

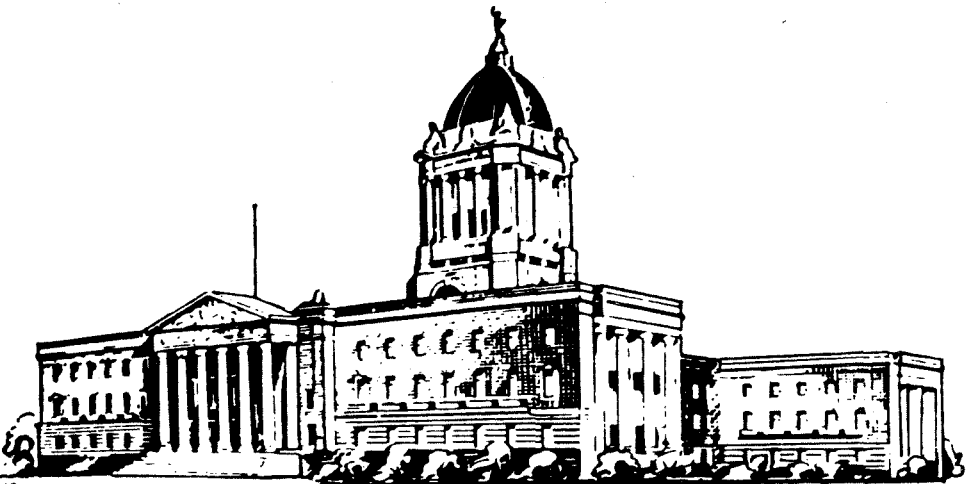


First Session — Thirty-Third Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

35 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Third Legislature**

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

| NAME | CONSTITUENCY | PARTY |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| ASHTON, Steve | Thompson | NDP |
| BAKER, Clarence | Lac du Bonnet | NDP |
| BIRT, Charles T. | Fort Garry | PC |
| BLAKE, David R. (Dave) | Minnedosa | PC |
| BROWN, Arnold | Rhineland | PC |
| BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M. | Gimli | NDP |
| CARSTAIRS, Sharon | River Heights | LIBERAL |
| CONNERY, Edward J. | Portage la Prairie | PC |
| COWAN, Hon. Jay | Churchill | NDP |
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| DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent L. | St. Boniface | NDP |
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| DOWNEY, James E. | Arthur | PC |
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| DUCHARME, Gerry | Riel | PC |
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| ERNST, Jim | Charleswood | PC |
| EVANS, Hon. Leonard S. | Brandon East | NDP |
| FILMON, Gary | Tuxedo | PC |
| FINDLAY, Glen M. | Virde | PC |
| HAMMOND, Gerrie | Kirkfield Park | PC |
| HARAPIAK, Hon. Harry M. | The Pas | NDP |
| HARAPIAK, Hon. Leonard E. | Swan River | NDP |
| HARPER, Hon. Elijah | Rupertsland | NDP |
| HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen | Logan | NDP |
| JOHNSTON, J. Frank | Sturgeon Creek | PC |
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| MALLOWAY, Jim | Elmwood | NDP |
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| OLESON, Charlotte L. | Gladstone | PC |
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| ROCH, Gilles (Gil) | Springfield | PC |
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| WALDING, D. James | St. Vital | NDP |
| WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Hon. Judy | St. Johns | NDP |

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 29 July, 1986.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

MR. CLERK, W. Remnant: It is my duty to inform the House that Madam Speaker is unavoidably absent and would ask the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair, in accordance with the Statutes.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Deputy Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, C. Santos: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . .

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Kildonan.

MR. M. DOLIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Thompson, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we go to Oral Questions, I would like to make an announcement to introduce some students.

The Honourable Elijah Harper wishes to acknowledge the presence of students from the Business Learning Opportunities Program for Native Youth in the gallery. These students are from the different reserves in six-month business development courses.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MTX

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

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System.

I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether he has any information of telecommunications equipment, which may have been landed in Canada by MTX after being sent to Saudi Arabia by an American supplier of MTX and that is currently stored in a bonded warehouse in Winnipeg.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I thank the honourable member for the question.

No, I have no knowledge of the matter that is contained in the question and I will take it as notice and give advice to the House when I have that information.

MR. G. FILMON: If it may be helpful to the Minister, I would ask that he ask specifically about equipment which may be held at Locher Evers International Limited at 115 Paramount Road, having been supplied by Timeplex International Limited.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System.

Can the Minister indicate whether, since its inception in Saudi Arabia, MTX employees or MTX employees seconded to SADL, the 50 percent subsidiary, have ever been arrested by Saudi religious police?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I thank the honourable member for the question.

I, as a result, of the stories that are currently being reported on in the press, have asked for full details and I haven't received those. I assume that I will have all of the background details of any involvements that have occurred and I'll be able to provide that information at committee when we're there.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, would the Minister responsible for MTS as well inquire of the MTX subsidiary the nature of charges, if any, and the nature of penalties, if any, imposed on those employees?

HON. A. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Capital Intentions for Man.- Stats Canada

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Kildonan.

MR. M. DOLIN: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance.

Stats Canada today reported a healthy improvement in the capital investment intentions for 1986 in the revisions for Canada from 4.6 percent to 5.6 percent, which I think bodes very well for this country. I'm wondering if the Minister can advise us as to what the figures are for Manitoba.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Finance.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I thank the member for his question.

I thought it would be of interest to all members and Manitobans in general to learn of the improvement with respect to how Stats Canada views capital intentions for Manitoba.

I am pleased to tell the members and to tell Manitobans that Stats Canada has, as of today, announced a revision upwards in the capital intentions for Manitoba. They now indicate that Manitoba is expected to have a 10.3 percent increase in total capital investment this year, which is an improvement over what they indicated earlier this year in their forecast in January, an improvement from 8.9 percent. It's the second highest, I might add, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in all of Canada.

MR. M. DOLIN: It is my understanding that 4.8 percent increase is government sector increase for Canada. Do these figures hold true for Manitoba? Will the Minister advise what the relationship is between private and public sector investment relating to this increase?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Again, I thank the member for that question. Interestingly enough, the intentions with respect to the private sector across Canada have been revised downward. The Canadian average has been revised downward from 7.4 percent to 7 percent for all Canada. However, in Manitoba, the revision has been upward with respect to private sector investment from 8.8 percent to 10.9 percent for Manitoba.

So, contrary to what members opposite say with respect to private sector investment in Manitoba, it's obvious, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the private sector is showing its concern with respect to Manitoba, and showing that it is providing more investment in Manitoba. We had the very positive announcement yesterday in Carberry with respect to Carnation Food. These figures here prove that the private sector has a great deal of confidence in the future of the Province of Manitoba, and is indicating so by their increased investment activity in Manitoba.

Spillway, opening of re flooding in Sask.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is to either the Minister responsible for Hydro or the Minister of Natural Resources.

Resulting from conversations that I've had with residents in the Grand Rapids area in the northern part of Lake Winnipeg, there is growing concern, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the possible impact of Manitoba Hydro having to use the spillway for the first time in many, many years to accommodate the swollen flood waters of the North Saskatchewan River.

First of all, my question is: Has a decision been made to open a spillway and allow some of this surplus water to be released that way?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Trade and Technology.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'm not sure that the decision has been made to actually use the spillway but Hydro is in the process of attempting to clear the spillway in case it must be used. I understand that the approximate date is about the middle of August.

Spillway, opening of - effect on fishing

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's against House rules to impute any motives to anybody and to do nothing other than accept the Minister's word but I'm apprised and I ask the Minister of Natural Resources that the fishermen in that area have been allowed to use their fall licencings for the catching of commercial fish. It would seem to implicate that the fish biologists, at least, have made the decision that the fisheries could be seriously disrupted, which would seem to imply the decision has been made to use the spillway.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: As I've indicated, there's been a decision taken to attempt to clear the dry river bed in case we need the spillway in order to protect the area. There has not been a decision taken to use the spillway, at least I'm not aware of that decision. In terms of the fishermen, certainly if there are any damages - and there has been some indication that there could be damages if that bed is used - then certainly I would expect that Hydro would be responsible for those damages.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I direct a specific question to the Minister of Natural Resources. Has the Minister and his department authorized the fishermen in that area to use their fall licencing at this time?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. L. HARAPIUK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not aware that a decision of that nature has been made but I will check with departmental staff and report to this Chamber.

Limestone project - hiring of non-union members

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, another question to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro.

Some time ago, I asked the Minister with respect to the hiring practices on the Limestone Project. It would now appear that only unionized workers are allowed to apply for a job. The stats that I have for June 5 indicate that as few as three or four, and only in specialized cases have there been non-union workers allowed to apply for work at Limestone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that clearly indicates that it is contrary to the policy that this government has put out in all their brochures with respect to job opportunities at Limestone which says clearly that the collective agreement also requires that all workers employed on the construction project become members of appropriate unions within 30 days of being hired.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, people like Roy Svenson, whom I raised . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the member have a question?

MR. H. ENNS: . . . are being asked to put up \$300 or \$400 union fees in cash in advance before they can get a job. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want the Minister to confirm whether or not that is the practice or whether Manitobans have an opportunity of getting a job at Limestone and then complying with the collective agreement and perhaps joining whatever appropriate union that has to be; but not being precluded from job applications simply because they don't have a union membership.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Trade and Technology.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The procedure as indicated, has been that first preference on that site is for northern Natives who are qualified. The second preference is for Northerners. After that it gets down to the same kinds of preferences, as I understand it, as have traditionally been the case since the Kettle Rapids development. There have been longstanding agreements with the trade unions involved. I'm not aware of any specific changes we have made to that, other than the Native Northern Hiring Clause which the Leader of the Opposition said he would change during the election campaign. That's the only change I'm aware of. It is a change we think is very important. It has ensured the hiring of hundreds of northern Native Manitobans and we're pleased to see that is happening. We're doing our best to make sure more of it will happen.

MR. H. ENNS: Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister responsible for Hydro has studiously avoided from answering a fairly straightforward question. Can a Manitoban, like Mr. Roy Svenson, from Moosehorn, Manitoba apply for a job at Limestone without being a member of a union at this time?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have indicated I'm not aware of any changes with respect to hiring, other than those I've enunciated, since the Roblin days in terms of the hiring of people to go on to that particular site. I said I will — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the — (Interjection) — We've got this member here, the Native Affairs critic for the Conservative Party, asking for a Western Manitoba preference for potash. That's the kind of nonsense we're getting from this group, who just a few months ago, were saying in this House it wasn't true they opposed the Native northern hiring policies during the election campaign when they had candidates in the North and, indeed, their leader opposing our policy during the election campaign.

It is working. The Leader of the Opposition says it isn't working; it is working to a far greater extent than it ever has in the past. We have exponentially more northern Natives working there, and we're very proud of that fact.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside with a supplementary.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the same Minister. This same Mr. Svenson had no difficulty in

getting jobs at Kettle, at Long Spruce in the other years under the same terms of the agreement. It is under this government that is paying its debt off to organized labour that funds this party with hundreds of thousands of dollars that gets away with putting this kind of propaganda which allows Manitoba to think they can get a job, and then is paying off to their political cronies, organized labour. That's what's happening here, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm pleased to see we have the energy critic very clearly on the record now as saying that what they want is everything to be as in the past. Let's have only those people who worked in the past on that site working there now. Those people should have first call on the job; to heck with the northern Natives. They're saying, let's have all those people back here, all those people who had the advantage of that employment, the experience, the payroll and that sort of thing, all of that stuff should be just like in the past and forget the northern Natives; that's what he's saying.

Manitoba Hydro - Native employment re Limestone

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Labour to comment on the fact that the recent award presented to Manitoba Hydro for its Native hiring practice has been denounced as a sham and an insult to Native groups. Is that the kind of rewards that this government and this Department of Labour is proud of?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: In fact it was Manitoba Natives who suggested the award to that group and it was Manitoba Natives who applauded that award and it was for Manitoba Natives that we have been going ahead with the kinds of policies we are into right now.

The Conservatives have not recognized the existence of the award until today. You do have one or two people who say they're not sure we should have the award just yet or that we deserve it, because we haven't done enough; but we have at least three times, four times as many northern Natives working on that site than we have ever had at a hydro-electric site in the past and that demonstrates the accomplishments of this government to date and we have said, we are doing our best to improve.

Manitoba Beef Commission - deadline extension re reduction in support levels

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture.

On July 3, the letter sent by the Manitoba Beef Commission to all of its contract holders required producers to make a choice for voluntary reduction in support price.

The letter contained figures only on the premiums a producer would be paying and did not contain the

corresponding support levels that would apply to each premium. In the past 24 hours I've had a phone call from an ag rep, an auction mart manager, two Manitoba Cattle Producers Association directors and they're all saying that the farmers are now starting to ask a lot of questions as the deadline of July 31 approaches. They are confused; they do not have enough information to make the decision and they're having extreme difficulty in making the proper price comparisons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question to the Minister of Agriculture is: Is he now prepared to help farmers make this important decision by giving them an opportunity for more time to make the decision by extending the deadline from July 31 to at least August 15 and, preferably, August 25?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question.

I believe that there are, no doubt, producers who wish to seek advice and information about what choices they have and calculations and they are contacting our staff; and I know that the Beef Commission is monitoring the situation.

But the accuracy of what the honourable member indicates about confusion, the confusion I would suggest, rests in the mind of my honourable friend. The letter clearly indicates - and I don't have the letter in front of me - that the reduction in premiums — (Interjection) — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry says, is that what I think of farmers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, farmers are much more intelligent than some members on the opposite side.

The letter that the member makes reference to clearly indicates that the reduction in support is \$7.50 per cwt across the board and the farmers can clearly make those calculations for - and I approximate the figures and I'm going from memory - that for an approximate reduction from 5 percent to 8 percent in support level, depending on which level the farmer is in, with a corresponding reduction from 25 percent to 33 percent in the premiums is what the decision is all about, or increase the premiums as is shown on the accompanying column. There is no confusion that exists, but there's no doubt that farmers may want some assistance to see what the impact of those calculations may be on their own returns. The Commission is monitoring that situation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, given the fact the Minister has mentioned the \$7.50 reduction, from what I will ask him? There's no mention in the letter about reduction from what and that's what the farmers are asking.

If the Commission can justify the position they've taken and the decision they've made, is he prepared to ask them to have a round of meetings in rural Manitoba to explain it to the contract holders?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand the Commission is dealing with the farmers as the calls come in. There are calls that are in and, as I've indicated,

the Commission is monitoring the situation and if there is need to extend the time or create another window in terms of opportunity for farmers who fail to meet the deadline, that decision the Commission is prepared to do, but at the present time, the replies are coming in and decisions are being made.

I will ask the Commission to ascertain how many replies have come in; how many decisions have been made; and to see whether or not there should be an extension in the deadline.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Is the Minister prepared to ask the Commission to put together a flow sheet of all the different price comparisons for different market prices so the producer can project into the future what his potential income will be, given one alternative versus the other.

Further to that will the Minister tell us when he's prepared to make this decision about extension of the deadline?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, making projections on beef prices is one thing that virtually no economist anywhere has been able to project. In fact, we would not be facing the kind of deficit in the program we have today had some of the projections that were being made come true. They have not been, that's been the difficulty in trying to project what the marketplace would do when, in fact, the marketplace has not been able to return the kind of returns that producers need. As a result, those kinds of support prices have had to be made by the government through the Commission.

There is no doubt that clearly the support level at which the choice is being made is, as of today, support level. Whatever the support level is at the Commission to date, the September 1 change will be \$7.50 per cwt less than today's support level. There is no magic in the calculation the member finds so confusing, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Virden on a final supplementary.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Yes, a final supplementary.

I'd like the Minister to inform us as to how many calls the Beef Commission has had on this very question?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will check with the Commission and provide the information for my honourable friend, as well as get the information as to how many have already returned their questionnaires and made their decision.

I know, as of the beginning of last week, several hundred had already returned their letters, as of last week, but I don't have the up-to-date figures today, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Venture Capital Program - status of company called Airflow

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

To the Minister of Business Development, Venture Capital Company No. 65066 has been out of business for over a year. It had invested in a company called Air Flow which went into receivership. On July 14, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister, in Estimates, cited Air Flow as a success. Is that department totally confused and incompetent, or did the Minister misinform the committee?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would have to say to the member opposite I'll have to review Hansard and see what it says. Certainly, there is no intention to either mislead or - I can't read from here even with my glasses. There's certainly no intention to mislead or misinform.

As I recall, we were able and prepared to provide more information on Venture Capital Programs on those people who had invested, and the companies they had invested in, than had ever been provided in this House before due to regulation changes we had made which allowed full disclosure. So, I made that information and a list of all of the companies to the member of the Opposition and to the critic, and would certainly regret if there was a slip in communicating during Estimates, but I will attempt to clear that up as quickly as possible.

MR. E. CONNERY: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the article, Mr. Don Roy, president of the new firm, said that other investments caused the financial difficulty of Air Flow. Does the department do an adequate job of investigating that public money is properly invested, or was the money used for purposes other than what it was intentionally designed to?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, yes, certainly we do what I believe is an adequate check before we approve the companies. When you're working in a program which is designed to help give capital money to businesses that might not ordinarily be able to get it, then clearly you are in a higher risk category than normal business ventures; that's the way the program is designed. So, we take all the precautions necessary to do the checking on the companies prior to funding.

I mentioned the regulations that we brought in, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and, of course, one of the reasons for bringing in the regulation changes was to improve the monitoring and control after the programs have been funded; that we wanted to make sure we had all of the controls to check the books whenever we wanted; to check the companies to get all the information that we needed to make sure that, after the awards were made, they conformed to the full nature of the award.

MR. E. CONNERY: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's quite obvious the department is not competent as it wasn't able to set up the proper guidelines. There were two companies which were being investigated . . .

Venture Capital Program - review of companies re fraud

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the member have a supplementary question?

MR. E. CONNERY: Yes. There were two companies being investigated for fraud. Have these investigations been concluded?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are presently two companies that are in the process of being reviewed by the Attorney-General's Department and I expect to have information on those two companies in the fairly near future.

I do think it's important to say though that while the member is raising some questions and concerns about a couple of the companies that have had some problems and difficulties, that the record of the Venture Capital Program, in general, has been excellent. It has generated \$14 million of investment in the Province of Manitoba - 9 million of it private investment in the companies.

It has created 1,000 jobs, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which would not have been created if we had not had those companies. It has 67 Venture Capitals and somewhere in the range of 37 or 38 businesses which are being supported by this program.

Versatile Manufacturing Co.- work sharing

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Technology. Could he inform the House or confirm that the office staff of Versatile have gone on a work-sharing arrangement with reduced hours?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Trade and Technology.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: I'm not exactly sure as to the current situation. There have been a number of reductions in staff. I'll take it as notice and get back to you.

Versatile Manufacturing Co.- John Deere's proposal to buy

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a question for the Premier.

Over a month ago, he indicated he had written to the president of John Deere to express the concern of the province in the hope they would continue with the acquisition of Versatile. Could the Premier indicate whether he has received a response to that letter and what the position of John Deere is?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the John Deere Company has informed the government they are still interested in the acquisition. As the member knows, they're not able to complete the acquisition because of United States laws. We're still waiting for the Justice Department to determine that an adequate search has been done, but John Deere has indicated to the Government of Manitoba they are still interested in purchasing, but they've also made it very clear it would be under new terms and conditions, given the changed circumstances.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the Minister indicating that John Deere wish to renegotiate all the details of the original agreement with Versatile in the event the Department of Justice approves the transaction?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the original agreement had a termination date at the end of June of 1986. There is now no agreement. That was why we were hoping the Justice Department would move back. In the middle of June, John Deere was telling us, in writing, that they were certainly prepared to take it on. Yes, that's a possibility. That's a very serious possibility, and the Justice Department could have told them three months before that, in March, that they had 90 days, and they could have done their search and we could have had the company sold. It was the American rules. After we hear all these things about Investment Canada and FIRA, it was American rules that prevented that original sale from being completed, not anything here in Canada, not anything with Investment Canada or indeed under the predecessor, FIRA, but rather the United States.

Homosexuals - legislation re discrimination

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a new question for the Attorney-General, although I do it with some reluctance because, in response to a straightforward question yesterday, he got up and called it a "cheap, political shot." Although people with communist backgrounds may have some difficulty accepting the democratic process . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the member have a question?

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask the Attorney-General - six years ago he indicated to the constituents of Fort Rouge that he would bring in legislation to ban discrimination against homosexuals - does he intend to bring in that legislation at this Session?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: The Member for St. Norbert knows full well every bill that is being introduced in this Session, and he is asking the question knowing that there are no amendments to The Human Rights Act being introduced in this Session. I take it that he's asking the question only in order to have provided himself a platform for the premise.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the Attorney-General waiting for someone else to announce a position before he indicates a position on this matter too?

Folklorama pavilions - access for handicapped

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

Among the grants administered by the Minister's department is one to the Folk Arts Council who sponsor our wonderful Folklorama program. Of the 39 pavilions announced yesterday, only five are fully accessible to the handicapped through ramps and bathrooms. An additional 15 are partially acceptable, and 19 will have no participation by those who, through no fault of their own, cannot stand up for Manitoba. Will the Minister investigate and, if necessary, provide additional funding in order for a study to be done by the Folk Arts Council which will promote this kind of accessibility?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Culture.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'd like to thank the Member for River Heights for bringing that matter to my attention. It is certainly a matter that I will look into and talk over with the Folk Arts Council. However, it should be noted that the Folk Arts Council is an arm's length organization to the government and, therefore, bound by decisions of its board of directors.

However, I think that there are programs and suggestions which that organization can take advantage of, and I will engage in discussions with the Folk Arts Council to find ways to ensure that all pavilions are accessible to the disabled.

Folklorama pavilions - Handi-Transit for handicapped

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, a new question to the Department of Highways, the Minister.

The Minister, I know, is monitoring closely the new changes that have been made under The Taxi Board Act which have put Handi-Transit vehicles underneath the Taxi Board and appear, at least to date, to be limiting the amount of accessibility to the handicapped. Would he, in conjunction with the Minister of Community Services, look into the lack of accessibility of Handi-Transit to Folklorama, and use the influence of his office to encourage them to provide that type of vehicle through that festival?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Transportation.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no direct responsibility for Handi-Transit. The Minister of Urban Affairs provides the funding through appropriations to the City of Winnipeg, so that would be the appropriate place to direct that question, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Bridge, North Selkirk

HON. J. PLOHMAN: While I'm on my feet though, I would like to provide an answer to a question that was asked by the Member for Pembina last week involving landowners affected by the Selkirk Bridge. He'd asked about settlements with the owners that were affected, and I want to indicate to the House that eight of 13 landowners who are directly affected by the bridge in the east approaches have had an advance payment made to them without prejudice to the final settlement. So eight have received advance payments. There have been two finalized settlements out of the 13, and the remainder, as well as the ones who have had advance payments, are in discussions at various stages of finalization.

I also wanted to provide some further clarification with regard to the cost of the bridge for the record, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It had been indicated by the Member for Pembina that the final estimates were some \$19.6 million for the bridge. The latest estimates are \$18.9 million. This is for an 850-metre bridge with a 60-foot clearance. The original estimates were - and I should indicate this is contrary to what I believed during the Estimates. The original estimates were for 10.3 million for a 400 to 450-metre bridge, which is half the length, and only a 38-foot clearance.

This is to accommodate the federal Navigable Waters Act Board's requirements, the federal dredge and sailboats in the area, that the bridge had to be higher and now is consequently twice as long. The department was not aware of these requirements at the time they gave the initial estimate which was, as I indicated, 10.3 million for the bridge as well as the approach roads to that bridge.

Folklorama pavilions - Handi-Transit for handicapped

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for River Heights, a final supplementary.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Since the Minister of Highways wasn't able to answer the question, despite interviews to the contrary in which he indicated he really did care about handicapped transit, could I refer the question please to the Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. G. DOER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I understand the question, is the Handi-Transit available for Folklorama in the evening? Is that the specific question, just so I have it?

We do fund the Handi-Transit with the City of Winnipeg. We contribute to their funding, along with a lot of the other funding for the deficit in the public transit system in Winnipeg. I'm certainly prepared to discuss that with the City of Winnipeg, who has the direct responsibility of administering that program. I'm sure they would be equally concerned with us in terms of that lack of service, and I'll certainly raise it with the city.

Natural Resources, Dept. of - disclosure of Ombudsman's Report

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Natural Resources.

In January, the Ombudsman undertook to investigate various charges in the administrative level in the Department of Natural Resources. Can the Minister indicate whether he has that report and, if so, whether he will table it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am in receipt of that report. I am, as well, awaiting a report from the Auditor in which some other matters that were alleged to have taken place by the Member for Emerson will be addressed. When both those reports are in, I will then be making some determination as to the appropriate means for communicating the results of both those reports.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY HOUSE BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, first on a matter of House Business, the Committee of Public Utilities and Natural Resources completed its review so it will not be meeting on Thursday to consider MPIC. I'll have discussions with the Opposition House Leader, and inform the House accordingly as to what other committee might be held at that time or, if in fact, a standing committee may be held.

I move that Mr. Deputy 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, seconded by the Minister of Labour. It's my understanding that there is an inclination on the part of all members of the House to forego Private Members' Hour and to continue on with Estimates straight through till 5:30.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Health; and the Honourable Member for Kildonan in the Chair for the Department of Education.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, M. Dolin: The committee will come to order.

We are dealing with the Education Estimates, Page 51, Resolution 49, 4. Program Development Support

Services, 4.(a) Division Administration - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering, if we're supposed to go through this line by line, but there may be some crossing over because of such things as curriculum and that may have application in more than one spot. So, if the chairman would permit perhaps some latitude, we'll try and stick to the regular schedule. But the nature of the topics discussed may involve us moving back and forth a little bit, so if the Chairman would be so kind to permit a little bit of latitude in going through this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are renowned for our reasonableness.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know you are and I appeal to your better side; and I see I succeeded in the argument. Thank you.

In the preamble, there is reference made - am I not speaking loud enough? It says: "Additional means are available for teacher upgrading." This is in the preamble of Section 4. Could the Minister advise what teaching upgrading he is referring to?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, no, that refers to a couple of different things. No. 1, part of the quality of education initiatives includes the upgrading and retraining, if you will, of teachers to be consistent with the new curriculums as they are being introduced and upgraded in addition to those activities which will be part of the next year. There are also in-service activities, the department's role in providing those support services, consultants to participate in workshops, that kind of thing.

MR. C. BIRT: The reason I'm asking there is, after that phrase, "teacher upgrading or other special things, such as in-service training, instructional media, educational television," things like this, is there a specified or specific program or series of programs in the department dealing exclusively with upgrading and, if so, where would we find it?

HON. J. STORIE: No, there is no specific allocation. Obviously, within the department, within this branch, there are many different specialists and individuals who provide special services. Depending on the need, the requests from school divisions, we tend to respond in an ad hoc way to their requests in some respects.

Apart from our own initiatives, as I've said, the science area, the initiative that will be undertaken in terms of the upgrading for Family Life training, for Family Life teachers, support we provide through other departments, drawing in personnel, for example, the Department of Health; so we serve as a coordinating function, as well as providing specialist and consultative services directly.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister made reference to the new curriculums that are coming out. He referred specifically to the sex education course, but is it the policy of the

department, when they're developing new courses, before they're released, that the teachers are given their upgrading as it relates to these new courses or is it done afterwards?

HON. J. STORIE: I guess there's a mix. There's an expectation that the curriculum will be changing, but by and large the new curriculum is introduced. There is some lead time to do some upgrading, recognizing that the changes tend to be in specific areas where we've identified or others have identified weaknesses that there's not a complete and substantive change in each of the revisions. It tends to be in specific areas where we've identified weaknesses.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, moving onto a new area, the Minister and I and others have had a debate about tests in the department and whether or not tests should be conducted. I note there is reference to the General Education Development test. I'm wondering if the Minister could advise exactly what this is.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. The GED test is something that was introduced some 10, 12, 15 years ago, something that is used by a number of different jurisdictions.

Essentially what it is, is an equivalency test which allows an individual without, say, high school certificate, to prepare, write a test which gives an indication of general equivalency in terms of grade. I believe there are between 600 and 800 individuals a year take what is called the GED test and come away with a grade equivalency rating for purposes of attendance at community colleges, at universities, or just for their own personal satisfaction.

MR. C. BIRT: Are there other general proficiency or school division tests that are carried on by the department?

HON. J. STORIE: These aren't school division tests; these are tests that are offered by the department across Canada and, while they are I guess written in schools in most instances, I'm informed that the tests themselves are produced and written on a North American basis, so they're not unique to Manitoba but they were introduced in Manitoba sometime in the early Seventies, I believe.

MR. C. BIRT: All of that information just relates to the GED test that the Minister was referring to, I take it. Okay. What I'm talking about is I believe there is some occasional testing done and it's on a rotational basis by the department. You do it for Mathematics, English Literature, that sort of thing. Could the Minister advise what it is?

HON. J. STORIE: I believe the member is probably talking about the curriculum assessment. Really, we see that there's a division of responsibility between school divisions, schools, teachers and the department.

While schools take the prime responsibility for individual student assessment, the department has the responsibility for curriculum assessment. Basically what that means is making sure that the objectives we set

out for the curriculum are being achieved. In other words, if we assume that a student in Grade 5 will know this and this and this at the end of Grade 5, then we need to know whether the curriculum - obviously it doesn't operate independently of what goes on in the classroom and the ability of the teacher and so forth - but we want to know whether there's improvement, whether the curriculum is actually achieving its objectives. So, since 1979 I believe, the province has conducted a series of test assessments of the curriculum.

The first one was initiated in May of 1979, with an assessment of writing skills in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12. That was followed by Reading in 1980; Science in late 1980; Mathematics in 1981; Chemistry in 1981; Health in 1982; a reassessment of writing in May, 1982; Art in 1983; Music in 1983; Social Studies in 1984; Reading again in 1985; and Science in 1986.

MR. C. BIRT: I take it then, from what the Minister just gave, these aren't done on an annual basis, but on a rotational basis. Is that correct?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Perhaps the Minister could advise why they're done on a rotational basis and why not on an annual basis and have them all done at the same time.

HON. J. STORIE: I gather there's essentially two reasons. No. 1, is cost and time for administration and also assessment, analysis time, in terms of the staff; and, secondly, is of course the testing requires student time. A battery of tests at a given time can be pretty disruptive, so a decision was made to stagger it. It also gives the department a much more appropriate time frame within which to analyse the information and start adapting the curriculum prior to the next set of testings.

MR. C. BIRT: Were these tests developed by the department or as a result of initiatives started by the department, or are they imported from outside the province?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the assessment implements, the instruments are created in Manitoba by a group of, I guess, staff and outside consultants.

While I'm at that point, I would indicate that the Member for Fort Garry asked whether the department, in fact, had any consultants. I can indicate that there has been one in this area, and he was contracted to do the development of appropriate questions for testing in the mathematics area. The total sum of the contract was some \$23,000 for eight separate tasks.

MR. C. BIRT: Could we have the name of the individual who did that study.

HON. J. STORIE: The name is Dr. Lars Jansson.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister said that the department created the instruments. Is he referring to the formation of the tests, or is it the content going into the tests? In other words, did the department create the total test material?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. C. BIRT: One of the concerns expressed by parents about the public school system is that they feel that there is a lack of quality in the school system. A great number of people are attempting to do a great number of things. A lot of money is being poured in it, but parents feel that the system itself is failing them and their children. Whether it's a real or an apparent thing, it's a concern, and I think it's something that has to be addressed.

I'm wondering if the Minister has had a chance to consider these concerns and what steps, if any, he has thought of trying to alleviate these concerns.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, I would want to put on the record that, while there are concerns and I believe legitimate concerns, the overall impression of the public with respect to the public school system is generally positive, particularly the public school system - and I separate that from the high school system. The view is that the school system is doing an adequate to good job, but of course there are exceptions. There are individual concerns and there are specific concerns about parts of the educational system.

I guess the last couple of years, and I include 1986, as a year where the Department of Education has, and will be, undertaking a number of initiatives that I believe are designed to improve the system and I think we're taking a somewhat new approach in that.

I've indicated before in the House that, for example, the quality of education initiatives, which see for the first time the addressing of problems from an inter-organizational perspective. I use only as an example - and I have previously - the idea of in-servicing. I use the issue of in-servicing in which parents, teachers, the public have a perception of what in-servicing should be about; what it is about; and we, for the first time, got to the three major organizations and the university to sit down - I'm talking about MAST, MTS and the Superintendents - to sit down and address the question of in-servicing from a collective perspective.

What are the issues in in-servicing that need to be addressed? What are the problems with in-servicing as it's currently being delivered? Where is there room for improvement? It seems to me that that way of addressing the problems, whether it be in-servicing; whether it be student assessment; whether it be parental involvement; is going to be much more successful than, either the Department of Education unilaterally making pronouncements, or one or other of the groups perceiving an opportunity to make some progress. So the quality of education initiatives which cover those topics and others, I think, is one way of addressing the public concern about the nature of the education that their children are getting.

The second way - and I reference this as well - is the question of the high school review of the surveys that I have seen; the public surveys that have been produced by others, I believe that the most concern rests with the high school system, its adequacy in terms of not only academics, but perhaps more even the question of readiness for the work force, university, post-secondary education, whatever. I believe that the high school review is going to address the question of

curriculum in the high school, the question of the priorities that the system should have, and it's going to address, I hope in a public way, the concerns about the system generally that are out there.

So those two initiatives, I think, should deal with many of the concerns that have been expressed by parents and groups over the next year. That's a couple of things.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, currently the number of school divisions offering the CTBS, is a yardstick or an attempt to understand how their students are faring and how their school divisions are faring. But the inadequacy, as I understand it, of this type of testing is that it relates to perhaps a culture base or a different lifestyle in another part of Canada or in the United States. Therefore, it may not be truly valid.

There is also a concern that some form of either departmental exams or some uniform testing of skills be done to try and determine whether or not the educational system is functioning as it should and also to identify areas of weakness so that they can be reinforced.

Has the department contemplated developing its own curriculum base testing for all classes or at least even for the high school and to do it on an annual basis province-wide where it would be developed solely by people in Manitoba based on Manitoba curriculum and the educational system to try and find out just how the system is delivering its services to the children and how the children are in fact receiving the educational experience?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I would again like to separate the issues of student assessment from curriculum. I know that they are not completely independent, but I think the Curriculum Assessment Program, which identifies, I believe there are four separate areas within the assessment, it's facts and knowledge, processes and skills, - what's the other one? Anyway, there are four separate aspects to the assessment that goes on in the curriculum so that we know whether, in fact, Grade 6 students know when Canada became a country or when Confederation occurred; that kind of factual information. We know what percentage of students has that kind of information. So that's the kind of assessment that goes on. That will help us to address the curriculum problems, to make sure that what we want students to know by way of knowledge, skills and attitudes are, in fact, being learned, and so that's what the assessment program is.

(Mr. Deputy Chairman, D. Scott, in the Chair.)

What we're coming to now, we're coming to a stage where, in fact, the initial process of the assessment has taken place. We now have a data base of where students stood with respect to their knowledge and so forth in reading, in science, in mathematics.

The second test will tell us in comparative terms, it will allow us to compare with where we were several years ago in the curriculum and whether the improvements we've made, the changes we've made have actually had any impact, the knowledge, the attitude, the skills, whatever. Have they been significantly improved by the modifications to the curriculum? It's a slow process, but it provides some

continuity and obviously is a manageable form for changing the curriculum.

The question of basic skills - I guess there are some disadvantages to standardized basic skills tests and I point out that the curriculum assessment is made in Manitoba, the issues of assessment are developed and issues are raised through the questions, the design of the assessment instrument, so it is made in Manitoba. It reflects very much what is going on in the classroom.

The member pointed out in his preamble that there are some legitimate concerns about the validity of basic skills testing that is to some extent culturally based, to the extent that the materials themselves are not produced in Canada or in Manitoba. They may introduce or skew the results. So there are problems.

Having said that, the basic skill tests are useful to individual teachers for assessment about progress about individual students, but not so much about the appropriateness or inappropriateness of curriculum per se or the entire school program.

MR. C. BIRT: The unfortunate part of the curriculum tests is that they take so long, they only apply in a limited area, and it's almost as if you're looking backwards. I think the important thing is, especially now as we have sort of a static student base, we have a fair amount of money going into the educational system, that the tools are in place or will be put in place to ensure that the students are really benefiting to the best of their ability. A lot of well-meaning people think they know what the answer is, but there is no yardstick or measuring device in which to relate it to.

I don't advocate testing or exams just to show that Johnny did better than Peter or something like this. It seems to me that these should be as a useful tool in helping to improve the system. In fact, that is the principle being used in your curriculum tests. All I'm saying is, it may be difficult, it may require some additional resources.

But it strikes me that a school division should know whether or not it's measuring up to norm or to the one next to it. If there are students moving in and out, why are they moving in and out? Is it because of lack of programming? Is it lack of delivery skills? I think it's important that the students be given every opportunity.

Now whether this is done through tests or departmental exams or a combination of both, I would agree that departmental exams shouldn't be the sole criteria in judging a student or the system on it, but I think people want the best from the system for the children.

I can appreciate that the Minister is attempting to go part-way along in trying to get some handle on the value of the system as far as curriculum is concerned, but there's a much bigger issue out there. There are some 200,000 students that we should be getting a handle on.

It seems to me we can recognize perhaps cultural areas, whether they be Northern, the centre of the city, things like this, that may impact to a degree, but even those people it seems to me, especially Northern students who may be from isolated communities, to make sure that when they get a mark or a diploma, in fact, that diploma will allow them entrance or give them access to some specific area down in the City

of Winnipeg or in Brandon, that they're not in fact thinking they've got Grade 12 when they've only got a Grade 10 or Grade 9 standing.

So it seems to me these testing mechanisms would be of benefit to all people just not as some people would say, it would only prove that people in suburbia are brighter and they're better and everything else like this, so I would urge the Minister to look seriously at expanding this whole area, additional testing, skill testing, and perhaps even look at this question of departmental exams, and to give it a try because without trying - and if it doesn't work, fine, we'll look at something else. But to just say that the curriculum tests are the only way to go, I don't share that point of view. I think that we should ensure that our children are getting the best that we can give them.

HON. J. STORIE: I guess two things: No. 1, I think it would be a mistake to assume that schools within a division are not reviewing both the results of that division in terms of the curriculum assessment and in terms of student achievement on basic skill tests, whether it's the Canadian Test of Basic Skills or the Canadian Achievement Test. The fact that administration obviously has the information and, I believe, will be by a vast majority doing the kinds of comparisons, doing the kind of assessment on an individual student basis that the member is referring to, to see where there are weaknesses.

I think the concern that has been raised is a legitimate one, and I can only reference the results that were reported in the paper about the CTBS scores coming from Winnipeg 1. I think a further analysis of those would show that there have been some areas of improvement and the school division and school board, while acknowledging that they had not paid as much attention to it as they should, it is a source of information. School divisions can use it. Between administrations when superintendents meet, I don't have any doubt that there is a reference of material, a sharing of material, the expectations, the experiences of students within those divisions.

So the information that's accumulated by the basic skills tests can be used for different purposes as well, other than simply assessing an individual student. It can give you an indication of how a grade level is achieving in a specific skill area, how a classroom is achieving and how an individual is achieving. But it should be recognized within that, that the purpose was to test individual skills. I think teachers do use that information.

It is being put to use, and there is no doubt in my mind that we are producing a better quality of student in 1986 than we ever have been before. I point out that Socrates lamented in the year whatever that the school system was failing our kids. That cry has been heard in every generation, and I don't think the results of our progress to date would indicate that that's the case. Certainly my contact with students in the school system tell me that they're better informed, they're more highly motivated, they're achieving more academically and otherwise than ever before.

So while we want to improve the system, I don't think it needs the kind of jolt that the member perhaps does or that some people seem to. I believe it needs

thoughtful, careful, progressive improvement. I think the department has been on that course for a number of years and will be, at least at the public school level, for the next couple. If there are to be dramatic changes, I would expect that they will come about as a result of the High School Review and a change in emphasis on the part of society as a whole in terms of what we expect from our high schools.

MR. C. BIRT: Two issues with what the Minister has said, one being that when you get the Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Winnipeg, you get people at the University of Manitoba, you get similar comments coming from the technical schools that the product coming out of the high school system is inadequate to today's norms; that money, resources are required and, in fact, needed to upgrade the students, to give them a basic understanding, to allow them to graduate. It seems to me that the system is not providing the type of education that is required and this may apply throughout.

I would agree that a number of the students coming out today are better informed, wider knowledge, things like this, but when they start coming to the hard crunch as to meeting the assignments, passing the tests, trying to get a diploma, a degree or a certificate, whatever, they are having some problems. The institutions who are supposed to be educating them, in fact, are finding that they're coming up short and, in order to give them an opportunity, are in fact having to give them some upgrading skills. So I don't think the system is as cheerful as the Minister would like us to believe.

But the second thing about this so-called general sharing of the knowledge, in fact that is not correct, as it may be done to some degree on a voluntary basis of the results of these tests. But it's the department that sets the standards; it's the department that devises policy; and it's the department that allocates resources.

If the department was in control of developing its own tests and would use them province-wide, it could then assess school divisions on a fair basis and, where it is found wanting because of whatever, they could then move in specific programs to help them, just as the Minister's department has done for the inner core, in trying to address the specific concerns in that particular area, the same type of approach could be taken.

I think it requires leadership from the departmental point of view, and not perhaps general sharing of some knowledge on an informal basis at some convention. A fair amount of money is available in the system; we have to make sure it's going to the right spot. So I don't share the Minister's point of view that everything is okay and there will be no dramatic change.

I think if you're looking at the high school curriculum, in particular, that you should be looking at this aspect of it as well. Don't throw it out of hand; consider it. There may be some better way in which you can bring about a guarantee that a person graduating out of Grade 12 is, in fact, getting a good education.

So I would ask the Minister that it be included in the high school curriculum review and, if not there, at least have the department review it and test it, give it a chance, see. It might work; it might surprise you.

HON. J. STORIE: I don't want to get into a debate about the appropriateness or inappropriateness of

provincial exams. I think it has been tried in Manitoba; it has been tried in other jurisdictions and despite the fact that Alberta has indicated, I believe, that they were reintroducing provincial exams, I'm not sure that they have to date, because of a lot of the concerns that were raised again about the adequacy of provincial exams.

The member referenced, and I think if you think through carefully the implications of provincial exams, you recognize that really what you're encouraging is a static system, rather than one that progresses and changes. Provincial exams, certainly the way they were used, encouraged that kind of static system, a reluctance I guess to change, as teachers from year to year geared up for the same set of exams on the same questions, on the same issues.

There are many other shortcomings which I'm sure the member - I'm assuming the member was raised in Manitoba - will recall. The second issue, I think it's overly simplistic and incorrect to suggest that there is a vast number of students attending our universities, going through our universities, who are having difficulties with any of the basis skills. The fact is that there are some. I think that reflects more a deliberate and progressive action on the part of this government, and some previous progressive administrations, to improve accessibility.

It is no longer the top 10 percent of our students who are going to university. It is now some 35 percent, I believe the latest figures are, of our high school graduates ending up in post-secondary institutions. So it is not the elitist kind of network it once was.

Of course that means that there are going to be students with less than ideal qualifications and there have been attempts by universities, although markedly few, attempts to deal with - I mean markedly few, in terms of numbers, have been required to upgrade skills.

The member referenced earlier the course that's to be offered, or is intending to be offered as a credit course, a half-credit course at the University of Manitoba. I understand that the reference there is a writing course that really is to assist students in dealing with new technology, that we're talking about a course which addresses the technological needs, I suppose, jargon, whatever, all of those other things, rather than a course to upgrade the skills per se. That was not the original intention.

I certainly have not heard any cry from the university presidents that this is somehow an overwhelming problem. I believe that the vast majority of our students attending universities are attending with the appropriate skill levels and achieving appropriately.

MR. C. BIRT: I think the Minister misses the point. Accessibility to higher education has been there for years and years, if not decades. There's a higher number of kids attending, I agree, but if the Minister is suggesting, by increasing accessibility, that one must water down standards, I find it difficult to accept that theory but, in fact, that's what he was advocating.

What I've been suggesting all the way through is that the public school system makes sure that every student that graduates from it has the basic skills to allow them to pursue whatever course they wish. There's no guarantee in today's world that, in fact, is in question.

You didn't have the remedial programs that they have in the institutions today, some 20 or 30 years ago. You didn't have the cry for an inadequate system, so I think the Minister is missing the point on this issue.

However, to get on an area of more specific concern, the Minister has announced a high school review as a potential solution to some of the concerns facing the high school, and I'm wondering, on February 7, 1986, there was a press release announced saying that a high school review has been instituted. Can the Minister advise if, in fact, the review committee has now been put into place?

HON. J. STORIE: I just wanted to deal with a couple of the comments made by the member previously, and that is the question of remedial courses being offered at post-secondary education institutions.

The number of students attending remedial courses is a very small percentage. I referenced the number, the percentage increase of our high school students who are attending post-secondary institutions. It is almost a 300 percent increase over the last - I don't know - 20 years, 25 years, 30 years.

It's also true that, previously, students who required remedial skills, and I don't think there's anything wrong with that word - I mean, our whole objective in providing a public education system is to bring people along as far as we can, not to entertain the abilities of the top 10 percent, but to deal and cope with the abilities of all students, to allow them to continue in the system and progress and develop skills and knowledge and experience as far as they can. It doesn't mean watering it down.

Obviously, what it has meant in the cases of the university, I think, is a realistic adjustment to the world, and that is that some of the students who graduate may not be as academically inclined in some areas, have some deficiency in skills in some areas and they've responded, I think, in the appropriate way. Rather than to deny them access, to say there are some remedial courses that we will offer which we would recommend to the students who are having difficulty.

The alternative in 1950, of course, was to withdraw. I don't think that is a good option for society. I think the more students that attend post-secondary institutions, the more students that go to university, the better off we're going to be in the long run. The Member for Fort Garry may take a differing point of view on that, but I believe it's a logical response to something that's happened. It does not indicate at all a watering down.

I think it's a misconception in terms of what's happening both at the high school system and at our universities to suggest otherwise.

The second part of the question, Mr. Chairperson, dealt with the review. I'd indicated in the House some week-and-a-half ago the names of the review committee would be announced. I am expecting to be able to do that within the next week.

MR. C. BIRT: Can the Minister advise when the committee is going to start work?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the tentative time line for the committees would be initial start-up in September of this year.

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MR. C. BIRT: Is there a time schedule they are to meet, a deadline in which they're to file either an interim or a final report?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, the report - tentatively, we would like to have a report in my hands by the 30th of June, 1987. So we're talking about a year in essence.

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister advise is the final report or an interim report and the committee will, in fact, carry on?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I expect that will be an interim report at that stage. Originally, we had hoped there may be time to have an interim report and to do some consultation prior to June 30, 1987, but it seems unlikely. I think it's important enough and the potential for revision are significant enough that the longer time frame for consultation and review is probably worthwhile and necessary.

MR. C. BIRT: The press release I'm referring to says, and I'm quoting now, "For more than two years, Manitoba education has been collecting information about high schools in the province which can now be used by this committee to facilitate their discussions." What is the information the department has been collecting?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, most of that information has been compiled around the course selections of students and the options they're choosing, how they followed up that kind of information.

MR. C. BIRT: Is it just general information that comes out sort of research and planning or was some specific studies put into place to gather this information? How did this information evolve?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I understand research and planning is gathering that information directly from school divisions and building a data base, in other words, transferring it to a computer so that questions relating particularly to the core curriculum at high school will be able to be analysed as requested in a manner requested by the committee or sub-committees of the high school review.

MR. C. BIRT: The press release goes on to say that working with this data, the panel will prepare a consultative paper on high school issues for release in October. I take it that deadline has been pushed back somewhat. Is it the intention of the panel to prepare a paper and then release it for public discussion?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. C. BIRT: When will that paper be prepared and released, or what was the tentative release of that paper?

HON. J. STORIE: Essentially, it's expected somewhere between January and April of 1987 that the feedback to the initial consultation paper would be responded to.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, do I understand it then from the base information that the Minister has referred to which has been collected over the last two years, and just from the various expertise of the particular members of the committee they, without public consultation, will be preparing a discussion paper?

HON. J. STORIE: No, obviously there would be a paper produced. The consultation would focus around a paper from January to April. That's when the public will have an opportunity to review what will be called a consultation paper and, obviously, other issues are going to arise. We believe the essence of the issues which need to be addressed will be raised in the consultation paper, and public consultation will attempt to be focused around those issues through the January to April period. Subsequent to receiving that kind of input, then an interim report will be prepared.

MR. C. BIRT: It would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that would be sort of focusing or limiting the debate. I don't mean to wish to cast any aspersions on those who may occupy the panel or the information that they are referring to, but if you create the document without public input, you may miss some topic or some areas of concern. It seems to me you've got it backwards. Why isn't the committee going out and holding public hearings on everything as it relates to high school review and then prepare a discussion paper and then go back for further either refining or comments or input?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I suppose there are pros and cons to both approaches. I think the member recognizes you can't do a review of everything. It doesn't work — (Interjection) — Well, essentially I've — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairperson, what the member's question I think raises is the issue of whether there is any consensus about the changes that need to be made. I believe there have been over the last few years several issues raised. I've mentioned a couple of them. I believe the panel when they begin their work will be able to identify many others and will identify a series of issues that have been raised, are of concern to members of the public - to parents, to teachers, to universities, post-secondary institutions generally - and that will serve as a focus for comments from groups and from parents.

Certainly, that does not preclude the raising of any issue to the committee, to a sub-committee of the committee, and certainly if there is an indication there is a widespread concern about some other issue which has not been raised, that would obviously be an appropriate subject of investigation.

Again, the difficulty as the member may realize in opening it previously and said what are the problems is every individual will assume their particular concern is the most appropriate and needs addressing. Now, what we're trying to do is develop a consensus about what needs to change. The committee, I hope you will see, reflects a broad spectrum of Manitoba society, both geographically and in terms of the groups that they represent. So I think that you will see that the issues that are addressed in the consultation paper will, in fact, reflect most, if not all, of the concerns that have been raised over the past few years in terms of high school programming.

MR. C. BIRT: When this committee is finally named and structured, is the department or their Order-in-Council going to be setting out the criteria on which this committee will be operating from, some parameters, some guidelines?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, as Minister of Education I will be announcing not only the names, but I've indicated on previous occasions the terms of reference, the broad terms of reference for the committee as well as a time frame for the activities that the committee will be undertaking.

MR. C. BIRT: When the Minister announces that, I note by the press release, there's some just general phrases and I'm wondering if, when the appointments are made, if it's done either by Order-in-Council or by letter with specific parameters identified if he could share that with myself and other members who may be of interest to it, just to see what the parameters are. Because often press releases don't reflect accurately the true intent of the document. I don't mean that in any misleading sense but it would be nice to know just exactly what is their set of parameters.

HON. J. STORIE: I've indicated that I will be making an announcement within the next week, I believe, on the parameters and the committee designation.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the press release that I'm referring to of February 7th, outlines a number of groups that will have representation on the panel and it says Manitoba Teachers Society 4, Manitoba Association of School Trustees 2, Manitoba Association of School Superintendents 2, Home and School Parent-Teacher Federation of Manitoba 1, Post-Secondary Education for Institutions 2, Business 1, Labour 1, Manitoba Education 4, Members selected by the Minister of Education 4. Is it still the intention of the Minister to have that type of representation?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the parental involvement in devising special programs, and I'm thinking now what the department and Winnipeg 1 have gone to, to try and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children in developing proper skills for them and upgraded curriculum, I find it strange that you would only have one so-called parent representative of these. I can appreciate the other people or it may all be parents in their own right, but they come from a particular constituency or a particular point of view. One of the key concerns about parents is curriculum and the high school. Could the Minister consider expanding the number of, shall we say, non-special interest groups and add additional members from the public or from the parents to have a greater input in this because quite frankly they would - 1 against a group of a dozen or 15 people, you're hardly going to get a consensus; you're going to perhaps get a biased report one way that may not truly reflect the concerns of the parents.

HON. J. STORIE: I can only indicate that the committee already is fairly large as the member can appreciate

and that there are certainly 50 other groups who would like to have representatives on the committee. The point has to be made that this committee is really going to be setting the context and some parameters for the review. The real review is going to be done by the hundreds of individuals and groups who make representation to the committee, and we have representatives from parent-teacher, representatives from the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, representatives from the superintendents and business and labour. The member is quite right, many of those will be parents in their own right. But recognizing that we're talking about changing the structure of the high school system, I think no one can argue with the groups that we've selected to have representation on the committee.

I think the point is that the committee is going to be trying to focus discussion on important areas, that there will be avenues for parents' groups, special interest groups of all kinds to make representation to the committee. Apart from that I had indicated that it was my intention to do my own series of information meetings, dialogue meetings with parents, teachers and students over the coming months as well so that I can develop for my own reasons, my own edification a sense of the real concerns that parents and students have about the system. I think that's a political sensitivity that I need to have as we go into the review process so I will be doing that.

MR. C. BIRT: I would agree with the Minister that a review is needed, in fact long overdue, and I would also agree with the Minister that the composition of the panel quite frankly is too large, unless they intend to break it up and have it go in different directions at different times. It would be a very unwieldy body but nonetheless it would seem to me that one could get greater flexibility by reducing the number, like one of each sort of thing and I'm biased here but I think there should be a greater parental involvement on this board, especially if it is the intention to break up the committee to go through various parts of the province and hold hearings at the same time. Because there's a perception by parents or some parents that the system is not performing the way it should be. Now what better way than to have parents who are sitting on the committee, and I don't mean one, I mean several, helping to develop this so-called discussion paper and then going out and listening, because all of the other ones come, quite frankly, with a slightly prejudiced point of view, whether they be a teacher or a trustee or a superintendent; they're prejudiced from their own particular constituency no matter how open-minded they may think they are. It may need a parent or parents to open up the discussion and start challenging some of the assumptions that these professions are dealing with.

Now they may be right but at least an honest debate will have started both in the evolution of the discussion paper, which I think quite frankly is backwards, I think if the parameters of the committee can be struck then you go out and discuss and then you form your consensus paper and then go back. But if the Minister wishes to pursue the course that he wants to it just strikes me that we should ensure that we have parent representation in proper numbers throughout the process.

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In the beginning, through the conception stage, and then on and listening to the public to make sure that their points of view at least are being heard and argued when the final report is made.

HON. J. STORIE: I hope the member appreciates the difficulty that I have. He's recognized that the committee is already too large and that there are requests from many, and I emphasize many, other groups who would like to be on this committee. I have said to them as I've said to the member that the work of the committee is not really going to be done until all of the groups have been heard from, until their points have been made. The purpose of the committee is to focus discussion, develop the consultation paper, get feedback, a second round of feedback and make an interim report. Certainly the review of the consultation paper is going to be the most critical, and I can only promise that it will be as widely distributed and as broadly commented upon as is humanly possible within the time frame that the committee has to operate.

I don't believe that I, nor most of the other representatives, go into this process with too many preconceived notions about what changes are going to be desired. I have heard a lot of mumbblings about dissatisfaction but I have certainly had no clear representations from virtually any group about the changes that are needed, the changes that are desirable. Clearly, some people believe we should move to this way, and some people believe we should move that way. Obviously, I have my own opinions about some of the things that should be looked at, but the committee and the groups who make representation will determine what kind of a final report we receive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd go on in a little bit more orderly fashion and go into 4.(a) Division Administration. In that particular instance, we have what would look like a one-year staff year increase. Can the Minister tell me what and who that individual is going to be, and what functions they will have?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that increase relates to some of the initial activity taken around the Quality of Education Initiative.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I understand that there is someone in this particular group who is called an education consultant, at least going through the directory that's what I come up with. Can the Minister explain to me what is the difference between an education consultant and a curriculum consultant?

HON. J. STORIE: I understand the difference is that an educational consultant does not have a certificate and a curriculum consultant does.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I assume, when you're referring to a certificate, you mean an education consultant would not have a certificate in education?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Why would you have someone in this particular position who did not have a certificate of education?

HON. J. STORIE: I understand that the person referenced was transferred actually or redeployed from media services into the area and provides support services in a number of areas: development, design, etc.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: In the Other Expenditures section of this one, we've got an increase of 652 percent. It's gone from 18,000 to 141,500; would you like to explain?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, essentially all of that money has been allocated to the Quality of Education Initiatives, preparation of support materials, consultation materials, meetings, etc.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Has the Minister announced yet or will he be announcing shortly, who will, in fact, be in charge of this quality initiatives?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I'm not sure that has been announced, but the coordinator is Dr. Tony Riffel. He originally comes to us from the University of Manitoba.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Could the Minister outline briefly what are the parameters of which he will be working, types of things that will be evaluated in the area of quality initiatives?

HON. J. STORIE: The Quality of Education Initiatives, as announced by the previous Minister, fall into six different areas. The first has been referenced on a number of occasions. That's the review of in-service education. I have indicated that an inter-organizational paper has already been prepared on that, so that's work that is ongoing.

The second area is the question of student assessment and much has been discussed today about the need for improving our system of assessment and upgrading it, a better understanding of what student assessment is and what it's designed to achieve. Preparations are being made for workshops this fall in the area of student assessment and there is to be the inter-organizational, again, consultation on student assessment issues.

The third area in which there is going to be initiatives is the development of a paper and recommendations on materials and actions to foster parent-teacher collaboration, parental involvement in the school generally.

Materials have also been produced in a fourth area and they relate to local planning efforts. A local planning guide has already been produced and distributed. I can provide the member with a copy, a Self-study and Planning Guide for use in schools, which really helps school divisions to focus on planning issues, what questions to ask, and to assist them in developing objectives for their educational system in a long-term strategy.

Number five, there is an intention to develop an information program, an information-sharing

mechanism between school divisions on effective educational practices, kind of highlighting the successes within the system as it currently exists. There are some significant successes that we don't always hear about.

Finally, we will be trying to create a network with MAST, MTS, a network of schools to demonstrate, as demonstration units, if you will, for innovative and particularly effective systems, whether it be vocational education or special needs or whatever, so that we can have some sharing of the expertise within Manitoba.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I had indicated that I would be tabling a copy of the professional development, inter-organization paper, and I would like to do that at this time. I would like to provide the critics and the deputy critics with copies of that paper so that they can see the focus that the groups themselves have taken on the question of professional development in Manitoba.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: We seem to be discussing practically this whole section. Do I have permission to go onto (b) Curriculum Development and Implementation?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, we seem to be reasonably flexible here dealing with Item 4 as a whole, so, you know, with the Minister's agreement, we can continue doing that.

The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to preface going into this section with a few comments which I have tried to withhold up to this point in a lot of other areas, I am amazed that in the area of Curriculum Development and Implementation, that this would be the section in which the Department of Education would choose to cut probably the largest section of any budget by 10.4 percent in Other Expenditures.

Of all of the departments that are program development and support services and perhaps all departments in the Department of Education, Curriculum Development and Implementation is the one that is most critical to what happens in the classrooms other than the teacher itself. I think it has to become involved in some of the issues that we've already raised today, the concept of testing, teacher training, and the choice of curriculum that we are going to develop and implement in the Province of Manitoba. I'd like to give some examples of the kinds of poor directional planning that I have seen existing in my own teaching experience here in Manitoba.

Several years ago we implemented a new K-9 Social Studies program. I was particularly interested in the 7-9 program: Space Ship Earth in Grade 7, World History in Grade 8, and Canadian Government essentially in Grade 9. While we introduced curriculum, which in my opinion was very good, what we didn't do was to look at all of the things that would be affected by that curriculum.

In the school in which I taught, for example, with the exception of myself, there wasn't a single teacher who had had a geography course at any point in their post-

high school program; not one. If you're going to be teaching very complex geographical principles, it's very difficult to do that if the teachers who are going to teach them don't understand that rivers can indeed flow north.

We don't have any carry-over, as far as I can see, between new curriculum and teacher programs going on at our universities so that for example, although now an integral part of the Grade 9 curriculum is Government, and so is an integral part of the Grade 11 Social Studies program, Government; Political Science is still not considered a teachable subject at the Education Faculty of the Department of Ed. at the University of Manitoba. So that we are still graduating high school and junior high school teachers who have training in History, while we have moved to curriculum planning so that Social Studies now at least encompasses Geography, Economics, History, Political Science, and to some degree, Sociology. So I am frustrated and teachers are frustrated with being asked to teach curriculum which is good stuff, but for which they have little or no training and I don't see that the correlation is being pulled together.

I was also dismayed to discover that 60 percent of my students could not read the Grade 7 textbook. They did not have the reading skills required to use this textbook, and yet it was a well-written text and a very valuable text.

I think that the frustrations of teachers cannot be addressed by in-services. We have to look at Curriculum Development and Implementation in a much broader area and that has got to involve teacher training.

The member beside me from Fort Garry, earlier this afternoon, talked about testing. I have to say, Mr. Chairman, that I was appalled at the statement by the Minister in approving curriculum assessment when he talked about facts and knowledge. I think as a teacher himself, he must know that was what we fought mostly in the whole rotten departmental exam system that used to exist; that I don't want to teach, or whether a child knows that Confederation took place in 1867; I want to know that he knows what Confederation was. I don't want children to learn History in matter of dates, but I do want them to learn History in being able to evaluate and judge what is a long-term cause and what is a short-term cause and ultimately to be able to read History and to have some skills at the manner by which they approach the reading of that subject.

If we are going to test, surely the best type of testing is reading skills and computational skills and logical development skills; and not curriculum skills.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I appreciate the comments of the Member for River Heights.

I'd like to indicate that while I talked about facts and knowledge, I only talked about that as one of the objectives of the curriculum. I talked about the development of thinking and processing skills; I talked about the attitudes, etc. So there are many objectives in a curriculum and the teaching of some facts, I think, is appropriate. I don't think there was an intention to imply that that's the only thing a curriculum should do, is to impart facts.

The second issue, I guess the question of the ability and the willingness, I guess, of teachers and school

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divisions to undertake training, retraining and upgrading of skills is something that the department has worked, and I've indicated other groups have worked on, over the last few years. Certainly the change in the curriculum - and I've indicated that has required or does require the changing abilities of teachers. I think that is reflected to some extent in the activities, the cooperation, coordination of activities between the department, the Faculty of Education and the major groups involved in education. I think it's reflected in our own in-service work and the member says well, you can't do everything through in-service, that's quite true.

I think you have to rely also on the ability of teachers to be able to adapt and to learn on their own to develop new skills and new ways of dealing with the curriculum. I think the fact is that today we have some 80-plus percent of teachers with Class 4,a degree, so I think they're in a better position to deal with curriculum changes, certainly at the K-9 level than many of our previous generations of teachers.

I think simply the fact that we have more qualified teachers should enable us to say that most of the changes can be accommodated by teachers without the necessity of extensive upgrading.

So the in-servicing, I think, does serve the purpose. Certainly from my experience, the in-servicing, the special area group conference that is sponsored each fall, serves a tremendous purpose in preparing the teachers to deal with the new curriculum and new approaches as well.

It's never going to be a perfect system. Not everyone is as involved in professional development activities as administration, as perhaps the department, as perhaps parents would like. But I think there is still a very deep commitment to professional development on the part of members of the teaching profession, and that their general abilities will allow them to cope with much of the change that the member has referenced in terms of the curriculum. There may be certain areas where specialized training is required. I think, as a department, we have attempted to provide that on a case-by-case basis. Certainly, I've referenced the question about family life education support.

I suppose one could always argue that there needs to be greater cooperation and coordination between the department and the Faculty of Education as we change curriculum. I think that's a legitimate argument, but there has been more cooperation. The paper that I just circulated on professional development, I think, is a first step in the joint recognition of our responsibility and the need for continuing to improve in-servicing, the quality of in-servicing, the availability of in-servicing to teachers throughout the province.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Let's deal with some actual specifics, Mr. Chairman. A young person who enters into the Faculty of Education at the present time, maybe 18 years of age, needs to have three courses at the 300 level. That means that they may not have taken math and they may not have taken science in their Grade 12 year, both of which are compulsory courses to teach in the elementary grades. They may go on to take no math at university and no science at university, and yet they will be teaching math and science.

I think that there is, therefore, a poorly prepared individual, not because they haven't worked hard at

university, but because there isn't enough liaison between the universities and the types of curriculum that the department wants to be taught.

HON. J. STORIE: The member had referenced this earlier in her conversation, questions, comments that she had made about the advantages of having teachers with at least a degree prior to certification. I had indicated that I believe the better qualified our teachers, the broader their educational experience generally, academic educational experience generally, the better prepared they would be to act as a resource to children. I don't disagree with the premise that may be an important requirement.

I can indicate that I believe most of the students who attend university, who are designing their educational program particularly around the secondary level, will be, as a matter of course, taking a science or math course, if not both. Certainly, it is possible that someone may not, but it's also equally plausible to suggest that person would end up not teaching a math or a science at the secondary level.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister must be aware of the fact that because of tenure, because of a declining number of a teachers in some of our urban school divisions, there are a great many teachers out there teaching subjects for which they have no prep at all in terms of their university experience.

We had, for example, in the St. Norbert Collegiate my last year of teaching, four phys ed graduates teaching in a school that only had nine teachers. Therefore, there's very little academic expertise in the sciences, social studies, that exist there. That's where the need for this department is absolutely essential.

That's why, when I see cutbacks to curriculum development and see consultants cut and I see their travel time cut and their in-servicing time cut, which appears to be happening in this particular budget, I must say I'm extremely frustrated. I'm particularly frustrated when, for example, I see on a list of curriculum consultants, two consultants for language arts, two consultants for mathematics, but five consultants for computer education. I wonder how we justify, in a system where I still think that up to at least the junior high level, language arts and mathematics are the most important things the young people learn, how we can justify five computer ed and two math and two language arts.

HON. J. STORIE: I don't know that I can respond to the particular case raised by the Member for River Heights. I mean, school divisions obviously have a responsibility for the deployment and redeployment of staff in their divisions. I would indicate that, depending upon the grade level, the direct expertise that's required in most instances, I guess not all instances, at the elementary level are not such that you would have to have a post-graduate degree in physics to teach Grade 3 science.

I think that the case has to be made that teachers are also adaptable. They're professional. They have shown their ability to learn, and not only learn, but to teach. So I don't think we would want to go around

suggesting that, simply because they did not have the direct relevant experience - relevance is another word that leaves me some questions sometimes - in university. In fact, teachers can teach subjects with which they have no previous familiarity.

If we lived in the best of all worlds, of course, teachers would all come prepared and they would not only come prepared. they would come with the appropriate backgrounds. That's not always possible, but I think the case has been for years that teachers do provide quality education in areas where they haven't initially had a great deal of expertise. They learn. They do more prep. The prep loads get almost unbearable. That's, I guess, part of the drawbacks to the profession, but I think they do an adequate job.

That's not saying there haven't been transfers within school divisions, transfers that were required or implemented by administrations which weren't perhaps in the best interests of the students because of the qualifications issue. But I don't think that's a practice that's rampant within the system.

The specific issue relating to the reductions in the Curriculum Branch, in terms of the reductions, most of the reductions in the department relate to a reduction in resource acquisitions within the department, recognizing that the overall budget is some \$1.4 million. The reductions relate to reduced field experience, field travel and reduction of resource acquisition, as well as minor reductions in office costs.

The member referred to two Language Arts consultants. I believe there are three, as well as an Early Childhood consultant who provides Language Arts consultation, so there are actually a total of four working in that area.

The member referred to the computer consultants. Obviously school divisions have expressed a great deal of interest in developing computer curriculum over the past three, four or five years. Virtually every school division now has access to, and virtually at all grade levels, access to computers; and because of the interest in it and because it is a relatively new phenomenon, there has had to be some additional resources placed in the area of computer, computer sciences because of the tremendous volume of interest and requests from the school divisions. So we're trying to meet their needs as they perceive them as well.

I wouldn't want the member to suggest that somehow we had abandoned the support that we provide to the other areas - the basics as it were - in that process. There have been some reallocations, I believe, that is of a temporary nature.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: There's no question that computer education is glitzy and a lot of people want it, but it is equally true, in terms of the information that I can find from computer experts, that within five years everything we're presently doing in our schools will be completely obsolete. I wonder how we're going to address that problem in the curriculum department if, in every five-year period of time, every program we've designed for our school system is going to be have to be thrown out because it's obsolete; and if we should not, in fact, be seriously questioning whether we should be trying to keep pace in a curriculum department with something which is bound to be of little or no value to the students who receive it.

HON. J. STORIE: I think that there would be many, many Manitobans and many, I suppose, school division trustees who would disagree quite heartily with the Member for River Heights about the long-term implications for computers in our society and, by implication, in the educational system.

I think that while it is true that software has tended to change pretty dramatically and, in some cases hardware, over a short period of time, I don't think it would be fair to say that the impacts of computer and computer technology is something that is short lived in terms of its impact on our society. I think computer literacy is something that we're striving for and perhaps computer literacy, computer familiarity - I don't know which one of those terms is most appropriate - but there has been a tremendous proliferation in, not only the physical number of computers, but in the number of courses and course-related material, interest in computers generally, that I think reflects very much the reality of the 1980's, that computers are going to be very much a part of the workplace into the foreseeable future.

The familiarization that's going on through curriculum right now, I think is something that many people believe is going to be necessary and a part of curriculum into the foreseeable future.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: There's no question that computers are part and parcel of our future within the society and some awareness of computer literacy may in fact be a valuable tool for all children, but it may be that typing skills and a minimal work on a computer may be in fact what is to their best advantage.

For example, what value is there in teaching computer 10, 20 and 30, which is taught in Basic, when no one is using Basic in the workplace, because it's too slow a computer language.

HON. J. STORIE: I would tend to agree with you. I would want to point out that the developing of computer languages is not always the goal, recognizing that the familiarity with computers, computer programming, that question, there is also the use of computers as a technological aid for the development of other skills, in language arts, in mathematics, in science, in other areas of the curriculum, so it's not just a question of developing computer literacy in the terms of making everyone a mini programmer.

There's a question of using that technology to advantage in all areas of the curriculum.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: In terms of the assessment of our young people and the tests that we are going to give them now and into the future, I think it is important that our children learn to think logically and clearly.

I think it's important that they learn the tools of research and the development of those tools and I wonder why we are not doing more in the way of province-wide testing, not as we did in the old departmental exams, but in order to provide both parents and students with a knowledge of where they are in relationship to their peers at any one given time in their school years.

HON. J. STORIE: Not wanting to usurp any of the authority of school divisions or schools, I believe that

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parents are provided with that information, that in fact the reporting system that schools currently use does offer parents an opportunity to compare the performance of their students with the performance of other students and their peers.

I guess the member is raising the question of whether there should be some more literal and direct comparisons between day school or school division and other school divisions. While I've indicated that I believe those kinds of comparisons are going on for policy purposes between divisions, that I'm not sure of the merits or the direct benefits of that kind of a system to individual parents.

Clearly, basic skills tests, for example, are now I believe, in most instances, normed in Canada, so that basic skills test that are done - and I have indicated I believe those should be shared - the result of those should be shared with parents. There are limitations to the tests and they are designed for a specific purpose but the results can be shared.

Parents and teachers then can do some comparison; and the fact that they write the test and they're normed in Canada, gives them some information about the relative standing of that particular student with respect to other students in Canada, so comparisons can be made.

I guess we can argue about whether that information is accessible enough, but I think the comparisons can be made.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I would agree with the Minister. I don't think there's any need for division A to know how division B does, nor do I think it's of any importance that I, as a parent, know that if my child was in division X, they would in fact be a brilliant child, because that obviously is not the case.

What I do think, however, is important is for a parent to have some knowledge as to whether their child is achieving at a Grade 4 level or a Grade 8 level. Unless we do those CTBS tests or design our own, which by the way will have a validity factor against others, that we don't have that information. So a parent can find themselves in a situation with a very sick child and wonder whether that child should, in fact, go on to Grade 3 because they missed 40 days of school, and to try and get the results of those tests can sometimes be an extremely difficult thing if the child has even taken the test. So, you as a parent say do I send my child on to Grade 3, accept the word of the teacher that yes your child is doing fine, but I don't have any empirical data by which I can say I'm not letting my child down by letting my child be pushed into Grade 3.

HON. J. STORIE: You know, I met with a group this morning who have an extreme interest in the question of the availability of test information, school information generally on students, and I've said, I don't understand, I've never understood the reluctance of - and my experience has been that there isn't the kind of reluctance generally in the system to use that kind of information, to provide that kind of information. I can only reference my own experience where I, as a matter of course, sat down with parents and discussed CTBS skills scores. I said here's an area of strength for that student.

Now obviously, I suppose that creates some problems for a teacher sometimes when they try and explain the discrepancy between very high basic test skill scores and low achievement. I think that's the kind of information the parents want to know and need to know. We had an interesting discussion and I had indicated the issue of student assessment, the issue of parental involvement are two items which are high on my agenda, and I have indicated on several occasions that access to information, that the sharing of information, the kind of information the member references is both good educational policy and good educational practice. I intend to disseminate that kind of message where and when I can.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Would the Minister then consider having the Department of Education administer such tests and then if those tests are not available from the individual division, have the Department of Education release the test results to parents?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I indicated to the group this morning my preference is always to work with. I emphasize that is also a goal of mine over the next number of months - and perhaps wishfully thinking, years - to co-opt the major groups in the educational system into dealing cooperatively with these issues.

I don't want to be seen to be applying the heavy hand of government when it isn't necessary. I don't believe there is a consensus out there against providing that kind of information to the parent. It may not be a practice in all areas, but I don't believe there is any conspiracy of silence with respect to the testing that's done in our school divisions. I believe most teachers do share that kind of information, informally and formally, and before I would contemplate prescribing what kind of sharing goes on, I would want to sit down and see where there are areas of agreement and where collectively or cooperatively we can begin to open up the system where there is a lack.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to just deal briefly with the high school review that they were discussing, but I have a problem, I guess, first of all, as has been mentioned with the representation. I feel to have one parent on the review panel is not good enough. — (Interjection) — I know that's been stated before, but I really believe in this area where we haven't had a high school review in how long, and it's something that is on anyone's mind who is interested at all in education, that I think the Minister has got some very nice leeway where there are four members to be selected by the Minister of Education.

I would hope he sees fit to make those four appointments parents. I don't mean parents coming from education. I mean people who have shown a real interest and the Minister would probably know who they are because I imagine they're knocking on his door every other day trying to get their points across. I think it's much better to have these people working from within than always hammering at the government trying to make them change things. I think you find a lot of the people who seem to be hammering on one

issue, I think you'd get them to come around if they were working as part of a committee and there would be a better balance.

HON. J. STORIE: I have taken note of the comments which were made with respect to the representation. Certainly, I will be appointing parents. I would want to indicate again I believe many of the groups that are here also are parents who represent the interests of parents - certainly the school trustees come to mind - and there are such a broad array of groups who would like to be involved in this that there are clearly 50 other groups. I could probably sit down and identify who would like to be involved in this.

I want to emphasize the membership on the committee is not the be-all and end-all; that in fact the real work of the committee involves listening as much as detailing, and the emphasis is going to be very much on the input of groups and associations, and while we have a collective of people who will be trying to synthesize that material, this is intended very much to be a broadly-based consultative process.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I think one of the areas the Member for Fort Garry indicated, he felt it was backwards, I feel that way myself. I think if you're going to use these people as listening posts, start them off that way and then let them take the information which comes to the committee and form an interim report.

What's the point of them spending time putting down what they think people want and then it may not turn out to be that at all. I just offer that as a suggestion; I think it's not a bad suggestion to start that way rather than set down things and having to throw them out which is not going to be such a help.

The other point that the Minister made about people going to university, that it's a 300 percent increase in the past 30 years. I think that comes as much from a matter of parent expectation today. I think 30 years ago, and a bit longer probably, that a lot of people didn't think everyone should go to university. You finished high school and you went to work. I think it's been in the past number of years that this is what parents expect from their children, this is what they're pushing for, and this is why they're so concerned about curriculum, about high school review, you name it, and there are parents doing some type of a study.

I don't think it's just enough to say that it's because of the great and glorious work that's happened in education, although I do feel, I know my three children have got a good education in the public school system. I was certainly cross with it many times but, basically, I feel that they did get a good education. I just made that as some points.

I would like to deal a bit with the testing. I was under the impression, and pardon me if I'm wrong, that the CTBS testing by the province, that those tests weren't released to the individual teachers in schools? Am I wrong?

HON. J. STORIE: No, there are two sets of tests. Perhaps the member wasn't here earlier when I referenced them.

One is the curriculum assessment which is done by the province. We see our role as essentially monitoring the curriculum and developing the curriculum.

The second area was the testing of individual students or student assessment, and the province currently has a program, an ongoing program of assessment which began actually in 1979 and we have developed basically a policy whereby the assessment is done on a Manitoba-wide basis, a minimum of 10 percent random sample per classroom in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12. Where a division chooses to offer the assessment material to its full complement, we provide the division with a provincial summary of the results, a division-wide summary and the scoring for individual students, or whatever they have requested in that combination.

The area of basic skills is something that is within the domain of the school division. Approximately half the school divisions use the Canadian Test of Basic Skills, which is quite different from the curriculum assessment material. The other school divisions use a variety of basic skills tests. What used to be the California Achievement Test is now the Canadian Achievement Test, and a number of other skills tests which have been developed over the years.

My understanding is that the Canadian Test of Basic Skills and the Canadian Achievement Test are now normed in Canada so they do reflect Canadian norms rather than as opposed originally to American norms. They provide, in most cases, depending on, I guess, the adequacy of the testing procedures, but generally a good review of the basic skills of individual students, the basic skills being: spelling; language art skills. They include reading comprehension, reading level, etc., as well as a number of other skill areas.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: On the testing for the curriculum, are those tests released at all? Because that is testing, no matter what you are using it for. Are those tests given to the division, by division and by school?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, those are available and are in the library upstairs as well, the final reports.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How many divisions are doing their own division-wide testing at the high school level?

HON. J. STORIE: Just to clarify, the member is referring to examinations?

MRS. G. HAMMOND: This is examinations.

HON. J. STORIE: I understand the practice is very uneven; that there are very few divisions that test in all areas. There are some divisions who periodically, I guess, test in different curriculum areas on a division-wide basis. I wouldn't discourage that necessarily; that's a practice that followed from, I think, if the member remembers, the elimination of the provincial examinations. For a period time, divisional exams were the practice in many school divisions. That has subsequently changed, and now there has been a move for some divisions to reintroduce divisional exams. But, again, it's effectiveness depends very much on the homogeneity of the division and to the extent that there are differences, cultural, socio-economic, the effectiveness, I guess, of that can be lessened.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I have heard the Minister's views on the testing, but basically, and I'm not in agreement

with the pass-fail type of tests, I agree in that sense. But I do feel that parents are more interested in having a benchmark of sorts that they can judge how they see their children performing at school, not just are they beating someone else, but are they performing to an extent that when they go to school, and this has been referred to before, that children from Northern Manitoba who are in remote areas, that they have an idea when their kids finish high school, if you're in a remote area, that your child has had basically the same type of education - I'm talking about probably more the core subjects than anything - as someone, say, from St. James-Assiniboia. I don't think that's wrong for parents to expect that.

I would hope that the Minister would seriously consider bringing in some type of departmental examinations in core subjects, even if the results in some areas, you can understand, will show a certain area where someone is weak because of cultural, because of all the other areas that the Minister might make; then those are areas that they must look at. If these kids are going to want to go to university, now they need a mark of some sort to get into many of the faculties. It's sort of sad, because of different markings and different sets of exams, sometimes schools are very much aware of which students need to have certain marks to get into different faculties and marks practically, except for Arts, I think, are really the basis for getting into university, into many of these faculties, unless you wait and go as a mature student, which many of them are doing.

HON. J. STORIE: Just a couple of points that the member raised, and the first one was the issue of the availability of some form of examination that provides some information to schools and, I guess, the parents about the progress of their students.

The first is, for the system itself, the curriculum assessment that goes on at high school which it does, provides that kind of assessment to the system which is not exactly what the member was referring to, but I think it's still important in terms of developing the curriculum even at the high school level.

The other question about where specific students' skill levels stand in the high school system is an interesting one. I had asked whether divisions were conducting tests of basic skills at the high school level and I'm told that it makes sense. I recognize that they didn't do it some years ago, but I thought perhaps they had developed a practice of doing it. But because of the diversity of the high school curriculum, that it isn't always as feasible. It isn't as feasible and therefore, few if any tests of basic skills have been developed for the high school level, so that parents won't have access, nor will teachers obviously, to the same kind of information that elementary K-9 teachers might have to provide their students.

That may, in fact, be a shortcoming because I certainly see, as an individual parent, the obvious interest in my students' skill development over that period of time as well. So that's something that I'm going to have to do some inquiring into and see what other jurisdictions are doing in that regard.

The larger question about the appropriateness of the grade system that school divisions use, I don't know

that it has created a lot of problems in terms of the information that post-secondary institutions find necessary. The system seems to be working. I know that some divisions have instituted some form of divisional exams to provide a better sense to post-secondary institutions of the accomplishments of their students - Frontier School Division has instituted some form of student examinations to do that - but it isn't widespread at this point and I assume that's because most divisions feel they're doing a relatively adequate job, and that their grading standards reflect roughly provincial standards, therefore, their system is understandable to most of the institutions.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The high school curriculum, the language arts, I raised it in Estimates last year and I'd like to find out what's happening now. The department was combining the 01 and the 00, or whatever you call them, subjects in the course as far as language arts was concerned. I'd like to know if that is still in force, if they're encouraging that or if they are planning to keep the courses separate, especially in the high schools.

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson, there is no intention to separate the two. I think our experience to date has led us to believe that what we're doing is exactly what we should be doing in terms of increasing standards rather than lowering them. The expectation is that, while we can have a set of curriculum that teachers themselves can modify, adapt expectations to the students so that we deal with essentially the same curriculum, but the expectations with the 01 and the 00 are somewhat different. But that's within the system because the material is the same obviously and we want to encourage the development of language arts skills to the highest degree possible, that this is probably something that should have been done earlier because it does provide higher expectations and allow for some greater personal development in the area of language arts than the previous designations did.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: You're saying that the courses are being taught the same, like it's been melded, or they're separate? Someone would be taking a university entrance course, the 00, and the easier one would be the 01.

HON. J. STORIE: It's not necessary to teach it together. We're not amalgamating the classes. What we have done is, here are a set of language arts objectives for high school students, regardless of whether they're 00 or 01 and within that we have said now the objectives are the same, the goals are the same and some of the material will be the same. Depending on whether you're teaching an 01 or an 00, you would use different resource materials. You may use different resource materials but the objective is to create a higher expectation for 01 students in the language arts area and that's basically the goal.

But some of the materials may in fact be different, and obviously they would be taught in separate classrooms, or they could be.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: When did that change come about or has it been always like that? I don't think so.

When I asked last year, I was given the impression by the Minister that they were just doing it in very small areas, and it wasn't something that was going to be necessarily continued. That was my impression.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, it was piloted last year in, I guess, the 1984-85 year; 1985-86 was the Grade 12 year for piloting. The feedback has been generally quite positive.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: If the courses are combined, how are we sure that the kids who would normally be taking the 00 courses are getting the same type of challenge that they once had?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, we haven't changed in essence the 00 course. The curriculum, the goals, the objectives, the curriculum essentially hasn't changed. What we've done is upgrade, if you will, or modify the expectations at the 01 level to make them more consistent with the 00 level. So we're using some material that is the same; some of the language arts material will be the same. The course would become differentiated at the point at which teachers introduced material that was designated as a 01 previously or that would have different objectives and different standards than the material that would be introduced if you were teaching the 00 course.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What was the matter with the old method?

HON. J. STORIE: I think there was a concern that the expectations were too low, that in fact that what we needed to do was upgrade the expectations of those students entering the 01 language arts stream, that we wanted again to emphasize excellence, to develop skills to the highest level possible and to do that we have basically set the aims and objectives as similar, tried to incorporate some material that can be shared, allowing for the teachers to choose material that is less difficult, if they felt that it was appropriate for the class, and to allow the teachers to, while expecting a great deal from both sets of students, accommodate the 01 students within that by modifying expectations.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is the curriculum now so loose with the teachers deciding who gets the extra and who doesn't, or does the division take control of that and tighten up the whole thing? What happens to kids, say, that are not just moving from division to division, but are moving from school to school within one division, if the curriculum is just based in the middle somewhere? I guess what I'm saying, I understand that the Minister is saying when they've combined these, it's to bring up the 01 category. I have a horrible feeling that possibly what's happened is the course now may not be challenging enough for the ones that are taking the 00, and I'd really like to be proved wrong there.

HON. J. STORIE: No, I think there's an implication there that somehow they're done jointly. They are separate courses in separate classes. In essence, we were trying to do two things, I think, again emphasizing the skills, language art skills; also the thrust, the

curriculum change has emphasized the development of language skills generally, rather than the teaching of literature per se.

So we've tried to broaden the goals and objectives and we've set them out as English or language art skills that we feel are necessary at the high school level. We're trying to make sure that the objectives are the same for both levels but within that, the materials that you use can reflect the ability of the students.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Thank you, I know that the Minister is sincere when he says this. I just have a horrible feeling about this and I think maybe others will, that what is happening is that we will tend to have a watering down of the whole subject.

I'd like to ask about the - the Minister mentioned about the integrated language arts, which I understand there are four strands: reading, writing, listening and speaking, and that they're all integrated now and that in other words, grammar isn't taught separately as a separate course. Am I right in that?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, that's correct. Recognizing that grammar per se, I don't believe has been taught in high schools for some time, that the grammar portion of the curriculum ends at junior high level, what we're doing now is really reflecting back on the importance of some of those writing skills but that's done in the writing area of the current curriculum, the current language arts curriculum, and it is implemented again at high school level.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: At Grade 7, this is starting?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, the grammar.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: No, this whole integrated approach?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I was told by an educator that with this new approach, with everything integrated, that you would need a master teacher to teach it properly, to be able to get all the skills properly taught in an integrated fashion without separating them. It's put a lot of stress on teachers who may not have the particular skills to be able to teach it in an integrated fashion, in other words, without breaking it down, and that some students are going to be lost in this area. Rather than strengthening the language arts, that it may weaken it.

HON. J. STORIE: I can say, I think, philosophically and pedagogically, I think, that whoever's suggesting that is wrong. I think that children learn by doing, whether it's writing or reading or speaking, they learn by doing. The curriculum has emphasized that and I think what we lost for a period of time was the recognition that applies equally to high school students as it does to elementary students.

As someone who, although I had a secondary background, moved to elementary school to teach, can tell you that one of the most satisfying things I did was teach the integrated language arts, that it is going to

be successful. We haven't seen the full results of that yet but I believe that its introduction into high school is something that's long overdue and contrary to the message that the member may have heard, I believe that it's going to result in an extreme improvement in the writing skills, in the language skills of high school students and that maybe we won't need the kinds of courses that are being introduced in universities. For a long period of time, students weren't encouraged in high school to develop those writing skills. It was done as part of an assignment once a week, in a history course or even less frequently. It's now being integrated in a more real way into the curriculum itself.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'll ask this question in . . . I'll carry on. Are they still teaching them how to spell?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, that is part of the integration that, in fact, as they write they learn, not only by reviewing their own mistakes but by the interaction that students have amongst themselves and there's self-correction. It isn't taught in the same way that it was but it's much more effective.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The proof is going to be in the pudding.

HON. J. STORIE: Absolutely, I agree with that.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I want to deal with the I.B. Program, not in relation to the fact that it is necessarily the best program; I don't know that. I do know that, dealing with the I.B. and there are three schools, one in River East, I believe two in Winnipeg 1 and one in St. James, that are presently offering the I.B.

The reason I want to deal with this is because the number of parents who are looking forward to their children going to this program that in St. James, for instance, they looked in 1986 to have about 138 kids, which they thought was going to be, after three years, a good start. Evidently this year there's going to be something like 243 and it's becoming a draw very much like French Immersion has in our division; and what is happening is that parents are looking for excellence. They're looking for their kids to be more challenged and I don't think our division is any different than any others, that what we have are children at school who are performing well, the parents with expectations that they go to university or community colleges. So what we have here is a program that in our high school of Westwood, we have 30 students who are going from junior high over to a school in Silver Heights to take the I.B. program.

What has happened with the I.B. program that they found in Silver Heights is that it has what they call a lighthouse effect. In other words, it's brought up the academic achievements of many of the other students.

What I'm trying to tell the Minister is that there is a great deal of interest in this program and kids are well able to get in it and take, maybe not every course, some certainly are in the full program, but there are a number who are taking Maths and say, Language Arts or French and Science, but that they are looking for something to make them excel; and I think although the Minister indicated when the Member for River

Heights spoke about the I.B. he said, others would have so many other opportunities, when he was talking about the kids who are in the I.B. or that we wouldn't fund it.

I'm not as anxious that the department fund a course like that. It's always nice if they do, but I think that's something that can come out of the division. But what I want to say is that I don't think that bright students should not have the opportunity to get into courses like the International Baccalaureate or even that they should have to have something like the International Baccalaureate. I think this is something that should be able to be offered through the department to bright children. We have the gifted program that's right through elementary school and junior high and I think these kids need to be challenged in every way possible; and when they reach high school and they've got the potential, whether it's in Maths or whatever it is, to excel, I think they should be given the opportunity.

When you just localize something like an I.B. program, there's a lot more children who can take advantage of it than are. In Kelvin High School they will only accept 68 I.B. students in Grade 10 and then they send them somewhere else. Well, knowing what kids are like, very often they won't leave their catchment area. They want to be with their friends, and rightly so. You should be able to get a good education at your high school.

They've opened another one at Sisler in Winnipeg 1. St. James is just drawing from the schools - it's going to make some of our schools much smaller than they are - but what it's doing too is it's taking the cream of the crop into one school when you have a program like that. I think there should be some way that high schools should be able to offer courses for very - not even very bright students - these are A students and they qualified for this course. But the thing is the parents want them challenged and obviously it's turning into something that the kids are going to enjoy being in. It's not just good being a jock any more; I mean you can be a bright student. Sorry about that.

HON. J. STORIE: Was that reflected at me? I confess. I don't disagree with some of the points the member makes. I think the whole question of challenging gifted students is a difficult one. I believe we have addressed it much more satisfactorily at the elementary level than we have at the high school level.

I want to indicate that the I.B. program, while it certainly has some merits, is not in and of itself, I think, the answer. It develops an excellence in an academic stream I suppose, but in some other areas, perhaps Music, Arts, Sports, indeed, the broader aspects of human development, it too could use some improvement.

I think it's possible that the whole issue of enriched programming for the gifted and talented in the high school is something that we should address again. We do have enrichment programs in some school divisions already. There are 305 courses which are in some cases developed locally, in other cases developed by the department. We have a Computer Science course and a Chemistry course and a Calculus course at the 305 level, and other school divisions have developed, I suppose, enriched courses to offer to their students as they see fit.

The fact that there hasn't been a departmental thrust in the area of enrichment at the high school level has meant the divisions have turned to other options and maybe it's time to really look at whether we should be, as a province, providing that enrichment option. We could certainly do that through the current arrangement of the curriculum and through the options programs that are available in high school, so maybe it's time that we did that.

That begs the question, the very real question I think has been raised by members here and certainly school divisions across the province, is the question of our ability to fund new programs. I suppose there are those who said you could never say no when it comes to an opportunity to develop our most important resource, our human resource, but clearly, while we would like to be all things to all people, I suppose we too have to have our priorities.

I think the issue of enrichment is something which should be addressed by the High School Review Committee to see where her parents are, in particular, and perhaps I'm aware of our major groups are, in terms of our willingness and the desire to implement an enrichment program through the Manitoba curriculum and not have to rely on the I.B. Program as good or as poor as it may be. I think maybe it is time we addressed that question.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I appreciate the Minister saying that because I really feel the coming in of the I.B. Program has happened because there's been a lack somewhere. I think I would like to see the department doing something before the I.B. Program starts to run away with all the gifted students - and when I say that "gifted" - these are kids who are probably A-students and who are just going to have a little bit more drive and a little bit more push. For some, an enrichment program might be easy and for some it's tough, but it's the expectations which come out of the home. I think this is very important; otherwise, what we're going to have are one or two high schools in a division that are pulling the cream of the crop.

I'll tell you, it's not going to be a help for the other high schools, because as the lighthouse effect draws up, where you take all the bright students out of the schools, especially where parents start to look at it and think, well, this is the better way for the kids to get into university, to get into anything, then I think the other high schools are going to start to fade. Usually the kids who are academically bright are the ones who are involved in other things in the schools, too. Very often, they're not just doing that, but they're in the band program, they're student leaders. I would like to see the department just as quickly as possible get something going that all high schools can participate in.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, I suppose our challenge is to discover the genius in every single individual and - somebody once said that; it may have been me - but it's a very real challenge.

Again, I don't want to put a put a crimp in our philosophizing, but the fact of the matter is the problems that exist in a lot of areas - inner city, remote and rural areas - are of heavy proportion. While the issue of

enrichment is a legitimate one, I think should be addressed probably over the next while as that question is reviewed. I think we still have to focus on the needs of the people out there who have so many basic skills yet to learn.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I recognize that and I know the public school system basically deals with all children. We all recognize that. Today when we're talking about mainstreaming special needs, this is going to be another big expense, but I don't think that in spite of it all, it should be done on the backs of some of these kids. These are going to be the ones who are going to get out there and are going to work and make money and pay the taxes, who are going to support this issue. I don't think they can be forgotten.

HON. J. STORIE: I don't remember if I'm quoting James Coleman who did the major study of public school education in the United States back in the early Seventies, who referenced the fact somehow those who are gifted and those who come from the middle class to upper middle class background teachers divide the school system in spite of that difference between them. That may be amalgam of several people but I think that was Mr. Coleman's general reference.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time being 5:30, we'll adjourn the proceedings until 8:00 p.m.

SUPPLY - HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: This section of the Committee of Supply has been considering the Estimates in the Department of Health. We are now on Item No. 7.

The Honourable Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, before we follow that, first of all I'd like to, as I promised yesterday, table an agreement or contract between Mr. Saunders or Mr. Saunders' company and the Manitoba Health Services Commission. There is one for the critic of the Official Opposition and one for the Clerk to be tabled, please.

Then also I have a few, not all the answers. Some of them are still being prepared. They're not as long as previously and, especially in view of the fact that my honourable friend served notice that he'd want that to continue his line of questioning, I will read those.

All right, the Physicians in Community Medicine specialty is supported by Manitoba Health. The Manitoba Health has supported four Physicians in Community Medicine. These physicians are Dr. Margaret Fast, Dr. Ted Redekopp, Dr. Bert Friesen and Dr. Ian Johnson. The support consists of a payment to the university of \$9,000 to cover the cost of training plus salary of the medical officer of Health, one level, \$52,400 for one year. In return, the physician must provide a one-year return of service to Manitoba Health. A staff year position is used for the employment of the physician. The first three positions noted above have all repaid their service and all are in Manitoba. Dr. Johnson is in the process of repaying his one year of service. Physicians supported by Manitoba Health in

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Community Medicine are in addition to the spots provided by the university for this specialty.

Another one, the Incentive Loans, since 1981 when the program was initiated, 41 incentive loans have been offered to a total of 25 students. Of the 25 students, seven have withdrawn after receiving the loans. Eighteen remain in the program. Of the 18 remaining in the program, two completed training in 1985-86, and are practising in Lynn Lake and Deloraine. Sixteen are completing their training.

Some students enter practice after a one-year rotating internship or a two-year family practice residency, following fourth year medicine. Loans are repayable with interest to the date the loan was granted if the physician does not enter rural practice. Loans are not repayable until completion of approved training. The Standing Committee on Medical Manpower provides physicians with monthly listings of communities seeking physicians' services, and encourage these physicians to discuss practice location with the committee.

The statement on the health care received outside Canada, to make sure that we understand the latest change in policy which became effective July 1, 1984, is intended to ensure that the health care resources of Manitoba are considered by our residents before they seek services outside the province. In many situations, the services are readily available in Manitoba. This change in policy does not apply to emergencies and those referrals outside of Manitoba service that are not available in Manitoba, such as bone marrow transplants and other complex surgical procedures.

Prior to the change, some Manitobans were going outside the country for routine physical examinations which could readily be provided by Manitoba physicians. The cost of these services are much higher when provided outside the country due to numerous additional diagnostic procedures performed. Therefore, the decision was taken to have residents who are seeking services outside Canada apply to the Commission for prior approval.

It is stressed that Manitobans who are seeking care outside Canada should, in all cases, have their doctors refer the matter to the Manitoba Health Services Commission prior to the services being received, since there can be significant financial responsibility required by the patient for these services. To assist Manitoba physicians who may be referring a patient to a health centre outside Canada, the Commission recently provided physicians with a referral application which is reviewed by the medical staff of the Commission. Very often, the referring physician is consulted by the Commission medical staff to ensure the patient receives every consideration for their request.

Manitoba Health Services Commission staff has reviewed the number of requests received since January 1, 1986. There were 171 requests, of which 65 were refused following review by the Manitoba Health Services Commission medical staff, because resources were readily available in Manitoba.

We were unable to secure the statistics through the Northern Patient Transportation Program reporting mechanism, as diagnoses are not recorded. That was the question about the abortion issue, how many cases, and we're going to try to get more information. We haven't been able to get that now with what we have on hand.

Finally, the Capital financing and the cash flow Capital projects, the last question that was asked yesterday. The cost of Capital projects are financed through borrowing with the repayment of the debt usually over 20 years starting upon completion of the project. The annual allowance for debt repayment, including principal and interest, is included in the Manitoba Health Services Commission annual Estimates. Principal repayments are in Appropriation 21-8, Expenditures related to Capital Assets, and interest payments are included in Appropriation 21-7.

The five-year Capital Program reflects the total cost of the projects to be financed through borrowing and, as suggested, these costs flow over more than one fiscal period. The cash flow of the cost of construction is as follows - I'll give you a copy of this; I'm going to get copies made; I'll give you that - projects presently under construction prior to 1986-87, 59.3 million; 1986-87, 68.6 million; 1987-88, 35.4 million; 1988-89, 34.8 million; 1989-90, 14.3 million; 1990-91, 22.3 million, for a total of \$234.7 million.

Projects approved for construction: prior to 1986-87, 6 million; 1986-87, 105.7 million; 1987-88, 114.9 million; 1988-89, 23.8 million, for \$250.4 million. Contingency approved for construction, in '86-'87, \$5 million for a total of \$5 million.

Projects approved for architectural planning - the architectural fees to start with - no, I'll give you the projects and the total cost. When everything is finished, then I'll give you the - because that won't be in the costs of construction. Projects approved for architectural planning: prior to 1986-87, none; 1986-87, 8.7 million; 1987-88, 74.4 million; 1988-89, 86.6 million; 1989-90, 48 million; 1990-91, 34.6 million, for a total of 252.3 million.

Again, I want to emphasize that so far is the approval in architectural planning only but, with today's dollars, if this was built, this is what it would cost. So the next step then would be to approve it for construction, and 90 percent of the time it goes through, maybe with some changes one way or another.

The total then of all that I mentioned: prior to 1986-87, 65.3 million; 1986-87, 188 million; 1987-88, 224.7 million; 1988-89, 145.2 million; 1989-90, 62.3 million; 1990-91, 56.9 million - for a total of \$742.4 million. Architect fees include 8.7 million in 1986-87 and 3.7 million in 1987-88 for a total of 12.4. The architectural fees are included in the previous total.

Interest on Capital borrowing during the construction phase is capitalized and forms part of the approved cost of a project. There is no repayment of principle during the construction phase. On completion of the project, this repayment of the principal and interest commences. The allowance for this debt repayment, coupled with allowances for the repayment of capital debt incurred over prior years is included in the Manitoba Health Services Commission Estimates.

Included in the Estimates is a small amount for those projects in the Manitoba Health Services Commission '86-'87 five-year Capital Program. This amount only pertains to those projects in the five-year Capital Program expected to open in 1986-87, and only for the period the new facility is operational.

The allowances for debt repayment included in the Manitoba Health Services Commission 1986-87 Estimates for those projects are as follows: Principal

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\$2,436,600, the interest \$4,827,800.00. So the Capital repayment of \$29,584,000 includes the above \$2,436,000 mentioned for principal and repayment of loans for construction in previous years' five-year program.

Does my honourable friend wish to have copies of everything I've read or just the last one? It's not much more work. We'll get the copies of those.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: If we can have copies of the one you read right now, we could talk about it right now.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Well, I'll wait until there's a Page available.

I don't think I'll read that, with the permission of the committee, I'll get a copy made and I'll also leave a copy with the Clerk and one for Hansard of everything that's read, plus the list of registered airfields that the new air ambulance could land at.

MR. D. ORCHARD: And make it part of the Hansard records?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: By leave, it will be part of the Hansard record.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The NPTP Emergency Warrants, first six months 1986 compare with 1985.

I can give you the total for Thompson, The Pas, Flin Flon, Churchill and Winnipeg is 184 in '85; and for the same five places in '86 was 257 - that was January. Now the same, the two totals - the first '85 and then '86 - for February was 158 and 174; March, 219 and 148; April, 175 and 138; May, 237 and 117; June, 219 and 182 - the total is 1,182 and '86 is 1,016. So, there's a reduction of minus 166. That is replaced by the air ambulance of plus 199, so it's fairly close. I'll get a copy of this because I didn't erase these different things.

It's understood then the copies I'll hand you then, Mr. Chairman, I'll table that. We'll give a copy to the official critic and send a copy to Hansard and that should be included in Hansard as if it was read.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed? (Agreed)

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, why didn't it show up in Hansard?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Pardon?

MR. D. ORCHARD: That stuff you tabled, we did that three or four days ago and it wasn't in Hansard. It didn't get in Hansard.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, the thing I'm tabling now is new. I've never . . .

MR. D. ORCHARD: Oh, no, two or three days ago we went through the same thing.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Oh, I didn't check. Yes, on two other occasions I've done the same thing. I sent a copy

to you, Mr. Chairman, and one to Hansard with the understanding this be done. I wonder if you can check to make sure that has been done.

MR. D. ORCHARD: It hasn't been done. It should be done the day that we agree to do it.

Mr. Chairman, I'm interested in pursuing a couple of questions when I get the Capital thing, but right now, I'd like to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are now on Hospital Program and Personal Care Program. We haven't finished them.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Excuse me for interrupting again. Would my honourable friend prefer we do both together; the Hospital and Personal Care?

MR. D. ORCHARD: I'm going to deal mainly with Hospital first but I might have some colleagues who want . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, but we'll do it both together with the understanding.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, going to the Annual Report of the Manitoba Health Services Commission, again, Page 101. We've got the Hospital Services line where it's indicating that last year there was \$623,646,000 spent fiscal year ending March 31, 1986. Now, I realize there was some Special Warrant, which if I recall from my notes, netted out to another roughly \$7 million or \$5 million last year that applied to the Hospital Program. I'm still having difficulty correlating what's in the Manitoba Health Services Commission Annual Report, and even that net figure in the Hospital Program, as printed in the Estimates Book for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986, he would come out somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$600 million with the Special Warrant and the part which wasn't used. How do we arrive at that 623,000 and correlate it to the figure that's in the printed Estimates Book, Mr. Chairman? Does the Health Services Report, Page 101 include items which are found elsewhere in the Health Services Commission appropriations, other than the strictly Hospital Program line?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is being reconciled if there's any other questions.

I can say though is the Commission is on the accrual basis and the Estimates Book is on actual - on cash I mean - we'll reconcile this figure on Page 101 and I'll give it to you as soon as have it.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, like for instance when we approved the Hospital Program line today for \$644 million are we giving approval to the public general hospitals, the federal hospitals, contract facilities and Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services in hospitals outside the province? Is that what we're giving approval to?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Right.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Okay. Those numbers aren't going to add up. I'm fairly close and the numbers I've put

down from yesterday, which involved the Special Warrant, and there is going to be roughly a \$23 million difference between the reconciliation that was attempted yesterday and what appears in the hospital services book. Now that by itself is not anything I'm raising for cause of concern.

It may be quite easy to reconcile it, but the main thing I'm interested in knowing is whether the 623,646 as it appears in the Manitoba Health Services Commission is very close to the actual amount that was spent last year and I would presume it would have to be because this is part of the audited statement. Because if that's the case, Mr. Chairman, when I did my arithmetic originally and I projected increases, for instance, in each of the line programs and print-overprint in the Estimates Book, there is an almost \$51 million increase in the Hospital Program line. That translates into 8.6 percent increase which on first inspection would give you sufficient dollars to operate your Hospital Program on a comparable basis to last year, possibly with some additional services if you get a new CAT scan in place in the Health Sciences Centre before the end of the fiscal year, so you've got a few more procedures there which might increase the volume through the hospital. But basically to maintain the program, \$51 million was roughly needed to increase the hospital line to maintain the program.

When we actually spent over 623 million last year, that means we are only requesting here some \$21 million of additional funding which I would guess - just let me do a quick calculation in my head - would be something in the neighbourhood of a 3.5 percent increase requested over what was actually spent according to the Health Services Commission Annual Report.

Now, Mr. Chairman, that begs the question of the Minister, that unless I am wrong in my interpretation - and I don't believe I have because I've asked the question whether the identical things are included in the Estimates as it appears on Page 101 - then I foresee one of two things happening. I posed this question to the Minister of Finance the other day on the directive on salaries, but clearly here the Minister to maintain a hospital program is probably going to be looking for something in the neighbourhood of another \$30 million between now and the end of this fiscal year.

Now if that's the case, then certainly we're going to have an increase in the deficit, and if that isn't the case that those extra dollars aren't going to be allocated and the budget is going to be firm at 644 million compared to 623 million last year, then we're going to see our hospitals reduce significantly their program. It's either increase deficit or it's cutback in service in the hospital line. I can't see of any other way to make the two sets of figures correlate, Mr. Chairman.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend from Pembina, we're trying to reconcile that. One thing I could mention immediately, you're just looking under the line Hospital Programs and you should look at Appropriation 89 also. Some has to be added from the Expenditures Related to Capital and so on.

Staff is trying to reconcile that and then we'll give you the answer.

MR. D. ORCHARD: We may have to talk about this, this evening. I don't really want to spend the time on it this evening.

Mr. Chairman, this just isn't making sense because I don't recall in reading the Hospital Services line any mention of capital in terms of inclusive in the 623 million. As a matter of fact, if I follow through here there is a separate line on Page 106 which talks about working capital. No, that won't be the same.

Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister and his staff understand the correlation I'm trying to make. The position I'm taking right now is if we did spend 623 million last year, that we're going to be spending considerably more than the 644 in increasing the deficit thereby, or we're going to be reducing the level of service in the hospitals because given the actual expenditures last year, these projections do not work out in the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, one other thing which may have to be discussed this evening. I'm having a great deal of trouble now that I've got the Minister's . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I've got some information which might clarify it. Let's start with this.

You are interested in the 624 on Page 101. All right, that's made up under the Hospital Program, 593 figure.

MR. D. ORCHARD: 599.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The 593.4 million and then under 8, the Capital, out of that 27 million, there's 24,540 or 29; and then with the 24, that's 617.9, plus the supplementary funding, it's 6.649 million - and we've got here pretty close to that; that's 624,606 - it's pretty close to the 623.

MR. D. ORCHARD: What was the Hospital line again?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The Hospital line is - well the one that we have in front of us - 593,417 million. You haven't got your Estimates Book.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Yes.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Well that line for last year. We would do the same thing for this year. You're forgetting to take something, if you look at your Estimates Book, as I mentioned in the statement that part of it was 8, Expenditures Related to Capital. I think once you get the copies you'll understand it. Do you want these figures again?

MR. D. ORCHARD: No. If you can copy that one, that would make it extremely clear because it doesn't show up in the Estimates Book.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think the page did give you a copy of the things I've read?

The 599 on Page 101 includes the repayment of capital.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Of 24 million?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. D. ORCHARD: And the Special Warrant?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That is added in as 6.6 but that is not the capital though, but 6 . . .

MR. D. ORCHARD: I realize that.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Okay.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That might work out fairly close all right, now.

And of this year's we could probably say that close to 24 million once again - yes, okay.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Do you want this year again. This year . . .

MR. D. ORCHARD: No, that's all right. The presentation over in the book here doesn't allow you to correlate it with the Estimates Book. That's the difficulty. Maybe that might be something they consider another time to point out that . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I haven't discussed this with staff yet, but maybe in the correction.

As I said yesterday, this is the preliminary work to help us with the Estimates to have it as soon as possible, but that's not the official one. There'll be another one this year. I don't know if that can be done this year. I am told this is the financial statement from the Provincial Auditor, and that's the way he wants it presented.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Can I make a suggestion then? Dealing with Page 101, when you've got the public general hospitals, if you put a notation on that 599 million, that 24 million of that were approved under the Expenditures related to Capital, that would make it extremely clear, because then you'd simply net that out, add the next three figures, and you'd end up very close to your Hospital Program line.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We'll consider that. If it's at all possible, we'll do it.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Because it would make the presentation a lot more understandable.

Mr. Chairman, on the information given on the Capital financing and the cash flow of Capital projects, this is really what I was after yesterday. Now for 1986-87, which is the year we're now approving Estimates for, the three categories, actually the four categories which were presented yesterday in the Minister's capital Estimates are projected as of this time to require \$188 million to cash flow: the construction that's under way, the construction that's going to be commenced, the contingency approved for construction which is basically emergency repairs and other repairs, and then the architectural planning. Okay?

Now, where do we approve that \$188 million? It obviously isn't the 29,584 under Line 8 of the Minister's Estimates. I did a quick check in my Capital authority, and there's no place where the Manitoba Health Services Commission is asking for \$188 million worth of borrowing authority. Where is it we give approval to the borrowing of sufficient funds, \$188 million, to undertake this cash flow?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: You have to realize, the other note I sent my honourable friend, that the borrowing

is only when the project is finished. So you will not see this year's borrowing, just a small portion of the ones that were started earlier, in other words that was approved last year. That's the only thing you will see. The other thing will be probably under next year's line, because the borrowing only takes place when the project is finished.

Excuse me, it's not borrowed by the Commission. It's borrowed by the hospitals, and then of course is repaid as we go with the per diem or the Estimates in the case of personal care homes or whatever, the approved budget of the institution.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's getting us a little clearer.

Then within the two lines of Hospital Program and Personal Care Home Program, because most of these construction projects are facilities funded under those two lines basically, what the Minister is saying is the institution itself - if it was the Health Sciences Centre - for instance, they will be arranging the external financing on completion of the project. All the government is doing probably is providing them interim financing while the project's under way — (Interjection) — not even that?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Not even that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: At the completion of the project, they will take out a mortgage on a personal care home or they will take out a debenture issue or whatever on a hospital upgrading so part of the 644 million, part of the 152 million in the Hospital line and Personal Care Home line will reflect the dollars required, No. 1, to pay interest on those debentures and, No. 2, to allow for capital retirement of that through a depreciation fund presumably. There will be a capital cost retirement as part of the funding.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Following what has been said, the capital is under Appropriation 89, and the interest will be out of the Hospital line above. That's part of the costs in their approved budget.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So, the capital grants we have in 8.(b) are where we have the funding for the capital aspect and the only thing inclusive in the Hospital Personal Care Home Program would be any interest charges on the loans, mortgages, debentures, bonds, whatever are sold to achieve the financing?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's right.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to turn this over just for a minute to my deputy critic and then I will be back on a couple of other areas in the hospital line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River East.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I guess this is the right place and time to be asking some questions about the report of the Health Services Review Committee in relationship to some of the sub-committee recommendations. Can I go into that now?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Okay.

I've been doing a little work and a little research as far as the oncology sub-committee recommendations go and I'd like to ask just a few questions of the Minister as far as the number of beds provided for cancer patients, dedicated cancer beds in the province. It's my understanding Manitoba does lag behind the rest of Canada in the aspect of having sort of one dedicated unit set up for the treatment of cancer patients which I feel is really essential as far as coordinating medical and nursing services.

There's a comment in, I guess, Volume 2 of the Health Services Review Committee Report. I just make note the sub-committee on oncology did make several recommendations and there's just one brief comment by the Health Services Review Committee and it states the Health Services Review Committee agreed effective in-patient services would require close patient supervision and patient isolation from infection. The issue of dedicated beds for this purpose at the Health Sciences Centre was defined as a jurisdictional dispute. Negotiation of organizational boundaries was left open to the service providers.

Can the Minister expound on this at all? Is there any projected program for dedication of a specific cancer treatment unit?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I want to say in general for a start on the question of the Health Review Committee that I haven't got the answers on that. You can ask me the questions, but don't expect I've got all the answers on that. That's what we're doing now. We're going to work. We've received the recommendations. We're looking at it now with the advisory committee and the team which I put together and then we'll announce any government policy. I'm not in a position to do that at this time.

We know there's concern now. The situation of getting these beds together and so on was something the doctors always wanted for quite awhile. That is done usually in the hospital with the board and so on. That has to go to the board in the hospital themselves. It's not the Commission that dictates to the boards of those insitutions.

Now, it took a long time. There's a lot of problems at the Health Sciences Centre because of the construction that is going on. It is very, very difficult. It would be so simple if we could start on a new piece of property and build the way we want it. You have to build things which you close later on or destroy and so on. It's costly, it's difficult, and there are problems.

We certainly sympathized with the Commission and saw what Dr. Israel wanted. It seemed to be at an impasse between the board and Dr. Israel, so we did use the office of the Minister of Health to get the two groups together who then decided they would work on that. That is being done now.

Now there are some situations where we can do that with any area. You might not satisfy everybody and you might not satisfy in this case, Dr. Israel, who wants so many beds and it's the same thing with the cardiac surgery and so on. That is the main responsibility of the board. It has been decided they would be, and everybody agrees that you should get certain beds to get the proper staff instead of the way they are all over

the place. That has been decided. I don't remember exactly where they're going to go.

It has been decided now, without review committee, there'll be one unit of about 20 beds. That has been decided. Of course, Dr. Israel would like more and that is what we'll look at with the hospital, these programs, and see the overall need of what we need. There could be another policy coming later on . . . But as of now, this is the situation.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding, I believe it's D6 in the Health Sciences Centre, is going to provide some medical oncology beds. I wonder if the Minister could give me any indication of what planning stage this is in and when it's all going to come about.

I believe also it's only an interim unit until something else, better services or more services can be provided.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I want to tell you, as I've said, following the discussion, the meeting, we had of the two groups to bring them together, there have been further meetings, and that has received the approval of the interim measure of 20 beds or units.

Now when is it going to be finished? That all rests with the board of the Health Sciences Centre because they received the approval from the Commission and I don't know when that will be done at this time.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: I guess just from talking with people over there on both sides, there's some genuine concern about what's happening. I guess it's been since before 1980, there's been a realization there is a general need for some coordination for medical oncology, surgical oncology, and because of the jurisdictional dispute, and I think I understand it fairly well - the Health Sciences Centre has other priorities and the Cancer Foundation, of course, has cancer treatment as their main priority. I know it can cause quite a problem. The fact is though because I don't really think the Cancer Foundation as such is asking for too much when they're asking for services which might just meet the needs of the patients in Manitoba and have sort of a standard type of care that's available in most other provinces which isn't available in Manitoba available here.

I know the problems, they can fight and argue and it's been going on for six years now and there's been no concrete construction or planning. I would tend to say it's the cancer patients who are suffering as a result of this jurisdictional dispute. I was wondering whether the Minister and the Commission can't get their act together and get working on something that's going to benefit the cancer patients of Manitoba?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: . . . explain to the new member so she wouldn't think I'm ignoring her questions.

The member has a habit of coming back, which is fair game - the Estimates are there to provide the Opposition and so on the chance to give their comments on that - but I'm not going to get up and answer the same question three times. I've answered the question.

I'm saying this is an interim measure; that there has been discussion - we've brought the two groups together - that it is with the board to decide; and I'm

saying future policies will be determined later on. There are committees that are being set now to look at the review committee and that'll be done. I can't give you any more information than that.

I want to say also I want the member to be conscious that you cannot at one time, we have to look at the overall thing, it's very easy and if the member or any members in this committee want to stand up and say well you should give more money to the pharmacists; you should give more for cancer. I have the same kind of heart as most of the members in this committee also, or all the members, would like to give everything exactly where they want. It is impossible. It is perfectly all right.

I'm not challenging or trying to chastise the member or any members to make a point. That might be exactly and I'm sure all the members are very sincere. I don't have to get up and comment time and time after. That will give you a chance to give it off your chest.

Yesterday, I was told I was monopolizing. I'm just saying this because it is a new member - to understand I'm not trying to stump - but I'm going to answer once and then if the member wants to make a speech, which is customary - there's nothing wrong with that - and to implore or to make a point for more in a certain area, that's perfectly all right also. I will remind them of that when they talk about the deficit and when they talk about watching and less money - less percentage, not less money - so, in order that we understand each other and we would be fair with each other. The member certainly has all the right to make any statement at all at any time during the Estimates.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Yes but, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is talking about the deficit and giving one area more and one area less, and that's all fine and good. The point I'm trying to make is at the Health Sciences Centre and the Cancer Foundation with the dispute, there's a few patients here and a few patients there. They're sort of scattered all over the place. I don't think that's really utilizing our medical or nursing staff to the best benefit. I might suggest if we could coordinate those activities in one area, we might be spending less money. It's just a suggestion maybe to the Minister that he could look at trying to save a little money in one area by giving a little more somewhere else. That was the point I was trying to make.

If there's no comment, we'll go on to another area. I know there's been some talk and some discussions too about bone marrow transplantation being done in the province. I know that isn't something which can happen overnight. I would like to ask the Minister whether he could tell me how much money has been spent out of province over the last few years? I know back in 1983 there was about \$1 million spent on sending patients elsewhere to have bone marrow transplantation done. Has he got figures for 1984 and '85 for the same thing?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I haven't got this information with me but I'll provide this to the committee.

Let me give this added information to the members of the committee. Some of these, such a treatment as a bone marrow transplant is something which is very

costly. It's not done every day. There's not that many cases, but it's very costly, and sending them out of the province is also very costly.

Now, the situation is when the Ministers of Health, I mean the Ministers of Health of all the provinces, once a year or so, that has been on the agenda and there is an interprovincial committee working on this to see where these can do instead of having one of everything in each province which would be too costly. It is a suggestion this is - and there's a sub-committee of Deputy Ministers and so on who are looking at that to see if, for instance, you can maybe end up with a heart transplant being done in Manitoba for the western provinces. I'm not announcing anything, I'm giving you an example of what can happen, and maybe bone marrow somewhere else. So that's being looked at. That's a decision. A decision eventually will have to be made.

Are we going to cover all this? Is everything going to be insured at any cost? That is a decision that'll have to be made by the governments and the people of Manitoba and that will be thoroughly reviewed when we're looking at the situation. At one time we were told that we were fodbashing when we were trying to get more money from the feds. We just can't do it alone. We can't do it and I can't blame - I'm not criticizing the Federal Government who say: well, we have to know where we're going; we have to plateau, that's it. That's what's happening. It's the same, it is not cost-shared any more and we just can't do it alone.

When I was comparing the \$1 billion or so in the budget of the Commission this year and I said that in 10 years, that's without doing all those things, it'll be \$3 billion, and we just can't do it. So those decisions will have to be made.

There is nowhere that we have a money tree that we can pick this thing up and so on. In the meantime, we are trying to see if that could be done, if we could spread that throughout Canada, what the provinces are ready to do. Instead of having kidney transplants, bone marrow transplants, heart transplants in Manitoba, and the same thing in Saskatchewan, we're trying to get together, work together, to see if we can come up with something. Then the overall, each province, will know if all these things can keep on, if you can add all these things and keep adding that as insured services for the people of Manitoba.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Mr. Chairman, just one more aspect as far as the Cancer Foundation goes. I'm led to believe that they have an extremely good volunteer program going on over at the Cancer Foundation. I guess it was two years ago, there was a pilot project and they hired a coordinator for volunteer programs. It has been presented to the Commission for funding. It's reviewed yearly and the coordinator was sort of left up in the air. It's a position that's funded half by the Cancer Society and half by the Cancer Foundation. I somehow think that somebody in a position to coordinate volunteers who are going to give service freely and benefit our health program should be a position that's funded a full-time basis, forever by the Commission. There's just been no action taken on that. Can you inform me whether that position could be a Commission-funded position?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: When my honourable friend was talking to Dr. Israel and the people who run it, I think it might have been a good idea to ask them where their priorities are. They received a block funding from us and it is up to them to determine their priority like all the departments do and so on.

Does my honourable friend understand what the block funding is? We don't go line by line, and they must then decide what they do with their money. You don't just set up something and keep something which is very, very important obviously and so on; that it's very hard to say no and then come back and say here, we want extra money for that. When you set your budget, you've got to look, the same as I do in my department.

We were talking about some of the morale problems in my department. That's one of the reasons also because there have been certain cuts and so on with staff and so on. It's a difficult thing that we must cope with and the institution and the different programs also must do the same thing. The Cancer Foundation is in the same boat.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: It's up to them to make that decision on who they - obviously they are funding this program and it is a very good program.

Just sort of going through the report of the Health Services Review Committee, I note that, and I know many of the departments had made a lot of recommendations and a lot of them are very self-serving. Everybody wants everything for their own sub-committee, or their own department. I know it says in the beginning of the book that several recommendations were supported by the Health Services Review Committee in general, and looking through the oncology recommendations, I noticed that many of them are disposed of in whatever way. Some of them are referred to the Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, to the Health Services Commission to discuss, a lot of them are to be discussed further, I suppose, studied further or reviewed further. There is not much that is terribly concrete that's been decided.

Can you tell me what the process is now with these recommendations that were made? I'll just pick one. The oncology sub-committee recommended that the complement of radiation oncologists should immediately be increased from seven to nine, and the disposition is, refer to the Manitoba Health Services Commission's Facilities Division. What happens from here on?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Obviously, there is not too much concrete, because this is a recommendation that came in from an independent group without any interference from government at all, presented to the government. That's where we're at at this time. Some of these areas, of course, we were moving. You know, we didn't close shop until this was done. But many of the other things were done.

Now the recommendation was done with a group that looked at one particular area, such as the example that was given, and it is people who have knowledge of this special need in this area. You know that's going to be the trick, is how you coordinate that, because I don't think that any provinces have done what we want to do and this is what I keep repeating, that tough decisions will have to be made.

For instance, I said that my colleagues will have to look at the situation of do we keep on going with no premiums? Do we keep on going and saying that we don't want to increase the deficit too much, that we don't want to raise taxes? Do we say also that it's a sacred cow, no extra billing? And do we say now that we'll provide an example of transportation and say maybe a bicycle, but everybody wants a Cadillac now.

My honourable friend just mentioned bone marrow. I've had a very very difficult case without knowing from the family just last week. There was a kidney transplant needed and it was felt that going to the States they had no kidney at the time - liver, excuse me - and the cost, the hospital in the States said: will you post a bond for hundreds of thousands of dollars before anything could be done? We had no idea what the family was going to do. That is not the way we cover it. We're faced with those things.

Now we'll have to make decisions on that with my colleagues. First of all, what priority in the government is health care? Where can we get revenue? Where are we ready to go? How far are we ready to go? How far are we ready if at all to reinstate premiums or utilization fees, or de-insuring certain things. Those things will have to be done.

You know, it's not just one thing that you decided that you're just going to read the report and that's what the recommendations say, that it's going to be automatic. We will have to do the same thing as I said the Cancer Society has to do, the Foundation has to do. We will have to prioritize all those things. We'll look at the ensemble. We will have to find a way to deliver the service without cutting down on the standards but do it in a cheaper way when we know that the main thing, the most costly thing is keeping people in institutions.

So we're already saying we're going to try to bring programs to keep people out of institutions. That will be one of the things that we will do. Eventually these recommendations will come and depending on all these questions - I don't know, I'll have to make the presentation to my colleagues. This is what I said this little group will work with, with the advice of the advisory committee, in discussion with the MMA, with the nurses, the MONA and MARN and the College of Physicians and the institutions, the large hospitals, MHO and all these groups. So you can see the awful challenge in front of us. I say us, not just me, all the people of Manitoba, because we do have one of the best, if not the best, not in every single thing. We showed yesterday that we weren't doing as much in ambulance services as other provinces were doing but, all in all, we've got a darned good health care system. We're going to try to retain that, but what can we afford? The thing is, there is no way that you can just okay everything.

This is what we were trying to say when we made such a point of saying to the Federal Government, in trying to induce them to go with a commitment of the Prime Minister in, say, cost-sharing of approved programs, at least, that we would do, because we had talked about this flexibility. The government is looking; they also have their responsibility of reducing the deficit. That has been one of the priorities for this department. That's understandable, and I never would criticize them for that.

But I am criticizing them. The only time that I've criticized the Federal Government is saying that, and

then telling us and making statements that there should be more for research, more for an aging population. That's another thing that's going to be costly. There should be more for mental health when they never spend a cent.

My honourable friend said yesterday that wasn't accord service, and I'm talking about the Liberals now who were in office.

So it's not an easy thing. I think we do have to work together, but I don't think that we should automatically say, fine, forget it; we don't need any money from the feds. We're going to try to get as much as possible from the feds.

It was something done by the previous government, and this Federal Government, without discussion with the provinces. I don't know of any other areas where you can come in and make changes like Monique Begin suggested, and then later on happen without even discussing the financing. How can you do that with something important like that? We haven't done that.

That is what the resolution is, and I am certainly, as Minister of Health for the province, ready and anxious to get down to business and discuss with the Ministers of Finance and so on, forget these transfer payments and so on - we've lost that battle - and trying to work together to see what we can do in Manitoba because there have been other statements made.

I think the present Minister of Health, who's from Manitoba, he seemed to say that he would welcome certain pilot projects, certain suggestions. He's had many of those in front of him ever since there's been a change of government, because we gave some of those to the former Minister of Health. So that, I would hope, is the future.

You can see that it is a real challenging problem that we have. I wasn't trying to exaggerate or, because this is my department, to say that I felt that the challenge of this generation will be to decide with health care. We know what happens in a rich country like the States where there are, what, 35 million people who get no coverage at all, where the cost is that you can't move until you pay or post bonds and so on. We don't want that. I think we've got to try to retain but we can't keep on. The best example, as I said, in 10 years the way it's going now, just at the rate we're going now, nothing else, not with these new things and not including introducing heart transplants or bone marrow transplants; it's just impossible. That is why I said earlier that I hope that there's sincerity of trying to work together. As we go along, any policy that we can announce, we will.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Mr. Chairman, just from reading through the review committee's book, I guess in February, 1984 was the first meeting, and the recommendations were presented in this book, what, the end of 1985, November, 1985? Here it is now, the end of July, 1986, and I would be interested in knowing what's happened as far as all of these recommendations. I know you're sort of putting them all together and trying to prioritize and pick what should be done, but where are we going and what's going to happen with all of these recommendations? How much longer is it going to take to really get on with coordinating and doing something really constructive with all the data that's been collected?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'm not going to repeat my answer, but there is something that I should add, because my honourable friend, I think has a good question. What happened since December of 1985?

The first thing that we did, this committee, as I said, were individuals who had been recommended by whatever group. They were not representing anybody but themselves, and they brought in this recommendation. They divided and they also formed sub-committees, 15 sub-committees, to do this work, and they brought this recommendation.

The next step was also that the people concerned had to know what those recommendations were. They had to be able to have time to peruse that, discuss it with their group, and come back with a critique, to endorse it or refuse some others. That is what we did. We did that, and we asked for that at the end of June.

Those were due at the end of the June, and they're all in now. There's not one negative. I'm not saying they agree 100 percent. To give you an example so you understand, well, we've sent that to the major hospitals in the city here, all the hospitals in the city, through the rural hospitals, through the MHO also - the MHO then would talk to these groups - to the larger personal care homes, to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, to the MMA, to the Victorian Order of Nurses, to MARN, to MONA. The handicapped people have had it on request also, and they can read it. Everybody was invited to do that.

I will tell you something else also. I'll be very, very candid. As you know, from December until now, during that time there was an election. The last thing that I wanted is that we would take advantage of something like that and use it in our platform of the election, because I felt then we will lose what we've been doing. We will divide the people. It will look like as if they're trying to set them up, or we're doing that, to make a commitment.

So purposely, with the approval of my colleagues in Cabinet, that was the recommendation we made, that we wouldn't have had the time. It would have been irresponsible to do that anyway, but we were very careful that we didn't use that because we have people from all parties who are working together. I wanted to make sure, if there's a change of government, because it's not going to be done in three years, that you don't have to start all over again, that you would feel it's the NDP study and so on.

This was done, and that is why I've invited your party also to cooperate, because I think it's too important and it's too costly and there are too many hours of volunteers working on this to start over every time there's a change of government. I think Manitobans would be the losers. So that is another thing, although it would have been completely responsible to do anything at that time, but we weren't ready.

So now is the step, as I announced earlier. We set up a small group to coordinate that, because the people from the government still have - I still have my job to do. I still have to run the department; the Deputy Minister also, Mr. DeCock; also with the Commission, Mr. Pascoe. We have a small group. There might be more later on who will come in to try to coordinate that and to push us and to bring in the legislation that is needed.

I don't know if I answered your question, but that's exactly where it is now, what happened between that date and today.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, under the Hospital line, what is the rate of increase that's offered to each hospital facility? Have you got a percentage of increase over their last year's budget? As well, can the Minister indicate how many hospitals last year operated at the end of the year in a deficit position?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We directed the facilities to increase 3 percent for staff, and 4 percent, but not a true 4 percent - 2 percent now and 2 percent later for the supplies.

Now the analysis of deficit and surpluses, 1985-86, urban, total number of facilities 12, a net surplus of \$8,502,000; the number with deficits, 9; significant deficits, the amount was 8.

All right, the total that we have in urban, rural and personal care homes, there's 142. This is a deficit total of \$9.8 million. The number with deficits out of these 142, there are 78; a significant deficit out of those 78, there are 34; and the balance of possible adjustment has been \$9.4 million, and that leaves a balance outstanding and that's still being reviewed, of \$1,188,000.00.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, 78 facilities ran a deficit in 1985-86, last year, I presume, are the numbers that we just got out of a total of 142 facilities, so that's a little better than 50 percent of the facilities are running in a deficit position.

Given the guidelines that have been issued to the facilities, has the Minister had any feedback as to whether they can continue to operate without deficits, the balance that aren't; and certainly it would appear that, given past experience, probably the 78 will continue to run at a deficit because their baseline is now based on a deficit figure; has the Minister received any feedback from the individual hospitals' personal care homes that they will be experiencing difficulty in complying with the 3 percent staff, 4 percent supply?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, the figures are absolutely right. There are 78 of 142 that have a deficit, but I also gave another figure and I think that's important because some of those deficits are very small.

Now there's 34 out of these 142 that have significant deficits, and this has not changed in Manitoba. I would like to see it change. I know that in certain provinces there is no deficit, period, final, unless something is approved during the year, if there's a change by the Commission; while here, for a number of years, ever since we've had hospitalization, there has been a different system that the deficit was reviewed, not only once, but a few times.

Out of that deficit, there's certainly - I don't know how many of them - but some of them that we would approve and they know, because of certain changes that happened during the year, emergencies and so on. If you have a strike and if you have to move all patients, all those things we don't know about that before so there are some. That deficit is reviewed and much of the money is authorized. They overspend because we don't know what's going to happen, so it's still a deficit from what they were told, but they went along through no fault of theirs, then there are certain things that will be reviewed immediately and

other things that will be reviewed further and that will be looked at.

That's the amount that I said, that out of that the balance outstanding - in other words, not approved - is a deficit of a little over \$1 million, so some of it had been approved. That doesn't mean that we won't tighten up, that we're not looking at what is happening in other provinces to say if we could make it stick and make sure that no deficits are allowed, unless there was a special approval beforehand and that might come, that might be the next step. But right now we are just going on with what has been the custom here ever since they brought in hospitalization and ever since we insured personal care homes in this place by reviewing their deficit and agreeing on a certain amount and recognizing a certain amount.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the number of facilities and the question that I posed was whether the facilities are envisioning problems in terms of running their facilities without deficits this year; and I presume that some of the feedback the Minister is getting from the 3 percent budget increase that there will be difficulties.

I'd like to pose the question to the Minister in terms of the Brandon General Hospital. Is Brandon General Hospital now considered to be a regional referral hospital, servicing the southwest Manitoba region?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, to the last question; and the first question, I want to emphasize again that for 24 years or whatever or 27 years that we've been going, it's been the same thing under all governments, with reviewing their deficits. That is when you find out if they can live with it, if the deficit is something that can be approved, that should be approved.

The hospitals, the institutions have been very understanding on this and very, very cooperative and I don't think any of them are jumping with joy and telling us that they've got too much money, please don't give us all that money, the same thing the provinces do when they're talking about another level of government, the same thing the city does when they want more money from the province and the same thing as even the department does during Estimate time with my colleagues in Cabinet; so things are not any different. They are cutting down compared to the days where things were very plentiful.

In fact, I remember when I started in this House, there was one line; it was Hospital, the same as it is now, except we never discussed it. No, it wasn't Hospital. The whole thing was one line; it was the Manitoba Health Services Commission, so much. There was something like the telephone and so on. The only thing they came and met with the Premier of the Day and asked him if they can increase the premiums. Mind you, they were raising some of their own funds; it was a little different, but that's the way it was, there was no discussion at all, so I think that it's much more responsible now. It is a very difficult situation and they're not in any different position than any time during this year, except we're more careful - and that's everyone, starting with the Federal Government - they're more careful of their deficit, the province, the institutions, and everybody else.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, when's the in-service date for the CAT scan in Brandon - and I note from the Capital Program that there is a Brandon Hospital Mechanical Upgrading CAT scanner in the projects approved for construction, or commencement of construction; and then in terms of the architectural plans, there's a major redevelopment.

Mr. Chairman, can the Minister indicate the in-service date of the CAT scan and the projected completion date of the plans for major upgrading that are in Architectural Design? What's the Commission's general idea's timing on that?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's two different questions. The first question is, as soon as they can place it in, as soon as the construction preparation for it is done. The hospital has been informed of that; there's been approval and it's full speed ahead, as far as we're concerned. It won't be delayed at all.

The second question, remember the point that my honourable friend made yesterday on this. I think there's a 99 percent chance that it's going to go through, but right now the only approval it has is for architectural planning. Now, I certainly can't tell you when that building would be ready. Normally, in a large hospital like that it takes more than a year, it takes two or three years for the functional planning. Look at how long they've been going at St. Boniface and other areas. Now that doesn't mean that you have to wait till everything is finished; it might be that different phases will be approved, but I rather suspect that that will be the case at the Brandon Hospital. That, as I say, will be approved as it's ready, the different phases, but right now when you're just starting some of the architectural drawing and so on that could take three years to finish that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, is Brandon one of those hospital facilities that are in the category of a deficit position and even in one of the categories with a significant deficit?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes it is.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, over the years and I think this has been a process that's taken place for the last probably seven, eight, nine years, Brandon has more and more become a regional referral centre, and I think that's why the government decided as we had decided last year, that should we be government a CAT scan would be part of the expansion in Brandon General Hospital because it would provide that kind of service to those areas of rural Manitoba. As a regional referral centre, Brandon is becoming more and more utilized by Manitobans in the southwest part of the province. Can the Minister indicate with Brandon General Hospital running one of the significant deficits whether all of the facility, all of the Brandon General Hospital complex is open, or have they closed any beds at Brandon General Hospital?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The Brandon Hospital, of course, informed and the Commission was aware that the Brandon Hospital was running quite a large deficit. There were discussions between the Commission and

the hospital, the hospital then had staff that hadn't been approved. There was discussion on that, that was brought to their attention. The Brandon Hospital was saying that the service that they were doing, some of the services they were doing necessitated the staff; that part of it was recognized by the Commission. They still had the deficit though and the concern was that the admitting and discharge pattern was completely different than the city because of what they had before, the beds available, we've mentioned that before. It is completely different and my honourable friend, I think, knows what I'm talking about because we've talked about that last year. The Evans report or study I think gave us some information on that.

The patient days in Winnipeg per 1,000 is 930, and the patient days per 1,000 in Brandon is 1,340. So that gives you an idea. This is a real concern that we had. I authorized the staff to look at the situation with the University of Manitoba, the Manitoba Health Services Commission as well as the hospital and I authorized that the staff that they had there from that day, that they receive authorization until it was decided what could be done would be covered. And some of that work was done. The Brandon Hospital with the Commission definitely recognize that there is a problem with the admitting procedure; that is being studied. I have been informed that the Brandon Hospital has informed us that they will make a presentation to their board, I think that was done, suggesting closure of some beds. Also, that this would be presented to the Commission for approval, and I don't think this has been finalized as yet.

MR. D. ORCHARD: In the statistic that the Minister indicated of difference in patient days per 1,000 population or 10,000 population, whichever the figure was, did that use the population of Brandon as the base for that patient day, or did it use the regional service area?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The catchment the same as we try to deal with the teaching hospitals for instance and so on, that has a large catchment, no, we know that was for the - not just the Brandon. We recognize as was said earlier that it is a regional or referral place for the area hospitals and communities.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I want to table a letter that went to all hospital staff from the board chairman and the executive director regarding the Brandon General Hospital operating deficits. I think it would be interesting enough; it's a short memo to read into the record.

"As promised in our memo of June 26, 1986, we wish to advise you of further developments relative to our financial position. We are continuing to develop a plan which will indicate how our operation may be adjusted to live within the funding available. We have met with our medical staff on two occasions and are extremely pleased with their current and anticipated continued support through this period of adjustment. We have also considered the urgent needs of additional staff in various key areas. We are faced with the reality that no more funds are available this fiscal year beyond those previously approved. We cannot accept a

reduction in standards so we must reduce the amount of service Brandon General Hospital can offer."

This, Mr. Chairman, in that paragraph says better than I have been able to say for the last two Estimates, that we indeed are faced with rationing of health services in Manitoba. "We cannot accept a reduction in standards so we must reduce the amount of service Brandon General Hospital can offer. Options and alternatives we are considering include the closure of 500 East entirely and redistributing the patient load amongst the remaining beds." I'm led to understand that that's approximately a 28-bed wing.

"In addition, the board will be requested to provide additional funds from the Owner's Equity Fund, a reserve for contingencies that has never been utilized previously, by an amount which is approximately equal to the savings realized through the closure of 500 East.

"Other efficiencies that will assist us to remain within funding levels include the reduction of beds in the Intensive Care Unit from 12 to 10, combined with an attempt to decrease the average occupancy by one patient." So that in effect you'd end up with really nine operative Intensive Care Unit beds instead of the present 12.

"All of these efforts will see us through the year and will be presented to our board for their consideration on July 24, 1986. Immediately thereafter details will be submitted to the Minister of Health as requested.

"Ongoing discussions regarding this proposal will be carried out through our Assistant Executive Directors and include the Employee Services Department as well as the respective unions where applicable. Every effort will be made to minimize the reduction of staff hours."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that memo to the staff probably says more about the current funding in the hospitals because I don't think this is necessarily unique, a unique circumstance to Brandon. I think it is a circumstance that's shared in a number of our major hospitals wherein 34 facilities are running major deficits. And given that they cannot accept a reduction in standards, they are reducing the amount of service. And that, Mr. Chairman, is the case I have made and it's in the two options that are being considered in Brandon and will probably be proceeded with because their budget constraints will dictate it, the closing of an entire wing or 28 beds for servicing of patients, and that only covers one-half of the cost savings that they need to achieve to run the balance of the hospital without that 28-bed wing, in that they are going to have to pull funds from an Owner's Equity Fund, a reserve for contingency that has never been previously utilized in order to carry on the hospital function in the balance of the facility.

The other option, of course, is the Intensive Care Unit reduction from two beds closed outright and one of the ten remaining beds according to this memo decreased the average occupancy by one patient. So that in effect you'll have a full 25 percent reduction in Intensive Care Unit beds in Brandon.

Now that for a regional hospital servicing a region of southwest Manitoba is a fairly serious measure undertaken to contain their budget within the guidelines and the funding available from the Commission. I think it points out to the Minister the kind of problem that the people in Brandon and the Westman area are facing in terms of their facility and it points out in more general

terms, I think, the problems that some of the major hospitals throughout the province are facing. If we had the time, which we certainly don't, to go into each individual hospital to talk of their deficit, to talk about their options of how they're going to fit the operations within their hospital to fit the budget, I think we would find a lot of staff memos similar to the one that the Brandon General Hospital has given to their staff.

So what we are faced with, Mr. Chairman, I think, is evident now that we've got a system that is contracting, a system that is being rationed, a system in the hospital area where we have closing of beds, closing of intensive care unit beds, reduction of the amount of service, a rationing of service, a cutback of service. That's what it was called 1977-81; it was cutbacks. It was the buzz word the NDP used.

I don't recall wings of hospitals being closed from 1977-81 under our administration, but now we have it happening. You see, Mr. Chairman, that just drags up all the debates of former members from the New Democratic Opposition about canvas for sheets and two strips of bacon instead of three and all of the very legitimate criticism that they put and focused on the system.

Here we have, Mr. Chairman, and we're not talking about two strips of bacon; we're not talking about the allegation of having canvas instead of sheets, as the former Member for Ste. Rose alleged when he was sitting in the Opposition. We simply have a memo from the board chairman and executive director to all staff in Brandon General Hospital, telling them that their options amongst budget restrictions imposed by the government is the closing of an entire wing of the hospital and the reduction by 25 percent of the operative intensive care unit beds.

Mr. Chairman, that's a far cry from removing one strip of bacon out of three on a Sunday brunch, which was the hue and cry for some months during the second Session of our government.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Bacon's bad for cholesterol anyway, right?

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Minister says bacon is bad for cholesterol. I presume that in his budget constraint, he'll cut bacon out of the whole hospital budget now.

Mr. Chairman, what is happening here, I don't think is unique. Like I say, we don't have the time to go into the Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface, other hospitals to find out what their options are to contain their hospital's operation to fit the budget that is imposed; but in the regional hospital of Brandon, we do have a significant reduction in the amount of beds available, etc., etc.

In talking to staff out there, because we're on this line, last year I believe the Supplies were 4 percent, 2 and 2, the same as what they are this year, where supplies are increased by 4 percent. Nurses indicated to me that they even run out silk sutures in emergency because the supplies aren't there. The budget for supplies doesn't allow them to keep those ahead. If they've got a child in for I.V., they wish to use, I believe, a 250 millilitre I.V. bottle instead of 1,000 because, No. 1, the child doesn't need the 1,000 and, No. 2, it takes a more expensive piece of equipment to regulate the

1,000 in intravenous for a child. They don't have the 250 c.c. bags because they're back ordered; they're not there, and it's because of the supply line being at 4 percent.

In the days from 1977-81, those circumstances would have been absolutely unacceptable. We're not talking, as I say, about canvas for bed sheets; we're talking about silk sutures to stitch up people in Emergency; we're talking about I.V. solutions not being available and that the fact they use the larger solution is more costly and more wasteful. Those are the outcomes of the kind of restraints that are put on hospitals like Brandon and others.

Mr. Chairman, it boils down to one key area, that the Minister has to take the Manitoba and Medicare Report in general, and in specific with this hospital if he wishes and he's got to find out why our hospitals are costing more money in Manitoba and he's got to determine, because anybody in the nursing profession that I've talked to are talking about overtime, talking about short staff on the wards and they make the allegation - and that's natural to do it - that management has taken over and blossomed in numbers and in portion of the budget. That's why I posed the question when we discussed this some 10 days ago as to whether the cost per day included all staffing costs, including management, and it did.

The Minister's got a real task on his hands to come to grips with this because I think it is totally unacceptable to have Brandon as a regional hospital, using as an option the closing of a wing, closing intensive care beds to meet their budget, at the same time we're talking about putting in a CAT scan which is going to cost more money, putting in a redevelopment plan which the Minister just said a minute ago was 99 percent sure of going ahead. The timing would not be assured.

Before the election, Mr. Chairman, there were commitments made to Brandon by the Member for Brandon East and others talking about the expansion in Brandon and how the dollars were going to flow to Brandon. The doctors that came to our task force said, "How can they promise us more facility when we cannot operate the present facility we've got with the budget we're getting from the government?" Why would you build more beds to leave them empty because, at that time, Assiniboine Centre had empty beds. That was back in February of this year and now we're, once again, faced with an increased number of beds going to be closed and unavailable to the public out there as a method of containing cost, of meeting budget, of rationing health care services, of making cutbacks in health care to fit the budget.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, it's so easy to be irresponsible when you're in Opposition and to mislead or take whatever points you want. I think it is so easy.

We've mentioned many times that you can't have it both ways, and this time I think this honourable member is trying to get it every possible way. Not too long ago he was telling me we weren't going fast enough to get all the information that we had to see what was wrong. Now today, very clearly, all the problems rest with the Provincial Government, nothing with those delivering

the service, nothing with administration at all and my honourable friend would like to leave the thought that we are closing these beds.

First of all, that has to go to the Commission before anything is approved. My honourable friend talks about the intensive care, how cruel that is. They had 12 beds and they closed two; now they're using seven to eight and people are really going to suffer. In one sentence we're told, you've got to be careful - we recognize that - that the Federal Government, you're always squawking about the Federal Government - they have a responsibility to cut their deficit and you should cut your deficit also.

We were told also, during the Throne Speech, every single one, including the Member from the House of David also made all the comments that our deficit was too high. That was by everybody and my honourable friend is saying, right.

My honourable friend was asking, when are you going to get this information to see what the problem is? They have not reconciled what is wrong with their admitting process and that is what they were asked to do and that's what they're doing. In the meantime, they're going in the hole all the time; that is correct.

My honourable friend talked about, and I know what he's talking about, the bacon and the - that's true; that was said, and you tried that. You tried that four years ago and I told you I wouldn't be sucked in and I won't be. If the former Minister of Health wanted to say, well, I'm going to change that; I'm going to turn it, I have confidence in the board and I say that the board will make those decisions. If you got roped in by these things, you never heard me say anything about that in those years in Opposition, because I had been on this side and I had been Minister of Health before.

But the Minister was getting up and saying, well, I'll investigate that. I don't know if he was going to change the beds himself. I say, there's a board that has interest. The medical staff there are as interested as I am. They might do things that are a little tougher, but they're not going to endanger anybody - I had enough confidence and I still have enough confidence to say, they're not going to endanger the life of anybody in there. So that is the situation.

Now that is what we're looking at. That's where we've had these committees, and my honourable friend mentioned that himself. He knows that the savings will have to be done by closing beds. And by closing all those beds, this awful thing that we're asking Brandon to do, they will still have more beds per thousand than in the City of Winnipeg. If it could be done in Winnipeg, why not in Brandon?

I think we have to make this decision. I'm not going to win this one politically. My honourable friend is going to go to Brandon and, when the Member for Brandon comes back, it'll be the same thing. They'll have in the Brandon Sun and the other paper all his best quotes. I'll bring you all kinds of scrapbooks where they had, in Roblin's days and all those days, in Weir's days, in Schreyer's days, every year they close beds. Every single year they close beds. So it's not the end of the world.

We are saying there are too many beds, and it's a difficult thing to do. My honourable friend is coming in with this word, "rationing." He likes that word; he loves that word. That's a great thing, we're rationing.

He wants to get even with the election that they lost. They're still fighting not the last election, the one before that. That really broke him up, he and his Leader at the time. They never swallowed that. They're not looking at the future, they're looking in the past and, boy, that was awful.

Now, I'll tell you what rationing is. If you're careful, you'll be educated out there if you listen a bit. The situation was this. We've talked about the different forms. My honourable friend said yesterday, what are you talking about. They only covered Medicare and they only covered hospitalization, and that's true, when they had cost-sharing. That's true. But they were the ones in discussion who talked also about giving the flexibility so you wouldn't spend all the money. It was because of that that there were too many acute beds. That's because of that, that we have problems in Brandon now, because you did not have the facilities to cover personal care homes.

We were the first province that insured personal care homes. We were the first ones. We were the first province, under an NDP Government, that brought in home care. These were the services, and this is what we're looking at.

Now, I just did the figuring just with hospitals and medicare, the insured services. In 1976-77, under cost-sharing, the total of hospitals and Medicare was \$323 million. The feds paid out of that 171.4, and Manitoba paid 151. The feds paid 53 percent.

In 1977-78, still under the budget that had been prepared by the Government of Ed Schreyer - the election took place late '77 - there the total costs were 351, and Manitoba paid 152, an increase of approximately \$1 million. The feds increased that from 171 to 198, for 56.5 percent.

In 1977-78, that's where they had changed to give you this flexibility, to be able to spend your money wisely. That was recognized there as block funding, the equivalent that they paid. That of course as I said, when the people who got advantage of this change at the time, because it was going to go down for the first few years, there was a much larger contribution from the feds, was the Lyon Government.

In 1978, the total was 362. The contribution of the feds for health was 230, and Manitoba reduced their share - and I want to make it clear now that the whole money that was there was block funding but, if you subtract what they got from the Federal Government for health, they reduced. We had put in a 152 million; they reduced to 132 million, and the feds were paying. You're saying that just those insured services or just the contribution from the feds, 63.5 percent they were paying. So you can't have it both ways if you say it was supposed to be, like you said yesterday, only the hospitals and Medicare.

Now the following year, in 1979-80, again the total was 398 for hospitals and Medicare. The feds paid 265, and again Manitoba 133, not even \$1 million increase from the year before, and still practically 20 million less than we had put in the Budget two years before that. The contribution of the feds then was 66.5 percent. Now, even of that, it could be around the 50-50, if I use the words put in by a Conservative M.P. of just those services, because he used the same game.

Now, we are spending out here for the medical and hospital - in those years, the year 1979-80, the total

was 398. Now it is \$887 million. That is rationing? So let's quit this game-playing. Let's quit saying that we want to assist the government. We realize that there's a problem, and then bring in and talk the way my honourable friend did when he read that letter, as if the cruel Government of Manitoba was reducing, was slashing. He was saying, "reducing," and "rationing," but he doesn't like it though when we said that the Federal Government is reducing their share, which is absolutely true.

I'd like my honourable friend to make some concrete suggestions. Does he want to suggest that we just pay whatever the bill is, whoever the doctors want to admit? That we provide beds for everybody, no matter what, at any time, beds? I'm sure that this is not what my honourable friend is suggesting, not the way he spoke last year. What we're doing as I say, we didn't instruct anybody to close beds at all. We said, you're admitting plan or strategy or whatever you do doesn't make sense, compared to a place like Winnipeg where they're way below. And I gave you the figures and this is what we want to look at.

My honourable friend said that we should get this information and we should then make sure that we act on it to bring the proper savings. He commits himself to help us if we want to be serious and so on. "The Winnipeg residents" - let me quote again - "utilize 3.4 beds per 1,000 population on an age and sex adjustment basis, compared to 4.9 for Brandon residents and 4.6 for rural residents. Winnipeg residents utilize 30.6 percent fewer beds per 1,000 population than Brandon residents." What did my honourable friend say, they were going to cut 25 percent of their beds? They're still ahead.

So I say that, fine, it's all right to play politics, but tell us when you're going to be serious. At least we know when you're helping us and where you've got the same problem that you want to look at and get this information and use it to try and correct what is going wrong in the system, to try to find out. This is what you've been telling us in the moments that you were offering valid constructive criticism. But this thing of trying to play politics in Brandon, you might win that battle politically, but you're not helping the rest of Manitoba. You're not helping Brandon at all either.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister always has difficulty when he's caught administering a department of cutbacks and rationing. That's always his problem.

Mr. Chairman, the Brandon General Hospital surgical waiting list in 1978 was about 450. In 1986, it is 1,250. At the same time, we've got the waiting list in the personal care homes of panelled patients in Brandon that has doubled or tripled. You know, Mr. Chairman, what I'd like to point out to this Minister is that during the years in which the health care of Manitobans was being quite adequately taken care of and those years were inclusive . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: By freezing off construction?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Oh, well, you know, the Minister just made a complete ass of himself by saying we froze construction. He just said a minute ago there's no more

beds needed. We were ahead of our time in 1979. This man doesn't know what he's talking about. He says one thing when he stands up one time, from his seat he says something else. If you're not going to build any more beds, we were sure futuristic in our assessment of what Manitoba needed, weren't we, in 1979? You can't have it both ways, Mr. Minister, and you're just trying to right now.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has got a problem; he's not only got this problem in Brandon. As I say, if we had time, we could find the same procedures going on in the major hospitals, the same thing. What I'm pointing out to him is that we are willing to work with this Minister to try to accomplish some changes in the medical system. But, Mr. Chairman, it gets a little difficult working with people who are cynics at election time, and making commitments in Brandon to massive expansion as the Member for Brandon East did, that we're going to do this, that and the other for Brandon General Hospital, when the current budget of Brandon General Hospital doesn't allow them to operate the facility they currently have and service the patients who are in need of medical attention, witness the growing list, waiting list, for surgery in Brandon General Hospital.

So, Mr. Chairman, the Minister attempts to point out why these things happen. I simply point out to them, these things are happening because, since the election of the New Democratic Party Government in Manitoba, the funding to hospitals has not kept up with inflation, they have had to make reductions in the level of service they offer in order to comply with budget constraints. We have the budget driving the services available, not vice versa. That was not the case from 1977 to 1981; it is the case now, Mr. Chairman. Brandon Hospital is but one hospital example wherein that is the case.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend said that I said from my seat, you froze all construction. I did say that and the word "all" means all construction. I wasn't talking only about hospitals as he knows. He's the one lecturing us now; he lectured us yesterday. His assistant, the Health Critic is also lecturing us, that we need more beds, more beds at Concordia. They stopped that, and especially that we need more beds for personal care homes and therefore we would get the people out of these occupied acute care beds. They froze that; they froze all that. I gave you last year, after the same kind of speech, the information what beds were open and it was a joke, the comparison that they were.

Now, you know, we're talking about the changing times and he wants to tell me that they were spending as much money in 1979-80, and it was great what they were doing. I told you, I showed you what they reduced - their thing in getting more proportion, much more, from the Provincial Government.

Let me give you some more information. I give you the information about the beds that you wanted and you got that. I've got lots of information, and if you are sincere in saying that you want to help and assist in trying to improve the situation . . .

MR. H. ENNS: . . . my colleague is always sincere.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Well, if you want to be as sincere as your friend thinks you are, then I think that you should think of what you're going to say.

Let me give you an example. The minor surgery in 1979-80 in Manitoba was 128,125; and in 1985-86 152,478. Now doesn't that say something automatically?

MR. D. ORCHARD: It says the waiting list has tripled in Brandon.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, this doesn't talk about waiting lists at all.

MR. D. ORCHARD: No, but that's what it is though, the waiting list has shown you what you've done!

HON. L. DESJARDINS: But I'm showing you what was done. You said yourself a while ago that you can see in the future you don't need any more beds. This is what you told me - acute beds. Now, therefore, we shouldn't need any more beds for Brandon or the rest of Manitoba, but there are 128,000. Now there is practically 153,000 minor surgeries.

There were active physicians, approximately the same population. The population in 1979-80 was 1,102,345; now, 1,108,760. There are over 200 more doctors and the rate of surgery per population has gone from 116.2 to 137.5. The rate of surgery per physician has stayed the same although there has been a lot of increase in physicians.

So doesn't that beg certain questions. Is it just the government? If it isn't the government, there is only one answer. We should be there waiting at the door to sign the blank cheque to everybody, and we're not going to do that. You don't want the Federal Government to do that, and you make your speech about this awful socialists that are wasting money, throwing money at . . . I know you're going to tell me about the \$55,000 that you would save, I'm sure. You wouldn't save \$55,000.00. The only thing is you wouldn't have Andy Anstett there, you'd have somebody else. This is what you would do, you wouldn't save a darn cent.

You've talked even about Mike Decter. I wouldn't be afraid, and one of the first persons who I would want to do that kind of work would be Mike Decter, in my private business or anywhere else, and I know that there are hundreds of Conservatives who think exactly the same. Automatically because he's not of your party, I don't think that means that much.

The point is, it's the same, it doesn't matter what is said by that side or this side of the House, we've got a system, like is being said by Ministers of Health in Alberta, or former Ministers of Health in Alberta, in B.C., in Ontario, in Quebec, in Saskatchewan and certainly the Maritimes, who saying, we can't afford this system. We just can't afford this system.

Some of them are giving up. Maybe we will have to give up. With that kind of help, we probably will. But we are saying no, we can keep acceptable and good standards, maybe improve the standards and we can do it with the help of everybody. You know, that question wasn't asked and I'm not making an accusation, but are all those operations necessary for one thing?

You know, all of a sudden, there is all this increase in surgery for the same population. So every time it doesn't change. You have one doctor more, it stays the same, the same number approximately, the same

number. The rate of minor surgery per active physician in 1979-80 was 111.8, now it's 111.1, but we have more doctors and they need - you know, the statement that I read last year, that there are enough beds for the patients and not enough for the doctors, and that's true. That wasn't being sarcastic.

We want to also look at a different way to motivate the doctors, the medical profession. Right now, they generate revenue by having more visits, more operations and they need beds. There are enough beds for the patients, not enough for the doctors.

They need admitting privileges and that's one of the areas that was a problem at St. Boniface Hospital, because they've got way more doctors with admitting privileges in St. Bonifaces than at Health Sciences Centre. That was one of the problems. St. Boniface recognizes the situation with the admitting and so on. They did something and we have no reason to think that the administration of Brandon Hospital is any different.

I think there have been some good discussions with the Commission and I think they're sincere and so on. I think they can do it, but we cannot just be close with the pen waiting to sign blank cheques; we can't do it. We are protecting you, your children and our children also and the people of Manitoba. It is not by agreeing to everything and signing everything and giving a blank cheque to hospitals and doctors or any other people delivering services. It is not that; it is not by adding, my honourable friend, that we should cover and have operations for bone marrow here, more money for prescriptions for the druggist; more acute care beds in Concordia Hospital - I can go on and on - and that's only the one member who has only been here a few months. Just imagine after a few years, the requests that we'll have.

During the Budget time, we were told yes, you've got to fight that deficit; you can't allow that, but nobody has given us any idea here how to save money or maybe we should cut this program. That's the kind of a responsible Opposition I thought we would get and I would like to work with. I thought that was a commitment made, but not the last speech on the Brandon issue at all because that's not the case.

There's another thing I want to say to my honourable friend. We got talking about somebody in Brandon making all the statements, your leader went to Vita without any information at all and he was going to build a hospital if they got elected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to enter into the debate briefly in this particular matter dealing with the Minister who has tears rolling down his cheeks as big as snowballs because he is the greatest political crybaby that I've ever heard.

Mr. Chairman, he is talking about having it both ways. When it comes to an election time, the New Democrats are the only people who seem to have the mandate or have the ability in their opinion to look after the people of Manitoba and their health needs. That's what has been sold to the people of Manitoba, and that's what they expect. They expect the kind of service which they left, the perception that was there. Now, he comes to

the committee, he comes to the Estimates and he says, oh we want some positive suggestions from the Opposition. Well, there's a real concern out there, Mr. Chairman, — (Interjection) —

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'm sorry I ever asked. I never should have asked that; that's impossible.

MR. J. DOWNEY: No, we don't mind, Mr. Chairman. I can start with the MTX extravaganza in Saudi Arabia. The taxpayers of Manitoba are better served because we've got \$20 million being frittered away over there. That's in our best interests as far as health is concerned.

To spend \$10 million in ManOil to lose \$10 a barrel - that's in the best interests of ManOil; to spend \$60 million forever and a day in the forestry losing prospect without bringing it under control, Mr. Chairman - that is some positive recommendations that the Minister better be prepared to go to Cabinet to deal with. Those are the kinds of comments he should be paying attention to. But don't come crying to us because he's unable to deal with the problem that's beforehand. If he's unable to deal with it, then turn the hands of power over to the Conservative Government because I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, the proof is in 1977-81. That's how it was handled responsibly by my colleagues and a Premier who really wasn't out looking for the kind of sympathy which this Minister is looking for because he's unable to handle the job.

We took the kind of necessary decisions, Mr. Chairman, that were responsible and we lost the '81 not because the truth was told to the people of Manitoba, because there was a whole big, deceptive campaign run by the New Democrats. First thing he said when he was elected, Mr. Chairman, they wanted to maintain the level of health care which was being provided under the Conservatives. How could a Minister of this House stand here today and pretend now he's so great?

I want to tell him, Mr. Chairman, just dealing with the Brandon issue; I want to deal with the Brandon issue because I have a letter from a constituent - in fact, I received it today and I'm pleased I got it today. If I heard the Minister correctly, he said the Commission still had not made the decision as to whether or not to close the wing at Brandon General Hospital. — (Interjection) — I'm asking the Minister, if I heard him correctly, I think that's what he said. However, he'd better straighten out what is happening in the community because it has been conveyed to my constituent, from a nurse, that in fact it is taking place.

There's three concerns this person puts before me: one is the job of this individual who will be losing their job because the beds are going to close; two, she has a neighbour who is waiting to have a cancer surgery to have a tumour removed from his stomach, he can't get a bed in the Brandon Hospital to do so so he can have further chemotherapy treatments in Winnipeg, and if this isn't a concern then I'm sure the Minister after he thinks about it should be when you have a neighbour in this kind of a situation and; thirdly, about the loss of doctors that they're seeing taking place because of the uncertainty of some of the beds.

The Minister has just indicated that's one of the problems; without the beds to service the doctors, then

in fact that's where one of the shortfalls comes about. So I want the Minister to be well aware of this. She has asked me to put these concerns forward to the Minister. Tell the people of Brandon, have the political courage to do so if they aren't able to maintain the facility that's been maintained for years, then come clean with it, don't fudge around. Let these people go elsewhere; if it is to the States to get the kind of health care they need, fine, but don't leave the impression that they can be all things to all people as they've done for many years in health care because the result is people are not getting the service that they're expecting; that they're being told is there under this great socialistic system which everybody's so pleased with.

You see, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and the public of Manitoba, I think, after the second term of a New Democratic Government, and will — (Interjection) — Pardon me?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It only took one term of your government.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes, one term. The truth doesn't always wash well with the electorate and they heard the truth. It doesn't bother us from telling the truth, but I'll tell you a lie wouldn't choke any of you people over there or there wouldn't be any one of you sitting there.

Mr. Chairman, I'm serious about this. They can laugh about it.

A MEMBER: Well, you're a comedian.

MR. J. DOWNEY: No, I'm not a comedian. I'm a member of the Legislature who is concerned about telling the truth to the people of Manitoba.

I want to make sure the health services are provided, not leave them to believe they will be provided some time in the future if you can get a hospital bed and you'll get the operation some time down the road if funds can be found while his colleagues are off playing games with the taxpayers' money whether, as I said, with MTX in Saudi Arabia or playing with ManOil or some other ill-conceived idea that they're going to make money for the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba. — (Interjection) — No, I'm not going to talk about Andy Anstett. That's not going to be changed. You won't change this government from hiring their friends that's for sure.

One looks at the settlement which was made at Brandon University. What would the people of Manitoba sooner have? The covering up? The dismissal of a law case for incompetent people put in place in the Brandon University Board? Is that what the people of Western Manitoba would sooner have, those two socialist hacks protected and paid for by the taxpayers of Manitoba or the services in the hospital? Those are the kinds of questions he should be asking his colleagues.

How do we listen to the Minister? How do we take the Minister at his word? Do we listen to the Minister or do we listen to his colleagues? Private school funding - where is the Minister of Health? Where are his colleagues? Abortion - where is the Minister of Health and where are his colleagues? Where's the consistency? He pleads with us for help. Why doesn't he plead with his friends for help, Mr. Chairman.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: On a point of order.

I want to tell the members of this committee, if this is allowed to go into the Department of Health, I will answer and don't tell me I'm out of order then because I will answer that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A disagreement as to matters of argument is not a point of order.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Okay, I'll answer that . . . using all the time of the committee.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to use all the time of the committee, but I've made some examples saying he's coming pleading to us asking for help - does he get help from his own colleagues? That's what I'd like to know. Does he get help from his own colleagues? He hasn't got it in too many other areas. Does he get it in the health field? That's really the question.

So, I want the Minister . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not yet on the Minister's Salary I think . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: I'm dealing with hospitals, Mr. Chairman. I've put my concerns on the record. — (Interjection) — My request - yes but we've got lots of taxpayers' money in Saudi Arabia, the Manitoba taxpayers' money, where we aren't getting any health care — (Interjection) — That's right. That's the point.

I want to conclude, Mr. Chairman, with my comments, that yes there's no question we want to help make sure this country has a good health system, but we want to make sure the people truly understand and know the truth of all the things that are going on. I'm not so sure that's the case. That's why I've asked the Minister, there are a lot of people, there are the employees who haven't apparently been notified that it'll be closing. They have been talking to people in the community who are saying, why close it? I've got a neighbour who needs an operation for the removal of a tumour and can't get a bed, he's waiting, yet they're closing this particular section of the hospital.

The questions are out there, is it in fact going to close? If the Commission had made the decision it is going to close, then tell the people so they can go elsewhere to get the kind of treatment that they're waiting on. Don't play games with them when it comes to life and death.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Be my guest, Harry, if you want.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, not to bring in extraneous matters to the discussion of the Estimates of the Department of Health, but I think the Chairman here has a legitimate cause to go to the Labour Board for some special consideration in the numerous responsibilities that he now is assuming during this week - Speaker, Deputy Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Speak to the point under discussion.

MR. H. ENNS: Leaving that aside, that's right, Mr. Chairman. But my colleague from Arthur happens to

be absolutely right and it does bribe us, because it was your Premier, Mr. Minister that left the impression that the profits of ManOil were going to cut off all my taxes, there'd be no increases in taxes in the City of Winnipeg; we'll build hospitals in every community, Woodlands, Warren, Lundar, you name it; and we will do all those wonderful things. And we are doing it right now, Mr. Chairman, we are doing it right now with the question of a spurious heritage fund that we're going to get from Hydro that we're not going to start selling to the Americans until 1993. But that is the kind of nonsense, Mr. Chairman, which is not fair to load on this Minister, not fair to load on this Minister, but that is the kind of nonsense that we face at election time. I have the literature right here that says Hydro profits will pay for all medical costs in the future, or ManOil profits will prevent all Manitoba businesses and farmers from going broke and so forth.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to raise just a slightly different issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are still not in the Minister's Salary so . . .

MR. H. ENNS: Delivery of health services, my colleagues have covered amply well. But the operations that the Commission's running are of course huge operations, and I'm concerned about the efficiency and the amounts of money that from time to time, as in any organization - I'm prepared to concede it happens in private organizations, it certainly happens as well in public organizations. I'm talking such things as cost of uniforms, the loss of other items within the system. I have to relate a case which brings it to my mind. I was appalled when my son came home one day - and I won't name the school, but it was vogue at that particular time to - the Seven Oaks Hospital had barely opened its doors and every member of that football team had a surgeon's uniform to run around with. It just appalled me, the greens, and apparently there's a bit of competition going on. Some teams, some groups like to have Health Sciences Centre logo on it, others want to have Seven Oaks logo on it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, these uniforms I assume cost a great deal of money. I was just appalled and I indicated to my son, I'm very candid about it, but this kind of control, or lack of control, must be of worry to the Commission and to the individual hospital administrators. I think that this is an area that stretches into all manner of supplies. Mr. Chairman, I am not making blanket accusations of theft or of pilfering, but to close one's eyes to it, that this isn't happening in these kinds of massive institutions, just as well as it happens in large business organizations, sophisticated controls are necessary to put in place to stop the kind of loss of goods, quite frankly, that take place from time to time.

I'm disturbed when I hear that people within a 20- or 30-mile radius of a particular institution can, for instance, get all their canned goods from that institution, vegetables, fresh vegetables, frozen vegetables. It concerns me that - I'm not speaking only of hospitals, I'm talking about whether it's a correctional facility or whether it's Manitoba Development Centre at Portage la Prairie. I hear these stories, as an MLA, and they

come to me from time to time. I know the pressures, demands on the Minister and on the Commission, on the department to provide the services that they are expected to provide.

Surely among the one area, and I'm sure the department and the different hospital administrators are facing this problem continuously, but are there some specific policy decisions that can be made to reduce the incidence of loss? Can't proper labelling take place of all the items that are laundered in our provincial laundries, so there's a greater accountability of nurses' uniforms, of smocks, of surgeons' uniforms, of the various items that flow through that system that also disappear from time to time?

Mr. Chairman, I'm the first one to acknowledge I'm talking peanuts in a very large budget. But if you don't worry about the economies of the cents, it's the cents that make up a dollar. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that while we're engaged in the bigger issues of health and health delivery and services, which are of course the most appropriate things to be dealing with, somewhere during this course of Estimates some recognition must be made of just the good housekeeping that's required in the running of the multimillion dollar businesses that hospitals are.

The Minister asked about some constructive advice a little while ago and I offer this with some intrepidation because I'm certainly not looking for any headlines or anything like that. But I ask the question: Are kitchens relevant in our hospitals today, kitchens? We hear a lot about the sophistication of convenience foods, of how they can be tailor-made to meet specific dietary, budget requests of the style and the sophistication of the equipment now available. Healthy people, we fly, we fly across this world with meals being provided on a competitive basis, by different catering services. I sometimes wonder whether or not our tradition-bound units, large hospital centres, with massive kitchen facilities and kitchen staff, whether or not that is a most appropriate use of hard-to-come-by hospital dollars in this day and age. What would happen, for instance, if you closed down the kitchen facilities in our major hospitals? Certainly people aren't going to starve. They may well eat better.

I have been fortunate that I have not had the exposure to hospital cuisine of late, God willing or Providence has kept me healthy, but I'm also well aware what modern, sophisticated deliverers of convenience food can do in this day and age and do for many other institutions. I have no idea what portion, it's not my particular role to examine this area. But it seems to me that in the Minister's serious reaching out to find and resolve the different issues which all turn about the question of funding, and he has some very big ones to try to resolve - the whole question of new technology in the kind of exotic health services that are now becoming available to more and more people and demanded by more people, the kind of pressures, the level of expectation that's out there. But in among all these other things, I think the Minister's also got the responsibility and ought to have an open mind to look at some other very innovative ways that are not directly or necessarily connected with the delivery of health services. I know that priority, and uppermost, of course, is the immediate delivery of a health service, but within that health service there is I think other measures that could be looked at.

I conclude, Mr. Deputy Chairman, just by one example of this for instance. I was reminded of that by the Minister of Finance who made some remark about '66. I recall, Mr. Chairman, there was a point in time when it was deemed therapeutic, I believe was the term that was used, for our penal institutions all to have substantial dairy operations and gardening operations, because they were virtually self-sufficient in a good portion of their food production. I say it was deemed therapeutic because it was thought it was worthwhile to have prisoners, rather than doing idle time doing nothing it was thought to be good rehabilitative practice to have them working with cattle on these farms.

Mr. Chairman, by the time I became a Minister of the Crown in 1966, what had happened, of course, different changes and liberal progressive ideas had taken over, maybe I should withdraw that, but whatever the ideas took over now precluded the prisoners from doing any work, and by the time I became a Minister we had 54 civil servants looking after three dairy herds. We asked ourselves what was this original concept all for? It was certainly not to hire civil servants to milk cows. So we sold the herds, and now our institutions - and we had them in our mental hospitals, we had them in Selkirk; we had them at Brandon; we had them at Headingley; we had them at Stony Mountain. I'm not so sure that decision was all that right at the day, but the point was that the herds weren't doing what they originally set out to perform part of the function that they were for.

I simply say to the Minister, he should look at the total plan which includes things like kitchen facilities, laundry facilities, many of which, I know, again are not easy. He's got a colleague who's sitting beside him who represents union interests. These are not easy questions that I'm throwing him, but I question the Minister on whether the administration has taken a hard look, as he's looking about, in trying to prioritize the better use of the dollars that he has, what could, in fact, be done in terms of pretty effective savings in some of the areas that I've mentioned.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the honourable member, and I take his words and suggestions seriously. I recognize there is a problem. But the biggest problem that I see is around here, because my honourable friend said, well, it is difficult, and very sincerely felt that we should spend our dollars wisely. That's what it boiled down to. That was the last line, the bottom line, and he said that you have some colleagues who might find that difficult to have people lose their jobs. But you have . . . in your group, and the speaker who spoke just before you said that one of the worst things is people were going to lose their jobs and that I had no heart because I didn't look at his neighbour who's going to lose his job.

I would say that we have a policy that they cannot fire anybody before going to the Commission. We look at the way, either by attrition and so on, unless these people have been hired without being recognized in the level of staffing of the Commission, which is the case in Brandon. These people were never authorized exactly to do that.

Now, my honourable friend is talking. Now we can relate. We might not agree, but we're talking about

delivering that in the best possible way, and looking at the cheap way of doing things - not cheap to reduce the quality or standards and so on, but to save money. Those are the kinds of suggestions we want.

I will present some of these to my colleagues. We'll have real tough decisions to make. Maybe we'll all have to look at some of the sacred cows that we've had for so long and say, yes, but you can't do it anymore. That's a possibility.

Now, I can say that the hospital laundries have been having some kind of a campaign to reduce the thefts. Then, of course, your friend, my friend, I know that he's a true believer in conservatism and he doesn't like big government and so on, and I'm sure that he doesn't want me to act like a dictator and go even at that area. That has to be left to the boards of the hospitals and the area in the community to say, let's do something because you're stealing. That doesn't belong to the doctors or to the nurses. It belongs to the hospitals. That's stealing. I think it's left to the board. Sure, we're going to bring it to their attention.

Now, my honourable friend said yesterday, what's the point - not yesterday, a couple of days ago. What's the point? There's no incentive for the hospitals. They can't keep surplus that they have, and that's wrong. My honourable friend is living in the past. That is not the policy - (Interjection) - well all right, I'm living in the past. Now, the new facilities and those facilities that are in serious financial difficulty are indeed placed on a line-by-line review. In those cases - and the people who have debt, well they don't have surplus anyway. The facility's past experience is used to assist in establishing a new base for the following year, but the majority of health facilities however are on a global budget where their current budget is based on their previous budget, not on their previous actual, on their previous budgets.

In fact, health facilities are provided an incentive for operating either within their budget or in a surplus position in two ways. The facility first is able to retain any earned surplus of up to 2 percent of their total budget and, as the current budget is based on the previous budget, if the facility experiences a surplus, the surplus stays in the base for the following year. It is interesting to note that 72 of the 151 facilities retained surpluses in the amount of \$1.5 million for the fiscal year 1984-85. So there is an incentive.

That's what I was saying awhile ago when we talked about the bacon and the beds and all that. The boards and the people in the community must take a responsibility. It is very easy in the rural area, if the people want something more, we're not saying no. If the people want something more and it's recognized by the Commission, they can spend the money and the people in that area will pay for it. It's not such a difficult thing. That's the way it's done in the schools.

Right, if they have a surplus that is not accepted, then it becomes the responsibility of the boards and the people in the area . . .

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's a little closer an explanation . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's just what I said.

My honourable friend says, close the beds. Where is the Commission? I just finished telling my honourable

friend and members of this committee that the Commission received an official letter today. They haven't made a decision. It is the hospital board that said, we will close the beds, and they told the people. We didn't say that at all.

Now another thing that was said is that I've been talking on both sides of my mouth. During the election, I said the same thing I'm saying now. During the last three years or so, my honourable friend heard me speaking to the rural municipalities. I speak as Minister of Health — (Interjection) — and I spoke for the government when I have warned the people, the same as I'm talking now - and if you read Hansard of last year I said the same thing. I've said the same thing in public speeches. I said the same thing during the election. — (Interjection) — Well, I'm not that good a speaker, so they have to hide me somewhere.

Now, you know, there's another thing. You like to have a little fun with my friends, the Minister of Community Services and the Minister of Labour, and talk about burning of the flags and so on, as if they'd burned the flag and so on. You talk about the great friend that we have in the United States, the richest country, and the Reagan doctrine and so on. Then you have the nerve to come here and lecture us that we should have more beds for Concordia, more beds in Brandon. We should have the - what is it? - bone marrow transplant and all those things.

Look what happens in the States, the richest country in the world if you want to compare.

A MEMBER: What about Saudi Arabia?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: What about it? I think I'll send you there so you can get a good flogging and listen to what we're saying — (Interjection) — no, I can't let this thing go, because I've never backed away from anything, and I'm not going to back today. At the risk of taking time from the committee and that's what I warned you, I'm not going to let this thing go, private school and abortion, without answering that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, this has nothing to do with this line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can reserve that for when we are on the Minister's Salary.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I beg your pardon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do we reserve those kinds of things for the Minister's Salary?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I stood up and, trying to help you and the committee, I brought to your attention that they were talking about Saudi Arabia. I'll compromise. I won't talk about Saudi Arabia, and I can tell you all kinds of things about Saudi Arabia. I'll just talk about the accusation or the statements that were made that I was hiding on this question of abortions. — (Interjection) — Why? You're going to mislead the public in that time. At least, I'm telling the truth.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Then you could talk to your Cabinet colleagues.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: They're here, and they're listening. Look. They're all attentive. They're listening. They can barely wait. — (Interjection) — Well, I vary it. I keep it interesting.

All right, we'll talk about aid to private schools. We've always had - I remember when we started here years ago it was, over my dead body. The insults that we were getting from one side to the other, the calls at home, we're not getting that anymore. It's improved, and I've converted somebody.

Every single member on that side of the House, which happened to be the Conservatives in the Schreyer years except one voted against it and today they're all in favour of it; I've accomplished something.

We've said that we didn't have a final policy here. We've stated that we were going towards the 50 percent and so on, and that is being still discussed the same as you do yourself, so I don't see where I am breaking away from Cabinet or from caucus at all. It is something that has been discussed. We had a free vote and this is exactly what we spoke. Some spoke for; some spoke against.

On the question of abortion, we've had Federal Government policy on that and we've had a therapeutic abortion committee and what we've done we've tried to inform; to discourage the people from having unwanted pregnancies beforehand in the education that we give. I think that's a plus. We did that the last year and it's working.

I don't think that we are increasing. I disagree that we are increasing abortions in Manitoba; abortions period. In Manitoba, yes, but the people are not going to the States anymore by providing facilities so people don't have to hide in the lane with a clothes hanger. When it is the law of the land, the Federal Government, although I might have certain beliefs, as Minister of Health I represent all the people of Manitoba and this is what I did. I think that it was a good compromise.

The policy now is the same as yours. We go with the Federal Government. Some of us don't agree with that, either way, and they support — (Interjection) — well, the only policy you heard on the abortion is what we're following now. We felt, and you've had other people who've tried to fight it, like in Quebec and so on, people like Morgentaler went out there and they proved, for those that are so much against abortion, they have proved, they've said, all right, the court decides no matter what the government wants; it was a necessity, and with the facilities that we provide, that is not the case.

So I think you win some and you lose some. Some of the things are a question of conscience and a broadly-based party allows that in the party. I don't feel I've been kicked out of, or I've done anything to get kicked out. We've had policy; we're free thinkers; we have certain votes that aren't really a vote as your conscience dictates; and that's what we've done.

I think all along things have improved compared to 27 years ago when I was here. So I'm not hiding behind anything; I don't have to hide; I'm not doing anything to be out-of-step with the rest of our people. Some people have made the statements, so we're working well — (Interjection) — well, if you're going to challenge me on things like that, I'll take more time.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just before we finish off the afternoon, I'd like to get on to my favourite subject, Concordia Hospital.

One of my genuine concerns, as the Minister knows, is Concordia Hospital and the size, specifically, is the issue that I'm going to speak about.

I noticed in the Health Services Review Committee that the committee was sort of commissioned to examine small urban hospitals as being viable. I'd like to know whether the Minister has had any response from the Review Committee as to what size of urban hospital is viable.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'd like to remind my honourable friend that nothing was done under the previous government until one week before the election - I'm talking about election - when Mr. Lyon appeared out there and was going to talk about building.

This hospital was built in there with the same increase in number of beds from the old Concordia when I was Chairman of the Manitoba Health Services Commission. Now what we've done, we've said this year, that was built at the time, the same beds, but with a possibility of recognition that it would have to be enlarged.

I've said that these hospitals are not viable if they're too small; we've said all that. I've also said that as far as we know, there are too many acute beds and the people of Winnipeg are well-served. The recommendation was fine, no acute beds, but yes, there are facilities; it's cheaper; use the common element type of things at the Concordia to build a hospital and give them more beds. That's exactly what we're doing and we will.

The policy of this government is when we build hospitals; when we change or add beds - I'm not talking about getting rid of the beds that are finished, or making changes at the other hospitals - it will be done at Grace, Concordia and Victoria because the dining room and those facilities, the kitchen and so on can accommodate more patients.

So in general, there might be some exception for some reason that I can't foresee now, this is exactly what we're going to do. But we're not just going to build beds now that we don't need; it'll be costly. We will do it in an orderly way if we ever need more beds. And we're building extended treatment beds there so it will help by making this hospital much more viable, we hope.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Obviously the Minister is admitting, then, that Concordia is a little undersized for the community that it serves — (Interjection) — No? Well, you did just say that you were going to make it more viable, so that indicates to me that it isn't terribly viable right at this moment in the situation that it's in.

I have to tell the Minister that the people out in my constituency and in the community, in the northeast quadrant of Winnipeg, are saying that our community hospital is not large enough to serve the number of the primary care area that it services. It's an ever-growing area, Mr. Chairman; there's 110,000 people that Concordia Hospital services and that's an ever-growing area. So the situation is going to be even worse.

I can understand, though, that all research says that there should be no more acute care beds and I think we have to live with that. Concordia should have more acute care beds if any area of the city should have acute care beds, but at this point in time, I understand

that it's not feasible, it's not recommended, and I know we're getting 60 extended treatment beds added on to the hospital and that's all very fine and good. Certainly it's something that is needed and hopefully those extended treatment beds will free-up the acute care beds at Concordia so they can be utilized for what they were originally intended.

Just one other possible solution, seeing that Concordia is underserved with acute care beds, Mr. Chairman, maybe the Minister could take under advisement a possible solution that people who are sitting in Concordia's acute care beds waiting for nursing home placement could be transferred to other areas of the city to their acute care beds, therefore freeing up the 132 acute care beds at Concordia and maybe utilizing some of the acute care beds in the areas where they have a higher ratio of acute care beds to the number of primary care people. It's a suggestion; it's an alternative.

While I'm on Concordia, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to indicate the concerns of my area that Concordia needs a proper psychiatric unit, okay? I don't know what the government's plans are in this respect but the people that Concordia Hospital services need psychiatric services at Concordia Hospital. I know it can't be an overnight thing. It's something that's got to be looked at and worked at and I would hope that this government is going to do something about it. It's the only hospital, which I've said before, in the City of Winnipeg that does not have psychiatric services — (Interjection) — no, I'm not adding it to my list; I'm telling you.

Mr. Chairman, I'm telling the Minister that I have worked in that hospital and when an ambulance brings in an unconscious patient that has taken an overdose and that patient is looked after at Concordia Hospital and wakes up and goes home because there isn't a psychiatrist available to see and assess that patient, I tell you that that is not adequate service for the people that Concordia Hospital services and the Minister cannot tell me that it is. He cannot tell me that those services should not be available there.

I think it's something this government has to look at; it's something that we're entitled to out in that area. Why should we have inferior service to the rest of Winnipeg? We already have a smaller hospital than the rest of Winnipeg. We have one-sixth of the residents of Winnipeg serviced by Concordia Hospital and we do not have one-sixth of the community hospital beds. I am telling you that one of our high priorities out there is a psychiatric unit and I would really like to hear what this Minister has to say about psychiatric services for Concordia Hospital.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 5:30 p.m., I am leaving the Chair and the Committee will return at 8:00 p.m.

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BUT NOT READ by HON. L. DESJARDINS

1986-87 CAPITAL FINANCING AND THE CASH FLOW OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

The cost of capital projects are financed through borrowing with repayment of the debt (usually over 20

years) starting upon completion of the project. The annual allowance for debt repayment, including principal and interest, is included in the MHSC annual estimates. Principal repayments are in Appropriation 21-8 (expenditures related to capital assets) and interest payments are included in Appropriation 21-7.

The five-year Capital Program reflects the total cost of the projects, to be financed through borrowing and, as suggested, these costs flow over more than one fiscal period.

The cash flow of the cost of construction is as follows: (Million)

| | Prior to | | | | | | Total |
|---|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 86-87 | 86-87 | 87-88 | 88-89 | 89-90 | 90-91 | |
| Projects presently under construction | 59.3 | 68.6 | 35.4 | 34.8 | 14.3 | 22.3 | 234.7 |
| Projects approved for construction | 6.0 | 105.7 | 114.9 | 23.8 | — | — | 250.4 |
| Contingency approved for construction | | 5.0 | | | | | 5.0 |
| Projects approved for architectural planning* | — | 8.7 | 74.4 | 86.6 | 48.0 | 34.6 | 252.3 |
| TOTAL | \$65.3 | 188.0 | 224.7 | 145.2 | 62.3 | 56.9 | 742.4 |
| *Architect fees included | — | 8.7 | 3.7 | — | — | — | 12.4 |

Interest on capital borrowing during the construction phase is capitalized and forms part of the approved cost of a project. There is no repayment of principal during the construction phase. Upon completion of the project, debt repayment, coupled with allowances for the repayment of capital debt incurred over prior years is included in the MHSC Estimates.

Included in the Estimates is a small amount for those projects in the MHSC 1986-87 five-year Capital Program. This amount, only pertains to those projects in the five-year Capital Program expected to open in 1986-87 and only for the period the new facility is operational. The allowances for debt repayment included in the MHSC 1986-87 estimates for those projects are as follows: Principal \$2,436.6; Interest \$4,827.8

So the capital repayment of \$29.584 M includes the above \$2.436 M and repayment of loans for construction in previous years five-year programs.

Summary:

Since 1981, when the program was initiated, 41 incentive loans have been offered to a total of 25 students.

Of the 25 students, seven have withdrawn after receiving the loans - 18 remain in the program. Of the 18 remaining in the program, two completed training in 1985-86 and are practicing in Lynn Lake and Deloraine - 16 are completing their training.

Some students enter practice after a one-year rotating internship or a two-year family practice residency, following fourth year medicine. Loans are repayable with interest, to the date the loan was granted, if the physician does not enter rural practice.

NOTE: Loans are not repayable until completion of approved training.

The Standing Committee on Medical Manpower provides physicians with monthly listings of communities seeking physician services and encourages these physicians to discuss practice locations with the Committee.

SUBJECT: Physicians in Community Medicine Specialty supported by Manitoba Health

SOURCE: Dr. Sharon MacDonald

INFORMATION: Manitoba Health has supported 4 physicians in Community Medicine.

These physicians are: Dr. Margaret Fast, Dr. Ted Redekopp, Dr. Bert Friesen, Dr. Ian Johnson.

The support consists of a payment to the University (\$9,000.00) to cover the cost of training, plus salary at the Medical Officer of Health I Level (\$52,400.00) for one year. In return, the physicians must provide a one year return of service to Manitoba Health. A staff year position is used for the employment of the physician.

The first 3 physicians noted above have all repaid their service and all are in Manitoba. Dr. Johnson is in the process of repaying his one year of service.

The physicians supported by Manitoba Health in Community Medicine are in addition to the spots provided by the University for this specialty.

HEALTH CARE RECEIVED OUTSIDE CANADA

The change in policy which became effective July 1, 1984 is intended to ensure that the health care resources of Manitoba are considered by our residents before they seek services outside the province. In many situations the services are readily available in Manitoba. This change in policy does not apply to emergencies and those referrals outside of Manitoba for services that are not available in Manitoba, such as bone marrow transplants and other complex surgical procedures.

Prior to change some Manitobans were going outside the country for routine physical examinations which could readily be provided by Manitoba physicians. The cost of these services are much higher when provided outside the country due to numerous additional diagnostic procedures performed and therefore the decision was taken to have residents who were seeking services outside Canada apply to the Commission for prior approval.

It is stressed that Manitobans who are seeking care outside Canada should in all cases have their doctors refer the matter to the Manitoba Health Services Commission prior to the services being received, since there can be significant financial responsibility required by the patient for these services.

To assist Manitoba physicians who may be referring a patient to a health centre outside Canada the Commission recently provided physicians with a referral application which is reviewed by the medical staff of the Commission. Very often the referring physician is consulted by the Commission medical staff to ensure the patient receives every consideration for the request.

Manitoba Health Services Commission staff have reviewed the number of requests received since January 1, 1986. There were 171 requests of which 65 were refused following review by the MHSC medical staff because resources were readily available in Manitoba.

III. A) SERVICE AREA OF LIFE FLIGHT:

Life Flight provides service to all areas of the Province with an appropriate airfield. The service areas are normally considered to be outside an 80-mile/130 km. radius of Winnipeg. Distances which can be handled by ground transport in a time frame equivalent to that of the aircraft response time should be undertaken by ground units.

Life Flight is not authorized for out-of-province travel.

III. B) CATEGORIZATION OF AIRFIELDS:

There are three categories of airfields. These categories identify how often one could expect to be served by Life Flight in respect to the conditions which may restrict usage (III (C)).

1 Total Number of
Manitoba Airfields
Category Restrictions for each Category

- 1 Accessible 90 percent of time or more 22
Instrument Flight Rules (IFR)
- 2 Accessible 50 percent of time or more 25
Subject to weather and runway conditions.

TOTAL 46

- 3 Not served by Life Flight 45
(Cessna Citation SII)

III. C) AIRFIELD CONDITIONS AFFECTING LIFE FLIGHT USAGE:

Conditions which may prevent or restrict Life Flight from landing at an airfield include:

- 1) Lack of Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) capabilities at the airport.
- 2) Weather conditions (eg. storms, icing conditions).
- 3) Runway conditions/surface (soft surface, not maintained).
- 4) Length of runway (less than 3,000 feet; 900 meters).

A listing of airfield locations, category, one-way distance from Winnipeg, flight time from Winnipeg and nearest alternate IFR (all weather) airfield is provided. (Table I - Page 7).

A listing of facilities and the nearest Category 1 and Category 2 airfield is also included. (Table II - Page 11).

The final decision to land at any given airfield or abort the mission will be the responsibility of the pilot.

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LISTING OF REGISTERED AIRFIELDS

TABLE 1
OCTOBER/85

| AIRFIELD (1) | CATEGORY (2) | LOCATION AT COMMUNITY | ONE-WAY DIST.(3) | FLIGHT TIME FROM WPG.(4) | NEAREST ALTERNATE (5) |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ashern | 3 | 1.5 mi. South | 98 | | Dauphin |
| Berens River | 2 | Adjacent East | 170 | :35 | Norway House |
| Bird River | 2 | 2 mi. North-east | 75 | :20 | Winnipeg |
| Bissett | 3 | 11 mi. East | 105 | | Winnipeg |
| Bloodvein | 2 | Adjacent East | 135 | :30 | Winnipeg |
| Boissevain | 3 | .6 mi. North | 127 | | Brandon |
| Brandon | 1 | 4 mi. North | 120 | :30 | Portage |
| Brochet | 1 | Adjacent West | 585 | 1:30 | Lynn Lake |
| Carberry | 2 | 1 mi. South-east | 90 | :25 | Brandon |
| Churchill | 1 | 3 mi. East, Southeast | 625 | 1:35 | Gillam |
| Cormorant Lake | 3 | 1.3 mi. Northeast | 235 | | The Pas |
| Cross Lake | 1 | .3 mi. East | 330 | :50 | Norway House |
| Crystal City | 3 | 2 mi. East | 90 | | Portage |
| Dauphin | 1 | 3 mi. South | 150 | :30 | Brandon |
| Deloraine | 2 | 3 mi. South | 156 | :30 | Brandon |
| Easterville | 2 | Adjacent East | 250 | :45 | The Pas |
| Elk Island | 2 | Adjacent Southeast | 356 | :55 | Island Lake |
| Emerson | 3 | 2 mi. South-east | 63 | | Winnipeg |
| Erickson | 3 | Adjacent East | 124 | | Brandon |
| Flin Flon | 1 | 8 mi. South-east | 385 | 1:00 | The Pas |
| Foxwarren | 3 | 3 mi. North-west | 182 | | Dauphin |
| Gilbert Plains | 3 | Adjacent South | 170 | | Dauphin |
| Gillam | 1 | Adjacent N.N.W. | 460 | 1:10 | Thompson |
| Gimli | 1 | 2 mi. West | 50 | :15 | Winnipeg |
| Gladstone | 3 | 3 mi. South | 78 | | Brandon/Portage |
| God's Lake Narrows | 1 | Adjacent West | 345 | :55 | Island Lake |
| God's River | 2 | Adjacent S.W. | 365 | :55 | Island Lake |

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| AIRFIELD (1) | CATEGORY (2) | LOCATION AT COMMUNITY | ONE-WAY DIST. (3) | FLIGHT TIME FROM WPG. (4) | NEAREST ALTERNATE (5) |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grand Rapids | 2 | 2 mi. S.W. | 245 | :40 | The Pas |
| Grace Lake | 2 | Adjacent East | 320 | :50 | The Pas |
| Gunisao Lake | 2 | Adjacent | 258 | :40 | Island Lake |
| Gypsumville | 3 | 7.3 mi. S.W. | L\$) | | Dauphin |
| Hartney | 3 | 2 mi. S.W. | 150 | | Brandon |
| Haskett | 3 | 11 mi. South | 70 | | Winnipeg |
| Homewood | 3 | Adjacent East | 40 | | Winnipeg |
| Ilford | 2 | Adjacent S.S.W. | 430 | 1:10 | Gillam |
| Island Lake | 1 | 3 mi. S.E. | 295 | :50 | Norway House |
| Jenpeg | 1 | 5 mi. N.N.W. | 320 | :50 | Norway House |
| Kelsey | 3 | 2 mi. East | 425 | | Thompson |
| Killarney | 3 | 1.6 mi. S.S.W. | 120 | | Brandon |
| Lac Brochet | 1 | 1 mi. N.E. | 635 | 1:35 | Lynn Lake |
| Lac du Bonnet | 1 | 3 mi. N.E. | 60 | :15 | Winnipeg |
| Leaf Rapids | 1 | 3 mi. North | 470 | 1:10 | Lynn Lake |
| Little Grand | 1 | Adjacent North | 170 | :35 | Island Lake |
| Lundar | 3 | 1 mi. N.W. | 68 | | Winnipeg |
| Lynn Lake | 1 | Adjacent N.W. | 505 | 1:15 | Thompson |
| MacGregor | 3 | .5 mi. East | 68 | | Portage |
| Manitou | 3 | .5 mi. North | 73 | | Portage |
| Matheson Island | 3 | Adjacent West | 135 | | Winnipeg |
| McCreary | 3 | Adjacent S.W. | 115 | | Dauphin |
| Melita | 3 | Adjacent S.W. | 175 | | Brandon |
| Moose Lake | 2 | Adjacent West | 295 | :50 | The Pas |
| Morden | 3 | 2 mi. N.E. | 65 | | Winnipeg |
| Neepawa | 2 | 1.7 mi. West | 105 | :25 | Brandon |
| Nelson House | 3 | | 415 | | Thompson |
| Norway House | 1 | Adjacent S.E. | 285 | :50 | Thompson |

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| AIRFIELD (1) | CATEGORY (2) | LOCATION AT COMMUNITY | ONE-WAY DIST.(3) | FLIGHT TIME FROM WPG.(4) | NEAREST ALTERNATE (5) |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Onanole | 3 | 1.7 mi. N.E. | 130 | | Dauphin |
| Oxford House | 2 | .5 mi. West | 360 | :55 | Thompson |
| Pikwitonei | 3 | Adjacent N.W. | 395 | | Thompson |
| (Military) Portage | 1 | 4 miles South | 50 | :15 | Winnipeg |
| Poplar River | 3 | Adjacent North | 215 | | Norway House |
| Pukatawagan | 2 | 2.5 mi. East | 440 | 1:10 | Flin Flon |
| Red Sucker Lake | 1 | Adjacent North | 335 | :50 | Island Lake |
| Riverton | 3 | 2 mi. South | 78 | | Winnipeg |
| Roblin | 2 | 4 mi. W.S.W. | 205 | :40 | Dauphin |
| Roland | 3 | 4 mi. N.W. | 47 | | Winnipeg |
| Rosenort | 2 | Adjacent S.E. | 32 | :10 | Winnipeg |
| Russell | 2 | Adjacent S.W. | 190 | :40 | Dauphin |
| St. Therese Pt. | 2 | .8 mi. North | 290 | :50 | Island Lake. |
| Selkirk | 3 | 1 mi. North | 25 | | Winnipeg |
| Shamattawa | 1 | Adjacent North | 465 | 1:10 | Gillam |
| Shilo | 3 | 1.1 mi. S. | 106 | | Brandon |
| Shilo (Flager Host) | 3 | | 106 | | Brandon |
| Silver Falls | 3 | 1 mi. S. | 65 | | Winnipeg |
| Snow Lake | 3 | | 365 | | The Pas |
| Somerset | 3 | 1.3 mi. S.W. | 74 | | Portage |
| Souris | 2 | 2.5 mi. East | 134 | :30 | Brandon |
| South Indian Lake | 3 | 2 mi. East | 485 | | Thompson |
| Split Lake | 3 | | 440 | | Gillam |
| Starbuck | 2 | 4 mi. S.W. | 16 | :10 | Winnipeg |
| Strathclair | 3 | 1 mi. West | 146 | | Brandon |
| Swan River | 1 | Adjacent E.N.E. | 235 | :45 | Dauphin |

Tuesday, 29 July, 1986

| AIRFIELD (1) | CATEGORY (2) | LOCATION AT COMMUNITY | ONE-WAY DIST.(3) | FLIGHT TIME FROM WPG.(4) | NEAREST ALTERNATE (5) |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Pas | 1 | 10 mi. N.E. | 325 | :50 | Flin Flon |
| Thicket-Portage | 3 | .5 mi. W.S.W. | 375 | | Thompson |
| Thompson | 1 | 3 mi. North | 410 | 1:00 | Gillam |
| Treherne | 3 | 2 mi. East | 68 | | Portage |
| Virден | 3 | 1 mi. North | 165 | | Brandon |
| Virден West | 3 | 6 mi. N.W. | 165 | | Brandon |
| Warren | 3 | 2 mi. N.W. | 18 | | Winnipeg |
| Winkler | 2 | 1 mi. S.E. | 59 | :15 | Winnipeg |
| York Landing | 2 | 1 mi. North | 445 | 1:10 | Gillam |

Tuesday, 29 July, 1986

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TABLE II

RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES
NEAREST AIRFIELD THAT LIFE FLIGHT CAN LAND AT
OCTOBER/85

| <u>FACILITY</u> | <u>CATEGORY 1</u> | <u>CATEGORY 2</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Altona Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Arborg Hospital | Gimli | |
| Ashern Hospital | Gimli | |
| Baldur Hospital | Brandon | |
| Beausejour Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Benito Hospital | Swan River | |
| Birtle Hospital | Dauphin | Russell |
| Boissevain Hospital | Brandon | |
| Carberry Hospital | Brandon | |
| Carman Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Cartwright Hospital | Brandon | Souris |
| Churchill Hospital | Churchill | |
| Crystal City Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Dauphin Hospital | Dauphin | |
| Deloraine Hospital | Brandon | Deloraine |
| Elkhorn Hospital | Brandon | |
| Emerson Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Erickson Hospital | Brandon | |
| Eriksdale Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Flin Flon Hospital | Flin Flon | |
| Gilbert Plains Hospital | Dauphin | |
| Gimli Hospital Gimli | Gimli | |
| Gladstone Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Glenboro Hospital | Brandon | |
| Grandview Hospital | Dauphin | |
| Hamiota Hospital | Brandon | |
| Hartney Hospital | Brandon | Souris |
| Lac du Bonnet Health Centre | Winnipeg | |
| Leaf Rapids Health Centre | Leaf Rapids | |
| Killarney Hospital | Brandon | |
| Lynn Lake Hospital | Lynn Lake | |
| MacGregor Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| McCreary Hospital | Dauphin | Neepawa |
| Manitou Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Melita Hospital | Brandon | Souris |
| Minnedosa Hospital | Brandon | |
| Morden Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Morris Hospital | Winnipeg | |

Tuesday, 29 July, 1986

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TABLE II (Cont'd)

RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES

NEAREST AIRFIELD THAT LIFE FLIGHT CAN LAND AT

OCTOBER/85

| <u>FACILITY</u> | <u>CATEGORY 1</u> | <u>CATEGORY 2</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Notre Dame Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Pinawa Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Pine Falls Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Portage Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Reston Hospital | Brandon | |
| Rivers Hospital | Brandon | |
| Roblin Hospital | Dauphin | Roblin |
| Rosburn Hospital | Brandon | |
| Russell Hospital | Dauphin | Russell |
| Ste. Anne Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| St. Claude Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| St. Pierre Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Ste. Rose Hospital | Dauphin | |
| Selkirk Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Shoal Lake Hospital | Brandon | |
| Snow Lake Hospital | Flin Flon | |
| Souris Hospital | Brandon | Souris |
| Steinbach Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Stonewall Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Swan Lake Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Swan River Hospital | Swan River | |
| Teulon Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| The Pas Hospital | The Pas | |
| Thompson Hospital | Thompson | |
| Treherne Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Virden Hospital | Brandon | |
| Vita Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Wawanesa Hospital | Brandon | |
| Whitemouth Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Winkler Hospital | Winnipeg | |
| Winnipegosis Hospital | Dauphin | |

Tuesday, 29 July, 1986

N.P.T.P. Emergency Warrants

First six months 1986 compared with 1985

| | <u>1985</u> | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|---|
| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | Total | |
| Thompson | 80 | 78 | 67 | 90 | 108 | 86 | 509 | |
| The Pas | 40 | 42 | 72 | 44 | 52 | 63 | 313 | |
| Flin Flon | 43 | 20 | 30 | 15 | 50 | 41 | 189 | |
| Churchill | 7 | 8 | 22 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 50 | |
| Winnipeg | 14 | 10 | 28 | 19 | 24 | 26 | 121 | |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>184</u> | <u>158</u> | <u>219</u> | <u>175</u> | <u>237</u> | <u>219</u> | <u>1182</u> | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | <u>1986</u> | | | | | | | |
| Thompson | 129 | 96 | 84 | 64 | 57 | 116 | 546 | + |
| The Pas | 56 | 28 | 14 | 33 | 19 | 28 | 178 | - |
| Flin Flon | 25 | 22 | 23 | 16 | 22 | 21 | 129 | - |
| Churchill | 10 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 33 | - |
| Winnipeg | 37 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 14 | 10 | 130 | + |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>257</u> | <u>174</u> | <u>148</u> | <u>138</u> | <u>117</u> | <u>182</u> | <u>1016</u> | - |