



# The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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Number 28

4th Session

25th Legislature

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## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, May 8, 1984 — 1:30 p.m.**

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

# Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Donald Taylor, MLA, Watson Lake

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Bill Brewster, MLA, Kluane

## CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Chris Pearson	Whitehorse Riverdale North	Government House Leader — responsible for Executive Council Office (including Land Claims Secretariat and Intergovernmental Relations); Public Service Commission; and, Finance.
Hon. Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East	Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs; and, Economic Development.
Hon. Howard Tracey	Tatchun	Minister responsible for Renewable Resources; Highways and Transportation; and, Consumer and Corporate Affairs
Hon. Bea Firth	Whitehorse Riverdale South	Minister responsible for Education; Tourism, Recreation and Culture
Hon. Clarke Ashley	Klondike	Minister responsible for Justice; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Housing Corporation; and, Workers' Compensation Board
Hon. Andy Philipsen	Whitehorse Porter Creek West	Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources; and, Government Services

## GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

(Progressive Conservative)

Bill Brewster	Kluane
Al Falle	Hootalinqua
Kathie Nukon	Old Crow

## 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
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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

**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Tuesday, May 8th, 1984 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Mr. Speaker:** I will now call the House to order.  
 We will proceed with Prayers.

*Prayers*

#### DAILY ROUTINE

##### Message of Condolence

**Mr. Penikett:** I rise on a question of privilege in connection with the tragic events in Quebec City, today, where three of the staff of the National Assembly were murdered, and ask if members are agreeable if, through you, Mr. Speaker, this Assembly could express its sympathy and condolences to the members and staff of the Quebec National Assembly and to the citizens of Quebec for the tragic and regrettable events that occurred there today.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there returns or documents for tabling?  
 Reports of committees?

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**Hon. Mr. Philippen:** I have for tabling the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any petitions?  
 Introduction of bills?

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### Bill No. 29: First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** I move that Bill No. 29, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Justice that a bill entitled, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

##### Bill No. 28: First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Philippen:** I move that Bill No. 28, entitled *Young Offenders Agreement Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Health and Human Resources that a bill, entitled *Young Offenders Agreement Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

##### Bill No. 30: First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** I move that Bill No. 30, *Legal Services Society Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Justice that a bill, entitled *Legal Services Society Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Mr. Speaker:** Notices of motion for the production of papers?  
 Notices of motion?  
 Ministerial statements?  
 Oral questions?

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Question re: Bilingualism

**Mr. Penikett:** To the government leader. Yesterday, in answer to my question about the federal bill to make Yukon bilingual the government leader said "They are not going to avoid being made bilingual". Is the government leader telling the House that we the territories now have, for all practical purposes, no options left open to us on this question?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** This is a bilingual country and I believe that at some point in time we will become bilingual. We, on this

side of the House, have been working towards that at our own speed for some considerable length of time.

**Mr. Penikett:** My concern is, as I voiced yesterday, that the precipitous actions of the minister have set back that goal, probably for some years.

**Mr. Penikett:** Yesterday, the government leader also reported that John Munro has told Yukon, "If you do not do what the NWT is doing, then I am going to leave you in the bill". What is it, exactly, that the NWT is doing that the Yukon government does not want to do or finds disagreeable?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** We do not know what we want to do, yet. I also reported, yesterday, that there were federal bureaucrats in Whitehorse, at the present time, dealing with the bureaucracy of this government, with respect to the cost of bilingualism. Those meetings are continuing. They were on yesterday afternoon and, I understand, are continuing today.

The group that is here, I understand, is here as a task force on behalf of the Secretary of State responsible for bilingualism, the hon. Mr. Joyal. Also, there are some people here from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. They are seeing if they can ascertain what the cost would be to "make this territory bilingual". They are also trying to find out something, I suggest, that the minister maybe should have found out before he tabled his bill.

**Mr. Penikett:** They are interested exactly in how far we have gone as a government — just exactly what kind of services we provide in this territory now, with respect to the French language. They are on a fact-finding mission and we are cooperating with them in every way we can. We are providing as much material and as much help as we possibly can to them to make sure that they do get all the facts.

**Mr. Penikett:** We understand that the NWT is to give the French language the same status as its native languages. Is that the strategy by which NWT is planning to escape the specifics of the Ottawa legislation and from which the Government of Yukon dissents?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** You must realize — and I am sure the leader of the opposition does — that the situations are quite a bit different. At the present time, for instance, the proceedings of the legislature in the NWT is transcribed verbatim into five different languages; if they added French, it is going to be six. So, the translation services that are there for them are not, I believe, considered to be a very big change from what they have in place now.

The NWT government, I believe, also saw an opportunity to possibly negotiate some more money from the federal government in respect of the provision of native languages. It is a major problem that they have in the Northwest Territories. That problem here, with all due respect, is not so great. We have a native language program in our schools that we are very proud of, that we spent a lot of money on and that we get some money from the federal government for. And it may be that, at some point in time, we will want to negotiate for more money in that respect. We do not know yet whether that is feasible or advisable.

##### Question re: Audiovisual presentations on economic development

**Mr. Byblow:** I have a couple of questions for the Minister of Economic Development that were raised with me following our discussions on economic development in the budget, yesterday. They relate to the AV presentation, prepared under the joint direction of the City of Whitehorse, the Chamber of Commerce, this government and, I believe, the Rural Real Estate Association.

Since this was a promotional exercise geared principally to Whitehorse, which is fine, does the minister have any plans towards a similar exercise, that of audiovisual or other specific material, geared to promoting rural economic development.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** The audiovisual, entitled "We Mean Business", does have a territorial flavour to it, as opposed to the one that was specifically put together to bring Whitehorse into focus. That was a separate audiovisual prepared by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and basically shows Whitehorse as a bedroom community for encouraging people to relocate from southern Canada if they were looking at working in the north.

As far as further audiovisual for this forthcoming year, I have no knowledge of any. If the chambers of commerce do amalgamate into the Yukon chambers, perhaps they may be putting some proposals forward and then we would have to give it due consideration.

**Mr. Byblow:** In either of the two presentations that the minister refers to, did his government have any direct say in the planning of the content of those two presentations?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I believe the department worked very closely with the Chamber on it. I think that the final decisions were made by the Chamber. I will have to take notice to ensure that I am correct on that aspect of the production.

**Mr. Byblow:** I probably should have given the minister notice on this as well. When he is researching, could he undertake to advise what the exact, or approximate, cost was to this government of its participation towards the presentation of those two promotional exercises?

#### Question re: Impaired driving incidents

**Mr. Kimmerly:** To the Minister of Justice. Over the last weekend, there were a number of impaired driving incidents. At least three of them involving young people involving serious accidents. Has the minister enquired, or is the minister considering enquiring, as to whether or not there was alcohol in the vehicles of the cars involved in accidents?

**Mr. Ashley:** No, I have not considered enquiring. I believe there are impaired charges being laid. There is obviously alcohol involved in the accident. I did not check whether or not it was in the vehicle.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Supplementary to the Minister of Education. Considering the imminent grad parties, is the minister considering any initiative within the department to promote safe grad parties?

**Hon. Mrs. Firth:** That initiative began a couple of years ago when the student council coordinator at F H Collins took some other councillors with him to some other school systems in Canada to see how they dealt with that concern of grad parties, and possible consequences of those parties. We have had, over the past two years, noticed a decline in the incidents associated with graduation.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** To the Minister of Justice again. Has the minister consulted with the RCMP about grad night and is the minister considering publicizing an increased vigilance for impaired driving on that particular night?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** The RCMP, the superintendent and I have that on the agenda for this coming meeting. I have not publicized anything and I have not requested that the RCMP do any more than what they would normally be doing on graduation night. They are aware of it though.

#### Question re: Yukon land claims

**Mr. Porter:** To the government leader: the Yukon and federal governments last year negotiated a bilateral agreement concerning their participation in the implementation process of the Yukon land claims. Why did the governments not include the CYI at the outset in the formation of the implementation subcommittees?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** The question, I believe, is a valid one, one in fact that has been asked by the Council for Yukon Indians and has been answered, I believe, to their satisfaction.

Needless to say, there are a lot of things that have to be done. An awful lot of the implementation that is strictly within this government or strictly within the Government of Canada, and in some cases things that have to be done jointly between the two governments, in respect of those issues, we embarked upon about a year ago, or maybe a little more than a year ago. There are, though, a lot of programs and a lot of work to be done that will directly involve the CYI as well and it is this government's intention to have the Council for Yukon Indians very much involved when we get to that aspect of the implementation.

**Mr. Porter:** Has the Yukon government advanced the position to the federal government that they, the YTG, should be given an advance of dollars to pay for the implementation of the Yukon land claims process?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** We are in the process now of identifying

the costs of implementation. That is one of the issues, that has to be resolved, a mutual agreement between the Government of Canada and this government as to the identification of the costs of the delivery of the various programs that are going to become the responsibility of this government and which, in fact, are now the responsibility of the Government of Canada.

**Mr. Porter:** Has this government taken the position that the CYI, as well, should be advanced the necessary funds to pay for the cost of implementation?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** If my memory serves me correctly, and I stand to be corrected on this, I do believe there is, in fact, an agreement in principle between the Council for Yukon Indians and the Government of Canada in respect to implementation costs.

#### Question re: Youth Court Judges

**Mrs. Joe:** I have a question for the Minister of Justice. At present there appears to be a problem with the status of youth court judges in our courts. Since all juvenile court cases have been adjourned pending a decision on the legality of these youth court judges, can I ask the minister how and when his department intends to deal with this problem?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** I believe the judge came down with a decision last night, that he feels he is not covered adequately in the legislation as a youth court judge. I and the department disagree with that, but we are not going to appeal the case. What we are going to do is create an order-in-council through either the *Territorial Court Act* or *The Childrens Act* designating the judges of the territorial court as youth court judges.

That will clear it up without any further ado.

**Mrs. Joe:** Since some JPs, right now, are designated to act as juvenile court judges, does the minister intend to also appoint these JP3s as youth court judges?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** We do not appoint the JPs, beyond being a JP. The Chief Judge of the territorial court is the one who designates the responsibilities to the JPs.

**Mrs. Joe:** I have a supplementary with regard to the *Young Offenders Act*. Since new legislation requires that all juveniles may have legal representation, does the minister's department have a plan in place to make certain that those requirements are met?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** This is being looked at and we will be dealing with it, also, in negotiations with the Solicitor-General.

#### Question re: Economic Council

**Mr. McDonald:** I have a question for the minister responsible for economic development.

The minister said, yesterday, that he may, perhaps, have to step down from the chair of the economic council because he has other commitments. He further stated that the MLA for Kluane will be appointed, to ensure that a political person is on the council. Is it the intention of the minister that, should he have to step down from the chair of the council, that the member for Kluane should assume the chair?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** What we are recommending as a format for the economic council follows similar the lines of the Province of Alberta, where there is an MLA who is responsible for chairing that particular council. It is interesting, in discussions with the people from Alberta, that there is a controversy, to some degree. Some people feel that the minister should chair it and other people feel that he or she should not.

I just want to say to the member opposite that we are in the process of forming the council and, once that all the necessary information is together, I will inform the member exactly how we are going to proceed.

**Mr. McDonald:** I do not have a question that really counts as detailed, but it is a question of some general importance.

Will the Yukon economic council function as the Economic Council of Canada does, in that it provides public reports and recommendations to the government of the day, or will it simply provide off-the-record advice to the minister?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I would expect that any of the recommendations that were put forward to government would come in the form of some public document. In most cases, I cannot see it operating in

any other way. The idea is to bring ideas forward with the principle behind it that perhaps government and industry can respond and take advantage of opportunities that are being presented with the general public in the best interests of Yukon as a jurisdiction.

**Mr. McDonald:** Is it not the position of the government that the economic council should also act as an independent vehicle to coordinate economic development initiatives, itself, besides advising government on initiatives that the government may take.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** It is an area that is going to be discussed. Just to shed some light on this, I think one of the principle reasons for the council being created is for advice and recommendations to government and industry. I think that we should be looking at the resources that are already within the various levels of government, whether they be municipal, territorial, or federal, for doing research in this type of thing. It does not say that it cannot do any research on its own, but there are vehicles available. I think that all members of this House, at least on this side of the House, would be very hesitant about creating another bureaucracy. I am sure that that is a concern that is shared by all the people who have been presently engaged in looking at the formation of such a council, to ensure that we do not create another bureaucracy that, in the final analysis, the general taxpayer has to pay for.

#### Question re: House business

**Mr. Penikett:** I have a question for the government House leader concerning House business. We had three bills introduced today. Two or three other bills have been indicated, including ones made mention of yesterday by the minister concerning business development and energy. What other new legislation can we expect to be introduced in the House in the remainder of the session?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I think it would be inappropriate for me to cite them until they are actually tabled in the House. As for the proceedings of the House business, it is our intention to give second readings to the ones I outlined to the member opposite today, and then proceed into the budget. Tentatively we are looking at employment standards for second reading tomorrow.

**Mr. Penikett:** The minister is being convenient in his interpretation of the rules. The bills I mentioned were ones that he had announced, yesterday, before introduction.

In any case, we have had three new bills introduced today. Does he anticipate, beyond the two that he mentioned yesterday and the pension bill, any other legislation being introduced in the remainder of this Session — any other bills — and could he give a number?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I think there would be at least one more piece of legislation, which will deal with capital supplementaries to dovetail with the capital that was passed in the fall.

**Mr. Penikett:** Could the government House leader then indicate, for all members of the House, with respect to the time remaining this week and the time available to us next week, what his proposed schedule debate on these new measures is?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I would expect further second readings, over the course of this week, to the bills that have already been tabled. I would submit that our highest priority, of course, would be the budget. We may well decide, depending on how business is going, to revert to employment standards and then revert back to the budget. It is something I would have discussions with the member opposite on and I am sure we can work something out amicably, as we have in the past.

Further to that, as far as House business is concerned, time-wise, if members opposite are inclined, we would be prepared to consider extending sitting hours, over the course of next week, to see whether or not we could wrap up the business and all members could go home for a long weekend, but I leave that in the hands of the opposition.

#### Question re: Triplets assistance

**Mr. Byblow:** You mean the opposition is allowed to make some decisions?

I have a question for the Minister of Health and Human Resources, to which I gave notice on a question that originated some time ago, when I requested of the minister to intervene in a constituency case involving assistance to parents of triplets. Specifi-

cally, the case related to travel assistance and home care. What assistance, on these two matters, is the department prepared to provide?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** The *Medical Travel Act* has no provision for payment of cost beyond either Edmonton or Vancouver, if the required treatment is available there. I am led to believe that the treatment was available in Vancouver.

From a financial point of view of the people we are discussing, if they were qualified, they may be eligible for social assistance, in order to pay for the service of a homemaker. If they were to approach the human resources office in Faro, I am sure that that could be determined rather quickly.

The medical travel did pay for the return trip to Vancouver and, regarding escorts, medical travel did cover the cost of two escorts, from Vancouver to Faro, to care for the babies on the plane trip.

**Mr. Byblow:** On the travel question, considering that it was the hospital that moved the family due to a lack of space, why does the minister not support the position that this portion of the trip, that of Vancouver to Victoria, should also be compensated?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** After the question was raised, we checked into it and found out that the babies' mother indicated it was her request to be sent to Victoria as she had family there with whom to stay, and none of the babies would have been moved to another hospital in Vancouver. When the member opposite's question was raised to ask if we were sure there was no room available in Vancouver hospitals, Grace Hospital was contacted for the answer to this question and it indicated that the request for Victoria was made at the onset and, therefore, no Vancouver hospitals were contacted. But they did say that they have had no problem placing patients in the past and were relatively sure that beds would have been found if needed.

**Mr. Byblow:** No doubt the minister and I will be pursuing this question in the budgetary estimates coming up but, as a final supplementary, is it the final position of his department that no home care assistance will be provided in this very extraordinary situation?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** As I have already indicated that home care would not come under the Health Services branch. It would come under the Department of Human Resources. And, as I have indicated, if the parents would call the Human Resources office in Faro they would soon be able to determine whether the people would be eligible for some type of assistance.

#### Question re: Alcohol treatment

**Mr. Kimmerly:** To the same minister: I asked yesterday about consultation and coordination of alcohol treatment with the Ibex Society, and I also asked the Minister of Justice the question. Considering the Yukon law about public drunkenness and considering that there are a number of people in the drunk tank who are dying of alcoholism, is the minister considering consulting with the Minister of Justice concerning the use of the *Liquor Act* in coordinating the clientele and treatment program of the Ibex Society treatment centre?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** Yes.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Has the minister also consulted with officials at the Detox Centre concerning the possible clientele for the Ibex centre?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** The Detox Centre comes under the administration of this department, so it would naturally flow that the decisions made by this department would be decisions that the Detox Centre would be involved in.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Is there ongoing discussion or negotiations concerning funding the Ibex Society?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** I have had discussions with members of the Ibex Society on funding and I will continue to do so in the near future.

#### Question re: Yukon land claims

**Mr. Porter:** In response to my previous question, the government leader stated that at this point the two governments have been negotiating for over a year on the issue of identifying the costs associated with implementation of the Yukon land claims. When

will the governments sit down and move beyond the process of simply identifying the costs and reach an agreement with respect to those financial costs that would be associated with the parties participating in the land claims process?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** The member for Campbell has to understand that we are in a process and that the process is taking some time. The process is that we are identifying the costs of implementing the land claims agreement.

I would respectfully suggest that we may well be in a position to reach some sort of an agreement with the Government of Canada in respect to these costs prior to ratification by the Council for Yukon Indians. I do not know, but we are working at it just like the Council for Yukon Indians are working at it.

**Mr. Porter:** Has the Yukon government set up an internal implementations committee within government to deal with the issue of implementing the Yukon land claims?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Yes, it is part of an agreement that we have with the Government of Canada that we would identify an implementations director or implementation officer. I am not exactly sure what he is called. I am sure that the member for Campbell is quite well aware of him. It is Mr. Jerry Piper.

**Mr. Porter:** Can the government leader provide to the House the information about any additional persons employed with in the implementation of land claims and can he also further provide the terms of reference for the director of implementation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps that is a question that more properly should be a written question. However, if the minister has that information, proceed.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** In respect to the terms of reference, the man is an employee of this government. He was hired under an advertised job. His job is there. Those terms of reference are available. I could not venture to guess how many people in this government have been involved in the identification of the costs of implementation. We have had committees created. I would guess, in virtually every program department of the territorial government. Now, some of the service departments, as well, over the course of the past year, have sat down, looked at the agreements in principle and tried to identify exactly those costs that were going to flow to this government as a result of those agreements in principle.

There have been an awful lot of people involved. I could not even begin to guess, at this point.

#### Question re: McLaughlin Report and Report on Victims of Crime

**Mrs. Joe:** I have another question for the Minister of Justice.

Since both the McLaughlin Report and the federal government Report of Victims of Crime have been ready and completed for more than a year, when did the minister strike the committee to study those two reports?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** It was done, I believe, in October, 1983.

**Mrs. Joe:** Does this committee have any other items on its agenda, other than the victims of crime?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** There are a number of recommendations on both reports that are being looked at and, then, what can be done and what is being done, within the government, at the moment. That is what they are doing: coordinating it and getting together.

**Mrs. Joe:** Can the minister tell us when we can expect the results of the study that the committee has been studying since last October?

**Hon. Mr. Ashley:** It is very possible the House will not see any report: it is an interdepartmental report. It will be coming to myself and the various ministers and we will be discussing what actions are to take place and it will be done within the department.

#### Question re: Game wardens

**Mr. Falle:** I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources.

I would like to know if he has any idea if his game wardens were patrolling the Dempster Highway this winter?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Yes, they do patrol it on a regular basis. I do not know when the last patrol went out, although I have heard some concerns about actions taking place up there and I know that

they have been dispatched up the highway, today, I believe.

**Mr. Falle:** It has been brought to my attention that there has been a significant number of caribou killed on the Dempster Highway by the people of the NWT. I would like to know if this government has signed any agreement allowing them to do such a thing?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** No, but the member must recognize that they are aboriginal people and that they have the right to hunt anywhere in Canada on Crown land.

**Mr. Falle:** I understand that these caribou were killed right along the road and it may be a corridor and it may not be a corridor. Some of the animals had hindquarters taken and the front quarters, and that, were left and they were attracting bears and wolves into the area, and they, too, were shot. Do the native people have the right to hunt within the corridor or outside the corridor?

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** It is a debatable question. I would like to say, no, they do not have the right to hunt within the corridor; however, it has never been taken to court to prove whether they do or whether they do not.

I am very concerned about the actions that the member has raised and that is the reason why my departmental people are on the way up the highway to investigate and, if possible, do something to stop the problem before it gets any worse.

#### Question re: Grazing leases policy

**Mr. McDonald:** I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. The minister is aware, hopefully, that his department is drafting an agricultural policy relating to grazing leases within the agricultural community. Has the government instituted any timetable regarding the finalization of the policy and implementation?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** That will largely be dictated by the general public and the various organizations and what they put forward as possible alternatives to the present situation.

**Mr. McDonald:** What other policies is the government considering floating over the course of the summer?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** When it is in final draft and my colleagues have had a chance to see it, it would be my intention to send it out to the various organizations for their comments and then, at that time, a decision will be made as to how we are going to proceed with a grazing policy.

**Mr. McDonald:** I was under the impression that a grazing policy had already been floated publicly. I have a copy of it. Perhaps we can pursue that later on during the estimates.

Has the Government of Yukon had to make any special arrangements with federal officials to ensure that grazing lands, which the minister knows are not considered ideal for most other agricultural pursuits, will be turned over with the same lightning speed that characterizes the transfer of other federal agricultural lands to territorial jurisdiction?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** It is just like the support we get from the side opposite. When we ask for further responsibility from the Government of Canada it seems that when the push comes to shove the members opposite are opposed to it. It is a major concern to this side of the House that we are not getting the necessary transfers of land and I trust the members opposite will support us in our endeavours to have land transferred to the Government of the Yukon Territory in order that we can service the general public as a whole as opposed to the present situation where apparently we are being asked to justify every square inch of land that possibly could be transferred to our government prior to the Government of Canada giving its consent. It is great for bureaucrats and great for surveyors, but it is not very good for the general public.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will now proceed to Orders of the Day, under Government Bills.

#### GOVERNMENT BILLS

##### Bill No. 24: Second Reading

**Mr. Clerk:** Bill No. 24 standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Pearson.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I move that Bill No. 24, entitled *An Act to Amend the Public Sector Compensation Restraint (Yukon) Act*, be now read a second time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. government leader that Bill No. 24 be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** This is the public restraint legislation that was passed in respect of 6 & 5 for the past two years. We have run into a problem and it has been brought to our attention that if we leave the legislation the way it is now the electrical company that sells a large amount of the power in the territory will not be able to pass on to its customers the cost of increases in purchase power that they have had to absorb over the past year.

<sup>15</sup> We have been advised by the public utilities board that, in their estimation, these are valid costs that should be passed on. I am sure that all members will recall that we have a provision in the legislation that allows for the passing on of the additional costs of fuel for the production of purchased power. What we failed to do was allow for the passing on of the additional costs of the purchased power for that company that does have to purchase some of the power.

It is our submission that if we do not allow for this pass-through of the cost to take place during this fiscal year, then next year the users or the purchasers of this power in the territory will be faced with an inordinately high increase, all at one time. There is absolutely nothing to indicate that the public utility board would change its findings, which is that those costs are legitimate and should be passed on.

This amendment is simply to allow for the utility company to pass on that cost. The increase would amount to 5 percent on April 1st, 1984; 2.75 percent on May 1st, 1984; and 2.27 percent on May 1st, 1985. The alternative, if we do not pass it, would be a 5 percent increase effective April 1st, 1984; and a 7.8 percent increase May 1st, 1985. Some quick mathematics makes it very clear that this is the better way to go for the consuming public in the territory.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** We do not dispute that the increases are a result originally of "valid costs". We do not dispute the particular statutory position that NCPC is in concerning recovering its costs. However, looking at the situation in its general sense, and looking at the overall affect, it is clear that this is a case where the costs to consumers are going to rise above 5 percent this year, the second year of the 6 and 5 program.

<sup>16</sup> It is clear that the increase is to avoid a large increase in the next year. It is also clear that an increase is in order, or it provides for the intermediary, Yukon Electric, to maintain its margin of profit, which is a percentage of its sales. This specific exemption will make a situation where the margin of profit or the percentage profit is maintained, in this year, for Yukon Electric.

In the overall situation, if we look at the purchasing power of employees or their relative position in the economy, considering the cost of living and the disposable income that may be available to employees — especially, in this case, public sector employees — they are not going to maintain their relative position, as Yukon Electric will. That overall situation is perceived to be unfair by employees and it is our position that it is unfair. This is, of course, a general statement that was made adequately in the past about the overall effect of 6 & 5 legislation.

It is clear that there is an exemption here for a corporate entity, a business interest, but we do not see exemptions for employees who are in an equally difficult position, at best, and are generally in a worse position. This side of the House views that as unfair and most unfortunate.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. government leader, now speaking, will close debate.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I probably would not have very much argument with what the member for Whitehorse South Centre has said, except for one thing and it must be emphasized: this will not maintain Yukon Electric's proposed profit margin. What this will do is allow Yukon Electric to do business for the forthcoming year, under a very, very strictly regulated set of terms and conditions and under a strictly regulated price structure. It will allow them to do business and not lose any money. That is all it will do.

Surely members can cast their minds back to the long discussion

we had with respect to the section of the bill that allows for the passing on of the cost of fuel oil to produce power.

<sup>17</sup> I am confident I convinced the members that it was only fair and equitable that the proponents be allowed to pass on that cost because it is completely uncontrollable; absolutely completely uncontrollable. The fact of the matter is that we want them to continue to deliver electricity. We should not expect them to continue delivering electricity at a loss.

If we are going to require Yukon electrical to purchase power to deliver to customers in the Yukon territory, then I respectfully suggest that it is only fair that we allow them to at least recover the costs of that purchased power. That is all that this is going to do. It is not going to affect their profit margin in any way, shape, or form. It will avoid them having to face a sure loss during the course of this year.

*Motion agreed to*

#### **Bill No. 26: Second Reading**

**Mr. Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 26 standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Pearson.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I move that Bill No. 26, entitled *Electoral District Boundaries Commission Act*, be now read a second time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. government leader that Bill No. 26, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** The principle of the bill is fairly straightforward and certainly does not need any introduction to members on the opposite side of the House. It has been eight years since the electoral boundaries commission established the existing boundaries. We have gone through two elections and a couple of byelections since that time.

It is tradition that electoral boundaries commissions are set up after every second election. There has been a considerable change in the demography of the territory over the past two or three years, in particular. I have received a number of representations from communities that, for one reason or another, have asked us to look at electoral boundaries. This is a very fair and acceptable method of doing it.

We are changing the method a little bit in the territory this time, in that, as another indication of the evolution of political status of the territory, we are now establishing the electoral boundaries commission in the act. We are naming the people who are going to be on the electoral boundaries commission in the act. Hopefully, members opposite will support the bill, just because I think it is in the public's interest that at least these boundaries be looked at, at this point in time.

<sup>18</sup> **Mr. Penikett:** This measure is the better of the two traditional alternatives in dealing with the kind of problem that the government leader has referred to. The other alternative, namely a straight political gerrymander by the government party of the day, is the less acceptable alternative from our point of view. The government leader will understand that the question of electoral boundaries is a very sensitive question, especially to politicians, and the tradition of boundaries commissions in this country is a long one. I think, as a rule, they have a deserved reputation for fairness and objectivity, even if one did not always agree with the conclusions of the commissions.

If we were only proposing to tinker with some of the boundaries, such as the one from the riding of Old Crow, I believe we could have proceeded by partisan agreement. However, there are some who obviously contemplate larger changes, and therefore, a commission is called for. I want to say for the record that my party is opposed to major changes for change's sake. The government leader has referred to demographic changes in the territory, particularly in the last couple of years, and I would say in respect to some of the communities and some of those changes that I would hope those changes are temporary or that the distortions are not permanent and that what we call the longer term pattern of settlement in the territory will be maintained. Some of the other distortions we have lived with for quite a long time.

Nonetheless, as the government leader says, we have had two elections under the old boundaries, and that is two elections more than under the last couple of changes. We only had one election

prior to the last set of changes. Therefore, some kind of review is in order. Whether major changes are in order is another question. But because a review is in order and because we believe that a boundaries commission is the appropriate body to do that review, we support the measure.

*Motion agreed to*

**Bill No. 27: Second Reading**

**Mr. Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 27, standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Tracey.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I move that Bill No. 27, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be now read a second time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Renewable Resources that Bill No. 27 be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Tracey:** Bill 27 is for the purpose of correcting two oversights with respect to Bill 31 passed in the fall session of the House. One failed to exempt the motor power assisted wheelchairs from minimum public liability and property damage insurance and another resulted from an error in governmentology in section 246.1(1), in which the phrase "100 milligrams" was included rather than "100 millilitres" of blood. The bill also provides for a technical amendment to ensure that officers appointed pursuant to section 241.1(1) and 241.1(2) and 241.2 have appropriate authority to carry out their duties.

<sup>19</sup> These sections confer the powers and functions of a peace officer to certain officers, by the regulations, for the purposes of enforcement.

However, section 3 of the act, which contains the basic authority to appoint the officers, refers only to the appointment of them for the administration of the act. A legal argument is to be made that, in the absence of the term "administration" in the above mentioned sections, the appointees may not be properly authorized to carry out their duties. Consequently, the term "administration" has been added to these sections, as well.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** This is essentially an uncontroversial bill and we support the minor changes.

I would point out that, especially on the correction of the milligrams and millilitres problem, in the bill before us, the spelling is still wrong, but it corrects the problem and we support the measure.

*Motion agreed to*

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

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair*

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Mr. Chairman:** Committee will come to order.

We will take a short recess and, when we return, we will continue with general debate on the Department of Finance.

*Recess*

<sup>20</sup> **Mr. Chairman:** Committee will come to order.

We shall now go on to the *Second Appropriation Act, 1984-85*. We are on general debate of the Department of Finance.

**Bill No. 12: Second Appropriation Act, 1984-85 — continued**

**Mr. McDonald:** The government leader will be aware, of course, that the Mayo district still lacks banking services. It is a state of affairs that has been in effect for some time, now. The government leader has stated in Question Period, a number of times, that the government was negotiating with the banks and was soliciting proposals from the banks to see whether or not they could

effect banking services in the Mayo district, in the near future.

The government leader stated that they would be prepared — I think, if I remember correctly, he made allusion to the fact that they would be prepared, in some way — to pay for a service. Would the government leader elaborate on some of those comments and give us an update as to the state of those negotiations?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I want to start out by saying, as an old resident — I mean, a real old resident — of both Elsa and Mayo, I would have been most disappointed if the member had not raised this topic, once again.

We, I believe, are very close to a proposed agreement with one of the banking fraternities in the territory. We started out this little exercise by contacting all five of the banks, asking them whether they were interested in giving us a proposal to provide some sort of banking services in the Mayo-Elsa area.

<sup>21</sup> All five indicated that they were interested, initially. We ended up receiving two proposals and because of the nature of the proposals, they are different, in that one is put together in one way and one in another. We have gone back to the one bank that we think is, in fact, the most beneficial proposal to the people of Mayo/Elsa and to the government, and asked them to reconfirm some of the suppositions we have had to make as a result of their proposal. We have not heard from them yet but we should be hearing from them fairly quickly.

I guess the proposal is something that we can, in our own minds, justify as being reasonable to provide a banking service of some magnitude in Mayo, then I am quite confident that I would be prepared to go to my Cabinet colleagues and seek their approbation to enter into a contract with the bank to provide that service to that area of the territory, because I recognize how difficult it must be for the people living there without any banking services at all. I also recognize, and I am prepared to put the argument to my colleagues, that if there is no other banking service then it is highly likely that our territorial agent in the community is very likely to become the banking service, because where else are people going to go? I think it is a valid concern that has been raised by the member for Mayo.

<sup>22</sup> Hopefully, we will be able to alleviate it in the very near future. I am terribly sorry that we just do not have anything definite that we can say at this point in time.

**Mr. McDonald:** I noticed that the government leader studiously stayed away from naming any banks or the details of any proposal. I recognize that the negotiations that took place between the mine at Elsa and the bank were somewhat public, which irritated the banking officials, especially when the nature of their requests was made public.

The government leader suggested that the government was close to making an agreement with a bank. Can the government leader just state whether or not this will entail any costs to government, although, not to state specifically what the costs might be at this point if negotiations are still underway, but will it entail a cost to government?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** There is no doubt about it, if we are going to get some sort of banking services, right now, into Mayo, it is going to be at an expense to the taxpayers of the territory. We are going to have to subsidize that banking service. All of the banks have made it very clear that they are not interested in going to Mayo or Elsa, even given the negotiations we have had with them in respect to banking services in the rest of the territory. They just claim that there is an economic barrier that they cannot overcome under any circumstances.

We, as a government, could overcome those economic barriers by means of a subsidy, I would anticipate. That is why I said that I would have to go to my Cabinet colleagues and seek their approbation because it would mean the appropriation of territorial funds.

<sup>23</sup> **Mr. McDonald:** Of course, I am very familiar with the bank's request for service charges. At least, one bank's previous request for service charges in essence constituted a guaranteed profit for providing a service to the area. The mine in Elsa, many months ago, offered a rather lucrative deal, in my opinion, to a particular bank in the neighbourhood of supplying a building, paying wages, paying office costs and providing transportation for office managers



to and from Whitehorse, as well as providing the office manager's room and board. All in all, it was rather an attractive deal, in my opinion. Is the government now including the mine in Elsa, which had made a commitment to the community and to the entire district? Have they made any overtures to the mine at this stage to seek their participation?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** No, we have not done that, but certainly we recognize that as an alternative. What we thought we would do is see if we could get some sort of a service into Mayo and hopefully the company and the people at Elsa would be able to avail themselves of that service. I go back to the days in that part of the country when, in fact, the bank was in Mayo and there were some 600 people working underground at Elsa and Calumet.

<sup>24</sup> The bank used to, in those days, once every two weeks, go up to Elsa and Calumet for a day; half a day in Elsa and half a day in Calumet. Then, eventually, the bank moved to Elsa because, of course, that was the major centre of activity.

I think what we are looking at, this time around, is a service just about the opposite way, in that the bank would be located, once again, in Mayo. I am sorry, I cannot say how often or for how long the bank would be there, but, certainly, it is my anticipation that both the company and the residents of Elsa and Keno would, hopefully, avail themselves of those services, when they are in Mayo.

**Mr. McDonald:** I would agree with the government leader that it is immaterial to the residents of the entire district, including some residents of Pelly Crossing who use the bank, at which major community the bank does rest. I think it will be used to the fullest extent, no matter in what community the bank is placed.

The only purpose of the question was to discover whether or not the government had sought the company's position as to whether or not it would be in a position to provide something to the contract, in order to ensure that there may be a fuller service than otherwise could be considered, with just the government and the bank's participation alone.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** No, what we are doing, at the present time, is dealing with the bank on a one-to-one basis, in respect to Mayo. I would think that if we can get over this hurdle, then I would guess that the company will be in a very good position to sit down with that banking fraternity, and talk to them, maybe, about extending the services to Elsa, or, conversely, maybe making the services better to Mayo.

<sup>25</sup> I do not anticipate any roadblocks at all. Certainly this government would not set up any roadblocks in respect to that.

**Mr. McDonald:** That is very encouraging. Judging from the way negotiations have been conducted in the past for the bank, and the nature of people's expectations about a banking service, it would certainly not be in our best interests to increase people's expectations too much as to when the service is guaranteed to be in place in the district. Can the government leader state when he anticipates negotiating a wrap-up, or generally speaking, when it might be fruitful for the member for Mayo to ask another question and expect a little more of a solid answer to what the specifics will be?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** The questions that we had for the group that we think has the low proposal were sent to them three weeks ago - something like a month ago - and a reply should be imminent. We are prepared to move quite quickly. I think, probably, the bank would be prepared to move quite quickly as well, if everything is in a go situation. I am quite optimistic. I am sorry I cannot be any more specific now because we do have to wait for the bank to return its presentation to us.

**Mr. McDonald:** Just one final question and that regards the nature of the service to be provided. The government leader said to a question some time back that to expect a full time service for the area may be unrealistic. Are we looking at full time or part time service at this point, and will it include such things as a minor loan service to the local population?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I believe that we will be looking at a part time service. It certainly is our intention that it would include loan facilities, as well as all of the other banking services.

**Mr. Penikett:** If I could, I have two general questions

following on my line of enquiry last night. The first arises out of our discussion with the capital plan and it is in connection with an interest that has been expressed with the treasurer in his appearance before committees of this House of the desirability in the long term of better integrating our operation and maintenance and capital forecasting.

<sup>26</sup> Could the government leader report any progress on this desirable objective and could he, at the same time, indicate to the House to what extent, if any, this relates to the capital plan proposal that is before the federal government?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** We have a policy, now, that is brand new, in that it has not been followed very much in this government. As a consequence of it being new, we are still having problems getting everyone, sort of, geared up to it.

Primarily, it is that if a ministry comes forward with a capital project, then they must have, coincident with that capital project, the projected operation and maintenance expenditures for the next three years and, in some cases, for the next five years. We, for a lot of years in this government, have been approving capital expenditures of some magnitude — very, very large magnitude — without ever, ever considering what kind of an impact that was going to have on the operation and maintenance budget or the availability of funds for operation and maintenance in the government, as a whole, for the next year or the year after that or the year after that.

We have been doing this, now, for two years and it is slowly starting to take hold and it is becoming the norm. Certainly, in the capital plan that we proposed to Ottawa, we identified O&M costs for every project, for three years. It was a requirement of the capital plan, as well.

So, it is a bit different thinking. It is a bit different method, but I believe, also, it is very, very good and very, very necessary and one that is working for us.

**Mr. Penikett:** I am very pleased to hear about this initiative. I have always been impressed and, personally, very supportive of the ideas expressed by the treasurer in this area.

What the government leader is indicating, of course, is that the policy is in its early stages of development and that it has not reached maturity yet. At this point in time, how is this policy documented? Is it a regulation under the *Financial Administration Act*, or is it in some other form? Specifically, is it in a form that would permit it being tabled in the House for our information?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I do not know that it is in a form that could be tabled in the House. What transpires is, as I said, if a ministry raises a capital requirement, it is done on a format for management board and Cabinet submissions. That format requires the projection of operation and maintenance expenditures for the next three years.

<sup>27</sup> As well, we have in place a budget analysis section in the Department of Finance that also looks at those specific costs and, if the department has not done that kind of a projection, will do that projection for management board or for Cabinet. The department, of course, runs the risk, if they have not done the projections, of those projections getting to management board or to Cabinet without their specific input.

**Mr. Penikett:** I would repeat again that I am very, very pleased to hear about the initiatives in this area and would only express the hope to the government leader that not only will this policy be developed and expanded but that we will have some report on this development as time goes by.

Let me just, by way of illustration, explain why I think it is important. I am going to use an example that I do not want to be understood as a criticism of the department I refer to. I use it only as an example.

The three-year estimate on the O&M costs of new capital projects is a useful device but it may not be of sufficiently long term in many cases to really be able to assess the costs and benefits of the alternatives. A good example, which the government leader will understand I think, would be in the area of highways where many jurisdictions in this country have recently experienced the problem of entering a 20-year construction program and then finding that because improving a road increased its utilization some of the newly constructed road only had an effective lifetime of 15 years, so in the new construction program, in effect, you literally had the

roads falling apart faster than they were being built. That is a problem, in fact, in a number of the prairie provinces.

There is also a continuing problem in highways administration, which the government leader will understand, in being able to integrate maintenance and construction factors and costs in such a way that you do rebuilding at the optimum moment. Since we spend, and will continue to spend I expect in coming years, such a large part of our capital budget on things like highways, the usefulness of employing the kind of policy indicated by the government leader much more comprehensively and far along the horizon I think is indicated. It may be that we do not at this point have sufficient human resources to employ the government to do it as extensively as might be desirable, but I would only want to say that I think the tendency being indicated here, or the direction the department is moving in, is thoroughly commendable and I would want to express our heartfelt support for it.

If the government leader has no further comment, could I just ask one other question, then? This is a general question that he could deal with when we get to the line item or he could indicate it now.

We have had a tough time in the economy that last couple of years. I understand from many small businesses or merchants their problem is accounts receivable. It has been quite a difficult one, to put it mildly. Could I ask the government leader about the bad debts that this government has had experience with and if he could tell the House anything about the nature of those bad debts: what kind of debts they are; what kind of problems we have had with collections; have we had any special problems? Is there anything about the character of the economic problems we have had that have been evidencing itself in the bad debts we have?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** To the best of my knowledge, it is just been a normal year in respect to bad debts and accounts receivable. I do not think that we have had any real outstanding issues that we can attribute to the bad economy. I cannot think of a single one during the course of the last two years where the finger can be pointed at the bad economy.

**Mr. Penikett:** Previously, we have had a problem that was partly administrative, with medicare payments. What are some of the other kinds of bad debts that we have? Are some of them taxes we cannot collect, or they other kinds of receivables?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I would guess the majority of the bad debts are taxes that we cannot collect and taxes that we will not collect. Once again, there does not seem to be a trend developing that way. It seems that people have a tendency in hard times to pay their taxes. They, all of a sudden, for some reason or another, determine that that is the thing that they should do. They protect their equity by paying their taxes in hard times.

**Mr. Chairman:** If there is no more general debate on Department of Finance we shall go to page 84, on the program Treasury and open that up for general debate. If there is no general debate, we will go on to line items.

*On Treasury*

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$186,000 agreed to*

*On Accounting*

*Accounting in the amount of \$849,000 agreed to*

*On Taxation and Money Management*

*Taxation and Money Management in the amount of \$257,000 agreed to*

*On Budget Bureau*

*Budget Bureau in the amount of \$249,000 agreed to*

*On Fiscal Relations*

*Fiscal Relations in the amount of \$185,000 agreed to*

*On Program Analysis*

*Program Analysis in the amount of \$128,000 agreed to*

*Treasury in the amount of \$1,854,000 agreed to*

*On Insurance*

*On Workers' Compensation*

*Workers' Compensation in the amount of \$419,000 agreed to*

*On Supplementary Pensions*

*Supplementary Pensions in the amount of \$245,000 agreed to*  
*Insurance in the amount of \$664,000 agreed to*

*On Grants*

*On Home Owner Grants*

*Home Owner Grants in the amount of \$834,000 agreed to*  
*Grants in the amount of \$834,000 agreed to*

**Mr. Chairman:** Before we clear the item, I would take you to pages 90 and 91. Are there any questions on that?

**Mr. Penikett:** I would like to clear up one question that is obligatory, from my point of view.

I have, on a number of occasions in the life of the last two legislatures, raised the issue of the fiscal validity of the school tax as a method of financing education. As the government leader knows, I have previously argued that it is regressive, that it is an invasion of municipal jurisdiction and that it is not an appropriate method of financing the school system.

I do not intend to subject the government leader to my arguments, again, on this subject, but I would like to ask him if the meagre eloquence that I have been able to summon on the question has caused him or his officials to give any consideration to reviewing its efficacy, at all

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Certainly, I must say that I have heeded well the arguments put forward by the leader of the opposition and respect them. I recognize where he is coming from, with respect to school tax, however, I guess our philosophies are just a little different and have been ever since day one. I guess, probably, that is why he is on one side of this House and I am on the other.

As long as we have a school system in the territory like we have, without school boards, and the territorial government is the school board, it just seems to me that this ends up being the most equitable way for school taxes to be assessed and to be paid in the territory. I just cannot see doing away with it, because of the existing system.

**Mr. Chairman:** Before we clear the total, are there any questions on accounting adjustments or allowance for bad debts?

*Department of Finance in the amount of \$3,352,000 agreed to*

*On Department of Government Services*

**Mr. Chairman:** We shall now go on to Government Services.

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** Aside from administration, which covers property management of government owned and operated buildings throughout Yukon, we have a two person-year increase: an assistant contract administrator and one accountant-clerk. Systems and computing are to ensure that this government is able to operate and develop systems to the best possible advantage. In this area there is an increase of one person-year in administration, three person-years in systems development and one person-year in the service centre.

Under the supply services who, among other important and varied jobs, look after the freight, postage, Queen's Printer and other records management, and finally we have public works, which deals with building maintenance and construction on government owned and operated buildings.

Some of the interdepartmental changes in the 1983-84 O&M main estimates were made to reallocate activities from one department to another based on the goals and objectives of each. This was done to result in a more effective and efficient delivery of these objectives.

The changes that affected government services were: one, the emergency measures organization was transferred from government services to municipal and community affairs; two, the responsibility for safety was transferred to consumer and corporate affairs; three, the responsibility for the Handibus service was transferred to the Department of Health and Human Resources; and, four, the warehousing function of renewable resources was transferred to the supply services branch of government services.

Some interdepartmental changes and some internal restructuring took place during 1983-84 to produce a more effective delivery of programs within the department. The property management function of public works was relocated to administration. As well, the responsibility for contract administration was transferred from supply services to administration.

As all members are aware, this department's mandate is to look after services and building construction for other departments of government. With that short explanation, I would be very happy to answer questions of a general nature.

**Mr. Byblow:** I do not have a great quantity of questions in general debate, though I do have a couple of policy ones I want to clear away and then several issue questions.

The minister drew reference, in his description of the reorganization of the department, to property management being handed over to the administration. I recall considerable debate in the past, including debate within the public accounts committee, of some historical problems relating to project management in a total sense.

It was clearly the undertaking that guidelines for project management would be reviewed and spending guidelines clearly established and situations that arose, for example, at the Faro school, would not be allowed to occur again.

Therefore, by way of my first inquiry of a policy nature, I would like to ask of the minister whether he can provide us with anything of an update on the subject of the formalizing of the project management guidelines, since, clearly, public works is now in this department?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** The area of property management that we are discussing will now be to an exact amount, so each person's responsibilities will go to an amount that will be specified and, from that point, they will not have a responsibility beyond that. By ensuring that each person stays within the guidelines given to him, we feel that we will be able to comprehensively and fully look after this area and ensure that there will be no repetition of the problem that we had with the Faro school.

**Mr. Byblow:** Is the minister saying that the formalizing of the guidelines is now in place and that the branches within his department that deal with project management have this in hand and the procedures are being followed?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** Yes.

**Mr. Byblow:** The second policy question deals with criteria used to determine which government services and projects are put out to public tender and there are a couple of refinements I would like to hear described by the minister.

When a user department wants to construct an extension to its facility — perhaps something like an addition to the warehouse in Dawson City or for the highways department — would the minister review for me the procedure that falls on this government to carry that through to completion? The reason for that inquiry is simply to try to refine where something goes through public tender and where something is done within the capability of the government, in its public works branch.

I will have a couple more refined questions on the subject but, in a general way, what criteria determine the public tendering process versus the internal construction, if you will, of projects?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** This is a difficult area to define in actual specifics. If we were to take an area such as education or highways who came to us and said that we have a contract for X number of dollars, they would find in their budget the money to do the job. They would then ask government services to put out a contract on that job. They would leave it in the hands of government services at that point. Government services would then go out to public tender and the lowest tender, generally speaking, is taken.

There are occasions sometimes when the lowest tender is not taken. In those instances where a contractor may have been found to do very poor work on a number of occasions for the government, and good reason felt that they would continue to do poor work, then you could with Cabinet approval go to the second lowest of those tenders. Or if the lowest tender did not meet the specifications and requirements, or in the specifications on the tender date.

There is also the northern preference, which we try to adhere to if possible, through territorial government bidding to ensure that local people have an opportunity to get as much government work as possible. We can only go so far in that regard as well. We only do it on construction, not on supply of materials.

The contract would then go out to public tender through the newspapers and be advertised. People would pick up their specifications and bid accordingly. Once the bid was finished, the

bid would be opened in a public opening. If the lowest tenderer was found to meet all the requirements, they would be given the job. At that point, there would be a meeting between the lowest tender and the department to ensure that everything would be possible, such as the bonding, and everything was proper to ensure that the government would not be left in a position where they would find themselves liable for a job that was being done by a private contractor.

At that point, government services would stay in the project, monitoring to ensure that the building was going as going ahead at the proper speed and that the specifications were being followed and that the job was being done in accordance with the specifications and in accordance with the building codes.

The job, on completion, would be inspected again through government services, through the public works section, and after completion the building would then be turned over. The monies from the agency would be used in the payment and the building would, after the government services had said it was okay for occupancy, then be turned over to the branch that had asked for the job to be done.

**Mr. Byblow:** I appreciate that clarification. I would gather from what the minister is saying that in all instances where there is new construction by a user department within the government, the procedure and policy is to go to public tender. There is a gray area surrounding what may be termed as maintenance, but of a construction sort.

« We will take the example of where, within a school facility, a room has to be reconstructed to meet certain newly identified needs. That does not clearly fall into new construction, nor does it clearly fall into regular maintenance. We have situations where in some instances it was done from within the government by its own staff of construction people who were retained within highways and public works, and instances where that was also let to tender. For the record, what are the criteria that guide government's decision on doing that particular project, in terms of whether they go to public tender or do it internally?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** In nearly every instance, we will go to public tender. There are some instances where the government services have forces available to do remodelling of certain buildings and if we feel there is a possibility that our own work forces can do remodelling within some buildings, we will use them. But I would say, in general, in most instances, just about all instances, public tender is the route we follow. In most of the schools I can think of right now, they have gone to public tender.

**Mr. Byblow:** Good. The next question of policy that I have relates to goods and services as opposed to construction. What is the current procedure used by government services in soliciting supplies used by government, whether they be janitorial supplies or office and equipment supplies? I ask the question with reason to determine whether or not there is any special advantage gained by anyone in the business. It has been brought to my attention that sometimes there is a lack of awareness that government is seeking these certain services and it is after the fact they find out they could have bid on the supply of that particular item or items sought by government.

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** In most instances, on the supply services area, people in the business of supplying service material are salesmen and those salesmen make their product known to individual departments and supply services. There is also the standing offer, which is issued yearly and, when items are needed during the year, the Department of Supply Services can go to that standing offer and look at the prices that were brought forward by individual companies and go from that point.

There is also an area where an agreement was reached between three suppliers of one product, because one or two were able to secure national lines, during the course of a period of time, which put them in a rather more favourable position than their competitors, and where there was an agreement that an equitable method would be found to equalize the supply of those particular items so that no one would be placed in an unfair advantage and we would not be placed in a position where, due to the fact that a national line had been gained by one company, that it would put the other

companies out of business and we would have no competition in that particular field.

<sup>14</sup> So, that was a mutually agreed upon system that could, I would say, always be open to discussion, because there would always be someone saying, maybe, "My price was lower, in this instance, and I did not get the particular bid". All those areas are looked at and the equalization factor is taken into consideration. I hope that answers that question for the member.

**Mr. Byblow:** What does the minister mean when he talks about a standing offer? It would appear to me that it has to do with an agreement to supply services for the entire year, but in a piecemeal fashion. Could the minister clarify?

**Hon. Mr. Philippen:** If you were to take an area like, say, typewriters, as an example, and you said that this year we will be buying typewriters — which is rather obvious — then, for each different type of typewriter and each different function that the typewriter may have, your salesmen from the different companies would come forward and say, "We have six specific types or six brands or they will do six different functions: for this one it will be this much, for this one it will be this much and for this one it will be this much".

Then, when the user departments say they want a typewriter, and want one with specific qualities, the supply service department can go to the lists that have been submitted at the first of the year, pick out the ones that have those specifications and go to the lowest price of the three or four or five, or however many people who bid on those typewriters. They can then buy that particular typewriter without going out to bid for each individual typewriter.

**Mr. Byblow:** Moments earlier, the minister talked about having arranged a compromise where there was evidence or some appearances of unfair competition. It has been brought to my attention that there are suppliers who create unfair positions to local suppliers.

Apparently, this is done where a national firm will establish a telephone office, as opposed to a storefront office, and through a representative put bids in for the supply of certain products or supplies.

<sup>15</sup> That would appear to create an unfair advantage because of the access by that particular firm to national lines of goods and volume supplies. Quite often that may unfairly compete against a local supplier who is resident here, who has placed a storefront here and who has invested money and is carrying a capital overhead and all costs associated with the efforts of running a good business. How has the department handled that aspect of completion?

**Hon. Mr. Philippen:** It is one area that is extremely difficult to deal with because private enterprise and free enterprise work in that manner. What happens is that you find an equalization. Those people try and operate on a larger and larger basis. They do not have the goods available when they are needed and they find that sooner or later they either stay small and not large enough to bother the bigger people who are involved in day to day supply out of their warehouse, which they have available right now with materials that they have available. People are aware of that.

It does place the people who have warehouse facilities, staff, and storefront facilities in a tough position when it comes down to the crunch when things are going very badly and everybody is looking for every little bit of business there is. I have been talking to some of the people who are in that position and trying to find a solution to that.

If the member opposite has any suggestions in that regard, I would be very happy to hear them, if they would be equitable and fair. Otherwise, you are saying to someone that he cannot get into the business and he cannot start small and work his way up. That is the problem with trying to limit the other person from the beginning.

**Mr. Byblow:** It would appear to me that there is some complexity to the problem. Quite clearly, we ought to be favouring the local business. Whether we do that through the northern preference clause, or whether we do that through some other similar type of consideration, one has to recognize the economic advantage of recirculating the money on government contracts here in the territory. If it is being usurped out through a telephone office, that

is not doing very much for us, albeit saving perhaps a little bit of money. One has to evaluate which is the greater advantage. I think quite clearly that we support the position of encouraging local business and recycling of that money within our economy.

Another question brought to my attention relates to an area, I think I gave the minister some notice on, and that is the area relating to the preparation of tender specs in areas that require sophisticated and perhaps technological expertise. It has been suggested to me that it is a problem, simply because we do not carry on staff adequate personnel to draw up those tenders, and you have to go out to the marketplace to seek that expertise.

<sup>16</sup> Then that very same marketplace has an inside track to bidding on the contract. How does the minister handle that challenge of unfairness again?

**Hon. Mr. Philippen:** In the area that we are discussing, I checked into the problem that was brought to me and that was the security in the Marwell area. My information is that we have an existing service contract on our security right now that has been extended and, to the best of my knowledge, the question that was raised is nonexistent. I believe, in the area we were discussing, if we were to wish to contract out something to do with security we would determine what we wished and call for tenders and look at what was sent in to us through that tender to do the specific job, and the price. Then, we would analyze whose proposal best served our needs at the cost we were able to deal with.

**Mr. Byblow:** Okay. The minister mentions security, and I will be specific. It is the case of where the government recently installed a security system in the liquor warehouse in the Marwell area. Was that a case of where we had the contractor who got the job draw up the specifications? I ask the question. I am not sure.

**Hon. Mr. Philippen:** When I asked the question, no one else seemed to be very sure either. I will check further into it and get back to the member. What I would imagine is that we called for someone to put a security system in in a particular area and proposals were brought forward, and the one we felt would do the job the best at the lowest cost would have been the one we would have used.

**Mr. Byblow:** Okay. I accept the undertaking that I will get some further information on that and relay it accordingly.

I have another question brought to my attention, regarding the supply of computers for the school system. In a case like that, where there are substantial dollars involved, how did this government decide which line of computers to go with? As the situation has developed, we now have a storefront representative of the line of computers that have been put in the school system, and there have been some suggestions that there may have been some unfair competition there again. I would be curious as to how this government went about securing that supply of those particular pieces of equipment and some assurance that everything was fair.

<sup>17</sup> **Hon. Mr. Philippen:** The request for computers comes from education, through the department, and the Department of Education looks over the specifications to determine the specifications needed for the computers that they want to put into their system. They then go to government services and ask government services to go to contract for the supplying of those computers.

Government services then puts the notice out for supply of computers. One local company was able and successful in being able to supply the computers to us and far be it from me to determine whether that company was successful or not in becoming a storefront operation for the computer group, but the company that we are discussing has been in business, I believe, for 12 or 15 years. I am sure that they can not only look after the business, but they can service adequately the product that education needed. They have demonstrated this in the past and we are quite happy with their service and with their price.

**Mr. Byblow:** If that is the assurance of the minister, I have no further information other than the inquiry that I relay to the minister, at this point.

In both the instances of where government services is seeking the supply of goods, and also in the instance of where governments is constructing projects, either of a renovating type or major new construction, is it clearly policy of the government to go to a

tendering process on all of these? Is there any time at which or during which this government services will go directly to a supplier, without the public process?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** Not to the best of my knowledge. Like I said, the standing offer may come into play where you do not go to them, but you have gone to them once a year and the product is identified. When you make a determination of whether you need it, you can go to the standing offer where so and so says he will supply a certain thing for "x" number of dollars and the other supplier says it will be more. You can go to that offer and buy the product you wish. Other than that, as far as I can determine, we go to tender on everything that we purchase within government.

**Mr. Byblow:** There may be the rare occasions of an emergency of sorts where that, reasonably, may be bypassed. The government has proposed to terminate the employment of a number of janitors supplying janitorial services in this building. That will, obviously, go to contract. What is government services' role in that contracting out?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** It is in the paper already and it is an invitation to tender to do a certain job in the building and different janitorial companies will bid on the square footage and on the times that the building is available to be cleaned. The tender will be open to the public. The contract will go through contract administration.

**Mr. Byblow:** How were the specs prepared for this particular contract? Who did them? Who decided the nature of the required work?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** The department of government services would, on the knowledge of what needs to be done and what has been done in previous years.

**Mr. McDonald:** The minister will know now after his brief tenure as Minister of Government Services, that it has been the practice in the past to establish a fair wage schedule for construction projects that are put out for tender by this government.

The purpose of the fair wage schedule is to ensure that efficiency that is effected by the private sector in fulfilling contracts put to tender by the government are not effected through wage cuts but rather through more efficient work procedures. The other major rationale for the fair wage schedule is to ensure that companies do not unreasonably compete with organized industry; organized industry having costs as a result of free collective bargaining with their employees. The organized industry has established fair rates of pay with their employees. One of the purposes of the fair wage schedule is to ensure that other companies bidding on projects do not unreasonably compete with the organized industry, and that they compete on an equal basis.

Can the minister state how rigorously the fair wage schedule is applied to construction projects in Yukon and, beyond that, how often is the schedule itself updated to measure more closely with rates set by industry generally?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** I believe that all contractors are required to comply with the fair wage schedule. I am not aware how often it is updated.

**Mr. McDonald:** So the minister is saying that the fair wage schedule is, by saying that it is applied in all construction contracts, rigorously applied. This brings us down to the new area mentioned by the member for Faro.

<sup>39</sup> In the area of contracted services, such as janitorial services, there has been a representation made during Question Period that perhaps the fair wage schedule should apply to the contracts that are let for such service contracts as janitorial services. Has this been given consideration by the government?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** The bids will be looked at when they come in. Janitorial services is presently looking after other areas of government buildings and we have found that their services and the way they have been dealing with their employees to be satisfactory.

**Mr. McDonald:** When the bids are received, they may or may not show a savings over the present cost to government of in-house janitorial services. The bids, whereas they may show a savings, do not necessarily reflect the wage rates being paid to various employees. It is my information, for example, that there are janitorial employees in Whitehorse who are being paid very close to the minimum rate, which, currently, I think, is in dispute as

minimum rate is not a living wage, by any stretch of the imagination. Is there to be, or was there when this contract was tendered, any mention made of what the government expects contractors to pay their employees for janitorial work?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** The janitorial companies will determine what they pay their employees, as they have to deal in the market and they have to deal with the other janitorial companies.

**Mr. McDonald:** Yes, that, of course, is true for the construction industry, but for the construction industry we do insist that a fair wage scale be instituted for that industry to ensure that non-union companies compete on a similar basis for government contracts. The other justification is that we ensure that construction of government projects is done by contractors who pay the reasonable going rate for their services.

So, I ask again, is it at all the intention of this government, when contracting out service contracts, to apply a fair wage schedule?

<sup>40</sup> **Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** The government already contracts janitorial services and we will follow the same criteria as we do now.

**Mr. McDonald:** What the minister is in effect saying is that they are not willing to apply a fair wage schedule and that they are going to be effecting efficiencies and encouraging efficiencies through wage slashing, which is very unfortunate in my opinion, and it is regrettable, it is going to be the case and there is nothing that anybody on this side of the House can do about it.

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** That is an untrue statement. I am sorry and regret that it has been made.

**Mr. McDonald:** I did not catch the minister's somewhat silent reply.

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** I said it was an untrue statement and I regret that it was made.

**Mr. McDonald:** I would like to know what aspect of the statement that I made that the minister called untrue was untrue.

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** The words "wage slashing".

**Mr. McDonald:** When you do not institute a fair wage schedule into a contract, and when you say in the House that private contractors are encouraged to negotiate their own wage payments to their workers, and you make mention in the budget that the in-house workers currently cost the government \$350,000 and you want to effect efficiencies, if you do not institute a fair wage schedule, you are implicitly saying — and I would say, to a certain extent, explicitly saying — that you encourage people to effect efficiencies, lower costs, at the expense of wages. Because, if you do not address wages, then, of course, you are encouraging private industry to effect their efficiencies through wage cutting; wage slashing. It is a nasty word. I agree it is a nasty word, but nevertheless that is what is happening right now. That is what the government is intending to encourage.

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** I am sorry but I cannot write a union contract for non-union companies.

**Mr. McDonald:** A fair wage schedule applies to all construction projects that the government puts out, whether it is union or non-union. If all the construction projects were union projects, there would be no need for a fair wage schedule because the union rate would be paid anyway. The purpose of the fair wage schedule is to ensure that non-union companies, when they bid on construction projects, bid in a competitive way with the union companies.

<sup>41</sup> **Hon. Mr. Tracey:** I would like to comment about the comment that was made from across the floor that the member is suggesting that the government should protect union companies in the Yukon Territory. That is the statement he is making and that is what the fair wage schedule, in his opinion, is designed to do. It is to protect union companies against non-union companies.

**Mr. McDonald:** I do not know why the minister for labour services harbours such a misunderstanding of what I just said. The purpose of a fair wage schedule is to ensure that industry rates, bargained freely by organized industry with their employees, will be applied throughout all government contracts. That is the way most industry operates. When government contracts out its building projects, they institute a fair wage schedule to ensure that the fair rate — it is called a fair wage schedule — is paid to all workers and that efficiencies are not affected by non-union companies through

what is, effectively, wage slashing.

This is a situation that is even accepted in British Columbia. It is a system that the minister, himself, the Minister of Labour Services, has accepted in the past. It is a system that the government accepts in construction projects. Why do they not accept the same principle in service contracts of this nature?

**Mr. Chairman:** Any more questions on general debate? If not, we shall go to the programs on page 96.

#### **On Administration**

*On Deputy Minister*

*Deputy Minister in the amount of \$131,000 agreed to*

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$589,000 agreed to*

*On Property Management*

*Property Management in the amount of \$2,112,000 agreed to*

*On Property Management Chargebacks*

*Property Management Chargebacks in the amount of a reduction of \$120,000 agreed to*

*Administration in the amount of \$2,712,000 agreed to*

*On Systems and Computing Services*

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$552,000 agreed to*

*On Processing Services*

*Processing Services in the amount of \$871,000 agreed to*

*On Systems Development*

*Systems Development in the amount of \$543,000 agreed to*

*On Service Centre*

*Service Centre in the amount of \$222,000 agreed to*

*Systems and Computing Services in the amount of \$2,188,000 agreed to*

*On Supply Service*

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$101,000 agreed to*

*On Purchasing*

*Purchasing in the amount of \$243,000 agreed to*

*On Queen's Printer*

*Queen's Printer in the amount of \$633,000 agreed to*

*On Asset Control*

*Asset Control in the amount of \$66,000 agreed to*

*On Transportation*

*Transportation in the amount of \$781,000 agreed to*

*On Warehousing*

*Warehousing in the amount of \$241,000 agreed to*

*On Records Management*

*Records Management in the amount of \$701,000 agreed to*

*Supply Services in the amount of \$2,766,000 agreed to*

*On Public Works*

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$104,000 agreed to*

*On Building Maintenance*

*Building Maintenance in the amount of \$1,779,000 agreed to*

*On Building Maintenance Chargebacks*

*Building Maintenance Chargebacks reduction in the amount of \$246,000 agreed to*

*On Construction*

*Construction in the amount of \$295,000 agreed to*

*On Construction Chargebacks*

*Construction Chargebacks in the amount of a recovery of \$295,000 agreed to*

*Public Works total in the amount of \$1,637,000 agreed to*

**Mr. Chairman:** Are there any questions on page 106 or central stores write-off?

**Department of Government Services in the amount of \$9,303,000 agreed to**

#### **On Department of Health and Human Resources**

**Mr. Chairman:** Before we proceed, we shall recess for 15

minutes.

#### *Recess*

**Mr. Chairman:** I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. We are now on the Department of Health and Human Resources, general debate.

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** It gives me considerable satisfaction to rise to address the budget of the Department of Health and Human Resources in this debate. Concerns have arisen during the past year that necessitated responses by my department with already established person-year and dollar allotments.

In the proposed departmental budget for 1984-85, this government has further responded to the varying demands for services. To some extent, this response has been in the form of a reallocation of resources within the department, but overall has resulted in an increase in the size of the department's budget. I would point out that the department's budget increased from the 1983-84 forecast of \$30,668,000 by nine percent to an amount in the 1984-85 estimates of \$33,278,000. This budgeted amount is greater than that allotted to any other department and may be taken as an indication that our government, in a time of recovery from recession, is nevertheless attentive to the needs of the Yukon public, especially those who have not yet been, or will not for a variety of reasons be, able to take advantage of the recovery. I would like to highlight some aspects of the department's budget before we enter into a line by line review of it.

As seen through the estimates book, program by program, I should point out an overall increase in administration. In part, this is due to approval of three new person years within this total program, these being a social worker training officer, a word processing operator, and a social worker in the community and family services unit.

The social worker training officer position will be responsible for coordination of training within the department. The word processing position will enable the department to make the most effective use of the word processor obtained this year. The additional social worker is in response to increasing child welfare and child protection workload.

The child welfare program reflects an overall 12 percent increase. There has, of course, been much discussion in this committee on this topic and I am happy to indicate that costs have been held to necessary increases, which include the cost of inflation. It will be noted that the number of children anticipated during these overall services is relatively constant.

One of the costs over which we have no control is that of per diem in outside facilities, which provide the specialized services that are not available to children in Yukon. The costs of such services are well justified. A significant portion of the increase in this program, as well, is due to an increase in professional and special services, which permits the use of preventative services in the home.

I am pleased to draw your attention to the fact that there is only a minor increase in the amount budgeted for the social assistance program. We feel this is due, primarily, to the government's employment stimulation projects, as well as the already mentioned improvement in the Yukon economy.

The number of persons seeking social assistance is down from the level of two years ago and this should cause all of us to be optimistic about the future. Some people have left Yukon but, generally, those who most rely on this program are also those who are least likely to be able to move elsewhere.

The increase indicated in the rehabilitation services is largely due to an increase in the training, and training on the job component. Some of the clients in this program are in outside training facilities where costs are significant, but which are necessary because the services do not exist here. It would not be cost effective given the numbers to attempt to establish such services here. Part of the increase, as well, results from an employment placement program through the rehabilitation centre.

The only grant to which I would like to call your attention at this time in the grants program, is one provided to the Yukon Women's

Transition Home Society or Kaushee's Place. You will note that it has increased by 111 percent. This is because the funding provided last year was a grant by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, and is not available in the form of a grant this year. In order to enable the transition home to have the necessary cash flow, a grant is provided by our government, through our department. Some recoveries will, we anticipate, be possible from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs for its status Indian clients.

The increase shown in the alcohol and drug services area results mainly from realignment of the responsibilities within the department. These organizational changes made some shifts necessary in the manner in which expenditures are shown in these estimates.

You will note, that under the residential facilities program there is a substantial increase indicated for Macaulay Lodge. Most of the members present will be aware that this facility has undergone substantial renovation, and has a sizeable addition near completion.

<sup>46</sup> As a result of these changes, additional staff were necessary at Macaulay Lodge. The increase was budgeted for an additional 4.2 person-years. The budgeted amount for administration of health services has changed very little from the last fiscal year. Changes that members may note in individual activities are largely the result of reallocation of positions between activities.

The general health services, as all members will be aware, range from the dental health program to the operation of the nursing stations. These services are provided to the Government of Yukon by National Health and Welfare, Medical Services Branch, Yukon region. The costs indicated are our portion of the projections provided to us by Yukon region.

The three statutory programs of the Yukon hospital insurance services, Yukon health care insurance plan, and mental health services budget figures are based on anticipated costs. Taking into account the current Yukon population, the in-territory hospital services are delivered by National Health and Welfare and the cost is borne by this government. The projections are, again, provided to us by National Health and Welfare. The Yukon health care insurance plan estimate for 1984-85, while somewhat lower than the 1983-84 forecast, is actually an increase over the amount budgeted for the previous fiscal year. With the Yukon population having been somewhat reduced from that of the immediately preceding years, we feel this is an accurate estimate of the amount that will be necessary for this program in 1984-85.

In the mental health services program area, we have budgeted a nominal increase for the 1984-85 fiscal year. It will be noted in the main estimate book that the forecast for 1983-84 was considerably less than the budgeted amount of \$237,000.

<sup>47</sup> To some extent, this is attributable to the confusion that stemmed from the interpretation that was being applied to the *Mental Health Act*. With the *Mental Health Act* having been amended, it is anticipated that this confusion will cease to exist.

In the medical travel program, there has been a marginal increase to reflect the increased cost of travel. This program is solely funded by this government, in an effort to ensure that Yukon residents have access to complete medical and hospital services.

In the disease control program, a nominal increase has been budgeted, while, in the speech pathology program, the indicated increase is due, primarily, to anticipated audiologist program costs, which were not incurred during 1983-84, owing to a vacancy in that position.

These are all the comments that I wish to make, at this time. I am sure that there will be other comments required during the course of the review of the budget of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** The procedure that I intend to follow is exactly the reverse of the procedure followed in the committee stage debate of *The Children's Act*, in that it is my intention to ask most of my questions and raise the concerns under the departments, as opposed to in general debate, all at once. I have a number of very general concerns.

I note that this is the first time that this particular minister has defended these estimates in the legislature. Every time I come across a minister defending estimates for the first time, I ask if the minister has any overall objective or any major political goal or any

major initiative to work on, over the course of the next year or so, within the scope of the department?

I asked the previous minister of this department the same question and he answered concerning a geriatric facility. It is interesting that a study for seniors is either completed or almost completed now and I will be asking about that a bit later.

I would ask, because it is a very large department, involving an excess of \$33 million, and because it is a very complex department and the minister cannot be expected to know all of the factors involved and all of the departments, if he has taken a more general, overall view and, if he has a general objective that he will keep in mind over the next year or so, in improving or promoting the objects of the department, as listed on page 109?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** This is one of those areas that a person is going to be very careful of, because, if I was in the same position as the member opposite, I would ask the same question that he has and then I would bring it up next year and say, "You have not completed your objectives".

<sup>48</sup> So, to that end I am not going to be specific about what I want to see in the future. I would say to the member opposite that I will be doing everything in my power to ensure that the people of Yukon have the best, adequate, health services that can possibly be given, and that all people who come in to contact with this department are treated in a fair and equitable manner.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I understand that answer and I guess I understand why it would be made. I am slightly disappointed. I would point out that the present Minister of Education answered the same question approximately two years ago. She talked about communication with students. Although the questions were asked about how the objective is coming along, that was not done in a mean spirit or in any partisan way. It certainly appears to me to be entirely justifiable in terms of measuring progress in a department.

It is probably the deputy minister's job to look after the department and see that everything is running smoothly. It is probably the minister's job to spearhead the new initiatives of the political objectives, or the policy objectives, especially the new ones of the department. I would be very interested in the minister's views of that. I have already noticed what I call a fairly major statement or an initiative about a new hospital facility in Whitehorse. The minister made a press statement about that. That is in the nature of the kind of objective that I am talking about.

Although it would be nice to get a new building, I think that politicians, especially in times of economic depression, look to new buildings overly much, especially in the kind of departments that deliver programs. The quality of the contact with the clients of the programs and the nature of the programs and the expansion of the programs — for example the grant to Kaushee's Place, and perhaps the amount of the pioneer utility grant, or the minimum income grant — are perhaps more important, in my view.

I will ask a specific question, not in the spirit of trying to identify an overall objective, because that question was already answered, but I will ask about the state of negotiations for a new hospital. What is the minister's long term plan to achieve that? What priority does it take over a nurse in Beaver Creek, or extended services under mental health or alcohol and drug services, or things like that?

<sup>49</sup> **Hon. Mr. Philipson:** In the area of priorities, it is very difficult to prioritize the immediate need for a nurse in Beaver Creek over the long-time need of a new physical plant for the members of the medical profession to operate in. The member opposite is aware of the fact that I have mentioned to the Minister of Health nationally, Madame Begin, the need for a new physical plant in Yukon, in Whitehorse itself, and I believe that the results of the study being done presently will bear that fact out. The cost of bringing the hospital up to an acceptable 1984-85 standard, from its present form, as opposed to the cost of building a new physical plant, indicates that the new physical plant is the best way to go. That being said, after the release of the study I will be pursuing the matter with the Minister of Health on a national level. The area of the nurse I will continue to pursue. The area of the Old Crow water and sewer I will continue to pursue. And I am sorry that I cannot prioritize them, as they are all very important issues and I will

continue to pursue them on as high a priority as I possibly can.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I will ask a number of questions but, first of all, I suppose primarily because Mr. Chairman has no voice and he cannot be criticized for not bringing it up himself, I will ask about Beaver Creek first. I discovered some years ago, I suppose in the first year that I was a critic in this area, I guess in 1981, that the numbers put in the budget for health care and the services, especially the physical plants in the community for nursing stations and hospitals, are simply given to us by the federal government. The federal government basically administers the program and we vote the money according to the numbers that they tell us. That situation will generally occur until the transfer of the jurisdiction over health occurs, and it was held up in the past because of land claims, or perhaps a more exact statement is the public statement that it would not be transferred until the conclusion of the land claims. I asked the minister if we wanted to change the numbers, what would happen? It was essentially a response something like "the federal government would probably act as they will in any event".

So I wish to press the point, again, this year. The point is, given the \$4 million surplus here, if we made a political decision to increase the budget by, let us say, \$30,000 or whatever it takes to employ a nurse in Beaver Creek, and if we added that figure into the department here, for health services, regardless of what the federal government told us, why can we not do that? If we did that, what would happen?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** What would happen would be that, in every other area of the Yukon Territory, the federal government would be able to say, "You have now accepted responsibility on one area, the rest are yours". Maybe this is a possibility that might not happen, but I do not think that it is one that we can afford to tempt the federal government with.

The area of wishing to take over the health care services in Yukon, is one very high on the list of this government. However, I would suggest that, before we get to that point, that we would be in a lot better position if we had addressed the area of a new hospital, a new physical plant, being raised so that we were not put in a position where health services was turned over to us and we were left in a position, as a legislature, where we had to come up with \$30 million or \$35 million, in order to bring our services up to what we would like to see for the people of Yukon.

The services that are being discussed by the member for Whitehorse South Centre are services that we share 70-30. It seems to me that we are in the best position that we can possibly be in. It is a position where we, as a legislature, ask National Health and Welfare to place a nurse in Beaver Creek because of a demonstrated need. That gives us the nurse, that gives us the facility, that gives us our cost-sharing and it fits into everything that we are working under in all other areas of Yukon. I would not like to open this area up, in one area, that may be to the detriment of all the other areas of Yukon.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I understand the answer, but I do not completely buy it. I would like to make a representation, as follows: it seems to me that it is open to us — with the Minister of Finance consenting, if he would — to pass an amendment here and increase the budget by \$30,000, or so.

It would be to provide for a nurse for Beaver Creek. If the federal government did not spend it, we could always pass a supplementary at the end of the year and say, "oh what a shame, we should have done that, and I wonder why we did not". That political process would clearly demonstrate our political will. It would certainly put the federal government on the spot. They cannot blame us in any way, shape, or form. It would be absolutely clear as to why we are doing it, because we were announcing it in the House. I would recommend that we do that and observe the result. I bet it would have some affect.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order. Mr. Kimmerly, you would not be planning to run against me in the next election would you?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** There are a couple of things that come to mind. One is that I did not know we were going to get into a discussion of gambling in this debate. I would bring to mind to the member for Whitehorse South Centre the now famous well in Old

Crow, which was built and paid for by us. When the federal government was to come forward with the funds, it did not.

We are putting every bit of pressure possible, at the present time, on the federal government through National Health and Welfare to place a nurse in Beaver Creek, to the extent that I mentioned it to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Madame Begin, in a private meeting. I explained where Beaver Creek was, what the problem was — with her officials in the room — and that, I believe, is as responsible as we can possibly get in this regard.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I understand that answer. I would make a comment that, for example, on the *Land Planning Act*, the government was somewhat different. We passed legislation in advance of the particular agreement with the federal government, and on this issue, we would be right with the unanimous support of the House. It would be fairly forceful.

Another issue is, if we do not put it in, it appears to me that it is clear that the nurse will not be there in the next fiscal year, or 1984-85, because there are no funds to pay for the nurse in Beaver Creek.

It will only occur when the funds are voted, I am sure. I would recommend that an amendment be passed. If I thought it would do any good, I would propose it. Well, perhaps it is a good idea. I am sure it would not be out of order, so perhaps we will propose it when the time comes.

Unless there are other questions about this issue, I will go on to another issue — I see there are.

**Mr. Penikett:** Well, you know me to be a sort of helpful, cooperative soul. I have a proposal on the particular subject we have been discussing, which is of special interest to you, Mr. Chairman, that seems to me could solve both the problems suggested by the minister opposite without getting into the kind of gambling proposed by my colleague, which may be illegal.

My proposal would get the nurse to Beaver Creek, temporarily reduce the costs of this government at the executive level, achieve the government policy objective of decentralizing the Government of Yukon, and solve the health problems of the temporary residents of Beaver Creek — those elderly American tourists who you spoke so passionately about the other day, Mr. Chairman — and we could do all this by the simple expedient of relocating the Minister of Education to Beaver Creek during the summer months.

As you know, the Minister of Education is a trained nurse. She is a serious and committed professional in that field. She has spoken warmly and respectfully of the accommodation facilities and recreational opportunities that are available in that community. I am sure that, if the government leader would give this proposal careful and constructive thought, he would see its merits immediately and would recognize that the proposal I have made would in fact not raise the constitutional problems that the Minister of Health and Human Resources has done but would achieve this government's objectives of decentralization — a nurse in Beaver Creek, a temporary reduction in the executive council costs — as well as improving considerably and immeasurably the morale and the quality of health care in the community of Beaver Creek during the summer months. I hope this proposal will earn your serious appreciation, Mr. Chairman, and that of the government.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I just want to rise with respect to the proposal put forward by the House leader on the other side. In my capacity as House leader, I am prepared to verbally make a deal as long as the member opposite will assure us that there is one particular individual here who also has a professional background and I understand those elderly tourists are in bad need of legal advice — good, bad or indifferent.

I suggest that that would solve the problems on that side of the House and this side of the House and I think that we could all happily live ever after.

**Mr. Chairman:** Once more, Mr. Penikett, maybe we can get back to this.

**Mr. Penikett:** Yes, as I have been referred to, in the debate, I am perfectly willing to undertake an arrangement, with my colleague, on that score. Until recently, he, until denied the right to advertise, had a very nice line in "quickie and quite cheap wills", which might be of interest to some of the visitors up there. If we



can reach the appropriate agreement with the Minister of Education, we might be able to work out a reciprocal agreement on this side.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, please. Can we get back to the Department of Health and Human Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** Far me be it for me to get into a debate of this sort.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Like me, like me, like me.

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** I would like to mention, as the Minister of Government Services, that we have a vehicle available.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I was also interested in senior citizens, in a more serious way, and I note in the budget that there is no program called "seniors" or any identification, specifically, of senior citizens. That is why I raised the issue in general debate.

Is the consultant's report on services available for seniors now complete? In the next year, what is the process that the minister will follow in considering the services to senior citizens?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** I am sorry to report to the House that the report is not yet complete. Some pressure has been brought to bear to have it completed quickly, but I would not wish to jeopardize the final outcome of the report by haste, in the last days or whatever, to complete the report.

The members of this House and the member for Whitehorse South Centre should be aware, by now, that one of the areas that I spend a tremendous amount of time working on and wish to enhance is the seniors program in Yukon. I would say, without prejudice, I would hope that, at the present time, seniors in Yukon have services that I would say are probably second to none in Canada.

The result of the extended care program will give me further information, which is necessary if I wish to pursue more facilities and care units that are funded by the federal government. With that information and the desire to see seniors in Yukon doing as well as it is possible to do, I would hope that I can assure the member for Whitehorse South Centre that we will be continuing with the high level of service that we now afford to seniors in Yukon.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I understand that answer, but it did not really get at the intent of my question. After the receipt of the report, which I am assuming will come either this month or next — and I agree that a few days is not going to matter too much — what is the process that the minister intends to follow, or is it established now or not, in considering any future services or the adjustment of the level of service, for example, the pioneer utility grant, and the income grant?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** The study that we are talking about will provide the basis for the planning and development of comprehensive services to seniors and the disabled in Yukon. The study will assess the needs and make recommendations regarding appropriate funding mechanisms, programs and services.

With this study complete and in hand, we then have the information that is necessary to go to the federal government for whatever needs are required. Without the study, or without the figures or without the facts, if we go to the federal government it will say, that is very nice, can you prove that you need this? We do not feel that you need it, you have a hospital that we feel is adequate, or whatever. We have absolutely no way to pry or pressure to increase the services or the residential facilities that we have available to us.

The basis of the study and the use of the study will be exactly that. It will be used as a tool, when dealing with the federal government, to enhance the programs that we already have in Yukon.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I am assuming that there will be consultation process or a public input process in a political sense, but not a partisan sense, as well as the consultant's report. I would assume, and I would ask the minister to correct me if I am wrong, that especially seniors and people involved in services to seniors would be very interested in the report and the information in it. I would assume that at some point there will be a consultation, either with the Council of Aging or the Golden Age Society, or with the CYI Council of Elders, and discussion in a public forum about recommendations as to what is needed most here, and what the report actually says.

<sup>55</sup> I am interested if any decisions at all are made or if the minister

has a tentative schedule about that kind of process on the services for seniors report?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** I have good news for the member for Whitehorse South Centre. The project is directed by a steering committee. The steering committee includes representatives from the territorial government's Department of Health and Human Resources, a representative from National Health and Welfare, a representative from the Council for Yukon Indians, and a representative from Indian and Inuit Affairs. In the process of conducting this study, the consultants have met with most individuals and organizations involved in the current delivery of services to disabled and geriatric Yukoners. Included have been the territorial government, National Health and Welfare, the Council for Yukon Indians and private agencies, such as the Yukon Rehabilitation Centre Society and the Golden Age Society. So, the process that the member from Whitehorse South Centre would like to see in the future is one that is being used both in the past and presently.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** Just for the record, then, if I am contacted by a constituent who is interested in the report, I will be able to say that representatives of all of those agencies are probably discussing it or will at the appropriate time. At the time that it is released to these agencies or the steering committee or some time later perhaps, will the report be released to the public who are interested in it, and can I get a copy?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** I see absolutely no reason why we should not, because the report will be, I hope, a well-done, comprehensive report that tells us the situation of seniors and disabled people in Yukon, and to that end I can see no reason why we should not all be aware of the situation and be working towards resolution of the problems that are encountered in those areas. Certainly, I will have a report for the member for Whitehorse South Centre as soon as it is possible to get one to him.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I entered the seniors issue in order to avoid the frivolous conversation raised by the leader of the opposition, but I was interested in the minister's statements concerning the study about the Whitehorse hospital. He specifically stated that the report would show that a new physical plant is required.

<sup>56</sup> Is the proposal for the option of building a new wing and renovating part of the old facility also being looked at? I ask the question in the following spirit. It may be, for the same number of dollars, that we can use part of the old facility for some other purpose, for example a geriatric wing or child care for sick people or for rehabilitation services, and actually get more square footage and a better facility for the same dollars in absolute terms. Is that option actually being studied?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** I think I can say without prejudice, or without fear of being wrong in the future, that I believe this is the only time that I will defend the leader of the opposition. I do not think he was being frivolous, just unrealistic.

On the subject matter at hand, on the study that is being conducted, it is being conducted, as the member for Whitehorse South Centre knows, by the federal government on the federal government's own physical plant and facility. To that end, it would be very difficult for me to second-guess all the alternatives and the dollar amounts that will be released when their final report is released. I would imagine that that is sometime in the next two weeks to a month. I do know, however, that every alternative and every factor has been taken into consideration in the study. In the conclusion of the study, I believe that we find that the recommendation will be for a new physical plant, somewhere probably close to where it is now. I think they will find that in all efforts to make two units work as one, the costs are just astronomical. I believe that that is what the report will finally say.

**Mrs. Joe:** I have a couple of questions. One is in regard to the public health nurse that we were talking about a little while ago. I have never had the opportunity to take advantage of those services in any of the communities until Boxing Day in Mr. Chairman's riding. One member of my family had fallen down and cut the back of her head. We tried to get services from the nurse but she did not answer her phone.

<sup>57</sup> She did not answer her door, so a phone call was made and we were told to go and buy whatever it was that we needed or to find it

somewhere else in the community. All we wanted to do was to find something to clean it off with and wrap it up, however, we were not able to get that.

I do not know what services those public health nurses are to provide. I would not think that they would have certain hours, because of the emergencies and what not, so we were a little bit upset about that and had to come back home to Whitehorse to deal with this problem. That is one of the questions I would sort of like answered.

The other one is with regard to a subject that I brought up this week, regarding the Alexander Lodge. Although it comes under the Yukon Housing Corporation, I wondered whether or not the minister might be able to shed some light on some of the problems that have happened there.

As I understand it, the place is being renovated and, at the end of April, the caretaker — who I did not realize was a caretaker, I thought that she had some other position, that she did certain things — position was terminated and, when the renovations are done, she will not be coming back, or that position will not be renewed.

I had been down to this residence a number of times and I talked to the two people who have worked there since I have been an MLA responsible for that riding. I was under the impression that their duties included a number of things, because they did do a number of things. The former Minister of Health and Human Resources will recall that there was an instance where one of the residents was having a serious medical problem and they were not able to move her as quickly as possible to another place. It was either to Macaulay Lodge, the hospital or to outside.

The person who was working there, at that time, was not only looking after these people who were just a bit unable to care for themselves, she was doing work for her. I understand that there might have been somebody coming in. In some cases, there are other people coming in to help these residents, but, from talking to some of the residents over the last few months, there was a need for some kind of special services to a number of those individuals.

The Yukon Housing Corporation has said that if they need those special services, they should not stay there; they should be at Macaulay Lodge. Well, those services include just being helped up and down the stairs, sometimes; sometimes one of them may fall or some of them might be sick. As in the case of one of the residents, who had had a stroke and, in my last conversations with him everything was written down, because he was not able to speak quick enough.

I just wondered if the department had looked into those problems that the residents of Alexander Lodge do have and, with the possibility of setting up some type of special program, because the caretaker who, I understood, had a sort of janitorial-type of position, was doing a number of other things besides that? I know, for a fact, that she was, just from talking to people who were there and the people who lived there.

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** As an answer to the first question, we all realize the problems that are faced by people on the north highway with there being one nurse at Destruction Bay and none north. But it is unrealistic to suppose that one particular individual will be sitting waiting 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in one area in case something happens. A person could be away. She could be in Beaver Creek or in Burwash. She has a large area to cover. It is an unfortunate fact and it is something that we are trying to correct. Even if we had a nurse in Beaver Creek, the possibility of what happened to you could happen at any time in that same community. Possibly, you could have found resolution to your problem in Haines Junction, where there is another nursing facility and I believe the nurse is fairly close at hand.

The area of the Alexander Street Lodge is being brought up to a standard as a residential facility for elderly people. At the same time, Macaulay Lodge is being rebuilt, renovations are taking place and extra room is being made available. Extra staff is on hand and a new addition has been built with a new lounge area, new kitchen facilities and we hope that there will be enough rooms available to look after all people in Yukon who are unable to look after themselves, geriatrically.

The addition of the extra rooms and the availability of the people

to look after more people than Macaulay Lodge should allow the Alexander Street Lodge to be used strictly as a residential facility. If people encounter difficulties living in that residential facility, then they would be advised to go to the Department of Health and Human Resources and make application to enter Macaulay Lodge, where I am sure most people will find they will be treated in a modern and convenient and well-run facility.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** In the general area of child battering and also spousal battering, I am going to try to connect the two as it relates to the budget. It was interesting to me that in the debate on *The Children's Act* the minister brought up statements I had made about spousal battering. It is increasingly clear, I believe, because of our advances in the social sciences concerning especially spousal battering, that there appear to be links that were not recognized in the past.

☞ I am interested in the way the department reacts to the problem of child battering and the way the department reacts to spousal battering. I had originally thought it might be a good idea to combine the departments in a department concerning itself with family abuse. I am told by people in the field that that would probably be counterproductive. I am interested if the minister is considering the connection between spousal battering and child battering, and if there is an effort in either the general administration department where the social workers are, or in the child welfare services department, such as a program to combine the efforts of social workers concerning family counselling in connection with these two serious problems. Are they fairly well separate within the overall department?

**Hon. Mr. Philipson:** I believe that they are fairly well separate in the overall department. The facts are known by the people who work in the department. They keep themselves up to date on the correlation between the two issues. As the member for Whitehorse South Centre realizes, there has been the study on spousal attack. I think, on completion of that study, when all areas have been looked at, maybe there could be a recommendation coming forward at that time. To the best of my knowledge, no, there has not been.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I will just ask one further question in the general sense. I will come back to it in the line items. Seeing as the minister of education is eager to enter the debate, I will ask her about corporal punishment in the schools and the current attitudes about what is called by some as corporal punishment and by some as child battering.

☞ I asked, years ago, about the departmental policy concerning corporal punishment in residential facilities run by the minister and in foster homes. The policy is fairly well established. I had asked, previously, about the policy concerning corporal punishment in the schools and I understand that it is one of involving parental consent. The consent is generally given in a blanket way in advance.

Is there a consideration to coordinate the efforts concerning, say, family counselling, child welfare counselling, the policies concerning corporal punishment in foster homes and corporal punishment in the schools? I will ask the Minister of Education if she sees this as a problem, or if it is an area where the policy has not changed in the last year and she does not expect any change?

**Hon. Mrs. Firth:** The policy for corporal punishment in the Department of Education has not changed. It remains the same, requiring the consent of the parent at the beginning of the school year. A note is sent home to the parents requesting that they contact the school and the principal as to whether or not they want their child to have corporal punishment. We are not anticipating any change to that policy.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** It is possibly an area where societal attitudes are changing and it is obviously politically sensitive, as the *The Children's Act* tells us and the particular definitions in *The Children's Act* address.

I would ask the minister responsible for child welfare services if there are ongoing discussions, on the departmental level, as opposed to the ministerial level, concerning the problems of child welfare and of truancy and discipline in the schools. I raise the issue, as I know it is an extremely important one, in that almost all child welfare cases, where the children are of school age or older, are multiple problems, in that they are problems for education and

for child welfare, and they frequently involve the Ministry of Justice, as well.

61 What coordination is now occurring, considering the questions of discipline in the school and children being expelled from school and truancy and child welfare?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** I find that a difficult area to draw a comparison in. If a child is neglected, then the definition in *The Child Welfare Act* would be applicable. If a child is getting corporal punishment at school because the parents signed a note saying it was possible to do that, that would not be being abusive to the child as the school would be the people giving the corporal punishment.

The rate of truancy in regard to child welfare is a difficult area. It is an area that should be dealt with by the family, I would believe, and if they were having trouble solving the problem, possibly they would like to come for family counselling to the Department of Health and Human Resources. I do not believe we would enter into a family because of truancy alone. I do not believe the department would enter under that particular area alone, unless the need was felt. Unless there was a good solid reason, I just cannot imagine it happening.

**Mr. Kimmerly:** I will go on, as I have only really one major area to cover in general debate, and then I have concerns specifically under the programs.

Perhaps I ought to say that, to me, the most exciting area in the department that shows a potential for constructive growth is in the area concerning the contracting for services with native groups or native dominated groups. I am particularly interested in the training officer position and the training aspect of some of the programs and the efforts announced in connection with *The Children's Act* to contract with Bands for child welfare services. This is exciting for two major reasons. First of all, the clientele in these areas is primarily native and it is certainly my opinion that it is most appropriate that the professionals delivering the service are also native or native in approximately the same proportion, as communication and understanding will substantially increase.

62 Because it is an area where the philosophy of local hire can be very well accommodated — in that it would not only be Yukon hire, but probably be community hire within the Yukon — if these kinds of contracts become commonplace in Yukon. We, on this side, approve wholeheartedly of the principle of these contracts. I am interested if the minister can give us a statement of either progress or of expectation of development of the contracts over the next year or within the 1984-85 fiscal year?

**Hon. Mr. Philipsen:** I agree with the member for Whitehorse South Centre that this is an exciting area. It will become possible, through the passage of *The Children's Act*, Bill No. 19. I will be happy to report that we are in an area where we are now into negotiation with Champagne-Aishihik and Kluane Tribal Brotherhood. Both have come forward with proposals. We are now studying these proposals and I hope that we will be able to have something firm within a year at the very least.

While I am on my feet, I think I would like to ask you to report progress on Bill No. 12.

**Mr. Chairman:** Before we deal with that motion; Mr. Kimmerly, do you have more further debate at a later time?

**Mr. Kimmerly:** (inaudible)

*Motion agreed to*

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Mr. Speaker resumes the Chair*

**Mr. Speaker:** I will now call the House to order. May we have a report from the Chairman of Committee?

**Mr. Brewster:** The Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 1984-85*, and directed me to report progress on same.

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

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mrs. Firth:** I move the House do now adjourn.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Education that the House do now adjourn.

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 5:28 p.m.*

**The following Sessional paper was tabled May 8, 1984:**

84-4-22

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

