

**Public Hearing: Department of Health (continued)**

**Mr. Chairman:** — Good morning. Unless we have any questions before they come in, I suggest that we ask the officials from the Department of Health to join us. I also might say that the Clerk has some additional copies of the auditor's report for the year ended March 31, 1989, if anybody wants an additional copy of the document . . . (inaudible interjection) . . .

**Mr. Rolfes:** — We tried that, remember? Oh, no, you weren't here. We tried that last year and your side voted it down.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Good morning, Dr. MacDonald, and all the officials from the Department of Health. I believe that, Mr. Rolfes, you had some questions and you wanted to continue on. A few more questions, Mr. Rolfes.

**Dr. MacDonald:** — If I may, Mr. Chairman, there's been one slight change in our membership today. Do you want the list read off again, or is that necessary?

**Mr. Chairman:** — No, that's okay.

**Dr. MacDonald:** — The other point before the questions, we did do some homework and we have some presentations for you. If you wish, we could start off with that.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Sure, we would appreciate that. If you have an additional official with you that you want to introduce, please do so.

**Dr. MacDonald:** — I would like to introduce Mr. Ron Waschuk, executive director of the prescription drug services plan.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Thank you. And now you say you wanted to answer some questions from the last meeting.

**Dr. MacDonald:** — Yes, we have some. We prepared some answers for questions that were asked that we didn't deal with last week.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Yes, by all means.

**Dr. MacDonald:** — Mr. Chairman, I'll follow through with answers to the questions as they appear in the record of the discussion that morning.

The first question that Mr. Rolfes had asked that we didn't have details of had to do with the travel for legislative secretaries, and so I have a schedule here that I can leave with the committee of the travel for both Mr. Martin and Mr. Sauder for that particular period.

There is no out-of-province travel in their expenses at all. It is all in province, but should you wish, there is a schedule of their in-province travel available to the committee. And we had provided you with the list of out-of-province trips that the minister made.

The next question had to do with the minister's meeting with the drug manufacturers, and I would simply report

that that meeting was with the generic drug manufacturers regarding the Saskatchewan formulary committee and the work of that committee. Those are discussions that take place from time to time with the manufacturers on the way in which we administer the drug plan in Saskatchewan.

The next question had to do with professional and technical services under general administration, and again I have a schedule that I'll table with the committee, having to do with our professional services under that general administration code in that particular year.

The next question had to do with the services that we receive from Stevenson Kellogg Ernst & Whinney with respect to counselling, and this was an item that was noted through expenditures of the human resources branch. Stevenson Kellogg Ernst & Whinney are a firm that provides a wide range of services, and in the area of management consultant services it involves personal financial planning, skills assessment, resume preparation, career planning, job search strategies, and support services and a connecting link with their offices across Canada.

So in this particular instance they were employed through . . . contracted through the Public Service Commission to provide special counselling services for out-of-scope staff in the Department of Health who were affected by the reorganizations that took place in that particular year. The services that they provided to our staff were as I just described, and there were in total 18 management and professional staff that they provided services to under that particular expenditure.

The question was asked as to whether that contract was tendered, and it was a contract that was arranged by the Public Service Commission, and I'm advised that there was a formal selection process that took place in picking that particular firm.

The last question then had to do with Planned Parenthood and the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association and our grants to that organization. Those grants were towards the general operating expenses of those organizations. The government grant traditionally is only a part of the expenditures that those organizations incur. In other words, they receive funds from other sources as well, so that while we provide a grant that supports their administration costs and their program delivery costs, there is no formal isolation of exactly what we paid for versus what their other revenue sources paid for. But in general, as I indicated previously, it was for educational services.

Each of those organizations had revenues from other sources. In the case of the 1987-88 grant, we only made a grant for the first two months of the fiscal year, April and May, and the grants were terminated to both organizations at that point in time. It was part of, again, a government review of the grants that it provided, and in this particular case it was felt that the primary functions of the organization had to do with advocacy, and so it was a decision that was made to drop them from our list of grant recipients.

And so for the first two months of that year, the money that was paid was simply for a winding down of our support to the organization. I do not have a formal accounting of that particular portion of the expense. Prior years we do have financial statements.

That's all, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I have just ... the costs of Legislative Secretary, I haven't got before me a calendar for the 1987-88 year, but I am somewhat concerned about the expenditures of one Lloyd Sauder for the 1987-88 year, because many of these so-called trips, I believe, took place during the session, while the session was on. And I'm just curious as to why these trips were paid for by the Department of Health when Mr. Sauder ... And the reason I'm asking these questions is because the destination is between his constituency and Regina. We didn't sit in April or May?

**Mr. Sauder:** — We didn't start until the end of June or late June.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Oh yes, that's ... Okay. But we still have some during the session, even if it started in June, because we went right till November, I believe, and there were a number of trips made at that time during the session. And I wonder why the Department of Health would pay for these when the Legislative Assembly already pays for trips for MLAs between their constituency and Regina.

Well I just want to know ... I think I need more details on this because there are a lot of them and I am somewhat concerned about that. Could you give me more details as to who Mr. Sauder met with, what were the objectives of the meetings, and exactly what was accomplished? Because there were 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 trips almost, excluding Mr. Martin's, almost \$4,000 for one Legislative Secretary. I'd like to have more details as to the objectives of those meetings, all of those meetings.

I mean, between Carrot River and Regina I can understand if he was a Legislative Secretary and went out to Wawota or went out to Carrot River or wherever he went. But between Regina and his constituency, why would the Department of Health pay for these?

**Mr. Loewen:** — I would have to explore that further, Mr. Chairman, as I would understand that the vast majority of these trips are prior to — particularly those that identify Carrot River — are prior to the session beginning. But obviously the Legislative Secretary carries a number of responsibilities on behalf of the minister, and those were the purposes under which these trips were taken and therefore billed to the department.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I would like, if you could, Mr. Chairman, I would really appreciate more detail on these trips made by Mr. Sauder, and exactly what those ... who he met with, what were the objectives of the conference or the meetings, and the exact costs. I can understand the mileage, but I also want the lodging and gratuities, if you could.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — ... (inaudible) ... understanding, Mr. Chairman, that some of these meetings, if they're held in confidence, they're held in confidence.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — No. Mr. Chairman, there are no ... If I may, Mr. Chairman, as far as I understand, there are no confidence meetings between a Legislative Secretary ...

**Mr. Hopfner:** — No, you said you wanted the details of the meetings. Maybe ... (inaudible) ...

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Oh, no, no, no. I want the objectives. Who did he meet with?

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Oh, okay.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I don't want the details of the meetings. Of course I don't. And you wouldn't give them to me anyway. No, and I understand that. I want to know who he met with and where did he stay and what were the gratuities? So, okay?

I want to ask one further question on that. Mr. Martin spent five days in February of 1988 in ... well assume he spent it in Saskatoon, for \$450. Can you tell me who he met with?

**Mr. Loewen:** — No, we don't have that detail here. We can find it.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Could you provide that for us?

**Mr. Loewen:** — Yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I want to go on to a few other items. The Saskatchewan dental plan. I believe it was in 1987-88 that the plan was dramatically changed. Under the subheadings there are differential, severance pay, and stand-by pay of 854,000; travelling expenses of 302,000; contractual services, 187,000; and advertising, 155,000. Can you give me just a quick run-down of those expenditures? I don't want any real ... don't have to give me all the details.

**Ms. Langlois:** — The amount for differentials, severance pay, and stand-by pay is for three early retirements and 74 deleted positions.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I couldn't hear you.

**Ms. Langlois:** — Sorry. The amount for differentials, severance pay, and stand-by pay is for three early retirements and 74 position deletions.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Deletions?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Could you tell me the three early retirements — who were they and what was the severance pay?

**Ms. Langlois:** — The severance pay amount was \$16,500, and I don't have the names with me.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I find it somewhat strange that you have the amount but you don't have the names. When you looked up the amount, would you not have seen the names?

**Mr. Loewen:** — If I might interject, Mr. Chairman, I think we would consider that to be private and confidential information between ourselves and the employee as to the amounts. I may stand corrected on that, but generally we would consider that to be confidential.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Well, Mr. Chairman, yes, I guess, Mr. Chairman, you've got to rule on that, but I find it somewhat difficult, you know, if we're going to . . . If our objective in this committee is to see whether or not money has been legitimately spent by the government, then I think we have to know who the people are. I mean, there's just no way that we can . . . I mean, you tell me \$16,000. It may well be that it's been well spent, but I can't make that judgement. And that's part of my job here. Unless I know who the people are — and could I ask, were they civil servants?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Yes, they would have been civil servants.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Were they long-term civil servants?

**Ms. Langlois:** — To be eligible for the early retirement program, they would have had to have been, yes. There was a formula of years and age.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I see, okay. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I'd like to have a ruling on that, if I may, whether or not that is confidential information.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Again, I'd like to hear the question that you put in your response.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — The question I asked was, I'd like to know the names of the individuals who received early retirement and the severance pay was \$16,500. I wanted to know the names of those individuals. And I'm given to understand from the officials that that is privileged information.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Well, Mr. Chairman, to make it short if . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — I want to get Mr. Loewen's response . . .

**Mr. Hopfner:** — I'd like to just interject on Mr. Rolfes' question to you before the officials answer. I would just like to say that maybe to speed up the work of the committee this morning that if the officials feel uncomfortable with giving those names here this morning, that they can possibly ask that of the minister and if he feels . . . or if it is confidential, find out, and then they could bring that information back to the committee in writing or whatever. If you want the . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — I'm not sure what the minister's office would have to do with this and why it would be a matter of ministerial policy, but . . .

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Well maybe there's some degree in the sense or set in with various . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — But I'd like to hear Mr. Loewen's response on the question.

**Mr. Loewen:** — My view is that I would like to check with the Public Service Commission on that matter, simply because it's a matter that extends across the whole of the public service, depending on the way that we answer it. And I simply am not sure about the provisions that . . . the advice that they would give me.

I had understood in Mr. Rolfes' original phrasing of the question he also wanted the amount for each individual. And I simply was uncertain as to whether that is something we would provide, but I would undertake to check that, and if it's available to be given, provide it back to the committee.

**Mr. Chairman:** — I think that's fair, Mr. Rolfes, to give Mr. Loewen an opportunity to see whether or not, you know, anything might be implicated in terms of the department. There may well be agreements between the department and individuals as to severance, and there may be stipulations that the names of individuals not be released in a contractual way.

So I appreciate Mr. Loewen's difficulty, and I think he should be given an opportunity to check that prior to answering. And yet again, I would just simply point out that if you're not satisfied with the answer we can always bring them back and . . .

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Chairman, yes, good enough. Yes, we're short of time. You made your ruling. Mr. Chairman, I don't disagree with that. The only problem is if we do that and if I really wanted to follow upon my question, I'd have to call all the officials back again. That's the problem that we have with this. Otherwise, I'd just get the . . . I'd get the names and that's the end of it. I'd have no opportunity of asking further questions.

And I don't think that I want to call them all back. That's the problem that I'm in. So let's leave it. Can you explain to me . . . provide them to us and then we'll . . . maybe we can do it under next year's.

Travelling expenses do not . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I know it won't be.

**Ms. Langlois:** — Travelling expenses would have been in-province travel for the dental therapists in that year.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Contractual services, and who were they with?

**Ms. Langlois:** — The majority of that cost would have been the dental hygienist training at SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology), \$171,000. And there were registration fees for staff to take courses of about \$10,000.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — That hygienist program — was that the year where the department decided to cut its funding on the program?

**Mr. Loewen:** — Mr. Chairman, in this particular year we

asked the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology to expand its dental hygienist program to provide some training spots for dental therapists who would no longer be working with the dental plan. And so in that expansion of the program itself, the arrangement was made that the Department of Health would pay for the costs of the expanded program capacity.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask a question on that because that's becoming . . . it's the year under review because that's when it started, I think, when the changes started to occur. But I think you're well aware we are having some serious problems with that right now, where dental therapists believe that they have to go other provinces now in order to become dental hygienists because the bridging program simply is not there, or it's not adequate. I'm sure you've had letters to that effect because I have had, and I don't know if other members have had.

What has happened to that program? If it was expanded in '87, why have we suddenly now got a problem with that?

**Mr. Loewen:** — I'm not sure how far we want to go with this, Mr. Chairman, in the sense that it then brings us forward into years beyond the year under review.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes, but it was initiated, the change in the program was initiated in the year under review.

**Mr. Loewen:** — And in that particular year we expanded the capacity of the training program.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — To what?

**Mr. Loewen:** — By 14 seats here at Wascana, and that was carried over. That has continued into the second and third year.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — So what was the total then? What's the total then at Wascana?

**Mr. Loewen:** — They had an initial intake of between 15 and 20, and this expanded the program to 30 to 35, in that neighbourhood of numbers.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — So we're up to 35 now, and that's still in existence at Wascana?

**Mr. Loewen:** — I'm sorry?

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Those positions are still . . . spaces are still in existence at Wascana?

**Mr. Loewen:** — Yes, there is still a class going through right now. This would be the third class that will be graduating very shortly, and that represents the total number of dental therapists that initially applied for retraining. We have now worked our way through all of the therapists that applied for that program.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I wonder if the members would permit me to — I could go to wait until a couple of weeks, but I want to ask one further question, if I may. And if you feel it's out of order, fine, I'll ask it under the next review.

Mr. Chairman, I just wondered, why then are we having the problem now? I mean, I've got a number of letters on my desk of dental therapists who are concerned because the bridging program isn't there, and they feel they have to go to Alberta in order to become dental hygienists. Why? I mean, what's the problem suddenly? And if it's out of order, I'll ask it under the next one.

**Mr. Loewen:** — Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, we have put through three classes and that completed retraining for all of those who initially asked for the opportunity. There are some others who in recent months have expressed an interest in retraining as well, and we in SIAST and the Department of Education are working on how we might deal with that. I don't have any specific sense here of the numbers of people that still wish to be retrained, but they have only come forward in the last few months and we are examining how we would deal with that.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Chairman, I just want to say to Mr. Loewen, I will be asking further details on that program under the next year under review, and I assume we will be at that in a month's time or so. So there seem to be some difficulties as far as students being able to get their preparation in this province, and I'll have to check up in more detail myself on that.

All right. I want to ask very quickly, advertising on the dental program, who was the advertising with and what was it for?

**Ms. Langlois:** — I have the purpose first: 132,000 was to advertise the program change, and another 20,000 would have been for brochures, some dental colouring books, and some duplicating services.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Dental colouring books?

**Ms. Langlois:** — These are promotions that we provide to children, and educational material that would educate them in an interesting way.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Sent to dental offices since it no longer was in the schools?

**Ms. Langlois:** — It would have been sent to schools.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Pardon me?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Schools.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — But the dental program was no longer in the schools. Why would we send them to the schools if the dental program was taken out of the schools?

**Ms. Langlois:** — There are still dental educators in the schools, and they would have used these as materials with the children.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Who was the \$132,000 with?

**Ms. Langlois:** — The majority of it would have been with Roberts & Poole, who would have handled the advertising placement.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Roberts & Poole. Is that a Regina firm?

**Ms. Langlois:** — I believe it is, yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay.

**Ms. Langlois:** — And there was also an amount with Dome Media Buying Services,

**Mr. Rolfes:** — That's a familiar name, hopefully not too long. I want to . . . I thought you guys would appreciate that.

I want to turn to laboratory and disease control. I just want to . . . there's a couple of million dollars, about two and a half, almost \$3 million on medical and hospital supplies. Is this referred to the laboratory here in Regina?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Yes, it is.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — And medical and hospital supplies of almost 3 million, could you just . . . I don't want all the details, but what would be some of the major items?

**Dr. West:** — These are largely the consumables that are used by the provincial laboratory. These are all the test kits, reagent test tubes, all the software which is necessary to run a very large laboratory which is doing something in the order of 5 million tests a year.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Is this an annual expenditure of approximately 3 million?

**Dr. West:** — Yes it is an annual expenditure and unfortunately, because of the cost of living, it's a rising expenditure as well.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I'm thoroughly familiar with the lab, so I just wanted to know what they were.

But on the next one, I do have a question on the next one — educational, scientific and recreational equipment. I am interested in the recreational equipment. What kind of equipment were these and who were they for?

**Dr. West:** — I believe this is scientific equipment for the lab.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I know the scientific, but the recreational.

**Ms. Langlois:** — There was no recreational equipment, it's just the coding that the Provincial Comptroller uses for that category of expenditures.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay, I'm just looking for a gym to work out in and I thought I could find one. Sorry, boys, I tried, but there wasn't any there.

Mental health. Could I turn to mental health. The allowances and retiring gratuities, is this the same as we were referring to before early retirement — the golden handshake?

**Ms. Langlois:** — No, the early retirement would be under the differential severance pay and stand-by pay.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. What is this allowances and retiring gratuities?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Okay, the other amount there that you see there is T.P.H.D. which is temporary performance of higher duties when individuals are asked to step into higher duties. That would have been the majority of the cost.

**Mr. Rolfes:**— Sure, okay. Now under the next one, severance pay, are we going to run into the same problem again here as we did in the last one? How much was paid for early retirement and who were the individuals?

**Ms. Langlois:** — That would represent the entire amount for early retirements; there were 103 of them.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — A hundred and three. And here again, is it possible for us to get the names of the individuals and the costs? Same thing applies as to the other question because it's a fair amount.

**Ms. Langlois:** — Mr. Rolfes, I might also add that there would have been shift differential and stand-by pay involved, as that would be involved in the running of the Saskatchewan Hospital at North Battleford.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — That's fair enough. I am more interested in the golden handshake payments and who the individuals were. There is a travel item of close to half a million dollars. Can you in general terms tell me what that is about?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Okay. We would have regional staff across the province and that would be the costs of them travelling, their CVA (central vehicle agency) vehicles, to serve the public.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Good enough. Contractual services? Who are they with?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Okay, 100,000 of it is with the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission to provide legal services for mental health clients; 273,000 is for the University of Saskatchewan, the psychiatric research division for research; 101,000 is with Souris Valley Regional Care Centre for medical supplies for the Weyburn psychiatric centre; and there are other small amounts that I could provide you as well, if you're interested .

**Mr. Rolfes:** — No, that's good enough. I am interested in that 100,000. Why would that not have been included under the subvote of Souris Valley Regional Care Centre? Why would we not have it in there? Because there was already, I believe, an increase of twelve and one-half per cent in the Souris Valley . . . and this is in addition to the twelve and one-half per cent?

**Ms. Langlois:** — This would be for expenditures directly attributable to the mental health program, and we would want to show them where they belong in terms of the actual costs expended. So these are for mental health patients at the Weyburn psychiatric centre.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — So in the previous year's subvote under

Souris Valley (Regional) Care Centre, the mental health services would not have been included in there either?

**Ms. Langlois:** — That's correct.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. I'll be getting back to that a little bit later.

Under the hospital and ambulance administration travel of 975, that's almost a million dollars in travel. Is that the ambulance service travel?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Yes, it is.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay, good enough.

Prescription drugs, advertising, we had some advertising. . . . okay, subvote 44, almost three hundred dollars in advertising. Can you tell me who did the advertising, and what was the advertising for?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Okay, again there was 226,000 for advertising the changes to the drug plan, and the rest would have been small amounts for duplicating printing of the formulary. And the advertising would have been with Dome Media Buying and with Roberts & Poole.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay, now the next one, communications and health. Was this the Everybody Wins? Was that the one of almost a million dollars under communications and health advertising?

**Ms. Langlois:** — That's a small portion of it. Three hundred and fifty-four thousand would have been for advertising the Safe Grad and Christmas alcohol programs; 370,000 for aids; 111,000 was for Everyone Wins.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. How successful . . . have you got any statistics at all? I'm interested in that Safe Grad program. How successful have we been in that? Have we got any statistics at all?

**Mr. Loewen:** — I'd have to say it's hard to make a cause and effect relationship here, but certainly the deaths from graduation exercises have reduced in recent years. There has been a reduction there. I don't have the specific numbers, but over the last 10 years there has definitely been a reduction.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Loewen, could I just leave that at that and just say, if you can find that for the next year's report, if you have any statistics on that at all, I'd be interested in that just to see how effective we have been, because in the . . . there's no doubt about it that in the '70s that was a real concern, just a terrible tragedy at some of these graduations. And I am very pleased that money is expended in that particular area to convince our young people that you don't need to drink to have fun.

So I'm very . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . pardon me? I think it has worked. I know, and I don't mind saying so. One particular high school in Saskatoon, we had I think about seven people killed in about three or four years. It was a terrible tragedy, so I'm pleased to see that we are

addressing that issue, and maybe you can make something available to us in next year's review.

Mr. Chairman, I want to, since I'm pressed for time I'm not going to spend . . . I've got a number of issues that I wanted to ask, but I'll leave them for next year. But I do have one here.

College of Dental Surgeons, in 1986-87 I think the subvote was 2.760 million. Under the year under review it was 6.451 million. I assume that was because of the changes in the dental plan. But the dental plan didn't come into effect, I believe, until half-way through the fiscal year. At least the legislation wasn't passed until well past the half-way point.

Did we expend all that money? Well obviously we did, because it's in *Public Accounts*. What would have been the total cost had the program been in effect for a whole year?

**Mr. Loewen:** — The 1986-87 expenditures of course would have been for the adolescent program, and 1987-88 there were still —from April 1 to August 31 the adolescent program was still in place, and we would've been making payments to them for that particular program. And then, effective September 1, the new children's program came into being, and of course the balance of the payments would have been for that purpose.

So in effect, the dentists were delivering a program on our behalf for the full fiscal year. It's just that it changed its focus during the year.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes, they were delivering a program for the adolescent for the whole year, but for the children's dental program, they only came into effect half-way through the year.

**Mr. Loewen:** — September 1.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — That's right. But my question still is . . . well I'll ask it from a different point of view. What was the participation rate then, from September until April, until the end of the fiscal year, of the children's dental program? What was the participation rate?

If it's not readily available, could you make that available to the committee then. I mean, if you haven't got it with you.

**Mr. Loewen:** — I would commit ourselves to doing that, Mr. Chairman. We certainly can provide enrolment rate. You'll appreciate that since this was just part way through the year, participation rate at that point in time was only partial.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — No, but if you could give it to me by month then, because I assume it would have increased as you went into the year. So if you could give it to me on a monthly basis, which I'm sure you have. Department of Health is very religious in keeping statistics. I know; I was there, and they're very good at it.

**Mr. Loewen:** — We'll provide you what we can, Mr.

Chairman.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. So I would like to have those statistics if I could.

Could you tell me why was Connaught Laboratories Ltd., why was that increased by 60 per cent over 1986-87. We went from 654,000 to over a million dollars.

**Dr. West:** — Mr. Chairman, vaccines purchased from Connaught Laboratories to immunize children, the original cost, as you say, is just over \$600,000. In the year in question, because Connaught Laboratories were having difficulty obtaining insurance, they created a trust fund and there was an added amount added to diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus vaccine so that that money was held in a trust fund. It didn't go into the company's general account in case they were held liable for adverse reactions to vaccine. They added an extra cost of \$3 a dose to vaccine, to DPT (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) vaccine, starting in that year, and that has continued till this time.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — You said it was held in trust. If it's held in trust, would you not get the money back if there were no damages claimed against the company?

**Dr. West:** — Except that there's an ongoing process and the fund only began in that year. And fortunately we have not seen such a lawsuit in Saskatchewan, but there have been lawsuits in other provinces where Connaught has had to pay the cost of the action. And until this time no damages have been awarded, but there are still many outstanding cases across Canada.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Let me just ask you a question then. If there are lawsuits initiated and successfully initiated in other provinces, does it mean Saskatchewan still has to pay if there are no lawsuits initiated from Saskatchewan?

**Dr. West:** — As I say, the cost is evenly distributed across the provinces by the number of doses that they give because there is a standard charge of \$3 a dose, and so therefore a province like Ontario using eight times as much as we do pays eight times as much as we do.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes, but Ontario also gets all the benefits. And this is an ongoing argument with Ontario.

**Dr. West:** — Proportionately, obviously we do not wish to see these serious adverse events, but obviously proportionately one would expect them to occur in the same ratio as well.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes, but where is Connaught located?

**Dr. West:** — Connaught is located in Ontario in Toronto.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Sure, of course it is. That was my point. That was my point. I mean that was the argument in the '70s against Connaught and I still have that argument. Ontario reaps all the benefits.

**Mr. Baker:** — Why don't we buy it here?

**Mr. Rolfes:** — No, it should have gone to Winnipeg, like I

suggested when I was a minister. That's where it should have gone.

**Mr. Baker:** — Why didn't you do it then?

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Because we couldn't get support from some of the other ministers. I supported it though in Winnipeg because that's where it should have been.

All right, that's good enough. I think you've given . . . I've no argument with you, of course. I'd vent my anger at Ontario and Connaught because it was the same argument that they were making in the '70s, as some of the people who are here know, and I think we . . . well, let's leave it at that.

I want to go to Decima Research. There was an \$86,150 expenditure. This is a new payment. It didn't seem to appear in the '86-87. Can you tell me the details of that expenditure? What was it for and . . .

**Ms. Langlois:** — It was research on public attitudes towards health care.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — What specifically, may I ask? Dental program, drug program?

**Mr. Loewen:** — They covered a number of issues relating to health promotion, health education, various kinds of government programs, and were able to provide us with advice on public interest, public priorities, issues of that sort.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Were the dental and drug program included? I think you've answered it for me. I want to know, when was it conducted?

**Mr. Loewen:** — I don't have the specific time frame that they used for this work present with me. I believe I could provide that to you.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — If you could, I would appreciate that, okay?

Everest & Jennings Canadian Limited. That was a \$259,000 expenditure. That is dramatically up from the \$75,500 of the previous year. Could you tell me who is, or who are Everest & Jennings? First of all, who are they?

**Ms. Langlois:** — I believe they're a wheelchair firm, and what they provide is equipment for the SAIL (Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living) program.

**Dr. West:** — That's correct.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Why the dramatic increase? The SAIL program was there before?

**Mr. Loewen:** — What we experienced in that particular year was that we had a significant increase in call for wheelchairs. Part of it had to do with the fact that there was some inventory replacement going on as the program shifted to the Saskatchewan Abilities Council who looked after the distribution throughout the province beginning that fall. And so there was some inventory replacement plus a higher replacement rate than we had previously been experiencing.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Why? Why the higher replacement rate?

**Mr. Loewen:** — In part, it simply seems that there was a growing demand, and the access through the abilities council depots around the province contributed to that growing demand. And the other factor that as the abilities council got itself organized to deliver this service, chairs that we might have spent . . . our own staff might have spent time making repairs to parts, in the case of the abilities council there was a period of time when they didn't do repairs to the same extent that we had previously.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Loewen, could you provide for this committee, and I will be asking the same question if you can provide it for the next. You can make it available to us in the next undergoing of '88-89 — the increase in the use of wheelchairs and other equipment from '86-87, '87-88, to '88-89, because I'll be asking that in next year's. Okay?

I want to . . . I'm running a little bit behind time here again. Minister of Finance, there was an item here of \$113,000 to the Minister of Finance. Can you just tell me what that was for?

**Ms. Langlois:** — That would have been for education and health tax that we pay on the purchases we make.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — That went up dramatically from . . . it went up about almost \$35,000. What did we . . . I mean was there a dramatic increase in purchase of some items?

**Ms. Langlois:** — It could have been accounted for in some of the big equipment items we buy in the lab. If we had bought a major piece of equipment we would have paid correspondingly more tax.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Can you tell me who, and I don't know if I'm pronouncing this correctly, Organon Teknika Inc., 107,000. This is up about 57 per cent.

**Dr. West:** — Organon Teknika is the company that supplies the kits for chlamydia testing, a sexually transmitted disease for which tests have only become available in the last four to five years. The rate of testing for chlamydia sexually transmitted disease has . . . obviously once the test was available, physicians began requesting it of the provincial lab and this is . . . all of the kits for chlamydia testing were bought from Organon Teknika.

Also, I'm not sure it may have started in that year. They also supply kits for testing for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Where are they located? Organon?

**Dr. West:** — They are a Canadian company but the Canadian company, of course, is a subsidiary of an international company.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Next item. Roberts and Poole Communications, 690,000. Can you give me . . . This is a just a dramatic increase over 1986-87. In fact they

received 78,000 in '86-87 to almost 700,000. It's over a \$600,000 increase.

**Ms. Langlois:** — I can just read this list to you if you like.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes.

**Ms. Langlois:** — AIDS program, 216,000; the Safe Grad, \$155,000; Winning Life-styles, \$111,000; dental plan program changes, 51,000; drug plan program changes, 47,000; Christmas alcohol drinking and driving program, 38,000; printing of Health's annual report, 9,000; printing of a fitness guide, 6,000, and it goes on from there.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Could you make that list available to the committee, please.

**Ms. Langlois:** — Yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation — there's 12 million, almost \$13 million. Can you tell me what were some of the major items included here?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Okay. Almost 11 million was provided for accommodation charges for all of the facilities and buildings.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Right across Saskatchewan?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — And the major items there was?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Probably some of our larger facilities, such as the T.C. Douglas Building would have been the major cost there.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. And the largest one in Saskatoon would have been?

**Ms. Langlois:** — It would have been Sturdy Stone.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Good enough. I won't ask any more questions on that one.

Southam-Paragon graphics for 433,000.

**Ms. Langlois:** — That would have been provision of stationery and printing of forms for all of our branches.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay.

Stevenson Kellogg Ernst & Whinney, \$138,000 — that was the one we discussed the other day, was it?

**Ms. Langlois:** — Yes it is.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay.

Tanka Research for 12,000. I know that's a dramatic decrease. What did they do wrong? — no, just joking, just joking, John.

**Ms. Langlois:** — They did some research on public



attitudes towards AIDS.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Thank you.

And the last one. I have one further — Technicon Canada Inc. for 471,000. What was it for?

**Dr. West:** — That was for a replacement piece of equipment for the laboratory, a machine called a SMAC 20 which does 20 blood chemistries at the same time on the same specimen.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — That's expensive, isn't it, the way those things go — paraphernalia.

**Dr. West:** — That's right.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay, fair enough.

Mr. Chairman, I would have a number of other items that I wanted to go through, but I will leave those for next time. They won't be under the same, but I noticed a number of them are identical or very similar to ones we had in '87-88.

That's all the questions I have, and I certainly want to thank the officials for their answers and hope that we can get those other ones that you didn't have available at the time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Are there any other questions?

**Mr. Baker:** — You did a good job, Herman. I guess being the former minister of Health you knew where you were heading.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Thank you very much Dr. MacDonald and all the officials for joining with us.

Does someone want to move the motion?

Moved by Mr. Hopfner, seconded by Mr. Britton that the hearing of the Department of Health be concluded . . . seconded by Mr. Rolfes, that the hearing on the Department of Health be concluded subject to recall. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Agreed

**Mr. Chairman:** — Shall we take a break and then come back in five or six minutes for Department of Health . . . or Social Services, excuse me.

**A Member:** — You're going to come back *in camera*, eh?

**Mr. Chairman:** — Yes.

The committee recessed for a short period of time.

#### **Public Hearing: Department of Social Services**

**Mr. Chairman:** — Good morning, Ms. Moore. I wonder if you might introduce your officials that you have with you.

**Ms. Moore:** — Thank you, I will. At the table with me, on my left, I have Allan Hansen, who is the associate deputy minister. On my right, Bob Blackwell, assistant deputy minister; and Elizabeth Smith, executive director of support services. In the back we have a number of other officials: Larry Moffatt from community living; Richard Hazel, family services . . .

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Can I just interrupt?

**Ms. Moore:** — Certainly.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Could they put up their hands when you're . . . the ones in the back, so when you're introducing them, so maybe I can remember who they are.

**Ms. Moore:** — Larry Moffatt, community living; Richard Hazel, family services; Casey DesChamp, child care; Phil Walsh, income security; Don Fairbairn, federal-provincial relations; Ron Lisk, young offenders; and Gerry Glasser from support services.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Thank you very much. On behalf of the committee, I want to welcome you here this morning. I want to make you aware that when you are appearing as a witness before a legislative committee, your testimony is privileged in the sense that it cannot be the subject of a libel action or any criminal proceedings against you. However what you do say is published in the *Minutes and Verbatim Report* of this committee and therefore is freely available as a public document. And you are required to answer questions put to you by the committee.

Where the committee requests written information of your department, I ask that 20 copies be submitted to the committee Clerk who will distribute the document and record it as a tabled document. And please address all comments to the chair.

And also, I might ask that if any officials in the back are being asked to comment on something, if you would step forward to the table so your voice can be picked up by one of the microphones, and to introduce themselves for the Clerk. Are there any questions?

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Just for clarification, Ms. Moore, in the auditor's report, referring to the overpayment. In a discussion prior to you coming into the room, we were asking if there was concerns with overpayment. And I guess you people have concerns with overpayment. Your 4 per cent is kind of your own guide-line as to where you want to reach.

But I was a bit surprised, with the emergency fundings and moneys that are issued to people in need. I understand that sometimes the department officials are taken by this and only one signature, only one individual is required to dole out moneys, cash, to individuals. Is this a practice all over the province?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, emergency payments require two signatures, if that's your question.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Oh, okay. It was pointed out to me, like I said, that it was only required for one individual to sign. I

was just wondering how, if that was the practice, how you who govern your own staff and then knew whether those dollars were appropriately accounted for, you see, because with the high overpayment and everything, if one individual is allowed to issue out dollars, there could be internal problems as well as the external problems. So you are indicating that on any moneys spent by the department it takes two individuals to expend those dollars.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, all cheque payments require two signatures. We can issue a voucher for other things with only the worker's signature, but that rolls back onto the file after.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — That voucher would be for clothes, food, or lodging, or something like this, and then it would come back into . . . What dollar value is an individual allowed to go up to?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, those vouchers are normally in the range of 50 to \$100, but with extenuating circumstances they can be higher than that.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I wanted to ask a question. Is it Ms. Moore?

**Ms. Moore:** — Yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Ms. Moore, I'd like to ask a question, a follow-up on Mr. Hopfner's question. What if you, an emergency situation, let's say on a weekend you have a battered family coming in, a mother with three or four children, do you mean to tell me the voucher can only be for 50 to \$100 in an instance like that? Let's say, for example, they need lodging or have to stay in a hotel that night; there's no other place available. All they're allowed to issue is a 50 to \$100 voucher?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, there are really two processes. What we do is that we issue assistance to meet the immediate need in the situation like has been outlined here. We could in fact arrange lodging for the individual and do those kinds of things. And we could also cut an overnight cheque if necessary.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes, I just wanted clarification, because that's what I thought you could do. Because \$50 or \$100 is simply not going to take care of the family for, let's say, a long weekend, or even a weekend — a short weekend, it wouldn't do it.

Mr. Chairman, you may want to explain to Ms. Moore the procedure. If somebody else wants to answer, she doesn't have to answer all the questions herself. If somebody else wants to answer, that's certainly acceptable in this committee. So I'm not saying you shouldn't be answering; I just . . . I think it's the first time you've appeared before this committee with . . .

**Ms. Moore:** — In this role it is.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes. Okay. I want to, unless somebody else has a question in this area, I do want to ask a question on, do you think that it's reasonable in the foreseeable future to get the overpayments down to, let's say, 4 per cent? And can you tell me, have you got — and again if

members disagree with me, rule me out of order — but you have an average, let's say, over the last 10 or 15 years what has been the overpayment? Have you got sort of an average?

I know it's probably high but it would be interesting to see what it is and whether we can get the 4 per cent realistically.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, as indicated, our target is to get to 4 per cent or below that. Clearly the trend line over the last couple of years, as indicated in the Provincial Auditor's report, is headed in that direction. I think there been a decrease of about close to 2 per cent in this year under review.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes, and you ought to be congratulated on that. But this question still remains: have you got an average for the last 10 or 15 years? What's the average? Is it 5 per cent? Is it 15 per cent, 20 per cent, 10 per cent? Do we have an average at all?

**Ms. Moore:** — We don't have that average for that period, that 10-year period, with us. I'm not sure it's available that far back. I know it has been substantially . . .

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Well it's not that important. I thought maybe you knew, and say okay, look, we've made progress over a number of years and we're gradually going down. I don't want you to spend any . . . a lot of time on it.

**Ms. Moore:** — What I do have here, Mr. Chairman, is '84-85, a percentage of 21.2 per cent.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Oh then we are making progress. Okay, that's good enough.

I want to ask one further question in that line. I am somewhat concerned of the 2.5 per cent, I believe, of employee errors. Can you tell me, what is that due to? I don't mean if they are confronted with a false information from the recipient. I don't think you would classify that as an employee error. Or would you? That's not classified as a . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No, okay. Then why is there a 2.5 per cent error made by the employees?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, there may be a number of reasons for that, including a failure to verify, according to procedures, the information that has been provided, and also maybe failure to follow the procedures as outlined, in an incorrect interpretation.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Is it also due to the fact that we have a fairly big turnover, and because you have new employees coming in who are simply not familiar with all the regulations and . . .

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, I would suggest it isn't directly related to that. If there are new employees, as in any job there's always a learning curve, but we don't see any direct correlation to that.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. I wasn't making any accusations, I hope you realize. I don't even know what your turnover is, whether it's high or not. I don't know.

I want to leave that unless somebody else has a question in that area.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Just a follow-up. On that point of error by employees, do you have measures to take to correct these immediately, or is this just something that may come to your mind and it's a backlog then of problems?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, the errors or the problems are always brought to the attention of the employee, and we have a follow-up procedure to ensure that we don't have built-in problems in the system.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I want to turn to some other areas. The year under review, '87-88, were there any golden handshakes? I mean, were there retirements where the people got the golden handshake? And if there were, how many, and what was the total severance pay?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, there were 123 early retirements in the year under review, and the total sum paid out to those employees is in the neighbourhood of — my math isn't all that good — about \$800,000.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. These were employees that had 30 years experience or over. Is that correct? Or not necessarily?

**Ms. Moore:** — I'll let Mr. Blackwell answer this for you.

**Mr. Blackwell:** — Mr. Chairman, I just don't recall what details of the early retirement package were in that fiscal year, but they all would have qualified under the retirement package they would have been offered at time.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Would you be willing to make that list available to the committee? Okay?

**Ms. Moore:** — I think so.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Good enough. I want to go to advertising, can you tell me how much money did Dome Advertising, Roberts & Poole, and Tanka receive the year under review, and was any received by Decima? And Decima for polling not advertising.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, Roberts & Poole Communications received \$17,374.41; Dome Media, 33,616.16; nothing for Tanka, and nothing on polling for Decima.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — That was total the Dome received, 33,000?

**Ms. Moore:** — That's my understanding.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — You guys weren't too generous with Dome compared to some of the others.

Okay, I want to get away from that. I want to ask a question as far as young offenders are concerned. Can you tell me how many spaces are available in the three correctional centres, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Regina. I know that the same thing applies for today, that spaces haven't changed. How many were available in '87-88? And of course you know what my next question is

going to be. How many inmates were in there?

For clarification, I'm interested in only the three facilities for now. May I clarify my question? My question was not clear enough. I first of all want the young offenders' institutions. I think I confused Mr. List on this. I want the young offenders, and then I'm going to be asking a question also on the correction centres itself, the one in Saskatoon, the one in Prince Albert, and the one here in Regina.

But I also want the spaces available for young offenders. For example, Kilburn Hall, that's no longer, I believe, considered a young offenders' institution, is it? Or maybe it is. I note some changes made, and I haven't kept up to date with it. Have I clearly confused you now?

**Ms. Moore:** — Can I just clarify the question, Mr. Chairman? You're wanting the spaces in the three young offenders' facilities?

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes.

**Ms. Moore:** — In the year '87-88?

**Mr. Rolfes:** — '87-88. Now in fact there may be others other than the three major centres. In fact there probably are.

Maybe it'd be easier if you could make a list available to the committee after and just indicate the number of spaces and the number of offenders who were in these institutions.

**Ms. Moore:** — We certainly could do that, if you prefer, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Well I'd like to have an explanation too, if you wouldn't mind, just a brief discussion on that.

**Ms. Moore:** — We have in the three centres, young offenders' facilities, in Kilburn Hall, there were 32 spaces; Paul Dojack Youth Centre, 88; and in North Battleford Youth Centre, 48.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Those are the only three centres we have youth offenders in?

**Ms. Moore:** — Those are the secure facilities.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Now can you tell me how many . . . That gives us 169 spaces, is that right? I believe, 169 spaces?

**Ms. Moore:** — 168, I think.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — 33 . . .

**Ms. Moore:** — 32.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Oh, 32, okay, 168. Now do we have any problems for capacity-wise for these students in the year under review? I mean, were we able to accommodate all the students, pardon me, all the young offenders; or did we have to move some of those young offenders to adult facilities? Or were we simply not able to accommodate

the young offenders?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, there were some times when we did have to get into an overflow situation; however, we were able to handle that within the existing facilities.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Would you have available statistics on the age of these young offenders? You don't need to give them to me now, but if you could make that available to the committee, I would appreciate that — the age and then the average age. Okay?

Now I want to go to adult institutions. We have . . . and this was my original question, but I went to young offenders first. I want to know the number of spaces that we have in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert in the adult correctional centres. How many spaces do we have, and in the year under review, did we have some serious problems with overcrowding?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, the adult correctional facilities are with the Department of Justice.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Were they in the year under review?

**Ms. Moore:** — Yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay, fair enough. I will ask that question under Justice then.

Ms. Moore, I want to turn to . . . I have a series of questions that I want to ask on another item, and it may be easier . . . We can have some discussion on these, but I'm sure you will not have the information readily available, and therefore if you could provide some of this information to the committee. I will read the question. If you have the information, I would appreciate if you could provide it. If you don't have it, simply take notice, and if you can provide it, provide the committee with the information, all right?

I want to know, in the year under review, how many child protection officer positions in the province went vacant in excess of three months. Now these will all be recorded so you really don't have to write them down because I've got a series of them. But I'd like to know, in comparison to the year previous, was this an increase or a decrease? I doubt if you have this information. Am I correct?

**Ms. Moore:** — We do not have that with us.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — No, I didn't think you would have.

Number two, how many financial worker positions went vacant in excess of three months, prior to being filled, in the year under review? Okay?

Number three, how many persons who applied for financial worker positions and child protection officer positions were certified by those from the department and the Public Service Commission, who did the interviewing? How many of those were certified by the department and the Public Service Commission, won the competition for the position, but then were rejected either by the minister's office or someone else through a process

called "name clearance?" Okay? They won the competition, they were certified, but then were refused by the process called name clearance.

All right. Number four, I want to know in the year under review, who did the actual name clearance in the department. Was it the deputy minister, or was it someone from outside the department?

If you have answers to any of these, I would appreciate them now, but if you don't have, I will just leave them.

**Ms. Moore:** — Do you just want to go through that?

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Well I have a number of questions. Any time if you have an answer, just stop me and then I'll wait for an answer.

**Ms. Moore:** — I have two comments that I'd like to make. One of them is just a point of clarification with respect to positions vacant. By that, Mr. Chairman, is that meant unencumbered?

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Well I simply want to know if you had a vacant position, okay?

**Ms. Moore:** — Yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — If you had a vacant position in the department, how long was that position vacant before it was filled? Okay?

**Ms. Moore:** — With respect to the questions about name clearance, I'm unaware of any of that, sir.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — All right, but I think there will be others who are . . .

**Ms. Moore:** — But I will undertake to review that.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. I want to also know, number five, how many cases have there been in the year under review where persons were certified for a position after being interviewed but then rejected by the department, if you have that information. All right?

Number six, I want to know who made the recommendation that there should be a district office of the Department of Social Services in Melville. That you probably will have with you. Who made that recommendation to the department that there should be a district office? In that regard also, I would like to know, what are the additional costs in terms of computer equipment, receptionist services, etc., to establish the district office in Melville?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, we don't have available the information specifically about who made that decision. It would have been made in the department and it would have been based on case-loads. But we can undertake to . . .

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes, I want to know who made it and why it was made, and then the costs involved, okay?

**Mr. Chairman:** — Just a follow-up to that, if the decision

was made by the department on the basis of case-loads, could you provide us with some breakdown then of your criteria for determining, on the basis of case-loads, when a district office should be set up, and some comparison with other offices in Saskatchewan?

**Ms. Moore:** — Yes.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Thank you.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Number seven, could you tell me . . . There's a case that has been brought up in the legislature the hiring of a person in Melville, in the Melville office. Could you tell me the qualifications of that individual who, if I remember correctly, was a next-door neighbour to the minister? Could you tell me the qualifications of that person for the social worker position that that person received?

Don't know? It's a well-known case.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information with me today.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Can you then provide us with a list of those who were employed to work in the Melville office initially, and their qualifications?

**Ms. Moore:** — I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Can you give us a list of names of people who were employed initially in the Melville office, and their qualifications?

**Ms. Moore:** — Yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Number eight, with respect to the hiring of Ron Crandlemire, C-r-a-n-d-l-e-m-i-r-e, I believe is the correct spelling. Sorry if I misspelled it, but I think that's the way it is spelled. With respect to the hiring of Mr. Ron Crandlemire in the Yorkton office of the Department of Social Services, did you at any time receive written advice from persons working in the department that Mr. Crandlemire was unqualified and should not have been hired? And if you did, did you heed that advice, or did you not heed that advice, and why not? Do you have that information with you today?

**Ms. Moore:** — No.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Anybody? Okay. Number nine, I'd like to know who made the decision to create Mr. Crandlemire's position when he was first hired. What was the job description, and who decided to create that job?

Number 10, can you tell me, was there any advertising for that position, the temporary position in Yorkton? Was there any advertising done for that position, Mr. Crandlemire's position?

**Ms. Moore:** — We'll undertake to . . .

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Well I thought maybe that information may be available to you today.

**Ms. Moore:** — Most of the expenditures with the department, that I alluded to earlier, are in fact for advertising positions, but I don't have the breakdown of the costs and the specific advertisement.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — My understanding is that was . . . a temporary position was created. I guess my question is . . . my question simply was that, look, if there was a need — and I'm not saying there wasn't a need — if there was a need, why didn't we make it a permanent position and why didn't we advertise for it? I don't believe it was advertised. We can't find any records that it was advertised. But somehow a temporary position was created and it was filled by, what we feel, was an unqualified person. And I want some explanation as to why we created that position.

I will leave . . . Those are all the questions I have in that particular area, so unless there are some comments that anybody would wish to make on the questions that I've asked, the series of questions that I asked in that area. Are there any at all, any comments?

**Ms. Moore:** — No, none in addition to what I've . . .

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. Would you be able to provide that information for us?

**Ms. Moore:** — We will undertake to review all of the questions that you've asked and to provide what information we are able to, yes.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Ms. Moore, I would like to just ask one further question. What is the policy of the department in filling positions? How do you fill them? I mean, is it the policy of the department to advertise and then to let it go through the Public Service Commission and then hire the one that is recommended? Or how do you proceed?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, the hiring in the Department of Social Services is based on knowledge, skills, and abilities. There is an established process with the Public Service Commission that is followed by the department. In addition, the department, because of its nature, often has a need to hire a number of employees on a casual basis, and we do that as well.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — All right. let me ask you a question. Do you establish . . . I mean once you . . . obviously when you advertise a position, you may have 10 or 15 people apply — you may have four or five people apply — do we establish a list? If you only hire one person, you have 3 or 4 or 9 or 10 or 15 who do not get hired. Do we establish a list of those people who we can then draw from if we need to hire somebody on a temporary basis or a casual basis; or does the department have no say in who is hired on a temporary or casual basis?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, the normal staffing process is followed in the permanent positions, and the Public Service Commission, as you are aware, certifies individuals to competitions. From time to time there are . . . There can only be one successful candidate. If we are aware of qualified people who are able to do the jobs and we have a need on a casual kind of basis from time to

time, we may see whether or not that individual is interested and available.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I guess I'm somewhat concerned about people being hired who simply do not have the credentials of what we expect a social worker to be, when there are lots of people available who do have those credentials, those qualifications. And I think from time to time we are concerned — in the opposition we are concerned — that people are being hired not for what they know but for who they know. And I guess that's what we're trying to establish here: what are the criteria and what is the policy?

And I would think it would . . . at least it would make some sense to me, if the department from time to time needs to hire casual people or temporary people, and as you know, and it's not just under this government, other governments, casual people and temporary people for some reason, some of them have been casual or temporary for many, many years, so they become rather permanent. And I would think it would make some sense for the Department of Social Services to establish a list and say, well, all right, we need somebody for three months, or we need somebody for six months, and we have this list and we know all of these people are qualified to do the job. And for casual and temporary, you don't have to go through the Public Service Commission, but you have this list that you can draw on.

And I guess that was my question; have we done that? Have you got a list of 20 or 30 or 100 people that when you need somebody tomorrow you can just simply go to the list and see if these people are available?

**Ms. Moore:** — Just two comments I'd like to make on that, Mr. Chairman, the first comment is, of course, that the hiring that we do is always based on knowledge, skills, and abilities, and that's where we're focused. The Department of Social Services has a wide range of employees, some 1,800 plus person years, and we have a range of different kinds of people that are required. And so there is different kinds of needs that we have and not just those who are professional social workers but a number of other sorts of things.

From time to time in certain situations and particularly in the regions, there is that certain flexibility that is given to the regional managers to deal with the short-term problems that they do have, and they sort of make those decisions there. But normally it's a knowledge, skills and abilities situation that we're after.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Yes, just to follow up. Ms. Moore, I was not suggesting that you do this at the central office. I would assume that this list would be available throughout the regions, and therefore you could draw on the people in the local area. I would hope that that list, you'd have a list in Regina, a list in Moose Jaw, a list in Saskatoon so you could draw on those people.

Are you saying to me — and I'll just ask the question; you don't need to answer it — are you saying to me that in all cases, casual and temporary, that the only criteria that are used are the knowledge, skills and qualifications of the individual?

**Ms. Moore:** — It's certainly the primary reason.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay.

**Ms. Moore:** — And, Mr. Chairman, there are other things that may come into play, like availability of the individual and things like that, from time to time, particularly on a casual basis.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Everything being equal, availability, everything being equal, the criteria in all cases are knowledge, skills, and qualifications? Now I'll leave it at that, Ms. Moore, I think it's probably not a fair question, I'll turn it back to the chairman.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Just a couple of quick questions for the committee's information. Under the family support services, grants for community services on page 344 of *Public Accounts*, there is quite a difference in funding in the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project. Support is 127,040 in comparison to other counselling services. Can you explain that to the committee as to why there's such a great degree of difference?

**Ms. Moore:** — Cornwall Street Tutoring is a unique program in the province and is a combination of counselling and tutoring.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — So the Christian counselling services, for instance, wouldn't be into the tutoring or any of those kinds of things? They're under the same category; that's why I'm asking.

**Ms. Moore:** — They would not provide the tutoring, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Okay. I was just wondering then why they would be put under the same title.

And there would be the same question under the sexual assault services, I would like to know why, when I look at The Battlefords and area, and Lloydminster and area, Saskatoon and area, I would assume there's quite a substantial difference when it comes to Regina where the amount is considerably higher. Is there a particular reason for that? Well if you'd like to speed up . . . If you could come back with some sort of explanation for the difference in dollars regarding that. Could you supply the committee with that information?

**Ms. Moore:** — Certainly, Mr. Chairman, we will.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Same with family, under family violence services. I notice that there is a large difference with the North East Crisis Intervention Centre being 107,000, and the largest anywhere else in the province, from the South West Crisis Inc. would be the next highest of \$36,900, and then all the others throughout the province are lower than that. Could you also give the committee the information as to why the large difference?

**Mr. Baker:** — Just something of interest. I've noticed that . . . maybe I can't find it. I've noticed in Saskatoon, there's a fair number of dollars in the taxi firms. I can't find any for Regina. I was just wondering why there would be that

expense here in Saskatoon, unless I'm not looking in the right spot.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, we'd have to look to find the specifics, but we do pay in both centres.

**Mr. Baker:** — Another thing is in Saskatoon, we have two taxi firms, Radio Cab and United Cab. Now Radio Cab has about 30-some-odd cars, and United Cab has about 100 plus. I see Radio Cab's expenditures is about 135,000 and United, about 75, and it seems to me that that's quite a discrepancy based on the number of units each have licensed. The one that has about three times as many licences had about 40 per cent less. For the life of me, I can't find a Regina or a North Battleford expenditure.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, we'll undertake to get details.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Just on a point of clarification as well, when the member from Saskatoon South had asked you the information regarding the retirement packages, as the department earlier, Mr. Chairman, had indicated as well, they weren't quite sure whether that information could become available to this committee because of the public service is in there. Maybe there's some confidentiality in the ... (inaudible) ... So we're not after that kind of harassment of the public service.

**Mr. Baker:** — We only find one in Regina. We found one here, but the other two, we haven't found.

**Mr. Swan:** — Just a couple of questions. On page 369 there's a company listed as Polar Oils, and for 109,000, I was just wondering what we buy from a company by that name. It's not a familiar name to me.

**Ms. Moore:** — I'm sorry, Mr. Swan, I missed the name of the organization.

**Mr. Swan:** — Polar Oils Ltd, 109,341.83.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, we'd have to look that one up but that could be for heating fuel.

**A Member:** — Heating what?

**Ms. Moore:** — Heating fuel, in the northern communities.

**Mr. Swan:** — Okay. And could you give me somewhat of a breakdown on the Prince Albert & District Community Service Centre? You have nearly \$13 million — 12,993,000. What kind of services are operated out of that particular community service centre?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, that is the P.A. city office, for which we reimburse the costs of social assistance.

**Mr. Swan:** — This is the actual social assistance administered by the city of Prince Albert?

**Ms. Moore:** — Yes.

**Mr. Swan:** — And can you give me some idea on Ranch Ehrlo Society — 2,460,000? How many people do they

care for under that program. It seems like a fairly large expenditure.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, they provide care for some 55 to 60 children.

**Mr. Swan:** — And that's on a year-round basis?

**Ms. Moore:** — Yes, but not necessarily the particular individual for a full year. The individual would be in there for a time to be determined by the worker.

**Mr. Swan:** — Still it seems a rather large figure for that number of people.

**Ms. Moore:** — It's a very specialized service. The young people that go into that are requiring a very significant amount of care and a significant amount of special care.

**Mr. Swan:** — Okay, thank you.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Mr. Chairman, just one quick question, if I could. The Receiver General for Canada, National Research Council — what does that take into consideration? Is that ... It's on page 369 of this.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, that has to do with part of a federal-provincial agreement on social assistance recipients accord.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Can you explain that a little further? Like, how do you mean? Is this an agreement between provinces ...

**Ms. Moore:** — What are the specifics of that?

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Interprovincial agreement, all provinces in Canada?

**Ms. Moore:** — The federal government and the provinces have entered into individual agreements between Canada and the individual province on employment opportunities for social assistance recipients, and that's the accord I'm speaking of.

**Mr. Baker:** — A cost sharing?

**Ms. Moore:** — It's a cost sharing.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Mr. Chairman, I have two quick questions. First of all, can you give me the expenditures — you don't have to give it to us now — but can you give me the travelling expenditures of the minister in the year under review, outside the province? I'm not interested in those he made inside the province. And did the minister have a Legislative Secretary, and who was she or he? Can you give me that now? I'd like to know the name of person, if there was.

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge there was no Legislative Secretary for the minister.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay, so no Legislative Secretary at that time. Okay. One further question, private vocational schools, do you keep track of the number of recipients who have become eligible for student loans and go to

private vocational schools? Do you keep statistics of those?

**Ms. Moore:** — I'm advised that we don't have that information available.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — You don't have the information, or you just don't keep track of that?

**Ms. Moore:** — I don't think we keep track of it.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Okay. I don't know how to . . . I'm so surprised that we don't because there was a lot of money expended last year by the government. That's why I was trying to track down what was expended in the year under review. And again, I'm not opposed to the program; I would just like to know how much money is expended, particularly for single parents with children. You know, how much money . . . I know the minister at that time, and to his credit, I said look, we've got to give opportunities to people to get off this social assistance, and he had indicated opportunities would be made available for social recipients to seek employment and also to upgrade themselves in order to get off the welfare roll.

And what I was hoping to gather today, how successful has that been, the initiative of the minister? How many people went and got off the social assistance, upgraded themselves, and now are gainfully employed? We don't have that information, eh?

**Ms. Moore:** — We can get the information with respect to the people in the employment programs and the Saskatchewan skills development program. We don't have available, at least not with us today, and we don't think that we do have the information on student loans. That would be probably best gotten from the Department of Education.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Well the problem there is . . . You see, I'm running into some difficulties. I've tried to get that information from the Department of Education, and they say, well we don't distinguish, we don't distinguish as to whether they are social recipients or whether they are native people, we don't do that. And I think it would be to the credit of the department and the government to keep track of this. I mean, look, a thousand single parents went off of social assistance because they upgraded themselves and they're now gainfully employed. I think we would want to have that information.

And all I'm saying is that under the year review, '88-89, I will be asking the same question again because I'm interested in that area to see how successful we have been. I think it's a good program. I am somewhat concerned about some of the programs we're getting some of these people into because some of them are dead-end programs, and so we have to be careful when we approve them. But I think it has a lot of merit, and I think it should be followed up.

**Mr. Baker:** — Would you include New Careers in that?

**Mr. Rolfes:** — Oh, sure; oh, absolutely, absolutely.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — I mean, we want to finish, but I just have

one more question.

**Mr. Rolfes:** — I have no more questions.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — In regards to Dairy Producers Ltd., \$138,942; and then it goes on and you've got Pacific Fresh Fish Ltd., 11,000-and-some-odd dollars, almost 12,000; you have Palm Dairies, 93,000; you have . . . gosh, there's just many, many different kinds. Sunspun Food Services, 203,000, all these kind of expenditures. Can you explain what all this was for?

**Ms. Moore:** — Mr. Chairman, those would be food provisions for our institutions.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Okay. Would it have anything also to do with any of the school programs, anything under the year?

**Ms. Moore:** — Not to my knowledge, Mr. Chairman. Those would be for institutions like Valley View Centre and places like that.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Okay.

**Mr. Chairman:** — If there's no further questions, thank you very much, Ms. Moore and all your officials for being with us today.

**Ms. Moore:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Does someone want to move this motion?

Mr. Sauder has moved, seconded by Mr. Rolfes, that the hearings of the Department of Social Services be concluded subject to recall if necessary. All those agreed?

Agreed

**Mr. Chairman:** — On Thursday, we'll have the department of supply and services, Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation here at 8:30, and I'd say Executive Council for 9:30.

The committee adjourned at 10:37 a.m.