskatchewan and that Manitoba contractors who have been low bidders on such projects as an arena project, and highway construction projects in Saskatchewan were not given the work and whether the Manitoba government is considering following a similar policy in regard to out-of-province contractors?

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

**HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the statement to which the honourable member alludes relative to contracts in Saskatchewan; my understanding is, and it's subject to confirmation in its specifics, that Saskatchewan has had a policy of favouring Saskatchewan contractors but I would have to have that confirmed to be definite, that's only my understanding. The item to which the honourable member refers, Mr. Speaker, is one that is on the agenda of the Provincial Premiers Conference each year in an effort on the part of all of the provinces working together to mollify or to ameliorate as much as possible those protective devices that are sometimes used as between provinces in order to confer benefits on provincial contractors. I'll be quite happy to take a look at the particular instance that the honourable member refers to and can assure her that Manitoba, to the best of my knowledge, certainly through this administration and previous administrations, has not followed a policy of favouritism by way of a 5 percent or 10 percent levy against outside contractors as a few other provinces have. I think that the practice to which she refers is the exception rather than the rule.

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

**MR. SAMUEL USKIW:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health whether or not he has reconsidered the existing policy where the government initially, or the Manitoba Hospital Services Commission initially, refuses to cover out-of-province cost for medical treatment. The applicants must undertake or undergo a painful exercise of proving their inability to pay before any reconsideration of their application is made. Would the Minister give us a current policy on that particular question?

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

**HON. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that policy is the policy as described by the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet and yes, it is under evaluation and review. There has been no change in it as yet but it's under evaluation at the present time. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that in the case of necessary out-of-province trips by Manitobans last year, for medical services in other parts of North America not available here, I think I'm correct in stating that the total amount of expenses incurred, over and above what Medicare paid, was in the neighbourhood of \$300,000 and that the Manitoba Health Services Commission responded to the payment of 97 percent of that amount when requested by the families involved.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased with that track record. But given the fact, Mr. Speaker, that was in fact taking place would the Minister not agree that it would make sense to simply allow that particular kind of service to be covered by the health program of the province so that the people that are involved in these cases don't have to go through the trauma of trying to raise money, and through the application forms which require a tremendous amount of data with respect to their financial position, so that they would not have to go through that process in order to get compensated?

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I don't deny that there is merit, at least on one level, in the approach suggested the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet, but what he is proposing, I presume, is that all out of travel expenses be covered under MHSC in Manitoba for Manitobans, which is certainly a laudable objective. In the instances to which I've referred, they were cases in which the families involved applied to the Manitoba Health Services Commission for assistance because of the financial hardship that would be imposed on them. There are many persons who would be in positions of that type who would not face financial hardship, or certainly not to the extent that applicants for assistance do. So there is some merit in terms of the finite nature of the health dollar, in protecting the health dollar as best we can, and in responding in those cases of need rather than in introducing a program that covers everybody and everything. But certainly what he suggests is a laudable objective if we can afford it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet with a final supplementary.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister tries to make a distinction between those that can afford and those that cannot afford those medical services outside of this province. I simply want to ask him whether it isn't time to reconsider that policy, given the fact that the track record has it that we are picking up almost all of it in any event; and why shouldn't people with some means be entitled to a universal health care, Mr. Speaker, since they're paying the tax dollars to this province in any event?

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I said at the outset that the policy is being re-evaluated. I would not want this exchange, however, to raise false hopes or to raise false expectations. No such decision to make the change suggested by the Member for Lac du Bonnet has been made up to this point.

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

**MR. HENRY J. EINARSON:** Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Energy and Mines. I wonder if the Minister has any information to convey to members of this House and to the Province of Manitoba, of some new discoveries of oil in southwestern Manitoba. I wonder if the Minister has some information he could give to us on that particular matter.

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

**HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, there has been an announcement by a company, an oil drilling operation that has done some drilling on two holes, two pre-existing holes, and they have made discoveries that are of significance and should be brought to the attention of the House. I say significance in that it's probably the most significant new oil bearing structure that has been encountered since the first discovery some 30 years ago in Manitoba.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that at this point in time there is still a lot of testing work to be done. The traditional structure is the Mississippian structure, and that has produced all of the oil that has been produced in Manitoba. This new structure that has been developed or encountered and shows potential is located, not lower than the Mississippian, but above it. Although there has been some deep well activity analogous to the work that has brought about the discovery in the United States of the deep well production, the significant part of this one is that it is located around the 3,000 foot level, rather than the deep well structures in the U.S. which are in the 6,000 to 8,000 foot level range.

Mr. Speaker, the production originally started from it has fallen off. This is a characteristic of all of the producing wells. There are . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland on a point of order.

**MR. HARVEY BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. It appears to me that the government, once again, is feeding questions to the back bench so that they can make a ministerial statement. Mr. Speaker, if the government wishes to make a ministerial statement, they should make it under the proper order of

business of the day, in which case it can be responded to by this side.

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

**HON. GERALD J. MERCIER (Osborne):** Mr. Speaker, it should not be necessary to repeat my position on this matter, but apparently it is, Mr. Speaker, but any member of this House is entitled to seek information.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, if I can complete, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty obvious I'm not reading from a written statement. I'm responding to a question raised by a member of this House — which is one of the more responsible questions that we have had, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question has been asked I am sure as a result, if the members opposite didn't hear it, it was announced by the company that did the oil exploration work. I'm responding to a legitimate question that is undoubtedly coming from the fact that the honourable member was either listening to the radio . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order please. Order please. I find it very difficult to hear the comments of the Honourable Minister of Energy.

The Honourable Minister of Energy.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the Member for Rock Lake and the members of the House who have some interest in it, I think the people of Manitoba, I want to repeat that the exploration work that has brought this about, undoubtedly most of the information would be of proprietary nature, but we do know that the structure from which the potential oil discovery shows promise is the most significant discovery, in terms of the geological structure, that has been made since . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Member for St. Johns on a point of order.

**MR. CHERNIAK:** Mr. Speaker, I thought the Minister of Mines was speaking on a point of order, but he seems to be sneaking in his statement in any event without your having ruled on the point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would ask, on a point of order — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, I wish you would sometimes be able to hear the First Minister who survives and thrives on insults across the floor, and gets fat and oily on the basis of that.

Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, the Member for Rupertsland made a point of order, the Minister then rose and I thought he was speaking on the point of order. If he was not speaking on the point of order then, Mr. Speaker, I would request that you would rule on it.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, the Minister seemed to excuse his argument on the basis that he had nothing written before him, but that does not mean that it could not be a statement. I think, Mr. Speaker, it would be your responsibility to recognize what is a statement as compared with an answer, and if the Member for Rupertsland suggested that it was a statement rather than an answer, I think his objections should be ruled upon.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake on a point of order.

**MR. EINARSON:** I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, to indicate to, particularly to the Member for Rupertsland, that the question I have posed to the Minister of Energy and Mines was as a result of the information I saw on television last night. There was no planning on the backbenches and I say, Mr. Speaker, that the Member for Rupertsland does not have a point.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. The point of order raised by the Honourable Member for St. Johns and the point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland I find that, in this Chamber, there are many members who try and stretch the questions in such a way as to make statements rather than seek information. I have maintained consistently that the purpose of the question period is to seek information. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake in my opinion was seeking information; that information was being supplied, therefore, the point of order raised was not in fact a point of order.

The Honourable Minister of Energy. The Honourable Member for Kildonan on a point of order.

**MR. PETER FOX:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The other day you intimated and referred to us the fact that Beauchesne is a guide. Citation 358, the second section says, "Answers to questions should be as brief as possible, should deal with the matter raised and should not provoke debate". I would hope you would enforce that rule that we go by.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Kildonan did not have a point of order.  
The Honourable Minister of Energy.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the information I'm giving in answer to the question would not be a matter of debate. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, again, that the information that I'm trying to impart is not debatable, I don't think.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. May I point out to the honourable member I hope he is not repeating the information that he provided. The Honourable Minister if he has further information I would hope that it be brief and to the point.  
The Honourable Minister of Energy.

**MR. CRAIK:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I was finished but I will finish with the further information to the Member for Rock Lake that there were two holes drilled, one started out at some 30 barrels per day of production, the other at about 20 barrels per day production; that has fallen off somewhat. There are a total of two holes drilled so far from what this information is based on.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake with a supplementary.

**MR. EINARSON:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a supplementary to the same Minister and I'm wondering, in view of the information he has given us

this morning on these two holes, whether or not he has any information that we have some future prospects of further hole drilling in the similar area.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, the best information that we have available is that given satisfactory wellhead prices that from this structure you would see a very vast increase in the level activity although we do anticipate in 1981 the level activity will be the highest level of activity in the last two decades.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake with a final supplementary.

**MR. EINARSON:** Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary and the supplementary which I think is very important to the members and to the Province of Manitoba. I wonder if the Minister could inform us as to what the quality of the oil is that they have found in Manitoba.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, the quality of all of the oil of Southwestern Manitoba basically is of a very high grade.

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

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Speaker, I hope the find in Southwestern Manitoba will make up for the 20 percent decline in production that's taken place under this administration. I don't suppose I would have an opportunity to respond to the ministerial statement, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. I find it very difficult to hear the remarks of the Honourable Member for Rupertsland. We can only allow one person on the floor and I recognized the Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that I don't have an opportunity to respond to the ministerial statement, I'll ask a question of the Minister of Natural Resources, with respect to the Garrison Diversion Project, and ask him if he has taken any action towards arranging for an all-party committee to travel to the U.S. to meet with elected officials in the United States to emphasize the danger to Manitobans from further funds being allocated to this project?

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

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to honourable members of the House that a meeting has been arranged of officials the 15th of this month in Washington. Members of the House are aware of the ongoing interest and concern of this government and that of the Federal Government, as expressed not so long ago by the joint passing or unanimous passing of a resolution in the House of Commons. I indicated at that time that should the feeling be that such a visit would be worthwhile then certainly that would be entertained by this government.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment and I would ask the

Minister of the Environment if he has requested the Government of Ontario to have an independent environmental impact study made on the proposed Ontario mine which . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I believe the honourable member is not asking a supplementary, he's asking a new question. There were other members that wished to be recognized. I think I should recognize the Honourable Member for Rossmere at this time.

**MR. VIC SCHROEDER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Mines and it follows the question of the Member for Rock Lake. I might say, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines in answering the question for the Member for Rock Lake indicated that we had no concerns on this side or happiness with the news. I want to say that I was up before the Member for Rock Lake trying to ask a question . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order please. The Honourable Minister of Finance on a point of order.

**MR. RANSOM:** I believe, Mr. Speaker, that you have just advised the House as recently as this morning that the purpose of the question period is to seek information. The Member for Rossmere is now making a statement.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, just in response to that I would point out that if the answers had to do with the questions then we would simply be asking . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. Order please. I find it very difficult to hear the words of the honourable member who is asking his question.

The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Thank you. To the Minister of Mines, can he advise as to whether the new find is on lands owned by the Crown or in which the Crown has the mineral rights leased to that company?

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

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, I believe it's on freehold land, these are former wells that have been redrilled. They are not new wells they are older wells that have been redrilled.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Could the Minister advise as to whether there are any estimated reserves at this point in time on the new find?

**MR. CRAIK:** No, Mr. Speaker, not from two holes. The significance here is that it's the first time that there has been any production from this geological formation that has now been tapped.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and finally I'm just wondering whether the Minister can also give us some news with respect to the exploration program of Sask Oil, which I understand will be digging between 15 and 20 wells in Western Manitoba in 1981 and has already completed its developmental well just about a week ago; could he tell us about that particular find as well.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, I presume the member is also aware that these drillings are coming about as the result of this government's policy on leasing, Crown leases for exploration purposes and that Sask Oil bid the highest amount for those leases and won the leases, and we give them all the encouragement in the world, Mr. Speaker, to go in and find oil.

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

**MR. ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Natural Resources and would ask the Minister if he could advise if it is correct that the government is denying right-of-way to the Shoal Lake Indian Band in order for them to build a road on provincial Crown land?

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

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I regret I didn't hear the first part of the honourable member's question.

**MR. ADAM:** I'd be happy to repeat my question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister and I'd ask him again if it is correct that the government is denying road right-of-way to the Shoal Lake Indian Band No. 40 for them to build themselves a road out of the reserves on Crown land in the direction of Hwy. No. 1.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we have been made aware of the City of Winnipeg's concern with respect to a proposed subdivision development on or along the shores of the Shoal Lake reservoir, where . . .

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

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, on a point of order, my question has to do, Mr. Speaker, with the road.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order please. Order please. The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I was simply trying to indicate to the honourable member that the request for the road in question is being requested for purposes of servicing a proposed subdivision that is to be built along, on or about the shores of the Shoal Lake reservoir where the 600,000 residents of the City of Winnipeg draw their water from. Just as the honourable members opposite expressed, quite correctly, some concern about a mining activity that may endanger that water supply, this government and this Minister is equally concerned about that kind of a subdivision development that could affect the environment of the same reservoir where the City of Winnipeg draws its water from. For those reasons we have declined providing access to the road without fully investigating, through the necessary environmental studies that I believe the City has undertaken to examine that question.

**MR. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, the reserve in question has no road access at all to it; they have to get out by boat. They want a road to get out of the reserve and it has nothing to do with any development. I'm asking about a road. Now I would ask then, the



Minister says that they don't want a road in there because it may affect the water supply of Winnipeg, I would ask him then if it is correct that the province has agreed to provide them right-of-way in exchange for prime Indian land on the shores of Shoal Lake?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, that is not correct. Mr. Speaker, if it is, let me answer really the question on behalf of the Minister of Highways and Transportation. If as the honourable member wants to suggest that the road is there merely to service an isolated community, I must indicate to the honourable member that under that criteria we have many isolated communities throughout particularly Northern Manitoba that are waiting for some road construction to help break that isolation and, on that listing of priorities, this particular community would have to, of course, await its turn.

**MR. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the Minister if it is correct that they have sent an agreement to the Indian Band in question that they would allow them to build their own road — the Indian Band want to build the road at their own expense on Crown land — is it correct that the government has sent them an agreement stating that we will allow you the right-of-way if you will turn over prime Indian land for cottage lot development on that shore?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that question as notice at this time, to make very sure that the response that I give is accurate.

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

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance and ask him whether the province will be forwarding a bill for the political mailing of the Minister of Finance to the Progressive Conservative party on Kennedy Street?

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

**MR. RANSOM:** No, Mr. Speaker, but I did promise the Leader of the Opposition that I would enquire as to see whether or not facilities within the building have been used for the printing and mailing of political materials.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister whether the government will provide equal distribution privileges to the Official Opposition for mailing to civil servants to present their side of the case and explain the true state of affairs rather than the misleading comments of the Minister of Finance?

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, if the members of the Opposition want to try and explain their irresponsible action in failing to allow passage of the Interim Supply Bill they will have to do that by whatever means available to them.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister whether, if he regards his statement to the civil servants of Manitoba through a letter as non-political, if he regards that as non-political will he allow us to mail a non-political statement through the same channels available to him?

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, I believe, if my recollection is correct, the Member from Elmwood was a member of the government for some eight years, a Minister of the Crown and in that period of time —(Interjection)— he had six years, well maybe that explains it then, Mr. Speaker, it was for a shorter period of time, it wasn't long enough for him to learn about the difference between being in government and Opposition.

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

**MR. KOVNATS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment. In St. Boniface, in my constituency, as I leave from home to arrive here at the Legislature each morning I have to go through an area that's very heavy with dense smells and very heavy aromas coming from around the packing house area. I have some fear in asking the question, rather than losing another packing house in my area, I would hope that there would be some information coming from the Honourable Minister that would advise whether there is any control by the provincial government on the type of aromas that I have to experience each day as I come down to the Legislature?

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

**MR. FILMON:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. KOVNATS:** To the same Honourable Minister, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that there would be some direction from the provincial government to the people who are supplying these unpleasant aromas to my constituents. It doesn't only affect my constituents, Mr. Speaker, it affects many of the members of the Legislature who happen to go through my area to get to their homes each day. Is the Honourable Minister prepared to investigate the possibility of putting some control on these awful smells?

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's sincere concern for the welfare of his constituents and I'll take that matter under consideration.

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

**MR. KOVNATS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. It's not just to my own constituents, it's to the people that have to drive on the highways. Maybe I should have directed the question to the Honourable Minister of Highways. But there are times that when you drive through that area that you have to roll up the windows of your car, or truck as the case may be, just so that you don't lose your breakfast, lunch or dinner.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Has the honourable member a supplementary question?

**MR. KOVNATS:** I have, Mr. Speaker, and I was just about getting ready to get around to it. But I was

wondering, to the Honourable Minister, whether he could advise whether the smells that emit from these locations get any more pleasant after a few years. I've had 35 years of it and I was just wondering, I don't seem to be able to find it getting any more pleasant, would the Honourable Minister look into the matter as quickly as possible, I don't think I've got another 35 years.

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, I will assure the member that I'll look into the matter. I can also assure him that he has more experience with it than I do

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The time for question period having expired.

The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have two changes on the Public Utilities Committee. Mr. Minaker for Mr. Gourlay and Mr. McGregor for Mr. Anderson.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are those changes agreeable? (Agreed)

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

**MR. D. JAMES WALDING:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. On Page 7 of the Free Press yesterday it was stated that I was a member of the Manitoba Hydro Board for several years during the previous administration. I'd like to correct that, Mr. Speaker. I've never been a member of the Hydro Board.

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

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, would you call Second Readings as they appear on Page 2 of the Order Paper and then Adjourned Debates on Second Reading as they appear on Pages 1 and 2.

## SECOND READING GOVERNMENT BILLS

### BILL NO. 10 THE BUILDERS' LIENS ACT

**MR. MERCIER** presented Bill No. 10, The Builders' Liens Act for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

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

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, members will recall that Bill No. 90, The Builders' Lien Act was introduced into this Legislature for Second Reading on July 21st of last year. As members are also aware that bill was not proceeded with during the session. In introducing the revised Builders' Lien Act, Mr. Speaker, I would note that there have been some changes made in the bill that was introduced last session. The changes were a result of primarily three factors.

Firstly, Mr. Speaker, in November of 1980 the Ministry of the Attorney-General of Ontario published a study paper and a draft Construction Liens' Act intended to replace The Ontario Mechanics Liens' Act along the lines of our Bill 90. Some of the sections in Bill 90 were based on provisions in The Ontario Mechanics Liens' Act and in the interest of uniformity were affected by these proposed reforms. Other useful suggestions were made in that study and draft which have induced us to make some changes to Bill 90.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, advantage was taken of the time available since July 21st for more consideration to be given to the bill. The bill was widely distributed after it was tabled in the Legislature to interested groups and individuals who had indicated that interest either to my office or to the Law Reform Commission as they had studied the matter. As a result of that distribution some suggestions were made for changes to Bill 90 and some of these changes have been adopted in the bill before the House.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, architects and engineers indicated concern to the proposed protection offered to them in Bill 90 because they did not like being subject to the holdback provisions. They said they preferred to have no protection under the Act than to be subject to the holdback provisions. Therefore reference to them in the current bill is being deleted.

I will, Mr. Speaker, provide to the Leader of the Opposition or perhaps in his absence the Opposition House Leader and to the Leader of the Progressive party and to the Member for Fort Rouge copies of the notes that I used in introducing Bill 90 in the last session. These notes set out the fundamental purpose for The Builders Liens' Act, the history of the mechanics lien legislation, the need for reform, etc.; and as well I will provide them with a copy of a detailed section by section list of changes made in Bill 90, as well as a brief description as to the nature of the changes and the reasons for such change.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, as a result of our continuing review of the bill there may be further additional minor changes to the bill in committee. I would be pleased to discuss with members any of the changes described. I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that the debate on Second Reading of Bill 90, The Builders Liens' Act in Hansard for last session began on Page 5832 and continued through to 5846. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that this information will be of assistance to members in giving this matter full and complete consideration.

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

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

**MOTION presented and carried.**

### BILL NO. 38 THE CHILD WELFARE ACT

**HON. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James)** presented Bill No. 38, An Act to amend The Child Welfare Act, for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Speaker, the majority of the amendments in this bill have been requested either by the County Court judges or the Attorney-General to basically streamline the adoption process. Also we're looking at amending the Act in order to facilitate an administrative procedure concerning delegation of authority which is provided in the Act; and also, Mr. Speaker, there is other amendments to make it clear that the judge who granted the temporary order does not have to be the same judge who makes a further disposition. This facilitates scheduling at the court.

There is a substantive change, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the rights of an adopted child to inherit from its natural parents, under The Devolution of Estates Act. This request was made by the Attorney-General, and the intent is to clearly prevent the adopted child from inheriting from his or her natural parents unless specifically provided for in a will by the natural parent.

Further, Mr. Speaker, there are amendments that will deal with the placement of children under two years of age, that it is not necessary that previous approval be obtained by the placing agency, since the homes are monitored as they are referred from the Central Registry, and delays in placement of children could occur if previous approval had to be sought in all cases.

Also, Mr. Speaker, one of the amendments makes it possible now for the County Court judge, when he's dealing with the rights of the natural parents, which involve visitation rights, that now the judge who is making the adoption proceedings decisions can at the same time make decisions on the visitation rights.

Also, Mr. Speaker, there are amendments to the Act that will now recognize a father as a single parent. I believe the intent was there originally in the Act, but the father was not recognized until the mother passed away and he became a widower. I think it's a matter of clarifications in the Act that we now recognized the father as part of the single parent definition.

Mr. Speaker, those are the amendments that we are asking the House to consider and approve, and we hope that they will give it speedy debate and that we will get their approval. I will also, Mr. Speaker, have the basic breakdown on the changes for the Opposition to have as information.

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

**MOTION presented and carried.**

### **BILL NO. 41 — THE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT (1981)**

**MR. MERCIER** presented Bill No. 41, The Statute Law Amendment Act (1981), for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

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

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, just briefly, I have distributed with the bill a copy of a memorandum

which is customary, explaining the effect of each section of The Statute Law Amendment Bill so that members will know what matters are being dealt with in the bill and their relative importance. I will await any comment that members may have during debate on second reading before making any further comment or explanation. I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that there may very well be a second Statute Law Amendment Act before the session is completed.

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

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

**MOTION presented and carried.**

### **BILL NO. 42 THE CITY OF WINNIPEG ACT**

**MR. MERCIER** presented Bill No. 42, An Act to amend The City of Winnipeg Act for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

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

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, most amendments to The City of Winnipeg Act this year are basically designed to clarify existing provisions. A number of grammatical changes are made and certain redundant provisions are deleted. I will not go into detail regarding changes of that nature at this point in time, rather I will deal with the general subject matter, leaving detailed consideration of some of the technicalities for the committee stage.

Throughout the bill, a number of administrative changes are provided for in order to properly reflect the current state of municipal operations. For example, the question of signing authorities for city documents is clarified. At present, the mayor and clerk are required to sign a variety of documents which could well be delegated by by-law to departmental officials.

Certain technical clarification regarding the assessment of Cable TV facilities, and the City Assessor's right to appeal the matter from the Board of Revision are taken care of.

New wording clarifies the situation for two investment authorities in the City of Winnipeg, that is, the Employee Benefits Plan Fund and its investment managers, and the trustees for the Sinking Fund. Since both groups invest moneys on behalf of employees their authority for investment should be identical. This is taken care of in the bill so that permitted investments are identical for these two funds.

Changes are also made for reserve funds so that the city may make use of funds which are not required, either because the purpose for which the reserve fund was established was no longer required or has terminated, or where the funds contained in the reserve are greater than those required for the purposes of the reserve. Such action would only follow certification by the City Treasurer.

A clarification of the city's authority to distribute ornamental street lighting fixture costs on a uniform

basis is contained in the bill. The principle is not new but some clarification was required. Similarly, provision for recovering costs over a period of years where special water main connections are made is contained in the bill. Previously there was no provision for such costs to be recovered over a period of time.

A provision for substitutional service, through application to the County Court, is made for situations involving unsanitary buildings, terraces or land. This provision is required in order to prevent avoidance of service by some owners of such properties. A number of sections are added to Section 494 dealing with the question of construction in designated floodway areas; provision is made for the prevention of construction in such areas following the date of designation. Owners of land in such areas prior to the date of designation will continue to have rights respecting the issuance of building permits provided there is compliance with the laws respecting construction in designating floodway areas. Provision is made for the prevention of construction in such areas following the date of designation. Flood proofing criteria will be established and construction will be required to meet those criteria. Provision is made for inspection of construction in compliance with flood proofing criteria.

Provision is also made for ministerial review of orders made in such areas, particularly refusal or cancellation of building permits. There is also provision for dealing with construction which take place in violation of the flood-proofing criteria. This is an area which has occasioned considerable difficulty in the past, a situation which requires determination and legislation so that construction in such areas will meet minimum standards and requirements with respect to flood proofing.

There is provision for the passage of regulations under The City of Winnipeg Act respecting the standards for designating any area of the city or the additional zone as a floodway area or designated floodway fringe area and establishing flood-proofing criteria to be complied with respecting building structures, etc., within a designated floodway fringe area. Provision is also made for variation in flood-proofing criteria. It is hoped that this will enable the city to avoid uncertainty with respect to construction in flood prone areas.

A section is added to deal with the possibility that the City of Winnipeg Development Plan may not be completed in total prior to December 1st, 1983, as presently required under the Act. Provision is made to prevent invalidation of the whole development plan should the fixed date not be complied with. We have also included provisions to cope with newspaper advertising and the extent of detail required in maps which must be published in newspapers respecting zoning changes. The sections do not alter any basic principles but do clarify the extent and the detailed nature of such plans.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to advise the members opposite that a further amendment will be introduced at the committee stage; that amendment relates to a section to be included in The City of Winnipeg Act equivalent to what has been proposed in The Municipal Assessment Act through Bill No. 11. Members will recall that the section I refer to merely

clarify the position of assessors with regard to the assessment of buildings partially completed and occupied in part. This will enable the City of Winnipeg assessor to have the equivalent legislation available to him for the assessment of partially completed buildings which are partly occupied. I wish to draw this to your attention at this time in order that members may be aware of what I propose to do at the committee stage.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to, at the same time, distribute to the Leader of the Opposition, or the House Leader in his absence and to the Member for Fort Rouge and to the Member for Inkster some detailed explanations of the provisions of this bill.

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

**MR. JENKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Honourable Attorney-General. In the explanatory notes that he is sending over now, is there reference to the proposed amendment and its proposed form so that we would have something to study before the bill would be passed from second reading to the committee stage?

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

**MR. MERCIER:** I don't believe there is Mr. Speaker; I think my comments would clarify the kind of amendment, particularly the reference to The Municipal Assessment Act which contains the kind of amendment we would be looking at. What I could do, Mr. Speaker, if it's satisfactory to the Member for Logan is as soon as we have the draft amendment ready I will send it to him or the Opposition House Leader.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, that would be agreeable.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Point Douglas that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Then go back to Bill No. 11 - Adjourned debate on second reading. The Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand)

## **BILL NO. 27 THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill No. 27. The Honourable Member for St. George.

**MR. BILLIE URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, just a few comments on Bill 27. We are prepared to let the legislation go to committee for questioning and further clause-by-clause deliberation, Mr. Speaker.

I did have a couple of points, maybe I didn't catch the Minister's comments when he introduced the bill for second reading, and that's dealing with whether or not there should be provision, whether the government has thought of it or thought it through, whether there should be a provision in the Act to prevent the changing of ownership of a vehicle midstream in the cases that he cites in the provisions that he has in the Act, where a motorist whose privileges of driving have been suspended, and he's not allowed to put the vehicle on the road; whether

or not there is thought of going even further with respect to the inability of an owner to transfer his ownership from one party to another. I'd like to know what the government's views are on that.

Mr. Speaker, knowing that this matter rises from the Supreme Court decision and these amendments are necessary, we are prepared to let them go to committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General. The honourable member will be closing debate. The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr Speaker, just briefly, I appreciate the comments made by the previous speaker and will undertake to respond specifically to his concerns in committee. I would only make this further note in closing; that since the bill was introduced and in reviewing this whole matter there is one further aspect that has come under consideration; that is the question as he will I'm sure be well aware of, that under The Highway Traffic Act as it presently stands, a prosecution has to be brought within six months.

That has caused us some concern and we may very well be, either at committee stage on this bill or through a second Statute Law Amendment Act, introducing an amendment that would allow a two year period for bringing prosecution for the kinds of offences referred to in this bill. But I will, Mr. Speaker, at the same time undertake to respond to the member's specific concern at the committee stage.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

### **BILL NO. 29 THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT (2)**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill No. 29. The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I adjourned this debate on behalf of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

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

**MR. ADAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have perused this bill very thoroughly, it's an omnibus bill, a lot of housekeeping sections in the bill which we have no objection, there is also one other section that we certainly are pleased to see in it and that is the reduction of the age limit for student trainees who will be able to obtain learner's permits at the age of 15-1/2 years. We have no objections to that section, in fact, we welcome it. It does indicate though that the lack of interest in the program up to now the government sees it necessary to reduce the age limit. Of course, we do welcome it and hope that this program will expand.

Our only objection there, Mr. Speaker, is that the bill restricts the program, the introduction of the program, to only one or two specific areas. It's our feeling that this discriminates against those other areas and the reason given by the government for not expanding the program, this section of the bill more widely, is that they have a lack of staff; they do not have sufficient staff on hand to extend the

program on a wider basis. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, there are schools already in the program and they have staff; they have staff on hand and we fail to see why they could not put that program as well into those schools where they are already operating under age 16. They have the staff there and in our opinion they should put in those programs that would reduce the age. In those particular schools the staff is on hand, the staff is there, it would just be taking on a few additional students who are six months younger than age 16. So we object to that and we would hope that the Minister would review this and take into consideration our comments on this particular area because we think it's a bit of discrimination just to say, well, we're going to try it out in Dauphin or we're going to try it out in here. Sure, we welcome that but at the same time the present program may be already in some other schools and they will be discriminated against, some of their students.

On one section, in regard to certain trailers, Section 63(5), we think that we require more clarification on that — I'm sorry that the Minister isn't present to hear the comments, I suppose he will have to review them in Hansard. We will be asking more clarification when we go into section by section of this bill in committee to have more clarification in regard to the restriction on the operation of certain trailers. We do not really have sufficient information on that.

We have looked at other sections of the bill which we have no disagreement with. We welcome the extension of the use of school buses to provide for other services, Mr. Speaker. We think this is a step in the right direction and a step in the right direction to use these buses, publicly-owned vehicles, to related other school programs and activities, such as, coming to the Legislature and other recreational activities that the school may have.

We think that the extension of insurance coverage is a good step in the right direction but, Mr. Speaker, we should be looking at perhaps other coverages as well, such as, for senior citizens. For instance, there are senior citizens that do not have motor transportation in leisure apartments or senior citizens' apartments where there is a possibility that we could extend the use of public vehicles to transport senior citizens if they want to go to some tour of some kind in the Province of Manitoba, or come to the city, or come on a tour to the Legislature and so forth.

However, another section is the reciprocity of keeping records, with the reciprocity of licences, we have no objections to that.

One area, Mr. Speaker, that we have very grave concern and I think, as the Minister said in his comments, it's a very mundane section in the Act. It refers to Clause 2(29.1). Mr. Speaker, this is the section that we find we must look at very very carefully because this section deals with our handicapped people. It's ironic, Mr. Speaker, that the proposal here is to classify a certain class of a wheelchair that is used by handicapped people and to classify it from a wheelchair to a moped. We think that we should review this very carefully, Mr. Speaker, especially in the Year of the Handicapped, and we believe that this section will create some hardships for some of our handicapped people who

depend on these kinds of vehicles to get around to the store or to the drugstore or wherever. These people are already having enough difficulty going through life, many are on restricted incomes, Mr. Speaker, many are on social assistance.

What we are now saying is that a wheelchair becomes a moped because it is motorized with a motivation of electricity. Now the section doesn't define whether a four-wheel wheelchair which has an electric motor on it is now a moped. Mr. Speaker, it refers primarily to a happy-wanderer type of vehicle. Mr. Speaker, it's ironic that this vehicle which travels between 3 and 7 miles an hour surely can't be classified as a moped that goes 30 miles an hour. Mr. Speaker, the point is that you can take the batteries out. You can remove the batteries from this wheelchair and it becomes a tricycle and you can go down to the city and get a bicycle licence for it and drive it all over the city; you can put pedals on it and, because you have two wheels it can move and you can propel it it's no longer a moped. But the moment that you have a handicapped person that can't move his feet to propel the machine and he puts two batteries on it so that it will move forward, it becomes a moped and he has to go down and get a test; he has to go down to the Registrar and pass a test; he has to go and get a doctor's certificate that he is capable of handling this machine; he's got to take a licence, a driver's licence, he has to pass a driver's licence test; he has to take Autopac insurance, MPIC insurance, which will cost him over \$100 probably on a machine that he will only use six months of the year. Now surely they do not expect these people to use a wheelchair in the wintertime when it's 30-40 below or 20 below or 10 below. I'm using the Fahrenheit here, I'm not using Celsius, Mr. Speaker, because that's still difficult but we can talk in terms of Celsius if we will.

Nevertheless, here's a vehicle that the Minister wants to call a moped. He wants to describe a wheelchair a moped because it has two batteries on to make it go forward. Now, Mr. Speaker, we all know that the wheelchairs are manufactured in the States. I do not believe that there are any wheelchairs manufactured in Canada and the Federal Government, Mr. Speaker, recognizes a wheelchair, the conventional type of wheelchair with four wheels on, whether it has an electric motor on or whether it's one that you propel with your hands, they recognize that as being a wheelchair as they do the happy-wanderer type of vehicle which is a tricycle type. They recognize these vehicles as being wheelchairs and they are brought into Canada exempt from taxation. Now they are recognized as wheelchairs and now the government comes in and tells us that they are not wheelchairs because they have batteries on them, they are now mopeds. Now we find this very ironic, Mr. Speaker.

We know also, Mr. Speaker, that in some of the states in the United States, and perhaps all of them, but where they have investigated they have found that powered wheelchairs do not come under motor vehicle regulations in these U.S. States. So here we find that the Province of Manitoba does want to bring this kind of a vehicle under The Motor Vehicle Act. We have to be very cautious, we may be doing something here that is discriminatory to certain groups of people who are already suffering handicaps.

Mr. Speaker, I have here some literature on the vehicles that they talk about. They say, Mr. Speaker, in the advertising, the people who manufacture these vehicles are the world's oldest manufacturer of outdoor electrical wheelchairs, they are sold as wheelchairs, they are bought as wheelchairs, they are brought into Canada exempt from taxation because they are wheelchairs, recognized as being wheelchairs; now we have the Minister of Highways telling us, no this is not a wheelchair, it's a moped because it has two batteries on that makes it move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I emphasize once again that if the batteries are removed and instead of the batteries you put the pedals to move it forward they then become a tricycle and only require a city bicycle licence in order to operate them. Just a couple of days ago — we just live three blocks east of here — as I was coming down the lane walking to the Legislature I saw a person coming down the lane with a wheelchair which had an electrical attachment on it. So I stopped this gentleman and I said to him, sir, do you know that your wheelchair may have to require a licence and insurance in order for you to operate down the lane here? He was unaware that Bill 29 provided for such an event to take place. I spoke to the gentleman as he propelled his machine, with an electrical attachment on it, and he told me that he worked in the Law Courts Building. So what he does is travel down the lane in between Carlton and Hargrave and he comes up to Broadway and he crosses Broadway and he goes into the Law Courts Building.

So, Mr. Speaker, this gentleman was unaware that he may be required to have to go and take a Driver's Test first in order to obtain a licence to drive this machine and also that he may have to go and obtain insurance coverage in order to operate this machine.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's comments he said you know we want the people who use these wheelchairs which travel between three and seven miles an hour, we want them to have the right to go to Grand Beach or go to Portage la Prairie; we want them to have the right to go all over this province. Mr. Speaker, these people do not want to go to Grand Beach or Winnipeg Beach or Portage la Prairie, all they want to do is get from the building or wherever they are staying and try and get to the nearest store or the clinic or wherever it is that they have to go; because of their handicap they have no way of getting there.

Mr. Speaker, we think that we should be very careful of this. We think there are other ways to address ourselves to this problem. It isn't clearly defined in the bill what is a wheelchair. There is no definition at all in the Act to define what is a wheelchair and what is not a wheelchair. Do the conventional types come under this Act? It is not defined. Mr. Speaker, if a person is using one of the conventional types that you propel with your hands and then he decides to put an electric attachment on it does that mean he has to go down to the Motor Vehicle Branch and pass a test and go and pay \$20 to get examined to see if he's healthy enough to operate this machine and so on. I think that we should be looking very carefully. I already have indication from the Minister of Resources that he is prepared to support me.

**MR. ENNS:** I think so. Two batteries shouldn't make a person a criminal.

**MR. ADAM:** He says I think so. Now he's backing off. Mr. Speaker, because a person is unable to use their legs to propel the machine with pedals on it, they are being told that they have to shell out \$150 to go and get insurance and a licence and pay a doctor's fee. If he puts the battery on he has to do that. If he propels it with his feet, because he has no feet, he is being discriminated against. I think this is entirely unfair. We certainly intend to continue to debate this section when it gets into committee.

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

**MS. WESTBURY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to speak on this bill as it applies to the physically handicapped. I regret very much that we are adding to the problems of those people who are physically handicapped and who are dependent upon other means to get around, including getting to work or getting to the local store to do their shopping and so on.

Mr. Speaker, if indeed there are people who want to drive these vehicles to Grand Beach or to the Brandon Winter Fair or somewhere like that on major highways, then certainly some control needs to be applied. But surely we could make an exception if they're going to be driving around local residential streets.

I would like to suggest, as indeed I believe some of the physically handicapped themselves have suggested, that some sort of a course, a safety course, could be taken through their organizations to ensure that they really do understand the safety rules, the rules of the highways, and how to operate with the least possible danger to themselves or to others.

Mr. Speaker, the earning capacity of the physically handicapped is limited. Studies have shown that when they are able to work at jobs they usually work at lower paying jobs than the average person. For that reason we should not be adding to the financial burden that they experience as handicapped people, especially as the Member for Ste. Rose said, in this International Year of the Physically Handicapped, which I would prefer to be for the physically handicapped because I think we shouldn't leave it to them to be thinking of what could make their lives more endurable but we should, each one of us, be trying to find ways to alleviate the burdens under which they live their daily lives, Mr. Speaker.

I also feel that this is another one of those cases in which we're going to be encouraging a more enterprising people to break the law. Surely it is a punitive measure on the part of the government. I, too, regret that the Minister is not here to hear his bill debated because I think that this is something that badly needs to be rethought. I live in a residential community, Mr. Speaker, which is very close to the Winnipeg Municipal Hospitals and we're used there to seeing patients, either being pushed around in their wheelchairs by their relatives or driving their own automatic wheelchairs. In fact the Winnipeg Municipal Hospitals lead the way in the matter of finding ways in which automated wheelchairs could be operated by polio victims with

minimal physical movement. Some of them just by the slightest movement to one side of their head or with the use of only one or two fingers can operate wheelchairs. I think this has added to the quality of life for these people in ways that we should encourage. Under the provisions as being enacted through this bill, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that is not being done. In fact we are restricting their quality of life if we pass this particular section of the bill. Certainly I'll be coming back to this when it gets to committee.

But I do want the government members perhaps to have an opportunity to go away. I would hope that the Minister of Community Services who is here today, and has an interest in the physically handicapped, would provide some input into this bill, would talk to his Minister about the needs of the physically handicapped, and especially those requiring the use of motorized vehicles and some accommodations that could be made to make it easier for them to bear the burden under which they live.

I would hope the Minister of Health also would discuss this with his Minister and perhaps not be punitive. We shouldn't be trying to make money out of these people, Mr. Speaker. It's not going to be a great deal of money; it's not something that's going to make or break the Budget of this government but we shouldn't be applying punitive measures and trying to make money out of the physically handicapped. On the contrary, we should be providing them with every possible means that can be developed to make their lives easier. I would urge the government to have another look and to think about this even before it gets into committee and perhaps to come forward with some new suggestions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Before I recognize the next person, I would like to take a couple of seconds of your time to introduce 22 visitors from the Flin Flon Sea Cadets "Husky" Corps. This group is under the direction of Sub. Lieutenant Bob Saul and Acting Captain Lois Burke. This Sea Cadet group is from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

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

## BILL NO. 29 THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT (2) Cont'd

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question?  
The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, just briefly the Minister of Highways and Transportation is out of the city on business this morning. I would indicate to members that I will undertake to refer the comments that have been made by the Member for Ste. Rose, the Member for Fort Rouge, to him and ask him to deal with these items in committee if that's agreeable to members.

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

**MR. SCHROEDER:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Logan that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill No. 34, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for St. Vital. (Stand).

Bill No. 36 — the Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand)

The Government House Leader.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, 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.

Mr. Speaker, Education of course will continue here and the Minister of Natural Resources will begin his Estimates outside the House.

**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 Education; and the Honourable Member for Virden in the Chair for the Department of Natural Resources.

**CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY**

**SUPPLY — NATURAL RESOURCES**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor (Virden):** Call the Committee to order. Page 92, Natural Resources. 1. the Honourable Minister.

**MR. ENNS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to read into the record an opening statement, copies of which I'm prepared to provide to committee members as well as to any members of the media that are interested.

Let me first of all say that I look forward to working with the Department of Natural Resources; the department is not entirely strange to me having had that privilege of being the Minister responsible for a portion of it in the years of '68 and '69. The department has changed somewhat with the division of the Mines and Energy section of course off to the new department, but it has on the other hand been substantially increased with the Parks Division being added to it.

My first comments have to do with respect to the Water Resources Department. Under the Provincial Waterway Program the Branch will continue the upgrading of major drains to meet the demands for improved drainage of agricultural lands. A total of 2.33 million are provided, an increase of some 700,000 over last year's Budget. Negotiations are presently under way with the Federal Government for a cost-sharing agreement to upgrade the community dykes in the Red River Valley to provide protection up to the 100-year level, the estimated cost of these upgrading works is in the order of \$1.3 million.

In 1980 the Canada-Manitoba Interim Subsidiary Agreement on Water Development for Regional Economic Expansion and Drought Proofing was signed. This is a three year agreement, with a total cost of some \$8.95 million to develop a longer term strategy for water management to enhance the economic development in the province, and to provide protection against the impact resulting from drought situations in the future. Major studies will be initiated this year on drought proofing strategies and

groundwater inventories in the major aquifers in the Turtle Mountain, Carberry, and the southwestern areas of the province.

In addition to these studies \$5 million has been allocated in the agreement for the development of multi-purpose projects for water supplies for communities and regional rural areas.

During 1981, the Morden Dam at Morden will be raised to increase the water supply at Morden, a dugout at Grandview will be undertaken, and renovations to the Town of Dauphin's water supply reservoir on Edwards Creek.

Under the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Value-Added Crops Production, work will continue on the program of upgrading drainage systems in the La Salle River, Morris River, Marsh River, and Cooks Creek Basins to provide increased levels of protection to permit the production of rapeseed, sunflower, annual pulse crops, and corn to enhance the economic base in these areas.

In 1980, the Manitoba Water Commission was asked by the Minister of Natural Resources to undertake a review of the operation of the Red River Floodway, the Portage Diversion and the Shellmouth Reservoir, to determine how effective these works have been in meeting their intended objectives and whether or not there have been any unexpected impacts. The report of the Water Commission has been printed, and I expect to file the report in the House within the next few days.

In the past few years there has been a substantial increase in irrigation in the agricultural sector, which has resulted in many applications under The Water Rights Act. The Manitoba Water Commission has also been asked to look into the question of groundwater problems and the issuance of licences. Not enough is known about the extent of our groundwater resources to permit us to continue withdrawing water on an increased scale without having more information of the nature of this resource.

Dealing with the Division of Parks. We are nearing completion of the first major plan for the Whiteshell Park. We had hoped to have the Development Plan adopted by the beginning of 1981, but because of the degree of interest by the public, not only the cottage owners in the Park, but other organizations throughout the community, we have not hurried the consultation process and indeed, have found it to be very constructive and useful in the development plan preparation. We hope to have the Whiteshell Development Plan completed and adopted within the next couple of months, and are now moving on to the preparation of development plans for the Spruce Woods and Turtle Mountain Provincial Parks.

Spruce Woods Park in particular has shown real potential in the last couple of years for winter recreational activities. In recognition of this trend it is intended to develop further a winter recreation program at Spruce Woods Provincial Park. This will include the development and provision of extensive cross-country ski trails, snowmobile trails and link-ups, opportunities for winter camping, multiple toboggan runs, skating areas, ice fishing and year round visitor programs.

It is intended that Spruce Woods Provincial Park serve as a prototype for the expansion of winter recreation opportunities throughout the general



Parks system. A key note will be to integrate these developments with community recreation and business initiatives. Inquiries of the hotel and motel owners in the nearby towns of Carberry and Glenboro, show that they are enjoying a winter occupancy rate higher than during the summer season.

We think the Assiniboine River Corridor has excellent potential as a recreational corridor. The many natural, historical and recreational features of the Assiniboine River could be woven into a recreational corridor through a series of trails, access points and resting areas. Initially the plan will focus on the Brandon-Spruce Woods section, but ultimately Assissippi and Beauty Parks will be connected to this linear water and trail parkway. Private sector participation at intermediate and destination nodes will be encouraged at providing services to travellers.

At the Portage Diversion, opportunities for outdoor recreation, in particular fishing and wate sports, have been enhanced as a result of earlier water control measures on the Assiniboine River near Portage la Prairie. These will be examined and work should commence later this year. Proposals under consideration include the development of a swimming pond, picnic and fountain area, as well as improved access for sail and power boats. This facility will be developed in consultation with local officials and in a manner which will compliment opportunities available at Island Park and elsewhere.

It is intended to examine, over the course of the next six months, the shoreline of Lake Manitoba to determine its feasibility to become a focus for the development of major new initiatives in outdoor recreation. Opportunities for such services and facilities as recreational vehicle lots, cottage lots, marina, commercial development as well as a theme park highlighting amusement and fun for the whole family, will be the focus for this analysis. With the co-operation of local interests it may be possible to initiate work on basic infrastructure later this year.

The feasibility of a year-round residential park for senior citizens at Ironwood Point on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, complete with recreational facilities, single family and condominium developments will be examined. The site of the possible development would be on Crown land at Ironwood Point. The use of manufactured homes specifically designed for the senior citizens and the setting will be studied. The study will focus on the province providing infrastructure on overall management while the private sector carries forward a variety of development projects. About 200 vacation home lots will be developed at a cost of some \$530,000 throughout the province as follows: The Northeast division \$30,000; the Northwest \$40,000; West, \$40,000; Southwest, \$50,000 and in the Interlake \$30,000.00.

An experimental program of Recreational Vehicle Lots started in 1981 in the Turtle Mountain and will be expanded this year. The program is intended to provide owners of recreational camping equipment the opportunity to secure lots under long-term lease. Sites under consideration at this time include Liz Lake, Rocky Lake, Manistikwan Lake, Childs Lake, Manipogo, Rivers, Rock Lake and Steep Rock.

As a result of increasing demand for transient camping opportunities in the eastern region of the

province some \$300,000 has been allocated for the construction of a campground. Alternative sites are being examined as to the feasibility and cost. Work will commence or is expected to commence in June.

In the Lands Branch we are continuing the sale of agricultural Crown land in accordance with the policy announced in 1979. This policy applied to land that had been under lease for two or more years. Crown lands that were required for conservation purposes, or were subject to erosion, or needed for public use, or where the local municipality objected to the sale, are not available for sale.

In 1979 the government also announced the policy of selling recreational lots located outside of the park system. There are approximately some 6,400 recreational lots under lease; 5,250 in the provincial park systems and 1,150 lots on Crown land outside of the parks. It is the 1,150 lots outside of the Park systems which are available for sale if the lessee desires. The department is in the process of registering sub-division plans in the Land Titles office and appraising all recreational lots to determine current market value.

The Forestry Division in 1980 of course saw one of the worst fire seasons on record in Manitoba, and indeed for all of the Western Provinces. Most of the eight million cords of timber burned during the 1980 forest fire season was lost in six principle fire areas, Snow Lake, Wallace Lake, Bloodvein, Berens River, Kipahagan and Porcupine Mountain. Losses at Snow Lake and Wallace Lake, Bloodvein and the Berens River would have limited immediate economic impact upon the provincial economy because the timber burned was primarily jackpine where surpluses exist. The fire in the Kipahagan area will have an immediate effect on the Manitoba Forestry Resources but it is not possible to estimate this impact until the company completely evaluates alternative options open to it. The fire in the Porcupine Mountain has had a very immediate effect on the forest industry in that part of the province. As previously reported, a very active salvage program by the logging industry in the area should lead to a minor economic boom over the first two years after the fire. After completion of these salvage operations, however, the forest resource will be unable to sustain the level of harvesting activity which it was able to prior to the fire.

The government recognizes the economic significance of the fire losses as well as the value of the forest sector to the Manitoba economy, which in economic terms represents some \$400 million annually. We have accordingly provided for increased efforts in forest protection and reforestation programs to better maintain and improve the productive potential of the forests. In protection the water bombing capacity was increased through the purchase of a second CL-215 at approximate cost of \$4 million. Additional firetac crews are planned for this upcoming season plus the addition of a medium lift helicopter to supplement our basic helicopter contracts. The communication system is also under review.

Since the passage of The Dutch Elm Disease Act at the 1980 session of the Legislature regulations have been passed which play special emphasis on prohibiting the movement of trees which are found to be diseased and which in the past have been the

principle source of spreading Dutch Elm disease. We are working closely with municipalities and have worked out a cost-sharing arrangement with respect to the question of inspection, sanitation and, where necessary, removal of diseased trees. Together with the Canadian Forestry Service, an agency of Environment Canada, the province is co-sponsoring a Dutch Elm Disease Symposium and Workshop in October of 1981. This workshop is meant for researchers to present their long-term and most recent results to concerned individuals from North America, Europe and Asia. Canada, and Manitoba in particular, is recognized for its very aggressive approach in the control of Dutch Elm disease.

Dealing with the Fisheries Branch, the Fisheries Branch has the responsibility of managing the sports and commercial fisheries of the province to maximize benefits to Manitobans, while at the same time ensuring this resource is passed on in at least as vigorous a state as it was received.

In commercial fisheries the branch is responsible for the management of approximately 200 commercial fisheries involving more than 3,000 fishermen. These fishermen harvest approximately 36 million pounds of fish annually and receive more than \$17 million in compensation annually. Management efforts are directed towards the monitoring of fish dogs through commercial and experimental sampling programs to determine appropriate levels of harvest in specific lakes. Active liaison is maintained with commercial fishermen and other industry segments through the Commercial Fishing Section and by Regional Fisheries' Managers. The objective of the Sports Fishing Management Program is to maintain or enhance angling opportunities by stocking of fish and rehabilitation techniques on water bodies and fisheries. Through the sports fishing section the branch coordinates activities with other agencies such as Tourism and the Tourist Industry Association to facilitate viable long-term development programs. Approximately 150,000 resident anglers and more than 40,000 non-resident anglers participate in sport fishing each year in Manitoba. These anglers contribute and estimated \$58 million to Manitoba's economy each year.

The branch is also responsible for the administration of two funding programs offered to commercial fishermen. The first of these is a Northern Fishermans' Freight Assistance Program, which provides assistance to fishermen for fish transport costs from remote fisheries. The second is the provision of administrative costs of the Fishermen's Loan Program, which is administered through the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation.

Dealing with the Wildlife Division, A major contribution to wildlife management was made in 1980 through the passage of a new Wildlife Act. Besides simplifying and updating wildlife legislation, the new Act provides for a more thorough and systematic accounting by government through annual and five-year reports to the Legislature, significantly increases protection of the rights of the landowners, provides for more expeditious management of the resource and brings penalties for violations in line with contemporary values.

In terms of resource production, Manitoba harvested a record \$10 million worth of wild furs last

year, highlighted by an all time record production of 16,000 beaver pelts. Delivery of programs to trappers has been streamlined and the major effort initiated in trapper consultation with the aim of updating provincial fur management policies and administrative practices. A polar bear holding facility has been constructed at Churchill for the purpose of detaining problem bears rather than having to transport them to remote release sites or risk confrontations in and around Churchill. This facility will be completed in 1981-82. As part of the effort to reduce the impact of the 1980 drought upon Manitoba farmers, 145,000 acres of designated wildlife land were made available for emergency agricultural use during last summer.

A major new initiative will be made in 1981 in problem wildlife management through implementation of a streamlined, but more intensive nuisance beaver control program, an experimental deer damage control program and an improved five-year waterfowl damage prevention and compensation program.

Federal-Provincial and territorial wildlife agencies, and those who traditionally hunt the Kaminuriak and Beverly herds of barren-ground caribou are expected to conclude an agreement and management program in 1981-82 which will arrest the serious decline in these herds and bring about the restoration to a state of renewed usefulness to the communities in their historic range. Considerations will be given to the option of a major development proposal for the rehabilitation of Delta Marsh, to be carried out by Ducks Unlimited in co-operation with the Department of Natural Resources. For the past month departmental officials and representatives of the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association have been meeting with trappers and departmental field staff to solicit their views on what changes are needed in the wild fur industry. Meetings have been held in many locations across Southern Manitoba and The Pas, Thompson, Lynn Lake and Island Lake in the north. Delegates from each of the province's 62 Local Fur Councils have been invited to attend trapper meetings and the response has been very constructive and gratifying.

Main areas of concern with the trappers are the underutilization of some registered traplines; fur marketing and a desire for more involvement by the Local Fur Council in planning the fur harvest.

While Manitoba produced a record \$10 million worth of wild fur in 1980, we believe it could be substantially higher and it is the department's job to work with the trappers and assist them wherever possible in getting the harvest out of the bush. In many northern communities, fur is now the leading source of income and we hope to improve upon the situation even further.

There will be further direct consultation with trappers and other sectors of the fur industry before anything is formally changed.

I have attempted to cover, in a summary way, some of the areas under my responsibility which will receive major emphasis in 1981. I would be pleased, Mr. Chairman, as we move through the departmental estimates in detail, to answer any questions which may arise on the item which is before the Committee.

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

**MR. BOSTROM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a few comments on the Minister's opening statement, perhaps indicate by way of an overall view of the department what some of our concerns are and what we would be concentrating on in terms of issues in the department.

I note in the Minister's statement that he is indicating they are nearing completion of the first master plan for the Whiteshell Park. That to us, Mr. Chairman, is indication of their lack of action in terms of park planning and park development in Manitoba, because I think it should have been possible for the government to come together with people who are concerned about park development in the Province of Manitoba and the way in which parks are operated and develop a master plan before this point in time. They've had over three years in their term so far and we find it regrettable that it's taken this long for them to come to this point in the planning of only one of the parks in Manitoba.

There was a plan in effect at the time that this government came into office, one which, even if they did not agree with it could have been brought to public meetings and modified and put into effect much sooner than this.

I think the public in Manitoba has been concerned about this government and their attitude toward parks, and in particular the statement that this Minister made with respect to people who own cottages in the Whiteshell Park. I'm sure he recalls the heated debates in the Legislature in which he referred to cottage owners in the Whiteshell as "fat cats". It's one which he will have to live with and hopefully live down.

Beyond that, Mr. Chairman, the people in general in Manitoba that are concerned about parks, have a feeling of mistrust about this government's attitude towards park development. I think that they believe that this government has an overdevelopment attitude and the Jarmoc incident in the Whiteshell Park, for example, was a first indication of this attitude to the people of Manitoba, where they felt that the PC government was going to steamroll right into most parks and allow unrestricted development to the disadvantage of people that are presently utilizing the facilities, both on a regular basis as cottage owners, and as day users of campground and lake facilities in parks.

So there is a very serious concern there and one which the government should be addressing and hopefully they would have addressed it before this point in time. I think that the final development of this master plan may help to put some of those concerns to rest, but even there, Mr. Chairman, it will be important for the government to consult with people who are the users, the present users and potential users of the park, people who are concerned about park development, in order that a plan can be completed that will be compatible with the people that want to use parks. We will get further into that, I'm sure, when we get into that section of the Estimates.

I note with interest the feasibility study for a year-round residential park for senior citizens at Ironwood Point and the government is finally getting around to this. It's something that was in the planning when the New Democratic party were in

government. There was a facility developed at Ironwood Point which was designed, I believe at the time, with the idea of it being made available to senior citizens. I think the government should be commended for this that they are going ahead with this at this time, although it's a delay. I hope that the government in doing the feasibility study for this residential park will take into consideration views and opinions of residents in that area and they will allow for local input into the feasibility study so that people who are permanent residents in the area will have an opportunity to comment on a kind of development which would be compatible with their desires and needs.

I also note that the government claims, as a result of increasing demand for transient camping facilities, that \$300,000 has been allocated for the construction of a campground, although no mention is made of the location of the campground. I would point out, Mr. Chairman, that in some areas in Eastern Manitoba the campgrounds are underutilized at the present time, possibly because of the facilities, both in terms of the campgrounds themselves and also in terms of access, road access, perhaps not up to par. That is something which this government can be criticized for because in Eastern Manitoba the roads have been ignored by this government, in particular, roads leading into the more remote areas of Eastern Manitoba have been pretty well completely ignored in the Highway's Budget of this government. That's something which the government could be looking at in terms of providing camping opportunities for people who desire camping opportunities, is to provide better access to the areas that are already available for camping.

I would like to follow-up with the Minister on his policy of selling recreational lots outside the parks and give him notice now that one of our questions in this area would be what protections are in this announced policy for residents of Manitoba; that is, are we going to be facing a situation in the future where the recreational lots may be transferred through successive sales to people who live outside the province, and through speculation driving up the price, making recreational lots unavailable to the ordinary Manitoban family who desires a recreational lot. I believe the policy that was in effect of making recreational lots available to the public at cost to the government was the best policy in terms of making recreational lots available to the ordinary working person in Manitoba; that is not selling lots at the market value, which tends to be rather exorbitant because of the supply of lots on the market. I believe the government should be concentrating on making lots available on Crown land to the public at cost and that is something which is slightly different than the announced policy of selling recreational lots because once you allow for the sale of recreational lots the price is automatically driven up through speculation and there is a danger that these lots may become out of range, in price terms, for the ordinary worker in Manitoba. It may also, just over the years, be made unavailable to people simply because they are purchased by non-residents of Manitoba and in that way not being on the market even and not being available for purchase by Manitobans.

In the area of forestry we share the Minister's concern about the forest fire problem and we'll be

asking the Minister what is being done this year to avoid some of the serious losses which we experienced last year. I'm hopeful that the Minister is already well in the process of gearing up his department to deal with the potential serious danger to the forests of Manitoba in view of the impending drought. I understand that many of the areas of the province are in danger, even at this early date in the season, and it's something which the government should be taking into consideration in terms of getting resources in place, firetrac crews, equipment, especially the waterbomber capacity, geared up to be able to deal with the possible danger that we may be facing.

As far as the forest resource in Manitoba is concerned we recognize the important value of the forest resource in the Manitoba economy, which as the Minister has noted in economic terms, represents about 400 million, I believe is in your report, 400 million annually and we, in that regard, will be expressing concern again about the attitude of this government toward forest management and forestry development, and in particular, the return to the people of Manitoba from the resources. The government indicated its preference in this regard when it signed the agreement with Abitibi some two or three years ago, whereby they reduced the potential royalties to the Province of Manitoba, and I note in the Estimates for this year in fact, that the government is reimbursing the Abitibi Company to the tune of \$514,000. This is moneys which could be in the treasury of the Province of Manitoba; would not be necessarily having to go to a private company, if they had kept the same royalties in effect that we had placed on the Abitibi Paper Company. Over a period of years of this agreement, Mr. Chairman, this can mean many millions of dollars lost to the people of Manitoba from that forestry resource. There should be some way for the government to be able to get a better return to the people of Manitoba from the forestry resource in Manitoba, which is worth, as the Minister indicates, \$400 million annually.

We note with interest that the government is preparing a Provincial Forest Management Plan to the year 2000, and we would want to know from the Minister what the terms of reference of this plan is, the feasibility study or whatever, and what exactly the department has in mind in terms of a forestry management plan.

We also note with interest in forestry management, that there's a five-year federal-provincial cost-sharing program near finalization. We'd like to know what is being intended in that plan and what moneys are being involved for increased reforestation and forest access roads

In fisheries, Mr. Chairman, it is clear that the commercial fishing industry is, if anything, becoming more important to the economy of Manitoba through not only the harvesting of the resource but the price that the fishermen are receiving for the product which they produce. From the information that I receive from fishermen, generally they seem quite satisfied with the prices they're receiving at the present time, and are quite happy with the arrangement they have with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, and are concerned regarding statements which they hear the Progressive

Conservative government making from time to time about changing the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

Because of these kinds of statements, there is a feeling of distrust of the Progressive Conservative government of Manitoba among fishermen in Manitoba. The Minister's predecessors have contributed to this feeling of distrust, because they've talked about changes to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation; the Honourable Member for Thompson when he was Minister talked about it; the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney when he was Minister talked about it. There was never any proper consultation with the fishermen over these matters.

In fact the fishermen at one point took it upon themselves to provide a petition to the Minister involved at the time, and to send resolutions to both provincial and federal governments saying that they were quite satisfied with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, would want to see perhaps some minor administrative changes and tightening up of the costs involved with handling their products so that they could receive a better return for their product. These were concerns that they had. But they wanted to have these changes made in consultation with them, and in a way which would maintain the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation as a central marketing agency for fishermen. They don't want the baby thrown out with the bath water, so to speak, and have serious major changes made to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation which would put the fishermen back at the mercy of the fish buyers, which was the system in effect in Manitoba before the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation was established. Every time the Minister of Resources makes statements, as this Minister has made even since he's been made Minister, that they're looking at changes to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, it tends to add fuel to this feeling of mistrust that the fishermen have in Manitoba.

There is a small vocal group in Manitoba that has been advocating that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation be completely disbanded; they are completely unrepresentative of fishermen, Mr. Chairman, and I would hope that the Minister would take that advice into consideration when he is discussing the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in his role as being the Minister for that particular client group in Manitoba.

The other thing that the commercial fishermen are concerned about, particularly in Northern Manitoba, is the Provincial Government's attitude towards commercial fishermen vis-a-vis the sport fishery in Manitoba. While the sport fishery may be a very important resource, I think that the fishermen believe that the PC government is putting an overemphasis on this resource, and de-emphasizing the value of the commercial fishery resource.

I note in the Minister's statement on Page 10 that he claims that anglers contribute an estimated \$50 million to Manitoba's economy each year. I would like to know from the Minister where these figures come from, because that would represent something in excess of \$250 per angler that's put into the Manitoba economy. It certainly isn't from the sale of fishing licences.

It must be based on some other economic information which the Minister has available to him; we would like to know where he obtains that information and what it's made up of, and how accurate he believes it to be. Because when you contrast that, Mr. Chairman, to the \$17 million which comes in annually from the 3,000 fishermen that operate in Manitoba, it appears as though the government, even in this opening address to the Natural Resources Estimates, are putting more emphasis on the sport fishery side than they are on the commercial fishing side. Mr. Chairman, there should be a way developed whereby the sport fishery can operate in a way which is compatible and co-operative with the commercial fishery. They don't necessarily have to be at loggerheads.

I believe that in the north some of the fishermen have expressed a concern that the government is attempting to prohibit the commercial fishing of some lakes, because there is a lodge being proposed or in existence on a lake. That is something which was an ongoing debate when we were in government, and it's one which I think should be looked at very closely, because I believe that these two resource harvesting groups, so to speak, can exist side by side. It should not be necessary for the government to prohibit commercial fishing on a lake simply because there's a lodge on a particular lake. It may be that, with the two working together, it may be possible for there to be even a greater return from that particular resource.

If you look at Saskatchewan, Mr. Chairman, they have an important commercial fishery, not as big as Manitoba's, but most of their commercial fishery is based on a smaller type lake somewhat like we have in Northern Manitoba; they allow sport fishing and commercial fishing to exist side by side on most lakes. So I would think that this is something which should be looked at more closely in Manitoba, and one which the Minister should be looking at and not allowing his department to prohibit commercial fishing of some of the northern lakes as it is rumoured that it is being proposed.

The other concern, Mr. Chairman, of course to the fishermen in Northern Manitoba, is the high cost of freight and other operational costs that they face. This is something which is unique to Northern Manitoba and, unlike the larger lakes in Southern Manitoba, fishermen in northern lakes have a much higher cost to obtain their necessary fuels and oils for the fishing, they have a much higher cost when it comes to moving their product out from one small lake to a central gathering area for a larger transport to take it to southern markets. I think that it's time for a major review of the Northern Fishermen's Freight Assistance Program. This is something which this government has not done as I highly recommended to them; they should be looking at a major review of this program to see if it is still doing the job which it was intended to do when it was introduced by the New Democratic government. I note that the government has merely maintained this program; it has really not increased it; it has not reviewed it to see if it's doing a proper job in this day and age; I believe that conditions have changed somewhat since this was first introduced. Certainly there is room here, I believe, for greater assistance to northern fishermen to allow them to have the

opportunity of having an income from this valuable resource. It should be possible for the government to assist the fishermen in a much more substantial way. I know that the northern lakes, many of the northern fishing lakes, have need for improved facilities. That is something which neither level of government, federal or provincial, are really doing anything about. For example, in the Garden Hill-Island Lake area there is discussion now — in fact I think it's gone beyond discussion — of closing down the Savage Island plant and that is going to be a serious blow to that area if there is no plant there to process the fish into some kind of a semi-processed form in order that it can be shipped out of that area. I would think that the government should be looking at the possibility of improving the production for the northern lakes, not simply maintaining the status quo and allowing the fishermen to simply drift away from the industry because the operating costs are becoming so prohibitive that they can no longer participate in fish harvesting.

So I would hope that the Minister would look at that very seriously and work in close consultation with the fishermen of Northern Manitoba to develop a comprehensive program to assist in the fishing industry. It's really a must, Mr. Chairman, it's something that this government has failed to do.

In other areas, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure we will have some specific comments. I'm sorry that time is running out and I'm not able to comment on all of the Minister's opening statement but it would appear that we have some areas to discuss in terms of some serious issues facing people who are interested in natural resources in Manitoba. I would think in general this government has not made much of an effort to be innovative in natural resources in terms of natural resource development, if anything they've simply maintained a status quo where there was a program in place before they came into government and they have continued it, not improved upon it. They've really made no effort to blaze any new trails or go down any new directions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would have to call it 12:30 and the member would have five minutes next sitting if that's according to the rules, so I call it 12:30.

Committee rise.

## SUPPLY — EDUCATION

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson):** This Committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members attention to Page 47 of the Main Estimates, Department of Education, Resolution No. 52, Clause 3, Financial Support — Public Schools, Item (a) School Grants and Other Assistance — pass.

The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as a preliminary I noted the Chairman's earlier questions during the question period. As one of those who is also a relatively new non-smoker, in driving down Marion Street also noticed those smells. Possibly the smell gets worse the longer you've quit smoking and that may be one of the problems, Mr. Chairman.

But with respect to the item we are now dealing with, Financial Support to Public Schools. Last

evening we had heard the Minister indicate to us that he was going to answer some of the comments made with respect to the result achieved by the new method of providing funding for public schools. I had pointed out that newspaper reports indicate that in many school divisions the mill rate has in fact decreased from 1980 to 1981; this year we're seeing lower tax payments in many school divisions. In those school divisions it appears that as well there's another phenomenon, and this is contrary to what the Minister had first indicated when he announced a new program, this new phenomenon is that commercial rates are dropping to a greater extent, substantially greater extent, than residential rates are dropping. I would expect that the Minister will have some comment on that to indicate whether that is something that he sees as happening generally or whether these incidents that I had referred to last evening are just isolated occurrences because I don't have very many figures on the 1981-82 rates.

There is another issue with the new financing proposal and that is in certain school divisions it is claimed that the mill rate is increasing to a greater extent for the next year than it would have increased under the old funding formula, notwithstanding the fact that the government has put an extra \$70 million into the program; the \$70 million appears not to have assisted those particular school divisions in any way whatsoever, in fact, notwithstanding the fact that an extra \$70 million was put in, these school divisions are being placed in a position where their taxpayers are paying more than they would have paid had this extra \$70 million not been put in but just a regular increase been put in and the old funding system retained.

So obviously there are some questions there with respect to what the Minister intends to do to change the regulations to provide for more fairness: to school divisions such as Transcona-Springfield, River East. I haven't checked out that coffee shop report that I had last evening. I intend to do so over the weekend. When I phoned this morning they were all out for coffee so that particular report may or may not be accurate but it is obvious that in certain areas there are problems and I would hope that the Minister would address himself to those issues.

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

**MR. BEN HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, yesterday evening under the first item in the Estimates I had outlined in general terms a proposed funding formula for education. Without getting into the details of it, and I don't think that it's essential, I would prefer to deal with the principle of it. To refresh your memory, Mr. Chairman, what I had proposed was that the Minister collect all the Budgets, the operating budgets for the school divisions in ample time for himself or for the Public Schools Finance Board or whoever would be assigned to review them, to do a proper review of them. At that time the Minister can go through the Budgets, as he most likely will with his red pencil and say that he will not support this item, that or another or not to whatever level the school division may ask for. Within that type of process you could also work in, build in, some appeal mechanism to the Minister personally or whatever, at any way the Budgets could be arrived at.

He totals up the Budgets, the province picks up 70 percent of the education cost out of its general revenue; the real property owners pay 20 percent real property tax. Yesterday I had just pulled a figure out of thin air, I said 50 mills on residential and 100 mills on commercial. I'm sure that if one were to do an accurate calculation of it one would find that those two mill rates, on a provincewide basis, would likely generate more than the \$100-odd million that he would require, for example, in this year, in the forthcoming fiscal year. But whatever it may be 40 and 80 or 35 and 60 or I don't know, but anyway I'm quite certain that it would be much less than in practically every school division than what real property owners pay now, particularly farm and residential property owners, by way of the total of the education support levy and the special levy. Then the remaining 10 percent, let the school divisions recommend the source of tax revenue for that.

Now the Minister did comment on that last night and I'm not quite sure what he meant. I sort of got the impression that he sort of felt that it would create a nightmare of administrative snags, that every year there might be a different tax collecting system that might have to be set up. Here again, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that if one would agree that the principle is right that one could find administrative ways to implement the principle, less cumbersome administrative methods to implement the principle. Perhaps when a decision is made by the trustees collectively on their source of tax revenue, might hold them to that for two or three years or whatever to eliminate annual changes. I would also add that to assist the trustees in making their recommendation to the Minister as to what source of tax revenue they would designate, the Minister could offer the trustees whatever assistance and resources he has and information that he may have, that the Minister of Finance may have, to indicate to the trustees that if they were to levy an additional point or two in income tax that would generate X-millions of dollars; sales tax so many dollars, tobacco, gasoline whatever.

So in summary, 70 percent province, 20 percent real property, 10 percent a source of tax revenue designated by the trustees.

Now the other point I want to make to the Minister. In coming up with the new funding formula this year, there were two features of a previous system of funding which have been eliminated and I think that they were good ones. Perhaps in terms of dollars and cents that were contained within them, they may have been out of whack, but I think that the principle that they sort of protected or retained within the school system was good. One was the teacher grants and the other the per pupil grants. The per pupil grants you will recall, Mr. Chairman, were in inverse proportion to the balance of assessment per pupil within the school division, which meant that the less affluent school divisions received more on a per pupil basis; the more affluent received less. So there was that equalizing factor.

Also the teacher grant formulas; the teacher grant scheme did a couple of things, and I would agree that funding scheme or that formula was in need of review because it was out of step particularly with the inflationary rate which had occurred over the past few years. But nevertheless what it did do was

ensure the people of Manitoba that there would be the best qualified teachers employed within the school system, No. 1; No. 2, that there would be a sufficient number of teachers employed within the school system, that they would come as close as they possibly can to the recommended pupil-teacher ratio as stated in the Act.

Now from reading the Minister's statement which he issued in January, and not unless there's some further regulation of which I'm not aware. There may have been because you will recall, Mr. Chairman, that sometime after there were a number of regulations from the Education Department published in the Manitoba Gazette and I did not have an opportunity to go through them line by line so there may have been something in there, but on the basis of the statement that the Minister issued in January, it would appear that a school division could be eligible for financial support without hiring any teachers or with hiring a minimal number of teachers. You will recall the formula that you take 80 or 75 percent of last September's enrollment, I've forgotten what the exact percentage is but whichever, and you divide that by 50 and you multiply that by \$87,400 and then the remaining enrollment you multiply that by \$200 per pupil or whatever, and that gives you your education grant. Then, of course, there are the other grants that are included and they're vocational, etc., special education and so forth, but I'm dealing with the basic one. But within that dividing the enrollment by 50 and times \$87,400 I didn't see any reference to what's the minimal number of teachers that one must hire to become eligible for that grant. In other words, could a school division hire one teacher for 50 pupils and two or three aids which might be cheaper than hiring two teachers and be eligible for the same grant? Now I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that if that is the route that this funding scheme will encourage school divisions to take, that would lead to a dilution of the quality of education that the people of Manitoba are entitled to.

But the main point that I wanted to impress upon the Minister yesterday is that he can talk about all the changes that he wants, he can talk about his 80 percent because in actual fact and by the Minister's own admission, by what is contained within the Estimates, if we know and the Minister did state that the total education bill for the Province of Manitoba, for the school divisions of the Province of Manitoba for the forthcoming fiscal year, will be in the order of \$530 million. The level of provincial support is stated in the Estimates to be \$290 million, and, of course, the Minister might say that there's also something else somewhere else, another few thousand here and there, but basically it's \$290 million. So it's not all that difficult to calculate, that \$290 million is a far cry from being 80 percent of the total education cost or of the costs of education that have to be borne by the school divisions, but then where it becomes most painful is within the school divisions which do not have as large a commercial base as others do. For example, within the Winnipeg School Division you will find that about half the assessed property, half the real property is commercial, half residential, roughly. In many suburban divisions, on a school division by school division basis, I haven't got those figures, but I do know that looking at the totality of the suburban

school divisions about 25 percent of the real property is commercial and 75 percent residential and that's where the special levy hurts most, because in a school division with a broad commercial base, a good portion of the special levy is born by the commercial sector. One that doesn't have that luxury of having a broad commercial base, the bulk of the special levy, has to be borne by the residential sector.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to impress upon you that the bulk of services that are being provided at a special levy are not gold plating on an education program. There are the provision, there are dollars to provide real essential needs of that particular school division; it might be special education, it might be native education, it might be immigrant population, it might be the need to provide certain vocational training programs, whatever; but they are real needs that have to be met in order to provide that school division or the children from that school division with a meaningful education program that will satisfy their needs, and it's to find those particular dollars, those dollars to tailor the education program to meet their particular needs that school divisions find most difficult to raise.

For example, Mr. Chairman, and I'm going on the basis of the figures supplied within the brief of the Transcona-Springfield School Division and I have not heard those figures disputed by anyone or challenged —(Interjection)— yes, I know, but then we discovered that the Minister had 1981 figures and we are quoting 1980 figures, so you know, that was a great discovery of the Minister. But, Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is that, — and I'm using Winnipeg and Fort Garry because those two divisions were lumped into one within the Transcona-Springfield brief — within the Winnipeg and Fort Garry School Divisions, the special levy portion amounts to about 12.8 percent of the total school budgets, about 12.8 percent is special levy. In all the other suburban school divisions the special levy accounts for 15.7 percent of the total school budgets, in other words about 23 percent higher than in Winnipeg and Fort Garry. So here you have two home owners, one living in Winnipeg or Fort Garry, the other living in any one of the other suburban school divisions and he looks at his neighbors and he says, now I have to pay an addition 22 or 23 percent more than what my neighbors for comparable property pay by way of special levy in the Winnipeg and the Fort Garry School Divisions. Then that same property owner takes a look at what do his school divisions collectively receive for that additional 23 percent in return and he finds a reverse occurring, because in Winnipeg or Fort Garry by paying, together with other taxes, by paying that 12.8 percent of total budget by way of special levy, that enables those school divisions to provide their children with an education program at the rate of \$3,158 per pupil. In the other school divisions collectively and if one were to take the time to work this out on a division by division basis, I'm sure that the results would be even more startling; but taking the other school divisions collectively, Mr. Chairman, paying 22 percent more by way of special levy, the return, if you can put a price tag on education, in terms of dollars per pupil, the return that the children get in

the school system is only \$2,700 per pupil, about 16 percent less.

So you see, there is a disparity and, Mr. Chairman, as I had indicated to the Minister during the debate, the opening of his Estimates, as long as the funding of additional education expenditures over and above that which the Department of Education is prepared to fund will be tied to assessment, this disparity and this discrepancy will continue to widen, will continue to widen as urban communities grow.

Yesterday evening the Minister sort of hinted at a compliment directed toward me that I was more optimistic than others in terms of my thoughts and my hopes for the future of the City of Winnipeg when I spoke of the possibility of Winnipeg growing. Well, Mr. Chairman, it is true that I would hope that the Tory party will not remain in office for ever and that there will be a turnaround in the economy and that the City of Winnipeg will continue to grow. But in the same breath, Mr. Chairman, I had also pointed out to the Minister the problem that it will create for him, that because if the City of Winnipeg grows the inevitable will happen, that the assessment, the value of the commercial property, which in every city is located in its heartland, it will continue to grow and as it grows, as the office towers are built in downtown Winnipeg on Portage Avenue, as hotels are built, as apartment blocks are built to house single people working in the downtown area or housing working families working in the downtown area, as all the other ancillary services go up that are part and parcel of a downtown commercial area; we will find the population of the Winnipeg School Division decreasing, on the one hand the value of the commercial property increasing.

So, to give the Minister, to explain this, relating this to students and I think I can explain this in a minute or two, just to demonstrate to the Minister what would happen. Let's assume that you have two school divisions, each having a balanced assessment of \$25,000 per pupil and let's take a look at what happens in relation to two students. For two students you have a balanced assessment of \$50,000 and let's say that their school populations are the same, they have the same balanced assessment and they are pretty well on par with each other in terms of their own ability to pay for the education program that they want. Then let us say that in the one school division the population declines from two students to one; so then you have \$50,000 balanced assessment per pupil in the one but still only \$25,000 in the other. Let's say that that decline in the population is a result of the development of a mega project, you know, that's going to increase the assessed value of commercial property by millions of dollars and in fact the assessment doubles and the population declines to one and it increases to \$100,000, so now you have an assessed value of \$100,000 per pupil and one still \$25,000 in the other, even if the population doubles there also, but being a residential area probably the assessment on a per pupil basis will not increase, Mr. Chairman. So then the wealthy school division with a declining population, it wants to enrich its education program by \$1,000 per pupil, so it imposes a mill of 10 mills or whatever and that raises its \$1,000 per pupil. The other school division, which did not have the benefit of commercial growth within it, if it wants to enrich its education program

to the same level it would have to impose a tax levy of 40 mills to provide the same number of dollars.

So I wish to impress upon the Minister that as long as he lives with this formula which he has instituted, even if it did rectify some problems which had existed last year, even if this year they may have disappeared; but I want to impress upon the Minister that in the long run his funding formula will only widen the gap between the have and the have not school divisions and as long as school divisions are tied to special levy to pay for the balance of the education services over and above that for which the Minister of Education would pay for, this discrepancy will continue to grow and widen.

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

**HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, there were a number of questions that I'd like to address. First of all, I believe the Member for Rossmere South made some reference to Brandon School Division where he said the commercial mill rate had dropped. The figures that I have indicate that it increased there from 89.2 to 92.3 on balanced assessment. Now of course, if there was a recent reassessment in that area it's quite possible that that could cause a reduction in the mill rate; that of course has no bearing on, or does not change the number of dollars that are raised from commercial property at the same number of dollars, the same allocation that is given to commercial and industrial would still result, but it is quite possible that an area that has had a recent reassessment that that could take place.

As far as his reference to the coffee shop conversation the other day, I'll await further investigation by the member on that particular situation. Again, I have to say to honourable members that there are factors that can affect the mill rate and principally that reassessment factor that certainly can have implications and it's something that we have to take into consideration. In fact, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member made some reference to problems in the program. To this date, Mr. Chairman, we have not detected serious flaws in the program but I don't think that anyone would be surprised to find that when you bring in a universal program across the province that there may well be certain aspects, certain minor flaws that will have to be addressed and it is our intention to certainly keep a very careful surveillance of the program during this first year to see if in fact there are areas that we are going to have to address in the coming year. To this point, we have not detected any serious flaws, but again I am quite prepared to accept that in any provincial program and any new program that there may be circumstances that were not considered and that we will have to take a look at in the future.

In total, Mr. Chairman, I can tell honourable members that the total tax collected for Education in the province has dropped this year from \$259.9 million last year to \$247.5 million this year, the total tax on property in this province. From \$259.9 million to \$247.5 million, that is the drop this year and I think it is one of the first years for many many years that we have had that type of situation in this province.

Now the Member for Burrows came back to his financing scheme. I don't think I'm going to remark



at any greater detail on it. It has problems of practicality, I would suggest and it is one of those schemes that you may be able to put on paper and it might look somewhat feasible to some but I can see all sorts of problems if you were to try to impose a program of this type province-wide. The Members for Burrows referred to the Teacher Salary Grants, and he is quite correct, originally they were intended to increase the teaching force in the province, to encourage them to increase their qualifications to the point, Mr. Chairman, and that particular incentive worked very well. We have the best qualified teaching staff that this province has ever had, both professionally and educationally, at this particular point in time. I think the main beneficiaries of that particular qualification would have to be the children in the classrooms.

However, we have reached the point where that particular salary grant is not amounting to anything significant at all. It was less than 30 percent of the total salary costs in the province, and certainly had little bearing on the original intentions.

The Member for Burrows seems to have some concern that school boards are now not going to hire teachers. Well, Mr. Chairman, I can only say to the Member for Burrows, it's very hard to operate schools if you don't have teachers in them, and I have much more faith in the planning and the ability of school boards to make sure that their particular school divisions have good, sound educational programs, and I'm not worried at all about the fact that they would ignore one of the most important ingredients in the whole program, the teacher.

The Member for Burrows seems to miss one of the most important aspects in the program, and that is the province-wide equalization. I have to say, Mr. Chairman, that is one of the most significant aspects of the program, the first time that we have had that type of equalization, and so as he worries about industrial assessment here and commercial assessment there, and saying that some have more than others, he's quite correct. But that is the whole purpose, Mr. Chairman, of the Equalization Program, to provide a pot of money, if we can put it that way, across the province that can be distributed to all school divisions in an equal fashion, so that in fact those areas of high industrial and commercial concentration are, in fact, contributing to other school divisions that are not as fortunate in that particular respect.

I believe the Member for Burrows kept referring to Winnipeg and Fort Garry as two of those areas that are blessed in that regard. I have to tell him that those two school divisions are contributing 33 percent of the total Education Support Program in this province, 33 percent of the levy in that particular program. That, of course, is then being handed out to other school divisions in the province who are benefiting from that commercial and industrial assessment that exists in those school divisions. So when the honourable member expresses his apprehensions about the rich getting richer, and the poor getting poorer, I suggest to him that this attempt at equalization addresses that particular fact, and I think is addressing it rather effectively.

One of the, I think, most impressive pieces of information, Mr. Chairman, that we have at this time that can be used in looking at what the new finance

plan has done across the province is to look at the mill rate ranges that existed in this province last year, and look at what has happened to those mill rates this year. Looking at them on a provincial basis, out of a total of 58 school divisions and districts in this province, last year we had only 19 school divisions and districts that had mill rates less than 70 mills — only 19. This year as a result of the new plan, we have some 31 school divisions and districts who have mill rates less than 70 mills, Mr. Chairman.

That's a very dramatic drop and of course, it means that the taxpayers in those particular school divisions, if they have a home assessed at say, \$6,000 and have a mill rate of 60 mills, are looking at a school tax of some \$360, and then, of course, they are eligible for the rebate of \$325.00. Their school taxes in that situation, Mr. Chairman, certainly are not onerous. But I repeat that figure again, it is 31 in that particular range of 70 mills or lower, as compared to 19 last year. I know there are many other specific figures that honourable members will be interested in, and I'd be quite pleased to pursue those, but I wanted to put those figures before honourable members at this time, because I think they give a rather dramatic indication of the impact that the plan has had across this province.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, I note that we're looking at some \$290 million in this particular appropriation, and I wonder if the Minister would give us a breakdown of the figure.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I can get that for the honourable member in a few minutes I believe, if he'd like to pursue some other questions at this time.

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

**MS. WESTBURY:** Mr. Chairperson, I was anxious to get a word in here because I'm asking for a breakdown, too. I would like to ask for a breakdown into the categories as shown on Pages 10 to 12 of the Education Support Program Report of January, 1981. Specifically, and I know that this is something the Minister has and it may be that he will want to bring it to us on Monday, I would like to have a breakdown into these categories with comparisons for last year, please, if that's possible: basic operating support, pupil support, transportation, special needs, high-low one, low incidence two, coordination and clinician, vocational industrial, immigrant student support, print and non-print support. Those for which I'm asking for comparisons to last year are the special needs and the immigrant student support.

Also, Mr. Chairperson, if possible I'd like to have in the same categories, the amount that's going to Winnipeg School Division No. 1. Now I'm not sure if the Minister has that breakdown or not, but if he has, I'd appreciate receiving that as well on Monday. As I said, the categories are on Pages 10 to 12, so he must have had the figures in order to arrive at the total of \$290 million, Mr. Chairperson.

I also wanted to ask the Minister how many special needs students there are in Manitoba and in Winnipeg Division No. 1, according to the three categories of high incidence, low one and low two

incidence, and how those figures compare with last year, and what the department's forecasts are of special needs students to 1984, that being the three-year life of the Educational Support Program, Mr. Chairperson. So I wonder if he could bring us those figures on Monday, please, or now.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I can give the honourable member some of those figures at this time. I don't have all of them with me or, in fact, readily available. I believe she wanted a comparison between last year and this year as to a number of topics.

**MS. WESTBURY:** The comparison between last year and this year was for special needs and immigrant students, please.

**MR. COSENS:** I believe she mentioned transportation as well in her original remarks, but I can give her these figures then at this time. Under the 1980 Foundation Program in transportation, a total of some \$16,254,926; in transportation in 1981, and of course we have increased the grant in that particular area recognizing that costs certainly are increasing as far as fuels are concerned, \$18,826,873.00.

Now in the area of special needs, Mr. Chairman, this becomes a little more difficult to break down at this time, but I can give the honourable member the breakdown for 1981, and then perhaps I can check further information I have here that does correspond in some way. Under the 1981 program first of all, the coordinators and clinicians the new program provides some \$4,488,000.00. In the high incidence area, again we're talking about the support that we would provide to school boards for the hiring of teacher aids, resource people, those who teach occupational entrants, the gifted; in that particular area, \$11,260,000.00. In the low incidence one, again I'm talking of the 1981 program, some \$6,213,000; the low incidence two, \$1,626,000.00. Those are the chief allocations, Mr. Chairman, in that area.

Now to go back to 1980 is a bit of a problem because we don't have corresponding allocations. Here we are. For 1980 then, the coordinators and clinicians, we have the salary expenses of \$4,296,455, this would correspond to the high incidence category in 1981. Support for clinicians and coordinators in 1980 amounted to some \$781,294, as opposed to \$4,488,000 this year, a rather dramatic increase.

In the area of the low incidence and high incidence special grants last year, there was some \$1 million, Mr. Chairman. That corresponds this year to the low incidence one and the low incidence two funding.

In 1980, Mr. Chairman, and this figure may be of interest to the honourable member, the provincial contribution was in the area of \$13,974,149 towards a total provincial cost of \$27,341,728 spent on special education. The provincial contribution last year was about 51 percent, which without checking, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest, was probably the highest amount to that date that the province had contributed towards special education, special needs.

In 1981, under the new program, the provincial contribution is in the neighbourhood of \$32,489,300 towards a total of \$36,604,843 spent on special education, and the provincial contribution then, Mr.

Chairman, becomes 89 percent of the total expenditures on special education in the province. Of course, this is again a very dramatic increase and one of the initiatives of this government that I'm particularly proud of, Mr. Chairman. We have an estimated increase in provincial funding then in 1981 of some \$18,515,151, which is more than double the amount that was provided in 1980.

Now the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge has asked for specific numbers of students, and I regret I don't have those with me at this time, but I certainly will be prepared to provide them for the honourable member as we proceed through the Estimates. There are other sections, of course, within the Estimates that deal with special needs, and we would be quite prepared at that time to perhaps go into that in greater detail. In fact there are three areas, 3.(e) also deals with Special Needs, Child Development Support Services, although that deals more specifically with institutions and the support we provide there. Then when we get into Section 4.(j), Child Development Support Services, we can also examine those numbers at that time, so I will have them for the honourable member when we get down to that particular portion of the Estimates.

Again the specific breakout for Winnipeg No. 1, we will have to go back to Budgets, and I'll ask my officials to provide that particular information.

**MS. WESTBURY:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson, people are going to think that the Honourable Minister is giving me questions to ask, because I really appreciate the figures he gave me and the increases that this government is making towards special needs students. I'd like to congratulate the Minister on that increase. This is not the first time that I unwittingly have asked him questions that he must be delighted to answer, because the answers are favourable to his department.

Mr. Chairperson, we just have one minute to go before the end of the time, and I wanted to remind the Minister that he had asked me to come back in Estimates on some questions I asked in question period, and they are on Pages 1517 and 1518 on Monday.

**MR. COSENS:** School for the Deaf?

**MS. WESTBURY:** No, this was in connection with — I asked him the percentage of the total cost of public school education, how much is to be paid out of property taxes and how that percentage has changed with the recent announcements of the new funding system and the Minister said he didn't have the specifics, but he would get them for his Estimates. Also, how many school divisions will see an increase and how many will see a decrease in the mill rate due to the new funding system.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The hour is now 12:30. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

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

## IN SESSION

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

**MR. KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield, that report of committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE CHANGE**

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

**MR. JENKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a change on the Public Utilities Committee, the Honourable Member for Rossmere in place of the Honourable Member for Selkirk. (Agreed)

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

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Kildonan, that this House do now adjourn.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m. Monday.