



# The Yukon Legislative Assembly

---

Number 8

2nd Session

25th Legislature

---

## **HANSARD**

**Monday, November 15, 1982 — 1:30 p.m.**

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

# Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Donald Taylor, MLA, Watson Lake

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Andy Philipson, MLA, Whitehorse Porter Creek West

## CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Chris Pearson	Whitehorse Riverdale North	Government Leader — responsible for Executive Council Office, Finance, Public Service Commission, and Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations.
Hon. Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East	Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Highways, Yukon Housing Corporation, and Yukon Liquor Corporation.
Hon. Howard Tracey	Tatchun	Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources, Renewable Resources, Government Services.
Hon. Clarke Ashley	Klondike	Minister responsible for Justice, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and Workers' Compensation.
Hon. Bea Firth	Whitehorse Riverdale South	Minister responsible for Education, Tourism, and Heritage and Cultural Resources.

## GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

### (Progressive Conservative)

Bill Brewster	Kluane
Al Falle	Hootalinqua
Kathie Nukon	Old Crow
Andy Philipson	Whitehorse Porter Creek West

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### (New Democratic Party)

Tony Penikett	Whitehorse West Leader of the Official Opposition
Maurice Byblow	Faro
Margaret Joe	Whitehorse North Centre
Roger Kimmerly	Whitehorse South Centre
Piers McDonald	Mayo
Dave Porter	Campbell

### (Independent)

Don Taylor	Watson Lake
------------	-------------

Clerk of the Assembly  
Clerk Assistant (Legislative)  
Clerk Assistant (Administrative)  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms  
Hansard Administrator

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

<sup>01</sup>  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**November 15, 1982**

**Mr. Speaker:** I will now call the House to order.  
 We will proceed at this time with prayers.

*Prayers*

#### DAILY ROUTINE

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any returns or documents for tabling?  
 Reports of committees?  
 Petitions?  
 Reading or receiving of petitions?  
 Are there any bills for introduction?  
 Notices of motion for the production of papers?  
 Are there any notices of motion?

#### NOTICES OF MOTION

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I would like to give notice of a motion, by myself, and seconded by the member for Whitehorse North Centre, that it is the opinion of this House that the government should introduce legislation with a purpose of making it illegal to drink alcoholic beverages while driving vehicles on Yukon highways.

<sup>02</sup> **Mr. Speaker:** Are there any statements by ministers?

#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I wish to inform the House of a series of measures which we intend to implement, starting today, to bring a large number of unemployed Yukoners back into the work-force.

These measures are part of a five-point program which the government has lobbied, negotiated and prepared for since September, when it became painfully apparent that existing world economic conditions would not permit a full return of our mining economy. Indeed, across this country, mining communities continue to suffer with the reduced demand for our mineral products. Whether it be an iron ore mine in Quebec, a nickel mine in Ontario, or a lead zinc mine in Yukon, Canadians have witnessed one of the worst and rapid declines in a single industry in memory. There are, at this moment, 12,000 workers in Canada who may never be able to return to a mine for continued employment, and there are an additional 70,000 workers who are either on extended lay-offs because of mine closures, or as the indirect results of closures.

Years of effort to train, recruit and keep a well-qualified work-force in Yukon could be wiped out overnight unless we take action now. That is precisely what my government is going to do. Take action now.

Through belt-tightening measures, cost-cutting and realignment of existing funds, we have been able to identify \$2,600,000 which can be used to help get people back to work between now and the end of next March.

<sup>03</sup> We have taken \$1,600,000 to reactivate capital works projects in a number of communities around the territory and provide over 150 jobs for roughly 2,600 person-weeks of employment. These capital works projects will include:

1. phase one or site preparation of the Watson Lake and Haines Junction sewage lagoons;
2. the completion of the Watson Lake arena;
3. the Faro townsite access road;
4. the Tagish Road relocation;
5. wilderness park construction;
6. highway point of interest sign construction;
7. repairs to the foundation of the Robert Service School in Dawson City; and
8. the construction of three mobile accommodation trailers for inmate work programs. Tender notices for some of these projects are going out this week and will be awarded and administered in the normal government procedure. Some, such as the Watson Lake arena project, will be administered by the community while other projects will be carried out by the Yukon government using day

labour.

In addition to the capital works projects, my government has committed \$1,000,000 to an employment development program which will include four phases. Phase one will consist of operation and maintenance projects involving government facilities and operations throughout Yukon. We have identified 15 projects, ranging from highway maintenance to the upgrading of Yukon Housing Corporation houses. These projects, which can begin almost immediately, will provide 83 jobs, or approximately 580 person-weeks of employment.

<sup>04</sup> Phase two will involve the Yukon government signing an employment bridging agreement with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. The objective of this part of the program is to retain skilled workers in Yukon. To this end, we are committing \$300,000 to ensure that \$1,500,000 in federal contributions are brought into our economy to provide jobs for up to 180 unemployment insurance claimants between now and March 31st.

The Yukon government will be advertising for project submissions once the agreement has been signed.

The decline in our mining economy is causing a large degree of uncertainty for many small businesses, which may now be forced to look at lay-offs of their existing staff in order to ensure their survival.

Phase three of our program consists of a job retention segment to provide financial assistance to small businesses by providing wage subsidies for some of their employees.

As well as creating new jobs, we want to help ensure that existing jobs are not lost, and that our able work-force is not weakened further.

The mechanism for this program will be similar to the process used for our summer student employment program and we will shortly be announcing the details on how small businesses can apply for the program.

The final component of the employment program will involve the national emergency employment development program announced by the federal government. The Minister of Education outlined the guidelines on Wednesday last week. Officials of this government will be working closely with the local office of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission to ensure that Yukoners have access to the funds allocated to Yukon as soon as possible.

<sup>05</sup> To administer this program, my government has established a coordinating office with existing staff within the public service. They will help implement the program from the private sector and community organizations and will provide details on how applications can be made for the programs.

I am optimistic that these programs will go far in reducing the bleak outlook that many Yukoners may have feared for the coming months.

**Mr. Penikett:** I thank the government leader for the information contained in his statement today.

There is a variety of initiatives alluded to. A number of them are quite interesting, from our point of view, and we will be pursuing, in the coming days and weeks, questions about each of these programs. We will want to know, for example, the relationship between this announcement and the recovery package that the government approached the federal government with in August or September.

I think there is a commitment of something in excess of \$4,400,000 in this statement today, and we shall be extremely interested in getting some details about that money, the sources of it and the specifics. I am also curious about the administration of these expenditures. The Minister of Education, a day or two ago, when she was making related announcements referred to an advisory board, which we had hoped would be broadly representative. I believe that was the thought expressed by my colleague for Faro. I am interested in how that will relate to the new coordinating office which the government leader is announcing in this program.

The problem, of course, in respect to the workers who have already left the territory, particularly those who were laid off some time ago at Elsa and those who were laid off in spring in Faro, is that many of them are now long gone, and it is too late to persuade them to stay since they are already seeking employment and

assistance in other parts of the country.

☉ I just want to say that I thank the government leader for the statement and that I am sure it will precipitate a great deal of further discussion and inquiry from this side of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any further statements by ministers? This then brings us to the question period.

### QUESTION PERIOD

#### Question re: Economic recovery package

**Mr. Penikett:** Earlier this fall, when the government leader was negotiating with the federal government for an economic recovery package, the government leader stated that he was optimistic about the outcome of the negotiations and that political partisanship would not be a factor in the negotiations.

In this House, on November 4th, the government leader stated that he found it easier to get money from the federal government when the Conservatives were in power. Will the government leader please clarify his view of the federal funding, and is political partisanship a factor in getting money from the feds or is it not?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I do not think there is any doubt about it, it is a factor under normal circumstances. The point that I was making was that these are very abnormal circumstances and that the Liberal members of the federal cabinet recognize that these were abnormal circumstances. I was convinced that political partisanship did not play any role in their reception to me, in their concerns expressed to me, in the questions that they asked about the territory, nor, in my perceived concern that they had for what was happening in this territory.

I was simply making the point that these are not normal circumstances and they are not viewed as normal circumstances in Ottawa, either.

**Mr. Penikett:** To clarify the matter slightly, I would like to ask the government leader: is he now telling us that he is not so optimistic as he once was about getting the program money asked for from the federal government, because there is a Liberal government in Ottawa, or because there are abnormal circumstances, and that normal partisanship would not apply? Is that his proposition?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I am not making any propositions. The leader of the opposition is. I stated the facts and I stated an opinion. I was optimistic then, and I am still optimistic.

I must say that I am getting a little concerned, because time is slipping by. I was hopeful that we would have had a definitive decision from the federal government prior to now, because it is our perception that unless we can get going on some of the projects by, at the very latest, the first of December, it is going to be pretty well futile to try them for this year. And, I would think that there will be more and more people leaving now, as time goes on, if there are no jobs for them, or if we cannot hold out jobs for them.

**Mr. Penikett:** I was, of course, exploring contradictions in the government leader's statements, not making one of my own.

Let me ask him, to be specific again, does the government leader have any indication from the federal cabinet office when the Yukon aid package will be presented to cabinet for consideration; or, specifically, could he indicate to us exactly what he and his officials have been doing in the last few weeks to attempt to get, from the federal cabinet, a decision or at least a deadline for decision?

☉ **Hon. Mr. Pearson:** We have made representation to the federal government. I have had assurances from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which I am quite prepared to accept from him, that he will get that to us at the earliest possible date with whatever aid, assistance or help the Government of Canada is prepared to extend to Yukon because of the extenuating circumstances. We have had officials in Ottawa on numerous occasions, since I was there last, who have been following up, and been dealing in detail, with the projects that we have suggested to the government can be implemented. I do not have any dates yet. As I have said on numerous occasions, I will not need a question from the leader of the opposition to announce to the House exactly what help we will be receiving. I will be most anxious to jump up

and tell everyone.

#### Question re: Small business

**Mr. Byblow:** I have a question for the government leader as well on the subject of small business. Has this government engaged in any recent discussions, and if so, what were the outcomes regarding the transfer of available funding for the Small Business Loans Program from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** We are in the process of negotiating what we hope is going to be a very substantial new economic development agreement with the Government of Canada. The provision of a small business loans process is a part of that economic development agreement. The object of the exercise at the present time is to have that agreement in place for the beginning of the new fiscal year. It will certainly be something that would be reflected in our operation and maintenance budget for next year.

**Mr. Byblow:** I am still a little puzzled about the specific program I drew reference to because we have heard about it for several years and we know that the fund has been available since 1976, some \$4,000,000. Since the administration of the loans program has been offered to the Yukon government in the past, and this government has turned it down on the conditions set at the time, can the government leader say whether it is in the process of reconsidering its administrative position given the urgent circumstances facing small business in the territory?

☉ **Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I announced an assistance program for small business in my ministerial statement today. The small business loans program, as it was known, which was abandoned two governments ago from the one that is now in place, because of conditions that were put on it by the federal government and was, subsequently, offered by the federal government to this government, has been pursued. There was, for the most part, agreement on all terms and conditions for a transfer. Then, of course, negotiations got underway in respect to a new economic development agreement, and it was perceived by the federal government, that it would not be in our best interests to pursue further the small business loans agreement at that time. We should stay with the economic development agreement, and I would assume that what is going to happen is that that money is going to be rolled in to the new economic development agreement. I am pretty sure that is what is going to happen.

There is about \$4,000,000 that has been allocated to Yukon. I spoke to officials of the minister's department, about three weeks ago, about this very matter. I impressed upon them the desirability of getting that money now, however, it was their considered opinion, and one I think we have to really accept as being a value judgement from the people who are very close to the workings of Ottawa, that we would be better off by not going for that \$4,000,000 at this point. Rather, try and find some other way to help small businesses, and that is what we have done.

**Mr. Byblow:** I believe I understand what the government leader is saying, inasmuch as \$4,000,000 is available but not being accepted on the conditions that have been set by the federal government, and that this government is looking at converting this money into a new economic package.

As I recollect, last spring, this government...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the hon. member is now making a speech again. Could he get to his question, please?

**Mr. Byblow:** Is it the intention of this government to reintroduce the *Small Business Loans Fund Act* in order to administer the \$4,000,000 that is available, or is that now by the boards?

☉ **Hon. Mr. Pearson:** The hon. member will be among the first to know when we intend to introduce that legislation. I would also like to say that if the hon. member really understands that what I said was what he said then he is wrong, wrong, wrong once again. I did not say that the \$4,000,000 was available to us and that we would not accept it. I said just exactly the opposite. We have told the federal government that we would be happy to take it and they will not give it to us at this point in time.

#### Question re: Yukon Opportunities Plan

**Mr. Kimmerly:** A question for the minister responsible for social services. It is probably my last question about the Yukon Opportunities Plan, but the most important. The Yukon opportunities plan was conceived in good times when jobs were available. Now that jobs are scarce, what is the minister planning to do to find jobs for the plan?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I am not going to do anything, that is why this person was hired to find jobs for these people. As I have said in the House on more than one occasion, approximately 80 percent of the people now drawing social assistance are actually employable people, and the responsibility of this person is to find him employment, if there is employment. Now, his job will be to research employment in the territory to find out exactly where these people could go. Now, Mrs. Firth has brought forth a plan, which is one area that we certainly will be looking at, and that is the money that has come from the federal government. We certainly will be working on that. We will be in contact with various businesses throughout the territory, and with Canada Manpower. Wherever there is a job available, that is where they will be trying to find it. What more can I say?

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The plan, of course, can only work if there are jobs available. There are no jobs available. Where is the minister planning to find jobs?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Well, as far as there being no jobs available, I have always found throughout my life, when everybody is saying there are no jobs available, I have always been able to find a job. There are always jobs available of one type or another. I am certain that this person will be able to find those jobs that are available.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The program is a relatively expensive one. While there are no jobs to refer people to, would the minister not agree to divert the funds into direct assistance to recipients?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question would, almost, be out of order.

I notice some questions this morning are directed at seeking opinions of the ministers, which, of course, would be clearly out of order. Perhaps the questions could be a little more specific when opinions are involved.

#### Question re: Hotel-motel room tax

**Mr. Porter:** My question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

At its fall general meeting, held last month in Faro, the Association of Yukon Communities passed a resolution asking the government to bring forward legislation that would enable municipalities to levy a hotel-motel room tax. This would be done to gain further revenue for the municipalities purposes. Will the government be bringing forward such enabling legislation during this session?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Not to my knowledge.

**Mr. Porter:** I am sure the minister is aware that the AYC is suggesting that the tax be not applied to Yukoners, but to all those who visit the Yukon. This idea was also supported at the general meeting of the Yukon Visitors Association in April.

My supplementary is to the Minister of Tourism and I would like to ask if she is generally supportive of the principle of the tax, which is that tourists pay part of the costs for tourism development?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I think the member had the opportunity of reading the Speech from the Throne. There was no indication that there would be hotel-motel tax legislation coming forward during this session. I can assure the member that it is not our intention, over the course of this session, to bring forward such legislation. If it ever is brought forward, he will be the first to have a look at it and examine the various components of such legislation.

**Mr. Porter:** To the Minister of Tourism, if the government is not receiving funds from the Canada-Yukon Tourism Agreement, which will be expiring, and, in view of the fact of the continuing importance of tourism in the economy, particularly with the mining sector down, how does the minister intend to finance the whole development of tourism in Yukon?

**Hon. Mrs. Firth:** That will be funded with capital money.

#### Question re: Recreation green paper

**Mrs. Joe:** I have a question for the minister responsible for recreation. In all meetings regarding a recreation green paper,

community representatives supported and recommended the selection of Yukon recreation advisory committee members by MLAs from a list of nominees proposed by local authorities and recreation boards. Is the minister prepared to respect the wishes of local communities with regard to the procedure used for filling YRAC positions?

**Hon. Mrs. Firth:** The YRAC positions are being fulfilled in that manner.

**Mrs. Joe:** The question was in regards to future recommendations in the green paper. One of the other options was ministerial appointments. I want to know whether the minister would prefer those alternatives in the next fiscal year?

**Hon. Mrs. Firth:** Legislatively, we are bound to receive recommendations from the members of the Legislative Assembly, as far as appointments to the YRAC. That is presently how the YRAC and Yukon Lottery Commission is made up. As to whether I would like to see the members appointed by the minister or not, that is irrelevant right at this time.

**Mrs. Joe:** The minister emphasized to delegates, at one meeting, that she wanted people who she could trust on the YRAC. Did the minister mean that she only wants Conservatives, instead of qualified people trusted by communities of YRAC?

#### Speaker's Ruling

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must rule that question out of order. The question is frivolous.

**Mr. Penikett:** Mr. Speaker, the question is not frivolous. It has been previously stated that it was the intention of members opposite to appoint their friends to the numerous boards and committees of this House.

There has been a recent statement by a minister of this government to the effect that that was going to be the practice in the only committee left to which members on this side have any input, whatsoever. Therefore, I submit that it is a very serious, very relevant and very pertinent question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair considers the question to be frivolous and in order that all members may, once again, review the rules which supposedly control the question period, "A brief question seeking information about an important matter of some urgency which falls within the administrative responsibility of the government or specific minister to whom it is addressed only is in order." I consider such questions as being frivolous and I am sure all members would honestly agree with me in that opinion.

#### Question re: Wildlife officers

**Mr. McDonald:** I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. There has been a vacancy in Mayo for the position of Wildlife Officer for some time now and I would just like to know when the department plans to fill this position?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** We will fill it just as soon as we can.

**Mr. McDonald:** That is very reassuring. Can the minister explain why the vacancy in Mayo was created to fill a vacancy in Dawson?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** No.

**Mr. McDonald:** I can see that this whole line of questioning is going to be somewhat frivolous.

Last spring, members of the House were told that the Department of Renewable Resources planned a reorganization, with the result being that more wildlife officers would be allocated to field work in rural districts. Could the minister tell the House what the ratio is between Whitehorse officers and rural officers, and whether there is currently a plan to supplement rural staffing?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I cannot give you the exact ratio of Whitehorse to rural right now, but I can tell you that there was some reorganization done and now all of our campground people, those who worked for that department, also have the responsibility as conservation officers. The force has been bolstered to a significant extent. They are not the same level of conservation officers that the regular conservation officers are, and they do not do the same jobs, but they do have the auxiliary power to help the conservation officers when it is necessary. While I am on my feet, I can assure the member that as soon as we can fill every one of these

positions in my department for conservation officers, we will be doing so.

**Question re: Agricultural land**

**Mr. Penikett:** I have a question for the government leader. The government has indicated a request for a transfer of agricultural land from the federal government in advance of a land claims settlement. What clear indications has the government leader that such a request would be favourably entertained and would not be regarded as an obstruction to a settlement by the other parties in the claims talks?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** The question of the transfer of agricultural land is one that has been discussed at the table. We have always said that we would not make any request, or should we make any request, that would be deemed to be detrimental to the land claims talks then we would immediately withdraw those requests. I am confident that should the Government of Canada grant us any of our requests for transfer of agricultural land those transfers will not be detrimental to the land claims negotiations.

**Mr. Penikett:** Can the government leader tell us, for the record, what has been their reaction to this particular proposal, if it has been made, and does the government leader expect the transfer in advance of a settlement?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** When the original request was made, the Government of Canada said at that time that what we really needed in place was an agricultural policy so that they would know how we proposed to dispose of agricultural land if they transferred it to us. As all members are well aware, we now have an agricultural policy and we are hopeful that the Government of Canada will view that policy positively, and will transfer some land that is deemed to be potentially agricultural land to this government, in the study zones that have been completed, so that we can dispense it to Yukoners.

**Mr. Penikett:** I would like to ask the government leader, since that policy seemed to be a condition, if the federal government has expressed satisfaction or approval of that policy, and, at the same time, indicate what other land applications or land transfers he is pursuing in advance of the settlement.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I do not know that we are pursuing any other specific land transfers in advance of this settlement. As far as I know, none at all, at this point, or, none that I can recollect at this point. Sometimes we ask for these transfers, and it is so long between movements, that I do forget at what stage we are at.

In respect to agricultural land, we have not heard anything at all from the federal government. I do not know if we will ever hear whether our policy meets with their approval. I do not know whether we are particularly too interested in that aspect. I think probably our policy is one that the federal government is going to have to say is reasonable, and they will not be able to withhold transferring land to us because we do not have a policy any longer. I believe that that hurdle has been overcome. What the next hurdle may be I do not know at this point in time.

**Question re: Northern benefits**

**Mr. Byblow:** My question is to the government leader as well. This government previously made a commitment to Yukoners that if the moratorium on the taxation of northern benefits were lifted, it would directly refund to residents the territorial portion of any tax imposed. Since we are still facing this prospect, albeit delayed, is it still an intended policy of this government?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** No, we were talking at that time about the fiscal year that we were in, and the real threat that the moratorium was going to cease. A lot of people in this territory were going to be hurt to their serious detriment, and we had the money at that time to be able to do such a thing. As everyone is well aware now, we do not have that kind of money anymore. Also, the federal government has said that there is going to be a new regime put into place. They have not only announced the continuation of the moratorium, I do not think that anyone should lose sight of the fact that the federal government also announced that a new taxation regime for northerners would be put into place. I do not know what that regime would be. I have heard some speculation that we may well know within the next two weeks what that regime will be.

**Mr. Byblow:** Has this government made any detailed submission to the federal government respecting tax breaks for northerners and, if so, what has been the general policy or position of this government with respect to that subject?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I can recall tabling a position in the House in the last legislature. We submitted it about two years ago to the federal government. We have not submitted anything in respect to this new regime, if that is what the member is asking?

**Mr. Byblow:** Given that this government, in effect, made a position known to the federal government by offering to refund the territorial portion of any tax collected, has this government received any response from the federal government on that position, inasmuch as it would then force the feds to have less money collected by the territory than would normally belong to it?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** The only person in the whole world who thought that we had changed our position, when we made that announcement, was the hon. member for Faro. The federal government certainly did not think that we had changed our position. They know exactly what this government's position is now in respect to a moratorium on taxes, and what the position should be when the moratorium is lifted. There has not been any change in that.

It is only the member for Faro who seems to think that somehow or another our position has changed.

**Question re: Greenwood House**

**Mr. Kimmerly:** A question to the minister responsible for Yukon Housing.

Referring to my question in July about Greenwood House and the minister's answer of October 22, I am informed that discussions about the use of the building have already taken place approximately two years ago. Will the minister investigate the results of the earlier planning process?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I am always open to suggestions.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The minister talked about, "preliminary plans". Will the minister now canvass the residents of Greenwood House about the possible uses of the building, for example, as an office for a visiting nurse or a residential support service for seniors?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I am sure all those ideas will be taken into account.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Can the minister give a target date for completion of the planning stage?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** No.

**Question re: Sewage systems**

**Mr. Porter:** My questions are directed at the same minister, in his responsibility for community affairs.

It seems the municipalities these days are having a lot of difficulties with the sewage system treatments. Dawson city, as we all know, has had great numbers of problems in the past and now Whitehorse has some very expensive work to do in respect to a recent breakdown in the system, which has resulted, I might add, in raw sewage being dumped on a daily basis into the Yukon river.

Has this government pursued, or considered, any possible, different technologies of the treatment of sewage in the northern environment?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** If the member opposite has any ideas, I would be more than prepared to listen to them.

**Mr. Porter:** I have a number of ideas, but I will not say them in this House. I will tell the minister during coffee.

In consideration of the whole question of subsidies in respect to the sanitation systems, would the minister consider giving rural people the same subsidies that municipalities are currently receiving for sewage treatment systems?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I realize the member is relatively new to the legislature. If the member looks at the budget that he has before him and the allocation of dollars that will be going to the communities this year, there is an increase of approximately \$750,000 over and above what was authorized last year to the communities throughout the territory. It is a significant increase and it was brought forward by this government to ensure that the

various municipalities could continue to function, recognizing their limited taxing authority.

In respect to unorganized communities, if the member does some homework he will find that, in most cases, they are treated in a very equitable manner. In some cases, for example, if you are dealing sewage eductors, I do not think the rates have been increased in the past five years.

**Question re: Court backlog study**

**Mrs. Joe:** I have a question for the Minister of Justice on the court backlog study, for which I have given notice.

The minister indicated the total amount was about \$14,500. Could the minister give us the specific amount for professional fees for each of the consultants?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** As the member opposite stated, I have given that ballpark figure. I think the best place to deal with it is in the budget.

**Question re: Workers' Compensation Board**

**Mr. McDonald:** I have a question for the minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

The Throne Speech heralded the impending arrival of changes to the *Workers' Compensation Act* and I would like to know whether or not the minister could tell the House when he plans to introduce this legislation and whether this legislation is the same as that which was tabled last spring?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** We will be tabling the legislation this session. It is not quite the same, no.

**Mr. McDonald:** In developing this legislation, and in view of the minister's answer to my first question, could the minister tell the House to what extent the opinion of the public at large was solicited, that is, what public review process was used and how successful was it?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** Both labour and the general public was consulted — and industry — prior to drafting legislation.

**Mr. McDonald:** Does the minister intend to make a summary of proposed changes public prior to the introduction of this bill in this House?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** No.

**Question re: Porter Creek access road**

**Mr. Penikett:** I have a quick and easy question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. The minister recently indicated that the Porter Creek access road would be opened when phase two was completed. Just for the record, could the minister say when he plans to see the road finally completed and open to the public officially?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** There will have to be discussion between the City of Whitehorse and our government. Like the member opposite, I hope it is open as soon as it possibly can be.

**Mr. Penikett:** Another easy one for the minister. I understand there was substantially more money spent by the Vocational school on heavy equipment as a result of this construction project. Can the minister indicate if that was the case, and does he have a final cost estimate of the construction of that road?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** To my knowledge, the cost of the equipment was discussed approximately two years ago in this House. The actual cost of the Vocational school doing it was on a space-by-space allocation, paid for by the Government of Canada. I do not have a firm figure with me in respect to the cost to date, but I can get those figures for you. I am sure that if you compared them to any other method that we would have had to employ to get such an access road built, there are considerable savings.

**Mr. Penikett:** What plans does the minister have, or does he have any plans, to deal with the problem of traffic congestion that would be created in Marwell area at the end of the access road when it is ready and open for traffic?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** This is one part of the engineering phases underway at the present time: looking at how it would tie into that area, because it is a consideration to the City of Whitehorse as well as ourselves. I am sure it will sort itself out.

**Question re: Yukon Hydro**

**Mr. Byblow:** I have a question for the government leader on one of our favourite topics. Having compared the annual reports of Yukon Electric and Yukon Hydro, I note that in addition to the fact that they are both wholly-owned subsidiaries of the same parent company both also have identical boards of directors. Since this government plans to buy 50 percent of Yukon Hydro, to what extent will Yukon Hydro change its status towards becoming an independent company?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I do not know that they both have identical boards. I could take the hon. member's word for it if he says that he has just checked it out. I honestly thought that there was a difference in the two boards. I am, of course, as all members are, quite cognizant of the fact that both Yukon Hydro and Yukon Electrical have a parent company, Alberta Power.

I do not know that there will be any change in their status. What this government intends to do is become partners, and shareholders, in Yukon Hydro. I do not know that that will necessitate, or that we would even want, Yukon Hydro to change their other shareholders. I do not know if we have a right to ask them so.

**Mr. Byblow:** I will inquire regarding the effect of those same boards of directors in a moment.

Since the government leader has said that this government will be purchasing 50 percent of the shares of Yukon Hydro, and since Yukon Hydro does not actually issue shares for public sale, and thus there is no market value established for a Yukon Hydro share, how does the government leader intend to determine a fair value for Yukon Hydro equity?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** It has nothing to do with the equity of Yukon Electric. We are not buying into Yukon Electrical Company Limited, we are buying into Yukon Hydro. There is a cash value to the equity of Yukon Hydro. It is on the books. It is quite easy to determine what 50 percent of that equity might be worth, at any point in time.

**Mr. Byblow:** The government leader, as a good businessman, I am sure, will not assume the book value of the assets.

Since Yukon Hydro and Yukon Electric are very closely affiliated companies, and since Yukon Electric is Yukon Hydro's principal customer, almost its only customer, how will this government assure the Yukon taxpayer that they will receive a fair payment for the power sold by Yukon Hydro to Yukon Electric after the taxpayer is a 50 percent owner?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I just love the question. The hon. member has to be aware that there is such a group in this territory, pursuant to legislation passed by this House, called the Yukon Electrical Public Utilities Board. Surely the hon. member has to realize that that board has complete control of Yukon Hydro, like they have complete control of Yukon Electrical, when it comes to setting a price on what power is going to be sold for in this territory. These two companies come under the complete control of the Yukon Public Utility Board, unlike the Crown Corporation, which only comes under that control when, and if, they deem it desirable to come under that control.

**Mr. Speaker:** That will conclude question period.

We will now proceed to orders of the day, government bills and orders.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS**

**Bill Number 11: Second Reading**

**Mr. Clerk:** Second reading, Bill Number 11, standing in the name of the honourable Mr. Ashley.

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** I move, seconded by the honourable Minister of Education, that Bill Number 11, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*, be now read a second time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the honourable Minister of Justice, seconded by the honourable Minister of Education, that Bill Number 11 be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** These amendments to the *Insurance Act* are being introduced to bring our legislation up-to-date with that in

force in other Canadian jurisdictions. The main changes will be to raise the minimum coverage for third party property damage and public liability from \$75,000 to \$200,000, and to increase the accident benefits scheduled.

Over the past four years, seven provincial jurisdictions have increased their minimum coverage to \$100,000: Ontario raised its limit to \$200,000 on March 1st, 1981 and have advised that a proposal to increase the limit to \$300,000 may be forthcoming. New Brunswick recently proposed an increase of \$200,000, however, the bill died when the election was announced.

Local insurance agents have advised that the majority of drivers will be unaffected by the change, as they already carry liability insurance in excess of the required minimum coverage, nor do they think that base rates will be affected by the increase. Ontario advises there was no indication that base rates were affected when it increased minimum coverage to \$200,000.

In view of this information, and at current rates, the cost of purchasing an additional \$125,000 worth of third-party liability coverage for the average driver will be \$15 per year. For high-risk drivers, the increase will be higher, up to \$70 per year. However, these drivers constitute the greatest risk to the public and we consider that public safety should be our first concern.

An increase in our third-party property damage and public liability coverage to \$200,000 will establish the rate at more current levels, which will not require amending for several years. The accident benefit schedule, a form of no-fault insurance, has been changed to increase the benefits payable for bodily injury claims. Accident benefits schedules vary widely across the country, however, due to the fact that the majority of our automobile insurance is written through Alberta, the rates have been based on the Alberta schedule.

In summary, our prime concern for increasing the third-party liability automotive coverage and the accident benefit schedule is in recognition of escalating health costs and increased minimum coverage in the provinces. Complementary amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* have already received third reading.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I will speak fairly briefly. This is an uncontroversial bill, from our point of view, and we look forward to its relatively speedy passage. It is, obviously, as the minister states, bringing various minimums into line with national standards and keeping up with inflation and other costs.

We are interested, and will be asking, in the committee stage, about the increase in insurance premiums. I realize the base rate is not affected generally, but the overall premium for some drivers is going to be affected, and it is probably the people kept to "six and five" or the more lowly-paid government employees, who got no real increase, who are going to be affected. We are interested in those questions, and we will ask about them in the committee stage.

*Motion agreed to*

**Mr. Speaker:** May I have your further pleasure?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I move, seconded by the leader of the opposition, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, and that the House do now resolve into Committee of the Whole.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the hon. leader of the opposition, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, and the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

*Motion agreed to*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Mr. Chairman:** I will now call the Committee of the Whole to order. We will now have a recess for about fifteen minutes.

*Recess*

**Mr. Chairman:** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. We will continue with the *Second Appropriation Act, 1982/83*.

*On Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs*

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** The main estimates for the Department of

Consumer and Corporate Affairs reflect our commitment to combine a combination of fiscal restraint and possible program support and development.

You will note that our anticipated spending is approximately six percent below that of last year. We have not, however, eliminated any programs or services to reach that reduction. As stated in the estimates, the department has six programs, in the financial sense of the word. Functionally, the department operates primarily under program 10,000, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, with responsibility for consumer services, including metric and consumer information, corporate affairs, motor vehicles and labour services, including occupational health and safety.

There have been a number of changes in these activities over the past year, with more anticipated in the coming months.

The second planned occupational health and safety officer has been delayed due to the slow-down in industrial activity, which leaves the present officer capable of providing adequate service. As economic conditions improve, we will be recruiting for a second officer in this very important area.

Motor vehicle expenses have declined, primarily through the nine-day fortnight and anticipated savings in licence plate costs. At the same time, the unit is undergoing a thorough systems review to identify and reduce public inconveniences, or delays, whenever possible.

The consumer services section has developed a number of information and public assistance programs. Consumer support materials are distributed throughout Yukon. Classroom presentations are being made in our schools and public information meetings have, or will, be held in a number of communities. The unit continues to receive consumer complaints on a wide variety of subjects.

Authority under the *Landlord and Tenant Act* will be increased substantially by the forthcoming amendments. A notable change in the corporate affairs section is the implementation of a new personal property registration system, largely replacing the previous registry requirements. The new systems of legislation are the most modern and up-to-date anywhere in Canada.

A separate program was established in 1981 for the Public Utilities Boards, and support thereto. This is now a full-time unit with three staff providing administrative, enforcement and clerical assistance. The mandate of both utility boards is extremely important to the people of Yukon, and we have recognized that importance by increasing our funding and support.

Responsibility for the administration of the weigh stations has recently been transferred to Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The move has been made to maximize coordination among motor vehicles, transport and public utilities, and the weigh stations. It is felt that we can most effectively and efficiently serve the public through a single coordinated operation.

No net increase is reflected in the departmental estimate. Operational expenses will be recovered from the Department of Highways to continue to be responsible for highways' maintenance, a large part of which depends on proper controls through the weigh stations.

On the revenue side, we will unfortunately experience a decline in most areas. While such decreases are regrettable, they are due primarily to the economic recession facing all sectors of the economy. We do not consider it responsible to add to the economic difficulties being faced by business and public and have, therefore, not increased our fees in order maintain previous revenue levels.

In summary, what is before you reflects both concern with the economy and our commitment to provide quality programs and services to industry and the public. It is a truly responsible, conservative budget.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I will, simply by way of notice, identify the areas of questioning that I am going to be pursuing on the various lines or votes in the budget.

I am interested in the effect of the new landlord and tenant legislation on the consumer services budget, and the projections about the cost of those extra services, and the implications in the department, and also a breakdown of the existing person-years of the consumer aspect of the department. I will also have some policy



questions about the general area of consumer advocacy.

The second major line of questions that I will take is going to be around the Public Transport Board. I have had a number of complaints or concerns raised to me about the regulation of the industry and I will be asking about that particular line.

Aside from that, I agree that the estimates are fairly straightforward and that they ought to go through quite quickly.

22

*On Consumer and Corporate Affairs*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I look at the information on page 56 under Consumer Services and I see the make-up of that \$870,000, and Consumer Services is \$92,000. Is this three person-years?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** Yes, this is three person-years.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Of the three people who are now doing the job, what number of person-years, or the proportion of time, or complaints, or cases is allocated to landlord and tenant matters?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** There is no one on the current staff allocated to it. There is a relations officer administrator who will be dealing with those problems.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I do not want to go into the policy of the new *Landlord and Tenant Ordinance*, but the implication as to the mediator or the arbitrator is obvious, and it is going to come into play in this budget year. What financial planning is done around the question of the new rentalsman, or whatever it is going to be called?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** The rentalsman will be handled in-house, depending on the demand for the balance of this year. We will be monitoring the demand and appointing additional rentalsmen if required.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I take it, and correct me if I am wrong, that the allocation of the rentalsman is contemplated to have absolutely no budgetary impact in this year. Is that right?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** We are hoping that, yes.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Of the three people who are involved in consumer services, to what degree is consumer advocacy or enforcement of consumer legislation projected to come into their job descriptions?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** I do not have the percentage, if that is what the member opposite is asking for, but consumer relations is just about basically the whole job.

23 The administrative certainly looks after that as well. The other position is a clerk typist 3, for secretarial services.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** A question I would like to get at is the policy of the department, or the degree to which the department simply listens to and deals with complaints, or is an information resource in the community, or actively enforces the legislation. For example, under the labour standards legislation, the workers actively enforce the legislation. They are the enforcers under the *Landlord and Tenant Act*. As the policy is now, they do not. Is there a policy to not enforce this kind of consumer legislation, or to what degree is it taken into account?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** What I will do is read you the description of the program of consumer services. This unit tends to protect consumers and professionals through the administration of licence standards, with respect to the practice of medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, chiropractic, notary, insurance, real estate and collection agents activities, and through administration of redress procedures to persons aggravated by the conduct of licensed persons. It also serves the business community and consumers, including landlords and tenants, by assisting in the resolution of disputes, and providing education with respect to obligations in the market place.

**Mr. McDonald:** I just have a few questions for the purpose of clarification and information, and I deal specifically with occupational health and safety and labour services. To begin with, I recognize that there is a decrease in occupational health and safety, and I am just wondering what number of person-years this represents, this figure of \$52,000?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** It is representing one person. As a matter of fact, as I said in my opening remarks, there was another position to be filled that we did not fill because of the demand of the economy.

**Mr. McDonald:** I understood that, at least last spring, there

was to be a transfer of an education officer from the Workers' Compensation Board. I was just wondering whether or not this is currently the case, and, if so, how is this person paid, and what sort of cost sharing is there? Would it be percentage sharing with the compensation board?

24 **Hon. Mr. Ashley:** That is the position that has not been filled. Workers' Compensation pays for the whole position, as is stated on the back page of this budget, under recoveries.

**Mr. McDonald:** I understand that the Workers' Compensation Board will be paying 100 percent of this other position that is not yet filled. Just to plumb the depths of this relationship between the compensation board and occupational health and safety a little bit further, to what extent is there an exchange of information as to accident statistics, and whether or not there is any regular reporting in terms of accident surveys, health and safety surveys, investigations with the compensation board?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** Sorry, I missed the first part of the question.

**Mr. McDonald:** I just wanted to investigate a little bit further what the relationship is between the compensation board and the Department of Occupational Health and Safety — this one person — and whether or not there is an exchange of accident statistics, or other sundry information, which would make the jobs of both departments that much easier?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** I will read out the description of the program as well. This unit provides inspection of work places to insure the environment is safe and employers and employees are conducting themselves in a manner conducive to the safety and health of the workers. The officer provides short course seminars, et cetera, on an ongoing basis to both employees and employers. For budgetary purposes only, occupational health and safety is identified as a separate activity to facilitate recovery calculations of the Workers' Compensation Board. Functionally, the unit operates as a part of labour services. It is actually two positions. There is only one position now, but the second one was not filled. You have only been talking about the one who never came over, so there is one position there, and they do work together as far as being out in the work place.

**Mr. McDonald:** Just for my information, are we saying that there is a member of labour services who is handling, to a certain extent, occupational health and safety and, if so, what number of person-years is for labour services and what the job descriptions are, in a very general manner, for these persons?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** There is one position for an occupational health and safety officer and that position is filled right now. He does work under the labour services administration.

25 **Hon. Mr. Ashley:** The member opposite has also asked how many people are in labour services. There are four people.

**Mr. McDonald:** To put the job descriptions in a very general manner, might the four persons be working in labour services?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** For job descriptions, you would have to go to the Public Service Commission, I believe, or the department. What I can do is give you a description of the program that they actually look after.

**Mr. McDonald:** I was not exactly looking for the job description, in terms of what the person has to do day by day or month by month, I was looking, specifically, for job titles so that I could get a clear indication. I see that occupational health and safety has been allocated \$52,000 and that labour services has been allocated \$124,000. I was wondering to what extent the \$52,000 represented to the cost of a person-year or whether or not it represented other sundry costs, or whether or not this \$124,000 represented the costs for a number of person-years, or just what the allocation is for these various departments.

I am still sort of fuzzy as to what the delineation is between these two departments and I would just like that clarified, if possible.

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** You are asking for the job title? As I said, the title of the person in the occupational health and safety group is the occupational health and safety officer.

The titles, under labour services, are labour services administrator, labour services officer, labour services second officer and a clerk typist 3.

**Mr. McDonald:** Perhaps the minister could explain, on page

58, why these figures are anticipated, specifically, why they anticipate a considerable jump in labour standards complaints and why they anticipate a drop in wages collected?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** The reason for this is that although there are more inquiries, the serious complaints are actually down, which shows in the dollars collected, under wages collected.

<sup>26</sup> **Mr. McDonald:** Under the number of inspections, occupational health and safety, on all the keffuffle on page 58, I wonder if the minister could explain why these numbers are anticipated? And there are some numbers there which do represent significant jumps such as the safety meetings with employers, whether or not the minister felt that the meetings were insufficient before or whether or not there has been a request for significantly more meetings with employers?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** I believe it is because the employees have started work with the relations officer. There is more acceptance by the industry.

**Mr. Chairman:** We will move to the Program Objectives of Consumer and Corporate Affairs on page 56. Are there any more questions on Consumer and Corporate Affairs, \$870,000?

*Consumer and Corporate Affairs in the amount of \$870,000 agreed to*

*On Medical Profession Ordinance*

*Medical Profession Ordinance in the amount of \$1.00 agreed to*

*On Legal Profession Ordinance*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Just a very general question. I realize the peculiar position of the lawyers and the law society in Yukon. Is the government contemplating legislation in this area in the foreseeable future?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** Yes, I am, and the government is very much considering legislation in this area.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The obvious follow-up questions are: will it be in this session, will it be this year. Could the minister be a little more specific. Could the minister make a preliminary indication? I realize a commitment may not be possible about a public input into the question as well as input of the existing law society.

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** No, I cannot make a commitment as to time, when it will be tabled in the House.

<sup>27</sup> The main players, and the law society, will have input into it.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I thank the minister for the statement that the law society will be given input. Perhaps, I could simply make a statement that this is a controversial issue in the minds of some members of the public, and I would recommend that the input process, either through a select committee, or something of that nature, be followed, from, for example, the Consumers Association or the Chamber of Commerce. The insurance industry, and related industries, such as accountants, may wish to have an input after they see the bill. There is a significant public issue in the area, and I would recommend a program of public input.

*Legal Profession Ordinance in the amount of \$1.00 agreed to*

*On Public Boards*

*On Labour Standards Advisory*

*Labour Standards Advisory in the amount of \$2,000 agreed to*

*On Medical Review*

*Medical Review in the amount of \$1,000 agreed to*

*On Driver Appeal*

*Driver Appeal in the amount of \$1,000 agreed to*

*On Medical Council*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I realize that it is a fairly small amount of money, but is the money primarily travel expenses and honorariums for the council members?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** Yes, we budget a minimum amount each year, based on legislation, and it is for this purpose.

*Medical Council in the amount of \$8,000 agreed to*

*Public Boards in the amount of \$12,000 agreed to*

<sup>28</sup> *On Whitehorse Credit Union*

*Whitehorse Credit Union, in the amount of \$15,000, agreed to*

*On Utilities Boards*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I realize that what I really want to ask are questions about the policy considerations that the board makes and follows and the difficulty about that is that the general area is identified, to me, as a problem. I asked a question in the question period and the minister indicated he was looking into the problem of the seemingly unfair advantage that B.C. truck drivers have over Yukon drivers. I would ask the minister to answer if a policy change is expected in the future, or is that question being investigated?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** The Transport Public Utilities Board has been very active in undertaking a complete review of the existing authorities and an analysis of the present regulatory system. They will be making a report back to me on them. Yes, it is being looked at.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Is there either a referral date or a target date for the report and, if so, what is it?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** At present, no. It takes a considerable amount of time. They have been working at it for a while now. It does take considerable time going through each item and each licencing. Their main concern is to get through all that first and then get back into the major part, the authorities and regulatory systems.

**Mr. Porter:** In its examination of the policy, will the Transport Public Utilities Board be not only examining those policies that affect out-of-Yukon truckers and truck lines, but would it also affect the allocation of licences within the territory. For example, in many instances, contractors from the greater Whitehorse area have been given precedence over small contractors within the communities. In the examination of these policies, would that specific point be looked at and reviewed?

<sup>29</sup> **Hon. Mr. Ashley:** Yes, the complete authority and system is being looked at.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I have a question about enforcement. Two, at least, truckers or trucking companies have asked me about the lack of enforcement of the licensing requirement and fees, and the board publicly has commented about the problem, and frequently does, I understand. Is there a policy, or a proposal to make a policy, about the enforcement of the regulatory legislation?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** We have hired an enforcement officer who is working with the weigh stations. That is one of the reasons why they were all brought under the same control in that section. So, yes we are pulling it together and trying to have that enforcement there. We will also very possibly be putting a portable scale outfit, or using a different method such as that, along Cassiar road.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I have another line of questioning. Especially, taxi companies and moving companies are interested in the regulatory nature of the board. It is an area where there is not free competition, or free enterprise, of course. It is a regulated area. In these extremely hard economic times, is the policy about new companies being formed, and new licences being offered, being looked at, and is it also in the process of review?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** As I have said, at this point, everything is in review for the whole system. That is part of the report that will be coming to me.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Just a final comment, I have already asked about a target date and the minister is unable to give me one, but I will simply state on the record, that next year, at the next estimates, I will be asking the same questions.

<sup>30</sup> **Mrs. Joe:** I want a little bit of clarification on the enforcement officer who was hired for the weigh scales. I wondered what his/her duties might be, and whether or not the RCMP might have been doing the same thing before that person was hired?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** No, the RCMP were not enforcing in the detail that this will be. This person is going to be coordinating the weigh station. There has been a problem between coordination of the weigh stations and the department. The whole system was not functioning as it could have been. This person is one of the keys in the area. He is the key to coordinating the system.

**Mrs. Joe:** I am just a little bit vague on the types of things that this person is enforcing. Is he enforcing the weights, and whatnot, at the weigh scales?

**Mr. Chairman:** Before we go any further, weigh stations is

actually on the next page of this debate. We are really still on Transport and Public Utilities.

**Mr. Porter:** In the process of issuance of licences, does the board give an overriding consideration to the economic impact of the application that is before them, or do they give equal weight to such things as benefit to the overall community in terms of a service being provided?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** It is an independent board but, yes, they do look at all aspects and ramifications on the community.

**Mr. Porter:** In incidences where an application has been submitted to the board, and the board has rendered a negative decision, what is the appeal process for the applicant to readdress the whole question of being denied an application?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** They can reappeal to the board or they also have recourse to the courts.

**Mr. Porter:** There is no direct appeal process built-in within the government. Should a decision be made by the board, for instance, an applicant could not come directly to this government, or any other branch of government, to override this decision?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** People can come to me as a minister, and I then will have a look at that.

*On Transport Public Utilities Board*

*Transport Public Utilities Board in the amount of \$116,000 agreed to*

<sup>31</sup> *On Electrical Public Utilities Board*

*Electrical Utilities Board in the amount of \$61,000 agreed to Utilities Boards in the amount of \$177,000 agreed to*

*On Weigh Stations*

**Mrs. Joe:** I would like to go back to the question I had before, in regards to the enforcement officer. I would like the minister to give me a little more information, perhaps in writing, because I do not understand what this enforcement officer is doing, how long he or she has worked and what the duties are. Does he enforce violations that the truckers are making, or what is it?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** Yes, it is violations to what our laws and regulations state, basically, that he is looking for.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Two years ago we passed new legislation in respect to the trucking industry. There are a lot of potential violations that can arise as a result of that legislation, and then, of course, our own regulations, in respect to weights on the highways. The RCMP are most interested in speed restrictions. When it comes to weights, and this kind of thing, they do not have the equipment to police properly. That has always been one of the major problems. The complaint from the industry has been one that we have heard for a long, long time. Part of our answer to that has been the hiring of an enforcement officer who has the authority to enforce all of the regulations.

**Mrs. Joe:** Do you have more than one person?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** We only have one person right now.

**Mr. Chairman:** If there is no more debate on the weigh stations, I would ask Mr. Ashley if he could explain to me the zero balance. Maybe we can forget about going through and clearing all of these with a zero balance.

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** There is an internal chart back there. It is charged back to Highways. It is under their budget.

*On Whitehorse*

*Whitehorse in the amount of \$176,000 agreed to*

<sup>32</sup> *On Watson Lake*

*Watson Lake in the amount of 158,000 agreed to*

*On Haines Junction*

*Haines Junction in the amount of \$156,000 agreed to*

*On Cassiar*

*Cassiar in the amount of \$30,000 agreed to*

*On Internal Chargeback*

*Internal Chargeback in the amount of a recovery of \$520,000 agreed to*

*Weigh Stations in the amount of nil agreed to*

**Mr. McDonald:** I have a question, under Expenditure Recoveries, specifically Workers' Compensation Board, \$111,000. The minister explained that one position was left unfilled in occupation-

al health and safety, which is funded normally by the Workers' Compensation Board. We have an expenditure recovery here for \$111,000, which is better than a 100 percent increase. I was just wondering how this money is spent?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** The actual expenditure recoveries under workers' compensation, at \$111,000, are wrong. It should be \$56,000, leaving a total at the end of \$75,000.

**Mr. McDonald:** Just for my own clarification, I was just wondering what this money was spent on, the \$56,000?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** That is for that occupational health and safety officer.

**Mr. McDonald:** The reason why I am asking these questions is that I thought I was told that there was a listing, under occupational health and safety, which is normally funded by the Workers' Compensation Board, but, according to you, it was left unfilled for some reason. I was just wondering whether or not that still was the case?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** No, we still have one position there, as we had. We did not increase one. That is one of the reasons for the error here, that additional person was not added.

**Mr. McDonald:** So the difference, as I understand it, for this would be charged directly to occupational health and safety, on page 56, and the funding coming from the Compensation Board is \$56,000. The funding on page 56, under occupational health and safety is \$52,000. I wonder if you could just briefly explain what that \$4,000 difference means?

<sup>33</sup> **Hon. Mr. Ashley:** The difference in this is the travel, hotel, phone, the advertising, promotional services, that sort of thing.

**Mr. McDonald:** Just briefly, for my information, what portion of the \$52,000 represents this one person-year's salary?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** It is about four-fifths of that, probably.

**Mr. McDonald:** I am terrible at mathematics, but it would be roughly a \$4,000 difference between the Workers' Compensation Board chargeback and that which is listed under the occupational health and safety, or roughly \$5,000 or \$10,000 for office travel expenses for the one officer?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** Yes, it is in that neighbourhood.

*Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in the amount of \$1,740,000 agreed to*

*On Health and Human Resources*

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The effects of the Yukon's deteriorating economy have been felt in all areas of government and especially in this department. We have made many adjustments in our budget this year in order to accommodate the economic condition that we are in. As we go through the budget, I will give detail of changes that have been made.

In the administration of the human resources' area it will be noted that the 1982-83 estimates in the document before you are \$2,144,000, an increase over the actual 1981-82 of \$1,993,000.

<sup>34</sup> This amount reflects an increase due primarily to the moving of alcohol and drug services from the administration, health, into field region. This amount is somewhat lower than the figure of \$2,204,000 shown in the earlier budget and is mainly due to the salary savings from a nine-day fortnight as well as reductions in salaries.

In the area of child welfare services, we show an increase of 18 percent, from \$1,009,000 in 1981-82 to \$1,191,000 for 1982-83. The reduction in the amount shown in the earlier budget is due primarily to the reduction in the need for special foster homes, for foster children with special needs and a reduction in the need for reliance in placement of children in care in treatment centres outside Yukon, for example, the William Roper-Hull Home.

In the area of social assistance, you will notice that there is a substantial increase in this budget over the previous year's actual expenditure, an increase of 21 percent, to an amount of \$2,538,000. This is an increase as well over the allotment submitted in the budget earlier this year. I think the reason for this may be obvious. As stated earlier, the economic situation has hit us very heavily. It became apparent this summer that more people, than in previous years were seeking social assistance when they ordinarily have been working at seasonal jobs. During the months

of July, August and September, we were averaging 100 to 150 more social assistance cases per month than during those months last year. The proportional number of employable individuals was up by ten percent over the previous year, forming up to 81 percent, as I have stated previously in this House. The number of social assistance cases continues at about 20 percent over the previous year at this time. To aid these people, we have increased the social assistance portion of the budget.

You will note a small reduction in the amount budgeted for rehabilitation services, a reduction both from the earlier budget and the 1981-82 budget. There has been a slight decrease in the need for these services, but a major portion of the decrease is due to training funds from this area having been reduced since the Public Service Commission is now bearing the costs.

Grants were substantially increased from the previous year's budget by as much as 112 percent. A decrease from the spring budget will, however, be noted. Members of this House are aware that my government increased the level of the Pioneer Utility Grant and that we have implemented the Seniors' Income Supplement, both most important measures, in that they permit Yukoners, who have contributed to the development of Yukon, to enjoy their retirements years.

We have also undertaken to assist with the funding of the Women's Transition Home, recognizing the social problem of alcohol abuse in Yukon. We have increased the amounts granted to Crossroads and to community organizations that have come forward with worthwhile projects designed to alleviate the problem of alcohol in their community.

» In the area of alcohol and drug services, we realized a reduction from the amount shown in the previous budget because we have had some difficulties staffing the community alcohol workers' positions. We are actively looking for suitable candidates in the communities of Faro and Haines Junction. The employee assistance program is now handled jointly through prevention and education and the Public Service Commission. In our residential facilities, we have increased the budgeted amount slightly from both the budget presented this spring and from the 1981-82 budget. This was necessary to ensure that the needs of persons requiring the use of youth services facilities, the two senior lodges and the detoxification centre would be met, at least to the same degree as in the previous year. Because these facilities are staffed on a 24-hour day basis, there could be no salary reductions from the nine-day fortnight.

In the section of administration of our health services branch, there is in the budget a reduction of 16 percent over the amount actually spent in the previous fiscal year, as well as a reduction from the budget presented previously. This is attributable to the shifting from health services to government services of buildings and rental funds allocated for computer systems development. Additionally, speech pathology was removed from the administration of health services and appears as a separate activity. In general health services there has been an increase in this budget over the 1981-82 fiscal year budget, but there is a slight decrease from the spring's budget. As all members are aware general health services are delivered by the medical services of National Health and Welfare, Yukon Region.

Because of some inaccurate information in the costs assigned to activities by the federal people, I will be suggesting some changes when we reach that budget. It does not change the final outcome of the line, but it does change where the money is allocated. The cost of Yukon Hospital Insurance Services has been increased in this budget over the actual amounts expended in the previous year. You will note, however, that a reduction in out-patient services' costs and increase in in-patients services' costs is anticipated with an overall increase which just keeps pace with inflation.

The amount shown in this budget is somewhat less than in the spring budget. We feel that a somewhat reduced population in Yukon will result in fewer people requiring this service. The Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan is another area where we have found it necessary to increase budgeted amounts over what was actually spent in 1981-82. This is partly attributable to the extended health care benefits to seniors, a new, and I feel, necessary, program

introduced this year and also partly due to increases in doctors' fees both in Yukon and outside. You will note that the amount budgeted there is the same as that presented this spring.

» In the area of mental health services, we have shown an increase over the previous year's actual cost for this program, keeping this item at the same level as in the spring budget. This activity is comprised of cost of psychiatric hospital care and related medical travel and drugs. This area reflects little growth, as the trend in medical practice is away from institutionalizing the mentally ill.

The subsidized medical travel program is somewhat reduced, both from the actual amounts spent in 1981-82 and from the amount in the 1982-83 budget. We show a slight increase for travel outside the territory over the 1981-82 budget, but because of the reduction in the number of residents in some outlying communities, we anticipate less travel within Yukon.

In the area of disease control, we are presenting a reduced budget amount. We are optimistic that a somewhat reduced population will reduce the demand on this program. Given the actual cost for the venereal disease program in 1981-82, our 1982-83 estimate may be understated, but with the population outflow, the overall activity budget of \$173,000 remains reasonable.

The speech pathology program stands separately in this year's budget. You will note that the amount presented in the budget for this program has been reduced from the amount shown in our earlier budget. We had planned to double the person-years from two to four, adding an audiologist and clerical support. A turn-over in speech pathology personnel and, thus far, an inability to hire an audiologist — such professionals are very hard to obtain — forces us to project the reduced expenditure for this fiscal year. You will note our intention to fully staff this program, eventually, and that we still show the four continuing person-years.

I anticipate that there will be some who will say we should do more, and I may even agree with that. We are attempting to make our programs as effective and efficient as possible so that, during this time of recession, as many of those who genuinely need the services of our provided programs shall have access to them. But, dollars are limited, even for health and social programs. It is a time for working together rather than solely leaning on government programs.

That is all I have to say on my budget at this time. Of course, as we go through the budget I will deal with each department on an individual basis.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I would thank the minister for an informative general breakdown. It is most helpful. I am not going to make a speech, as I did in the spring, I am simply going to give notice of questions that I will be asking — actually lines of questioning, I suppose, would be more accurate.

First of all, the minister talked about effective and efficient programming, and I totally agree, of course, and I am going to be asking about the evaluation of programs, especially the alcohol programs. I would note the Public Accounts Committee comment, in a general sense, last year, and the ERPU Report, which identified, I believe, 11 programs not seriously evaluated in any real sense. I am going to be asking those questions in the spirit of saving money and reducing expenditures where possible, and especially talking about the overlap of services in a general sense.

<sup>37</sup> For example, there is an overlap of delivery personnel for status Indian people and non-status, non-native people. For example, in a small community, Ross River, there was a band social worker who deals with status Indians, and a YTG travelling social worker dealing with other people. Obviously, the land claims talks are in question, but in the spirit of cooperation and reducing delivery costs, these kind of things ought to be looked at and questioned.

Another example is the native alcohol abuse program and the community alcohol workers in YTG. I would note that I have received, for the most part, negative comments in smaller communities about the duplication, or the perceived overlap, of these two programs, and I will be asking some questions about that.

I wish to follow a line of questioning about the detox facilities and the need, or the population of unfortunate people being served by the detox centre, and the various programs around that area, and in a slightly more specific sense, although the number of actual

beds that the facility provides is probably adequate, the number of intake of beds is short of the need in Whitehorse, and I will ask about the exclusionary policies of the detox centre. I understand the reason for excluding some potential clients, and I will ask questions about budgetary implications of the alternative of resources and the social implications. The alternative resources, of course, are the drunk tank and the river bank.

38 I will ask for an update on the voluntary agency policy announced by the predecessor. There are, under grants, of course, a substantial amount, almost \$1,000,000, and the control of this money and the policies of determining the competing requests of the community agencies is a question in my mind, and I am going to be asking about those policies.

I am going to be asking about the statements made by the minister about geriatric care, and about the cost of sending seniors outside for medical care, and the possible alternatives, and substantial savings, I believe, of a visiting nurse kind of program, or assistance in the home, as opposed to a facility, and the studies or plannings as to the need for that kind of program.

I am going to be asking about social assistance. I almost exhausted the questions about the opportunities plan in question period, but there is a detail or two I will follow up on. I am going to ask about the question of welfare fraud. I asked in the question period about a specific case. I do not wish to follow up the specific person, but I do wish to ask about the policy principles involved in the case-by-case policy announced by the minister, and further identify that. The Public Accounts Committee has already identified some potential problems in that area.

Also, as a general question about social assistance, I am still unclear as to the statement in the government leader's budget address about the \$1,000,000 figure, and I would like an explanation as to where the \$1,000,000 figure comes from. I do not understand it from the numbers under that line.

In the area of health, I am going to be asking about physiotherapy. I have already put the minister on notice about that, and I will also ask for an update, or progress report, on the mental health plan. I am going to ask about rumoured cuts in hospital care. There are rumours in the community, which have come to my attention, and I will be asking information questions about that.

39 I will also ask about the chronic diseases list and, specifically, about Parkinson's disease and a few other diseases of a similar nature.

I am also going to briefly follow a line of questioning about doctors' fees and the implication of medicare premiums, of course, and also to follow up a line of questioning that the Public Accounts Committee identified about the method of collecting the medicare premiums, and the question of outside companies and unpaid premiums.

Incidentally, as an update, I announced I got a letter in the spring about the unpaid medicare premium attributable to me and it was, indeed, an error. I did not owe the money and I would like to put the comment on record about that.

In summary, this is a big department with a lot of money, \$25,000,000, approximately. Although a number of the lines are completely uncontroversial, I look forward, in the next couple of hours, to discussing the identified areas with the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I am not sure I can answer all the member's questions. He gave me a fairly comprehensive list of them.

The evaluation of the alcohol programs was the first one raised and I would like to inform the member across the floor that the evaluation has been partially done and is continuing, partially, on my insistence. I went to the detox centre and also to the alcohol and drug services office this past week. All I can say to the member is that, in my department, we will be reviewing these programs on a continuous basis because, as the member said, we have a \$25,000,000 budget here. It is almost one-third of this government's budget. There are three budgets in the \$25,000,000 to \$26,000,000 range and this is one of them. I certainly intend to keep the cost of my department as low as possible.

40 We will be evaluating every program in my department over the course of the next two or three years.

About the overlap of services between my department and the

National Health and Welfare and Department of Indian and National Affairs, there is very little we can do about that. We do have our social workers, our community alcohol workers and, if the Indian bands feel that in their wisdom they want to have their own and they can convince the Department of Indian Affairs to allow it, I do not see how we, as a government of the Yukon Territory, can say no, "you should not do it". I also recognize that perhaps there is no need in a lot of cases for both of these. In fact, I know there is no need for both of them, but that does not change the fact that the Indian people have a right to ask the Department of Indian Affairs to allow them to have their own. If they feel that in their wisdom it is right, then so be it.

Our community alcohol workers, as I stated, are a problem with us. It is a program that I want to evaluate on a very detailed basis because I am not convinced in my own mind that the money we would expend on a community alcohol worker is really giving us enough service for the money. I recognize it could be beneficial. Now, the new system where they would report to the social worker of that area rather than report to Whitehorse might give us the control that is necessary in order to optimize the use of these people. Up until now, I am not convinced that it has been beneficial for us. That is one area that I certainly am interested in having evaluated. It will be one of the first ones evaluated when it comes to the alcohol part of my department. There is a benefit to have people doing the job, but I think it is very important that we have the right people and I am not so sure that we have managed to do that up until now.

On the detox facility, he mentioned that there is not enough intake beds. I would go over it to the detox facility, and while I was there last week, I think the average was about four or five people. I think the intake beds are set up to be enough to service the rest of the beds that are in the facility. I believe that they are doing so. Once in awhile, if there is a very large influx, there could be a problem, but that could happen at any place or at any time with any organization. I think we have the bed space there necessary to handle the people.

41 In respect to the voluntary agency grants, there is a policy in the department for grants to Crossroads, Yukon Rehabilitation Society, and others like that. Grants to communities is probably the portion that the member is more interested in than anything else, and that is an area that my department has been working on in the past few weeks. We are trying to develop some criteria for these grants. I am hopeful that, within the next few weeks, we will have a policy in place on how we are going to distribute these grants. While we are on grants, I should also mention that the department has the ability, under the community grants program, to issue the grants. That is not something that comes to the political level. It is usually a small amount of money and it is within the department's ability to handle them.

The larger grants, such as the grants to Crossroads, all come to the cabinet or ministerial level. The department itself is trying to develop its own policy on the community grants.

I think I have made my position fairly clear on geriatric care. I think it is very important that we have geriatric care for seniors in the territory. If we want to keep the seniors here, the people who have developed the territory, I think it is our responsibility to make sure that there is a facility here to do it. The member has mentioned that, perhaps, we should look at alternatives. Well, I would like to tell the member that we are looking at alternatives. We are looking at alternatives right now. One suggestion has been that, perhaps, the younger retired people who are in the senior citizens' facilities could take over part of the geriatric care of the older ones. That is something that I am having my department investigate.

My department is also investigating using part of the hospital. It is a facility that we pay for. It is very underutilized and we are in negotiations right now to use some of the hospital for a geriatric facility. Perhaps, by taking over a wing of the hospital, we could use it for geriatric care, with some other facility for recreational use. That is something that we are also investigating. I think everyone in this legislature should recognize that geriatric care is one of the most expensive types of care that there is. You require doctors and nurses, and there is just an unlimited amount of money

needed to build a facility. It is something that, while it is very dear to my heart, I still recognize is very costly, and we will look at all alternatives, other than building a facility, to start with.

42 Ultimately, I would hope that we would have a facility here, constructed specifically for that purpose, but, as we have a very expensive building across the river and could be utilizing it. We should be.

On social assistance and the Yukon opportunities plan, I do not know what other questions the member across the floor could ask me, but I will quite be willing to answer them when we get to it.

Our policy on welfare fraud, as I stated to the question from the member, is reviewed by my department on a case-by-case basis, and a decision is made. First of all, those that come to the attention of a social worker and his or her supervisor, have a recommendation made on them. If it is a small amount, the social worker and the supervisor make the decision of whether we are going to prosecute, or whether we are going to have them repay. Usually, we have a repayment agreement, and it is a legal agreement. If they are drawing welfare, we will gradually deduct it from their welfare payments, and if they are working, they will repay it out of their wages. If it is a larger amount, and if the social worker and the supervisor feel that it is serious, then it goes to the top level in the department, and the decision is made there. If it becomes something that we decide we are going to prosecute, we can either go to the small debts court and get a judgement, or if it is even more serious, we have the option of taking them to the regular court. That is something that is also reviewed on a case-to-case basis. Every one of them is investigated, and a decision has to be made as to whether we prosecute or not. I think every member in the House here would recognize that in some cases, prosecution of these people would not be beneficial. We are going to get no more money whether we have an agreement to repay or we prosecute.

But on the whole, my department has been told that at least we should try to at least have it on the record. We should try to get a judgement against them of one type or another so that there is record that they did attempt to defraud the government.

There has been a lot of confusion about the \$1,000,000, and so I guess I am going to have to clear this confusion up. There was an extra \$700,000 allocated for social services. If you want to go back to the 1981-82 estimates, you will probably find that it is approximately \$1,000,000. But the actual amount that was given in addition to social assistance is \$700,000.

43 Physiotherapy, as I stated in the House earlier, is a program that we had a cabinet paper on. We made a decision that we would try to bring in physiotherapy as soon as we could. That is a position that I still maintain. I would clear up, perhaps, some of the implications of how much the cost will be, depending on what we do with physiotherapy. If we limit physiotherapy to \$200 to \$250 a year per person, we could probably bring in a plan in the neighbourhood of \$75,000 to \$100,000. If we throw physiotherapy wide open, who knows what the costs are going to be — at least \$150,000 to \$200,000. It is a costly program and, while it is something that we would like to bring in, we have not made that decision as of this time. I think, in these economic times, it is something that we will not be prepared to consider.

I am not just exactly sure what the member wants to know about an update of the mental health program, so I will also have to leave that until later.

As to rumours about cuts in hospital care, well, rumours are rumours. I have not heard any, so I do not know exactly what the member is raising there.

The addition of Parkinson's disease to the chronic disease list and, perhaps, one or two others, is something that my department is looking at right now. We are looking at not updating the chronic disease list, *per se*, but perhaps changing the whole program so that we could treat it in a different manner in the territory. The one option open to us is to give a person a card, much the same as the pharmacare card, and to allow people with these chronic diseases to get their medication at the government's expense. That is something that we have to investigate to find what the costs will be to us.

The chronic disease list is a joint agreement between the federal and territorial, or the provinces and the federal government. We

think, perhaps, that we could change the whole thing around, take the whole thing over, and treat it in a different manner altogether. That is something that I have my department looking at now.

44 If we can do so without tremendous expense to us, we will try to implement that.

My department is presently negotiating with the doctors. We are fairly confident that we will get an agreement fairly soon. I am hopeful that the doctors will keep their demands fairly low, and I am confident that they will, especially since the lawyers have voluntarily given a rebate, as the member across the floor brought up. I think the doctors are just as capable of looking at the economic situation, and also of treating us fairly.

As for a premium increase, I do not believe that it is necessary at this time. Depending on what the doctors negotiate, it might not be necessary next year. As everything else goes up, we are reaching the area where we may have to consider an increase in medicare premiums within the next year.

The collection process for outside companies that do not pay is something that I was not aware of until very recently, in that we had that much of a problem with people not paying their medicare premiums for their treatment in the territory. I am going to have my department look into this situation and make some recommendations to me of how we can collect them, or whether we can collect it, or how we should change our system to ensure that we collect them. Other than that, I can give the member very little information on our collection process. My department, most likely, will be getting back to me with some further details on these questions. I think that answers most of them, I hope, to the member's satisfaction.

**Mr. Chairman:** If there is no further general debate, we will have coffee. If there is further general debate, we will have that after coffee.

#### Recess

45 **Mr. Chairman:** I call the Committee of the Whole to order. We will continue with general debate on page 72.

**Mr. Kimmery:** I would thank the minister for a complete answer. I had expected my questions were notice of question, but I thank you in any event for the answers.

I neglected to mention two other areas. I missed a page of my notes. I have questions also about the qualifications of social workers and local hire and I have identified that in the question period. I will probably ask similar questions under the Public Service Commission as it is more properly there, I expect; also the budget implications, or the budget planning in the long term about the revision of the *Child Welfare Act*. There was a newspaper ad in the summer sometime and I will be asking about the planned changes in the *Child Welfare Act* as it affects the budget. In any event, that is notice of questioning.

In the response the minister made, he raised three major problems in my mind. There was a conversation about evaluation and I am interested in the kind of evaluation which is going to be done and the evaluation policy. Is it going to be evaluated by outside experts or by inside experts, or is it an internal policy continuing process undertaken by the Director of Research and Training, and the various inputs of the evaluation and specifically, if the client groups are going to be asked to comment in the evaluation process? That is the first general problem and I will raise it under Administration on the first line.

46 Another problem that I saw is the general question of the policy of welfare fraud, to draw an analogy to, for example, the crime of shoplifting which is almost always proceeded with in the courts, even though the amounts of money are relatively small. I am probably, at some point, going to make a statement about the welfare fraud policy which, in my opinion, poses a problem if the policy is that if it is a small amount, the person is made to repay it. In fact, it is almost an incentive to beat the system or, in this case, cheat the system, in that, if you are discovered, all you have to do is pay it back. It is not your money anyway. There ought to be, and there probably is I am sure, a consideration of a deterrent value and the publicity value of welfare fraud problems. I am also interested

in the question of what is a small amount and what is a large amount. To poor people, a small amount often appears quite large.

The last problem I wish to identify in a general sense, and I will follow it up, is the question of overlap, and that is the problem of the Native Alcohol Program and the community alcohol workers and occasionally band social workers. I simply wish to point out that the approach that I wish to take is a little different from the minister's approach. It appears to me that in some places, and this is probably only applicable in some communities in the Yukon and is quite inappropriate in some others, if there is a band social worker, for example, in Old Crow, the extreme case, it may be beneficial that the band social worker enforces the Yukon legislation for non-status Indians, perhaps on a fee-for-service or contract basis, that kind of thing. I am interested in the effect on the quality of service, the community acceptance of the service, and the cost. In some places, the band social workers are now trained to a diploma stage, and it is entirely possible in my view, to incur a saving, in terms of dollars, and possibly even to increase the client satisfaction on some services to contract out services to avoid overlap. That is the kind of approach that I would like to follow. That is not a problem with the federal jurisdiction. In my mind, I see it as a question of attempting to find the cheapest and best level of service, especially in rural areas.

**47 Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I would like to deal with the last one first, while it is fresh in my mind: the overlap of social workers. I think the member raised a very important point, and that is that usually, almost 100 percent, in fact, the band social workers are not trained, or they have very limited training, whereas the social workers that this government has, all have a degree. They are all capable social workers. And certainly, if in Old Crow they had a trained social worker with a degree, or whatever, that we could perhaps utilize, I would not have any problem with it at all.

But on the other hand, I have to raise this point with the member of the opposition. We have always had social workers in these communities. Why did the Indian people get their own social workers? That is a question I have to ask. You know, if we are looking at the economics, why do we have double? We have had social workers in most of these areas. We always did, so, I think there are other things to consider besides whether social workers are available or not or whether they are trained or not. I think the Indian people in a lot of cases feel that the white community is not looking after them in the way that they want, so they want to have their own social worker or alcohol worker.

**48** As I said, if there is a trained person available in these communities, I do not have any problem in having my department look at contracting the service out, but I think that, on the whole, that there would probably be more problems arise than we could overcome.

I think I made my position clear about the qualifications of social workers and local hire during the question period when the member asked me the question regarding qualifications. That was one of the first things I talked to my department about when I took over as a minister. It seemed that every time I saw an ad in the paper for a social worker, it required that the person have a Bachelor of Social Work or a Master of Social Work, and I began to wonder just exactly what we are doing in this government. I believe, in some cases, that we could have a social worker supervisor who has a master's or a bachelor's degree and we could utilize para-professional type people and, if they run into a problem, we would always have the back-up of the social worker.

So, my department is reviewing all of the positions in it right now to see if we could change the job classifications. We are doing it in conjunction with the Public Service Commission, and I am hopeful that, within the next very short while, we will have some of these positions reclassified.

I believe the member is probably well aware that we have a person on staff in the Department of Justice whose main job is to work with the young offenders under the *Child Welfare Act*. It is a long-term process. He is on contract to this government for one year and, hopefully, by the end of that time he will have drafted a new *Child Welfare Act* for us that will take into consideration all of the differences that are going to arise from the new *Young*

*Offenders Act* of Canada. This is something that is long term and ongoing. My department meets quite often on it, and I am hopeful that, when we are all through, we will have a *Child Welfare Act* that we can be proud of.

The evaluations that we are doing are being done in-house. We have on staff, as the member said, a director of research and training. One of his main functions is to review every position in the department and to make a recommendation to us of whether we should reclassify any position, whether we should upgrade people, whether we should run a training program or whether, in fact, we need a position at all. Up until now, I believe he has been doing a fairly good job, but that is something that is not short term, either. It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort to evaluate a program and make a recommendation.

**49** In regard to welfare fraud, as I said, welfare fraud usually comes to the forefront by someone telling a social worker — in an anonymous letter or something. They are all investigated and, wherever possible, as I stated, there is a judgement taken against them unless it is considered unwise to do so.

The member drew the analogy to shoplifting, that all shoplifters are always prosecuted. I can assure the member that they are not all prosecuted, in fact, very few of them ever go to prosecution. When a store owner catches someone he, in a lot of cases, makes a value judgement of whether he will prosecute or not. Perhaps not enough of them go to prosecution, but they all certainly do not go to prosecution.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Briefly, on the shoplifting question, I believe it is a matter of store policy and, in some major stores in town, the policy is that everyone is prosecuted, and in some others, it is not.

The reason why I rise again in general debate is to talk a bit about the economics and politics of the overlap around band social workers. I believe that the minister, in the beginning of the response, was talking about the politics of the question as opposed to the economics. I was extremely pleased and I say, on the record, that I totally agree with the stated policy or principle just made about local hire and the qualifications of social workers. That policy can be applied to band social workers, and the level of training and expertise involved in that question, in my opinion, especially in rural Yukon, knowledge of the specific community and the trust of the community are ever bit as important as the academic qualifications and, in some cases, even more so.

In my opinion, the politics of the question, that is, Indian control or non-Indian control, colour the economics. Looking realistically at the economics of the situation, in these times of restraint, I believe that there are compromises that could be made. As an example, it could be possible in two communities, which are racially mixed, to do the experiment both ways. I would expect you would get an agreement out of CYI or the individual band if it were seriously proposed in one community to get the band social worker to enforce the legislation under the direction of the field supervisor.

**50** In a second community you could get the social worker to service the status Indians and administer those federal programs. It would probably involve turning a blind eye, on an experimental basis, with administrative procedures, in some cases, but the economics of the situation and the obvious advantages in promoting racial equality, in terms of service, dictate an approach that puts the politics of past years aside to as large an extent as possible, and attempts a negotiation in the spirit of co-operation. In any event, I will speak a bit further about it under rural administration.

**Mrs. Joe:** I just have one question in relation to the *Child Welfare Act* and the amendments to it. The Yukon Indian Women's Association has been quite concerned about this act. I do not know whether or not they have been in contact with the government or even the gentleman who is going through the legislation as it is right now, but the Indian women from the Yukon have been attending workshops across Canada dealing with this matter. They are very concerned about it. I was wondering if you could tell me if there has been any consultation with them in regard to this act?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I cannot tell the member across the floor whether he has been or not, but I do not see any problem with him talking to them and finding out their concerns. I do not have any problem with that at all. I think I will probably make sure that he

does contact them to find out what their problems are.

*On Administration - Human Resources*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** This is probably the proper line to talk about evaluation of programs. We have already talked about it in the general sense. Is there a budget at all for outside evaluations or for an evaluator who is not an employee of the department and therefore possibly biased?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** No, there is not a budget for an outside evaluator. It is certainly something that we could consider if we feel it is necessary, but I would like to stress that the position that we have on staff was hired specifically to do an evaluation. In this case, it is no different than if we had contracted to an outside firm. All we have done is put someone on staff to do the job for us.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** In the process of evaluation, is there a general policy established by the department concerning the evaluation guidelines as exist in the federal civil service?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I could not give the member that assurance. I am not exactly sure what his guidelines are. I know what he has to do. You know, he has to evaluate programs and make recommendations to us; he has to evaluate positions and make recommendations about training, and other things such as that. As far as a specific set of guidelines, I am not too sure that he has that; I think probably the guidelines are his job description.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** As a comment, I suppose, as opposed to a question: I would recommend that in the process of the evaluations that are being done, the client group be serviced and the community services which deal with the department be canvassed in an objective way. This seems like a simple thing, but in the Yukon especially, these professionals in the area tend to know each other fairly well, and socialize, and an objective questionnaire kind of evaluation to things like social clubs and service clubs and the client groups often identify problems that the professionals in the area occasionally miss. I would recommend that for the minister's attention. It has been useful in other smaller communities.

**Mr. Chairman:** If there is no further general debate on the administration of human resources, we will go on to specific debate of the expenditures.

*On General*

*General, in the amount of \$625,000, agreed to*

*On Field Region*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am going to raise the question of qualifications of social workers, again. I wonder if the minister could be more specific. He recently made comments about a Master of Social Work and Bachelor degrees. If, for example, a very good community worker wished to be a field supervisor and did not meet the academic qualifications, what is the minister's policy and what qualifications are an absolute minimum, in the minister's mind, with respect to the field supervisor and the supervisors in each of the communities?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I think I made my position clear on social workers. I think we should consider para-professionals, but, as far as para-professionals being administrators, that is something that is totally out of the hands of my department. Classifications at that level are done by the Public Service Commission by legislation and there is very little involvement from other areas.

Speaking as an ordinary person, I would think that recognizing that a para-professional is, perhaps, very good, I would attempt, through my department, to have him or her upgraded to help them get a degree, if it were possible, but the classification has to be done by the Public Service Commission without the involvement of the politicians.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The minister has said that a para-professional qualification is, in his mind, a good qualification for social workers. Many of the band social workers in Yukon have got a two-year certificate in social work from the Grant MacEwan Community College and many more have a one-year certificate. Is this an adequate para-professional academic qualification in the minister's mind?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I am not an expert on social work. I am the politician in charge of the department who sets policy. I would have to defer to the expertise within my department to make a value

judgment on that. In my own mind, I would say yes, if the person has the professional capability, plus the ability to communicate with the people. Communication ability, in social work, is perhaps the most important. Perhaps there are people who do not even have the two- or one-year piece of paper, who are quite capable of doing the job. I would not rule anyone out, but I would have to defer to my department to make a recommendation.

I mentioned in my opening remarks about a mistake that was made concerning the information gathered from the federal government. This is the part of the department that it is involved in. You see \$749,000 for field region. That figure should be reduced by \$250,000 and the \$250,000 should be placed under child welfare. The figures that we received from the federal government led us to different figures, so those figures have to be changed. There is a \$250,000 transfer there.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I have another question about the qualifications of the rural social workers in the field region. I noted, with interest, that some social workers attended the RCMP orientation program held recently. Is it the policy of the department that new Yukoners, especially, ought to go through an orientation program before being placed in the field, and is the department going to continue to utilize the RCMP training plan?

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Tracey, when you have finished answering that question, could you clarify for the record what the figures will be for field region?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I will bring it back. I just lost my piece of paper that has the clarification on it. I know that the amount is transposed here.

On the orientation program, I am not sure whether that is a general policy of my department, but I think it is a good one, anyway. People should be oriented before they are sent out into the communities. It is probably something that we will pursue.

*On Whitehorse Region*

**Mr. Chairman:** We will carry on with the specific programs — Whitehorse Region until we have clarification from the minister on the field region.

*Whitehorse Region in the amount of \$406,000 agreed to*

*On Child Welfare*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I have a question about foster homes. I have recently seen advertisements about foster homes. Is there now a shortage of foster homes, and is the minister able to state if any changes are planned in the orientation of foster parents, or instruction, or assistance in the foster parent plan?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I think the member across the floor is well aware that we just did an advertising program for foster homes. I do not think there is a great shortage of foster homes. It is just that we would like to have enough on hand to handle a situation if one arises. On the subject of the orientation of foster parents, I would like to assure the member that every one of these potential foster homes and foster parents has a complete study and evaluation done on them. Before we would accept them as foster parents, we would have to be sure in our own minds that they are capable, ready and willing to do the job. I do not think that just because somebody applies to take foster children, we should just automatically give them to them. There is a lot of detailed study done before they are accepted.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Are the financial assistance rates to foster parents increasing at approximately the "six and five" level? The real question is, when was the last increase in the allowances, and is there a general satisfaction among the foster parents with the allowances?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I am not just exactly sure when we last raised the fees for foster parents. I believe it was last year, but I am not sure. We have not raised them this year, to the best of my knowledge, but it is something that we are certainly aware of. If the foster parents feel they are not getting enough money, they are certainly going to make us aware of it.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I have a question on the statistics on page 75. The projected levels of clients are approximately the same in all of the lines except protection of children, where there is a fairly



substantial increase. With the increased number of children in need of protection, are those people directed primarily at foster homes or at the residential facilities now available?

**Mr. Chairman:** Committee of the Whole will now recess until 7:30 p.m.

*Recess*

**Mr. Chairman:** I will call the committee to order.

We will return to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Administration, under the child welfare program.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The member across the floor asked me some questions just before you cut us off at 5:30. He asked whether the children go into a foster home or whether they go into a transition home, or into care facilities. It depends on the circumstances. It is reviewed by the department and a recommendation is made at that time, whether they should go to a foster home or into our child care facilities. There is no specific answer to the question. It is just whatever is necessary.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Tracey, could you now clarify the figures for the field region and child welfare?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. It is my mistake. The actual figures that I wanted to change are in general health. The explanation I should have given you here was that last year there was a mistake in the budget. There is \$250,000 that was in Whitehorse region that should actually have been in child welfare, which makes an awful difference in the 1981-82 actual. The 1981-82 actual Whitehorse region should be \$591,000 less \$250,000, and the 1981-82 actual child welfare should be \$14,000 plus \$250,000.

When we get to general health I will give you the right figures for general health. I am sorry about the confusion. It was my mistake.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** That raises a question in my mind. As the increase is 85 percent and approximately \$345,000, what is the reason for the substantial increase over the 1981/82 actual?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The reason for this change was due to the transfer of the alcohol and drug services professional staff which was six persons, from the program of alcohol and drug services into field region.

**Mr. Byblow:** Can the minister advise whether or not there is money specifically budgeted for a social worker in Faro?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** There is money budgeted for social workers wherever they are required in the territory, and one of them is required in Faro. It is not specified, specifically, for Faro.

**Mr. Byblow:** I understand that the position has not been filled as a permanent position for something in the order of six or seven months. Can the minister advise if there is a particular problem with respect to filling that position, or is it just a problem associated to recruitment and, if so, it is a considerable length of time.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** It is a recruitment problem. We are having problems recruiting social workers in the territory. This is another very good reason for considering para-professional type people, but in the instance of Faro we need a good social worker, and until we are able to fill the position we are going to have to cover it from other areas.

**Mr. Byblow:** Can the minister advise at this time how the services of the position are being filled now, without a permanent posting?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** We do send a social worker supervisor there to cover the position. We also have one person in the office who keeps us abreast of problems that we are having, and we are in contact with Faro, almost on a daily basis, concerning problems so that we can have that resolved without too much problem.

**Mr. Byblow:** Just so that I have a better perception of the magnitude of recruitment problem, can the minister advise how many interviewees there have been for that position? In other words, how many interested persons have there been, in an approximation, not necessarily specific.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** To the best of my knowledge it has been about eight people.

**Mr. Byblow:** I am really curious as to why the position cannot be filled.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** That is a question that I have in my own mind: why can they not fill the position? We have some other positions in the territory that we cannot fill. One reason, I suspect, is that there is a perception outside of the territory that things are completely falling apart in the Yukon and they do not want to come here. They are afraid that, if they come, there might not be a job. We have a problem of overcoming that. Other than that, I cannot understand why we do not get the people whom we need for that position.

**Mr. Byblow:** I hope the falling apart that the minister is suggesting is with respect to the economy and not the department. Can the minister indicate what level of salary goes with that position?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** It is in the \$27,000 to \$30,000 range. To refer back to the fact that the economy is falling apart, it is not the department that is exactly the problem. Everybody thinks that the economy is falling apart and, if they come to the Yukon, maybe they will not have a job two or three months later, so they are worried about it. That is one problem that we have to overcome.

**Mr. Byblow:** In recognition of our discussions surrounding the specific instance at Faro, can the minister indicate, in a general sense, what his department is now doing in an effort to fill the vacancies in these positions?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I think if the member has been reading his paper, he will have seen the advertisements in it. That is all we can do. We can advertise and try to fill the position. As I said earlier, we are trying to reclassify some of the positions, but that takes time and it has to be done through the Public Service Commission, and until then, the only option we have is to advertise to try to fill the positions, as we have done in the past.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I have a question on the Faro situation. When I was last in Faro, I noticed with some amusement that the windows in the office of the new building are so placed that an accurate observation can be made of everybody who goes through the till in the liquor store. I ask the minister if this was intentional?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I will take that question in the same manner that he gives it, I think.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** As a comment, if there is a permanent social worker in Ross River, which, of course, is the closest place to Faro, it is possible, I suppose, to service Faro out of Ross River, which is an interesting change.

*Field Region in the amount of \$749,000 agreed to*

*On Child Welfare*

*Child Welfare in the amount of \$309,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon Family Planning*

*Yukon Family Planning in the amount of \$55,000 agreed to*

*Administration—Human Resources in the amount of \$2,144,000 agreed to*

*On Child Welfare Service*

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I think I made most of my points in my opening remarks, unless the members have specific questions on the departments as they are coming up to them.

*On General*

*General in the amount of \$214,000 agreed to*

*On Group Homes*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am specifically interested in the question of the evaluation of services and also possible duplication in this area. The Dawson Group Home was maintained at a considerable expense, with very little use in the last three or four years. What is the present status of the Dawson Group Home?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** According to my notes, we do not have a Dawson Group Home anymore. We have six group homes in the territory: five in Whitehorse and one in Watson Lake.

*Group Homes in the amount of \$413,000 agreed to*

*On Foster Homes*

*Foster Homes in the amount of \$200,000 agreed to*

*On Special and Therapeutic  
Special and Therapeutic in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to*

*On Receiving Homes*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am interested in this area. Are there receiving homes outside of Watson Lake and Whitehorse?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I could not answer that, but I do not believe so.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** This indicates a decrease over last year. Is there a projected decrease in use? I note a very very slight decrease in the statistics on page 77. Is this the reason for the decrease in expenditure, or is there any other reason?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The reason for the decrease in expenditures was that last year there was a fairly good increase caused by teenage children that we had to put into the receiving home, so this year it has levelled out and we anticipate a lower cost.

*Receiving Homes in the amount of \$204,000 agreed to*

*On Other Resources*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am not aware of what these are. Could we get an identification by title of these resources?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The expenditures in this area are for out-of-territory placements. When a child's needs cannot be dealt with within the territory, it is sent out for specialized treatment. Children with specific emotional, educational or behavioral difficulties, are sent out to the provinces, which are asked to supervise these children on our behalf. So it is no specific problem. It is general problems that the children have and that we do not have the capability to look after in the territory.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** On that question, I assume that most of these children are sent out as a result of juvenile court proceedings. I would ask if there are any who are not outside because of involvement with the juvenile court, and is there a policy about establishing increased services, especially with regard to the *Young Offenders Act*, and may we expect the implications of the *Young Offenders Act* to show in the budget?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** To answer that question, yes we do have children outside the territory who have been sent out by the court. If a child is a problem child, or a parent needs some help from our department, it will be assessed and if it is necessary to send them out, they will be sent out. The *Young Offenders Act* will not be affecting us until probably 1985, and by then we certainly will have something in place to handle some of these children who will be coming under the new *Young Offenders Act*, but it will not happen for the next couple of years, at least.

*Other Resources in the amount of \$140,000 agreed to*

*Child Welfare Service in the amount of \$1,191,000 agreed to*

*On Social Assistance*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am interested in the recovery package proposal prepared by the government. On paper number one, at page 20, it gives a rather startling figure, and I will quote, "Expenditures for social assistance are projected to rise to over \$3,400,000 by 1983-84, a 372 percent increase from the 1977 base. In the two years, from 1981-82 to 1983-84, the increase is expected to be 63 percent".

I am interested in the basis of those figures. Is the analysis of the projection arrived at by the same process as the budget projection for this year and, if not, what is the difference?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The figures that you have in your budget book are exactly the figures that we calculate will be necessary. We took the number of persons who are projected to be on social assistance, multiplied it by the amount that is the average social assistance to those people and came up with the figure. So, the figure you have in your budget book is the best figure that we can come up with. We projected 810 average cases per month for social assistance, to the end of the year.

I can give you the average figures by the month up until now: in July, it was 560; in August, it was 533; up until September, it was 702; in October, it was 810. So, we have projected the figures to

the end of the fiscal year and have come up with the figure that is in the book. That is the most accurate figure that we can arrive at.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am interested in the discrepancy because the percentage increase over last year is 21 percent and, if by the government's figures, in two years it is going to be 63 percent, it means next year it ought to be 42 percent which is somewhat startling, and is a bit of an anomaly to me.

The background in the last years, from 1977 to the present, the percentage increases are interesting. Those were good years, or at least better years economically than this year, and starting in 1977-78 the percentage increase was 16 percent, then 31.9 percent, and then 25.4 percent, and in 1980-81 to 1981-82, 31.6 percent. Those were good years. I am interested in the projection for this year, which is obviously not as good. Also, is the method of projecting to follow the past year's increase, or is there a new wrinkle on it to take into account the economic situation?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I think, if the member looks in his book there, he sees an 1980-81 actual of 627, and in 1981-82 of 698, which is an increase of 71. We are projecting, this year, quite a substantial increase to 810 cases. The figures he is dealing with are the actual cash expenditures, not the number of cases. Just to keep up with inflation, we are going to have a significant increase without any increase in the number of people drawing social assistance. All I can go by are the actual cases that we have and the cases that we project. A 112 case increase over last year is a significant amount, and we multiply that out to come up with our budget figure.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The next line of questioning is the dollars per case figure, and the way it is calculated. I am aware of the way social assistance is actually calculated, and the policy of deficit budgeting with ceilings on certain areas. When was the last increase in the allowable food basket budget ceiling and, if possible, what is the maximum allowable budget for food for a family of four: two adults and two children?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I am not sure that I can give you that figure right off the top of my head. I suppose it can be worked out because I can tell you that what is allocated for food is \$1,005,000. We divide that by 810, and we will come up with a number.

I do not know exactly when the last change to social assistance was made. I believe it was either this year or last year. In fact, I think it was this year that we increased it.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** What process is used in calculating these amounts? I am referring to the maximums allowed for food, for clothing and for rent, those kinds of things. Is it a percentage increase, or a "six and five" rationale, or the real costs in the community?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I do not have all of those facts and figures in front of me here. This is a line of questioning I really did not expect.

The department has a policy that it is guided by. It has a fixed fee that is looked at every so often and updated. In the high expense areas, say, the outlying areas, they would consider paying the person's rent, or paying the person's utilities, or whatever, but the actual social assistance figure is a fixed one. Other expenses are taken into consideration, and they are treated separately.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** On exactly the same topic, I realize the ceilings are fixed figures and I am asking not for those figures, but the process or the policy whereby the figures are fixed or arrived at.

When the minister looks at the ceiling for food, for example, is the process to look at the ERPU reports and increase the allowable food budget by the real cost, or is it a percentage increase, or what policy is used? As a second question, I would be interested at a later date in the maximum allowable for a family of four.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I will answer the last question first. I will make that information available to him. I do not have it with me right now, but social assistance has to be set by the cost of living in the territory, and it is reviewed on an ongoing basis. When it is considered that the people who are getting social assistance are not getting enough to survive on, we have to look at raising it, and that is done. We cannot take into consideration every various community in Yukon Territory, and have a different social assistance rate. That is why we have a base rate and then we consider other

circumstances. If it is a high rent area, then we will look at paying the rent, or we might look at paying the utilities, somehow to balance off the high cost in some of these areas if these people cannot afford it, but we cannot have various rates all over the territory. We have to have one rate to operate with.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I wonder if the minister would take the next question as notice. When were the rates last increased for food and clothing, and I will expect an answer in the future sometime. The next question is: I understand the policy about rents is to simply pay the rent of suitable accommodation. Is that still the policy, or is there a ceiling on the rent policy now.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** We try to keep the amount that we are paying for rent as low as possible. Certainly, in most cases it is a case of paying rent on a Yukon government house, in a Yukon Housing Corporation house. We would have to consider the type of accommodation that these people are living in, and we are certainly not going to pay \$700 or \$800 a month rent for people on social assistance, so it would have to be reviewed, and, in certain circumstances, if that was the only thing that was available, we would have to consider it, but we try to the best of our ability to keep rent costs to the taxpayer as low as possible.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** It is my information that there are a number of social assistance recipients, most of them single people, at the Chilkoot and Fort Yukon Hotels. Are these people there permanently or are they on a waiting list for other, or cheaper, accommodation?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** They are there while awaiting other accommodation. They are not there on a permanent basis.

**Mrs. Joe:** I just have one question and that is in regard to the criteria for receiving social assistance. I understand, and I would like the information if my understanding is wrong, that you have to be in the Yukon a certain period of time, or have worked a certain period of time in Yukon, before you become eligible. If that is the case, what happens to the people who do not meet that criterion?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I am glad that the member asked that question because I would like to explain it. We, in the Yukon Territory, being a very small jurisdiction with only 12,000 to 13,000 paying the bills, would have a very tough time if we allowed people from outside of Yukon to come here and jump on the social assistance rolls. Our policy is that you must be a Yukon resident for 12 months and you must have worked three months in the territory before you are eligible for social assistance. Other than that, we will give you enough money to get you back out of the territory to wherever you want to go. We cannot afford to keep all of those people on the welfare rolls. I think, not talking about specific groups of people, all of the members in the legislature are quite aware of what happens in the summertime. People hitch-hike up the highway without a dime in their pocket and, as soon as they get to Whitehorse, they want to draw social assistance. We had to bring in a policy of some sort in order to have some type of control over it.

**Mrs. Joe:** Just one other question and that is in regard to a person who has been on unemployment insurance for a period of one year and has not worked. Would he then be able to receive social assistance?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Under those conditions, yes, he would be able to receive social assistance. We would certainly hope that he would not be sitting here for a year drawing unemployment insurance as a new resident of the territory. I am quite sure, if I were drawing unemployment insurance for a year, I would not be living in the Yukon Territory, not if I was an outside resident.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I wonder if the minister could give a simple statistic about the federal recovery. I realize it is not always exactly 50 cents on the dollar. Is the last year's recovery now known and, if so, what is it?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I do not have that information but, if it is known, I will make it available to the member.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** On the Yukon Opportunities Plan, where are the dollars coming from to pay the employee? Is it a federally assisted plan in any way at all?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** No, it is coming out of our territorial budget.

*Social Assistance in the amount of \$2,538,000 agreed to*

*On Rehabilitation Services*

*On Administration*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Is the decrease solely salary saving because of the nine-day fortnight?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Yes.

*Administration in the amount of \$96,000 agreed to*

*On Training on the Job*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** In the spring budget, it was \$837,000; what is the reason for the difference?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The reduction over the spring budget is due to the re-emphasis of local training rather than sending people outside of the territory. We had to re-assess it because of the economic situation.

**Mrs. Joe:** I would just like some information on whether or not there has been an evaluation of the training on the job program and, after the training period, how many of these people do get steady jobs?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I could not give the member that answer right now. I know that the evaluation is either being done or will be done and I will make the information available to the member if she is interested in having it.

*On-the-Job Training in the amount of \$775,000 agreed to*

*On Assessments*

*Assessments in the amount of \$16,000 agreed to*

*On Prosthetic Services*

*Prosthetic Services in the amount of \$13,000 agreed to*

*Rehabilitation Services in the amount of \$900,000 agreed to*

*On Grants*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The previous minister announced a voluntary agency board member training program. I wonder if the minister could give an update? I identify, in a general way, the policy of funding for voluntary agencies. Is the policy going to be announced in this session, or very soon? I am interested in the minister's projection on this item as to timing.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I am not just sure about the first part of his question regarding these boards. I would like him to broaden his question as I am not aware of exactly what he means. The programs here, under this part, are already set by policy in our department. The only change that we would make is in regard to other grants to other organizations. Most of them would come under the community programs. These programs are large enough that they are dealt with at the ministerial and cabinet level. They are not just either advanced or reduced, willy-nilly, by the department; they are dealt with at a much higher level.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I was interested in the comment made earlier about the two-stage process, or the two processes whereby some of the grants were determined administratively and some at the cabinet level.

**15** What is the financial cut-off? At what point is it necessary to go to Cabinet?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** All of these programs, even the community grants, come to the Cabinet and the decision is made there as to whether we will proceed with these or not. All of these come to the Sub-Committee on Finance. Recommendations are made by the department to the minister and they go to the Sub-Committee on Finance and, finally, to Cabinet where the decision is made.

The amount there for community grants is handled at the departmental level. That is just for the alcohol grants, and things like that in the community, but the rest of them are set at the Cabinet level.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I was questioning the previous minister about the fact that, on some of these community agencies, there is a board member — in fact, a senior member of the department — and on some, that is not the case. I was asking about the general policy in this regard, and the previous minister promised a policy review. I

am wondering about the progress of that.

She also stated that over the summer they were planning a voluntary education resource for voluntary agency board members. This has frequently been done in other areas of Canada and the millions of dollars of taxpayers' money could possibly be spent a little more wisely, or with a better business sense, if the board members received additional education, in some cases. In many cases, it is absolutely unnecessary, but in others it is of assistance. I am wondering about an update of those initiatives.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I think the member opposite almost answered his own question. At the beginning he raised the fact that we have members on these boards. The reason we have members on these boards is in order to tell them what the government position is and to try to educate them in the handling of the money that we give them. That is the reason for membership on the board.

I am sorry that I cannot answer the member in any detail on the rest of his question, because I cannot answer for the previous minister or the previous administration. We have a new government, and I will have to review the problems in my department and make the decisions on them as they come up. This is something that has never been put to me and I have not considered it.

16

*On Pioneer Utility Grant*

*Pioneer Utility Grant in the amount of \$117,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon Family Services*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The employee assistance program is administered by family services, and I am wondering what part of the \$62,000 is attributable to that, if any?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** None. The employee assistance was taken into our general administration, so we have taken it out of the family services part of the budget. We have actually increased it by 11 percent, the \$62,000, and we have signed an agreement with Yukon Family Services in order to formalize the nature of our participation with them. We have an actual signed agreement, and we have increased their share by 11 percent.

*Yukon Family Services in the amount of \$62,000 agreed to*

*On Child Development Centre*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Is there a signed agreement with this organization?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Yes.

*Child Development Centre in the amount of \$64,000 agreed to*

*On Day Care Program*

*Day Care Program in the amount of \$1,000 agreed to*

*On Crossroads*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** This is an interesting line and requires a little bit of explanation. It is a very large increase, which I understand is because of the new policy of block funding, which is an excellent policy. There is a decrease over the spring of approximately one quarter of the spring estimate and, because the difference is so large — \$120,000 in dollar terms — I am moved to ask why there is a decrease over the spring estimate? I am also interested in asking about the relationship among detox, Crossroads and Alcohol and Drug Services. Specifically, I am interested in an evaluation as the minister previous spoke of the ADS and detox services. I know Crossroads was evaluated several times, three or four times in the last three years, I believe. Is there a similar evaluation of ADS and detox planned?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** To answer the first part of the member's question, we reduced our budget by \$11,000,000. I think everyone has to consider that we had to pass some of this on to other people. In Crossroads, we evaluated their budget and came up with a lower amount, and they are also receiving revenues which have an effect of lowering what their requirements were. So this had the effect of allowing us to lower the projected amount that we were giving them from our spring budget, but I think when we look at the budget in total, we had to cut \$11,000,000.00 out of it. Some has to come out of almost everywhere. There are very few programs that are the same or have an increase.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am interested in that general comment. The overall decrease was 10 or 11 percent. The decrease in this case is over 25 percent, and I would ask again what specific things were cut and can the minister state whether or not the Crossroads board feels it is able to operate on the new amount.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I cannot give you specifics, and if I could I would not. I believe Crossroads is an organization that is a separate facility that we fund. It is not one whose budget we bring into this house. They have lowered their requirement for money and we have met it as best we can. As I said, they do have some revenue which also allows us to lower their budget, so regardless of whether it is 10 or 20 percent or 25 percent, it is a budget that they can operate with and they are doing so, and they have continued to do so for several months. I do not anticipate any problems before the end of the fiscal year. As far as the evaluation of ADS and Detox, that is something that will be done internally, as all the rest of them will. I would also like to inform the members across the floor that all of the internal work that is being done, I will not make public. I told Mrs. Joe that I would give her some information, but I am not making all of the evaluations that are done within the department public knowledge. That is something that is done in order to make us become more efficient and we will continue to do so, but it is not something that I will have out in front of the public everytime somebody asks a question. It is an internal thing that is being done in order to save this government money, and get the best value for the dollar.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Are any of the cuts in the Crossroads grant going to be picked up by the delivery of any other government services?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** To the best of my knowledge, no.

*Crossroads in the amount of \$322,000 agreed to*

*On Community Grants*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** There is a \$40,000-odd cut from spring estimates. Where was it cut?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** As I mentioned earlier, community grants is a fund of money that is made available for the department to give grants for specific things in the communities. We did not have the demands coming forth for these grants and, because of the fact that we had to find reductions in our budget, this is one area, because of the low demand, that we felt we could cut.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Where is the \$20,000 going?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** It goes to things such as the community alcohol program of, say, the Carcross Indian Band or the Carcross community. If they wanted to do something in that area, and they needed some money in order to put the program on, they would come to my department. The department would look at it and decide yes or no.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Is the expenditure of the \$20,000 already planned or is it a contingency fund?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I will say it again: it is a fund of money that is put there for the specific purpose of the department being able to give grants out to communities. It is just a fund. It is sitting there, and when the demands come, we look at the money we have and we look at the program and we make a decision.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** As a clarification question, I wonder if the minister could give, by way of example, a list of the recipients of last year's \$67,000 in order to better understand the need for this contingency fund?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I think the member is well aware that there are always people and organizations coming to the government with worthwhile projects that would be for the betterment of their community. They cost very little money and if we can fund them and it will help the people living in the community, we will do so. That is the reason for this program.

I do not think anybody in this legislature should have any argument with us being capable of doing that. We do much more, for example, for recreation. This is a fund of money, within the department, to fund these very worthwhile projects. If they are not worthwhile, they do not get funding. I do not know where the member is having all the problems.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** What amount was spent so far, and where did

it go?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I cannot give that answer. I do not have in front of me where all the money was spent on the community grants. I could bring it back for the member, if he is interested.

*Community Grants in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to*

*On Income Supplement for Senior Citizens*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Is the minister satisfied that all of the eligible people in Yukon are, in fact, receiving a supplement?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Not totally. I, myself, have talked with a lot of older people and tried to make them aware of the program. I am not sure that it is being fully utilized. I hope that everyone in the territory who is eligible is utilizing it. I am not sure, but I would hope that every member in the legislature would talk to his constituents and tell them about the program. I have investigated in my constituency to make sure whoever is eligible is getting it. I hope everyone else is doing the same.

*Income Supplement for Senior Citizens in the amount of \$280,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon Indian Women's Transition Home*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** This is an interesting line. Is there an agreement signed with this agency?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** No, there is no agreement signed with this agency. The reason why you see the \$26,000 here is to cover the partial year of operating costs of the Women's Transition Homes. The federal government is not funding them anymore. We think it is a worthwhile program and we are trying to keep them alive.

**Mrs. Joe:** Could the minister tell me if there are any plans to help the transition home for the next year? The demonstration grant has run out, as he said, and we do not have any money coming in after that.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mrs. Joe, I think it would be easier on the people in *Hansard* if you spoke up a little, or more into the microphone.

**Mrs. Joe:** Thank you. I usually talk too loud at the best of times. I was just wondering, because the demonstration grant is running out this month and you are granting them \$20,000, are there any plans for YTG and the transition home to work together?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Yes, we would like to keep the Yukon Indian Women's Transition Home in place; however, we do believe that the federal government does have some obligation here and we will certainly be trying to get them to put their support in here. Yes, we will try and keep them going.

**Mrs. Joe:** Although it says "Yukon Indian Women's Transition Home", as I understand it, the home is open to all women who are in need of it in Yukon.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Yes, I am aware of that.

**Mrs. Joe:** I have another question for the minister in regard to the women who are going into the home. I am just wondering about the two week waiting period we keep hearing about in regards to getting into Human Resources. I am just wondering if some people are eligible for a per diem from YTG or Indian Affairs, and is there a difficulty in those women having to wait for two weeks to make an appointment with someone from Human Resources?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Not to the best of my knowledge. As I have stated in the House previously, if the person is in real financial difficulty and incapable of even surviving, then they have the option of sitting in the department and waiting for a moment when we have a person free. I do not think that we are having any great problem with the fact that our waiting period has increased four or five days. I believe that we are managing to get through quite comfortably with that increase.

**Mr. Penikett:** I have one question on this subject. It has recently come to my attention that a number of my constituents who live in the same neighbourhood as the transition home have recently been evicted by DPW, or given long-term eviction notices by DPW for next year. I wonder if the minister can tell the House about the security of tenure of the transition home in regard to its present landlord?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** No, perhaps the minister responsible could, but I am not aware of any of that transpiring.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The transition home is desirous of obtaining block funding as opposed to the per diem kind of funding. Is the minister aware of this and, if so, is the matter being seriously studied, or is there, in fact, a decision on the point?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I was not aware of it myself, but if they are pursuing block funding, we would also have to pursue it with the federal government because we have to make the arrangements with the federal government for our block funding in order to pass it on, the same as we did for Crossroads. We first of all had to come up with an agreement with the federal government before we could pass on the block funding.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Just as a point of information, what are the time references for this kind of negotiation to occur for the 1983-84 budget?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Unless negotiations have already started for the 1983-84 budget, I would say that it is very unlikely that it would happen for 1983-84. We are now in the process of the 1983-84 budget. The negotiations have already been completed with the federal government, so I would think probably the closest, unless it has already transpired which I do not believe has happened, is going to be 1984-85 at least before we get any block funding.

**Some Member:** (Inaudible)

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** We are not talking about funding, we are talking about block funding.

*Yukon Indian Women's Transition Home in the amount of \$26,000 agreed to*

*Grants in the amount of \$991,000 agreed to*

*Recess*

**Mr. Chairman:** I will call Committee of the Whole to order.

*On Alcohol and Drug Services*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am interested in the effect of the reorganization of putting alcohol and drug counsellors under general administration. When that occurred, the minister promised two extra staff, in effect, for alcohol programs, and increased backup for the social workers who are actually doing alcohol counselling. There were also comments made in a ministerial statement about training for the rural social workers who are now doing alcohol counselling. I would ask for an update on those programs. What training actually occurred? Is there an increased support service to alcohol counsellors?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The effect of putting alcohol under general administration is that the community alcohol workers and the alcohol program are controlled more at the community level. The social worker, who is responsible for that area, is responsible for the alcohol workers, so that they can deal with them at the community level rather than the way it was previously, where the alcohol workers would have to phone the ADS department in Whitehorse.

It has been beneficial in that respect, at least. It really has not been going long enough to get a real good feel of how beneficial it is really going to be. That is going to take some more time yet. We will probably have a little better feel for it towards spring. It has been beneficial in that respect, at least. At the very least, there is local control.

The community workers, when they are chosen from the community, are given training and are constantly being upgraded by their supervisors, and also by programs that are put on.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am interested in the program dollars as opposed to the salary dollars. For alcohol counselling training, where are the program dollars identified in the budget?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** To the best of my knowledge, they are in this department, but we also have them in general administration. We also have the person who works on evaluation and training, and I believe part of the funding will also be in there, but the actual alcohol and drug services program is all part of this program we have right in front of us here.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** For the community alcohol workers, it was

always my understanding there was going to be local control, and also a central control over the resource sense. Is this in fact occurring now?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** As I said, the local control is by having the social worker supervising of the people in the community. Those social workers still report back to Whitehorse and also deal with the ADS Department in Whitehorse, which gives us some global control over them, so I believe in that aspect that it is going to work out very well.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** It is my information that the internal travel budget for the supervisor of the community alcohol workers is entirely cut, or ended. Is this the case?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** There is no supervisor specifically for community alcohol workers. I thought I made that fairly clear. The supervisor of the community alcohol workers is now the social worker who is responsible for that area.

**Mrs. Joe:** I would just like to speak in relation to the alcohol awareness program that probably still is, but used to be, available. When I worked in the courts, we were able to keep track of under-age drinkers. They would appear in the courts and, quite often, if we found that a minor had a drinking problem, we would refer them to the alcohol awareness program in co-operation with alcohol and drug services.

The legislation was changed, and a voluntary fine was introduced. There was a chance, at that time, to try and deal with an under-age drinker's problem and it has been eliminated through legislation, unknowingly. I would just wonder whether it would be possible to amend legislation to try to deal with that type of thing through the courts, because it was effective at that time?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** We still have the program going, whereby the people are referred by the court. I will take that question under advisement and have it researched to find out just exactly what the member is talking about. If it was beneficial, I am certainly amenable to putting it back in again.

#### *On Education/Prevention*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** There is, of course, a very large cut over the spring budget, and a \$50,000, or in excess of a two-thirds, cut over last year. Why was the public education program cut?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** There was some re-organization done in the department and the person-years and the program were moved into the field region. This is now done under field region rather than under alcohol and drug services.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Is there a public education program existing now?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Yes, to the best of my knowledge, we still have a public awareness program.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I wonder if the minister could briefly identify what the program is now, and what is actually occurring under this program?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I would have to bring that information back. I do not know just exactly what the department is doing now for public education.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** As the minister is going to bring information back, I wonder if this ought to stand over, and I will be given an opportunity to ask questions about the program. It is a general question he is going to bring information back about.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Rather than hold it up for \$23,000, I think the members here are aware that we are doing alcohol awareness and educational programs and advertising in the paper. This is all being done under this \$23,000. What I was talking about was moving the actual education, the big cut we made in the budget, into field region. If the member wants to know exactly what we have done this year in regards to spending this \$23,000, I do not have any problem with giving it to him, but I do not think that there is any need to hold up the budget over \$23,000.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I have additional questions about the fetal alcohol syndrome kits. Are the kits distributed in the communities now?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Yes, they are.

*Education/Prevention in the amount of \$23,000 agreed to*

#### *On Community Programs*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I had previously asked about the coordination of these programs with the NAP funds and, in the spring, I got a very general answer. I wonder if the policy about the coordination is refined in any way over the situation in the spring?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** As I stated earlier, the whole department is being reorganized. They report to different people. One of the benefits of that is, as I said, that we have contact at the local level. A large amount of the \$195,000 of the community program is for the travel coordinator and for the contract services of these community workers. About \$180,000 is actually expended at the community level for the community workers. The balance is for the coordinator and for training sessions.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I will make a comment as opposed to a question. The situation occurred long before the present minister took over the department; however, it is my opinion — and I want to state this simply and clearly and fairly boldly — that the lack of co-ordination between NAP and the YTG community alcohol programs is the result of the various jurisdictions playing politics against each other, and is, in fact, a serious waste of money, in some cases, possibly on both sides. There are competing programs here and they ought to get together.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** All I can say is that we were in the alcohol awareness programs before the native programs started. We are doing our best to alleviate the alcohol problem in the territory.

Now, I think the same type of problem has arisen here as has arisen with the community social workers. The native people feel that, for some reason or another, they should run their own show, so they asked the federal government for money and they started up their own programs. That does not necessarily mean that it is the responsibility of this government to, all of a sudden, drop all of our programs and include them with theirs. We will include them wherever it is beneficial, and wherever we can show that the general betterment of the community will be there.

It does not matter what we do, if the native people are going to continue the way that they have been going — that every time there is an opportunity for them to get into something because they have the right under the *Indian Act*, or whatever, — then we are always going to run into these situations. If we straighten one out, such as community alcohol worker programs, there is going to be another one. We recognize that, but we try to work together with them as much as possible, and I hope they try to work with us.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Very briefly, the minister's comments essentially blame the native people for starting competing services. That is essentially what he said and that is the kind of playing politics that we ought to avoid.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I am taking exception to that. I am not blaming anybody for doing it. What I am saying is that that is exactly what has happened, and I am not placing blame on anybody. I am stating a point of fact about what has happened and what will probably continue to happen if the same thing is done in the future. There were alcohol programs run by this government before the northern Native Alcohol Program started. Now I am not saying who is right or who is wrong in this situation. All I am saying is that we ran the program, and they have decided that because they have the right under the *Indian Act*, or they can convince the federal government, they started their own program. Now, the member across the floor is saying that because they started their own program we should try to integrate it all in with us. They did not want it integrated. That is why they started their own program, so we will do our best to make them work together, but I am sure not going to sit in this House and listen to the member say that I am making accusations against the native people. I am not. I am stating a fact.

**Mrs. Joe:** Yes, I just want to respond a little bit to that. In regard to native programs that have been implemented by some of the bands, and what not, I think that in most cases the people have found that what was being offered at that time was so foreign to them, and that if there was something else that was available to them — something that they could work with and something that they could understand and something that they could take training from — it would work a lot better, and they were able to get into

those types of programs. It surprises me that every time that something like that is mentioned in the House, the other side of the House gets so defensive.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I do not know where the member is coming from. All I am defending is an accusation that is put from that side of the House. I am not making any accusations on my own.

*Community Programs in the amount of \$195,000 agreed to*

*On Out Patient Treatment*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** On the previous line, employee assistance, there is no money, but I have a question about the funding of the present program. It is not under this line, and it is not under family services. What is the cost of the employee assistance plan, and where is it in the budget?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** The employee assistance plan, under the reorganization, was put into field region, but the actual employee assistance plan is now done in conjunction with the Public Service Commission, so the dollars are actually in the Public Service Commission as part of their training program.

*Out Patient Treatment in the amount of \$2,000 agreed to*

*Alcohol and Drug Services in the amount of \$220,00 agreed to*

*On Residential Facilities*

*On Youth Services Centre*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** On the assessment centre, is there an isolation cell in the facility?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** That is a question that I am not sure of, but I believe, no, there is no isolation cell.

*Youth Services in the amount of \$718,000 agreed to*

*On Macaulay Lodge*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am interested in the level of nursing care available in the Yukon and I will ask it under this line. Is there an evaluation or cost accounting of the number of senior citizens sent outside for medical care reasons, either done or being done?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I think that my department keeps the figures on what it costs to keep our people outside. I am sure that when we are paying the bill in some cases we are going to know what it costs us. We do have some nursing care facilities in Macaulay Lodge and, as I have stated earlier, it is my objective to have a nursing care facility that is capable of handling the people in the territory who live in the territory. I hope that in the next four years we will be able to bring that in, but I am not positive that it is going to happen. Yes, my department has the figures available for what it is costing us.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The reason that I ask the question is that I wonder about the waiting lists and the capacity at the lodge, and if it is not a good idea to expand an existing facility in order to give adequate nursing care, especially for transition people who are in the process of becoming dependent on a nursing episode?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** We are presently doing as much nursing care as possible with the facilities that we have. We cannot expand. If we were to, for example, take people out of Macaulay Lodge and expand the nursing facility there, we would have to spend more money on that building than the building is worth. A nursing care facility is a very expensive operation, and Macaulay Lodge does not have the capability of becoming a nursing care facility. That is why we are looking at other methods and other places to put it. If we could put the nursing facility in Macaulay Lodge, for example, it might be worthwhile for us to look for some other area for a senior citizens' home, but it is not possible and that is why it is not being done.

*Macaulay Lodge in the amount of \$630,000 agreed to*

*On McDonald Lodge*

*McDonald Lodge in the amount of \$262,000 agreed to*

*On Detoxification*

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The minister spoke of four or five intake beds. It is my understanding that the intake beds are in single rooms, and it is the three bedrooms upstairs. I was specifically told that there are three intake beds, and the rest are long-term, or on the eight-day program, and that the other beds are downstairs in the basement of the centre.

The reason why I raise the question is that it is easy to foresee that after the three intake rooms are occupied, there is no intake room, and, in fact, occasionally people are turned away. I am instructed that it occurs relatively frequently. I am also instructed that a number of people are essentially on a list as being undesirable, for various, probably good reasons, for abuse of the service in the past. Nevertheless, those undesirables do go somewhere, and it is a service to the public to remove them from public view, which is generally what occurs.

The principle I wish to speak about and question, is the evaluation of the centre, which, of course, is on-going. I would expect that if a thorough co-ordination of the detox facility and the jail and the drunk tank and the emergency ward occurred, that it would be found that it is substantially cheaper, in the long run, to increase the capacity of the Detox Centre. It is the cheapest facility of this kind. The drunk tank and the emergency ward and jails are substantially more expensive to the taxpayer.

It all comes under different budgets, of course, and different jurisdictions and various kinds of agreements. The evaluation I would like to see done is the expansion of the Detox facility and, in fact, the closing of the drunk tank. In the long term, it is my expectation that it would be substantially cheaper.

The present and current situation about the facility of the Detox is, in my view, inadequate, and I would ask the minister if there is any plan to increase the capacity of the Detox Centre.

**Mr. Chairman:** Due to the length of the question, I would assume that the answer would also be lengthy. I would, therefore, ask that we put it over until tomorrow.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I move that you report progress on Bill No. 3.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I move that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

*Motion agreed to*

*Mr. Speaker resumes the Chair*

**Mr. Speaker:** May we have a report from the Chairman of Committees?

**Mr. Philipson:** The Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 3, *Second Appropriation Act, 1982/83*, and directed me to report progress on same.

**Mr. Speaker:** You have heard the report of the Chairman of Committees. Are you agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I have your further pleasure?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I would move, seconded by the Minister of Education, that we do now adjourn.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the hon. Minister of Education, that we do now adjourn.

*Motion agreed to*

**Mr. Speaker:** This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

*The House adjourned at 9:29 p.m.*

