

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
10:00 o'clock, Friday, April 3, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this point I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 44 Red Cross Youth Members from various points in Manitoba. They are from Grades 10, 11 and 12 and are under the direction of Mr. Hordyk.

On behalf of all the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this morning.

REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Osborne. The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave of the House to have the matter stand. (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Matthews. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, in his absence could we have the matter stand? (Agreed.)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to table the Report of the Minimum Wage Board of the Province of Manitoba for the period ending December 31st, 1969. This is in accordance with a resolution passed by the Manitoba Legislature on April 25th of 1969, which resolved that the Board be required to report to the Minister when conditions warrant such report but at least annually or before the March 31st for the period ending December 31st previous.

STATEMENTS

MR. PAULLEY: Also, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to make an announcement that I'm sure is of great interest to all of the people of Manitoba regarding minimum wage. This, you will recall, Mr. Speaker, was announced in the Throne Speech and announced by myself a few days ago. The announcement is as follows. The minimum wage will be increased from \$1.35 an hour to \$1.50 an hour effective October 1st, 1970, six months from now. This is a 15 cent an hour or 11 percent increase. It's being announced now to remove uncertainty about minimum wages and to give employers and employees lead time so that they can make all possible adjustments. Equivalent cent per hour increases are planned in the minimum for workers below the age of 18 increasing them from \$1.10 at present to \$1.25 an hour. In the minimums for inexperienced workers, an increase from \$1.20 to \$1.35 during the first three months of employment and an increase from \$1.30 to \$1.45 during the second three months. At the end of the six months' period the rates will become \$1.50.

I'm sure that members of the House will be interested in the total number of employees affected. It is roughly estimated that from 30,000 to 35,000 workers might be affected by the increase, roughly 8 to 9 percent of the province's total labour force. These workers are employed in a variety of industries, principally those such as restaurants, hotels, motels, taverns, laundries, hospitals, repair shops, recreational businesses, the garment industry and some retail and wholesale outlets. Some collective agreements analyzed last fall were found to contain base wage rates below \$1.50. On October 1st when the change is made, Manitoba's minimum wage will be ahead of the Federal Government's present minimum of \$1.25 and all other present or announced provincial premiums except that of Alberta whose minimum wage is going to \$1.55 an hour on October 1st, 1970, and B. C.'s of \$1.50 an hour.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): I would like to ask the Minister a question. Will this . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the statement that was just made by the Minister of Labour particularly insofar as he expressed the fact that there was a growing amount of uncertainty and concern about the status of the minimum wage in Manitoba, and from that point of view the announcement this morning at least dispels that uncertainty and indeed gives the industry that lead time to adjust or to make the necessary adjustments within their industry.

Mr. Speaker, we've said so before in this House, we have serious and grave reservations in the manner and the way this government is choosing to make these arbitrary increases in the minimum wages. We of course do not for one moment challenge their right to do so, but we seriously would ask them not to perhaps continue the sham of the Minimum Wage Board itself. We have . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that there is no sham at all. I announced that we had received a report from the Board.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'm in the midst of making a statement; he's prepared to take whatever interpretation he wants to at a later date, Sir. I make that observation as being a serious one. Also we have a major statement of major importance to the economic - particularly the economic well-being and the industrial economic well-being of this province, unaccompanied by any particular set of statistics, economical statistics and so forth in terms of what impact this may have within the economy. We have no accompanying figures, statistics, with respect to what extent this increase in the minimum wage will in fact be passed directly back to the consuming public, particularly in the service areas where I feel, if I remember correctly the Minister's statement and I haven't got the statement before me, but a good part of those implicated by the increase in minimum wage is in the service areas indeed. Undoubtedly it will be most noticeably felt within the Department of Health and Social Services that we are now currently in review of their estimates because it is that department that has a large number of employees that unfortunately are working at that level. Now, Mr. Speaker, let me . . .

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI, (Minister of Transportation)(Thompson): Are you against the increase?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, let me make the position of my party, and myself personally, as we obviously haven't had an opportunity to caucus this announcement this morning, but let me make our general position very clear. I think the point in time that they would like to have on that side pit us against the concept of an increased minimum wage or better improved working condition. Mr. Speaker, that government there has nothing to offer the people of Manitoba that I don't want to offer the people of Manitoba, particularly in the realm of working conditions, particularly in the realm of better incomes. I honestly believe that my system, the incentive system, will provide for a better level, higher wages, higher incomes and a greater freedom within that system. Now they don't believe that. That's correct and that is the difference between us, that is the difference between us . . .

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Nonsense, nonsense.

MR. ENNS: Yes, they believe in setting the economic and climate tone arbitrarily by Order-in-Council, by government decision. Mr. Speaker, time will tell whether it works. We believe on this side that we can overcome the situations, we can overcome those areas of poor incomes within our society by creating an active, healthy climate for expansion, a climate for activity, and this is essentially the approach of this party.

So, Mr. Speaker, I welcome the statement on behalf of the Minister at this time. I think it was important that he make the statement at this time to allow the industry to have the lead time to adjust to their requirements and we'll await future events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, might I say the Liberal Party welcome this. There is no hedging; we welcome this. It is rather surprising to find though that such a large percentage of our labour force is working for this amount of money. I believe the Minister said 8 to 9 percent.

MR. PAULLEY: A carry-over from the former administration.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I don't know how this compares with similar provinces in the west, and I'm talking now of Saskatchewan and Alberta who we always compare ourselves with. I think it is disturbing that we have a high percentage of people who depend upon the minimum for a

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) living and there is a place I believe, and apart from my colleague on the right, the Member for Lakeside, there is a place for government to look at the minimum wage when so many people find that this is their maximum working abilities, or the maximum earning power that they have in certain industries. So I might say that in the past our party has supported and proposed resolutions to increase the minimum wage from time to time and we are for it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I was probably a minute late and missed part of the Honourable Minister's announcement, but I take it that he announced that there would be an increase in the minimum wage effective some later date this year.

MR. PAULLEY: October 1st.

MR. FROESE: October 1st. Thanks. I must say that this will work out hardship on certain industries. Just the other day I had a call from a proprietor of a small business - and I can name it, it's a meat business - and he was very concerned about this. He had heard about the increase, the possible increase, because he was employing a number of people and some of these were unskilled. They didn't require any skills and yet he would now have to pay more for these people who could probably not do the amount of work that a skilled person could. I think this is where you run into trouble. There are other industries where you can go on piece work and so you don't have the same effect that you would have otherwise, and this industry might withstand it much better.

I'm not saying that -- and I'm not begrudging any person the minimum wage, in fact I'm sure there's many many people in this province who are getting far above the minimum wage, but what we are doing, we are contending with a certain group whose level we are going to raise across the board in this province, and if this means that in certain industries they can't afford it - and I think I should mention the farm industry at this time, because here the Federal Government is proposing a quota system which will mean that the farmers of this province will be selling \$50 million worth less of wheat in the next crop year and how are they supposed to contend with increased wages. I'm not saying that there are not many farm workers getting \$1.50 and much more than that, but we're automatically increasing the wage rate for a certain group of people who are probably not putting out the amount of work where people can expect to pay more.

This is where we're putting these people in a straight jacket, and I feel that if the government is so concerned about raising the minimum wage then they should be so much more concerned about these industries that are having such a hard time, such as the farm industry at the present time, and making sure that they would be able to get more in the way of the wherewithal to pay the wages because we will find a very serious recession taking place this fall if this new proposed quota system is going into effect. Fifty million dollars less means that we're only going to sell one-third of what the farmers were selling last year and this is no joke. This is nothing to joke about; this is serious. I feel that if this government is so concerned about the minimum wage they should be much more concerned about these other industries where they would like to pay more to their employees. I'm sure they're not the type of people that wouldn't want to. They would like to pay more but they have to make ends meet if they want to stay in business. Therefore, I feel that if we are going to increase the minimum wage then we should, as a government and as people in this Legislative Assembly, concern ourselves with . . .

HON. AL. MACKLING, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(St. James): Would the member yield to a question?

MR. FROESE: Yes, after I'm finished. . . . concern ourselves so much more with the matter of supplying the necessary means wherewith this can be paid.

MR. MACKLING: I take it that the honourable member believes that Social Credit philosophy is dependent upon a cheap labour theory?

MR. FROESE: Not at all, because if you look at B. C. and Alberta they are the ones that are the highest on the list. They are the provinces where the people get the most in the way of purchasing power from their labour. I've said this before, but we are believers in free enterprise, we're the believers in providing free open markets so that people can go about and sell. We don't believe in marketing boards of the type that have a monopoly on almost everything and that you can't move about. Therefore, this brings about the difference between the two systems.

MR. MACKLING: Would the honourable member yield to another question? I assume that the Social Credit Party in Manitoba as represented by the Honourable Member from Rhineland though differs in its opinion of the minimum wage in respect to the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'm not differing in any way, I'm quite . . .

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, surely the line of interrogation carried on by the Minister, who should know better, has nothing to do at all with the statement that was made by the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm certain the honourable members will agree with me that this is not the time to initiate a debate on this issue. The rules provide for a statement by the Honourable Minister, brief comment from the opposition parties, and I would suggest that for the present moment it be left at that and I'm certain there will be ample opportunity to debate this issue at greater length later in the session.

The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): On this particular subject, would I be permitted to ask a question of the government at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: Asking questions before Orders of the Day are permitted.

MR. WATT: But we're discussing the statement made by the Minister, Mr. Speaker. Am I not . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member is permitted to ask questions.

MR. WATT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Would the Minister care to state his position in relation to the statement of the Minister at the moment in regard to the farm problem that the Member for Rhineland has just espoused at the moment?

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): My honourable friend knows that when a Minister of the government announces a policy that it has concurrence of the government.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Attorney-General. In view of the concern of the Manitoba Hotelkeepers in regards to perhaps too many troublemakers in their beverage rooms, is the Minister contemplating any new legislation to better cover the situation?

MR. MACKLING: No.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I wanted to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Could he indicate of the eight to nine percent of the work force that would be affected by the minimum wage, what percentage of this is part-time workers; what percentage are students?

MR. PAULLEY: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I haven't that information before me. I will endeavour to obtain the information if it is available for my honourable friend.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, my question was asked in a very capable manner by that brilliant Member for Lakeside.

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

MR. JACK HARDY (St. Vital): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Honourable the Minister of Government Services. Can the Minister advise this Assembly as to the possession date by the province of the Auditorium?

MR. PAULLEY: As I announced when I spoke to the House as to the acquiring of the Civic Auditorium the other day, I said possession would take place as the area is vacated by its present users.

MR. HARDY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder, could the Minister be perhaps a little more specific. Are we speaking of three months, six months or two years?

MR. PAULLEY: I'm speaking of the time when the premises are vacated by the present occupiers.

MR. HARDY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the government taking any steps in order to expedite the vacating?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't expect that my honourable friend would ask me or suggest to me that I should give orders for vacating at this stage. There were commitments made by the City of Winnipeg to the people who are presently occupying and the Government of Manitoba, in the spirit of fair play, will honour those commitments.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. BUD SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture - and I apologize for the fact that it's really an expansion on a subject I raised yesterday - but another aspect of it has come to light overnight, Sir, and I would like to ask the Minister whether he can confirm, or has knowledge that would enable him to confirm a CBC report that 2,000 farmers plan to march on this Legislative Building tomorrow?

MR. USKIW: I think that if they do, Mr. Speaker, we'll be made aware of it. I'm not aware of it at this time. I indicated yesterday that we have been invited, and I'm sure members opposite have been invited, to a meeting at the Auditorium. Apart from that I have no knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Youth and Education. Could he indicate whether he expects to proceed with legislation during this session making certain changes in the school boundaries of the Interlake?

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Youth and Education)(Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I announced earlier that there would be legislation introduced which would make it possible for changes in the boundaries to be made.

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

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Youth and Education. Some 10 days ago I asked a question of the First Minister which was partially answered by him and then partially answered by the Minister of Youth and Education regarding hostels. The Minister indicated that this was under discussion and negotiations were taking place. Has he anything further to announce?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the discussions are still taking place. I expect that early in the week I'll be able to make an announcement with regard to hostels.

MR. MOLGAT: A supplementary question. Is the Province of Manitoba going to contribute financially to the operation of youth hostels?

MR. MILLER: That has not yet been decided, Mr. Speaker. There is provision in the budget in the estimates of two departments dealing with the matter, both in Health and Social Services and in Youth and Education, dealing with CRYPT, and whether we handle it or it is handled through them has not yet been finalized.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Youth and Education; maybe there'll be two. Is the Boundaries Commission still functioning, and if so, is it constituted as it was before with a full complement and what is their objective at the present time? Just what is being under study at the present time?

MR. MILLER: Question (a), they are still constituted; (b) as far as I know their complement is complete; (c) they are continuing the studies which this Legislature instructed them to continue; and in the very near future I hope we'll have all their reports in.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell - I'm sorry; for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. The recent announcement by the Minister of Labour of the \$1.50 minimum wage, what impact will this have on the hospital budget?

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Services)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I guess I should say I am very happy to announce that they will have to comply.

MR. MCKENZIE: A supplementary question. How much, Mr. Speaker?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, please don't ask me to give you a figure how much this is going to represent because I haven't got this today, but I can eventually get it for you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Since we are approaching the season when the people of the Province of Manitoba may expect further plagues to beset them, I ask the Minister what he is doing to prepare for control of the mosquito infestation in the Province of Manitoba and if we may expect to be stung and bitten on an orderly basis in the province?

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

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Government Services. Is he aware of what is now getting to be a ridiculous situation re the parking on these grounds? Is he aware that it's practically impossible to get in your own parking spot? I think the Honourable Member from - well, I don't know the constituency, but the only good looking member on the Conservative side hasn't been able to get her car into her stall for two weeks, I think. I wonder if the government is contemplating doing anything to remedy the situation?

MR. PAULLEY: The Minister of Government Services Mr. Speaker, would be glad to look into the matter. If it has been going on for two weeks I fault the Honourable Member for St. Boniface on behalf of the most beautiful member in the Assembly for not drawing this to my attention sooner.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. I wonder if he thinks that a similar situation could occur in Manitoba as that which has occurred in Alberta where they have more people registered on the Health Services Plan than there are people in Alberta, and what he thinks the significance of this might be.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, really it's a question in a sense and it's not in the other. I'm going to try and answer it this way -- (Interjections) -- I'm getting comments from my colleagues in the back here. Maybe it is inefficiency on the part of the government of this province in a sense, but on the other I think I have to mention that the program that we have under way in this province, Mr. Speaker, will help correct this situation to the trend that you seem to be indicating for this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Some time ago I asked for an Order of Return for the correspondence between the Manitoba Government and the Canadian Government with relation to the Pembina Dam. I was told that if it was possible that these would be coming. How long will it be before I know?

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, the Order for Return will be, or the Address for Papers will be returned in the normal course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Labour. I wonder if he could advise the House as to whether or not he expects any exceptions will be made when this announcement is brought into force?

MR. PAULLEY: The answer to that, Mr. Speaker, is obviously yes, because there were exceptions made even in this Assembly to this progressive step so I anticipate others.

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

MR. HARDY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Honourable Minister of Health. In view of the statement that was made this morning by the Honourable Minister of Labour with respect to the increase in the minimum wage, is this going to be reflected in additional grants to municipalities for welfare costs?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, first of all, if it's applicable, definitely. But I can't really see it now. I'll have to take that question as notice and get figures for you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

MR. SPEAKER: Order for Return. The Honourable Member for Riel. The Chair has some direction. Was it the intention of the honourable member to debate this Order for Return? In that event it should properly appear . . .

MR. MACKLING: No, Mr. Speaker, I requested that the matter stand so that I could confirm whether or not we could readily accept this Order and I have now confirmed that there's no problem; we'll certainly accept the Order.

MR. CRAIK: It was not my wish to say anything with respect to the Order for Return, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe - may I check with the Clerk - I believe it was moved and seconded?

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.
MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, would you call Bill No. 18, please.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 18, An Act to amend The Marriage Act. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

MR. TOUPIN presented Bill No. 18, An Act to amend The Marriage Act for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, amendments to The Marriage Act were presented to this House during the Third Session of the 28th Legislature but did not proceed due to the dissolution of this House. Bill 18, which has been introduced to this session, carries essentially the same previous amendments with one exception. In the previous proposals, the difficulty of obtaining civil weddings in outlying communities was recognized. It was proposed to remedy this problem by a provision for the designation of Magistrates by the Minister for authority to solemnize marriages at sittings of their court. In the present amendment, provision is made for appointment of Marriage Commissioners with certain qualifications to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. This provision was recommended to me by many interested religious groups and such a provision exists in the Province of Alberta at the present time. I am informed that in that province 22 such commissioners have been appointed and these commissioners perform 15 percent of all weddings. We feel this would give us more leeway in meeting the demand for civil weddings in remote areas.

Other provisions of the Act clarify and simplify the definition of "clergymen" who may perform a religious marriage. The present Act prohibits the publication of bans for the marriage of divorced persons. This is being removed as it is felt to be a religious matter rather than a matter of civil administration. It is felt that anyone who would choose this method would not be marrying in undue haste and without due counsel in the church.

A major change in the Act which remains as in the previous Bill concerns the condition under which a person below the age of 18 may marry. A person under 18 and over 16 may marry either with the consent of the father or without the consent of the father if she can prove pregnancy. A person under 16 years of age can marry only if they have consent of the father and also prove pregnancy. There are naturally provisions of other forms of consent in the absence of the father. The Bill proposes to change this and remove all reference of pregnancy as a grounds for marriage. Between the age of 16 and 18 the consent of both parents, where these are available, is required. It has been suggested by people in the field that very often the mother is the more responsible person in socially disturbed, disrupted homes and should be involved in these decisions. The only other provisions for marriage below the age of 18 would be consent of a Family Court Judge, and this would apply even to those between 16 and 18 who have been refused the right to marry by one or both parents.

It is felt that there may well be justifiable cause for marriage even below 16 or in the face of parental non-consent, but such marriages should be carefully considered and that the Family Court with its full resources of social investigation and family counsellors is in a position to give individual judgment and consent. Even here we provide for an appeal to the Judge of the County Court against decisions of the Family Court, whether they be consent or refusal of consent.

There are other less significant changes in the Bill. One authorizes the issuing of marriage licenses to require proof of age. The present Act does not provide this and we have received legal advice that such a provision should be in the Act so that an issuer has a right to ask for reasonable proof if he doubts the applicant for license is old enough to receive same.

The present Act does not conform to other existing legislation with respect to the presumption of death of a spouse and the Bill proposes an amendment to conform with the Presumption of Death Act.

Another amendment allows the appointment of marriage license issuers by the Minister rather than by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. This is largely a routine procedure which can be expedited by such an amendment.

Finally, an amendment provides for the preservation of -- oh, that's a hard word -- congregational marriage.

A MEMBER: What's that?

MR. TOUPIN: Congregational marriage - I should try it in French - the records on the disbandment of any church congregation. All remaining amendments are minor bookkeeping amendments to either clarify wording or to adjust the Act to the present nomenclatures. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member from Brandon West, that the debate be adjourned.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Could I ask a question of the Minister? -- (Interjection) -- The magistrates who will be able to perform marriage ceremonies now, is this a new -- Do they have a standard fee that they must charge or can they set their own fee?

MR. TOUPIN: I thought I was closing the debate but I guess I'm not.

MR. WEIR: . . . a ruling on it before we know whether the debate is being closed or not. Normal procedure, on the point of order, Mr. Speaker, would be for the Minister to save his replies and give them all when he closes the debate.

MR. GREEN: That's not necessarily so and I think that the House can govern it's own procedure. Generally when a person makes an address and is asked a question at the close of his address for clarification, he can give an answer without it being taken that he spoke again. Now if the House -- that would be the normal procedure after an address. If the Minister now got up and tried to make a speech that closed the matter it would be another matter, but I think if he is just being asked a question to clarify something that he said in his earlier remarks, then it would follow the normal procedure. We have seen it happen so many times that a person has been asked to answer a question.

MR. JORGENSON: Because a question has been asked so many times does not make it right, and I think that the practice that has been followed, or at least the practice that should be followed is that leave should be asked to ask that question, and if leave is asked and the House agrees then that question can be answered. Otherwise, the Minister is closing the debate.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I think that traditionally we've done it but not usually in relation to second readings of Bills, it's with Resolutions and other matters and that is why I seek clarification. Generally speaking, what would have happened in my recollection in the House is that the Member for Portage la Prairie would have considered to have spoken and the question would be saved and answered by the Minister as he closes the debate, while he is replying to all of the other people that have spoken in the meantime.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't think we should make a great deal out of this. Supposing that the Member for Portage la Prairie, the Leader of the Liberal Party, did not wish to exhaust his time to speak but wished to get up and ask the Minister a question, could he not do that? Because I take it that that's what he wanted to do. He might want to speak next day as a result of getting the answer, and certainly if that is the way we've been handling ourselves we should be able to continue to handle ourselves that way. I don't see that it's caused a great deal of trouble.

MR. JORGENSON: . . . that there is no disagreement on this point unless the question is one that can be quite logically asked during the committee stage of the Bill. If it is something asking for clarification which might have some bearing on what the honourable member wants to say, then I think that is a very legitimate question to ask, but if it is something that can be asked at third reading stage or committee stage of the Bill, then I would suggest that the question not be asked.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party leave to ask his question? I would take it then that the reply would not be constituted as closing debate.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, to save any further discussion, I will withdraw the question. I found the answer in the Bill during the period of argument.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, that the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member from Elmwood in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with the Department of Health and Social Services, Resolution No. 54. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Well, last night I made some comments in connection with the opening, or the Minister's opening remarks, and one of the questions had to do with hospital construction. It seemed to me that he was very evasive on this matter and thought that he was probably intruding some kind of privacies as far as announcing any of the possible hospital construction. Mr. Chairman, at what point are we to discuss hospital construction if it is not under the Minister's salary? There is no particular item in the estimates whereunder we can discuss this item and I think we should know what the program is. If there is not to be any new construction outside of the programs that are presently under way, let us hear it and let him tell us that. If there is, then on the other hand I think we should know about it and just what amounts will be involved, how much will be spent in the way of construction for this coming year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 54 - (a)(1) -- The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, before we get off the Minister's salary I would like to ask him one or two more questions. Could he tell members of the House how many provincial civil servants have received welfare in the past year, or partial assistance?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)(1) --

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, this question is to be answered by the Minister, I believe.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not see any indication that the Minister was answering.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I think I should take this opportunity to maybe go back to the speakers that we had last evening and try and answer a few questions that were asked last night. There was a question regarding the total amount spent on administration. This question was asked by the Honourable Member for Pembina. I am sorry to say that I haven't got the exact figure here with me but I will try to get it and give it to you. It is quite difficult though to give you an exact figure so far as the administration is concerned, but we will do our best to come as close to the figure as we can.

He mentioned equally that he wasn't too happy insofar as the numbers of people on welfare and so on and what could be done about it. Well, I have to agree with the Honourable Member from Pembina. I don't like to see people on welfare myself - and here I am being very sincere. This is why we are doing what we can to help them, not only financially but help them get off welfare. And let us set the record very clear. Most of the people involved, and here I say the biggest majority of the people involved, don't like to be on welfare and would like to get off welfare, and the figure, the percentage that I gave you last evening can prove this. There is only two percent of them that actually could go back to work if we found jobs for them.

The second point here that I wrote down saying that we are very serious, that is the Department of Health and Social Services, when we say that we want to help those addicted to drugs, and I believe - and I would like the members to believe me - that they do need help. They really do need help. The peddlers are the real sick people if you get right down to it. It is not the people who are receiving the drugs, the peddlers themselves they are the sick people who we have -- well that is not only our department but the Department of the Attorney-General, has to correct. And I wish maybe we should equally get the help from the Honourable Member for Swan River. He has had a lot of experience in his life.

A MEMBER: Some good, some bad.

MR. TOUPIN: The Honourable Member from St. George equally who was in the RCMP himself. I wish I had the wisdom of a Solomon when I say these things. In any case, I have given this subject a great deal of thought and time too. I think a solution to this very serious problem is a difficult one, a real difficult one. I have spoken to social workers, doctors, legal advisors, directors of guidance clinics, even more important I have had conversations with users of drugs and their parents. However, the more fact I received on the subject the more I am sure that no single piece of legislation is going to stop or cure the use of drugs. More time is needed to study this grave problem.

And here I'd like to get on the question of the cost of administration that the Honourable Member from Pembina asked for. I have been questioned by this member regarding the cost of the administration in the Department of Health and Social Services, and my staff informs me just now that the payroll and other costs directly related to the administration of the Department

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) . . . of Health and Social Services amounts to \$1.5 million. While this cost would appear to be high, it should be remembered that my budget represents 32 percent of the total government budget and the staff of my department is 50 percent - well, actually I think it is even a little over 50 percent of the total provincial civil service; and further, that the cost of \$1.5 million is only 1.1 percent of my budget expenditures. Apart from the many administrative duties connected with operating a multitude of regional social services offices, health units, laboratories and x-ray units, correctional institutions, re-hab camps, mental hospitals, my administrative staff must produce 105,000 payroll cheques each year and pay 225,000 suppliers' accounts, all of which is exclusive of operating a social allowance program. While the members in this House can illustrate an example of payment delays, I believe that my staff - and here I say this very sincerely - is providing an effective administrative back-up to the program areas of the department at a minimum cost to the taxpayers of Manitoba.

And here again, the Honourable Member for Rhineland came back again this morning with the same question regarding hospitals. Well, I haven't got the figures and I haven't got the names of the different hospitals that we intend to construct in 1970-71, but I'll do my best to obtain this for him and come back during my estimates.

Now the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party asked how many civil servants had received welfare. Civil servants - I don't really know if he was referring to civil servants in my department or in all government departments. -- (Interjection) -- Provincial Civil Servants. Well, I must say I haven't got this figure and if we can get the figure I will bring it forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word or two on the estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services, soon to be the Department of Health and Social Development, and to begin by complimenting the Minister on the assumption of his new responsibilities.

I would like to say a word or two at the outset, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the elderly of our land, the elderly if not necessarily the infirmed, but those who are incapacitated by age and who have reached a critical point in their lives in terms of personal care and attention and welfare. To buttress some of the things I want to say, Mr. Chairman, I would like to put on the record two or three excerpts from a fairly comprehensive study that recently was undertaken on the situation in the United States where the elderly and homes for the elderly are concerned. I emphasize that this is the situation in the United States and is not necessarily translatable to Canada, but I think one can assume that many of the operative problems and aspects of the subject defined in this particular report for the United States would also have their complements and their counterparts in Canada. This was a story that was done by the Associated Press out of their Washington Bureau under the by-line of Mr. James R. Polk and was carried in The Winnipeg Tribune several months ago on September 25th, 1969, and ran under the headline, Mr. Chairman: "Life in Nursing Homes Cruel for One Million in U.S."

Mr. Polk wrote and I quote directly from his article. As I say, I would like to put this on the record for future reference by the Minister and hopefully all members of this Chamber. "Despite a billion dollar bonanza from the Federal Government, nursing homes in the United States are a stark and lonely place to die. Abuses in money and medicine, an air of death and despair shadow the aged through the dusk of their days. Studies show that some doctors rarely see their patients. Nurses freely use drugs to restrain the elderly. Mental patients are dumped into nursing homes by the thousands and fraud feeds on the federal dollar.

"The Associated Press in an extensive study of nursing homes throughout the country found facts and cases such as these: In El Granada, California, a nursing home operator is accused of stealing a dying patient's savings of \$13,000 after she and a lawyer lifted his feeble hand to guide his signature on a legal paper. In one of the largest nursing homes in Cleveland, Ohio, a patient wandered away from his room and strayed into a crawl-way where he died. His body lay there for more than a year until a maintenance man stumbled across it in the spring. Tranquilizers, sedatives and other drugs are used in abundance to keep patients quiet. Doctors agree to prescriptions over the telephone to nursing homes without examining their patients. One Michigan woman was thought to be speechless for two years until a new doctor stopped the sedatives and found that she could talk. Nursing homes have become warehouses for elderly mental patients that State hospitals turn down or turn out. Few homes have any hint of psychiatric care and most use drugs or keep the patients belted in their chairs. A woman who spent almost 50 years in a mental hospital now sits and stares in a Detroit nursing home."

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)

The catalogue of horrors, Mr. Chairman, goes on and on in this particular report. At the same time, in an attempt to be reasonable, fair and objective, the A. P. story emphasizes that its survey showed - and here I'm quoting again from their report - "In many nursing homes the patients receive compassionate attention and adequate medical care." But the report went on to emphasize the fact that the potential for abuse and the potential for excess and the potential for great personal tragedy really exists in the framework of the institutional occupation itself in the United States because of a shortage of trained personnel and a shortage of facilities, a shortage of adequate technological and medical and professional input, and also because of the human failing that affects all countries and all societies and that allows certain irresponsibilities to creep into many of man's pursuits and occupations and reflects itself in exploitation of situations in which certain persons and segments of society are hopelessly trapped beyond their own control.

Now from my own personal experience, and I do speak from personal experience in this regard, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make it plain that I believe that we are very fortunate and very well served here in Manitoba by our nursing homes and geriatric services and generally those institutions that care for our aged, our elderly. In the main I would suggest, Sir, that we can be proud of our nursing homes and of our centres of this kind throughout our province, but as I've said, the whole field of geriatrics is open to this potential for abuse and excess and misfortune because it's expanding and exploding and accelerating and growing upon itself at such a tremendous rate, a space age rate, and creating and producing for us problems that we're not yet equipped to cope with.

Referring once again to the article from which I quoted a few moments ago by the Associated Press, Mr. Polk writes: "There is nothing that is so horrible and terrifying to older people than to think they might end their days in a nursing home, said a 74 year old Philadelphia widow. They pray to get sick on Tuesday and die on Wednesday." I think that attitude probably could be translated to many of us and doesn't just apply to older people. I doubt that there are many of us in this Chamber today who relish the thought of ending our days in a nursing home. A psychologist at the University of Chicago, Dr. Lieberman, has found in studies that fear and shock may actually hasten death for the nursing home patient. In comparing elderly patients on the waiting list for a home for the aged both before and after their admission, Dr. Lieberman found the death rate more than doubled upon entrance into the home. He said, and again this is a quotation from the article aforementioned, "They're right. It is a death trap even in the homes that try." The implication being clear of course, not that the institutions as such are death traps but that the environmental psychology created induces a state of surrender and defeat and capitulation on the part of many persons who find themselves necessarily committed for one reason or another.

Now so that there's no misunderstanding, Mr. Chairman, and at the risk of being repetitive, I do want to stress again that I am not suggesting for a moment that any of the abuses or any of the misfortunes that are described in the article to which I have referred can be applied in any way in the slightest degree to any institution in Manitoba responsible for the care of the aged. I have no knowledge and no reason to believe that there are any such abuses in our province, and as I said, I think we can be grateful and thankful for the record of our institutions in the field of geriatrics as it stands.

But the point is that with an expanding population and with an increase every year, insidious increase every year in the size of that sector of our population that can be described as elderly or aged, the Minister would agree - and I note that he does agree with me, Mr. Chairman - that the potential for the problem, the potential for the danger is always there and anticipation and action based on anticipation surely is more humane and indeed I would hope more practical and more economic than ad hoc emergency efforts afterwards to meet a situation that might have been headed off with a little forethought. So I sound the alarm that the possibility of a growing and developing problem exists in our society simply because on the average we're living longer and on the average we're being put out to pasture for a larger and longer segment of our lives than was certainly the case a hundred years ago.

The whole problem of care of the aged is one that concerns me very deeply, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sure concerns all of us who have elderly parents, and even if we don't have elderly parents we all intend to be elderly parents or elderly persons ourselves some day, so the problem is one that's very personal and of immediate concern to us. There's a problem of

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) the care of our parents and in many cases the care of our grandparents and older relatives and relatives not quite as -- persons not related to us quite as closely perhaps as our parents or grandparents. There is the problem as I've said, Sir, of the care of ourselves in our own older years. So we have this unique and profound twentieth century problem that's testing the brains and the talents of many many persons very severely and we're left with the imperative, in my view at the present time, that our governments on all levels, on all levels, should be strenuously seeking solutions.

And I ask therefore at this stage, Mr. Chairman, of the Minister: what is this government and what is this Minister doing in this respect? I confess to be perhaps in error in my interpretation of his departmental estimates for the year, and I stand to be corrected and will listen with great interest to his response later on during the presentation of his estimates to the questions that I've raised, but up to this point I must say, Mr. Chairman, that I'm extremely worried as to the degree to which this government and this Minister is tuned in, is plugged in to the existence of this problem at all. The total estimates for this department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Speaker, if anyone needs any reminding, are up approximately \$29 million - not without good cause but that's irrelevant to the point I'm making - they're up approximately \$29 million over the amount allotted in the fiscal year just ended. They're up to \$136 million for this new fiscal year compared to \$129 million for the last, yet the government's spending program in the field of elderly and infirm persons housing for the same period will only be up by some \$88,000 by the way I read the figures. They're up from a niggardly \$634,000 to an equally niggardly \$722,000, so that's \$722,000 in the field of elderly and infirm persons housing and care, Mr. Chairman, \$722,000 out of \$136 million, or looking at it the other way in terms of the increases respectively, \$88,000, Mr. Speaker, out of 29 millions, and therefore I ask this Minister and this government, Sir, what does this say for our attitudes towards the problems of care for our elderly and our infirm. To me it says that we care not very much; to me it says that we're really turning our backs on the problem, sweeping it into the dark corners of our just, participatory, open and humane society and saying in effect that if we simply ignore it it won't exist, it'll just dry up and blow away.

Well of course no one needs any reminding that no problems, and least of all one such as this, the problem of old age, no problems just dry up and blow away, not in this imperfect world; perhaps in some idyllic, ethereal, imaginary realms but not in this imperfect world, and the time is now I suggest for the administrators of our lives and our affairs as a community to be giving strenuous thought to solutions to this problem, at least to attacks on the problem, at least to research and investigation into the problem, and I can't see, Sir, by my imperfect application of mathematics in any event, I can't see where the sums allotted can even scratch the surface of the job that needs to be done. So this is one challenge and responsibility that I put to the Minister and his response to which will interest me very keenly and very personally, I might add.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to call the Minister to account to me if he would, when it's convenient in the presentation of these estimates for him to do so, for the projected program in the current fiscal year in the field of anti-pollution, anti-pollution measures. I know the Minister has touched on some of these subjects in the presentation of his estimates, but once again I come back to mathematics, Mr. Chairman, with the figures in the current estimates in front of me. The Clean Environment Commission, which I assume is the agency responsible for the war on pollution, environmental pollution in our provincial society, the Clean Environment Commission is allotted the magnificent sum of \$34,300 for the fiscal year upon which we have now set sail. The Minister has already commented on this, as I've said, to a certain degree and expressed his dismay over that scandalously small appropriation, but I want to lend my dismay in equal dimension to any that he may have expressed and ask him to bear in mind in future deliberations as to the spending programs and social improvement programs in this province with his colleagues, that this, Sir, is an absolutely ludicrously pitiful sum to be allotted to an agency that's responsible for looking into -- a miniscule sum as the Minister has indicated by his own gesture from his seat, an absolutely pitiful sum if not a scandalous sum to be allotted to an agency . . .

MR. TOUPIN: A real disgrace.

MR. SHERMAN: A real disgrace the Minister says, and he has a committed disciple in me, in my person in that argument. . . . to be allotted to an agency that has such a crucial and critical responsibility as coping with the proliferating problem of pollution, industrial and

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) environmental and ecological, in the Province of Manitoba in the next fiscal year - \$34,300 out of total estimates for a department of \$136 millions. Mr. Chairman, as I've said, that kind of effort can only be described as pitiful and that may be a very charitable and generous description. It might be closer to the truth to describe it as dangerously negligent.

Pollution, and no one needs any reminding in this Chamber, I hesitate to say the obvious except to put it on the record, is that pollution is recognized now as one of our most critical and pressing issues in North America, indeed in the whole world. Public servants across the continent are wrestling with the problem night and day and this government is preparing to spend the magnificent and munificent sum of \$34,300 on the subject. Mr. Chairman, if it weren't tragic it would be hysterically funny. In the meantime, in the meantime this government is going to allot more than a million dollars to spruce up and expand to a certain extent its jail system. Well I'm not against improvements in our penal institutions. I see no reason why they should be hangovers from the middle ages but I question a scale of values and a sense of values that says we can spend a million dollars more, or more than a million dollars in making things more comfortable for the inmates of our penal institutions but we can only spend \$34,000 on tackling the problem of the despoiling and the fouling of our environment.

Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't want the Minister to get the impression that all my remarks are of a critical nature, and I would like to say at this point that he deserves my compliments and he gets them for the booklet entitled "Drug Abuse" which his department has issued. I feel confident, or at least hopeful, Sir, that it will do an effective job in combating the spread of drug usage and the danger of the spread of drug usage among our young people, and I hope, as I'm sure all members of this Chamber do, that it's only the forerunner of a very aggressive, very militant and very imaginative campaign aimed at stopping this problem in its tracks before it becomes any more of a horrendous menace than it already is.

I would also personally like to place myself on the record as urging the government at this point to be strong and strenuous in its resistance to any inclination to endorse any form of legalization of narcotics such as marijuana, particularly while the jury, in this case the LeDain Commission I believe it is, is still out, if one may use that expression. Many people who have at some times in their lives, in the past decade in particular, taken a fairly permissive attitude towards the use of marijuana, have begun to have second thoughts on the subject, and many people have reversed their positions entirely from those that found them a few years ago dismissing the danger, or the alleged danger of marijuana as an empty threat and really a menace not worthy of serious consideration. They've begun to have second thoughts because of the compelling and disturbing evidence which has piled up month after month, year after year through the 1960's, of the critical damage, psychological, social, economic, that can be directly traced to the irresponsible use of narcotics such as marijuana.

I am no more expert in the field of assessing the damages and dangers of marijuana than I submit is anybody else in this Chamber, and less expert in it than probably some, but I believe that the position that should be adopted by responsible legislators at this time is that while the intensive examination and objective exercise and survey that is being conducted by the LeDain Commission and doctors and social workers, medical care people and educators all across this continent continues to go on, we should resist with all the vigor at our command any kind of precipitous or arbitrary endorsement of any positions that promote legalization of the drug. The dangers to me are, as I suggest, self-evident and horrendous as reported in countless catalogues of damage recounted in our media every week and every month of the year. The stories of drug-induced tragedy are legion and they are hair-raising, and so I ask the government, if it has any inclination to endorse the legalization of marijuana or any such narcotic, that it resist the temptation, at least at this time while we wait for the definitive conclusions of the surveys and investigations as to the effects of marijuana that are currently being carried out.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to confront the Minister with one other question and problem that comes into the realm of criticism and ask him for a clarification of an exchange between himself and myself in this House on Tuesday, March 24th, having to do with any communication that he may have had during the past winter with members of the Hearing Aid Dealers Association of Manitoba. This may seem a fairly inconsequential question but it's a very consequential and important one to the people who are engaged in that field of work and also to all those Manitobans who find it necessary for their enjoyment of life to rely on the

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) services of hearing aids and hearing aid dealers. No one needs any reminding of the present state of uncertainty and counter argument existing between the respective sides of the hearing aid question in this province, and it was out of the context of the controversy and the discussion that has been going on formally and informally over the direction of the hearing aid industry in Manitoba this winter that I asked the Minister on Tuesday, March 24th - and the exchange can be found on Page 237 of Hansard for that date - whether he had had a chance to talk to representatives of the Hearing Aid Dealers Association this winter.

And this was the exchange, Mr. Chairman: I said, "Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services and ask him whether it's his intention to introduce legislation having to do with the sale of hearing aids in the province during the present session." Mr. Toupin replied: "Mr. Speaker, time will tell." I asked a supplementary question and said: "Could I direct another question to the Minister of Health and Social Services and ask him if he's had a chance during the past winter to consult with representatives of the Hearing Aid Dealers Association." And the Minister replied: "Mr. Speaker, most definitely and I was pleased to do so."

Well, Mr. Chairman, the information conveyed to me in the House in the Minister's reply is at odds I discover with other information that I've received and I would appreciate a clarification on the point. My information is that the Hearing Aid Dealers Association officials and representatives have been in communication with the Minister by mail on at least two occasions asking for an opportunity to meet with him but so far their entreaties have not met with acceptance or success. Now the Minister may have met with an audiologist or two; he may have met with a doctor or two or three or four, I don't know; but my question was - and it arose out of newspaper reports quoting his executive assistant, Mr. Grower, as saying some time ago that legislation regulating the limits of operation in this industry or the limits of private operation in this industry was going to be presented at this session of the Legislature - and my question arose out of the context of that kind of public report. My question was, Has the Minister had an opportunity to meet this winter - and by implication I was therefore asking has the Minister met this winter - with representatives of the Hearing Aid Dealers Association. Now he may have done so, but my information is that he has not done so. I think that if any legislation such as that proposed by Mr. Grower, which caused great dismay and consternation in an industry, and also in that entire segment of society which has to rely on hearing aids, if there's any such legislation as that directly and overtly contemplated and to which the Minister is committed, then he should, Mr. Chairman, have met with representatives and he should be now continuing to meet with representatives of that association. So my final words at this stage of the consideration of his estimates, Mr. Chairman, are a challenge to him or a request to him to give the House clarification of what he meant by his answer to me on that date.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder before he gives any answers, if I could ask a question and then he could answer it at the same time. Would that be all right?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You're asking the Minister to answer your question?

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I heard right, I heard it said here awhile ago that civil servants that were on full time were on welfare. I would like this clarified and I'd like to know the number.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, first of all, without wanting to commit this government but wanting to answer questions as clearly as I can, here I go. I'm quite sure that the honourable members of this House following the few remarks that I've made before my estimates regarding elderly persons housing, nursing homes and so on, that our government is definitely wanting to put a heavier financial input into this important and grave problem that we have in the province. You saw, and the Honourable Member for Fort Garry pointed out, that there was an amount of \$722,000 in our estimates. There will be an additional amount presented at a later date regarding new construction, but here again the amount is pending confirmation from the Federal Government on additional financial input into this field. This is why I can not and I could not commit this government for more in the estimates but could be committed through capital expenditures.

So far as the anti-pollution measures are concerned, there will be amendments to the Clean Environment Commission and a lot of the controls that we're talking about - and I must

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd.) emphasize here that the amount that we have in our estimates, I have to be in agreement with the Honourable Member for Fort Garry seems very small, but it is equally deceiving in a sense because a lot of work is being done -- actually it's only the cost of the Commission itself that we have in the estimates and two staff. All Commissioners are civil servants, paid from other appropriations, and this could be pointed out later during the discussion of the estimates. Most of the work is done by the staff of the Environment Sanitation and 45 inspectors in the health units, and I must emphasize equally that as far as the pollution control is concerned, the cost of this is borne by the industry and will be more and more borne out by the industry whether it be private or public and/or municipalities. They must do what they are told by the Commission, and again the costs are difficult to estimate but I'm sure there will be additional costs involved by private and public industry.

I've got a comment here that I'm not going to read. I was having a little fun here while the Honourable Member from Fort Garry was talking here -- (Interjection) -- you're not going to have it. I'm going to laugh by myself.

Regarding nursing homes -- (Interjection) -- It's too political. . . . in Manitoba are visited on a regular basis by our department - I must emphasize this for the Honourable Member for Fort Garry - by our officials, doctors, nurses, social workers, dieticians and activity therapists. The admission of the public patients of nursing homes is carefully screened by a panel of doctors, nurses and social workers to see that the best placement is arranged, so something is definitely being done insofar as the nursing homes are concerned.

The honourable member made a few comments regarding our correctional institutions and so on. I agree. I do not want to spend more money into the correctional institutions for the only reason to give them more comfort, but I do want to spend more money for the correctional institutions to be able to train them better for when they're released, and I think this is the reason why we have a bigger financial input this year into the correctional institutes. We haven't done enough in this field and more will be done.

So far as the legalization or not of the drugs, well I think I've answered that question a few minutes ago. I don't think we can solve the problem by legalizing them.

Regarding the hearing aid legislation, that is possible. I worked on it personally; I've had members of my staff work on it and Mr. Sam Grower was one of them. He's not, by the way, an executive assistant; he's a special consultant. I've consulted with some members of the industry. I've not called in the Hearing Aid Association for what I thought to be a good reason, because I presented what I thought to be something that may be a good Act. My colleagues are back in my own office now looking at it again, and before I have something that I feel can be presented to the industry, all I'm going to do is discuss with private members of the industry. When I feel that I have an Act that I can propose, I've had commitments from my colleagues, then I'll discuss with them and then we'll have amendments like we've had for instance in The Consumer Protection Act. You remember so well the amendments that we had there, well over 100 of them that were suggested by the industry.

That's all the comments I have here, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin has a question?

MR. MCKENZIE: The special consultant that the Minister mentioned there, is he a civil servant? -- (Interjection) -- The special consultant that you mentioned, is he a civil servant?

MR. TOUPIN: Not as yet, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. TOUPIN: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. Could I answer the question to the Honourable Member for Pembina. I'm not going to answer it but I'm going to tell him why I'm not going to answer it. I know of some civil servants who either some of their dependents are on welfare, but I haven't got the exact number and I told the honourable members of the House a while ago if I can get the numbers of civil servants, if any, that are on welfare, I would produce the figure for you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Chairman, just a minute ago the Member for Fort Garry, I believe, mentioned or touched on elderly housing and I think the Minister replied, but I did not hear him say anything in respect to people, infirm persons' housing or handicapped people's housing. I hoped that the Minister would have some kind of a policy with respect for these people. I have spoken on this before in the House and appealed to the former Minister and I think that he agreed, and I would like to hear from the Minister what he has in mind

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) because I think the situation is quite serious; the accommodation is not there. I would agree that the welfare authorities have tried to resolve the lack of suitable accommodation in some ways, but the measures taken have only been I think a small success. Provisions for such things as rent and wheel chair lifts and modification have certainly assisted those who live in their own homes, but landlords of commercial establishments are somewhat reluctant to allow such alterations in their places because wheel chairs tend to track in mud and snow and sometimes even mark doorways and such which would require repairs more often, and persons in wheel chairs are sometimes not considered desirable tenants as such. Families where the breadwinner is a disabled person usually prefers a home of his own, and in that respect I think he's able to get probably a ramp or alterations much easier than the person can in an apartment.

The situation at the present time is such that many of these people in a younger age group, they may be 18 or 25, they are forced to live in a situation with people who are in an age group of let's say 75, and I don't think it's fair. I think that at the present time housing under the Urban Renewal Project makes no provision for handicapped, and commercial builders are seldom prepared to incorporate wheelchair units within their developments. Some do, and I think they need some encouragement probably from your department, from the government to do this, because let's assume in any new project or development where there's a big complex coming up, 300 units, there may be any individual tenant in that unit within certain months will be able -- if he has a coronary it would be worthwhile to have two or three units or, say, one percent of the units that have a little wider doors that would accommodate a wheelchair, wider doors into the bathrooms, and a larger bathroom where -- and I think it would be worthwhile for even some of these people to consider such things themselves. But unless this information is relayed to them, I don't think that they will do this and I think that the Minister can do some selling job in that respect.

I think the problem is also complicated for those who require some assistance in their daily care. Some do not require nursing home care but would manage better in a hostel setting with communal dining and recreation and diversional activities. Such facilities are not available at the present time. I think it's quite evident that the facilities to meet the residential care needs for the disabled must encompass a pretty broad range, and I feel that they should include such things as extended care hospitals for those whose medical involvement entails complications; nursing home care for those whose degree of disability is such that they require the help of professional staff; hostel accommodation for those who are reasonably capable of looking after themselves; low rental apartments for married couples and others who would prefer to live independently in a commercial setting, away from any disabled group; low cost houses for families, particularly those with children who prefer and can manage a home of their own; and a half-way house, which is a temporary accommodation which can provide an intermediate step between the hospital and the community during the rehabilitation stage, because I don't think rehabilitation is going to be successful if we have no place for these people when they do come out of the Rehab centre.

Now I know I've listed quite a few here and I have no immediate knowledge which is the priority and, you know, which one should be considered first, but I'm sure the Minister has staff and he can make himself available to the figures and what's required, what's the biggest urgent need, and I think that perhaps this is where we can start, because according to the estimates I see there's very little that I can see in there for handicapped people or infirm's housing. So I would like to hear from the Minister in that respect.

I think that besides the problem is in Manitoba, it's perhaps quite not at the critical stage but maybe near to it. I would like to say that the Canada Sickness Survey 1950-51 stated that 7.1 percent of the population reported permanent physical disability and 3.1 percent listed severe and total disability. The National Research Council in its supplement "Building Standards for the Handicapped" in 1965 said that one in every seven Canadians had a permanent physical disability or infirmity associated with aging. Surveys have also shown that the majority of those with permanent disabilities are in the low income bracket or are in need of welfare subsidy. I know that the current caseload review of the paraplegics in Manitoba showed that about one-half of these people have no, or haven't got proper housing accommodation. I think that perhaps a more detailed study of this can be undertaken at the present time and see what can be done in the immediate future. I know that from my own information and knowledge because of my association as Chairman of the Board of the Canadian Paraplegic Association, we know that

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) there's somewhere in the neighbourhood of 121 cases right now that need better housing accommodation. So the problem here is if we do sometimes find accommodation I think it's not proper to put young people, say in a younger age group, in a place where probably the whole complex are people of 75 or 70 years of age. I think it's just not right.

So these are some of the points that I want to bring to your attention, Mr. Minister. There's other points as well. There are many disabled persons at the present time living with their family and they know that they will not be able to do this for very long as the parents pass on. Who is going to give these people any assistance or help and where are they going to live? So that's another area that I think that the Minister can probably look into because I know that it has been brought to my attention that these people are concerned about their future where, you know, where are they going to find accommodation when they can't live at home any more.

I think there is also the problem of persons with progressive disabilities such as multiple sclerosis, who can manage at the present time to some extent but as their conditions get worse they will not be able to, and I think that we must have statistics for those. I think the solution must lie in a multi-phased approach, taking into consideration such factors, which choice we have to proceed with and what we have to do. I think that we should also enable the individual to function at his own maximum level of independence physically, mentally and socially, with a sense of security for himself and his family. So the points that we can look at right at this time and immediately, and see where we can probably do something, is provision of financial incentive on a joint federal and provincial basis which would encourage builders and contractors to include units within the facilities for the physically handicapped within their apartment blocks and building projects, instituting municipal regulations which would ensure that a small percentage of units with facilities for the disabled are incorporated within a complex of public housing projects.

Another point, perhaps development of a program of information and promotion designed to encourage the construction of housing for disabled, a program of education, training for architects and community planners designed to eliminate architectural barriers, which has been an extreme problem for these people in the last while. It's only in the last couple of years that this has come to the -- I think that architects and builders have begun to take this into some consideration and still, when some new projects are started, quite often the organization - or it can be the paraplegic people - has to meet with architects and say, well, are you making any provisions, and talk to the building architects and so on, I think this will be eliminated to some extent if probably a national building code will be adopted completely. And naturally Metro can do a great job here by making it mandatory for all buildings that they issue permits for public buildings at least, that would allow such things as ramps and so on to public buildings. I know some of the stores have done it - Eatons at Polo Park have made wonderful provisions. But still, when we go to some apartment complexes where you have an elevator that goes right down to the parking lot or underground parking, and there's still a three or four foot ramp and no reason for it there. Why, nobody knows, and there's just no need for that ramp where a wheelchair person can get into the elevator without any problem. So I would like to hear from the Minister: has he got any plans, and if he hasn't I think he must and should, in respect to housing for the infirm and handicapped people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, first of all, maybe I should congratulate the Minister but unfortunately the feelings I have for the Minister of Health is one of sympathy. The size of his department I don't think can be adequately handled by one Minister. With over 4,000 civil servants and a program so wide, I feel very strongly that there should be more than just one Minister handling the affairs of health and social services.

Mr. Chairman, my remarks will be very brief. I won't deal with specific items but I want to deal with a few of the general problems in the field of health and social services. I would like to go back over the past several years and I would ask you to examine what has happened in the Province of Manitoba in the field of mental health, in the care and treatment of mentally retarded, in the treatment of the mentally ill and the physically handicapped, and in the preventative mental health programs, in the field of correctional institutes, forensic services, in the public health system, and in the field of sanitation and pollution, in the care services, in the preventative medicine, in the field of social services right down through the line to juvenile problems, to the elderly and infirm persons' housing, to the Manitoba Hospital

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd.) Commission itself, and in the field of health services insurance.

In the whole area of Canada and indeed in most of the areas of the United States, there isn't one province or state that has made more strides in this field than the Province of Manitoba has, and this was done under a Conservative Government. And I am indeed happy to see that this Minister is carrying on the programs that were implemented with the imagination of the Conservative Government.

Now, Mr. Minister, I see by the Speech from the Throne that there is a proposal to amalgamate the Manitoba Hospital Commission and the Manitoba Health Services into one giant octopus, and I would ask the Minister if he would consider carrying on the existing agencies which are set up throughout the province for the collection of Medicare premiums, and make those agencies responsible for the collection of Medicare and hospital premiums. At the present time, municipalities throughout the province are saddled with this problem. There are some agencies collecting Medicare; there are some areas that the responsibility lies in the municipal field. There's a period of confusion; there's a three-months time lag, and the municipalities are held responsible for the collection of those premiums. There is very much confusion. The secretaries of the municipalities don't know what premiums have been collected, what have not been collected, and it takes them three months to find out. And I would urge the Minister very seriously to consider placing the entire responsibility in the field of the existing agencies that are set up throughout the province and take it off the hands of the municipal corporations.

I have to speak as an agricultural representative on this matter. Many rural municipalities are already overloaded with a tax burden which has been imposed and expedited by this present government. Many municipalities are facing anywhere from 30 to a 45 percent increase in the total school tax of this coming year. This is going to cause further hardships in the collection of taxes. If they are further saddled with the responsibility of collecting health premiums, it places an almost unbearable load on the office of the municipal secretary. So I would urge the Minister to give this his very serious consideration.

I have said before that I believe this is too large a department for any one Minister. I firmly believe that the field of Social Services, or, as he wants to call it, Social Development, should be placed under a separate department and under the administration of another Minister. Many times we have seen legislation which we as legislators firmly believe to be in the best interests of people, only to find through the regulations and the administration of those regulations, that what actually happens is far from the intended original purpose. And when that jurisdiction and the scrutiny of that falls on one man to handle four thousand or more civil servants and innumerable departments, it is impossible for that Minister to keep the close scrutiny that I feel is essential. I am not in any way attempting to discredit the implementation through the Civil Service, but it is only natural that one person might give a certain interpretation to a wording where another one might give a different interpretation, and it's through the long chain going from the Deputy Minister down through his assistants and so on, down through the line to the actual field worker, that maybe the original intent becomes changed and the application becomes different from that which was originally intended, and this requires a constant scrutiny by the Minister and his immediate executive. So I would urge the Government to consider the splitting of these into two, or maybe even into three areas, because it is too much for one man to handle. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few more comments and probably repeat a couple of questions that I put to the Minister last night that I felt had not been answered, at least not satisfactorily. Before I do that, though, I would like to make some other general comments.

Just recently at a function when the House opened, I had occasion to meet a gentleman who has been appointed to one of the boards that was looking into the matter of reviewing cases of people who have been assigned to institutions and so on. I think a committee was established, and the person I am talking of is Mr. Mitchell, and he told me of his work and how they have been able to help people along this line, people who had been in institutions for years and had now been able to get out, and this I certainly want -- I welcome this idea, and I certainly want to congratulate the Government, whether it was that Government or the previous one, I forget who made the appointment originally, but I think this is a very good idea and a very good

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) practice which is being instituted, of reviewing these cases occasionally so that these people will not be in there indefinitely and not having a hope to get out. I know legislation was introduced a year or two ago in connection with this whereby such reviews could take place, and I feel that I should compliment the Government on this, and not only compliment them but also encourage them that this really be gone after and that all cases be reviewed from time to time so that when we have people that should not be in institutions or that can get relief and can be helped in this way, that this be done at the earliest possible moment, and that not so much being a charge on the Government but that they be freed and that they be able to exercise their life in the way they should be able to and not be held in such institutions. I think this is a very, very noble and a very good practice, and I for one would like to see this furthered so that all cases be reviewed periodically.

I requested, or made a request for assistance, to the workshops for the retardates of this province. I don't recall the Minister replying in the affirmative that something would be coming forward. I still hope that the Government sees fit that something more than just encouragement will be done, something in the way of financial assistance be provided for these organizations, because I know that they have a difficult time when it comes to raising capital. I think they are getting along as far as the operational financial commitments are concerned, but when it comes to raising capital I think this is where they experience difficulty especially when things are getting tougher. I sincerely request that they give favourable consideration to this matter and provide some assistance to them.

The report contains a report on the Eden Mental Health Centre, which is in my constituency. I think it is performing a very worthwhile service. More people are being admitted and more people are getting relief; the stays are not that long and we find that it is getting to be more acceptable. At one time, mental illness seemed to be a lost cause. People were assigned to asylums or institutions and were forgotten. Now we find through these institutions, the modern technique that is being applied, that people are getting relief and they are getting help and in this way can be helped and can get back to be useful citizens, and retain and go back to their normal jobs of employment and so on. I think we are on the right track in bringing about these institutions and supporting them, and trying to give more and more people relief in this way, because we find mental illness on the increase. More and more people, because of the strenuous cares in life, because of the pace that they have to go in this day and age, find themselves in this situation where they also become subject to this matter, and who knows who will be next? I think these institutions are great and that we should support them to the best of our ability. I know this was more or less done on a trial basis and I hope that other areas will be able to get, or will have these services available to them as we have in our area now.

There's one matter that I think I would like to discuss briefly. This has to do with low rental housing, or subsidized housing. I know the other day we passed an amount of \$17.5 million under Capital Supply. We know that by far the largest amount is coming from the Federal Government in this respect - I think 90 percent. There is a principle involved here and I am still having difficulty in subscribing to the principle of going into this thing whole hog. The demand is there. I know that presently we have a high-rise apartment under construction -- (Interjection) --

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would just like to remind the Honourable Member for Rhineland that housing is under Municipal Affairs and not the Department of Health.

MR. FROESE: Okay. Well then, I'll discuss it at some later date. Because hospitals were mentioned before I didn't think about it that this did not apply here. I'll leave it until a later date and discuss it at some future date when we will be discussing Municipal estimates.

The other point that I raised yesterday had to do with Medicare cards. I know that we now have Medicare and that most of the illnesses and so on services are covered in a general way to all the people of this province, but in past years before Medicare came in, Medicare cards were issued to people in receipt of Social Allowances and so on, and I think these cards covered more than what is presently covered under Medicare, the present Medicare program. Are these cards still being issued to those people that are under Social Allowances and who cannot pay for these added medical costs? If so, I would like to know how many are outstanding, or has this practice been discontinued? I would like to know from the Minister where we are with this program and whether it is still being carried on or not, because we well know that not all medical costs are covered under Medicare; that there are other medical services

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) required that are not being covered, and whether these Medicare cards are still being used or not.

Oh yes - the other matter has to do with the Manitoba Hospital Services Fund and the Insurance Fund as well. In past years we have been getting separate reports from the Manitoba Hospital Commission, such as the one I have in my hand. These are audited reports, and I feel that before our estimates are concluded that we have reports in our hands of the previous fiscal year. The one I have in my hand is of the year 1968 - it's dated December 31st or concluded December 31st. I don't recall getting the reports for the year 1969, and I for one would like to have copies of both the Hospital Fund and the Medical Insurance Fund so that we can go through them and so that we can discuss them properly because I feel that this is something members should have before we finalize the estimates for this department. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would, as I rise, like to congratulate the Minister in his new portfolio and, while he is quite new in the capacity of Minister of that particular department, and no doubt we will see his personal reflection and his initiative come through maybe better in the next estimates, the people that I am honoured to represent wish you well in your jurisdiction, Mr. Minister. I would maybe think today possibly the Minister, with his great Credit Union background, would wish maybe the estimates were not before us today and he could spend some time with some of his many Credit Union friends who are, as we sit here, holding their annual communication farther down the street.

I would like to find from the Minister if in fact programs for Roblin constituency, in the form of hospitals such as the Honourable Member for Rhineland raised, could be included in his remarks, the programs that would be taking place, the renovations which I understand are contemplated for the Roblin Hospital and a brand new hospital, and any others, so if he would be kind enough when he is bringing the evidence for the Member for Rhineland, if he would be kind enough to bring to the House those of my constituency as well, I would be most grateful.

I would like to maybe point out to the Minister a problem that I seem to come across in my constituency at regular intervals, and this deals with those that are suffering infirmities or disabilities and are drawing an allowance or a pension of some form or other. I recall one case that's personal, in the Village of Ethelbert, a lady who is in a wheelchair with some 50 to 75 percent disability, four children, sewing, working her heart out to try and keep her home functioning. Her husband is a part-time employee of the Department of Highways and he doesn't basically know how much he's going to earn, but when it comes to the end of the year, they add it all up and they find that through her allowance and what he has earned they have been overpaid. And what happens? They are charged back and the allowance is cut off in various degrees - 50 percent, 20 percent. Maybe the Minister could find some other way or take a look at this problem, and I have come across several of those. Then they are cut back on their allowance maybe 40 or 50 dollars a month and it really creates a difficult problem in that home, and a hardship, Mr. Minister.

I would also like to ask of the Minister if there are any other premiums being charged under the Medicare plan than the standard plan, and I am thinking, as I stand, of the CNR and the CPR worker Medicare expenses which we debated in the House in the last session, if that matter or problem has been resolved. I think possibly the Minister can give us an answer, and it was one which affected some of my constituents and they were wanting the answer.

I was alarmed this morning, Mr. Chairman, to pick up an item in yesterday's edition of the Tribune where Mr. Gordon Ritchie, a representative of the Retail and Wholesale Store Union made a statement, and I quote from the press. He said that, "At present the workers make upwards of \$250 monthly. Many of these people would do better by going on welfare." I think the Minister should draw to the gentleman that that was not a fair statement and it is a reflection on his department and a reflection on Manitoba.

The one of pollution is another one that I'm especially concerned of, as I represent a constituency that's bordered by one of the larger lakes, and no doubt we will get the matter of the mercury contamination cleared up so that the fishermen in the area can know exactly where they are at. I well recall the warnings which were given to Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, I believe it was last November, but there are many in the area of Roblin constituency whose whole livelihood depends on -- so if they could maybe some time during the Session get some direction as to what they should be doing or how they should handle

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd.) themselves in this time that is so difficult for them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I interrupt the honourable member, but it's getting a bit noisy and I think the member's comments, which I'm sure are valuable, are being drowned out. I would ask members to keep their conversational level down and would ask the member to continue.

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a rule my remarks are rather dry and uninteresting and I apologize to the members that it's not a political speech today, which sometimes creates a little more interest on the opposition benches.

The other matter, and I just casually draw this to the Minister's attention, being from a rural constituency, but the pollution of air just as we come out in the morning. I never noticed it more, I think, than this particular session, and of course the traffic is much heavier, and he mentioned earlier that this is the responsibility of the industry. At least the expenses of it will be borne by the industry, if I understand it correctly, and can I ask the Minister, like, is he going to offer guidance or suggestions to the industry, because there's an unknown quality or answer here that maybe he could offer me to clear up those points of interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a few comments in response to the comments made, first of all, by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. I'd like to thank him for his well-made comments on many problems that he see in the Department of Health and Social Services. He made mention about infirm and handicapped people's housing and so on. Well actually I feel, and my department does equally feel, that this is a very urgent problem; he made mention of the 121 cases, and I would like the honourable member to supply me with more details on this if he could. I think we have to look at our most urgent needs. In this case it happens to be one, although it is not reflected, say, 100 percent in the estimates. Here again I have to refer to what will probably come forth later that I can't commit myself to now.

If we're talking about these types of services within apartment blocks, I gather just a shade here of contradiction on your part when you say that you wouldn't want to mix the old and the younger people together. If you're wanting these services in apartment blocks, you'll definitely have a mixture there.

MR. PATRICK: Oh, Mr. Chairman, what I was trying to relay the message to the Minister that at the present time some of these people are put in an Old Age or Old Folk's Home where the average age is probably 75-76 and this individual may be 25 or 26. I didn't think this was right, but when you're talking about an apartment block, well naturally the ages will be all ages.

MR. TOUPIN: I'll come back later probably with the comment that you've made on your presentation. I'd like to make comment on what was said by the Honourable Member from Birtle-Russell. I wish to thank him for his feelings of sympathy so far as my portfolio is concerned but I have to disagree with him strongly, as he seems to indicate that this should be a separate portfolio for Health and Social Services. I feel they tie in together very well and I wouldn't want to see this department separated. I hope that I can meet my responsibilities as Minister of Health and Social Services, and I feel so strongly about this portfolio being unified that, if I don't meet my requirements, I feel that the First Minister should change me. I feel that the work to be done here, as Minister of Health and Social Services, we have to rely a lot on the personnel in our department. I have a good qualified Deputy Minister of Health. I mentioned in my few remarks the other evening that I would like to have a Deputy Minister of Social Services equally. I have equally five Assistant Deputy Ministers. Not only should I rely but -- a Minister, whether he has a small portfolio or whether he has a big one, he has to delegate a lot of functions and I feel that this is part of my responsibility. I've had to involve the personnel in the department much more since it is much bigger, and not only ask them for their recommendations and their participation in the activities of the department, but we have to follow up on whatever we can obtain from them, whether it be by social animation, whether it be by group dynamics and so on. I think we definitely have to involve more of the employees of this department than could be expected of a smaller department.

MR. BOROWSKI: He doesn't know what you're talking . . .

MR. TOUPIN: Oh no; he does, don't worry, Joe.

We were talking about amalgamation of the Manitoba Hospital Commission and the collection of premiums and so on. This is something that I'd like to mention to the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell that is being looked at right now by the Hospital Commission and

(MR. TOUPIN con t'd.) the officials of my department. Apart from leaving part of the responsibilities to the municipalities, collection of premiums is being made by different channels now, but the question of added responsibility or less responsibility to the municipalities is being studied, and we should have a report on that very soon.

Now the Honourable Member for Rhineland came back with a few comments so far as the review of cases in our institutes, and I must emphasize here - I think I've mentioned it yesterday - that we are reviewing and we will be reviewing more and more these different cases according to the needs. And the workshop for retardates, here again he will see more emphasis on this later on.

I did mention that the lower and subsidized people's housing is the responsibility of the Department of Municipal Affairs, although elderly persons' housing is under the Department of Health and Social Services. This remains with the Department of Health and Social Services but housing in general is with Municipal Affairs.

Medicare cards - well, they do exist. I had this down here myself. We still have them and so far as the amount - I haven't got the exact number of cards we have out but we do have these cards out. There's a comment that I got here from one of my Assistant Deputy Ministers. Regarding Social Allowance recipients, they get hospital and Medicare exemption. They also - approximately 30,000 have a Social Allowances Health Services card - 30,000. I have the amount here - approximately. Approximately 30,000. Formerly called Social Allowance Medicare. This card provides for free dental, optical and for drugs.

There's a comment here on retardates - homes for retardates. They are operated by local groups and we do not participate in capital grants but take this into account in setting the rate for the home - the per diem rate for the home - which we usually pay as most of the inmates are eligible for social assistance, but I must emphasize here that so far as Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, do give grants.

Plans for all new personal care homes take into consideration the need for wheel chair patients. There was a comment, I think, by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. It is true that infirm persons under 65, as young as 20 years old, who are incapacitated through multiple sclerosis, arthritis and so on, are placed in nursing homes. To date we have not considered building special housing for such persons but the idea has been proposed and, I have to admit, has merit. No one has applied for a grant to build special accommodation for this type of care but we would consider any such application if one were received. We have talked with local representatives, different organizations and so on, regarding this pressing problem.

The Honourable Member from Roblin again is coming at me with programs of hospital renovations and so on, regarding the honourable member's riding or constituency. I'll have to give him the same answer I gave the Honourable Member for Rhineland - I hope to be able to present very soon a complete report on this, and I must add that the report that the Honourable Member from Rhineland was referring to should be tabled in this House within a few days. I was hoping to have it today but I guess it will be Monday because I couldn't get it in time, but it should be tabled today.

I have answered your question, I think, so far as wheel chair patients are concerned, regarding social recipients and so on, and we will supplement if need be, but nobody should be encouraged insofar as the article was mentioning, to encourage able bodies to look forward to the day that they may have to go on welfare. The point in the article, if I understood you right, was saying that if he was getting \$200.00 a month this may not be enough. Well, in cases if his responsibilities are additional to \$200.00 a month, we shouldn't tell him to go on welfare because he's receiving only \$200.00 a month; we should supplement, and we do in a lot of cases.

But so far as pollution of the air, water and soil, well I must emphasize here, I didn't really want to say it was wholeheartedly the responsibility of the industry. It is a responsibility of governments, of provincial, federal governments; the responsibility equally of the industry but the responsibility of all individuals in our province in Canada if we're serious about wanting to curtail pollution.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, briefly though, the one point I think that I was trying to draw to the Minister, is where this particular case, this one example, where they draw -- the mother is drawing a disability allowance, the father goes and works and he hasn't got a full-time job - he works when he can; but at the end of the year when the money adds up, through

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd.) the both mediums they've received what's considered as an overpayment, which is over what? Twenty-nine hundred and twenty dollars, is it? Well, then they're charged back and so her allowance is the one that suffers. The money has been spent and -- there may be some other way that we could, you know, arrive at the end of the year so that they know where they're at and you know where you're at.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Just a question, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Honourable Minister's saying that no agency up to the present time has applied for a loan to build a hostel or half-way house for handicapped people. This is true; that's the whole problem. There's no experience at the present time in Manitoba how this type of facility or housing unit would operate and what would the cost factors be; how large a unit should be. There is no experience because there isn't one built, and you may not have any agency apply because they may not want to. They may be quite concerned because they don't know how it's going to operate. So we may be waiting 25 years from now and nobody will undertake to do it, so my point here is I think the government itself should show more initiative and see how we can go about and perhaps get involved and maybe start one unit on an experimental basis. But your point is well taken that nobody has applied. It's true.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 54. 1(a)(1)--passed; The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. HARDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I first take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister on his appointment. I'm sure he has the very best insofar as his colleagues are concerned as to his capability and his capacity for carrying out this very important portfolio, and my own personal respects, and that I hope all your rats are little ones.

The budget itself, I think, has been discussed insofar as the increase is concerned and I was very pleased to see that some provision is to be made for an addition to the St. Amant ward of the St. Vital Hospital. Perhaps the Minister at some future date will elaborate on these plans in order that other areas of government may in fact be in a position to complement this addition, and I think the Minister, and certainly myself and all members of this House, are familiar with the operation of that ward and the tremendous amount of good that it is in fact doing, and those that are associated with it.

We were a little surprised this morning, although perhaps the Minister is not in a position to mention at this time or state at this time inasmuch as presumable it will become government policy, that when the Minister of Labour did in fact state that the minimum wage was to be increased to \$1.50, I think there exists a relationship between this announcement and the fact that the welfare recipients, the welfare payments made by the municipal corporations in fact to a degree are going to be affected, and my question was in fact: is the government prepared to increase its percentage grant to the municipalities in order that this disparity may be overcome? I'm sure that the Minister is aware that these payments are on a sliding scale on a percentage basis, based on the ratio between the total mill rate for welfare purposes and the total mill rate itself, and varies from 40 percent up. As a matter of fact, if we get into the whole area of contribution and responsibility of municipal government -- and this is nothing new. It's been a theory that has been advanced by many groups, many organizations, on many levels of government in that, in fact, where is the relationship between welfare costs and home owner or property taxes? There isn't really. I don't think there is anything that can justify it because of the transient nature of the population today, and there's no way in my thinking that an individual or a municipality really should have the responsibility of administering welfare costs or payments to individuals who in fact can be transient in nature. I'm suggesting that the responsibility should be that of the Provincial Government so that a uniformity does in fact exist throughout the province.

The Minister is probably aware also that there is a great variance, even in the urban area of Manitoba, in the amount of welfare payments that are made between various municipalities and cities themselves, and it also exists in different areas of the province. Now I can appreciate this is a problem but certainly they would have to be -- at least I think a reasonable relationship could be established and this is some of the things that I -- at least one of the matters that I hope that the Minister, and the Cabinet, and the government themselves, in fact, would consider, that this area of responsibility in fact should be shifted from this area, from the property-owner, from the taxpayer at that level to the much broader base of the Provincial Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . immediately, I think the Committee should stop at this point.

(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd.) Committee rise. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply wishes to report progress and begs leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, that the report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 12:30 and I am leaving the Chair to return at 2:30 this afternoon.