



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 14

4th Session

24th Legislature

HANSARD

Thursday, November 12, 1981 — 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Donald Taylor, MLA, Watson Lake

DEPUTY SPEAKER.— Grafton Njootli, MLA, Old Crow

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Chris Pearson	Whitehorse Riverdale North	Government House Leader — responsible for Executive Council Office, Public Service Commission, Land Claims and Intergovernmental Relations.
Hon. Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East	Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, Tourism and Economic Development.
Hon. Geoffrey Lattin	Whitehorse North Centre	Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Highways and Public Works, Yukon Housing Corporation and Yukon Liquor Corporation.
Hon. Meg McCall	Klondike	Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources, Education and Information Services.
Hon. Howard Tracey	Tatchun	Minister responsible for Justice, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Government Services and Workers' Compensation Board.

Government Members

(Progressive Conservative)

Al Falle	Hootalinqua
Doug Graham	Whitehorse Porter Creek West
Peter Hanson	Mayo
Grafton Njootli	Old Crow
Donald Taylor	Watson Lake

Opposition Members

(New Democratic Party)

Tony Penkett	Whitehorse West
Maurice Byblow	Faro
Roger Kimmerly	Whitehorse South Centre

(Liberal)

Ron Veale	Whitehorse Riverdale South
Alice P. McGuire	Kluane

(Independent)

Robert Fleming	Campbell
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Clerk of Assembly
Clerk Assistant (Legislative)
Clerk Assistane (Administrative)
Sergeant-at-Arms
Hansard Administrator

Patrick L. Michael
Missy Follwell
Jane Steele
G.I. Cameron
Dave Robertson

Whitehorse, Yukon**Thursday, November 12, 1981**

Mr. Speaker: I will call the House to order. First, before proceeding to the Order Paper today, I beg to inform the Assembly that I have received from the Yukon Elections Board, a letter respecting the by-election held in the Electoral District of Whitehorse South Centre on October 13th 1981, which I will now table.

The letter, addressed to the Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, reads as follows: "Dear Sir: Re: By-election Electoral District of Whitehorse South Centre, October 13th 1981.

"The resignation on April 15th 1981, of Jack Hibberd, the elected Member for the Electoral District of Whitehorse South Centre, caused a vacancy to occur in the Legislative Assembly. A writ calling for a by-election to fill that vacancy was issued on August 28th 1981, polling date being October 13, 1981.

"From the writ now returned to me I hereby certify the election of Roger S. Kimmerly as the Member to represent the Electoral District of Whitehorse South Centre in the Legislative Assembly.

"Yours sincerely, Paul Birckel, Chairman of the Elections Board."

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Roger Kimmerly, Member for the electoral district of Whitehorse South Centre, who has taken the required oath, and who now claims the right to take his seat.

Mr. Speaker: The Member may now take his seat.

Also, before proceeding to the Order Paper, I would like to introduce, today, the pages, who will be working with the House and serving the Assembly during the Fall sitting. They are: Terri Daniels, Marie Dicquemare, Jeff Gau, Brad Knorr, Carmel Lloyd, and Michelle McLarnon. We would, at this time, welcome the pages to the service of the House.

Applause

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, under Introduction of Visitors, I would like to make mention today of the honour I have of seeing, in your Gallery, the Chief Executive Administrative Officer of the New Democratic Party of Canada, Mr. Robin Sears, the Federal Secretary.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of very distinguished guests in our Gallery today. They are residents of the senior citizens' homes throughout the city, and on behalf of all of us, I want to sincerely welcome them to the Legislature. We are having coffee afterwards; please stay for it.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would like to rise on a personal point of privilege.

As we all know, some time ago, the Hansard Editor for the Legislature left the employment of the Legislature; that is one Mrs. Lois Cameron, previously known as Lois Gillespie. Mrs. Cameron came to Yukon with All-West Transcribing Company, stayed in Yukon, and married a very well-known and respected Yukoner in the person of Mr. Bob Cameron, who is the son of the ex-Commissioner, Commissioner Gordon Cameron.

I am pleased to announce today to the Members of the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, that Lois had a baby boy this morning — Kyle Gordon Cameron. The Grandpa and Grandma Cameron are very, very pleased, and I understand we have, now, another pilot coming on stream, with respect to the air transportation of Yukon.

I understand you will be writing to Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, Mr. Speaker, and, on behalf of all Members, would you please send our greetings and our congratulations?

Applause

Hon. Mr. Pearson: For the edification of the Members opposite and those in the Gallery today, I think I should advise everyone that on September 11th, you celebrated your 20th Anniversary as a Member of this Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I want to sincerely congratulate you, on behalf of all of us.

Applause

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed to the Order Paper.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Speaker: Are there any Returns or Documents for Tabling?

Tabling of Reports and Documents

Mr. Speaker: From the Chair, I have for tabling a report of the Yukon's Elections Board on "By-election in the Electoral District of Whitehorse South Centre, held October 13th, 1981".

The Chair also wishes to table, at this time, a report of the Yukon's Elections Board, "Recommended Amendments to the Elections Ordinance, 1977".

Are there any further Documents for Tabling?

Are there any Reports of Standing or Special Committees? Petitions?

Reading of Petitions?

Introduction of Bills?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**Fourth Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81: First Reading**

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Klondike, that a Bill, entitled *Fourth Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Klondike, that a Bill, entitled *Fourth Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse North Centre, that a Bill, entitled *First Appropriation Ordinance, 1982-83*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse North Centre, that a Bill, entitled *First Appropriation Ordinance, 1982-83*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Wildlife Ordinance: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that a Bill, entitled *Wildlife Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Economic Development, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that a Bill, entitled *Wildlife Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Bills?

An Ordinance to Amend the Building Standards Ordinance: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Lattin: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Building Standards Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Building Standards Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Municipal Capital Expenditures Ordinance: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Lattin: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that a Bill entitled, *Municipal Capital Expenditures Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that a Bill, entitled *Municipal Capital Expenditures Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Finance Ordinance: First Reading.

Hon. Mr. Lattin: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Finance Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Finance Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Ordinance: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Lattin: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Bulk Sales Ordinance: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that a Bill, entitled *Bulk Sales Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Justice, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that a Bill, entitled *Bulk Sales Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Miscellaneous Statute Law Repeal Ordinance: First Reading.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that a Bill, entitled *Miscellaneous Statute Law Repeal Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Justice, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that a Bill, entitled *Miscellaneous Statute Law Repeal Ordinance*, be

now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Warehouse Receipts Ordinance: First Reading.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that a Bill, entitled *Warehouse Receipts Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Justice, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that a Bill, entitled *Warehouse Receipts Ordinance*, be introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

An Ordinance to Amend the Court of Appeal Ordinance: First Reading.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Court of Appeal Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Penikett: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am wondering whether it is possible for a Member who is not present in the House to second a Bill.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Court of Appeal Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Justice, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that a Bill, entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Court of Appeal Ordinance*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Ordinance, 1981 (Number 2): First Reading.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a Bill, entitled *Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Ordinance, 1981 (Number 2)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Justice, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a Bill, entitled *Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Ordinance, 1981 (Number 2)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Bills for introduction at this time?

We will then proceed on the Order Paper to Notices of Motion for the Production of Papers. Are there any Notices of Motion? Statements by Ministers?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Mr. Lattin: Mr. Speaker, today the Watson Lake L.I.D. announced that the arena would not be open to the public until further notice. This step was taken, pending receipt of a report from the engineers of the company that constructed the building, Strand Building Systems. The report is expected to address the possibility that the structural integrity of certain components of the building may have been affected by excessive snow loads.

This move has been taken to ensure that there will be no possible danger to the public; it is supported by the Department of Municipal Affairs. Until the engineering report, which is a part of the overall upgrading of the facility, is received, it is not possible to determine whether any measure will be taken, or what those measures might be.

We remain, and will continue to remain, in contact with the Watson Lake L.I.D. over the next few weeks, in order to keep abreast of the situation.

Mr. Penikett: I thank the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for his statement. I recognize that it is a matter

about which he would not have taken notice for a long time.

I would, however, appreciate, as a general proposition, that wherever we have ministerial statements, we might, as a courtesy, be able to have some notice of it so that we can respond properly.

I would understand the concern of all Members of the House when, during the winter in this Territory, a recreational plant will not be available and open this winter. I hope the Minister will do whatever he can to rectify the situation as soon as possible, and I am sure he will receive encouragement from all Members of this House in doing exactly that.

Mr. Veale: I, too, would appreciate advance notice, Mr. Minister, of those statements; it would be of great assistance. I think it is extremely unfortunate that this is happening just now in Watson Lake, particularly since winter is coming on, and with the importance of recreation throughout the the winter. I would hope that the Minister would keep a very close eye on the situation, so that if it is necessary for additional capital expenditure to be made, this could be brought forward in this capital budget, so that the people of Watson Lake will not have to suffer without such an important recreational facility.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further statements by Ministers?

This then brings us to the Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Financing of Alaska Highway Natural Gas Pipeline.

Mr. Penikett: I have a question for the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Congress is currently expressing serious doubts about the financial feasibility of the Alaska Highway Natural Gas Pipeline, and legislative proposals to facilitate private financing of the line have been opposed, in both the House and Senate Committee hearings.

In view of this development, I would like to ask the Government Leader whether he is still confident about the future of the pipeline, and if, in fact, it is still his belief that it will be built.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am still confident, probably more so today than I have been at any time in the past. That confidence is the result of the debates that are going on in Washington right now, particularly the effects from the President of the United States having taken the actions that he did.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I spoke with the Administrator of the Pipeline, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, in Ottawa. He had just returned from Washington, and he, too, expressed a great deal of confidence that the pipeline will go ahead.

The hearings are proceeding on the normal anticipated basis, and every indication is that the President will receive support for the waiver package. We understand that the financing proposal has — in the parlance that it was told to me, Mr. Speaker — “been up and down Wall Street”, and has received favourable consideration.

Mr. Penikett: I am interested in the Government Leader's statement, and am actually pleased to hear that he and Mr. Sharp have been reassuring each other.

I would, though, like to ask the Government Leader: in the event that the waiver package fails to pass the Congress of the United States, has this Government evaluated the impact on the Yukon economy, in terms of employment and investment, if Foothills is forced to abandon the project at this late date?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the actual impact would be a negative one, in that nothing would happen. We have spent three years and a considerable amount of the taxpayer's money getting into position to be able to react to the conception of the pipeline.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if, for any reason, it does not happen, then we certainly will be going along our way to making sure that this Territory does develop in an orderly manner. But it is not the end-all, nor the be-all of this Territory, in an economic

sense, in any way shape or form.

Mr. Penikett: In view of the fact that we shall not know positively for some days yet, what will happen to the waiver package, and consequently to the pipeline, I assume the Government Leader can tell the House whether or not he has provided for the future employment of the officers of the Pipeline Branch of this government, should there no longer be need for their services in their present capacity. I am asking whether they will be found other work in the government, and whether the government has identified the number of jobs that will be affected and lost by this decision not to go ahead, should this happen.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition is asking about organization in government, the three people that were in the Pipeline Branch do have other jobs.

That branch is a very integral part of the Department of Intergovernmental Relations, which was established some months ago, and the pipeline has become a concern of that department, as a number of other issues are, on an ongoing basis. So, those people do not, in any way, shape, or form work specifically only on the pipeline.

Question re: Aboriginal Rights - Constitution.

Mr. Veale: Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader has just returned from the Constitutional Conference, and I must certainly commend him for attending that, and for having changed his position from last year. There has been a great deal of concern expressed, by Party Leaders across the country, and, in particular, native leaders, about the exclusion of aboriginal rights from the final Constitutional accord.

Has the Government Leader made any representations to the Prime Minister of Canada to have aboriginal rights included in that accord? I ask this question specifically, realizing that this Government has taken a very strong position in favour of having those rights included.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, we were the first identifiable group anywhere in Canada that put to the Constitutional Committee the proposition that aboriginal rights should be contained in the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to correct one point made by the Member. I did not change my stand, when I went to that Conference in Ottawa last week. In fact, it was the first time that this Government was ever invited to attend as an entity of its own. Every other time that we have received an invitation from the present Prime Minister of Canada to go to that kind of a convention, it has always been as a member of the federal team. This time it was not the way we wanted it, but it was, in fact, a move from the previous status. We were there as official observers, rather than as members of the federal team.

It must also be stressed, Mr. Speaker, that we were not asked our opinions. None of the observers were asked their opinions, nor were they given the chance to express opinions, nor will they be given a chance to express opinions.

Our concerns, with respect to not only aboriginal rights but also other rights in respect of that Charter, are very well known; we could talk about them for hours. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, this accord was reached by the Premiers and the Prime Minister, behind closed doors. Nobody knows what the discussion was. In truth, at this point in time, we do not even know what the accord is. We have some general perimeters about what it contains, but we have not seen a copy of that accord, nor of what it is intended to be, tabled in the House of Commons.

Mr. Veale: Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of the Government Leader about the contents of that accord, but I am specifically at present concerned about the exclusion of the aboriginal rights clause that was included prior to the meeting that the Government Leader attended.

Could the Government Leader tell the Assembly if he has contacted any of the provincial leaders, with whom he is now acquainted as a result of his trips across the country, to encour-

age them to change their position and include an aboriginal rights section in the accord?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, no, I have not contacted anyone. What I do suggest is, if we are going to do that, then in all deference to the Honourable Member who sits on my left, we must be concerned about women's rights as well. There are a number of other rights that do not seem to be in the present accord.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, in the first package, at least the two Territories, the Northwest Territories and Yukon, were recognized, and it did mention that the Prime Minister, at some point in time, was going to have to face the wrath of these two Territories, with respect to the Constitution. I notice from everything I have been able to ascertain so far, that even that is gone from the present accord, but we do not know this for sure yet.

Mr. Veale: My final question, Mr. Speaker, relates to the position of the Yukon Government, and of the Party, to this Territory. There is a certain degree of unanimity about several subjects: in particular, the aboriginal rights issue. Would the Government Leader be prepared to meet with party leaders, and draft a statement acceptable to all, to send to the Prime Minister of Canada and the provincial leaders that were involved in the decision?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be quite prepared to meet with them, but, I question the futility of it at this point in time. We have taken a stand with respect to aboriginal rights and to all rights in the Constitution. I had no problem at all reiterating that, time after time after time.

Question re: Government Economic Strategy

Mr. Byblow: I have a question that I will direct to the Minister of Economic Development, on the subject of economic strategy.

It has been a commitment of this Government, in previous debates and proceedings of this House, to develop a long range economic strategy. Recognizing the frail nature of the Yukon economy at this point, can the Minister reassure the House that the commitment to economic strategy still sits high on his government's list of priorities?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would like to welcome the Honourable Member across the way to the front bench of the Opposition. I realize that it took three years to make a decision, and I am sure it will not take as long to make the next one; if it does, he is in big trouble.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the economic strategy of the Territory, I think it is fair to say that the Government of Yukon has the capability to influence; we do not really have the capability to implement, due to the constitutional nature of our jurisdiction at the present time. There is no question, Mr. Speaker, that this side of the House, at any rate, is committed to economic development; I think that is fairly evident in the initiatives that were taken to form the Mac Pass Task Force, which is the major area of mining feasibility as far as the Yukon is concerned at the present time. We have been actively involved in initiating and encouraging the construction of the pipeline, and the list goes on.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that this government is prepared to be involved, but at the same time we believe that the private sector has a right to be involved in this question of working jointly.

Mr. Byblow: I have a supplementary for the Minister, from a different level than in the past three years, and I would like to say that I am still looking forward to a decision from the Minister.

On the same subject of economic development, in light of the recent economic indicators which show mining, construction and housing heading into a recession, coupled with the questionable prospect of a pipeline construction, the question would be: what economic stimulus will this Government be affording industry and business, in order that some economic stability prevails in Yukon?

Mr. Lang: Well, Mr. Speaker, there is no question that this

will probably come up later on in the Session. As the Member knows, we are tabling our Capital Budget that is to be proposed for 1982-83, and there are a number of major capital projects that we intend to go with. In the past, as the Member knows, we have gone ahead and done what we felt was important to the Yukon and the economy, and I would go so far as to say that it may not sound too exciting, but even in the Member's riding this government went ahead and made a decision within two weeks, realigned priorities, and went ahead with the major water and sewer program, so that it could facilitate the construction that was going on in the community of Faro.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is no question that on this side of the floor there are major programs getting outlined, and with the co-operation of the Members opposite, perhaps we can get under way. The only other thing I would point out, Mr. Speaker, is that, with the program we have put forward, there is, if we can get support from the Government of Canada, some alleviation for small business in the Territory.

Mr. Byblow: In light of his answer, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister what specifically will he be affording to alleviate the strain on small business. Specifically, will he be proclaiming, but with funding this time, a small business development ordinance during the course of this session or before next spring?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I should point out that, as far as that particular program is concerned, the Member knows full well that it is a question of working with the Government of Canada. We had some indicators approximately two weeks ago that there is, perhaps, a chance of some program's coming into effect. I do not have the details worked out, but it will be going before Cabinet before too long.

I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that I do not like to leave the public with the impression that the economy is in total disarray. I think the Member opposite knows full well that the tourism industry has, over the past year, seen a marked improvement, which reflects on small business. Any small business that I have talked to which has been involved, directly or indirectly, with the tourism industry, has had a very good year; I would say, Mr. Speaker, that credit has to go to the Government of Yukon Territory, the Yukon Business Association, and those businesses that were prepared to provide those services.

Question re: Professional counselling for teenagers.

Mr. McGuire: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Human Resources. On April 17, 1980, and again on November 7, 1980, the question was asked whether the Department of Human Resources was considering hiring a person specializing in professional counselling of teenagers who are plagued with alcohol, drugs, and/or mental problems. As this matter was under consideration at that time, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise us how this situation stands, and what progress has been made on it?

Hon. Mrs. McCall: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the alcohol conference which was planned for the fall is something that is going to be discussed. In the meantime, though, we have in the works a plan for adding some staff there. I am not prepared to say anything more about it at this time, but there is something in the works.

Question re: Amendment to Landlord and Tenant Ordinance.

Mr. Kimmerly: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation. Yukon residents are facing an acute shortage of houses and apartments, and rents are rising fast. Most rents are above the \$500.00 mark. Given this situation, will the Government introduce, during this Session, an amendment to the *Landlord and Tenants Ordinance* to remove the \$500.00 a month maximum in Section 60, Subsection 1, for the protection of residential tenants?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Mr. Speaker, that question should be directed to me, as regards my portfolio in Consumer and Corporate Affairs. We are looking at the \$500.00 maximum

right now. I am aware that the price of rent has escalated fairly significantly in the last year or so, and we are looking at it, with the idea of perhaps bringing in an amendment this Session.

Mr. Kimmerly: I thank the Minister for a commitment to bring in an amendment this Session. Will the Minister make a commitment that, if the \$500.00 limit is removed, he will remove any limit, rather than simply raising the ceiling?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Mr. Speaker, the Member quoted me wrongly. I did not say that I would bring in an amendment this Session. I said that I would be prepared to look at it, with the idea that if it does need to be changed I would bring in such a change; as far as taking the limit off all together — no, I am not prepared to do that.

Question re: Mobility Clause in the Federal Constitutional Accord.

Mr. Penikett: I have a question for the Government Leader. The Government Leader may not have received a personally inscribed copy of the new Constitutional Accord from the Prime Minister, but no doubt he has seen press reports, as we all have. I would like to ask him: given the amended mobility clause in the new Constitutional Accord, has the Government of Yukon as yet ascertained — to use his word — if, in fact, it will apply to Yukon, so that qualified local people who want jobs in Yukon, can get jobs in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, nor do I need any kind of a personally autographed copy of it either, but we have not been able to ascertain, to date, exactly what the changes to the mobility clause will mean for this Territory.

Mr. Penikett: According to all the press reports I read, I understand that the Peckford Amendment to the mobility clause allows jurisdictions with above average employment to take affirmative action for their unemployed. Given that the Yukon has a jobless rate far above the national average, could the Government Leader say what affirmative action he contemplates taking, on behalf of the unemployed in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, it will be critical whether the agreement says that mobility is going to be based either on employment, or on unemployment. That is one of the critical things. The other critical thing, Mr. Speaker, will be whether the mobility clause is going to say that the Territories will be considered provinces, with respect to that particular section. We do not know that yet.

Mr. Penikett: Even though the Government Leader has not had his personally engraved copy of the Accord, and even though we do not yet know if it will apply to the Territories as well as the provinces, by now the Government of Yukon will, no doubt, have followed the advice of the Honourable John Munro, and will have been searching long and hard for loopholes in the mobility clause of the proposed Constitution.

My question to the Government Leader, given Mr. Munro's recommendation to government, previously, is this: have they looked for any loopholes, and, if they have found any, what are they?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly how many times I am going to have to say it to the Honourable Member today, but we have not seen the mobility clause yet; never mind the loopholes, we have not seen it yet.

Question re: Electrical subsidies to small businesses.

Mr. Fleming: I have a question for the Minister of Energy this morning. During our last Session there was a program, which I think was initiated by the Federal Government, to help alleviate some of the expenses for electricity, of small business in the outlying districts. I think the assistance was up to one thousand kilowatts of power at the price in Whitehorse, and I wonder if he could enlighten us all today as to just where that program might be now, because we do not seem to have received anything.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, we were informed by telex some weeks ago that because of a shortage of funds, or because all of the funds have been expended in the new program, the Federal Government was finding it necessary to curtail, effective November 1, their electrical assistance prog-

ram. This includes small businesses and residents outside the City of Whitehorse, in Yukon, and outside the City of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories.

Subsequent to that, Mr. Speaker, and just a few days ago, we were advised officially that the Government of Canada, and in particular, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, had reassessed their funding, and have now determined that they are going to be able to keep the program in place until what was originally its normal expiry date — March 31, 1982.

Mr. Fleming: Does this mean, or has anything been suggested to imply, that there will be a rebate back one year from April 1 of this year, for small business, or small businesses alone? Has there been anything said about that, or is that washed up entirely?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the retroactivity went into place and, as far as I know, is in place now.

Question re: Vocational training and adult education, separated from Department of Education

Mr. Veale: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. The Minister is no doubt aware of a report that was prepared by a committee of senior civil servants that recommended that vocational training and adult education be split off from the Department of Education and placed in a new department called Manpower and Labour. Does the Minister agree with that recommendation?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Mr. Speaker, that question should have been addressed to me as the Minister of Manpower. Mr. Speaker, we, in my department, felt that perhaps Manpower was not getting the focus of attention on it that was needed in this Government because it was split into two departments. I asked to have a departmental committee set up to review this situation and to make a report back to myself and to Cabinet. That report has been completed, and for the Member's edification, the report that he has, or supposedly has, is not the report that was presented to me or to the Cabinet. We are looking at the report right now and in the next few days we will probably make a decision about what we will do and at that time I will be quite willing to tell him and everybody else what is in the report, and what our procedure will be.

Mr. Veale: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for the maybe-to-be, or maybe-not-to-be Manpower and Labour Department. However, my question was, and still is, directed to the Minister of Education, because there is a very important issue at stake here, and that is whether the subject matter of education should ever be split and divided, and separated into a Manpower and Labour Department. May I have the answer of the Minister of Education. Does she agree with the recommendation that vocational training and adult education be taken from the Department of Education?

Mrs. McCall: Mr. Speaker, that recommendation has not come to the Department of Education.

Mr. Veale: I am pleased to find out that the Department of Education is not aware of the recommendation, but I am very concerned that there is going to be a decision made by this Government, and the decision is one that is opposed by a substantial number of people, including the Educational Council of this Territory, and many members of school committees.

Mr. Pearson: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the member kindly take his seat.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, two Members of this Cabinet have stated that there has been no report to split up the Department of Education. Mr. Speaker, I am all for political speeches, but not in Question Period.

Mr. Veale: I take great privilege in interrupting the Government Leader's political statement. The fact is that everyone knows that a recommendation has been made, and I am asking the Minister of Education if she agrees with the position taken by the Educational Council of this Territory, which is in strong opposition to that split from her department.

Mrs. McCall: Mr. Speaker, I think that I can assure the Member opposite, that there will be no split in the Department

of Education.

Applause

Mr. Byblow: I would like to ask a supplementary of the Minister of Education on that subject. Could the Minister indicate who was assigned to the committee that did this internal investigation of this proposed Manpower Labour consolidation?

Mrs. McCall: Mr. Speaker, it was not my committee. That question really ought to be directed to the Minister in charge of Manpower.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to clear up one thing, once and for all. This committee was not investigating the Department of Education. It was dealing with Manpower and Manpower training, and the members of that committee were the Public Service Commissioner, the Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Deputy Minister of the Executive Council Office and the Deputy Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Mr. Byblow: In light of the examination of vocational education, as a term of reference of this committee, why was the Deputy Minister of Education not included on that committee?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I think it is the function of the government to decide who is to go on a committee. There was a very well-learned ex-Deputy Minister of Education put on that committee, expressly for that purpose, to include an educational background.

Mr. Byblow: Recognizing that we have the assurance from the Minister of Education that there is not going to be a split, can either one of the Ministers assure the House that this Assembly will be able to view the report, if and when it is delivered?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, I will not assure them of that. I am hopeful that, perhaps, I might do so, but we have not considered it ourselves yet and I do not know whether I will make it public. It is an internal document, prepared for me and Cabinet.

Question re: Golden Age Society grant

Mr. Kimmerly: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. The Golden Age Society has applied for a grant to have its 1980 Municipal Improvements Tax paid by Yukon Territorial Government. When can the Society expect an answer?

Hon. Mr. Lattin: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this. I do know that we gave that particular society some aid last year in their taxes, but I am not aware of any that is asked for now.

Question re: Cabinet staffing

Mr. Penikett: I have a question for the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, we hear reports that non-Tory stenographers and staff have now been banished from the Cabinet offices and replaced by a few of the faithful. Will the Government Leader tell the House how many of these political, or Executive Council appointees, he now has in his employ.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I do not know of anyone who has been banished from anywhere at this point in time, but, Mr. Speaker, there were four secretaries who were working in that particular group when we assumed office in November, 1978, and there are still the same number there.

Mr. Penikett: Something in the Government Leader's answer tells me that I do not have the complete story. Can the Government Leader tell us if the secretaries in the Cabinet offices are still public servants, or if they are now Executive Council appointments. Are they hired by the Public Service Commission, or are they hired on the basis of the recommendation or decision of Cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that those secretaries are hired by Order in Council appointment rather than through the Public Service Commission. It is a normal procedure. It is one that we have been involved in ever since we came into office. We did, with the people who were there, give them the opportunity to either accept an Order in Council appoint-

ment, or retain their employment under the Public Service Commission. As it turns out, one of those ladies terminated her employment because she wanted to be a mother. Two others have terminated their employment with that particular department to go to work for other departments of the government.

Mr. Penikett: The House will, no doubt, be interested in hearing, at some time, from the Government Leader, whether the merit principle of the Public Service will continue to be applied in the case of these appointments.

Mr. Lang: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, if the Member across the way is questioning the ability of anybody on that floor to perform their work, I would suggest that he apologize.

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, I may from time to time, question the ability of a certain member of the Cabinet, but I certainly never question the ability of anyone upstairs employed in the Public Service. Let me ask the Government Leader if he would be prepared to table in this House a complete list of these Executive Council appointments, and the terms of their appointments, and their qualifications, because, in fact, until now we have not had a report on this situation from the Government Leader.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, there is a procedure for all Orders in Council to be taken to this House. Every Member has access to them. They are all there, Mr. Speaker.

Question re: Proposed Department of Manpower and Labour

Mr. Veale: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the about to be created, or perhaps not be created, Department of Manpower and Labour. Does the Minister agree that whatever new department is created, it will not have any part of the present Department of Education within it?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No, Mr. Speaker, I will not make any commitment such as that.

Mr. Veale: Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat disturbed to hear that the Minister of Education says that there will be no split of her Department, but the Minister of Justice indicates that it may be split, and I would like to know if, in fact, there has been a decision by this Government, one way or the other, regarding the split of the Department of Education.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Mr. Speaker, I think it has been said half a dozen times and if the Member across the floor cannot hear I will say it for him once again. That report has not been considered by Cabinet, as yet, and when we do, and when we decide what will happen, as I have already said, I will come into this House and tell the Member opposite exactly what our decision is.

Mr. Veale: Will the Minister give a commitment to this Assembly as to the time frame in which the Government will be making a decision on the new department and the status of the Department of Education.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Mr. Speaker, I will not say that. I have already said that I am hopeful that within the next few days we will get to the report and make a decision on it, but, I wish the Member would listen and get the answer the first time around, instead of asking the same question three or four times.

Question re: Deschenes Report on Justice

Mr. Byblow: I will ask the Minister a question on a different subject, in his capacity as Minister of Justice. The Yukon Department of Justice has been severely criticized by the Deschenes Report, a Report on judicial independence. This national report, prepared by the Chief Superior Court Judge of Quebec, was released just this past September and it suggests that the Deputy Minister may be responsible for the surprising turnover of judicial personnel. What action is the Minister planning in light of this alleged injustice?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Well, Mr. Speaker, I suspect that the Member opposite, as a business man, has had lots of turnover in his business, too, and because Mr. Deschenes makes a comment such as that does not necessarily mean that I, as the

Minister of Justice, am going to go out and can my Deputy Minister of Justice. That report was a judicial report, made by a member of the judiciary, for the judiciary, as a study on the judiciary, and we will consider that report the same as every other government in Canada is considering it.

Mr. Byblow: It almost seems to me that the Minister has taken his own expertise over the expertise of experts. Since this report is such a crucial and fundamental review of the independence of a Canadian judiciary, done by a Superior Court judge, can the Minister assure the House that he will report forthwith, after a review of that report?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Mr. Speaker, I do not really know what the Member opposite thinks he is asking me. No, I will not report forthwith. Mr. Speaker, that report was done by the judiciary for the benefit of the judiciary, and that report — as much as he says it is expert, even among the judges there is not total agreement with the report. Only fifty percent of the judges agree, and some of those agree only with a limited part of his report. All the Governments of Canada which disagree with him are willing to look at it, and that is exactly what we are willing to do, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Byblow: Can the Minister advise the House who, specifically, disagrees with the report, and whether he has looked at the report?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to name names.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The time allotted for Question Period has now been completed.

Mr. Veale: Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 17 of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. I am asking at this time for leave to move for the adjournment of the ordinary business of this Assembly, for the purpose of debating a matter of urgent public importance: that being the exclusion of aboriginal rights for the native people of Canada from the Constitutional accord.

If I may just speak briefly to that subject of urgency, Mr. Speaker, the Members of this Assembly are only too aware of a recent event's resulting in the exclusion of the aboriginal rights clause from the Constitutional accord, and I believe that all parties in this Assembly actually agree on the seriousness of that, as well as of the betrayal that is now being expressed by the native people of this country.

The urgency, Mr. Speaker, in debating this matter is clear. The Government of Canada is presently meeting with native leaders across the country, to come to some sort of arrangements or decisions as to whether or not those aboriginal rights can actually be included in the Constitutional accord in some way. It is my submission that if we do not act as an Assembly and debate this matter at this time, to determine whether we can come to some agreement and make a forceful presentation to the Government of Canada, I fear then that we may lose the opportunity that is now before us.

It is my submission that, in fact, every party should draft a position, and we should come forth with a joint position, to present to the Prime Minister of Canada and to the provincial leaders. I have indicated, Mr. Speaker, that I do not intend to disrupt the Government Leader's speech this afternoon, which he wishes to give to this Assembly; I am quite prepared to have the debate take place upon the conclusion of the Government Leader's speech.

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, as I understand the rules of this House, and the provisions of Standing Order Section 17(4), you may allow such debate as you consider relevant to the question of urgency of the debate, prior to ruling whether such a request for adjournment under this emergency debate is in order.

I would like to say a couple of things about that. I understand that, as of this hour, the Government of Canada is standing ready to make an announcement on this question — an announcement which I do not think any of us have yet been informed of. It may, as I understand it, be as a result of the negotiations referred to with the native leaders, and there may have been a successful resolution, or otherwise, of this prob-

lem. That could influence, one way or the other, in terms of the question of there being an emergency. I would have hoped, with such an important question, that when remarks in this House were to be transmitted to all Members of the Government of Canada, we would have been given time to take some care and caution in preparing our response to this; however, we are not always given that opportunity, in the legislative environment.

However, my greatest concern, Mr. Speaker, is that as I understand Standing Order 17, when you have given notice of a motion to present an emergency debate, one is required, in fact, to present the motion. I do not know about you, Sir, but I have not received the text of the motion, so, it is very hard for me to draw any conclusions, or if give you any procedural advice, from my limited knowledge, as to the validity, or otherwise, of a motion. A motion, we do not have. And, with regret, Mr. Speaker, I, therefore say, that while I would welcome an opportunity to debate this subject and the earliest possible opportunity, we have no motion here today to debate.

Mr. Speaker: Any other further debate?

Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I must draw to your attention Section 285 of the Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules.

I quote the Section 285, "It must deal with a matter within the administrative competence of the Government and there must be no other reasonable opportunity for debate." On the first subject, the Government Leader will, no doubt, point out, the motion deals with a subject that is not within the administrative competence of this Government. On the second question, the motion would more properly be addressed on Opposition Day, as a motion.

Mr. Speaker: In dealing with the asking of leave, the Member for Whitehorse Riverdale South advised my office at 12:10 p.m. today of his intention to ask leave to move for the adjournment of the ordinary business of the Assembly. Standing Order 17(2) specifies two hours prior written notice. This, in itself, should cause the motion to be ruled out of order. That aside, however, I would refer Members to the annotation as quoted by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, namely 285 in the Fifth Edition of Beauchesne, where it is stated, "It must deal with a matter within the administrative competence of the Government and there must be no other reason or opportunity for debate." The matter which the Honourable Member proposes to bring before the House is clearly not within the administrative competence of this Government or the Assembly. Also, I should point out, that debate under the motion to be moved today by the Honourable Government Leader could be wide ranging enough to provide an opportunity to speak on the subject of constitutional issues. I must rule that the request by the Member for Whitehorse Riverdale South is out of order. We will now proceed to Orders of the Day, under Government Motions.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 12

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Government Leader prepared to deal with Item 1?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Economic Development, THAT this House approves in general the operation of the government since adjournment of the Spring sitting.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, this resolution gives me an opportunity to report to the House on the Government's busy and, in many ways, productive program since we last met. I am happy to report that we have improved or extended a number of government social and educational services. It is a

fact that most Yukoners, certainly most families, stand to benefit, or have already benefitted, from recent government decisions that have been taken to help people.

Before elaborating on that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about co-operation. I trust there will be support, on both sides of the House, for our initiatives with the Federal and Provincial Governments. We must all be aware that the solutions to such problems as jobs for young Yukoners; the need for specialized health services; the alleviation of skyrocketing energy costs; these lie more outside the Territory than here at home.

Since this House last sat, the Government has continued to carry out its responsibilities, and I suggest these fall into two broad categories. First, there are those programs we can bring forward to enhance our own existence, or to forecast resources. We can provide some summer jobs for youth, and we did just that this summer, to a larger extent than ever before. We can develop campgrounds, for our own use, as well as to help the tourist industry.

But the Members know, Mr. Speaker, that jobs, benefits, and opportunities often depend on decisions taken, or not taken, in Ottawa. They depend also on joint decisions taken by the Federal Government with representatives of the provinces; these, since this Government took office, increasingly include our voice. The Members opposite and their supporters outside are sometimes fond of talking about governments working in harmony; of avoiding clashes and confrontation. Now, disagreements and disputes are inevitable, whenever political parties debate public policy. Confrontation only develops when disagreements deteriorate into sterile stalemates that produce no plans; no results; no programs for anyone.

For our part, I have been saying consistently that Yukon's future lies in co-operation; in an effective partnership with the rest of Canada — with the federal and provincial governments and with the private sector. Clearly, it does not lie in isolation.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to illustrate that not only are we doing our share. As a Government that is new to many Canadians, we have to do far more than that. We have carried out extensive consultations with other Governments, to explain our goals and needs.

Since the House last sat, Mr. Speaker, I have met the Premiers of the Maritime provinces, as well as the Inter-governmental Affairs Ministers of Newfoundland and Quebec. That brings to nine the number of provinces I have consulted, over the last year or so.

I have corresponded with Mr. Blakeney of Saskatchewan, but we have not, so far, been in the same place long enough to arrange to sit down together. In Ottawa, I have met with Mr. Chretien, the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the Constitution, and who is a Minister in the present Federal Government with interest in, and knowledge of, Yukon. I have talked to Senator Olson, about economic development in general, and the pipeline in particular. I have discussed mega-projects with Mr. Gray, and have solicited his approval to include Yukon more effectively in planning and consultation processes. I have discussed territorial financing and energy issues with Mr. Munro. I have testified before the Standing Committee on Northern Affairs in Ottawa, and I have presented a brief to the Parliamentary Task Force on Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements, here in Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, unsatisfactory existing financial arrangements were the main thrust of my presentation, when I testified in May before the House of Commons Standing Committee. I put our case for a single block transfer payment annually, to cover both the operating and maintenance and the capital budgets, thus eliminating the requirement to go before the Federal Treasury Board on Territorial capital projects.

With respect to health care, I pointed out that, in recent years, the cost of health care has greatly exceeded the federal transfer payments, leaving the people of Yukon to pay the bill. As members must know, my argument is not that we should pay but that we must have in-put and control. The present

system with federal Health and Welfare drawing up a budget and sending us the bill, is simply indefensible.

Our problem is that progress on specific items has become bogged down in the Ottawa bureaucracy. It is bogged down because some bureaucrats believe almost nothing should happen north of Sixty until they can produce one comprehensive constitutional, economic, energy, and development package. The right kind of package would indeed be welcomed by Yukoners, but there is no justification for delaying the implementation of specific measures. We are looking to the Federal Government for positive action.

A few years ago, we had made progress in negotiating revenue-sharing. Now we are told Ottawa still agrees in principle, yet nothing is forthcoming. The exception, of course, is Bill C-48. At a time when practically everything is on hold, the Federal Government has pushed eagerly ahead with its plan to arbitrarily take a 25 percent share of all petroleum products in Yukon and Northwest Territories, without any guarantee that northerners will share in the revenues. I told the committee that the one thing we can count on is having to live with all the problems arising from hydrocarbon development.

In June, we welcomed two committees to Yukon, one being the House Subcommittee on the Northern Canada Power Commission. My colleague, the Minister of Tourism and Economic Development, emphasized the need for N.C.P.C. to be split into separate autonomous operating and administrative units for Yukon and the NWT, and for N.C.P.C. to begin negotiations with us, to set up one distribution and marketing agency for all electrical energy.

At the same time — the same day, in fact — the Parliamentary Task Force on Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements came to Whitehorse. I outlined in some detail our concerns with respect to health, education, and social service programs. Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to quote from my brief: "The Government of Yukon has a continuing interest in the incremental improvement of these services. In order to accomplish these objectives, a partnership with the Federal Government is essential. The Government of Yukon urges this Committee to pay particular attention to the needs and aspirations of those regions of Canada which require increased levels of fiscal support.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you and the Members will be aware that the Honourable Allan MacEachen's ghost was present at all the hearings of the Task Force. Mr. MacEachen's stated intention of achieving substantial savings in federal transfers to provinces and territories, by trimming \$1.5 billion over the next two years from the EPF program, coloured all of the Task Force work. I made it absolutely clear that any reduction in the real value of transfers to Yukon would have disastrous consequences, because our services, unlike those of most provinces, are already at the basic minimal level.

Co-operation is a two-edged sword, Mr. Speaker. Mr. MacEachen did not see fit to include us in a pre-budget meeting with provincial Ministers of Finance. But, to ensure that our concerns were registered, I wrote to Mr. MacEachen on October 9th. A copy of that letter has been made public, and I do not need to go into detail.

On behalf of all Yukoners, of whatever party or background, I appealed to the Minister of Finance to give us consideration on three particular matters. One, there must be no cutback in transfer payments to Yukon. Two, fuel costs, already higher than elsewhere in Canada, should be taken into account. Three, overdue tax reforms should be brought forward: there should be a program of tax-generating development, coupled with income tax exemptions, for people living north of Sixty.

Well, tonight we will have some answers from Mr. MacEachen. I sincerely hope I can welcome the introduction of some sensitivity to the needs we have identified.

I turn now to three specific points where cooperation is essential, and where, in fact, progress is being made. The first is the question of Indian land claims. The Federal Government is a major player in the negotiations. We are continuing to do our

utmost, in order that the progress that has been made since this House last sat will not be lost. Time and again, we, as a government, have demonstrated our good faith, and our commitment to a settlement.

The second point I want to make is that our efforts as elected representatives to be participants in intergovernmental meetings are paying off. Last week we accepted the Prime Minister's invitation to attend the First Ministers' Conference on the Constitution, as separate official observers. The significance, Mr. Speaker, is that we were, for the first time, able to attend in our own right, representing Yukon, and not as members of the Federal delegation. While it is not the meaningful role with opportunity to speak that we have been seeking, nevertheless, we believe, it is federal recognition of our success over the last year in demonstrating that Yukon has its own needs and interests in the national constitutional debate.

Earlier, Premier Bennett advised me that the Premiers have no objection to our participation in meetings of First Ministers. We are continuing to press our case for a seat in any future meetings.

We are now fully accepted at the ministerial level. In September, at the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Indian Affairs, Yukon was designated as the chairing member, should another meeting be required outside Ottawa. Not only are Ministers accepting our participation, they are accepting our chairmanship. Ministers from across Canada are prepared to come to Whitehorse, where they would learn about us and our Territory. That, Mr. Speaker, is an achievement. An elected Government does not get results by sitting on the sidelines. We were elected to speak up for Yukon, and that is what we have been doing.

My third point concerns economic development. During the last year we have taken the initiative with the mineral industry, to establish a task force to plan for orderly and sensitive development in the MacMillan Pass area. Since the House last sat, two important studies have been undertaken. One, by the resource planning branch of the Department of Renewable Resources, is an inventory of the natural resources in the region. The other is a preliminary analysis of the relative merits of conducting long distance commuting operations versus the construction of a community in the region.

In August, the Cabinet visited five prospective mine sites in order to gain first-hand knowledge, which will be useful when it comes to deciding how the Government should be involved in the planning process.

As I mentioned earlier, we have put forward a strong case for speeding up hydro development. We have pressed for a reduction in our costly dependence on diesel generation for energy. Members will understand, Mr. Speaker, that even if these subjects were a high priority in Ottawa, solutions to our energy problem and large-scale economic development take time. Unbelievable as it may seem, over the last two years the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources has managed to raise energy to one of its highest priorities, while neglecting northerners completely.

We have asked for an end to the discrimination which exists against Yukoners under the national energy pricing policy. This policy has ensured that the major population and industrial centres of all provinces are provided with petroleum products at prices which are equivalent to, or less than, those of Toronto. This objective was achieved by equalizing or subsidizing crude oil prices of all eastern Canadian refineries which are dependant upon costly imported crude oil to the prices of Toronto. Yukoners contribute to the petroleum compensation tax which enables the eastern provinces to enjoy these lower prices — prices well below Yukon's. Similar measures were not deemed necessary for Western Canada, since the price of domestic crude oil is kept at artificially low levels, and due to the close proximity of these energy sources to the major populations and industrial centres of each of the western provinces.

Unfortunately, Yukon is so distant, even from western

sources of domestic petroleum products, that added transportation costs result in higher energy prices than those existing in the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I put the case to Mr. Munro last week for providing Yukon's major population and industrial centre, Whitehorse, with petroleum product prices equivalent to Toronto, Quebec City, Montreal, St. John's, and Halifax. I pointed out that the Northern Canada Power Commission would be paying the unfairly high price on every one of the seven million gallons of diesel fuel it would have to buy this year to keep its generators turning.

I also informed him of the following alarming indicators. A study we commissioned shows that Yukoners are paying two-and-a-half times the per capita costs Albertans pay for energy. We also find that the proportion of our energy that is diesel-generated has risen to 25 percent. Over the next decade, energy expenditures — as a percentage of gross territorial product, the total sum of territorial goods and services — will increase from 17 percent to 50 percent, unless there are major and quick changes in our energy system.

Mr. Speaker, it is my duty, as I see it, to place this information before the House and before our people. By doing so, I am not seeking confrontation with Ottawa; I am seeking solutions. It is also my duty to tell you where the responsibility lies. It is with Ottawa. When Mr. Munro expressed optimism, as he did last week, that the elements of a radical energy package for the North are finally coming together, I had to tell him, as one politician to another, "Look, we must put an end to these bureaucratic games that have been played under one Minister or another for years." I am happy and hopeful enough to say that my impression is that Mr. Munro sees the point and wants to get on with it.

The truth is that this Government has a strong record in developing inter-governmental relations in the best interests of Yukoners. We have not sat back, waiting for benefits to come our way, because they will not. We have reached out; we have negotiated, lobbied, and briefed for Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, here at home, the Cabinet continued its practice of getting out to our communities to hear their views directly. We held public meetings around the Territory in May and June, and just the other day in Old Crow. We held a Cabinet meeting on Herschel Island, to demonstrate our commitment to the northern-most part of the territory. We found debris widely scattered around historic Pauline Cove. I am happy to report that, with the help of Parks Canada staff, the old settlement site has been cleaned up, while everything of historic value has been protected.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Members will make sure that their eligible constituents take advantage of the extension of services we have put into effect during the summer.

Previously, we established an Ordinance, and set up a Board to control licensing of day care services. Now we have a program that provides up to \$250 per month for each child in day care; this is available to families unable to afford these services without financial help.

We have made available additional help, to our most deserving Senior citizens. Our Pharmacare Program pays the total cost of all prescription drugs they require.

We have extended free medical care to spouses and dependents of Senior citizens, as well as providing financial assistance up to 50 percent for low-income Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate, in this International Year of the Disabled, that we have been able to offer a transportation system in Whitehorse to those unable to use the transit system. This service, known as the Handy Bus, is operating on a six month trial basis, and is as close as the telephone.

In Education, we have continued to help students to study in their home communities, as much as possible. Grade 12 courses are being offered for the first time to Teslin students. The Teslin School has been renovated and expanded. We have decided to build a new school at Pelly Crossing next spring. We have increased, by \$130,000, the grants to our Native Language

Program, both for considerably strengthening the Indian language teachers, and for research. We have acquired additional facilities to aid in teaching the disabled.

Mr. Speaker, during the summer, my colleague, the Minister of Renewable Resources, announced our intention to initiate major policy changes relating to the outfitting industry, which continues to make an important contribution to our economy. We will ask the House to approve an ordinance designed to provide outfitters with a long-term future, while still providing sufficient protection for our wildlife. We want to ensure that control and ownership of the industry stays in Yukon. Where necessary, we must establish quotas for hunters. And we propose to raise licence fees for registered outfitters and hunters to realistic levels.

Mr. Speaker, I have reported on some of the main elements of the Government's program since the House last sat. This is by no means a full record. I wanted to assure members that the Ministers have been busy to good purpose over recent months. In summary, Mr. Speaker, we have combined patient building for the future with practical concern to meet the needs of the moment. We aspire to give our children reason to stay, and to build an even better Yukon. To do that we must engage other governments with our concern. We must take the initiative, and convince others in government and the private sector, in order that that new jobs will open up in two, five, or ten years, but we must never lose sight of the needs of the people who share the uniquely rewarding experience of living in Yukon. We must consider especially the disadvantaged among us, and those who have long since paid their dues.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest we have earned the whole-hearted support of the House for this Resolution. Thank you very much.

Applause

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Faro, that debate on Motion 12 be now adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, seconded by the Honourable Member for Faro, that debate be now adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Penikett: I move, seconded by the Government Leader, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, seconded by the Honourable Government Leader, that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Monday, next.

The House adjourned at 2:57

The following Sessional Papers were tabled Thursday, November 12, 1981:

81-4-21

Letter from Chairman, Yukon Elections Board, regarding the by-election, Whitehorse South Centre, October 13, 1981, and the election of Mr. Kimmerly.

81-4-23

Report of the Yukon Elections Board: By-election, Whitehorse South Centre, October 13, 1981.

81-4-24

Report of the Yukon Elections Board: Recommended Amendments to the Elections Ordinance, 1977.