



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 19

2nd Session

24th Legislature

HANSARD

Tuesday, October 9, 1979 — 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly

Government Members

(Progressive Conservative)

		Constituency
Donald Taylor	(Speaker)	Watson Lake
Chris Pearson	(Government House Leader — responsible for Land Claims, Pipeline, Tourism and Economic Development, Economic Research and Planning, Renewable Resources)	Whitehorse Riverdale North
Doug Graham	(Minister responsible for Education, Justice, Information Resources, Consumer and Corporate Affairs)	Whitehorse Porter Creek West
Dan Lang	(Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works, Municipal and Community Affairs, Yukon Housing Corporation)	Whitehorse Porter Creek East
Meg Sutherland McCall	(Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources)	Klondike
Al Falle		Hootalinqua
Peter Hanson		Mayo
Jack Hibberd	(Deputy Chairman of Committee of the Whole)	Whitehorse South Centre
Geoffrey Lattin	(Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committee of the Whole)	Whitehorse North Centre
Grafton Njootli		Old Crow
Howard Tracey		Tatchun

Opposition Members

(Liberal)

Iain MacKay	(Leader of Official Opposition)	Whitehorse Riverdale South
Alice P. McGuire		Kluane

(New Democratic Party)

Tony Penikett		Whitehorse West
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(Independent)

Maurice J. Byblow		Faro
Robert Flemming		Campbell

Whitehorse, Yukon Territory
Tuesday, October 9th, 1979

Mr. Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

We will proceed at this time with Prayers.

Prayers

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper under Daily Routine.

DAILY ROUTINE

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Are there any tabling of returns or documents?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling today, pursuant to the Interpretation Ordinance, the Regulations Report. Also, Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the Yukon Public Service Staff Relations Report, pursuant to the Yukon Public Service Staff Relations Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Documents.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling pursuant to various statutes the following reports: Yukon Teachers' Staff Relation Board Report, the Transport Public Utilities Board Report and the Electric Public Utilities Board Report.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any Presentation of Reports of Standing or Special Committees?

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges; the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges; and the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Reports of Standing or Special Committees?

Are there any Petitions?

Reading and Receiving of Petitions?

We will now then proceed to Introduction of Bills.

BILLS: INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse South Centre, that the following bills be now introduced and read a first time: Boiler and Pressure Vessel Ordinance and An Ordinance to Amend the Taxation Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member from South Centre, that a bill entitled Boiler and Pressure Vessel Ordinance, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: It has also been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse South Centre that a Bill entitled An Ordinance to Amend the Taxation Ordinance be now introduced and read a first time. Motion agreed to

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

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse North Centre that the following bills be now introduced and read a first time. An Ordinance to Amend the Fur Export Ordinance, An Ordinance Respecting Income Tax, Statistics Ordinance, Third Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79 and Parks Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Government seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre to introduce An Ordinance to Amend the Fur Export Ordinance.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Government, seconded by the Honourable Member from

Whitehorse North Centre that a Bill entitled the Statistics Ordinance be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Government, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre to introduce and give first reading to an Ordinance entitled the Parks Ordinance.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Government, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre that an ordinance entitled An Ordinance Respecting Income Tax be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further bills for introduction?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Mayo that the following bills be now introduced and read a first time: An Ordinance to Amend the Legal Professional Ordinance and An Ordinance to Amend the Supreme Court Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member from Mayo that a bill entitled An Ordinance to Amend the Legal Profession Ordinance be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member from Mayo, that a bill entitled, An Ordinance to Amend the Supreme Court Ordinance, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Bills?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I beg for leave to introduce the Third Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79, and I believe you overlooked calling the question on that Bill.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Government, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre, that a bill entitled Third Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

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

There being no further bills, we will proceed to Notices of Motion for the Production of Papers.

Are there any Notices of Motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to give Notice of Motion respecting the Medical Profession Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Notices of Motion?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a motion, moved by myself, seconded by the Honourable Member from Riverdale South, the Leader of the Opposition, THAT the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges review all conflict of interest provisions relating to Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly and elected Members of the Executive Committee; and THAT the Committee report to the House any recommended amendments to those provisions.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Notices of Motion?

There being no further Notices of Motion, are there any Statements by Ministers?

This then brings us to the Question Period. Have you any questions.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Responsible Government in Yukon

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, it has been a long drought. My question is to the Honourable Government Leader concerning the new terms of reference announced today by the Minister of Indian Affairs. I would ask his opinion as to whether or not he now feels he has attained a fully responsible government for Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I, like everyone else, received these terms of reference this morning and they are going to require a considerable amount of digesting.

I might say that I, personally, am quite pleased that the Minister has followed, to a large degree, the suggestions that we made to him. I do not believe that these terms of reference can be the end-all in respect to responsible government until we finally do get the Yukon Act amended.

Mr. MacKay: Part of the letter, Mr. Speaker, indicated that the Government Leader would be in a position to call himself Premier and my question is that in view of the development, constitutionally, economically and socially of the Territory at this time, that calling himself a Premier of 23,000 people would make us look like a banana republic and hold us up to ridicule to the rest of Canada. Is he prepared not to undertake to use that term until we actually achieve provincial status?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the terms of reference indicated that should this Government wish, I could use the term "Premier". I, personally, do not intend to do so.

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, on the same question, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might ask the Government Leader if he would, at some time in the near future, refer the matters raised in the Instructions to the Commissioner from the Minister to this House, or a committee of this House, for a fairly full discussion of this development?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am just wondering about the phrasing of the question. Is the Honourable Member asking if it is the intention of Government to do something or is he giving an instruction to Government?

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, my question was to ask the Government if they intended to do this?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I fully intend to seek the Commissioner's concurrence to have those instructions tabled in this House.

Mr. Penikett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Government Leader if he would advise this House if there is any basis, in fact, in press speculation that suggests that the present Commissioner's office will be retitled, shortly, the "Governor" or the "Administrator of Yukon"?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Penikett: Can the Government Leader then also assure the House that it does not propose to relocate the Commissioner's Office, whatever the person's title, in the Federal, as opposed to the Territorial Government building?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker.

Question re: Cyprus Anvil - Labour Unrest

Mr. Byblow: Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Government Leader and it expresses a concern for this government's position regarding the labour unrest in my riding.

My first question is to inquire of the Government Leader whether he has been in communication with the Union executive and the Cyprus Anvil officials during the past several weeks?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, this Government has been in communication with both. I have not been in communication, personally, with the Union executives, mainly because I could not get hold of them, but I did have at least two conversations with the local manager of Cyprus Anvil.

Mr. Byblow: I would further inquire of the Government Leader, in light of the community's vital cornerstone support to the Yukon economy and in light of the community's guaranteed life for the next fifty years or so, is his Government prepared to offer any assistance to the parties involved?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, it must be understood by everyone that this Government does not have any legislative authority over that particular problem. This falls under the purview of the Canada Labour Act and the Industrial Relations Act, the Federal legislation.

However, that does not preclude us, nor did it preclude us, from offering any assistance that we could and we stand ready to offer anyone that assistance at any time that we can.

Question re: MLA and Public Service Relations

Mr. Penikett: On March 14th, in reply to a question from the Member from Mayo, this House was told the Government has no specific policy regarding communication between MLA's and Territorial public servants.

I would like to ask the Government Leader, has a new policy been developed in this area, without making MLA's aware of it?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Not that I am aware of it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Penikett: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health and Human Resources. Can the Minister explain why certain employees of her Department have been specifically ordered not to converse with MLA's, even their own constituency representatives?

Hon. Mrs. McCall: Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of any such direction and I believe that it is not true. I will have the answer for you tomorrow, a definite answer.

Mr. Penikett: Supplementary to the Minister's reply: if the Minister can be persuaded that this curtailment of civil liberties has taken place, will she be prepared to submit her resignation from the Executive Committee forthwith?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would consider that question to be out of order.

Question re: Cottage Lot Developments

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, in the area of the cottage lots developments, such as the little Teslin area. Is the work that is being done there now under Federal jurisdiction or Territorial jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, it is presently being done under the Federal Government.

Mr. Fleming: I take it, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask the Minister again, there has been no actual turnover of any lands to the Territorial Government in the area of the cottage lots?

Hon. Mr. Lang: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

Question re: Land Claims

Mr. MacKay: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question to the Government Leader is, repeatedly through the last Territorial election and the last Legislative Assembly, and in public statements since, the Government Leader has stated that Land Claims and the settlement thereof was his first priority and that nothing really could occur without Land Claims being settled first. Could he then say whether or not he has protested the recent indefinite adjournment by the Minister of Indian Affairs of these negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the adjournment of the Land Claims negotiations, I was assured, would be of very, very short duration, not of the magnitude of a year like the last time that there was an adjournment. The reason for the adjournment was to allow the Federal Government to establish their position firmly in respect to Land Claims and it is a position I think that they must establish if we are going to accomplish what we all want in a Land Claims settlement.

Mr. MacKay: It is indeed unfortunate that we were elected without having any clear views on this, Mr. Speaker, however, I would like to follow up with a supplementary. On a question on this issue, during a meeting in the summer, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs stated that he considered Land Claims and question of land and money only and I want to know if this Government is in support of that position.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, over a number of years now, this Government has put forward the proposal that Land Claims could be achieved much more quickly if the Land Claim was in respect to land and money only and that constitutional development matters, and other related matters, were dealt with in another form.

Mr. MacKay: Does the Honourable Government Leader, Mr. Speaker, seriously believe that he can proceed with negotiations that do not consider what appear to be the main preoccupation of the Indian people at this point as constitutional guarantees?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, there have been two Land Claim settlements in Canada now and an Agreement in Principle on the third one, none of which involve constitutional matters. All three of them are strictly land and money settlements. As a consequence, the precedent says, yes, it can be done.

Question re: Alleged Theft

Mr. Penikett: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. I recently advised the Minister of a complaint of petty theft made by a constituent of his against the Government of Yukon. Can the Minister tell the House if the money in question has been returned to the citizen?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, the incident in question, I am happy to say is being seriously looked at by the Government. To this date, the \$2.50 has not been returned to my constituent. However, I am pursuing it with the utmost diligence and I am pleased to announce that we will be implementing, seriously, a policy whereby these small amounts of money can be returned to consumers in the future. I realize that it is a problem; it has been a problem that has occurred quite a few times in the past and we are, as I said, hoping to come up with a solution in the very near future.

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary to the same Minister, in his capacity as Minister of Justice. Should any victim of such petty theft decide to press charges, against whom in the Government should he lay them?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I am afraid I cannot answer that, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take it under advisement.

Question re: Sharp Report on Urban Students

Mr. Byblow: Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Education. In light of the recent Sharp report on urban students, what is his Department's intention to deal with the recommendations in this report?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, if I gave our solutions to all of the recommendations, I am afraid that we would be here for a long period of time but I can say that we have looked at the report, we agree totally with the report and we are proceeding as quickly as possible to implement as many of the report's recommendations as we can.

I would be pleased to meet with any of the Members opposite and discuss it further with them at some other time.

Question re: Teaching Applicant

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education regarding hiring in the Ross River area, which I feel he is well aware of, where there were two applications put in for a job of teaching and one was accepted. In the last letter that was received from the person who was rejected, it was stated that the board did not know that that application was there, as you well remember in the letters we received. I wonder what the Minister has to say, or could you answer me as to whether that last letter from the applicant that was rejected is true or did the board actually know that there were two applications for that job?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I know the incident of which the Honourable Member opposite speaks and I have communicated, through my department officials, with the school committee in Ross River. I have been assured that the school committee was consulted, as all school committees in the Territory should be before a person is hired in their school, or before an administrative person is hired in their school. I have been assured that that was the case in this instance and I am forced to go along with that, the most recent comments that I have had.

Question re: Land Transfer from Federal Government

Mr. MacKay: I have another question for the Honourable Government Leader and I refer to a letter dated June 18th, 1979, which was sent by the Honourable Government Leader to the Minister of Indian Affairs. It was sent without any fanfare and was belatedly made public in July, Mr. Speaker.

In that letter, the Government Leader asked for the transfer of control and management of Yukon land to the purview of the Yukon Government. I would like the Government Leader to explain how he could ask for this transfer, when, on March 21st, 1979, this House passed a motion requesting such a transfer only after to prior settlement of Yukon Indian Land Claims?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is, I am afraid, taking it out of context once again. This is the so-called secret letter. There was nothing secretive about it. It was strictly part of what I felt, and still feel very strongly, to be my responsibility to this Territory to send such a letter.

The suggestion in respect to the transfer of lands, in the context that the Honourable Member is referring to it, deals with what happens after a land claim settlement and that, Mr. Speaker, is clear in the letter.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, in the same letter there was a request in the same paragraph for the transfer of resources to the Yukon Government, under the same conditions.

Could the Government Leader explain how he could ask for that when, on April 4th, such a motion was put before this House and failed to pass?

Mr. Speaker: I believe the questions are becoming somewhat argumentative, however, I will permit an answer to the question.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, that motion is still before this House and if anyone wants to argue with me about whether resources in this Territory should be transferred to the administration and control of this Government, at any time I am quite prepared to argue that point.

Mr. Speaker, the object of the letter was to tell the Minister, number one, where we are at today and, number two, where we hope to be someday. If we are going to become first class citizens in this country, as I firmly believe we have the right to be, then there has to be some sort of an agreement in respect to non-renewable resources.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I would preface this in reply to your comment that I may be argumentative. I am concerned about the privileges of this House and when we pass motions that, in fact, these are heeded.

So, I would ask the Government Leader if, in future, he will continue to ignore the motions of this Assembly, as he appears to have done in this letter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is becoming, I think, somewhat unparliamentary.

Question re: Matrimonial Property Division Law

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, I have an entirely non-controversial question for the Minister of Education.

In view of the press reports of a statement by the Minister of Health and Human Resources that the proposed Matrimonial Property Division Law would be "a step backwards", can we assume the Executive Committee will not be proceeding with this legislation at this time?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, we will be proceeding with Matrimonial Property Settlement legislation. Unfortunately, it was not printed in time to be tabled today. I expect to table it tomorrow and I am prepared to debate it on the merits of the bill.

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary to the Government Leader.

Can the Government Leader advise the House if the ancient principle of cabinet solidarity will be the rule of his administration?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is the principle.

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, will the Government Leader also observe the practice of previous federal administrations, and some provincial, of encouraging wide public discussion of current issues, prior to Cabinet reaching a conclusion on a particular matter?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, we are committed to follow that course of action whenever and wherever we possibly can.

Question re: Home Building - One Year Completion

Mr. Byblow: I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. In light of his Government's land policy requiring purchasers to build a completed-to-the-weather home within a year and, in light of the gross impracticality of such a policy in Yukon, is he prepared to relax that regulation in order to allow a more reasonable incentive to homeowners in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member did bring it to my attention. I am prepared to look at that.

Mr. Byblow: May I inquire of the Minister when he plans to bring about such a revision?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, if a change was made in this particular area, it would be announced in this House.

Mr. Byblow: Will the Minister initiate such action soon and make it retroactive to the presently aggrieved home builders?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to make any commitments at this time.

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Speaker, further to that question, would the Minister provide us with the percentage of people who have built within that one year that are under contract now? In other words, how many people in the last year that have bought land have complied with that contract of one year?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I would venture to say approximately ninety per cent of those people who have purchased lots have complied with that provision. If they have not, then the land reverts back to the Government and it is authorized once again for public sale.

I think it is fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that we do need a deadline in respect to building improvements on a particular lot, otherwise you are going to get into a situation where land is held and no improvements are put on a particular piece of property.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, that if land is going to be made available that whoever purchases it should utilize it.

I can think of numerous situations that have occurred over the years where land was purchased and subsequently no improvements were put on the property and, subsequently, other people who were interested in building at that time could not purchase property except maybe at an exorbitant rate.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, there is a good reason for that particular provision.

Mr. Fleming: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, in the case of the Federal Act, which is approximately the same on the cottage lots, I

think they are still sold in that area, I wonder if the Minister could provide us with some information as to how the federal government is making out with their contracts?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I think the question would have to be ruled out of order because I do not believe any member of this Government can speak for another government.

Perhaps the Honourable Member might wish to rephrase his question.

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would if the Minister could procure that information for us?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I can attempt to get the information for the Honourable Member in respect to cottage lot development. I believe the terms and conditions in respect to the last sale were outlined throughout the news media, whether it be by radio or by newspapers and, subsequently, were public knowledge.

At the same time, as the Speaker has outlined, I would like to sometimes speak on behalf of the Government of Canada, but, really, I do not have that mandate.

Question re: Care for the Elderly

Mr. Penikett: On March 21st, the Member for Klondike presented a resolution requesting a review of government services provided for care of the elderly in Yukon, which resolution passed.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Human Resources if this review has been completed by her Department.

Hon. Mrs. McCall: Mr. Speaker, that review has not been completed.

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, in her speech on March 21st, the Minister was critical of facilities for the elderly in Dawson. Specifically since her appointment to the Cabinet, what has the Minister accomplished to improve these facilities?

Hon. Mrs. McCall: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is investigating the whole health situation of the elderly.

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, at the time time, the Minister also condemned the practice of transferring terminally ill patients to Whitehorse. Can the Minister assure the House that her good offices have been employed to end this practice?

Hon. Mrs. McCall: Mr. Speaker, we have not got that far with our review, but we are working on it.

Question re: Public Service Training

Mrs. McGuire: Mr. Speaker, I address this question to the Government House Leader, the Honourable Chris Pearson.

In receiving a series of complaints, especially from outer communities whose people have very little time to conduct their business in Whitehorse, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Government Leader if he has any plans to impose compulsory regulations and to construct a course whereby all government employees who are dealing specifically with the public must enter into a training course and that the training course include such things as public relations, efficiency in dealing with the public, orientation of other government departments for accurate and quick referrals and other such efficiency related services to the public.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are embarking upon a training program. We hope to have things in place so that the necessary funding and so on will be reflected in the new budget. As to whether it can be compulsory or not, I am not absolutely sure at this time, but I am certain that if we can make it desirable enough, the compulsion factor would not have to be there.

Question re: Burwash School Funding - Indian Education

Mr. Penikett: I have another question for my friend, the Minister of Education. Can the Minister give a progress report on his Department's negotiations with the Klwane Tribal Brotherhood regarding funding of the Burwash school.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Honourable Minister will keep his reply somewhat brief as this is the Question Period and I do not believe any lengthy reply would be in order.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I will be very brief, Mr. Speaker. Negotiations are proceeding. They broke off for a period of two weeks, through no difficulties, just manpower requirements. I hope to have a statement sometime later this week to give to the House.

Mr. Penikett: On March 7th, in this House, the Government, in reply to the Throne Speech, stated, "We do not agree that there should be separate schools, or separate anything, based on race". Has the Government's policy changed on this question of separate schools for racial or religious minorities.

Hon. Mr. Graham: No, it has not, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Penikett: I would like to ask the Minister, as a supplementary to my previous question, in that the Indian community has a previ-

ously stated policy objective of Indian control of Indian education, can the Minister say whether this policy position has been an issue in the negotiations.

Hon. Mr. Graham: The Department of Education's stance on this issue is fairly clear. We believe in parental control of children's education. We will pursue that objective throughout, and if the parents of the pupils in schools happen to be Native parents, then, hopefully, native parents will control the education of their children.

Question re: Hiring Locally

Mrs. McGuire: I have another question for the Government Leader. Would he consider forming a committee in conjunction with the Department of Manpower to do an overall review of the employment situation as it now exists in Yukon, to find out specifically how effective are the regulations and priority of local hiring, what type of monitoring system should be used, are local hiring priority regulations being abused, and are employment agencies really doing their job?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to refer the question to the Minister of Education and Manpower, who I am sure is much better equipped to answer it than I.

Hon. Mr. Graham: The Manpower Department in YTG is very small but very active. We are currently pursuing many of the objectives outlined by the Honourable Member opposite. I hope to be able to table, within the next couple of weeks, policy papers and also, a White Paper concerning local hiring, fair practices and this type of thing.

Question re: White Pass Railroad

Mr. Byblow: I have a question for the Government Leader respecting the White Pass railroad.

In light of the fact that the Company is making no visible efforts to maintain the safety of its railbed, is making no visible re-investment in its service, is laying off long-term residents, what is your Government's reaction to these irresponsible acts?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, we have made our concerns, and the concerns of this House as expressed at the last Session, known to the Federal Government and I am not at liberty to say publicly exactly what is happening now because of course it is a matter that is being dealt with by the Federal Government and I very much fear that I would jeopardize anything that might be going on in respect to White Pass.

So, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would just as soon not answer specifically those types of questions.

Question re: Tatchun Seat Vacancy

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Speaker, I have an easy one for the Government Leader. One of the several dozen press releases I received this summer was the June 15th announcement that the Government Leader was making his umpteenth Cabinet shuffle since November and assuming the Tourism portfolio in Executive Committee.

The release also said that the former Minister will "continue to sit in the Legislature as the Member for Carmacks".

I would like, therefore, to ask the Government Leader if the Tatchun seat is now vacant and wonder when the Government Leader will be calling a by-election.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, as can well be seen, the seat is not vacant.

Question re: Teslin Area School Busing

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Education, regarding the school busing in the Teslin area.

From my information, I gather that the kindergarten run has been cut off and as the Minister must know, there is a clause in the contract that calls for \$400 and some a month for that run. I wonder if he could tell me if it is true that it is being cut off, why and if so is the contractor still being paid for that run?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question under advisement.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I would beg the indulgence of yourself and this House to request a short recess, possibly about four minutes for an urgent and pressing matter. I find it necessary to leave the House and my motion would be the next item on the agenda, but I just need a couple or three minutes and I can be back.

Mr. Speaker: The question is highly unusual, however, with the concurrence of the House in agreement, this would be permitted.

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I will now stand the House in recess for five minutes.

Recess

Mr. Speaker: At this time we will call the House back to order. Having completed the Question Period, we will now proceed to Orders of the Day under Government Motions.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Motion No. 23

Mr. Clerk: Item Number 1, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Pearson.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Member prepared to proceed with Item Number 1?

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

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, that this House approve in general the operations of the government since the adjournment of the spring sitting.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am honoured to be allowed an opportunity to address this Assembly as Government Leader, with a review of our Government's activities since the last sitting in the Spring. It has been a busy and an exciting six months. There is no doubt that there will be many more achievements before this Session is ended. It will be my privilege for the next few minutes to highlight these activities and to describe some of the issues we will be concerned with in this session.

Over the last several years, we, in Yukon, have complained that we have not been permitted an opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process and in the management of the affairs that affect our daily lives. All this is now changing. It is changing because we have a government here that more and more is being run by a party representing the Yukon voters. Even more important, it is changing because we now have a government in Ottawa that is concerned about Yukon, that is listening to Yukoners, and that is responding to our advice.

Mr. Speaker, it soon will become trite when I say how pleased we are that the change in governments at the national level has given a whole new perspective to all Yukoners. We now have a supportive and cooperative Federal government, which is immensely encouraging.

Yukon has received unprecedented attention these past two months. In August, the Honourable Jake Epp, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, made his inaugural tour of Yukon. He took the opportunity to meet with local interest groups, to officially open the Dempster Highway with the new Minister of Public Works, Yukon's Member of Parliament, Erik Nielsen, and to announce the transfer of recreational land to this Government.

This positive action of the Federal Government is a major step in land development in Yukon, and we are presently sorting out the terms of this program which will also include the future development and disposition of recreational land throughout the Territory.

The Honourable Walter Baker, President of the Privy Council, the Federal Minister of Pipelines visited in early September for a first-hand look at the pipeline route, and he signed an agreement of consultation with our government on all matters related to the gas pipeline which was ratified by this House when we last sat.

The Minister then made a major commitment on behalf of the Federal Government to re-examine the disposition of resource taxation to allow Yukoners a greater share of the economic benefit that will accrue than what had been permitted under the former government, and this change in Federal policy opens the door for the renegotiation of our Heritage Fund.

Our most recent visitor was the Honourable Ron Atkey, Minister of Manpower and Immigration, who met with his representatives here as well as with Yukon's newest citizens from Vietnam during his short visit.

Mr. Atkey was briefed on the implications of such matters as native unemployment, manpower training programs and the effect the pipeline will have on Yukon's workforce.

With regard to land claims, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Yukon Indian Claim negotiations are proceeding. There have been several rounds of negotiations since last March in which this Government has had full participation. However, further talks have been temporarily deferred, pending completion of the federal review of claims policy.

We are reviewing the applications of the COPE agreement in principle to northern Yukon. This agreement is of major concern to

us because it threatens the jurisdictional integrity and constitutional development of the Government of Yukon.

It must be remembered, moreover, that the agreement was negotiated prior to our memorandum of understanding without any Yukon Government involvement. Our exclusion from the COPE negotiations has led to a situation whereby interests outside Yukon are to determine the future disposition of land, and interests in land, totally within Yukon's jurisdictional boundaries.

One provision in the agreement permits the Inuvialuit to select up to 1,000 square miles of land in Yukon, one-half of our entire northern coastline.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the COPE agreement in principle discriminates against the Yukon Indian people of Old Crow and prejudices their traditional claim to land in northern Yukon.

The Inuvialuit are being granted land, exclusive harvesting rights and preferential employment opportunities in northern Yukon, essentially at the expense of the Yukon Indian people of Old Crow.

The Government of Yukon must ensure that the rights and interests of its Old Crow citizens are protected. Accordingly, we are seeking redress from Ottawa.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have an announcement to make which I regret very much. In a letter to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on June 18th, 1979, and in subsequent meetings with the Minister, the Government of Yukon outlined some positive measures to further the evolution of responsible government in Yukon.

Although I am most pleased to report that the Minister has responded favourably to our requests, it is with considerable regret that my colleagues and I have learned of Commissioner Christenson's intention to resign. I would like to stress that we have the greatest regard for Commissioner Christenson and would have liked very much to have had her continue as the functions of the office are changed.

Mrs. Christenson has performed her duties as Commissioner with diligence and dignity. Her decision to resign is most unfortunate in view of the vital role she has already played in contributing to the development and success of responsible government in Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, a major accomplishment of this Government, and Yukoners, was our immediate response to Dawson City when it was struck with the most serious flood in its history.

Yukoners showed that they are all brothers and sisters by responding, within hours, to our most historically significant community with food, supplies, cash and physical labour to help clean up and repair the damage. The Government formed a Disaster Committee to administer financial assistance to Dawson City flood victims. Some 275 claims were examined and approximately one and a half million dollars was paid out. Recovery of about \$1.2 million is expected from a cost-sharing agreement with Canada and the remainder will be paid by your Government.

The Emergency Measures Organization Unit ably co-ordinated private and public activities in responding to the needs of Dawson City. This disaster was only one in a series of harsh blows to the City of Dawson, and the efforts of Dawson residents to maintain their community have suffered considerable set-back this year. Even well-intentioned projects, like the replacement of the water and sewer system, have disrupted the tourist activity this summer and have contributed to Dawson's immediate problems. The Yukon Government recognizes the importance of Dawson City to the Tourist Department and intends to do what it can to ensure that Dawson remains a viable community. To fulfill this goal, we will ensure that the 1980-81 budget contains funds to help Dawson City recover. Specific details on the various projects that are being planned are still not finalized, but it is anticipated that monies will be available for programs such as road upgrading and enhancement of the community.

This past Spring, the Executive Committee made a commitment to visit every community in Yukon. I am pleased to inform the Members of the Assembly that the community visits to date have proven to be stimulating and worthwhile. In May, we visited the southern portion of Yukon, and in June we travelled through the northern region.

Local and personal concerns for policing, social work, liquor problems, education, roads, recreation, television, and other matters were discussed with the local citizenry. In many cases, problems were settled on the spot, whereas major concerns were examined and resolved.

A planned visit to Old Crow and north on the Alaska Highway had to be postponed, but we will be honouring our commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform this Assembly that Commissioner Christensen and I were invited to attend a most significant intergovernmental activity, the tri-lateral meeting in Victoria on August 29th, among Yukon, Alaska and British Columbia. As Government Leader, I was able to actively participate in the discussion of matters where Alaska, British Columbia and Yukon share a commonality of concern and interest. One immediate result of the meeting was agreement to Yukon's proposal that our respective governments and Power Commission officials should meet to exchange information and apprise one another of current studies and planning for power development.

Our three jurisdictions share some of the same water systems and higher development could have an impact on one or both of the other jurisdictions. With the crunch of the energy crisis, it is vital that Alaska, British Columbia and Yukon keep each other informed of proposed and imminent activities in the energy area.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to review the progress of the various departments of this Government, highlighting developments that are occurring. I will first speak for those departments for which I, and the appointed Members of the Executive Committee, have responsibility. My Ministerial colleagues will then speak about their respective departments.

I shall begin, Mr. Speaker, by briefly reviewing the activities of the Department of Tourism and Economic Development. With respect to our second largest industry in Yukon, we have significantly expanded our joint industry-government tourism marketing program. We structured the Tourism Advisory Board to make it more representative of the tourism industry on a regional basis, designed and implemented the highway information system and conducted well-received hospitality industry training programs in every Yukon highway lodge and community in cooperation with the Yukon Visitors' Association.

As well, we have responded to the recommendations of the Dawson City Planning Board to relocate the tourism information centre to overcome problems in parking and visitor traffic flow. Immediately, the centre will be moved to its new location at King and Front Streets, and the Department will be having a pre-engineering study prepared on the reconstruction of the N.C. Company building as a new tourism information centre for Dawson City. Special measures ranging from the establishment of new education and training programs to the provision of commercial development financing incentives have been introduced under the Yukon DREE special ARDA agreement to assist in the economic and social advancement of Yukon residents of Indian ancestry.

On the broader economic development side, prospects for new major mineral developments, particularly in the Macmillan and Howard Pass areas, and the establishment of a mineral refining and processing capability, such as that proposed by Kaiser Aluminum, though not immediate, are encouraging, and being actively explored by the Department of Tourism and Economic Development.

To ensure that these major mineral and mineral related industrial projects are developed to the benefit and in the best interests of Yukon residents, the Department has commenced the formulation of a Yukon Mineral Development policy. New measures to support and stimulate the establishment and expansion of Yukon's small business sector are being considered to modify the presently inactive Small Business Development Fund program.

The Department of Tourism and Economic Development is actively participating in October's International Energy Conservation Month through a series of public awareness projects including an extensive media information campaign, energy conservation displays, and Yukon-wide October Electric Energy Conservation contests. Other measures to be taken by this Government to encourage and assist in reducing Yukon's consumption of increasingly scarce and costly fossil fuels will be presented to the Legislature in several weeks' time.

The signing of the Canada-Yukon subsidiary agreement, allowing the Yukon Government to implement an expansion of the campground program, created an active summer for the Department of Renewable Resources.

That which is a key part of all of our lives, recreation, became a prime activity in the Department. A major rehabilitation of campgrounds is in progress, as is a program for public involvement in proposed park development.

An inventory of Yukon's historic and natural resources is underway. Also, a joint agreement has been signed with the City of Whitehorse to examine the recreational potential of Chadburn Lake.

In consultation with the Northwest Territories, the Resource Planning Branch is furthering management plans for the Dempster

ter corridor. This Branch is also developing an agricultural policy and is preparing to assume the management of recreational lands in Yukon. The Wildlife Branch continues its work on the Porcupine Caribou herd, and on several projects respecting grizzly bear, bird management, sheep, goats and fur bearers. In the areas where we have experienced a decline in wildlife population, the Government has implemented the necessary game management regulations to ensure conservation of our game.

The Branch continues its outdoor education program for school children, a trapper education program and courses in game care and meat cutting.

Members will be pleased to hear that the Financial Management System Development program, which we considered in the Spring, is having positive effects on the financial management of this Government. All aspects of the program are proceeding on schedule. One of the key elements of this undertaking was the development of revised program activity centres and coding classifications of accounts. We anticipate implementing this aspect of the Financial Management System by April 1st, 1980. This will assist us in complying with the recommendations of the Auditor General.

The internal audit function was strengthened during the past few months with the preparation and implementation of a comprehensive internal audit work plan. The plan will review and apprise the effectiveness and efficiency of our financial administration system. An audit committee has been established to review and monitor the disposition of internal audit reports.

Our new Department of Government Services is reviewing and assessing the services needed to support the Government. This Department has three major components: supply and services, which includes purchasing, stores and the Queen's Printer, data systems and computer service and the Public Affairs Bureau.

The Supplies and Services Branch is developing a concept for a "Yukon Gazette". We are, presently, the last major government in Canada that does not have one.

Supply and Services is also working on an in depth study of government transportation and the movement of employees on business travel.

As all Members will recall, Mr. Speaker, we expanded the Pipeline Office on April 1st, 1979. The Office continues to provide the Territorial focus for policy development and program planning related to the various gas and oil pipeline proposals for Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, since the House last sat, the Pipeline Office has participated in and monitored the joint Environmental and Socio-economic Review Panel established by the Northern Pipeline Agency. Following the public hearings, the Office participated in the preparation of the final draft of the environmental and socio-economic terms and conditions which will apply to the Yukon section of the pipeline.

Even the National Energy Board has adjourned its hearings on the applications of Foothills Oil Pipeline Limited and Trans-Mountain Pipeline Company Limited to transport surplus Alaska gas to the Lower 48. This Government has prepared an intervention with respect to these competing applications.

The Pipeline Office continues its research in the area of pipeline taxation and in the matter of the establishment of a Yukon Heritage Fund. It has developed plans to utilize natural gas as domestic fuel in Yukon homes and businesses.

Recruitment and staff training continue to be high profile programs in the Public Service Commission. This Government has recently established a committee to work toward a plan for the recruitment and training of Yukoners for senior positions in this Government.

This will also allow us to develop career opportunities for employees and to examine native training and employment within the Public Service.

The Workers' Compensation Board is presently preparing a discussion paper for distribution to the general public in order to gain views and comments on future amendment to the Workers' Compensation Ordinance. It will be our intention to make this document available to all Members during this Session.

The Board of Directors for the Yukon Liquor Corporation has been increased from three to five members in order to provide a broader representation from all parts of Yukon. There are now Board members from Mayo, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

The Corporation has been appointed a coordinator for a standing committee for alcohol related problems. The Standing Committee is comprised of Federal departments and agencies, native organizations, and Territorial Government departments.

The mandate provides for review, assessment and a final recommendation for meeting the needs of all Territorial residents in dealing with the problems related to the misuse of alcohol.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer you to some of the legislation my colleagues and I have been busy finalizing over the past several months.

For the first time in this Government's history, the capital budget for the next year is being presented to this Assembly for approval at this Session, rather than in the Spring. This will enable tenders to be called earlier than usual, allowing contractors to commence their construction projects early in the spring.

The idea was conceived in an attempt to resolve the problem that we and contractors have as a result of our short building season.

As we saw in the White Paper on real property assessment this spring, many inequities existed in our assessments and taxation laws. The legislation that will be presented to you will enable us to correct this inequity and, at the same time, grant our municipalities the flexibility to correct deficiencies as they arise.

We will also be seeing proposed legislation to give Yukon more financial independence. Currently we receive our income tax dollars back from the Federal Government in the form of grant money.

Since it takes the Federal administration some time to calculate our share of the taxes they collect, we sometimes get less of our portion than we should. In the future, our share will be based on the actual dollars collected through the taxation process and not from the 1975 census figures currently being used to calculate the grant.

In doing our homework, this Government has been considering all aspects of the impact of the Alaska Highway Pipeline and we will be proposing amendments to the Electrical Public Utilities Ordinance to include gas, as is done in other jurisdictions.

If we can regulate the distribution of natural gas, we can control the rates and quality of service; positive benefits to people of the Territory as well.

It would also allow us to ensure that the gas from the pipeline could be made available to all the communities along the route if that is found desirable.

As promised during the last election, we have conducted a major review of the electrical rate equalization plan for Yukoners. The plan will be amended. We intend to further the equalization of electric rates for the residential consumers throughout Yukon.

A White Paper on the amended plan will be placed before you for consideration.

Amendments to the Motor Transport Ordinance will be proposed to allow local people, people of Yukon, priority in the regional trucking market. The issue of operating licences will be more strictly controlled to ensure that all interested residents are looked after first.

Further, large outside trucking firms will be limited through inspections, standardization of equipment, and services to protect and to promote local trucking.

In order to better protect all our resources for future generations of Yukoners, legislation will be presented to amend all parks, historic resources and wildlife related ordinances.

In the areas of social services, we will propose some reforms on matrimonial property settlements. On reviewing provincial legislation, we have drafted legislation which would best suit conditions in Yukon and so, in order to better the economic and legal status of all people in the Territory, we will propose legislation to ensure an equal share of family assets accumulated in marriage to both partners in cases of separation and divorce.

Such a move will recognize the unpaid work of both spouses within the family unit as vital a contribution to society as the work performed outside the home.

The Minister of Human Resources and her Department have responded to the Yukon Child Care Association and to other concerned organizations by developing legislation and regulations that will ensure adequate standards for the care and well-being of all children needing care.

Although some facilities may require upgrading to comply with the proposed standards, indications are that the majority of day-care operators are in concurrence with the spirit of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my intention to have each Minister review his or her department's activities and progress over the past few months. This review will provide the Members with insight into the accumulative effect of all these programs on the operations of the Government in general.

I believe that when you see the work that has been accomplished,

you will be surprised at the magnitude of the various actions and events that have transpired since this House was last in Session.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, let us first turn our attention to the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources.

Hon. Mrs. McCall: Thank you, Mr. Pearson and thank you for those kind promises on Dawson's behalf.

Mr. Speaker, during my brief term of office as Minister for Health and Human Resources, I have been introduced to the complexities and the issues involved in the administration and the delivery of social services.

Human Resources is an area where most people hold very strong and varied views. Consequently, I have been confronted on a daily basis with a diversity of suggestions and opinions.

It is apparent to me that the people services are different in so many ways from other programs that my approach to our delivery of services must be innovative and imaginative.

During the next year, a high priority will be given to a re-examination of goals and objectives for each service area within the Department.

Since the last Session, work has been done on inventory of social services and a study of the Youth Services Centre. The inventory of social services has been a very ambitious and time-consuming undertaking involving a number of government departments.

Indications are that social services within the Yukon Government are responsive to peoples' needs and are well monitored. Nevertheless, immediate attention is being given to the development of a better information gathering system, with the intent of improving services to clients and providing a better planning capability in social services.

In reviewing the Youth Services Centre, I have concluded that no immediate action should be taken to change the programs; however, I shall be requesting an inter-departmental task force be struck to make recommendations on future programs for juvenile delinquents in the Territory.

I make this recommendation because I am aware of impending Federal legislation for young offenders and feel that no decisions should be made with regard to juvenile delinquents that do not take into account the impact on the total justice system. Such a task group should be expected to report within three months. I see no reason for it taking longer.

This latter comment is an indication of my approach to this portfolio, as it is my intention to thoroughly examine all matters before coming to final decisions.

Decisions in the area of social services should never be made expeditiously or in ad hoc fashion. Dealing with people and their problems requires some real soul searching.

As to the future, the main thrust of the Department will continue to be in the area of prevention and whatever direction is taken, I will attempt to respond to the uniqueness of our Yukon situation.

During the next year, I shall expect that all programs within social services be examined and evaluated and, to this end, it is my intention to create the potential within the Department to have a planning and research capability.

Together with this, a process will be initiated to examine existing legislation, regulations and operational policies within the department. The object of this task will be to develop legislation appropriate to the changing needs and times. This will probably be a two year project.

In an effort to provide services at the local level and with the expectation of impact on social services from continued economic development, I shall be considering what aspects of services and staff can be relocated to those areas where the needs are greatest. This should encourage the hiring of staff at the local level and may require the development of training programs.

This also is in accord with our election promise of decentralization.

In the area of child welfare, I shall be focusing on cooperative efforts with Indian people to improve the nature and quality of services offered by the Department. I am trustful that in the interests of children, political issues which interfere with cooperation in other areas will not be allowed to impede progress where the future of our children is concerned.

At this Session, I am tabling an ordinance and regulations in regard to daycare.

It is clear to me that services to people have to be considered within the context of all development within the Territory. It is therefore my intention to see that social development and social programs will keep pace with economic development.

This requires, of course, an ongoing scrutiny of social issues and an honest attempt to develop social programs appropriate to changing times. There is no legislation being tabled presently that has been proposed by the Health Department. The health transfer has been placed in limbo by the Federal election. Contact with Ottawa has been established. As well, new guidelines and policies for provisions of uninsured health services to native people will probably be announced by Ottawa.

As members are aware, this Legislative Assembly and its predecessors have been requesting a construction of a larger health centre in Haines Junction to meet the already present demands required by the Klwane National Park and the Shakwak project and in preparation for anticipated pipeline demands. To this end, the YTG share, seventy per cent of the capital costs, has been included in the budget and approved by this Legislature.

In the pre-health transfer situation, the approval was made by Ottawa and the Yukon region is in competition with all other regions in Canada, Northwest Territories, Ontario, Nova Scotia, et cetera, for the capital funding. Its relative importance to Yukon is not a consideration, it is a matter of whether this project is of more importance on a national basis than other projects also in the country.

On Health Transfers, a decision was made by YTG in Whitehorse and importance in Yukon terms becomes paramount. The issue at stake in this instance is whether this project takes priority over other Yukon projects, be it a new school, road paving, et cetera. YTG pays the lion's share of health care delivery costs, seventy per cent. The actual delivery service is, in the main, provided by the Federal Government Medical Services Branch. As such it has been subject to manpower restraints imposed by Treasury Board. In the long run, the effects of this will be negative since it will barely allow us to maintain the existing level of services.

In the area of public health inspections for example, we have two health inspectors, adequate perhaps for our day to day needs but with no capacity for development. The recent departure of the Regional psychiatrist has meant a lost mental health program. Every consideration has been given to a replacement for the position with regard to the availability of candidates. For the present at least, needs can best be met by use of a visiting specialist. Negotiations to this end are now in progress with the seeking of a permanent post as soon as possible.

As was announced during the Budget Session, negotiations between the Yukon Medical Association and the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan have concluded and resulted with a two year contract. This reflects a continuing good relationship which has been established between the medical profession and the plan since the introduction of Medicare here, in sharp contrast to the situation in other parts of the country.

I am pleased to be able to report that the Department again will be able to provide speech therapy services. Recruitment in this discipline proved to be most difficult and we were finally successful in April. We had to go outside of Canada because of the dearth of candidates available here.

Alcoholism continues to be the most obvious and serious problem of our Department. In the spring, a conference was arranged by the Yukon Liquor Corporation attended by Health, Human Resources, Justice and Education Departments of YTG, Liquor Corporation, Liquor Control Board, Medical Services Branch, RCMP, and the DIAND of the Federal Government, the YNB, CYI, YANSI, and Y Canada and members of the medical profession.

From that, a coordinator was hired to assess an inventory, the services presently being supplied by the various arms of government and agencies.

The coordinators are under the direction of the Liquor Corporation and will report to subcommittee under the chairmanship of the manager of the Liquor Corporation with membership of one each from YTG, Federal Government, and native organizations. All of our alcohol programs are presently under review. We expect that this review will be completed by the next Session and that all programs will be coordinated and effective.

Representation has been received from residents of Old Crow for the banning of alcohol in that community. I have met with the Chief and members of the Council regarding the subject, also with the MLA from that area. We are currently addressing that problem and intend, if possible, to present legislation to answer it in this Session in order to help that community achieve its goal.

Members will be aware from recent media reports that Crossroads, the residential program that is run by a private agency, has been experiencing some difficulties. The problems are grave but consultations between government and the new Crossroads board of directors have been going on for some time and will

continue until a solution is found. This may take some time and will require compromises on the part of both, but we are confident that it will be resolved and that this most important service will be maintained.

As the new Minister in Health and Human Resources, my policies are bound to differ from those of my predecessors; therefore, during this particular time in Yukon history I will be stressing the need to look ahead, to anticipate problems rather than waiting until they are upon us, and I am looking forward to a truly progressive ministry that will rise to the new challenges in this time of change and meet the needs of all Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, I would now request that the Minister for Education and Justice apprise us of his portfolio activities.

Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Graham: It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to address this Assembly today concerning the activities of my Ministries. Since the House last sat six months ago, we have been hard at work and I think the results will become very evident during this Session. I am taking this opportunity to outline current activities in my portfolios, to indicate some of our plans for the future and to give Members perspective on the approach I am taking to fulfil my responsibilities as Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to focus on some of the many changes and developments which have occurred in recent months. The changes started with my office. Since the House last sat I have assumed the responsibility for the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I now carry ministerial responsibility for Education, Recreation, Manpower, Justice, Information Resources and Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

There have been personnel and organization changes in these Departments. The Department of Justice has recently completed an internal reorganization to include court administration, corrections, coroner's office, land titles, probation services, legislative drafting, public administrator, legal advice to the Government and representation in the courts. I might add that improved efficiencies in the overall Department have resulted in a decrease in man years in Justice.

There have also been significant changes in developments in the programs and services provided by my Departments. New dimensions in technology will enable more efficient and improved delivery of library and information programs.

For example, video cassette equipment will be made available in a number of communities to ensure optimum utilization of films in high demand and allow community libraries to develop their own film collection.

Space age technology is also being utilized in the delivery of an experimental education and training program from the British Columbia Institute of Technology to the Yukon Vocational School.

In June, the Department of Justice, through involvement with the Canadian Task Force on the Administration of Justice, commenced work on a pilot program in Justice, information and statistics. If this program proves out, it will be the first in North America and a working example for other jurisdictions in Canada who have shown an interest.

The provision of a second Magistrates Court in Whitehorse relieves pressure in this area and has enabled the probation, correction and court administration branches to combine in developing new initiatives which include a number of programs providing sentencing alternatives such as community work and programs for alcohol-related offences.

Negotiations to expand and accelerate the Native Special Constable program were successfully concluded. This will be of considerable benefit in enabling the RCMP to become better aware of, and to respond to, the needs of Indian people throughout the Territory. We hope that by the end of this financial year if recruits are forthcoming and training facilities in Regina are available, to have twelve native special constables on strength in Yukon.

With the guidance of the Yukon Recreational Advisory Committee, the recreation branch has completed steps necessary for the establishment of a Yukon Lotteries Commission. The branch will be directly involved in the upcoming Arctic Winter Games through funding of the Host Society and preparation of the Yukon athletic contingents to the games.

In Yukon schools, a new language arts program is being piloted at the elementary level and the native language research program is continuing with the assistance of a Yukon teacher whose responsibility is to assist in the development of classroom material and to assist the classroom language teachers.

A new policy for the access of residents to vocational training opportunities provided at the Yukon Vocational and Technical

Training Centre will be more flexible. Where former policy required that individuals be sponsored, fee payers may now gain access to training courses on their own and other arbitrary age and entrance restrictions have also been dropped.

Mr. Speaker, all that I have spoken to up to this point has been change which is now a part of ongoing Departmental affairs. I would like to comment briefly on a number of initiatives that have been launched which will lead to change in the not too distant future. A series of policy and legislative reviews has been set in motion. Also a number of program evaluations have been recently completed or will be commencing in the near future. The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Department of Education are combining forces in the review of the existing Fair Practices Ordinance and I hope that we will be in a position to issue a policy paper by the year end.

The Fleming report on special education released earlier this year is being reviewed by the Department of Education and the teaching staff. The Sharp Report on rural students in Whitehorse schools has been reviewed and a number of the recommendations are now being implemented. The first half of the French language program evaluation initiated last year has been received and a special study commission on continuing education needs in Yukon, with the services of the University of Alberta, has been received and it will be released in the very near future.

I further directed my Education Department's attention to the question surrounding the needs of Yukon youth in the area of vocational education within the school system. I hope to be in a position to advise the House of the terms of reference and composition of the committee that will oversee this study.

I will also be tabling during this Session of the Legislature, "The Yukon Plan of Action For Women". This document will detail other areas to which we are directing our efforts.

I would also like to note that changes are evident in a number of Yukon communities as well.

As a result of the activities of my Departments, schoolground improvement projects have been completed in Whitehorse, Ross River, Carcross and several other Yukon communities. Major additions and new school facilities are being constructed in Watson Lake, Haines Junction and in Faro.

It is clear that changes have occurred in a number of areas. Some of these changes are easily visible while other developments are more obscure to the eye; however, all represent further steps for this Government.

Since assuming office as a Member of the Executive Committee, I have been impressed by the degree of interest and commitment Yukoners have devoted to their education, recreation and other social programs. School committees, in a number of communities, have taken great strides, and I must say, great responsibility for education in their community.

I was particularly pleased, Mr. Speaker, with my recent discussions with Chief Dan Joe and the Pelly River Indian Band.

Just ten days ago, I met with representatives of all recreation boards in the Territory and was reminded of their spirit to seek from this Government, not a directing hand, but simply support for the activities which each Board is defining as needs in their own community. Yukon school committees, library service and recreation boards have proven themselves capable, and I will continue to support local autonomy and responsibility in these areas of my portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, new directions are being explored. We need to observe and benefit from new ideas and experience and combine needs with local input to produce our own solutions to Yukon problems, and develop our own initiatives to seize Yukon opportunities.

This legislature plays a key role in discussing issues and establishing through the passage of legislation the building blocks for a balanced and thriving society in this Territory.

I will be asking this Assembly to address itself to several important pieces of legislation. I will be presenting to the Legislature legislation dealing with matrimonial property, the legal profession, real estate agents' licencing, and the medical profession.

Mr. Speaker, there is a massive challenge before legislators today. That challenge is to develop and institute responsive policies and programs which are individually and collectively sensitive to needs in Yukon.

That, Mr. Speaker, is a large order for anyone. Luckily, in my areas of responsibility I am not alone, because of the commitment and interest of individuals, community associations, employers and unions, native organizations, women's groups and many, many others.

I have made it a matter of personal policy, Mr. Speaker, to involve Yukoners in the policies, programs and affairs of my Department. The active participation of Yukoners in Government is vital and very mandatory.

I can also point out to this Legislature numerous examples, which are evident, of the constructive and ongoing involvement of Yukoners in both stimulating, and participating in, the development and delivery of government policy and program.

I had the privilege approximately two weeks ago to meet with, and speak with, members of the many community recreation boards. I have also had occasion in the last six months to meet with a number of school committees. Last month, I was honoured to address the Yukon-wide Women's Conference.

Many individuals and hardworking women's groups gave their views on this government's matrimonial policy paper.

In all cases, Mr. Speaker, I have seen Yukoners accept the challenge to work with this Government in developing and implementing policies and programs, and I am confident that this will continue.

We cannot have responsible Government without the involvement of these individuals and groups in shaping our society. I intend to continue to issue this challenge, and to continue to make opportunities available, so that Yukoners may express their views and ideas.

In closing, I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I have also had the benefit of close attention to the affairs of my ministry by my colleagues in caucus and, indeed, I have spoken on numerous occasions with members of the other side.

I have appreciated the constructive and frank nature of this dialogue and hope that the best interests of Yukoners will continue to take first place in all our minds.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Lang: In the Spring Session of 1979, the Assembly approved for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, a \$10 million program for land development in order to meet the objective of ensuring land availability to our citizens.

Our government's goal in land development has been to create a surplus supply of residential lots and this has now been met.

Land development projects for single family, mobile home and/or country residential lots in Faro, Haines Junction and Watson Lake have led to a surplus of availability in these communities.

Once the residential developments in the Whitehorse areas have been completed, we will have approximately 750 lots available to put on the market as needed.

While I am on the subject of residential lots, I would like to report to the House that last Spring we changed our method of land disposition to a system of pre-registration. Through these enacted changes, we have eliminated the much criticized line-ups and, at the same time, we have reserved the principle of first come, first serve at the lowest cost possible.

Another area of major concern to us has been to meet the supply and demand for commercial and industrial land for our business community. Industrial lots have been made available in Whitehorse and are currently under development in Haines Junction and Dawson City. Planning is underway for industrial land in Watson Lake and Faro.

Major capital projects under the Community Assistance Ordinance are also underway. As in past years, approximately one-third of the capital assistance was granted to the City of Whitehorse, who utilized the majority of their funds for a much needed street upgrading program, as well as water and sewer.

The second phase of the skating-curling complex in Dawson City has been completed and during the course of the summer, monies were provided to repair Destruction Bay's community hall which was damaged by fire this spring.

Mayo was provided with a major water and sewer installation and their community hall has been upgraded.

Various other smaller projects were authorized under this program and are either underway or completed.

As promised, the Department has completed a major review of the Taxation Ordinance, and as our Government Leader has indicated, it will be deliberated by you during the course of this Session.

A complete review of municipal legislation in local government structures, which is a major undertaking, is presently in progress. The review, with a goal of revised and more comprehensive legislation will continue this fall and winter.

Continued consultation with the Association of Yukon Communities is expected to be an important part of this review.

The Department of Highways and Public Works has been very active over the past summer, overseeing our major capital building programs, which are in various stages of construction. Despite the wet summer, which hampered our construction industry, our road construction program is, overall, on schedule.

A number of our road projects, such as the Skagway-Carcross Highway, have required the Government of Canada's approval and I am pleased to report that they have been fully co-operative in approving these construction projects.

You will recall during the Budget Session that we voted \$60,000 for the Northern Exploration Facilities program. Since that time, we have had to substantially increase this amount due to the major increase in mining exploration in Yukon.

In response to requests made by the residents in Ross River, a contract was awarded to upgrade the Pelly River footbridge, which was badly delapidated. The bridge is now safe again for public use and will continue to serve those companies involved in mining exploration in the North Canol area.

I think it is important to state that a number of our contracts were scaled down to allow our small to medium sized contractors the opportunity to bid on our territorial contracts. We intend to continue this policy wherever it is economically and logistically feasible.

While I am speaking on the portfolio of the Department of Highways and Public Works, I would like to commend the employees who do the day to day maintenance of our highways. As mentioned earlier, our summer was extremely wet, yet our Highways Department continued a high standard of maintenance.

The Yukon Housing Corporation has been active over the summer months assembling land for our senior citizens' home in Whitehorse. Contracts have been called and are now under consideration.

A major concern of our government is to promote private ownership of housing. As stated earlier, we have succeeded in meeting the residential land demand. At the same time, we have a great number of housing units under the auspices of our Corporation.

I am pleased to announce that we have sold a number of these units to our citizens over the past year. Through the rental purchase program, we have sold five houses, and are in the process of transferring two other units.

Another program which is beginning to be utilized is the purchase of staff housing by our employees.

Since April of this year, six sales have been finalized and another three sales are presently being processed. It is our hope that more employees will purchase these homes as it will stabilize our work force as well as give these people an opportunity to invest in a home.

Over the next few months, the Yukon Housing Corporation will be examining other possibilities to encourage private home ownership.

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West.

Mr. Penikett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It has been an interesting and sometimes informative debate this afternoon, but I thought I should do my duty and perhaps liven things up a bit with a contribution from the Opposition.

Two weeks ago, the Whitehorse Star, the local Conservative newspaper, witnessing the pervading quiet over here, suggested that this Government must be the strong, silent type.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is another way of saying the same thing and that is big and dumb. That is sometimes, perhaps, the way things seem from the Opposition point of view —

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think that is totally inappropriate in this Legislature and if the Honourable Member wants to stoop to that level, I would suggest he do it outside these Chambers.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would you proceed.

Perhaps the Honourable Member can watch his language in debate so that it does not cast what seemingly may be taken as insults by the opposite benches.

Mr. Penikett: Yes, I am quite prepared to do that, Mr. Speaker. I am sure if the Member checked his dictionary he would find a precise definition of the word I used, which is similar to the one used by the Whitehorse Star.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say I think this is a most unusual debate

for us today. It is the first time I know that in this House, though perhaps it has happened before, what in essence is a want of confidence motion has been presented by the Government.

I can understand the Government Leader's wish to report on the activities over the summer and I think that is commendable though the kind of motion we have here, I think, is usually something we see either in the case of emergencies or it is a kind of an initiative which is usually left to the Opposition.

I would, however, like to say a few things about what the Government has been doing, not only this summer, but in connection with its stated priorities, both in the Throne Speech and the Government Party's stated priorities during the election.

I think at that time in the last year we heard quite a few issues that kept coming up time and time again. I think it probably bodes well for the Opposition at this time to ask what action has been taken on some of those promises.

This Session we are going to be dealing with amendments to the Taxation Ordinance and that is good. My only regret, as the Minister knows from having talked to him at some length about this on a number of occasions, is that it has taken us another year to do it and, in fact, the inequities that were in the system in which we are now operating have had to continue for that length of time.

One of the things that I raised earlier in this Spring Session and I want to raise now is the Government Party's promise during the election last year to fight inflation, unemployment and high prices.

I think it is important to note that we still have the worst inflation in the country. It is certainly worse than any of the southern provinces in Canada. I doubt if anybody can compete with these figures. I notice that the Government reports show that in August this year overall prices in Whitehorse were up over 26 per cent higher than those in Edmonton, a gap that has widened another 1.5 per cent in the last year.

Dawson City prices were 43.5 per cent higher than Edmonton. While food prices have increased 9.4 per cent in Edmonton in the previous twelve months, they have increased over fourteen per cent in Whitehorse and Dawson's food prices were sixty-four per cent higher than Edmonton's, when, for the same period last year, they were only, I quote "only", 54.5 per cent higher.

I think in this House it is probably time we really had a debate on this question. I think it is up to us to be asking what has happened because what has been going on is that the situation has gone from bad to worse.

The average family, I think most of us know, spends something like two-thirds of its budget on food, fuel and housing. Unfortunately, the Government's only answer to inflation in these areas so far has been to raise the fuel taxes.

In answer to the questions on some of these inflation matters put to the Minister responsible at the time this Spring, he insisted that there was nothing he could do which, of course, only begs the question as to why the Government Party would have promised to have done something during the election and then not tried.

The other area of deep concern to me is the one of unemployment and, our rate which was the highest in the country for seven of the nine months ending in March this year, not just a fraction higher, but 2.5 times the national average.

While the Government reported that unemployment declined in the second quarter of this year to 603 people, I was somewhat disturbed to find out, with a simple telephone call on the day that that report was released, that there were 1,300 people collecting unemployment insurance in Yukon. It is the experience in most jurisdictions of this country that the number of unemployed usually far exceeds the number of people collecting unemployment insurance.

In April of this year, Mr. Speaker, the then Minister of Economic Development suggested the Government was initiating significant government policies in the areas of economic development and job creation. We have not really heard any specifics in this area yet and I certainly hope we do soon, because this Government is now practically one year old and I think it is about time that we saw some precise action on this front.

We have had explanations about the prevailing bad economic times in the country and abroad. We have had some discussion about the situation with the Yukon labour force in that it is largely composed of semi- or unskilled workers and some of these workers are immobile in small communities and that they, perhaps, are not available to find jobs in other isolated areas.

I think we are all aware of these problems and I know that in the public service some work is going on in this area. I just hope that in the very near future the Government announces some action on this front because, ultimately, no matter how fine a job the Yukon

Public Service does, the buck eventually stops right here in front of the Government front bench.

I think we have to realize, too, that one of the dangers of political parties making promises and governments making promises, that ultimately, in some form or another, they have to try and deliver on them.

I think that may prove very difficult in the next little while, but I think it is incumbent on the Government and the Opposition to be continually raising these questions and pressing the Government for action, particularly in the economic front, not so much because I think there has been initiative in this area, in the direction of simply seeking one new large industry to stimulate activity here that might produce the desired results, but I think we have to do a more searching analysis of some of the fundamental structural problems in the Yukon economy. I think it probably would not do the House any harm, at some point, to have some very thorough scrutiny of that question.

In Whitehorse, there are over seven hundred individuals and families who rent their accommodation and, as yet, we have really seen no Government action to do something about the increasing rents in that area. I note that downtown rents went up almost five and one half per cent in the last three months. Downtown bachelor suites registered an incredible 13.6 per cent increase in the last quarter.

What to do? There a number of possibilities, and I know we have discussed some of them in the House before, but I think this Government has a problem and that it is philosophically, perhaps, unenthusiastic about public housing initiatives, while at the same time, it has, by previous statements, been opposed to rent controls. I think we are going to have to think about this question, not so much now for the problems that exist now, serious as they are, but we are going to have to be ready in the event the pipeline is ever constructed, because I have some awful fears that good, long time Yukon residents on relatively fixed incomes may be priced right out of the housing market unless some legislation is in place long before that major event.

We, in Opposition, are essentially being asked to support the operations of the Government by this motion. I think, as has been mentioned by several Ministers, that there has been a lot of activity, a lot of things going on, some of which may be worthwhile. I have a problem in the question of focus and emphasis. Some of the things that were talked about during the election campaign and the Throne Speech seem to have lost their place in the list of priorities and I think that is something that I would like to see the Government re-examine again, because some of those things that I think we all agree are fundamentally important may be inadvertently set aside because of the load on their plates, the stack of paper on their desks, and dealing with matters of relatively less urgency.

The Government has expressed concern about the alcohol problem. We had a two page press release this summer which I know the Minister of Health and Human Resources was concerned about some of the press reaction to. I think all of us in this House have talked about the number of people who are involved in such problems, the surfeit of such problems in the Territory, and have wondered again whether we are making much progress in this regard. As yet I must say that none of us has seen much physical evidence that the problem is in fact being dealt with in any successful way by the Government. That, too, is something about which I think we shall all be asking more questions from this side of the House, and I certainly hope we shall be seeing some new initiatives by the Government.

We continue to have, I think, a wide-spread public feeling that this Government has a problem with its relationship with the Indian community. I think that things seem to be, and these are all relative, things seem to be much better than they were some time ago, and some Ministers, I think, have been making some commendable efforts to open a dialogue with parts of the Native community. It still seems to me that we have some pretty fundamental questions in connection with land claims and this Government's part in the negotiations, to which the Opposition has not had answers to its satisfaction. During the election campaign, I seem to remember that all parties were agreed at least on the concept of aboriginal rights.

I find it significant, for one, that the Government Leader, who, with respect, has his own reasons, but to successive questions from myself and my colleagues in Opposition, has yet to define his Government's position on that question, and suggests that it is a matter for negotiation. I think that is not the case. I think it is a question of profound, philosophical importance, and that it is a substantive policy question which I think this Government, at some point, should be making a very clear statement on.

I must say in passing, in this regard, that I have been frankly

impressed with the efforts of the Minister of Education. I think, unfortunately, he has a record and a history and some feelings about this Government which he has to overcome, and I think it may, unfortunately, take him some time to, if you like, redress that image that persists in the minds of certain members of the public.

We have had, I think, some of the economic dreams for the Yukon expressed by the Government Leader in a number of statements and speeches, both inside and outside the Territory. I would suggest, with the greatest respect, that all of this may come to naught if this Government finds itself at some point in the near future embroiled in some very complicated court cases over land, and so forth. I think we would all like to see, in the interests of social and economic development, and peace and harmony of the whole Territory, an expeditious and just settlement of land claims as soon as possible. And, no matter what this Government is doing in negotiations, I would very much like to see it create the impression in public that it is trying to seek a solution, and more, assist the Indian people in achieving a claim than the impression which is now created that they are simply parties on the government side of the table, and therefore somehow, by inference, in opposition to the claim.

My friend, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, is probably going to be jumping up and down again in a second, Mr. Speaker, but I feel bound to comment on his twenty-four thousand dollar cost benefit analysis study of the Dempster Highway, since I asked questions about it this spring. I perhaps do not have the benefit of the education enjoyed by the Minister, but my reading of that report seemed to clearly say that Yukoners would be paying about eighty-five per cent of the cost of operating this highway, particularly in winter, and that the benefits, of course, would be flowing to multi-national oil companies and the Northwest Territories.

I think it has probably been observed by Members on the Government side that I am not a successful businessman, but just at the surface, as an ordinary consumer, it strikes me that that is not a particularly good deal.

The twenty-four thousand dollars that has been spent, I think proving something that many of us in the Opposition probably already believed, but I have a horrible fear that it is a report that the Government was perhaps predisposed not to accept before they ever commissioned it. I think it is a pity that we should have spent twenty-four thousand dollars in this way and still not be prepared to commit a single penny for something that is as important as daycare.

Again, we are going to get into many discussions about whether this is responsible performance by the Government, or responsible performance by responsible government. If the difference is between responsible governments and provincial status, then I think I would like to defer such constitutional discussions in view of today's events to another time.

The Government has proposed legislation in a number of areas, and I think that we all look forward to the debates in those. In some of them, we are not yet sure exactly of what is being proposed, so I do not think we can respond to those proposals yet, nor should we.

But we do have a number of, I think, urgent situations in Yukon which need to be addressed. One is the alcohol problem. The other question is obviously the land claim situation.

We still have, and some of them appear to be worsening, dozens of conflicts between groups in this community, both native and white, company and union, teachers and students, poor and the rich, et cetera, with the unemployment situation and the inflation situation.

To all of these I grant there are no easy answers. I think whether we agreed with what the Government was doing or not in each of these areas, I think in the Opposition what we clearly hope is that once again these become the Government's priorities and we see much more energy invested in some kind of resolution.

The Government seems to me in all these conflicts that I have talked about, must see a place very clearly for itself. The greatest tool any government can have, I think, is a prospective and a vision and an ability to see the kind of squabbles and temporary disputes that may be going on against some kind of plan, vision, if you like, grand program, for a just and mutually beneficial human society. It is part of the great human game plan, if you like.

I think the Government must then work on those programs with the growth of that society in mind. Some very distinguished people, Mr. Speaker, have called this capacity leadership. I think it is a question of leadership that is one that in a general way probably falls upon all of us in this House, but more particularly falls on the Cabinet or Executive Committee of a majority party.

I think the Government has been attempting to listen to Yukon-

ers. It has been attempting to communicate with them. But, as I was once taught in a journalism course, the act of publication is not an act of communication. That is, the issuing of press releases, for example, is not enough.

I think communication, to be effective, must be a continuing two-way street. I think the Minister of Education has alluded to some of his own ideas in this regard.

I think we have to appreciate the kind of responsibility we have here because in a community as small as this, this Government more than perhaps any other entity in society determines the nature of the society, the character of the community, the tone of the daily life in the place.

It should be an instrument to express the richness and humanitarianism in society. I think we must remember we do not have the luxury of time on our side. Regardless of which government is in power in Ottawa and what friends we may have in the Federal Cabinet, things roll forward, however painfully. Those developments, with their accompanying social and economic problems could run right over us.

This Government, I think, must not simply react to things. The pressure of the 1980's must lead and so far, unfortunately, I think we have seen not enough evidence of it doing that.

Since spring, I think it has not given us, and I think even in the speeches here today, it has not given us the sense that they were, if you like one or two or three or four things that it saw as the great achievements that it wanted to make of this administration.

I think in the face of the largest developments in the history of North American industry, I think it behooves the Government to indicate exactly how it will unite the divergent peoples and the divergent interests that live here.

I think it is not yet, frankly, steeled itself to face these facts of life. You know, the old people, the single parents, the poor people, unemployed people, all the disadvantaged in the community, the native people, all the people who need government and need government assistance.

I think also not only need it, but they deserve it more than any outside interest, any corporate entity or whatever that may come looking for help.

If I had been critical of the Government's record, perhaps I should be fair and say that the fault lies with us on this side of the House, but I think it is not too outrageous to suggest, as one parliamentarian once did, that a government is only as good as its opposition. I suppose there are several ways of looking at it, and perhaps we have not been doing a good enough job here. Maybe if we on this side of the House decided to get really tough, the Government would improve and become a better government. I think that there are some people in this community that think that up to now the public service of this Territory has been doing a very good job of leading this Government. I think there are a great many other people who think it should be the other way around. Perhaps there is a minority who are thankful for the way it is. I do not know.

A government can only fumble along so long. The time will eventually come for it to be called to account. Regardless of how good the opposition, it is up to the government to present its work and its worth for public scrutiny. If it has not taken decisive action on some of the really major problems that affect the Territory, I think it will find itself quite literally running for its life three years from now. It is not my problem, but I suggest it is one that they may want to take some care about. We are probably going to be discussing constitutional questions at some length and at some frequency during the course of this House, but I do want to say that at times this Government seems manically preoccupied with the question of constitutional development. Given what I said today, I sometimes wonder what the reason is for this mad grab for power. What are the motives behind this obsession with the form, rather than the substance, of government. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, I have a terrible, sinking feeling that after years of federal, liberal interference in our affairs, there are some Conservative voters, if you like, in this community who want the power transferred here to Yukon. They want the power given to this Government. What they want this Government to do with that power is absolutely nothing. I must admit that this is a kind of nightmare vision, but in some of the darkest hours of the morning, I sometimes worry that there are people who want our local Government to sit up in high places and look down on the public and do exactly nothing with any of our problems. I worry that there are people who somehow want to turn the public off government, that somehow they want to turn the economy completely back to the private sector, with the government totally out of that business. They want all social problems somehow returned to the family, and say that is your responsibility, we are getting out of that business. Somehow they want Yukon society returned to bush mining camps. Sometimes such people

have a vision of society infected by cabin fever rather than a society preoccupied by community development.

As we all know here, you cannot stop the clock. You cannot roll up the streets and turn out the lights of the city. I think most of us realize that we do not want a know-nothing, do-nothing government, and that which some of that sort of people in the extreme right seem to be proposing at certain places in the United States.

I would echo the words of the Minister of Health and Human Resources today. I think what this Territory needs at this time is a progressive, not a Conservative, government. I would just like to close with one little word of, I will call it wisdom because it does not come from my mouth, from a gentleman by the name of Walter Lippman, who had some advice for governments once. The Government Leader is not a bad man and I think I would like to give him this advice because I like him. He said, "The Opposition is indispensable. A good statesman, like any other sensible human being, always learns more from his opponents than he does from his fervent supporters". I would urge this government to be strong, in the words of the Whitehorse Star, but not silent. Silence is not a virtue in government.

I would urge you to be big, and I will avoid, Mr. Speaker, using the other word for fear that it cause offense to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, but I would ask them not to be that either.

I would ask them to think of tomorrow, not of yesterday, as many Conservative governments seem to do, and remind them to use what has become something of a cliché, tomorrow starts today, and tomorrow and tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should say at the outset that I had not intended to reply to the debate today, except for the extremely significant events that have become public today.

I propose to address some of these things right now, because I see no point in beating about the bush and seeking moderate things to say tomorrow. I think that some very, very large events have occurred.

I think we have heard a list of self-indulgent praises from the Government side this afternoon and they have perceived their performance, I believe, to be very good. I think that they live in a very tight little world, though, and their perception is not perhaps shared by the majority of the Yukon public.

The bare fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that this government has been in office for almost a year and, aside from the Budget, has passed one piece of legislation about five paragraphs long. That is the sum total of their legislative output in almost a year. It is a pretty deplorable record.

They have been unable to form a consistent or coherent Executive Committee of Members who are in their portfolio long enough to be able to say what they wish, to be able to get a grip of the department that they have. They do not even have the prescribed number, or the number that they sought, of five, sitting in Executive Committee at this point. It is a sad reflection upon the pool of talent that the Government Leader appears to feel that he is drawing upon.

Surely, there is somebody in the back benches there who could be in Executive Committee, Surely.

I am looking forward to the coming Session, Mr. Speaker. You might not even be in the back benches, Mr. Speaker. I am looking forward to the coming legislation, and debating it, because I think there are some matters of substance coming up, and I think that some of the Ministers have, behind the scenes, been carrying on the momentum which the civil service has created for them, and are trying to bring forth some reasonable legislation.

I share my honourable colleague's preoccupation with the thought that perhaps the Government has not quite got in charge of the whole machine yet, and that the bureaucracy is still running it to a large extent.

However, I think that the outstanding feature of this Government's record since last November has been, as previously alluded to, a preoccupation with seeking more and more power. That preoccupation has brought forth a number of different things, but perhaps it has brought forth the letter this morning from the Minister of Indian Affairs.

That search for power has been a Holy Grail for successive Executive Committees, the goal being, ultimately, provincial status.

Well, if that is the goal, I think I should congratulate the Members opposite, because I think that, in fact, you have achieved de facto provincial status with that letter today.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things that a province would have that we have not had. We would have a premier if we were a

province. Well, the letter indicates that the Minister of Indian Affairs is quite happy to recognize that.

We would have a Cabinet if we were a province. The Minister of Indian Affairs has indicated that he would be quite happy to have that.

We would have a lieutenant-governor who, while nominally in charge of the province, would be quite separate and distinct from the executive. Well, we hear today that the Commissioner's Office is going to be removed to another place, and while she may still be, in law, charged with the responsibility of administering, there is no way that the Commissioner can do that if she is not part of the administration physically.

We also hear that the Deputy Commissioner position has been done away with.

I think, in sum, Mr. Speaker, that we have been given all the outward trappings of a province. What difference is there between our situation here today with that of Alberta when it became a province.

I suggest to you, virtually none, because Alberta did not have land and resources as part of its province when they started. So, I suggest to you today, we are in a virtually identical situation to Alberta when it became a province.

If the Members opposite, who seem to smile quite a bit, as if I have discovered something, are agreeing with what I am saying, then they have committed a very, very grave breach of their responsibilities to the Yukon public.

I am very angry at the way this has all happened. It started out with a letter in June which was kept secret. I was told later that I could have gone and asked for it. How I was even supposed to even know it existed in the first place, I do not know. It was passed over to the Minister of Indian Affairs. It contained what I thought was a very radical departure from the stated government policy, from resolutions that had been passed by this Assembly. It stated a number of things which I thought were distortions, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, and I quote, "that the Yukon Indians would see considerable advantage in joining the Territorial Government if our Government had administrative control and management over Territorial lands".

Surely, nobody in his right mind in this Yukon would recognize that as being a statement of fact, not even a statement of hope.

Mr. Speaker, God only knows what this is going to cost the Yukon, and I say "God" because I do not think anybody on either side of this House knows what this move today is going to cost Yukon.

I am going to state now that I will not recognize the term of Premier as legitimate until after a referendum is heard and provincial status has been approved.

I will be referring to the Government Leader as the "Government Leader" and I congratulate him on refusing to take on the term and I hope that he will continue to be strong enough to resist the temptation that I am sure everybody's vanity would make very difficult to resist.

I will say that essential preconditions to provincial status should have been a study of the costs of this move, who is paying the bills now, who will do it next year and the year after that. There should have been open and public negotiations with the Federal Government on these things. There should have been a settlement of Indian Land Claims. There should have been a study of the institutions and manpower and talent requirements of a province.

There should have been a clear question in a referendum. None of this has happened. Instead, I think, I have not heard her reasons yet, but we have heard of the resignation of the Commissioner. She has stated publically before today that such an event could occur.

I will reserve comment, Mr. Speaker, until tomorrow about that, except to say that I regret very, very much to see her go. She has served, I believe, for less than a year. When she was named to the post she was widely acclaimed, unanimously acclaimed, I felt, as being a perfect choice for Yukon.

What has happened in that short time to make her now feel it necessary to resign? I have not heard her reasons yet and I think she will be too much of a lady to say it, but I think that some of the reasons she is resigning is that personally she is abhorred by certain Members of this Government. Personally, she has not been treated well by her employer in Ottawa and that this is not a matter of policy, it is a matter of human dignity. I think there has been a lack of that in the treatment of our former Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to move adjournment of this debate, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kluane.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the

Opposition, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kluane, that this debate be now adjourned.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure at this time?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Mayo that we do now call it 5:30.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member from Mayo, that we do now call it 5:30.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 3:46 o'clock p.m.

The following Sessional Papers were tabled on October 9, 1979:

79-2-25

Report on Regulations

79-2-26

Yukon Public Service Staff Relations Board Ninth Annual Report, 1978-79

79-2-27

Yukon Teachers' Staff Relations Board Fifth Annual Report, 1978-79

79-2-28

Transport Public Utilities Board Annual Report, 1978-79

79-22-29

Electrical Public Utilities Board Annual Report, 1978-79

79-2-30

Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges

79-2-31

Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges

79-2-32

Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges

1997-1998

1998-1999

1999-2000

2000-2001

2001-2002

2002-2003

2003-2004

2004-2005

2005-2006

2006-2007

2007-2008

2008-2009

2009-2010

2010-2011

2011-2012

2012-2013

2013-2014

2014-2015

2015-2016

2016-2017

2017-2018

2018-2019