

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**Fifth Session — Eighteenth Legislature**

**March 29, 1978**

The Assembly met at 2:00 o'clock p.m.

On the Orders of the Day

**QUESTIONS**

**Government Charged for use of Centre of the Arts**

**Mr. E.F.A. Merchant (Regina Wascana):** — Mr. Speaker, I will address this question to the Minister in charge of Telephones. It is in part a question to be directed to the Minister in charge of Telephones and in part a question to be directed to the Minister of Government Services.

The minister will I am sure be aware that Telemiracle took place in Regina not long ago. I ask the minister why the government charged \$12,000 to the people to use the Centre of the Arts and then made big fellows of themselves to give back \$10,000 and at the same time refused to give any consideration to Telemiracle for toll rates or for the installation of telephones and in essence made a big profit off this charity and went so far as to refuse to allow A&W to even use . . . I am addressing the question . . . went so far as to even refuse to allow A&W to use the water lines at the Centre of the Arts when A&W had been kind enough to contribute the food?

**Hon. N.E. Byers (Minister of Environment):** — Mr. Speaker, the Crown Corporation, Sask Tel receives any number of requests in the course of the year for free service or service at a reduced rate. It is the view of the government that assistance to groups should be provided mainly through the various departments of government that operate programs and can provide assistance usually in the form of financial assistance to groups. The family of Crown corporations through Sask Tel, one of the members, made a contribution of \$5,000 to Telemiracle. The government in addition made a contribution of \$10,000 for a total of \$15,000. We do not feel it is proper that Sask Tel give special consideration to any group or any individual wishing or requesting special communication services. May I say to the hon. member that the cost to Sask Tel for installing all the wiring that was involved to the Centre of the Arts to enable Telemiracle to run from the Centre of the Arts was a very, very sizable investment on the part of Sask Tel. A number of Sask Tel employees freely contributed some of their time with respect to the installation work. Sask Tel has the investment tied up in the wiring at the Centre of the Arts. Keep in mind that this . . . (inaudible interjection).

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order!

**Mr. Merchant:** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister not agree with me that it is very different for Sask Tel to charge for services like toll rates, which in essence don't cost anything, than for Sask Tel to charge for installation costs where there is an expense. I suggest to the minister that for Sask Tel to charge for the use of their lines which are there anyway, and in essence, to make a profit on a charity like Telemiracle where others in Saskatchewan are trying to make the project a success, to make a profit on something that costs nothing . . . (inaudible interjection).

**Canadian Bond Issue**

**Mr. W.C. Thatcher (Thunder Creek):** — Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Minister, I am sure that you are aware, from press reports, of a growing disenchantment in New York City with the Canadian bond issue floated last week by the federal government. I am sure that the minister is aware that the reports that it was sold out (to my friends on my right, the report said it was sold out) were grossly premature, and presently it has dropped 75 cents to a dollar, depending on the date of maturity.

Mr. Minister, since this government has indicated in its budget that you will be borrowing probably \$438 million, of which \$250 million of that will be for a major Crown corporation, would the minister indicate to this Assembly whether or not, in light of these developments in New York, you are presently in the process of ruling out the American market as a potential source of borrowings?

**Hon. W.E. Smishek (Minister of Finance):** — The answer is, No.

**Mr. Thatcher:** — Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister has stated in this Assembly many times that over a period of twenty-five years generally the Canadian dollar is favored, on the currency basis over the American. Would the minister tell this Assembly then with his particular logic, why he would have allowed Sask Power Corporation to have borrowed in 1977 some \$42 million from the Chemical Bank of New York with a repayment date in 1979, a maneuver that may very well cost the Saskatchewan taxpayers up to 30 per cent in just two years! In light of this, when this American dollar has, in effect, declined to the point where the SPC's interest charges have gone 67 per cent and their debt only 25 per cent, would the minister agree so far his department has done a poor job in playing the currency game.

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, first of all the Saskatchewan Power Corporation did not borrow in the American market. Any borrowing that is done is done by the government and not by the Power Corporation and I am not aware of us borrowing on the American market in 1977 for bonds to be repayable in 1979. Obviously the member just doesn't have his facts straight. We have borrowed on the American market in 1977 for a 30 year period, not for a two year period.

**Mr. Thatcher:** — If the Speaker will allow me I will give you the point of reference on that. It's the Regina Leader-Post under the byline of a John Twigg who usually isn't wrong all that often. None the less, Mr. Minister, I would ask you that in light of the very unfavorable currency situation right now that we are now experiencing, is the minister in consultation with his Treasury people? Are you coming to the conclusion that it is a very dangerous game to be borrowing in the American market and are you prepared to come to the conclusion that perhaps to play it on the safe side and confine your borrowing on the Canadian market?

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, I thought I had answered that as his first question. He is repeating his first question. The answer is, No. We are going to be pursuing the Canadian market, the American market and the offshore market.

### **Poplar River – Generator**

**Mr. R.E. Nelson (Assiniboia-Gravelbourg):** — Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister in charge of SPC. I wonder if you could tell us if it is the intention of the government to put the first generator at Poplar River into operation before the International Joint Commission on water quality report, expected in April 1979, is submitted?

**Hon. J.R. Messer (Minister of Mineral Resources):** — Mr. Speaker, we have authorization to undertake to commission the first generator and I don't believe that any proceedings under way should seriously affect those permissions that are granted to us by way of licence.

**Mr. Nelson (As-Gr):** — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the hearings are presently under way regarding the second generator, will the government give assurances to the people of Saskatchewan, in particular the people at Coronach, that if the air quality standards are not met on the second phase of the generator when it is put into operation that they will put in scrubber equipment on the smokestacks at Poplar River?

**Mr. Messer:** — Mr. Speaker, as the member is fully aware that's a hypothetical question. We don't know what the outcome of the hearings that are now under way are going to be so that I think it would be improper for me to respond to what may be the case when the independent body concludes its investigations and makes reports to the government.

### **Telemiracle**

**Mr. J.G. Lane (Qu'Appelle):** — Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Environment with regard to the government's rip-off of Telemiracle. Do you not feel that it is somewhat inconsistent for the government on the one hand to attempt to get an awful lot of press and publicity by making donations while on the other hand in fact taking the maximum rate out of the charity that you are trying to get the publicity advantage of, and would you not admit that, in fact, he took a rather shameful and hypocritical position on your actions with Telemiracle.

**Mr. Merchant:** — Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Government Services about the Telemiracle matter. I asked the Minister of Government Services whether he would inquire from the Centre of the Arts and ask them why they refused to allow A&W who were in a very charitable way contributing food and other services to people working at Telemiracle, why they went so far as to even refuse to allow them the use of facilities, to even refuse to allow them to use water from the Centre of the Arts? I ask whether the minister would not agree with me that it ill behooves the government on the one hand to make a big fellow of themselves with contributions and on the other to make it so very difficult through their facility at the Centre of the Arts.

**Mr. Shillington:** — Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to make the inquiry. I should point out that I have already done so. The information I was given by the general manager of the Centre of the Arts was that initially there was some sort of a discussion about whether or not A&W could use the facilities. Eventually they were allowed to use some of the facilities, specifically they were allowed to get water. I gather they were also allowed to use coffee facilities and so on and the information I have, Mr. Speaker, on the inquiry I made at one point in time was that there was no problem and everybody was happy. Now if the hon. member for Wascana seems to think that some other state of affairs exists, I'll be glad to look into it.

### **Government Borrowing**

**Mr. W.C. Thatcher (Thunder Creek):** — Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Finance. I'd like to ask the minister why, about three minutes ago, he deliberately

misled this House. I would ask him why, on page 13 of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation report where it says very clearly in concise English, if you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, the province borrowed in advance to the corporation \$126.8 million to finance capital construction in 1977. A further \$44.5 million was borrowed from the Chemical Bank of New York on a short term arrangement extending to 1979. Would the minister tell me why you either misled this House or, if in fact, you do not know what is going on with your department, why you would not take notice of the question?

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, I did not mislead this House and I am not aware that the Power Corporation borrowed any money on a short term basis because we do all the long term borrowing and I am aware that we borrowed, as through the Department of Finance, for the Power Corporation. Perhaps you might be better off to direct that question to the Minister in charge of the Power Corporation because that's an area in which we have not been involved. I am prepared to take a look at it. I must confess I have not studied the Power Corporation report.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order.

**Mr. Thatcher:** — A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, you can send a note across with apologies and your comments. I would like to ask the minister, I suppose which is a repeat of my initial question, in 1977 when predictions were for a very disastrous drop in the Canadian dollar, how you or your departmental officials could have borrowed or allowed the corporation to borrow regardless of what form you care to put it in, how could you have ever allowed them to borrow that amount of money on such a short term basis with the predictions for the Canadian dollar being so disastrous which regrettably have been borne out?

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, we borrow on free markets, the Canadian market preferably. Incidentally, we also have certain funds that are made available to us for borrowing purposes from the Canada Pension Plan. The Saskatchewan limit is in the order of \$75 million. We have borrowed in previous years in the private market in the United States, the last two years we have borrowed in the public market in the United States. We have also borrowed in the Eurobond market. These are the markets that we have pursued and while it is true that the Canadian dollar at the present time is in some difficulty, the exchange rate is close to 12 per cent, but, Mr. Speaker, the experience has been that over a period of 25 or 30 years, over that period of time that the Canadian dollar and the American dollar have traditionally been at par and generally the Canadian dollar has been stronger than the American dollar. In this particular reference that he makes in case of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation of a short term, I am going to look into it but where the Department of Finance has been involved is in long term borrowing for capital needs of Sask Tel, Power Corporation and other Crown corporations.

**Mr. Thatcher:** — Mr. Minister, somewhere along the line I still missed the withdrawal of your original comments. Mr. Minister, would you agree and is it a fair statement to say that in light of this situation, this terrible lack of knowledge on something within your own department, does this not conclusively indicate that you and your department are totally out of your league when you play this very tremendously complicated currency game? And is this not simply the most justifiable reason to stay out of the currency game and confine your borrowings to Canada?

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member has just demonstrated is his own ignorance. If there is anybody out of his league, it is the hon. member who has just

spoken.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Smishek:** — Not only out of his league, I think he is not quite out of the water because he is still so wet about politics and about financing. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. member and this House that the Finance and Investment Branch of the Department of Finance for the Government of Saskatchewan is the envy of every jurisdiction in Canada, of the tremendously good job they are doing.

### **CNS and Mood-Modifying Drugs**

**Mr. A.N. McMillan (Kindersley):** — A question to the Minister of Health. As a result of the study that was made public yesterday by the Alcoholism Commission with respect to the use of CNS and mood-modifying drugs, I'd like to ask the minister, in view of the fact that the research editor for that study has asked that there be further study applied to this particular problem in Saskatchewan, if the minister responsible for the Department of Health will give us some assurance that his department and his offices will pursue this topic with the intent of clearing the matter up for the people of Saskatchewan.

**Hon. E.L. Tchorzewski (Minister of Health):** — Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be most pleased to give the member an assurance that we are most interested in what the report is indicating. I have not personally read the report. I just received it yesterday but I think it is clear to all of us that what it is saying ought to be of concern to everybody involved in the health field. I might say that the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association, as well as the Department of Health, are very concerned about the abuse of mood-altering drugs and, as a result of this mutual concern, I recently appointed a committee which is known as the Joint Committee on Drug Utilization which will review quality of care, issues such as the use of mood-altering drugs, and drug shoppers. This committee, I would want to the members to know, is shared by Dr. Bruce Schnell, who is the Dean of Pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan and the other representatives are from the Saskatchewan Medical Association, Dr. Stewart McMillan; from the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association, Mr. Clare Castonguay; from the College of Medicine, Dr. Ian Holmes; from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Jim Housley and from the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan, Mr. Steve Petz. This committee had its first meeting on March 21 and it's reviewing the matter of drug abuse and drug shoppers. We will be directing this report, which the member mentions opposite for their assessment and their indications on what we might do further.

**Mr. McMillan:** — A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to see that the minister takes the action of the Alcoholism Commission so seriously. In light of that, I would like to ask the minister if he is prepared, at this time, to give the Alcoholism Commission some assurance that future funding for that commission will be tied, on a percentage basis, to the net revenues that the province of Saskatchewan earns from the sale of liquor in Saskatchewan, in view of the fact that the Alcoholism Commission can do this valuable work if it is properly funded and currently it is improperly funded. Will you give us that assurance?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — I can assure the members opposite that the Alcoholism Commission of Saskatchewan is indeed properly funded. The Alcoholism Commission submits its budgetary requirements and requests to the government in the same way as any other agency or department of government, it is carefully considered and then

during the appropriation of the funds, funds are appropriated. There is a significant amount of funding provided with an increase in the budget of the Alcoholism Commission this year and next year when the Alcoholism Commission has its programs and proposals put together we will again look at them, I can tell the member in a positive way, as we have always looked at it in a positive way.

**Mr. McMillan:** — Mr. Speaker, would the minister not agree that in view of the fact that the Calder Centre in Saskatoon, which is funded by the Alcoholism Commission, has had to close some of its beds as a result of a staff shortage, would not be underfunded in your own estimation?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — I don't know where the member gets his information, but I have no knowledge of the Calder Centre closing any of its beds, nor do I have any knowledge of it having a staff shortage. If it has it certainly has not indicated that to either the Alcoholism Commission or the Government of Saskatchewan. I would only have to conclude that the facts on which the member opposite makes his assumptions have to be wrong.

### **Answer to questions – re Candidates for Federal Election**

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, on Thursday last, March 23, I took notice of a question that the hon. member for Indian Head-Wolseley posed to me as minister in charge of the Public Service Commission.

Just to refresh everybody's memory, the hon. member made an allegation, or the form of a question, that certain executive assistants are seeking nominations for the New Democratic Party and whether or not they have been granted leave of absence, or whether they have applied for leave of absence. The particular names that he mentioned, Mr. Speaker, are – Mr. Simon DeJong for Regina East, Mr. Ron Gates, Swift Current-Maple Creek, the prosecutor with the Attorney General's Department, Mr. Dean Henley, Moose Jaw, executive assistant to Mr. Faris and Mr. Dale Schmeichel.

Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance to look into the matter. But before dealing with that, he also in a supplementary, asked this question: It is also rather obvious and I am not sure whether the minister is aware that there is a federal civil servant that is running in Maple Creek, but he has taken a leave of absence. My question is, would the minister find out, Mr. Speaker? It is not within my jurisdiction to look into the federal civil service and I am not able to answer. Perhaps, the hon. member may check with the federal government of whether that is the case, because I don't think that it is within my proper jurisdiction.

But on the other form, Mr. Speaker, I have had the chance to look into the matter. In the case of Mr. Simon DeJong, Mr. Simon DeJong has been on leave of absence without pay effective January 7, 1978. He was nominated in Regina East on February 18. On February 20, the first working day following that, Mr. Simon DeJong resigned his position from the Rentalsman.

The case of Ron Gates, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Ron Gates was on earned annual vacation during the period February 14 to February 27. He sought the nomination on February 16 and was nominated and effective February 27 he took leave of absence without pay from the Attorney General's Department.

In the case of David Henley, he was nominated as of March 15. Mr. Henley is devoting

his full time as an executive assistant to the Minister of Education and Continuing Education. He has not applied for leave of absence to my knowledge.

In the case of Dale Schmeichel, he is not within the civil service proper. He is apparently employed by the SMDC. He has not been nominated but he has indicated an interest in a nomination in the McKenzie constituency. Mr. Speaker, the nominating convention is apparently scheduled for April 1 but I am not certain about that.

The hon. member will be aware that under the provisions of The Labour Standards Act, employees whether they are public servants or whether they are employed by a private employer have a right to leave of absence from an employer to seek the nomination and can pay for the nomination as well once they are nominated to obtain leave of absence and to work during an election campaign. That is provided in The Labour Standards Act. Once elected the employer is obligated to grant leave of absence to them without pay.

Mr. Speaker, there are two other public servants who have been nominated some time ago which the hon. member did not mention and they are seeking election in the federal election, but as I said the hon. member did not mention that. They have remained on the Saskatchewan public payroll since their nomination. They have not sought leave of absence nor have they resigned, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is also alleged that they may have even used MLA franking privileges to promote their own nominations or elections, Mr. Speaker, . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order. I think the minister is getting into an area which can't rightfully be categorized as an answer to the question which was placed on March 23. I will assume that he has concluded his answer and ask if there is a supplementary.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Well, first of all, Mr. Speaker, would the minister not agree that there is a basic and fundamental distinction between an elected member of the Legislature or an elected officials and somebody who is a bureaucrat working for the NDP government in Saskatchewan? Would the minister not also admit that from what he has indicated there is a complete lack of consistency and policy within the NDP and bears out again the fact that because Mr. Faris' executive assistant is still fully employed, Mr. Schmeichel or whatever his name is, is still fully employed, and actively seeking a nomination . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Why shouldn't he . . .

**Mr. MacDonald:** — No there is no reason that they can't seek a nomination.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order. I will ask the member to place his question rather than arguing with people who are not in a position to argue with him since they are not on their feet.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Would the minister not agree with me that it is time that the NDP government in the province of Saskatchewan established a firm and definite policy in relation to Saskatchewan civil servants electioneering and campaigning using the taxpayers' money of the province of Saskatchewan to finance their campaigns and to finance the NDP Party.

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, the policy is there. It is set out in the law and is a consistent policy. It applies not only to the public service and employees of Crown corporations, it equally applies to the private sector. The law requires that any employee who seeks nomination can be granted leave of absence upon application and once he is nominated to have leave of absence at his request. I think the policy is consistent. Mr. Speaker, may I also say that whether an elected public servant or an appointed public servant, I think that both have certain responsibilities. May I also say, Mr. Speaker, that there are those particular public servants who take special privileges as, for example, the hon. member for Wascana (Mr. Merchant) who has distributed portraits of the Queen and the Prince in constituencies other than his own. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is an abuse of the privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order.

### **Provincial Sales Tax – Children's Clothing**

**Mr. H.W. Lane (Saskatoon-Sutherland):** — Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Revenue. The matter of reducing provincial sales tax on children's clothing was raised recently in the Legislature and you expressed at that time some concern that some short unscrupulous non-infants might take unfair advantage of the program which could be the subject of some editorializing. My question is this. I have a report here from the most recent Globe and Mail that indicates that clothing prices will increase because of a new bilateral agreement between Canada and South Korea. Now, is the government at this time prepared to change its policy and remove the sales tax from children's clothing?

**Hon. W.A. Robbins (Minister of Revenue):** — Mr. Speaker, no, the government is not prepared to change its policy and remove the sales tax on children's clothing at this time as we clearly indicated. When we checked with all jurisdictions across Canada they advised us against going that route simply because of the administration of the problems related to it and I outlined those to the House some time ago.

### **Point of Privilege – Abuse of Franking Privilege**

**Mr. Lane (Sa-Su):** — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance today made an allegation that one of the members of this House was abusing franking privileges in this House. Now this is a matter of privilege within this House, and I would draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that a comment made by myself as a member, was subjected to scrutiny and debate in this House. The minister has been subject to this on several occasions; you will recall he made an allegation on another occasion that some one had attempted, from within the Conservative caucus, to bribe him, and I say that as a matter of privilege, he . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order, order!

I will ask the member when he is putting a point of order, with regard to some subject, that he not relate it to something else but stay specifically on the point of order. I am not going to go back and rule in the past, on something that occurred before. That should have been dealt with before.

**Mr. Lane (Sa-Su):** — Mr. Speaker, there has been a very clear allegation across the floor from the Finance Minister, that a member of this House has been abusing the franking privileges given to members of this House. The only reason I brought those



other matters up, Mr. Speaker, was because of the historical significance given to when these matters are raised in the House. In a matter of fairness, he should either prove that allegation or withdraw it and resign his seat!

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order!

**Mr. Merchant:** — I rise on a similar point of personal privilege. At the time I was offended as I listened further. The minister, clearly by imputation in what he was saying and what he said thereafter, was implying that two members, I being one of them, had in some way misused franking privileges. The minister knows full well that all members of this House use the full amount of their franking privileges as I do. I ask the minister to communicate with my constituents in the same way that, I am sure, the member communicates with his constituents. I spend about \$5,000 a year communicating with my constituents. Now, I ask the minister to withdraw his statement without exception.

**Mr. Speaker:** — I think it is a common practise of the Legislature that the member's word is taken as being acceptable to the House, and any other member who wishes to challenge that word, must produce the evidence forthwith. Unless the member is prepared to do that, I think he has to take the word of the member from Wascana as he has stated in his point of privilege.

**Mr. Smishek:** — I think the record will show that I did not use any names.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Oh, come on now!

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, obviously there are some members that perhaps are . . . well, Mr. Speaker, let us check the record. Mr. Speaker, there are certain members that might have a feeling of guilt about it. I think the record will show. Let me restate the words that I did speak because I had it very deliberately noted so that the record can be clear. If the hon. members care to hear it again, I will restate it, I am in your hands, Mr. Speaker. I said there are two other public servants who have been nominated some time ago and are seeking election in the next federal election in two Saskatchewan constituencies which the hon. member for Indian Head-Wolseley did not mention. They have remained on the Saskatchewan public payroll since their nomination. They have not sought leave of absence nor have they resigned. It is alleged that they may even have used MLA franking privileges to promote their nomination or election. I hope this allegation is not true.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order! I think we have had an airing of the matter from both the members that are involved and we can go on to interminable discussion about this which is not permitted at this time. The member has stated his position . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Have you made a ruling?

**Mr. Speaker:** — No, I have not made a ruling. I am stating that this is getting into a discussion about something which is not permitted to be discussed at this time . . . Order! I will take any new points of order which may arise at this time.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Speaker, whether you realize it or not. Sir, you did make a ruling. You asked the Minister of Finance to withdraw and he had to take the word of the member for Wascana and the words of the Minister of Finance . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order, order! The member for Indian Head-Wolseley should

understand what the word 'order' means. The member for Indian Head-Wolseley was completely out of order when he was on his feet.

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Speaker, if it pleases the House, I said I hope it is not true and if it offends some people I am prepared to withdraw it.

**Mr. Speaker:** — Order! I think we will close that particular matter off.

## SECOND READINGS

**Hon. G. MacMurchy (Minister of Municipal Affairs)** moved second reading of Bill No. 23 – **An Act to provide Loans to Saskatchewan Homeowners for the purpose of Promoting Energy Conservation.**

**Hon. J.R. Messer (Minister of Mineral Resources):** — Mr. Speaker, I am finally pleased to get on with the business of the House. I am further pleased to be able to speak on the second reading of the Home Energy Loan Act.

This act, Mr. Speaker, will provide the necessary legislation for the government to undertake a major program to provide financial aid, incentives and information for Saskatchewan people to upgrade the energy conserving qualities of their homes. This act, Mr. Speaker, is in keeping with this government's tradition of managing our resources for the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan. Just as this government has developed policies which have retained windfall resource profits for Saskatchewan people, it is now embarking on programs which will provide the public access to these funds in a most meaningful way. Although we are a resource and energy rich province, at least by comparison to many provinces in Canada, it is well known that these resources have a limited future. This government intends to develop conservation options which will ease the transition to the future situation in which resources will be less plentiful.

With regard to energy, Mr. Speaker, that means an effort in conservation. Not austere energy conservation programs, but programs which will allow rational use of our energy resources. Programs which will free up energy supplies for additional uses relating to the continued prosperity of this province. Conservation of energy means dollars in consumers' pockets, dollars freed, Mr. Speaker, for other purposes. Internally, the government has already instituted many energy saving programs. Our new buildings are being designed and constructed to substantially reduce the total energy load. The Central Vehicle Agency has developed new policies which will significantly increase government purchase of smaller, more efficient energy vehicles.

Government Services has an ongoing program which will ultimately study every government owned structure and make changes which will result in lower fuel bills for the government and for those structures.

The office of Energy Conservation has been established to co-ordinate the province's conservation efforts. The primary objective of this office is to designate areas within our jurisdiction where substantial savings of energy can be achieved and to design programs which can facilitate these savings.

To a great extent, conservation of energy means change in the consciousness of people about the way they now use energy. It has been shown that the price structure

alone is not enough to achieve a different pattern of energy use. This government, Mr. Speaker, intends to develop programs which will provide people with alternatives to the present wasteful and short-sighted structure we now have for using our energy resources.

The office of Energy Conservation has many initiatives planned which will address these issues and hopefully increase people's awareness about the need for energy conservation.

I cite the Saskatchewan Conservation House as an example of how demonstration and public education can be achieved. I am pleased to report that this project has been a tremendous success in terms of demonstrating energy conservation ideas to the Saskatchewan public. In the three months since it opened, Mr. Speaker, over 8,000 people have visited this conservation house. The general purpose, the general response to the house has been excellent and people are indicating that the ideas they are learning in this house are applicable to their own homes. Technically the Conservation House is performing better than expected. It is a model of how to conserve energy in this climate. Working tests have indicated that its energy demand for space heating is 85 to 90 per cent lower than the typical Saskatchewan home. Mr. Speaker, 85 to 90 per cent lower than the typical Saskatchewan home – indeed a significant stride towards conservation of energy.

Several private contractors around the province have already taken ideas from the Conservation House and employed them in new structures that they are building. This is what the Conservation House wanted to achieve. This is a demonstration of good government in action . . . a government which undertakes old projects which will in turn benefit our society as a whole.

The public is now, Mr. Speaker, being invited to participate in another bold and I suggest to you, successful, government program. This is the "Warm-up Saskatchewan", home insulation program. What this program is designed to do is make money available from the Heritage Fund to the people of Saskatchewan in a major drive to upgrade the thermal efficiency of our houses. Since the federal government CHIP program has proven to be an inadequate measure to quickly upgrade thermal efficiencies in homes and since the CHIP program was not designed for easy access by all people of Canada, this government has designed a program to overcome these shortfalls. Co-ordinated by the office of Energy Conservation, the "Warm-up Saskatchewan" program has combined the efforts of many government departments and agencies. First, the Department of Continuing Education in co-operation with the technical institute has designed home insulation courses which are now available through the province's community college system. For a fee of \$5 these courses are now available to the general public as well as to contractors and suppliers in the insulation field. The courses are designed to instruct do-it-yourself handymen or contractors about the most up to date techniques and materials available to upgrade the thermal efficiency of our homes in this province. This educational effort will help to ensure that quality workmanship and materials are applied under this program.

The second portion, Mr. Speaker, of the "Warm-up Saskatchewan" program will be interest free loans to the Saskatchewan homeowner. It is proposed that loans of up to \$1,000 will be available to all Saskatchewan homeowners living in their principal residence. These \$1,000 loans will be made available through Saskatchewan Power Corporation to cover costs of materials and labor. Eligible home improvements include such things as insulation, vapor barriers, storm doors and windows, attic fans, weather

stripping and caulking, strapping and fireproofing materials for basement walls and other related materials. Applicants to the program will make payment of the loans through the normal Sask Power Corporation energy billing system over a three-year period of time. The Saskatchewan Power Corporation has trained its district staff to aid applicants in filling out the forms to participate in this program. The Saskatchewan Power Corporation will also provide a toll free hotline. This telephone will be manned by a conservation officer who is trained to help people who are having problems with their loan applications and who will also provide technical advice to consumers about home improvements.

Unlike, Mr. Speaker, the federal CHIP program the procedure for getting a provincial loan has been designed so that consumers will not have to bridge finance. They have the option of submitting paid or unpaid invoices for work completed. In other words, the loans might be processed and accepted before work begins. This allows, Mr. Speaker, all people to participate without having to lay out money first and finance this money until the loan comes through. The Saskatchewan Power Corporation will advertise, administer and deliver this program to the Saskatchewan public.

The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation will be assisting the Saskatchewan Power Corporation by evaluating all application forms on a technical basis. A monitoring system will be set up in the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation so that materials and prices will constantly be monitored against prevailing trends. This process, Mr. Speaker, will help protect the consumer against overcharging or improper use of materials. The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation will also be making pre and post spot checks of a percentage of the applications. In order to avoid problems which other provinces have experienced with unscrupulous insulation installers this act, Mr. Speaker, proposed the licensing and bonding of participating installation installers. This licence will be issued by Consumer Affairs in a form similar to other licensing arrangements now in existence. Let me emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that the licensing and bonding will only be required of insulation contractors who wish to participate in the program. Other participating contractors who might be electricians putting in attic fans or carpenters installing storm doors and windows will not, will not, Mr. Speaker, be required to have or obtain a licence.

The licensing provision also has a clause which will provide restricted licenses to contractors to do only a few insulation jobs per year, or home handymen who might insulate their neighbor's attic.

The flexibility of this licensing arrangement will provide consumer protection and at the same time not be unnecessarily demanding of smaller Saskatchewan contractors.

Licensing and bonding will protect the consumer because they will be dealing with insulation installers who are a legal entity within the province. This means, that where a bond is held by the Department of Consumer Affairs, consumers will have the opportunity to make a legal claim against the bond. This provision, also, protects the consumer from liens against his property in cases where the installer has not paid his supplier. It is also intended that this provision will also protect the consumer from the proliferation of new installation firms that have little or no expertise in this relatively new industry and whose financial stability may be precarious.

In consultation, Mr. Speaker, with the insulation industry, we have found that they welcome the licensing and bonding requirement. They agree that licensing will enhance the integrity and competence of the industry and they see it as a protection of

the credibility of established firms.

Recently the industry has gone ahead on its own accord and formed a province-wide voluntary association. It sees licensing of its members as a necessary component to the association's credibility.

This program has been designed to allow, Mr. Speaker, homeowners to borrow up to \$1,000. The \$1,000 was chosen as a loan maximum because it was found that while an average house will require about \$600 to \$800, many homes will need larger renovations.

Let me, Mr. Speaker, illustrate the savings that an individual may realize by participating in this program. The interest free subsidy on a \$1,000 loan, over three years, amounts to about \$200 at the prevailing interest rate. However, not only will the individual save the interest, he will also enjoy lower fuel costs. It is estimated that if such measure as weather stripping, re-insulation of attics and the insulation of basements were undertaken, the heating requirements of many homes could be reduced by over 30 per cent, reduced by over 30 per cent, Mr. Speaker. In most cases the money saved on fuel will help pay back a major portion of the loan over a three-year period.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at the social benefits of this program. If during the three years life of this program one quarter of Saskatchewan's 211,000 private homes participate, it is estimated this could result in a \$3 million a year saving in space heating bills. Since the average life span of this housing stock is about 25 years, at today's energy prices this means a total saving of something in the neighborhood of \$75 million. That is a \$75 million saving in today's dollars, Mr. Speaker, for a program which will cost about \$5 million in interest subsidies.

We have found that the timing of this program could not have been better. Discussions with insulation manufacturers have indicated that they have ample manufacturing capacity to meet the expected increase in demand. Since spring is generally a slow time for both manufacturers and contractors they have welcomed the announcement of this program as a good shot in the arm for their businesses. The consumers, as well, should welcome the opportunity to give their homes a spring tune-up, which will keep them cooler in the summer and warmer next winter.

This program has been designed to help people respond to the energy realities of today. It is providing incentive and assistance in a meaningful way which will translate into a more secure energy future for Saskatchewan people, a future which will reduce energy requirements in our existing homes and free up energy supplies for other needs. The program will be a stimulant to the economy by providing labor opportunities and increased sales in both the insulation and building product businesses. This program, Mr. Speaker, allows the people of Saskatchewan to take advantage of the money this government has so wisely accumulated in the Heritage Fund. "Warm-up Saskatchewan" will use this money, much of which was generated from energy resource royalties, for the purpose of conserving those energy resources. The program has been designed so that it is easily accessible to all homeowners in the province. It makes money available up front so that anyone can participate. It has been designed to offer consumer protection both through the licensing procedure as well as the monitoring function of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. It has also been designed to offer public education about home energy improvements. The act before the House will empower the government to deliver this program. I endorse the act and I ask the Legislature to vote with me to have this Home Energy Act become law.

Mr. Speaker, with those few short words I move second reading of this bill.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. A.N. McMillan (Kindersley):** — Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting note, I think, for members of this Assembly who realize that in effect this is the second conservation program brought in by the provincial government, particularly with the involvement of SPC.

The first conservation program that you people brought in were your exorbitant windfall rates you have been charging the people of Saskatchewan for the past four years. Nothing more than that could have initiated the feeling among the public that it was mandatory that they improve the conservation techniques that they use with respect to heat in their homes and their farm buildings and their industries. There is only one reason primarily or two I suppose that the Minister responsible for SPC and Minerals Resources can stand in this House and brag about his ability to bring in a program that will meet a need of the Saskatchewan public. You created the problem and now you are going to bring in the solution which supposedly will correct the gas for four years and now you are bringing in a program where you are going to loan the money back to them on a short term basis so that they can improve the insulation in their homes so that they are more energy conservation-wise. I say that it is foolishly hypocritical of you to play the role of the great white knight in these days of energy conservation problems. You gouged the public of Saskatchewan, you pay 25 cents per 1,000 cubic feet for gas you buy and turn around and sell it to the public for \$2.56. That's the best conservation program you've got. It is no wonder you've got enough money to afford this program. I'll assure you of that because you've been taking it out of the hides of the people of Saskatchewan for four years.

There is just as good a reason why you should take this small step to heal the great wound that you have opened up with the people of Saskatchewan. There is another good reason that we need a conservation program and that's that your government has been so inept at discovering and bringing into production new sources of energy in Saskatchewan that we can't afford to use what we've got. You've got natural gas wells in proven fields in Saskatchewan cemented in and they are going to stay cemented in as a result of your attitude towards the petroleum industry. We have unproven fields throughout Saskatchewan that we should be doing developmental work on at this stage to put them in a position to come on production should we get in any worse position than we are in today with respect to natural gas. I saw briefly a headline in the paper today about marketplace in the Leader-Post about Saskatchewan being short of natural gas. Well, I say, yes, we need a conservation program but because of the problems that you have created in Saskatchewan — not problems for any other reason.

Now I say that you come in and brag to the people of Saskatchewan; you have got an extensive advertising campaign that you are bringing up that is going to be, no doubt, thoroughly aired in Saskatchewan about how wonderful your program is. Every dime you're spending on that and that you're spending on subsidizing of interest rates on the loans that are taken out, you've fleeced out of the public with your 102.7 per cent increase in SPC rates for the past four years. You need take no pride in that.

On the positive side, of course the program is going to be of some benefit to the people of Saskatchewan. I'm not surprised to see that you people echo more surprise about the

fact that there's a positive side than we do because sometimes it's with a great deal of difficulty that we can find anything positive to say about your programs.

I say that your program will go a small way towards, hopefully, making the people of Saskatchewan more energy conservation conscious. No people in the world need to be more that way than the people of Saskatchewan, given the prices we pay for our natural gas here and the kind of future production that we're faced with in Saskatchewan. I expect that your program will be well received by the people of Saskatchewan, insomuch as it goes a small way towards returning to them, in an indirect manner, some of the revenue you've gouged out of them over the past few years.

We will, no doubt, have more to say about this in the future, Mr. Speaker, and I would like, at this time, to beg leave to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

**Hon. A.S. Matsalla (Minister of Tourism and Renewable Resources)** moved second reading of Bill No. 16 – **An Act of Consent respecting the adoption of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary south of the twenty-second base line as surveyed by the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Boundary Commission during the years 1965 to 1972** – be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to and Bill read a second time.

**Hon. E.L. Tchorzewski (Minister of Health)** moved second reading of Bill No. 12 – **An Act respecting The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association** – be now read a second time and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Law Amendments and Delegated Powers.

Motion agreed to and Bill read a second time.

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### Health — Vote 32

#### Item 1 continued

**Mr. Chairman:** — Order, please. We are on Health Estimates, as you know, we are on Item 1. Before we start, might I just make one comment and I want you to take it in the manner in which it is given and that is that under Item 1 of all departments you certainly have the opportunity to question anything within that department but I do ask you to take time to look through the rest of the items if you think that question could come up in a better place and certainly in the proper place, I would say try and follow it through in that manner. I think it would make it better for all of us and we would perhaps gain from that matter of routine. I just ask you to try and accommodate us the best you can in that way and I think it will be better for all concerned. We are still on Item 1.

**Mr. J. Wiebe (Morse):** — Mr. Chairman, before we leave Item 1, I have just a couple of questions I would like to direct to the Minister of Health and they are mainly questions of information and they pertain to what is beginning to develop into rather a sore spot in the health care delivery system within the province of Saskatchewan. I am dealing with the problem which many of the MLAs who represent the southwest part of Saskatchewan deal with and I am sure that most members of this Assembly are not aware of the fact of the problems that we do encounter in the Swift Current health region. The Minister of Finance, on paid radio broadcasts, paid by himself I might add,

brings a message to the people of Saskatchewan stating that medicare is free in the province of Saskatchewan. Yet, in our particular area, Health Region No. 1, the southwest part of the province, that is certainly not the case. In order for us to obtain the same kind of benefits that people living in other health regions of the province of Saskatchewan, we must pay either a \$7.00 premium for an individual or a \$14 premium for a family and this pertains, Mr. Chairman, to the dental plan which is presently being operated by the Swift Current Health Region.

I think what is more important and of greater concern to those of us who sit in this Assembly is the cost that is involved in the present operation of the Swift Current Health Region. I hope that the Minister, when I finish my remarks, will be able to explain to the members of the House exactly how the Swift Current Health Region operates. It is my understanding that when I, who belong to the Swift Current Health Region, go to see my doctor or have to spend some time in the hospital, that the doctor or the hospital board does not bill the Saskatchewan Medicare Commission nor the Hospitalization Board directly for the costs that I incurred by my visit to the hospital or by my visit to the doctor. That bill, in effect, must go to the health region. The health region then in turn bills Regina and Regina then in turn pays the health region, the health region then in turn pays the doctor or the hospital involved.

It is costing the health plan in this province a fantastic amount of money for the operation of that particular health region and is causing a considerable amount of misunderstanding and hard feelings among the residents of the southwest part of the province because they do in turn have to pay that particular \$7 or \$14 premium before they can adequately receive the same type of benefits as the people in the rest of the province receive in regard to health care. Some erroneous directives were sent out a few years ago and thank heavens they have been corrected, in which the chairman of the Swift Current Health Region advised the doctors and the hospitals not to accept anybody unless they had a paid up health region card. It took a considerable amount of effort on behalf of some of the MLAs in the southwest part of the province to get that situation rectified where now no one, in effect, is denied health care even though he has not purchased that particular card. I am just wondering if the Minister of Health could explain to the members of this Legislature the problems that we do incur in the southwest part of the province and if he and his department has any contingency plans developed to hopefully save the Department of Health money in regard to our health and hospitalization care in the province as it relates to Health Region No. 1?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Chairman, I know the matter the member speaks of, the pioneering work of the Swift Current Health Region is well known in Saskatchewan. It pioneered such endeavors and such programs as the original municipal doctor plans that were provided in Saskatchewan and therefore it has sort of molded the way for some of the developments that have taken place in following years.

The dental plan that the member for Morse refers to is a dental plan that applies not to those age categories which are covered by the provincial dental plan, the dental plan that we have provincially for all children within a certain age category, it only applies to other age categories that the Swift Current Health Region provides a plan for. There is no requirement on our part that that fee has to be paid before anyone in the Swift Current Health Region should be able to benefit from health care programs like anyone else, anywhere else in Saskatchewan. In fact, we insist that that not be the case. There are some incidents which the member knows, and I know where there seems to have been some difficulty in that some people have not been provided some of the other benefits by the region because they fail to pay their dental fee. I had a meeting arranged



for Tuesday to meet with the Swift Current Health Region to discuss this, unfortunately because I had to be away at a funeral I had to cancel out of that meeting. I am again rescheduling a meeting to discuss with them this problem and to see if we can iron it out.

**Mr. Wiebe:** — Mr. Chairman, I hope the minister doesn't take my remarks as being critical. I am trying to approach this particular situation from a positive manner with the hope that the problems we now encounter in the southwest can be solved and that in turn dollars can be saved in the delivery of that particular care for the southwest part of the province. There is no doubt in my mind and no doubt of all people in the southwest part of the province that the Swift Current Health Region did fulfil in the past a very useful purpose and that it did pioneer many of the health programs which we now enjoy in the province of Saskatchewan. The point that I am saying is that many of the residents in Saskatchewan, many of the people belonging to the Swift Current Health Region and the Swift Current Health Region Board believe themselves that the Swift Current Health Region No. 1 in effect has outlived its usefulness. That there are basically no other frontiers that an association or an organization such as the Swift Current Health Region No. 1 can conquer and they certainly haven't demonstrated that during the past five to six years at which time medicare became available to all residents of the province of Saskatchewan. I am hoping that we can — it is not going to take too many more years when the provincial dental program will cover pretty well all the young people who are presently being covered in the Swift Current Health Region No. 1 under the premiums that are presently being paid. I might point out as well that that premium that is being collected is collected not only from families like myself which have children who do qualify for benefits under that program but it is also being collected from senior citizens who no longer have children, senior citizens who can in no way benefit from any of those programs. Young single individuals who no longer qualify for the program still must pay the \$7 and the \$14 premium. If someone does not wish to pay that premium the onus is then on the rural municipality or the local government to collect that premium and reimburse the health region. So the health region is sitting in a very unenviable position. The individual taxpayers in that part of the province is not bound to pay the premium because the onus is then on the rural municipality or the local government to make that payment. The minister has said that he is going down to have discussions with members of the Swift Current Health Region. I sincerely hope that those discussions will be fruitful and that we will, in the near future, be able to obtain the same kind of health benefits without the red tape and rigmarole that we must now go through in the southwest as other people in Saskatchewan do.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Chairman, first of all let me say that I would not want it to be misunderstood in this House that I was in any way insinuating the member was critical of the Swift Current Health Region because I was not and I know that he was not. I might be suspicious of some members opposite if they were to comment on this question, but not of the member for Morse, because I know him very well. I just want to say that 'yes' we have the concern, as the member has, and as I indicated I am going to be doing some follow-up and will be arranging a meeting to discuss this to see what we can work out.

I want to also indicate because the member indicated that he was interested in the provincial dental plan being expanded to include other age categories and we, as a government, have made a commitment to expand over time the dental program to people to the age of 18 and we are progressing in that way and will ultimately get there. I hope in the not too distant future.

I also would solicit the assistance of the member and his other colleagues from the southwest to bring their influence to bear on the local people who have a considerable amount of local autonomy and on the Swift Current Health Region to try to deal with the situation as it is described by the member.

**Mr. C.P. MacDonald (Indian Head-Wolseley):** — Mr. Chairman, I have one thing I touched on yesterday and then we got side-tracked on a couple of other issues and I don't know really where to bring it up except under Item 1, so I think I had better pursue it a little bit. Yesterday the minister gave me some figures about Saskatchewan trained doctors, Canadian trained doctors, out of Canada trained doctors and so forth and I wonder if he would mind repeating those figures for me. As I understand it, there are 186 practising doctors in Saskatchewan that were trained in the province of Saskatchewan; 233 were trained in other parts of Canada and there was a total of something 814 practising physicians — is that correct?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — 914!

**Mr. MacDonald:** — 914? Can the minister then tell me too, where the other doctors come from and what other percentages. You gave me the figures yesterday.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — O.K. this comes from the annual report, 1977 Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Commission, table 19 on page 48 ... Practitioners by place of graduation. Under all physicians 1977, there were 914; number of practitioners — 186 graduated from Saskatchewan, 233 graduated in other provinces, for a total of well over 400; United States, Central and South America — 16; United Kingdom and Eire — 307; Continental Europe — 26; Asia — 122 and Africa — 23; Australia — 1.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — What was that Africa again?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Twenty-three.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Minister, I just have a few comments to make on this particular subject and I am sure that I am not speaking about a subject that is foreign to the minister and to the government because last year they considered introducing (in fact they did introduce a bill) whereby it would turn around and provide the same kind of uniform entrance requirements for doctors to come into Saskatchewan to practise as in other provinces in Canada and in fact in other parts of North America. Of course the government withdrew the bill.

I want to say that there is a problem that is fast approaching — I just skimmed on it yesterday — is the fact that the predictions are that by 1981 there will be surplus of doctors in Canada. Also a few years ago, according to statistics, only one-third of the doctors graduating in the province of Saskatchewan stayed in Saskatchewan to practise. Now that number is up to two-thirds. In other words, two out of every three doctors that graduate from the University of Saskatchewan Medical School stay in the province of Saskatchewan and practise medicine and that means, of course, that the number — and the reason for that of course is the increased number of medical students in other parts of Canada and the number of graduates that are being turned out in other parts of Canada. The fact that there are not as many jobs available that for students graduating in the medical school in Saskatchewan, and I suppose from the medical bursary program where the government assists young doctors when establishing in the province, the same as they do dentists. This practise has been going on for some time but I think now it is reaping a bit more benefit. What it really means is that the province of Saskatchewan, unless it does something, Saskatchewan trained doctors may not very soon be able to find a job in the province of Saskatchewan. It is

rather interesting that well over 50 per cent of the current doctors now practising in the province of Saskatchewan, were not trained in Canada, or are not Canadian born. I think it is also fair to say that doctors from other parts of the world, particularly the United Kingdom, came to Saskatchewan and provided a very valuable service when we were short of doctors – particularly in rural areas. That problem appears to be no longer with us – or is rapidly disappearing. It also appears that in Saskatchewan, because we do not demand the same equality of examinations for students graduating here as those coming from other parts of the world to practise in Saskatchewan, (in other words, the same medical standards or Canadian medical examinations), this may very well work to the disadvantage of Saskatchewan students who are graduating in the field of medicine. First of all, it may limit their opportunities as to where they might want to practise, and second, it may even limit the opportunity of practising in Saskatchewan. As we all know, the Saskatchewan taxpayers contribute a gigantic amount of money to train any one physician in the province of Saskatchewan – as do all provinces in any medical school. The student pays a very minute portion of the total cost of medical schooling in Saskatchewan.

I may point out too, Saskatchewan has a disproportionate number of doctors practising in the province, who were not trained in Canada or in Saskatchewan, in comparison to other provinces. I think the average for Canada is about 50 per cent. In the province of Saskatchewan, it is about 57 per cent. I am not sure if my memory serves me correctly if those statistics are exact or not. I want to again point out to the minister that there seems to be a need not to discriminate against doctors coming in from other parts of the world, but treat them the same as we do the Saskatchewan graduate, and make sure that all of them have the same examinations. I also understand that the Americans have almost closed the doors on medical practitioners from other parts of the world coming to the United States and obtaining a licence. Therefore, it appears (if I am not mistaken), that the only port of entry in the United States and Canada, is the province of Saskatchewan and I believe Newfoundland if my memory serves me correctly. The American Medical Association and the American states have practically closed the doors, so that the only place where a doctor can go without passing the rigid standards or the examinations of other Canadians, (and examinations in other parts of North America, the United States in particular), is the province of Saskatchewan. If this is a fact, then I see there is a real danger in the years ahead that we may be training Saskatchewan students and Saskatchewan doctors, and unless we treat them equally with doctors from other parts of the world as far as examinations and standards are concerned, these Saskatchewan students may not be able to obtain a job. If projections are accurate, by the year 1980 or 1981 (which is only two or three years down the road), some students who are actually now attending the University of Saskatchewan Medical School may not be able to find a job in Saskatchewan.

I want to ask the Minister, is it his intention to do anything? I have seen press releases that they are going to monitor the situation, and so forth. Is it the intention of the government or the minister to re-introduce Bill 51? I indicated that after this discussion, I am going to make a decision whether to introduce it or not if the minister isn't. I know there is some sympathetic support on that side of the House, and some sympathetic understanding of the problem. I think it would be rather interesting to see just exactly how some of the ministers and Treasury Bench would vote on that Bill, when once again it is re-introduced. But I would like to ask the minister, is it his intention to do anything specific about this problem now and in the future, within the next two or three years?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Chairman, the member spoke on quite a number of items related to doctor supply. Listening to him carefully I am somewhat mystified if indeed there is going to be such a great surplus of doctors in Canada. Why a very few years ago the federal government would have put in half a billion dollars of money to increase the capacity of training institutions for doctors which will no doubt lead to the increased number of the doctors which the member has concerned about developing into a surplus. I want the members of the House to know that there are efforts being made now in this province, as good as anywhere in Canada, to encourage graduates from our College of Medicine to remain in Saskatchewan, not only efforts by the province itself and by the Department of Health but efforts by hospitals and the Saskatchewan Health Care Association and by the College of Medicine. Indeed the numbers of doctors graduating from the College of Medicine in this province and staying in the province to practise has been increasing in recent years. I know that everyone opposite will agree that that's a good trend and good sign. No doubt one of the reasons why that has happened is because of such things as the medical bursary program which has existed since the '60s. The member opposite may know something about that. Out of 371 medical students receiving bursaries between 1968 and 1977, 63 per cent are either repaid or repaying those bursaries in service and therefore stayed in Saskatchewan to practise. I think that's a pretty good indication of the kind of trend that is taking place. I have very recently met with the College of Physicians and Surgeons and with the Saskatchewan Medical Association, as well as with other organizations, at an annual meeting which we have called a 'think tank' at which we discussed this issue and agreed then to explore all of the options and alternatives that may be available to deal with things like quality and other questions similar to ones that the member opposite asks. More specifically on whether I am prepared to re-introduce Bill 51, I made it very clear in either August or September of last year, although I cannot remember precisely which month it was, that it is not at this time my intention to re-introduce Bill 51. I think it became clear in the last session that there was some question about it in the minds of people in rural Saskatchewan, small hospitals, municipalities and in small towns. It was my judgment that during this time it is not the right thing to do, to re-introduce that particular bill. So, the answer to the member's question is, No.

I want to add something else. There has been some talk about the so-called exodus of doctors out of Canada, particularly with regard to the Saskatchewan scene. I think it is of interest to note that the emigration of doctors from Saskatchewan from 1974 using that term of reference to 1977 has decreased. In 1974, 42 doctors emigrated or left the province of Saskatchewan to either other places outside of Canada or the United States. In 1977 that number was only 38. So there is no great dramatic surge in that area.

I also want to point out to the House and to the member opposite the kind of work that is being done by the Saskatchewan Health Care Association and the College of Medicine to assist in the recruitment of Saskatchewan trained graduates in Saskatchewan hospitals. I was really quite amazed when I first made some inquiries into this that I couldn't really find over past years any kind of a mechanism like we have in the teaching profession with school boards where there is a system where they recruit young graduates coming out of the College of Education. What has happened is that in order to stimulate the recruitment of Saskatchewan trained physicians by Saskatchewan communities the College of Medicine and the Saskatchewan Health Care Association have now agreed jointly to establish procedures to bring practice vacancies in the province to the attention of our medical graduates, something that was not done as far as I am able to determine in any significant way in the past. Also that would-be graduates in the college be given that information and also the same information be made available to hospitals throughout Saskatchewan. I am confident that that kind of a concerted effort will again increase the trend which I already mentioned and that is the trend for more Saskatchewan trained doctors to practise in Saskatchewan. I don't think we are going to reach the situation where all graduates from Saskatchewan are going to practise in Saskatchewan any more than any other province. We have a free country where people can travel. They may set up a practice somewhere else for reasons completely unrelated to medicine. I am not suggesting that the member suggests that it is going to be 100 per cent that way but I think we can improve on what has happened in the past.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Chairman, the information about the surplus of doctors came from a committee that his own department officials sat on, a federal provincial committee on health professions — on manpower in the health professions field. I just want to ask the minister before we get off this subject, what is the rationale of the NDP government in the province of Saskatchewan to treat doctors that come from other parts of the world differently than they treat doctors who graduate in the province of Saskatchewan. What is the rationale to force doctors who graduate in Saskatchewan and in Canada to pass one set of standards and one set of exams and yet you do not treat doctors from other parts of the world as rigidly as far as standards and examinations and difficulty in starting to practise medicine as you do our own graduates; what is the rationale, can the minister tell me in treating doctors from Europe, from the United Kingdom, from Asia, differently than the Saskatchewan

graduate?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Chairman, the member well knows that the licensing of physicians is a function of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. In the comment that the member makes he is insinuating that the training of Commonwealth doctors, because it doesn't apply to doctors from anywhere in the world, it applies to certain medical people who come from certain parts of the world who are members of the British Commonwealth as I recollect the provision. The member suggests that the training in Great Britain is inferior to the training in Saskatchewan or Canada. I am not sure of that and quite frankly, I am not sure that I know that. I didn't say that you said that but I say that you might be insinuating that by your argument. The licensing is therefore done by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. I don't think it is a form of discrimination, I think in the past it is well known that in certain areas of Saskatchewan, particularly rural areas, the recruitment of doctors has been a very difficult thing and therefore you will find that up to 60 per cent or up to 65 per cent of doctors practising in rural areas and rural hospitals are indeed doctors who have come from out of the country. This is one of the reasons that the community clinics and that rural municipalities and that rural hospitals express their concern with regard to Bill 51. I think before further action is taken in that area that we need to talk to these people, which we are endeavoring to do and that's why I mentioned earlier I have already had some initial discussions with the SMA and the College of Physicians and Surgeons on how we might be able to explore some of the options that might be available. While we are doing that, as I mentioned already as well, some other efforts are being taken to make sure that this disparity of distribution, because the problem is not a supply problem, the problem is one of distribution between big urban centres and rural Saskatchewan. We are trying to do, in the meantime, some things that will try to alleviate some of that distribution, such as the efforts that are being made by the Saskatchewan Health Care Association and by the College of Medicine.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — One other comment. I find that answer rather redundant. First of all the Premier and the Cabinet introduced a bill last year, Bill 51, because they were very much aware of the problem that existed and the fact that there was different treatment to Saskatchewan graduates in the medical field and graduates from others. I am not suggesting that there is a lowering of standards in Britain or anywhere else and if there isn't then why shouldn't they write the same set of exams if the quality of their training is as good as it was in the past? But I ask the minister, if he doesn't believe that this was a problem why then did the government introduce that legislation one year ago? I merely point out again that it is a problem. Saskatchewan may, if it continues to be the only port of entry in North America or one of the very few ports of entry in North America, or at least in the United States and Canada, then certainly we will have a disproportionate number of doctors practising in Saskatchewan who are not Canadian-born and trained and particularly not Saskatchewan born and trained because if there is not an opportunity and when the minister talks about a supply or distribution, the distribution problem will always be here, always be here. When it comes to rural Saskatchewan and keeping doctors, the same as it is keeping good school teachers or good dentists or anyone else in small rural Saskatchewan, that is a problem we will always have to face, we will always have to be continually trying to tackle something else.

One other comment, can the minister indicate now — we are talking about health professions and supply, there have been some rumors that have run rather rampant in Saskatchewan, some write-ups in the paper about nurses being attracted to the southern part of the United States with lucrative salaries and other enticements, advertisements taking place in western Canada. I even understand in other provinces

that people are coming up to interview them and so forth. Can the minister indicate if this is a serious problem in the province of Saskatchewan, are many nurses leaving that the Department of Health is aware of and can the minister tell me is there any shortage of nurses at this particular time in Saskatchewan?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Chairman, first of all in answer to the latter question. I can assure the member and the House that the nursing supply in the province of Saskatchewan is very adequate. The so-called recruitments that the member talks of obviously have some very elaborate carrots to apply, such as extensive moving expenses and other kinds of things that are attached. But the impact of that is the province has been insignificant. There is not a problem and we do not anticipate a problem.

Now, let me go back to the other comment on the supply of doctors. I don't know whether the member opposite is aware of the changes that were made to the federal government to certain requirements in the Immigration Act but that has had a very significant impact on the number of out of country doctors that are coming into Canada. I don't have the statistics right in front of me but I remember looking at them recently — the member says at least half — and I think that is where the ball park figure is. A doctor as in other professions cannot just now come to Canada because he decides he is going to come to Canada to practise or Saskatchewan, Canada first. He has to go through the point system and if there is not a need, then on the need component of that categorization that takes place, the assessment, the medical people right now, unless they are a certain specialization that is in need of, get zero points. I am sure the member will agree that that has had quite a significant impact on the numbers that have been coming in. We can't assure certain things, and I think no one can. We can't assure that if there is a political revolt or some other kind of disturbance in one of the Commonwealth nations that that would not change the circumstances to some extent. But that is normally not the kind of thing we rely on anyway.

**Mr. R.L. Collver (Leader of Conservative Opposition):** — Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister on a different tack. I notice in glancing at the statistical review for the province of Saskatchewan that there doesn't seem to be itemized here any estimate of the percentages of population that fall into the various age categories of our province and I am thinking mostly, Mr. Minister, of those citizens of our province who are say in excess of 60 years. Could the minister tell me what the number of citizens in 1977 or an approximate answer from his department, in 1977 was say as a percentage of our population or in terms of total numbers in 1978 and he anticipates in 1979?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — In 1977, I will give you the figures I have, they are figures for 65 and over, the percentage of the Saskatchewan population over 65 is 11.2 per cent or about 105,000.

**Mr. Collver:** — Which year?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — 1977, June 1977, here it is. We project that that indeed will increase, the total number will increase in the next several years so that by 1983 or the mid-80s the percentage will increase maybe to about 13 per cent. We are one of the higher provinces in that respect . . . no, not highest. Prince Edward Island is the highest, but we are one of the higher provinces indeed but we are also providing some of the more elaborate and more significant programs for senior citizens in order to be able to assist them.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Minister, I appreciate this information — 11.2 per cent, you anticipate that this is going to grow, that by 1983 perhaps at approximately 13 per cent of the population? Could I ask you then, would that increase in the percentage of the population of Saskatchewan be over the age of 65? Would that percentage increase levelly for the year 1978-79? Approximately, in other words, could we anticipate a half of one per cent increase in 1978-79?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — I am told that it is estimated that the growth of numbers of people over 65 in the next few years will be something in the area of about 2,000 a year. Now that once again is an estimate figure but I think fairly accurate. Now, that's a figure. It is difficult to take that and then deal in percentages as I earlier did and that's why I made certain qualifications because the total population in Saskatchewan has been indeed increasing and a lot of increasing because of younger people coming in. The last statistics which I saw, January, showed that for example more younger people came in to take jobs in Saskatchewan from Alberta than any other province in Canada. So that's another factor that comes in when you are going to deal with percentages. But in total gross terms, about 2,000 people a year.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Minister, does your department have any statistical evidence on utilization of the hospital care system and the medicare system in Saskatchewan by those citizens in excess of 65 years?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Yes, this utilization of physician and hospital services and in 1975, 23.7 per cent of volume of services rendered by physicians were provided to people over 65 and 40.5 per cent of total provincial hospital days were provided to people over 65.

**Mr. Collver:** — 1975?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — 1975.

**Mr. Collver:** — Do you have any later statistics than that?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — That has not yet been analyzed but I can give you, if you are interested, some projections of what it is thought might be the case in 1985, which is looking quite some distance ahead. It is thought that about 27.9 per cent of volume of services rendered by physicians will be the case and 46.2 per cent of total provincial hospital days.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Minister, I notice in the budget for your Department of Health that you have allocated some \$255 million for 1978-79 to the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. Could you indicate whether or not the \$232 million estimated for 1977-78 is approximately on target? In other words, plus or minus one per cent either way — are you on target by the end of this month? Are you going to have spent for that plan approximately \$232 million, plus or minus a couple of million either way?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — The best I can do is to say 'yes'. We are going to be underspent. There was that amount provided in the budget. There is going to be an underexpenditure. It's difficult to calculate that at this particular time . . . The member goes like this . . . I don't want to be making guesses when we are considering estimates. When the end of the year's analysis is made we will be able to be pretty close in providing that information.



I might add to the member that this information, although it's not up to the year that we are in, is always provided in the Public Accounts, so it is there. But, I'd rather not say approximately because that is guess work that I would prefer not to get into. I can assure the member though that indeed in spite of the criticisms that were made by some of the members of this House in the last year that we were underfunding the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan and so on, that indeed less is going to be expended than was provided in last year's budget.

**Mr. Collver:** — Well, Mr. Minister, since you are not prepared to provide us with any guess of whether or not the \$232 million is a reasonable number, can we presume therefore that it won't be over \$232 million, that's what you've just said and that it could be less but you don't know by how much, could we for the sake of these discussions have presume that \$232 million in the year 1977-78 was the expenditure of the Department of Health on the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Yes.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Minister, if my memory serves me right did not the Saskatchewan Hospitals Association just sign a contract with the employees of the Saskatchewan hospitals for a period of, I think, two years providing for something in the order of 13 per cent or 14 per cent increase in salaries. Is that approximately correct, is my memory correct on that?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — We're not sure whether this is what the member is talking about but I am assuming he is talking about the Co-operative Wage Study, the job evaluation which was done by the Saskatchewan Health Care Association in conjunction with the Canadian Union of Public Employees. I don't recall that ever being expressed in percentage terms but I do know that there is some retroactivity involved in meeting the requirements as provided by that negotiation study that took place.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Minister, what I am attempting to get at is that for the year 1978-79 the approximate increase in cost of employees for the Saskatchewan Hospital Association will be in the range of 13 per cent or 14 per cent over the year before, is that not correct?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — There are two components to this thing which the member has failed to point out. First of all the average wage increase for CUPE and SEIU last year as negotiated was 8 per cent, that was the average wage increase. The Co-op Study was on top of that with 3.7 per cent, for something like 11 or close to 12 per cent. I guess that answers the member's question.

**Mr. Collver:** — What you are saying is that it is anticipated then that when I said 13 or 14 the correct or more approximate number would be 11 to . . . 12 per cent and I would guess that that would be correct. May I ask the minister and I am sure he has these numbers right there at his finger tips, what percentage of the \$255 million expended on the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan represents wages and salaries and that kind of expenditure?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — About 75 per cent.

**Mr. Collver:** — Now I wonder if the minister or one of his officials would just get a pencil and write down a few numbers for the elucidation, I'm sure, of the House and of

the people of Saskatchewan. Seventy-five per cent of the \$255 million represents the salaries and wages applicable to the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. The other 25 per cent, I presume, is for contract work, for light, heat, plant equipment – that kind of thing. Of course the increase in power for hospitals has been in the range of 15 per cent, 18 per cent, an increase of 25 per cent in some instances, for electricity, and so on and so forth. So there have been substantial increases in that 25 per cent as well. Presumably 75 per cent, though, is wages. Those wages are going up some 11 to 12 per cent, in accordance with the minister's own terminology and the other 25 per cent expenditure of the \$255 million for the Saskatchewan Hospital Services is for those kinds of items that have gone up more dramatically than the wages for the Saskatchewan hospital employees. I'm sure that the minister will agree that there has been a much more dramatic increase in expenditure for power, telephones and electricity and for other components of that 25 per cent. Certainly the private sector for the forthcoming year, as compared to the last year in contract amounts that are obtained by the Saskatchewan hospitals – it certainly is not anticipated that they are going to go down in value; they are going to go up, and probably by something in excess of 15 per cent. I think that is a most rational number, a most reasonable number to take. I'm sure the minister would agree with that. That is not going to go down. That 25 per cent is not going to go down as an amount for individual units of service provided in the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan.

Now, what I cannot quite understand is that the minister says the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan has spent \$232 million approximately, in the year '77-'78. He said that the senior citizens of our province use approximately 40 per cent of the services provided by the Saskatchewan hospitals, to the people of Saskatchewan – about 40 per cent. That number is going up, he says. The number of senior citizens in our province is going to increase in the year '78-'79, as opposed to '77-'78, by some 2,000 senior citizens or, an increase, if you like, in terms of percentage, of approximately two per cent. There will be two per cent more senior citizens in our province in '78-'79 than there were in '77-'78. The minister has allowed, in his budget, from the \$232 million level, something less than a 10 per cent increase – something less, from \$232 million to \$255 million, just under the 10 per cent level. Employees who form 75 per cent of that cost are going up some 11 to 12 per cent but the overall increase is less than 10. The other 25 per cent component is going up, certainly by some 10 to 15 per cent. That's a very reasonable estimate. Yet the overall increase for the Department of Health is going up less than 10 per cent. What I would like to ask the minister is this, does this indicate that the allocation to the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan will be such that the level of service provided by Saskatchewan hospitals, to the people of Saskatchewan, will in fact deteriorate in '78-'79 as compared to '77-'78?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Well, Mr. Chairman, let me inform the member that the number of patient days, for example, in the province for this coming year, are going to be up. There are provisions for that. We are going to make, as we have already done in Saskatchewan – as our hospitals have done in Saskatchewan, very efficient use of the dollars provided for health care and there indeed will not be any curtailment in services provided for health care, as there has not been in the past.

Now, by some strange kind of logic, the member for Nipawin calculates, by using figures the way he chooses to use them, that somehow there is going to be curtailment. Somehow there is not going to be sufficient money provided in the Saskatchewan health budget to provide for our hospitals. Well, I want to tell the member that, just as there was in 1976 and just as there was in 1977, there is going to be a 1978 adequate

amount of dollars provided. We are providing in health care, in Saskatchewan an increase of some 9.5 per cent in the budget. That's a very significant and a very substantial increase provided, after taking all the things that the member talks about into consideration. That's planning, that is what good management is all about. That is not shoeing in the dark and pulling figures out to be used to argue things like filthy hospitals as the Conservative members argued last year and things of that nature. I have some rather interesting information about that debate which maybe we'll get back into yet in this session in the consideration of these Estimates.

Let's make a little bit of a comparison, Mr. Chairman. Let's take a look at the 9.5 per cent increase that we're providing to our health care programs in Saskatchewan and compare that to the 2.6 per cent which is being provided by the new Conservative government in the province of Manitoba – 2.6 per cent increase to the health care budget in the province of Manitoba! Now the member, I don't know whether he talks to his colleague, the new Premier of Manitoba, Premier Lyon but he should, because obviously Conservatives think alike. There is likely a pretty good story that Saskatchewan people ought to know what would happen in this province if those gentlemen over there ever got elected. The member for Thunder Creek shakes his head in agreement, Mr. Chairman, which is a rather interesting sign. Let me tell the member, in case he doesn't read newspapers very often that come from Manitoba that recently there is a great deal of concern because of this miserly 2.6 per cent increase which the Manitoba Conservative government is providing. It is indicated in the Winnipeg Free Press of March 25 (and I wish the member had been here yesterday because I wouldn't have to repeat this again this afternoon) that there will be something in the magnitude of 1,000 hospital workers who will lose their jobs in the city of Winnipeg between now and Christmas because of the 2.9 per cent in additional money for operating expenses of health facilities that are being provided by that Conservative government in the province of Manitoba. I'm prepared to compare our 9.5 per cent to that kind of a situation. What about the province of Ontario which is supposedly much more wealthy than the province of Saskatchewan without providing an increase of some 4.5 per cent. The members in the Conservative caucus will get up and argue and say, oh, no, we would never put on deterrent fees. But as I said yesterday the action speaks louder than words. They should know, and the people of Saskatchewan do know, that every Conservative government has got deterrent fees. We have a Conservative government in Ontario that recently increased them by 37.5 per cent, so that families pay \$528 a year for premiums; some of them pay greater amounts of health taxes regardless of whether their income is \$80,000 or regardless whether they are able to get money from management associations or whatever company they may be able to run, or regardless whether they are earning \$5,000. They still have to pay \$528 a year. That's an unjust tax and it's got nothing to do with ability to pay and is a tax on health care. That is not the approach we are taking in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and the member ought to know that. We are providing a 9.5 per cent increase in health dollars for our health services in the province of Saskatchewan. I can assure the members of this House and I can assure the people of Saskatchewan that it is going to provide the kind of level of services that we have had and indeed it is going to provide some improvement because provisions in this budget are there to provide some very significant improvements, including an additional number of level IV beds, including funds to be provided for nursing homes where they have heavy care patients that right now they have to look after and need the additional funding to provide the services that they need. All of those things are being provided, a new day care hospital in the city of Moose Jaw to try some innovative and new approaches. Now the Neanderthal approach of those members opposite would say as the member for Saskatoon-Sutherland clearly enunciated yesterday here is that we should continue to run along

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merrily the way we have been doing. "Don't do anything different. Don't spend any money on prevention," he said. "Don't spend any money on prevention. Use that money and buy another machine." You use that money and look after some more people who are going to get sick. Well I'm telling this House, Mr. Chairman, as I did last night that we believe there ought to be a broader range of services that we should be obligated to provide. Although we are prepared, as the record will show, to provide the kinds of services that we ought to provide with a high standard in our hospitals, we are also at the same time prepared to put some priorities on the prevention end of things and we will continue to do that.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Chairman, am I being recognized?

**Mr. Chairman:** — Order, please. The member for Nipawin.

**Mr. Collver:** — Thank you very much. I didn't quite understand the minister's reply to my, what I thought, rather simple question from a very simple person. Perhaps I will ask the question another way. Is the minister budgeting in the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan for fewer employees of the Saskatchewan hospitals? Are they allowing for fewer numbers of employees and if so, in what areas?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — The answer to the question is, No.

**Mr. Collver:** — Now, I am awfully sorry here, you have the same number of employees or more in the Saskatchewan Hospital Service Plan, is that correct? Is that correct, Mr. Minister? Under Saskatchewan Hospital Association there is either the same number of more in 1978-79 as there was in 1977-78?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — I can give the answer to some extent and indicate the kind of trends that are there. If the member had been here yesterday he would have known that all of the budgets have not been worked out with all of the hospitals; all of the budgets have not been finalized with the hospitals and I indicated that this would happen about the middle of April. I am not prepared to give him the precise figures but I think the record will show the kind of things that happen in health care in Saskatchewan. In 1976 the actual staffing was 10,334.6 approved; in 1977 it was 10,406.2 approved and as I said, the figures for this year - I can't give as precisely as that because all of the finalizations aren't there but I can tell the member, as I told you before, that there is not a decrease. Now, I want to clarify one thing because it seems the member opposite is a little confused with the Co-op Wage Study and I did not explain quite as clearly as maybe I should have in response to one of his questions. Keep in mind that part of that Co-op Wage Study and the retroactivity portion of it is provided for and paid in the 1977-78 budget so all of that does not carry over into 1978-79.

**Mr. Collver:** — Certainly the minister would agree that the Co-op Study, the 3.7 per cent is an ongoing expenditure of the department and of the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. So therefore the 3.7 per cent would be included in the following year, compared with this year. Now there might be whatever portion or small portion of the year that was retroactive in the current fiscal year, whatever small portion there might be, but that certainly wouldn't apply in the forthcoming year. It would still be the same relationship so I think the 11 to 12 per cent that the minister earlier estimated was going to be the increased cost of wages in the year 1978-79, the minister sits shaking his head, that is not the correct number? That's the number the minister gave me before, 11 to 12 per cent increase in the cost of wages for 1978-79 over 1977-78; are you changing the story now?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — I am not changing the story. I just want to clarify some more misinformation that the member has imagined. I want to point out that some of the positions in the Co-op Wage Study are red circled. Now, for the benefit of the member, so that he understands what that means; that means that as they are recruited and replaced in the future the increase may indeed be reduced to less than 3.7 per cent. So not necessarily does it mean that that 3.7 per cent carries Health totally through from 1977 to 1978 and on.

**Mr. Collver:** — The minister mentions the word 'red-circled' and I would assume that means the position, as it comes free, is going to be abolished.

Is that not correct?

It means the position is going to be downgraded? Does it mean the position is going to be downgraded?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — It is grandfathered as long as the incumbent is in it but when the new recruitment takes place for the position it will likely be recruited at a lower level.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Chairman, I am sorry; I just want to get absolutely clear what the minister is saying. You shake your head, Mr. Minister, if I am wrong in this because I just want to make sure that I've got it understood for myself.

The minister approved 10,406 positions in 1977; the minister or the department approved somewhat less than that in 1976. The minister says that he is going to approve not less than 10,406 positions in the year 1978. Am I correct so far?

All right. So the number of employees is going to be the same. Now statistically in an organization as large as one with 10,000 employees I think the minister would agree with me that it's not statistically significant that a few positions might be red-circled and that the grandfathers who come out are replaced with people who are less qualified and therefore less well paid. I am sure that the minister will agree that at the same time that that's happening other people are growing in the civil service, moving into a new category and are developing higher paid jobs as it is going on. So statistically I think the minister could agree, that the 10,406 positions in 1977, would be constant.

The minister has stated earlier (and has not changed his plea on this) that the cost of salaries is going to go up, approximately 11 to 12 per cent. Those salaries represent 75 per cent of the budget of the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. In addition to that the other 25 per cent is contract-type work and I am sure the minister will agree that the contract-type work and utilities and gas and electricity have not gone up any less and that they will not go up any less than 15 per cent.

Now that has to mean, no matter how you cut it, no matter how you divide it up, that has to mean that the \$255 million is going to be spread around on either fewer people or on less contract service. Somewhere there has got to be a cut because you can't allocate 9.5 per cent increase overall when of the only two components of that \$255 million, one is going up 11 or 12 and the other is going up 15. So there is no way that you could only go up 9.5. The level of service must in fact go down. What I am asking the minister is this, how can he possibly make the people of Saskatchewan believe that the allocation to health care services this year is not going to be less than last year, especially in the light of the minister's stated objective of providing for more level IV beds? Now naturally the minister is suggesting he is going to provide more level IV beds to take up the slack of the people in level I to level III beds, primarily in level III who believe that they should be in level IV. He wouldn't be going the other way. Oh no! Because this Department of Health and the Saskatchewan hospitals have been acting so efficiently I say to the man for Saskatoon Eastview . . . no, no, they have acted so efficiently says the minister in the last two years that no one is in a level IV or V bed today that should have been in a level V or VI. No one! The only differentiation (and the reason the minister says he is going to increase level IV beds) is that there are a number of communities — Davidson is a prime example, where very serious problems are occurring as a result of the lack of level IV beds. I am sure the member for Arm River (the Minister of Education) would certainly attest to that fact in the town of Davidson, that there was serious need there for level IV beds. I know that the minister has had petitions

in this regard from the people of the town of Davidson to add to the number of level IV treatment beds in that area.

It seems to us that you are saying, we are going to take up the slack of level IV into the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. Level III, which the people have to pay a large chunk of themselves, they are the ones who will take the benefit of level IV. We are going to provide that, we're going to add the same number of employees or more, we are going to increase their salaries 11 to 12 per cent and at the same time we are going to add 2,000 more older people in the province of Saskatchewan next year than last year and they use 40 per cent of the services, and at the same time we can do that with only 9.5 per cent more money.

Now, Mr. Minister, I don't think that adds up. If you can possibly show how that adds up I would be more than happy to say, congratulations to you, in developing this kind of standard of health care. Congratulations to you for adding 9 1/2 per cent. Governments who add only 2.6 per cent to their health care program don't deserve to be called governments today. I believe that, Mr. Minister, I believe that there is a level of health care the people have come to expect in the province of Saskatchewan and they are entitled to receive it in a province like this. They are entitled to receive it but, Mr. Minister, you don't get it both ways. You don't get to say to the people of Saskatchewan, look at what a wonderful plan we are providing for you, we're increasing here and there and everywhere, when in fact there isn't an increase. I can say your 9 1/2 per cent increase is certainly better than the 2.6 per cent that was added in Manitoba. I can say that, or \$2.6 million, I can say that today and without fear of argument. But, but I say to you that at the same time in Manitoba they are saying, this is what we have to do with our hospital care system there and I'm not going to presume to speak about Manitoba because, quite frankly, the government of Manitoba was elected by the people of Manitoba and it is up to them to comment on the Manitoba situation. The fact of the matter is, you are trying to get it both ways. You are trying to say, we're increasing the service, we're increasing the allocation for our senior citizens and you're not. You are in fact decreasing the service and increasing the problems for every hospital in the province of Saskatchewan.

I ask you to explain how, please, how you can increase your budget by 9 1/2 but you increase the components of your budget by 11 or 12 or more?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Chairman, the member is very nervous. The member for Nipawin, the Leader of the Conservative Party is very nervous about any reference that I or anybody else in this House makes to the disastrous record that is being so quickly established in the province of Manitoba by a Conservative government.

Now, let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, why the member for Nipawin is so nervous. He is so nervous because the people of Saskatchewan in all the places he has been going around to have been telling him that they don't believe him anymore. That's why, Mr. Chairman. The people of Saskatchewan are telling the Conservative leader that they don't believe him because of the lack of credibility he and his caucus have established in this House using the same kind of analysis, using the same kind of argument that the member has been using for the last half an hour or one hour in discussing the money that is being provided in the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan for our hospitals. And they know, as the record shows, that those arguments which they used in 1975 and used in 1976 and used in 1977 have been dead wrong, everyone of them. I'm telling you, Mr. Chairman, and this House, that once again the arguments that the member tries to use are going to be dead wrong because although he likes to play

around with the smallest figure and apply it to circumstances as he chooses to apply it to, he used a 9.5 per cent increase in the overall health care services while talking about the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan hospitals, he neglects to talk about the specifics. He neglects to talk about the fact that in the SHSP appropriation as well as the grant in assistance of clinical services provided by the medical education system which used to be in that position, there is indeed an increase in that field of 12 per cent. Now I would be interested in knowing why the member opposite chooses to ignore that figure which I am prepared to stand by as being an adequate provision of funds to maintain and indeed improve in some categories the services that are being provided by our hospitals in Saskatchewan as has been the case in other years.

Now I can't be responsible nor would I want to be responsible for his arithmetic. That's his arithmetic and the people of Saskatchewan will have to judge on whether his arithmetic is the one that's most credible or the record of what happens in health care in Saskatchewan in the coming year. And if you take the record of what happens in the health care in Saskatchewan in the coming year and compare to other years, anyone can argue and see pretty clearly if he wants to see that it's the best record of anywhere or any province of Canada.

The member talks about level IV beds and the need. Well, we recognize that need. I indicated last night that we have not been sitting idly by waiting for 1978 to provide an increase in level IV beds in the province of Saskatchewan. Since first elected in 1971 we have had a very substantial increase in the number of level IV beds in this province. Since 1973 we have increased the number from six hundred and some to over 1,100. So we have not been sitting idly by. Certainly we have not been using the technique that is being used in every Conservative province and the two Liberal provinces in Canada, right now, of cutting back. We are not providing funds that will lay off 1,000 workers in the hospital field in the city of Winnipeg alone. That is not going to happen in Saskatchewan.

In 1976 when those members used the same kind of arithmetic as the member for Nipawin used today, they said there were great massive cutbacks in numbers of health workers in the province. While they were using those arguments, the number of publicly supported health workers in the province increased by 898. Now if that is the kind of arithmetic the member wants to use, Mr. Chairman, he can use it and the people of Saskatchewan will judge on whether his arithmetic is credible or whether the performance of this government is credible. I maintain that the record of the government is much more credible than his arithmetic.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Chairman, the minister has asked for arithmetic so perhaps it is necessary to go through the arithmetic. I am sure the minister will, in fact, correct me if we are wrong. He was once a school teacher and I am sorry I don't have a blackboard here that I could go through and do the problem that he suggests I do.

Of the \$232 million last year, 75 per cent of it was spent for wages, 75 per cent. That comes to approximately, more or less, \$175 million. Is that correct, Mr. Minister, approximately, of the \$232 million? I will go on while the minister is checking with his advisors to see if 75 per cent of 232 is 174 to 175. That is fine.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — \$174 million.

**Mr. Collver:** — \$174 million. That was applicable to wages. Now the minister has stated, to this Assembly today, that the wages for the years 1978-79, with the



adjustment in terms of percentage adjustment for inflation, plus the assessment that was done will amount to approximately 11 to 12 per cent. I would like to take the lowest number of that, or 11 per cent, and suggest to the minister that that is approximately \$18 million. Would the minister object to that \$18 million increase approximately, provided the number of employees stays exactly the same?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — I think, once again, the member in usual Conservative tradition twists and turns and puts out of context what I said. When I talked about the 11 or 12 per cent, I talked about last year. Well, don't say that I talked about it for the coming year, which you just finished saying. It was 11 or 12 per cent last year, which included the Co-operative Wage Study. We don't anticipate that it will be quite that high this year. We don't know that because the negotiations have not been completed. So you can't argue on straight figures as you are attempting to do now with your kind of peculiar arithmetic. I am telling you that we have provided, in this budget, sufficient funds to make sure that the standard of services in the hospitals is adequate and that there will not be a reduction.

I want to make another clarification on the Co-operative Wage Study, which was a 3.7 per cent increase last year. I mentioned earlier that that 3.7 per cent does not carry itself through into future years. Indeed, because of the red circling that increase goes only to 1.5 per cent and not 3.7 per cent. So you can't use the arithmetic of the member opposite of taking some figures out of the air and adding them up and saying well this is what is going to happen. The difference between his analysis, as is usually the case, and the difference between the analysis by this government and the spokesmen by this government, is that we prefer to deal in the facts, not in the figment of the imagination, as the member opposite does.

**Mr. Collver:** — The minister has a great tendency to use the word sufficient and use the word adequate. The purpose of this Committee of Finance is to determine whether it is sufficient and to determine whether it is adequate. Your mere statement that it is sufficient or that it is adequate is not sufficient for the people of Saskatchewan. They want you to prove those words, sufficient and to prove the word, adequate. All I am asking you to do is to tell me then if you want to go another way.

You allowed for \$174 million for SHSP employees last year. How much are you allowing for increase for employees through the SHSP grants? How much money? (Inaudible interjection). I will say it again. How much increase are you allowing on the \$174 million for the SHSP employees for the forthcoming year?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Chairman, I want again to reiterate what I said about the fact that negotiations have not been completed. Therefore, I want to help the member and provide some of the answers that he is asking for. If he can't understand, through a discussion across the floor, some of the figures that I have been providing him (that we can provide), I will ask my people to provide an analysis and a comparison between last year and what is projected for this year and we will put it down on paper and provide it for him. As soon as we can do that, you will get it and you can take a look at it. You will get the data.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Chairman, the minister has budgeted, for the coming year, under the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan, some \$255 million. The minister has said that approximately 75 per cent of that figure is wages — approximately — he already has said that today.

**Mr. Mostoway:** — Those are management fees.

**Mr. Collver:** — Well, if you want to call them management fees, Mr. Member from Saskatoon Centre, you may call them anything you like, but the people will understand what you are trying to do. The point is, Mr. Minister, you allowed for a number. All we want to know is what number did you allow for? We don't need an analysis, you have it right in front of you! You allowed for a budgeted number in the forthcoming year, '78-'79. What did you allow for?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Mr. Chairman, the total increase in the health budget of 9.5 per cent and an increase of 12 per cent in hospital care. What the member wants me to do, Mr. Chairman, is give some kind of a figure which will somehow be tagged a salary. I am telling the member and this House that negotiations are going on and I am not prepared to prejudice these negotiations by giving him some figure about what might be in there for salaries. I am telling the member what the figures are for the provisional health budget — they are adequate as they have been in other years, and when the negotiations are completed, we will know what the requirement is. Our anticipation is, that there are sufficient funds to be able to cover all the needs that will be made through the hospitals.

**Mr. Collver:** — I would like to ask the minister one question. Is his hedging on these questions the reason why the SHSP reports for 1977 is not yet in our hands?

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Well, no. The report has got nothing to do with the question that we are talking about here, as the member well knows, and it was debated in this House last year's legislation, in agreement across Canada to bring uniformity in the fiscal years of hospitals and hospital budgeting, and because this is the adjustment year, that report is not yet tabled, but it will be tabled, as was clearly outlined during the debate on the provisions to the bill, which made the changes.

**Mr. Collver:** — Mr. Chairman, because of the minister's response today, I would like to make a motion, seconded by the member for Indian Head-Wolseley, that this committee no longer examine the health care estimates, until the report from SHSP is tabled. I ask the member for Indian head if he would write it out.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Chairman, I would like to support that motion and stand on it and I would also like to do something else. The minister's refusal . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — Order, order! I wonder if I could have that motion in writing please.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Chairman, I would also like to suggest that the minister turn around and either put up or shut up.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Order, order!

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Now the Department of Municipal Affairs, everybody knows what the grants are. Last year we heard the minister stand on his feet and say it was adequate and sufficient and University Hospital . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — Order, order! I am not listening to those guys, we are just waiting for the motion . . .

**Mr. MacDonald:** — You mean I have to speak to the motion after it is put, is that what you are saying, Mr. Chairman?

**Mr. Chairman:** — Yes. I am just waiting for the page girl to bring it over and I will let you talk right away.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Chairman, I know that the lawyer from the back bench is always right, but there has been no motion put. He said he was going to make a motion, but he has put no motion.

**Mr. Chairman:** — He moved a motion and I am merely waiting for the page girl to bring it over and when it gets here I am going to have to look to make sure it is in order and then I am going to let you talk to it if it is.

I find the motion in order.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Chairman, I want to speak just very briefly to the motion.

First of all, it has been a rather strange performance. First of all there is no question about that we have been unable to get any information. It is the first time the Department of Health estimates have ever been introduced in this Assembly before hospital boards have had an approved budget. Never before in the history of Saskatchewan.

It is rather interesting that health estimates were put forward early in this session of the Legislature, rather than at the end when the SHSP report would have been approved and when hospitals in the province of Saskatchewan would have been given information as to their budgets.

The performance of the minister, in suggesting that in the allocation of \$255 million to the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan he does not have an amount stipulated for salaries, is an insult to his department because the government and Treasury Board is certainly not going to approve \$255 million unless it is earmarked for a specific purpose and the minister knows it.

The minister also knows that he has a responsibility in this Assembly to answer questions relating to the fiscal policy of his department and the spending and the expenditures of the funds of that particular department. There is absolutely no excuse for denying the member for Nipawin the amount of money, the \$255 million that is earmarked for salaries. No reason, absolutely and whether the negotiations are finished or not, every year there is a certain amount earmarked for salaries and negotiations are still going on. So the minister knows that as well as anybody else.

Mr. Chairman, I want to suggest to the minister that in order to prove to this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan that there is adequate information, that he support this particular motion and all the members support it and until such time as that information is made available to all the members of the House and to hospital boards particularly so that there will be an opportunity for hospital boards to determine whether or not there is sufficient and adequate money to look after it. The minister says, we have increased the number of patient-days. But does that mean that the patient-days are the same in every hospital? He says that the number of employees is the same. Does that mean that the approved cost for employees' salaries in each hospital is the same as last year? Certainly, as the member for Nipawin indicates, if they are expanding

the services, if they expanded the number of patient-days, if they are including level IV care, there is going to be a reallocation of the resources of the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. No question about it . . . a reallocation of those resources, to other hospitals, to level IV institutions or wherever those resources may be needed according to the program of the Department of Health.

Right now the minister stood up here and asked us to approve a budget of some \$255 million, plus all of the rest of the Department of Health, without any information, without any information going out to the hospital boards themselves and he uses that, and if the former minister will recall that last year when he put that act through, I indicated to him that this very situation would exist this year. That is all I am saying, Mr. Minister — say to you that I hope everybody will support this resolution. We can stand item 1 right here for the Department of Health. There will be no difficulty. Call another department, bring that department in and April 1, after the SHS report is completed and in our hands, we could turn around then and proceed with the Department of Health estimates. Surely to heavens, the government does not expect us to proceed with the kind of information that is now available. As I said last night, these estimates are a farce, and they are a farce because not only have you not divided the SHS report — hospitals have not had the budgets approved and you are even refusing to give information about the basic budget you have allocated and that your department has presented to the Treasury Board.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST**

### **Hon. Jean Chretien**

**Hon. W.E. Smishek (Minister of Finance):** — Mr. Chairman, we have a distinguished visitor with us this afternoon and I would like to introduce him to the members of this Legislature. I am pleased to be able to introduce the Hon. Jean Chretien, the federal Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Smishek:** — Mr. Chretien has been in western Canada and he dropped over to Regina to see me and discuss some problems of mutual interest and mutual concern, particularly in respect to the Canadian economy and the Saskatchewan economy.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. G.H. Penner (Saskatoon Eastview):** — Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could join the minister in welcoming the Minister of Finance. We noticed that you are seated on the wrong side of the House; however you are welcome to come and join us here. I would also like to say that I hope that your expertise in the finance field rubs off on the Minister of Finance in Saskatchewan during your time here.

**Mr. R.L. Collver (Leader of the Conservative Opposition):** — Mr. Chairman, I too would like to join, with other members of the Assembly, in welcoming the Minister of Finance to the Assembly. He is either on the right side of the House over there or on the right side of the House over here. I cannot really recall any time he has ever been on this side of the House.

**Mr. E.L. Tchorzewski (Minister of Health):** — Mr. Chairman, may I also, while I am on my feet, extend a welcome to the Hon. Mr. Chretien to the Saskatchewan

Legislature.

Now, Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment on sort of the things that the member from the Conservative caucus and the member from the Liberal caucus are trying to do with this resolution. I find it rather interesting that when it comes to this kind of thing – when it comes to trying to make some kind of politics on issues that should not be even relevant, the Liberals and Conservatives can very quickly unite, as they have done in this resolution. But what the member for Nipawin and, surprisingly enough supported by the member for Indian Head-Wolseley, are attempting to do, is prevent the passage of the health appropriations in the Legislature until the summer because the annual report, as the members well know will not be ready until some time in June. That should be no surprise to them; that should not be a surprise to the members opposite, Mr. Chairman, because last year when we had legislation changing the year from the calendar year to the fiscal year which is brought about in order to bring uniformity across Canada, the members opposite supported it. Now, after they have supported it last year and knowing what the implications of that were going to be, they get up in this House and they say we should not proceed with the Health estimates until the annual report which obviously would have different times, is tabled in the House. So, Mr. Speaker, the logic of their arguments in that respect fail to convince me as I hope they will convince every other member of this House. I would ask the members of this House to defeat that motion on that particular resolution.

Now let me give you some information on the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan and the timetable for making budget allocations to hospitals. On September 1 the plan determines the number of patient days approved for each hospital and advises the hospital of the number by September 1. Each hospital is then in a position to prepare its budget on the basis of approved patient days. From September 1 to December 31 each hospital prepares and submits its operating budget by the due date of December 31. From January 1 to March 15 each hospital budget is reviewed by the plan on the basis of providing a reasonable level of funding for the volume and type of service the hospital is expected to provide. From March 15 to March 31 while the greater proportion of this review which I have mentioned above is carried out before March 15, it is not finalized until the Health Department estimates are approved by the Legislature. What the members here want is to stall that even further and not approve the estimates. From April 1 to April 15 each hospital's budget is finalized at which time each hospital is advised of its budget allocation including the approved number of staff. That is the timetable – that is the timetable that Saskatchewan hospitals know and clearly understand and accept and support.

There is no question from people on hospital boards and there is no question from people who are in the administration of our hospitals about this. There only appears to be a question in the minds of the Leader of the Conservative party and the member for Indian Head-Wolseley. I don't know why they don't talk to at least those hospitals that they represent in their constituencies so that they would understand what the circumstances really are.

The member for Indian Head-Wolseley when he got up, made a comment which is completely inaccurate. He said that this is the first time the estimates of the Department of Health have been before this Legislature before the hospital board – before all of the budgets have been finalized for all of the hospital boards. Well I want to put it on the record and make it clear to this House, Mr. Chairman, that that is not correct. This is not the first time. In fact, it is not an uncommon kind of circumstance or development. The member once, I understand from reading some history of this Legislature was the Legislative Secretary to the Minister of health, the hon. Mr. Steuart. During that time

when he was a Legislative Secretary there were incidents when indeed the estimates were considered before those finalizations were made and he should remember that before he makes that kind of a statement.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have said enough about this issue and I would urge the members of this House to defeat that particular motion.

**Mr. Collyer:** — Mr. Chairman, if I might just briefly comment on what the minister has just said to the members of this Assembly and including the members on his own side of the House. What he has said is: look take us on faith, take us on faith alone. We are the executive branch of government. I am the Minister of Health, says the minister. He says, take us on faith. Now the minister knows and knows very well, that if he wants to allocate a temporary allocation towards this budget, a month to month allocation, the Minister of Finance brings forward a bill to that effect and there is no problem insofar as the Saskatchewan hospitals are concerned. None whatsoever. The minister knows perfectly well that there is no possible way to examine the estimates for '78-'79 when you haven't got the information from '77 for \$255 million out of \$420 million of your budget, or almost 70 per cent of your budget. There is no way for any member whether he is on this side of the House or that side of the House to make any kind of an accurate assessment of the performance of the minister. Therefore, what you have to say is when he uses words like 'red circled', when he uses words like 'sufficient' and 'adequate', you have to take his word for it. Now surely, that's not the purpose of estimates. Surely that's not the purpose of any of us being here. Surely we are here to examine what the Minister of health is a very significant portion of the entire provincial budget is planning to do for the forthcoming year. Mr. Chairman, I want every member of this Assembly to understand something. Without an examination of the SHSP report and without an understanding of what the minister may be doing in the forthcoming year, the members opposite could be damning many citizens of Saskatchewan to receiving inadequate health care. We as legislators, we as individual legislators are responsible to our constituents that it is maintained and improved. The minister is saying to this Assembly, for administrative reasons, because it might be in June or whenever, and I suggest to the minister that if his department if they got working, could get the SHSP report out a heck of a lot before then. If they got working and took it as a priority item, they could get that report into our hands. What we are saying to the people of Saskatchewan is if we defeat this motion we are prepared to take this young man on face value for over a quarter of the budget of the people of Saskatchewan, we are prepared and for more than 60 per cent of his own budget. He is a new minister to this department. Why wouldn't the members opposite sitting in the back benches want to examine this absolutely essential part of their constituency — that their constituency insists on — before taking this minister at face value with words like adequate and sufficient. I ask the members of this Assembly to consider carefully what you could be doing to your own constituents without a proper examination of the report of SHSP before allocating this budget. There is no reason why it can't be done; none whatsoever. A monthly allocation could be made, as I have said before, by the Minister of Finance and the department would have sufficient to meet the needs of the hospital. I say to the members of this Assembly, for goodness sake, for the sake of the health of the people of your area pass this motion and postpone the estimates until the minister brings down his report.

**Mr. Penner:** — I think that in the last remarks of the minister there is added truth of the need for this motion to be passed by the House. He has expected us to sit and accept what he says and I invite members to reflect upon that in the light of the statement that the minister made a moment ago and having come from the portfolio of Education, he

ought to know better, when he indicated that there was no way that money could be allocated to hospital boards until the estimates have been passed. Now that is pure and utter nonsense. In Municipal Affairs the money has been allocated and people know exactly where they stand; rural councils, municipal councils, they know what the grants are that they are going to get this year. They know what the grants are. In the Department of Education, school boards know what the grants are going to be; they know darned close what the grants are going to be and you know that as well as I do. You know full well that that system has worked well; school boards have an indication of where they are going to stand financially; municipal councils have an indication and know where they are going to stand financially; there is no reason in the world why hospital boards ought not to know where they stand financially and have an indication of their funding.

**Mr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Chairman, what the Minister of Municipal Affairs says is accurate. It is an estimate. There is absolutely no reason why the Department of Health can't give hospital boards an estimate as well. When the minister turns around and says that the hospitals haven't had a budget approved occasionally in years. I can remember when the session started the 20th of January, I am sure that that is true but they are given an estimate and the people and members of this Assembly were given estimates and they certainly were given information, not the denial of information that the minister is trying to find excuses for justifying.

**Mr. R.H. Bailey (Rosetown-Elrose):** — I hear, during the course of this discussion, some statements from the Minister of Municipal Affairs saying they are only estimates and so on. Mr. Minister, if that be true, I think that the government of the day should perhaps be taken to task for some false advertising then, for this reason: You pick up a paper, Leader-Post. The first thing I see in the advertising of this government was, this is the name of the town, this is what they got last year and this is what they are getting this year.

Now the first thing I would like to take the government to task on is that that is false advertising on the first score because what they are doing is they are taking the grant last year and not mentioning any of the ancillary grants and this year taking the revenue grants and including everything in it. That is false advertising and this government has to be taken to count on that.

I challenge the minister, during this particular time, when you say that things are only estimates, if those school boards out there today — many of them this week formulated their budget and passed their budget and set their mill rate — if the statements which they receive on the amount of the grant that is going to be paid to them is only an estimate, the whole purpose which I went through yesterday was a farce simply because if it is estimates there is no degree of assurance at all that that is the amount of money being given. Let's get something straightened out here. The minister is having extreme difficulty. I am referring to the Minister of health, is having extreme difficulty because, as a matter of fact, what has happened is that he hasn't prepared himself to come to this House with estimates. He is totally unprepared; totally unprepared. There has to be some other branch of the government, there has to be some other department that is prepared to come to the Assembly and answer the questions from the opposition. If you are not prepared to do so, let's move to another department.

Mr. Chairman, there is no point in going through more and more of this rhetoric at this time because the minister hasn't got his budget in order, he hasn't got his estimates in order and if they are not in order we can't proceed. All this motion does, Mr. Chairman,

is to provide the minister with the opportunity to get himself in order to come to this House, to get his homework done. That is all it's asking for. I suggest to the members who are sitting in the back to support the motion. Otherwise, if we can't get the answers, if we can't get the estimates, we are going to be here a long, long time. For the Minister of Municipal Affairs to bring up the estimates fixed to the RM, I'll come back to this, sir, on this false advertising of this government. I'm going to draw not just one case to the attention of this House but I'll draw a dozen cases to the attention of this House where you are falsely advertising at the present time, absolutely false advertising stating that town 'X' got \$17,000 last year and this year is getting, \$34,000, but you failed to mention the auxiliary grants that was last year. That's false advertising. The Minister of Consumer Affairs should concern himself with this. If a private organization in Saskatchewan did that type of advertising you'd be down on their throat right away, you would jump right on it. But this government can be false advertising, all kinds of it. How much did it cost, a big shot in the Leader-Post? You know that famous back bench lawyer over there that has never contributed anything intelligent to this House so far is now giving us some more of the same thing.

Mr. Chairman, in the very paper that the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. MacMurchy) is reading there's an ad in there which is false advertising. If the Minister of health cannot at this particular time, if he hasn't got his budget prepared, if his estimates aren't there, if the division isn't there and the expenditures of his funds then we should support the motion; let him go with his consultants, come back into this House so that we can discuss it. I beg everyone in this Assembly to support this motion at this particular time.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

**YEAS — 16**

Wiebe	Clifford	Ham
MacDonald	Collver	Berntson
Penner	Larter	Lane (Sa-Su)
Anderson	Bailey	Wipf
McMillan	Birkbeck	Katzman
Nelson (As-Gr)		

**NAYS — 27**

Blakeney	Robbins	Cowley
Thibault	MacMurchy	Tchorzewski
Smishek	Mostoway	Shillington
Messer	Banda	Vickar
Snyder	Whelan	Nelson (Yktn)
Byers	Kaeding	Allen
Kramer	Dyck	Koskie
Baker	McNeill	Johnson
Matsalla	Rolfes	Lusney

The Committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:06 o'clock p.m.