



# The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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Number 2

2nd Session

26th Legislature

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## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, October 2, 1985 — 1:30 p.m.**

Speaker: The Honourable Sam Johnston

# Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Sam Johnston, MLA, Campbell

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Art Webster, MLA, Klondike

## CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Tony Penkett	Whitehorse West	Government Leader. Minister responsible for: Executive Council Office; Finance; Economic Development, Mines and Small Business; Public Service Commission
Hon. Dave Porter	Watson Lake	Government House Leader. Minister responsible for: Tourism; Renewable Resources.
Hon. Roger Kimmery	Whitehorse South Centre	Minister responsible for: Justice; Government Services.
Hon. Piers McDonald	Mayo	Minister responsible for: Education; Community and Transportation Services.
Hon. Margaret Joe	Whitehorse North Centre	Minister responsible for: Health and Human Resources; Women's Bureau.

## GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

### New Democratic Party

Sam Johnston	Campbell
Norma Kassi	Old Crow
Art Webster	Klondike

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### Progressive Conservative

Willard Phelps	Leader of the Official Opposition Hootalinqua
Bill Brewster	Kluane
Bea Firth	Whitehorse Riverdale South
Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East
Doug Phillips	Whitehorse Riverdale North

### Liberal

Roger Coles	Liberal Leader Tatchun
James McLachlan	Faro

## LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Patrick L. Michael
Clerk Assistant (Legislative)	Missy Follwell
Clerk Assistant (Administrative)	Jane Steele
Sergeant-at-Arms	G.I. Cameron
Hansard Administrator	Dave Robertson

<sup>01</sup> **Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Wednesday, October 2, 1985 — 1:30 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

#### DAILY ROUTINE

**Speaker:** We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper. Introduction of visitors?

#### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Mr. Lang:** At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a former MLA of this House, as well as a member of the Executive Committee of the government at one time, Dr. Jack Hibbard and his beautiful wife, Joyce, who are here visiting.

*Applause*

#### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Speaker:** Under tabling of returns and documents, I have two documents for tabling. The first is a report from the Chief Electoral Officer prepared pursuant to Section 66 of the *Elections Act*. The second is a letter dated September 17, 1985, from the Honourable David Crombie, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which is a response to the motion passed by this Assembly on July 18, 1985 respecting Yukon's offshore northern boundary.

<sup>02</sup> **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I have for tabling the answers to a written question from the member for Hootalinqua dated July 17, regarding the government's mosquito control program.

**Speaker:** Are there any reports of committees?  
 Petitions?  
 Introduction of Bills?  
 Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers?  
 Notices of Motion?  
 Statements by Ministers?  
 This then brings us to the Question Period.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Question re: Land claims/land problems

**Mr. Phelps:** I have a question for the Hon. Government Leader arising from the Speech from the Throne. That speech refers to a working group that has been established at the land claims table, I gather, to deal with land problems. The purpose of that group is to formulate a process for delineating land which will later be applied for from the federal government?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** That is not a bad description.

**Mr. Phelps:** I then take it that your hopes and aspirations are that the process might be established by the end of 1985, is that correct?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** The words used in the Throne Speech stated that we wanted to explore arrangements and I would want to say that we are not just talking about the process, unless we are using those words in the sense in which they are synonymous. The arrangements, I would hope, would be that we get to some specific cases. We will then be able to effect those transfers in short order.

<sup>03</sup> **Mr. Phelps:** I wonder if you could explain why your Minister of Community Affairs advised the meeting of the Livestock and Agricultural Association in his riding last month that two major block land transfers would be coming from the federal government this month. Was it simply speculation?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I cannot comment on the facts or the assertion made by the Leader of the Official Opposition as I was not at the meeting referred to by the hon. member, but may I respectfully suggest that if he has any questions about statements

made by the Minister, he should direct his questions to that Minister.

##### Question re: Land claims process

**Mr. Phelps:** Getting back to the process that was referred to in the Speech from the Throne, I want to ascertain whether or not that process goes beyond consulting. Are you really not giving a veto over the traditional land to the CYI or bands in question?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I know the Member opposite is an expert on the subject of vetos, having walked out on land claims at one point and effectively putting a veto on that process, which was not something that YTG had at that point.

We want to proceed, but not in the negative way that is perhaps sometimes entertained by the member opposite, but in the positive way. Our effort will be to try to achieve a co-operative approach between the parties leaving no situations where there are winners and there are losers.

We do not try to put the interests of Yukoners in conflict with each other, so that it has to be decided always as one over the other. We want a situation where all groups in this community can be winners and where all our needs for land will be met at an early date in an amicable, mature and effective manner.

**Mr. Phelps:** This is somewhat confusing to me, and I ask you to bear with me. It is a perfect world, I can understand, that you are striving for, and it is something I was striving for as well. But, we have a situation where there are hundreds of people who are making application for land — for agriculture, for lot expansion, for recreation purposes and so on — and I am completely in sympathy with consulting with the bands and with CYI; it goes almost without saying, I hope. I am completely in sympathy with consultations, but, it seems to me that eventually one has to go to the root of an objection from any group. What I want to know is whether or not a blanket objection will suffice for no land to be applied for by this government.

<sup>04</sup> **Hon. Mr. Penikett:** The Speech from the Throne referred to our exploring arrangements. Like the member opposite, I would like to live in a world that is more perfect than the present one. I do not expect that I shall ever live long enough to be a resident of a perfect world, nor perhaps will anybody in this House. But, until such time as we have reason to pursue a different course, we want to test the limits and explore arrangements which will give Yukoners, farmers and other people the land they need.

The Leader of the Opposition knows that there are many Indian communities in this territory with significant land needs, community land needs for housing and for other conversion purposes. We would hope to deal on the basis there are two major groups in our society and many other groups in our society that have land needs; that those needs do not need to be in conflict; that we deal on the basis of helping meet each other's needs. We believe, if we do that, the federal government may, and we hope will, co-operate in helping all Yukoners, Indian and non-Indian, urban and rural, farmers and other people, to get the land that we need in advance of a final settlement.

It is the hope that we can make a practical arrangement to pursue parallel, simultaneous transfers. If we can be successful in doing that, it will be well done.

**Hon. Mr. Phelps:** That is interesting, because that has certainly been the policy of this party which was in government for some time.

I have a supplementary for the Minister of Community Affairs. I would like to know whether or not this government has brought any application for agricultural land forward to the Federal Land Acquisition Committee in the past four-and-a-half months, and if so, how many?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** If the member has a supplementary, I will certainly be prepared to listen to it.

In preparation for a possible parallel land transfer arrangement that we could hope to achieve at the land claims table, we still must go through the administrative arrangements to determine what our land needs are and pursue the review of agricultural applications as we have in the past. As the member may know, the Department of Agriculture does review applications for land use conflicts, and

until such time as we have made a satisfactory arrangement with the other parties at the land claims table, we will continue to aggressively pursue the administrative arrangements that have been determined in the past to ensure that we know what our land use needs are in detail.

**Mr. Lang:** You had better read what you just said.

**Question re: Drug Services director**

**Mr. Coles:** My question is for the Minister of Health and Human Resources. Can the minister confirm to the House as to whether or not her department has hired a director for alcohol and drug services and, if so, was the person hired a Yukon resident?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** Yes, I can confirm that we did hire someone for that position. The person who we hired was not a Yukon resident.

**Mr. Coles:** Can the minister then advise the House if there were any qualified applicants for this position who are residents in our territory?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** Four people were interviewed. Three were from out of the territory and one was from the territory. There very well may be a lot of qualified people available to take that position; however we had only one application. We felt that the person who did not receive the job was lacking in some of the qualifications that we were asking for.

**Mr. Cole:** If I may, I would like to advise the Minister of Health and Human Resources to read the Throne Speech that was delivered yesterday: "Our government believes in the skill and energy of local people".

Can the minister tell us if the government's local hire policy only applies to certain departments — certain jobs — or if there even is a real government local hire policy, or if the whole thing has been nothing but rhetoric?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I think that what was read in the Throne Speech yesterday was something that does apply. In certain cases we have to go outside. I think that the past government will understand that those things were done all the time, even moreso than they are right now. At least, when we have a position available, we do look at Yukoners first and if those qualifications are not there, then we have to hire the next best person.

**Question re: Farm Credit Corporation**

**Mr. Brewster:** A question for the Minister of Renewable Resources: the government has acknowledged that we must diversify our economy. Agriculture is acknowledged as one industry which looks very promising. Has the Farm Credit Corporation been waiting for a response from the Yukon government regarding an agreement since June?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** My understanding, and I can check on this, is that that agreement has not been signed.

**Mr. Brewster:** When can we expect this agreement to be signed?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** I can tell the hon. member that as soon as we take the initiative to Cabinet and seek approval from Cabinet that we will be signing it, and we will do that in relative haste.

**Mr. Brewster:** Does the minister not feel that agriculture has progressed enough for it to be a separate branch in the Department of Natural Resources in order to bring the industry into a higher profile?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** Philosophically, I have no problem with the issue raised by the member. In terms of the planning process of government, I would suggest the proper place to elevate agriculture to a separate branch status would be in the 1986-87 mains

**Question re: Cyprus Anvil**

**Mr. Phillips:** I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development. I am curious why in yesterday's 43 page Throne Speech Cyprus Anvil received only a half page of coverage. Since the minister has greatly raised Yukoners' expectations over the past few months, and told Yukoners just this morning on CBC that he spent all of his time on this issue, what are the specifics of the deal

his government has struck with Curragh Resources?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** It is quite true that I and many other people in this government have spent a lot of time on this question in the last four months. We are now at a critical stage of the negotiations. There are one or two critical elements that are not yet resolved. I am, however, optimistic about a resolution to these issues. I plan to make a full and complete statement about this issue to the House as soon as possible after the final unresolved questions are settled.

**Mr. Phillips:** Are these unresolved questions related to the territorial government, or your position?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** They are not necessarily directly related to the territorial government. I am privy to the particulars. In an extremely complicated deal like this the member will understand that the whole thing cannot be settled until all the loose ends are tied up. There are some people who have to sign, as it were, on the dotted line, who are not prepared to sign until all those loose ends are tied up. Other parts of the deal are contingent on some of these unresolved elements being settled. As I said on the radio yesterday, every morning when I get up I hope today will be the day and every night when I go to bed I hope tomorrow will be the day. We are not quite there yet. I wish we were.

07

**Question re: Block land transfers**

**Mr. Lang:** I was going to ask a specific question about Cyprus Anvil, but I am obviously not going to get an answer. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Community and Transportation with respect to land, once again.

Have you, as a government, applied to the Government of Canada for block land transfers for the purposes of agriculture or recreation outside the rural communities, yes or no?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** Inasmuch as this question refers specifically to agriculture, I would think that I would be the minister to answer. There have been 280 applications for agriculture received to date. Twenty-eight applications on Yukon land have been, or are close to being, transferred. Of the 262 applications on federal land, seven have been transferred and 69 are in conflict with designated land claims areas. Because of the conflict we cannot proceed with those 69 at this point in time. That leaves 193 applications which are proceeding through the normal process which would eventually take it to the Federal Land Acquisition Committee to be processed.

**Mr. Lang:** Have you applied, as a government, for those 193 applications as outlined?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** The way the process works, as the member knows, as he is the past minister for this responsibility, is that once you have cleared it through the established committee processes it is at that point that you request transfer. So, not all of the 193 have been cleared through the process. They have not been through FLAC for approval with respect to potential conflicts. It is at that point, when we have received endorsement from FLAC, that we ask for a transfer.

**Mr. Lang:** As a reasonable government representing people who need land, has the Minister of Renewable Resources applied political pressure on the Government of Canada to bring to their attention to the individual land needs of people in the Yukon Territory, or are we going to leave it to committees? Or, are we going to be setting up another task force to look at it? Is your government supporting those applications, or are they not? Yes or no?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** I have told the member: seven have been transferred so, obviously, seven have been applied for.

08 **Question re: Cyprus Anvil**

**Mr. McLachlan:** Considering the fact that today is October 2nd and one of the self-imposed deadlines in the acquisition of assets by Curragh from Cyprus Anvil was yesterday, I am wondering if the Government Leader has anything to tell the people of my riding today, or the people of Yukon in general, or if he has anything they could possibly hang their hats in order to plan the next step in their lives?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I am afraid that the news yesterday of the signing between Dome and Curragh was anticipated. It is another step in the process, as I moments ago explained to our friend from

Riverdale North. Unfortunately, many elements of this deal are contingent on others and I have not seen the document signed by Dome and Curragh although I am aware of some of the contents. In fact, it is contingent on a number of things — financial and other issues — which are not yet finally settled. I hope that they would be. I had hoped that they would be today; I hoped they would be yesterday and last week. We understood that October 1st was a very critical deadline. October, we have to understand, is still an absolute deadline. We should have no illusions that if this mine project does not go this October, it is probably gone forever. So we are at a very, very critical stage in negotiations. I wish I could report more good news to the member. All I can convey to him at this point is my optimism and a hope that the thing will be settled very, very quickly.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Can the Government Leader confirm that his office, as late as today, has been in touch with Mr. Crombie's office for a definitive answer on power rates to be charged to Cyprus Anvil, one of the major blocks in negotiations?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** Late yesterday, and again this morning, I was advised to stand by and wait for a call from Mr. Crombie in connection with a number of these matters concerning the reopening of Cyprus Anvil. I sat in my office from 11 o'clock to 12 o'clock waiting for the call. It did not come.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Can the Government Leader confirm that this expected call could also possibly have an answer on the water use licence which is in Mr. Crombie's hands as well? Are we only waiting for hydro?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I cannot confirm nor deny that our subject would be either limited to or include water and hydro.

#### Question re: Local hire

**Mrs. Firth:** I also have a question about local hire, this time for the Minister of Education, in his capacity as the minister responsible for libraries and archives. I have a constituent who works in the Department of Libraries and Archives in audio-visual services, who is presently acting in the capacity of a vacancy who evidently is not qualified for that job. Could the Minister of Education enlighten me as to why this individual is not qualified for the job?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** This clearly is a personnel matter of a very specific nature. I do not think that the practice in this legislature is that we deal with personnel matters of a specific nature. I do not intend to breach that longstanding tradition. I can tell her that if she would like to have a review of the specific matter, of which I know nothing, I will attempt to give her some details that may satisfy her.

**Mrs. Firth:** The government's policy is local hire. This lady has worked in the department for some time, and is evidently not qualified. The job now has been advertised outside, so they are looking for outside individuals to fill this position. I would like to know whether it is going to be the Minister of Education's policy for local hire, or whether it is not going to be his policy for local hire.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** May I be permitted to answer this question because the Public Service Commission is technically my responsibility, and it is the Public Service Commission that does the recruitment of employees.

This government has, as the member opposite alluded to, made a strong commitment to local hire. That commitment is being expressed in a number of ways which are budgetary, in initiatives such as our local materials policy, in training initiative, which was announced by my colleague the Minister of Education yesterday, in research which we are doing on the Public Service Commission into barriers to local hire and local employment. Also, we hope, the implementation of the job evaluation system will remove some of the barriers to employment such as the excessively formal qualifications that are required for some positions, and hopefully give greater emphasis and weight to someone's experience in the territory and on the job.

I cannot say to the member, in this particular case, whether even that initiative would take a person who might not be formally qualified into the position for which they want to be considered. I

will give the undertaking, that as the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission, I will have, along with the Minister of Education, the matter looked at, and if necessary, an interview arranged between either the member and her constituent and the minister involved with the Public Service Commission, or some other satisfactory arrangement in which the member can be privately briefed on the circumstances in this particular case.

**Mrs. Firth:** I gather there was an attempt made at local hire here, where some individual was phoned and asked to apply for the job and evidently did not have the qualifications either. Now, either you are going to enforce a local hire policy or you are not going to enforce it. Perhaps the Government Leader could reassure us that he will be having a local hire policy.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** It is not simply a question of enforcing a local hire policy. We might have many circumstances where, say, we are applying for a brain surgeon, and in fact nobody local applies who is qualified in that position, but a number of people outside apply, but a number of people who might think that they want to be brain surgeons come along and apply. The point is that if you simply say you are going to have a local hire rule, then you are going to have people who may not be, in some positions, qualified to do the jobs.

Now, we recognize that this is a long-standing problem. This problem did not suddenly appear overnight, and I recognize that the previous Government made some initiatives in this area, but none of us has yet satisfied the widespread public demand for greater access of local people to the Public Service in Yukon. I believe that the Public Service of Yukon should be representative of the population it serves. I believe the Public Service of Yukon has a responsibility to serve the people it serves.

I would ask the member to take it seriously. There is a serious problem. She was for a long time a Minister of Education. We have a situation here where either the Department of Education is failing to train people who grow up here sufficiently to get into the Public Service of Yukon, or the Public Service Commission is not providing the training sufficient to get people in, or to train them to be promoted once they are in. Or, there may be some other problems. We have to correctly identify the problem before we can really commit the resources necessary to do something about the problem. We are prepared to do that. We are starting on that work now, and we want to see the fruits of that work very soon.

#### Question re: NCPC working group

**Mr. Phillips:** I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development. Has this Government changed the make-up of the NCPC working group that was established under Mr. Phelps' Conservative Government, in early spring of this year?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I believe the group that the now Leader of the Official Opposition established was headed by someone who is now in the caucus' employ as a researcher. As democratic as I am, I think it would be clearly ludicrous to have their person continue to chair the group. The make-up of the group now: the group is co-chaired by Piers McDonald, the Minister of Education and Community and Transportation Services, and the Minister of Justice. The senior public servant functioning in that group is Moe Lindsay, the Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Mines and Small Business. The consulting firm the previous Government Leader contracted with is still carrying on work on this project.

**Mr. Phillips:** I am pleased to see that the Government Leader is using the consulting group which did all the work on the project as a recommendation from our government. Has Mr. Penikett's new working group, which is now in place and he says has been in place since June, officially met — and I state "officially" — with federal officials and, if so, when, and whom did they meet, and when did they meet?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** There have been a large number of conversations between officials at all levels on this subject incidental to the discussions, in fact, about Cyprus Anvil. Some time ago, I communicated on behalf of the government to Mr. Crombie our willingness to meet and, in fact, start to negotiate a transfer. I have not yet had a reply from Mr. Crombie to that letter.

**Question re: Judges**

**Mr. McLachlan:** My question is for the Minister of Justice. During the minister's time in this House in opposition, he often complained long and bitterly about having an inadequate supply of judges and insisted that the government of the day hire more judges to deal with the backlog of cases. Will he tell this House if it is now the policy of the government to hire additional judges to deal with this backlog?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** The premise is incorrect. I spoke about additional Justices of the Peace. I addressed the question of judges, but not specifically with a view to acquiring more judges. The present complement of the territorial court is three. The authorization to proceed to increase the judicial complement in the territorial court from two to three was made by the previous government and we have continued it. We are not proceeding at this time to increase it to four. The member is well aware that one of the three, the previous chief judge, is on a leave of absence and his vacancy will be accommodated by deputy judges as needed.

**Mr. McLachlan:** I am rather surprised that every time I read *Hansard* I must substitute JP for Judges. I am wondering if the minister can tell the House what the present cost is for bringing in judges to clear the caseload during Judge Stuaart's absence from the Bench?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** It is done entirely within the present budgetary allocation for judges' salaries.

**Mr. McLachlan:** If it is not the intention of this government to hire additional judges, why then has there been space reserved in the new law building for additional judgeships?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** That is an excellent question. I have asked it of the officials who planned it. There is expansion space reserved. There are offices for six judges in the new building. It is probable that some offices will not be finally completed until the need arises to fill them.

**Question re: School committees and Education Council**

**Mrs. Firth:** I have a question for the Minister of Education, arising from the Throne Speech, specific to school committees and the Education Council. In the Throne Speech he announced that they will be revising the power and authority of the school committees and the Education Council. What are the additional powers that are going to be given to the committees?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** The reference in the Throne Speech to the revising of responsibilities of school committees and re-establishing the role of the Education Council refers to an initiative that we would like to take which entails a certain amount of consultation with communities, with existing school committees, and certainly with the Education Council. The consultation I would hope would take place this fall and next spring. Obviously there are some serious issues to address. We would like to address those issues judiciously and with a great deal of understanding. When the process is complete I will report to the House and to the member as to the findings.

**Mrs. Firth:** I understand that a part of the consultation process has already taken place, and that at the past several school committee conferences the question of school boards was raised, which gives them more power in the form of a resolution, and it has been defeated consistently. Also, the Education Council has done a study on the feasibility of school boards. They also recommended in that study that it was financially unfeasible and were not recommending that we go with the school boards. I do not know what more consultation has to take place. What is the minister's policy regarding what additional powers or authorities the school boards or the committees should have?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** The member has chosen to determine that the option that we are looking for is either school boards or the status quo. I am prepared to investigate something that is neither the school boards nor the status quo, which is increased responsibility for school committees. That is something that has not been directly addressed by many school committees and by the Education Council. We are talking about looking at evolving some authority to school committees.

The issue of school boards, per se, as the member knows, does

come up every year, and because there is renewed interest and because the Education Council — the people who attend the meetings and the annual school committee conference — are not sure of the terms of reference of the proposal, they vote it down. We are giving them an opportunity to review in detail, not only school boards, but some devolution of authority to school committees, without changing the status as an advisory committee in any major respect.

**Mrs. Firth:** I would like to get some specific ideas from the minister of what his policy is going to be. I know there is a whole page of authorities that the school committee has and that the Education Council has. Now, what is the minister looking at? What specific authorities? Does he want to give them the authority to hire and fire teachers? Does he want to give them the authority for setting the tax base? What is he looking at? What are his policies?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** The member is asking me to anticipate the results of our review. I cannot do that. It is not humanly possible to anticipate the results of that review. I cannot provide the member with any factual information at this time. We will be reviewing the devolution of the school committees. We will be exploring ways that they themselves feel comfortable with in terms of that devolution. When we have come to some final arrangement, then the member, if she does not know already, will find out the results from me in this Legislature. As a general matter of policy, as determined by the announcement already put forward to the Association of Yukon Communities, we would like to see devolution of control to communities and to outlying bodies. There are a number of ways that you can decentralize this government. One way is to transfer employees. One way is to decentralize and devolve control. We are suggesting that, within the education system, this is one way to decentralize control.

**Question re: Northern preference policy**

**Mr. Lang:** I have a question for the government leader and it has to do with northern preference policy for the purpose of awarding contracts. Is it the new government's position that the policy that was arrived at in 1980 with the definition of a Yukon contractor under the Northern Preference Policy is their policy for the purposes of awarding contracts if a Yukon contractor has to be considered in relationship with bidders from outside?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** As the member well knows, this is not specifically within my departmental responsibility, and if he wishes to explore the issue in great detail, I would invite him to pursue it with the Minister of Government Services. However, we have had occasion recently to look at the question of northern preference and the definition of local contractors in connection with the writing of a new contracts directive, which I believe was circulated and in wide consultation before we instituted it.

I think, at that time, two things happened: one, we received a very strong representation from the Northwest Territories, who had recently tightened up their definition of a northern contract considerably by imposing some quite strict rules — I think fifty percent local ownership, et cetera, et cetera, and establishing a registry in Yellowknife of local contractors so there could be no doubt you knew whether you were local before you ever bid — and in fact suggested to us, since their northern preference policy includes Yukon contractors — and they would, in fact, hope that we would continue to do likewise — that we might, in fact, want to take a look at our definitions. I believe we may be doing that now and I would invite the member to pursue the particular question with the Minister of Government Services.

**Mr. Lang:** To the Minister of Government Services, then: in view of the review that is going on and in view of the delicate nature of the awarding of contracts, is it the principle and the policy of the new government that, if a contractor meets the guidelines as a Yukon contractor and is qualified to do a job that he or she had bid on, if they are the lowest bidder will they get the job?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** Generally, the lowest bidder will get the job and when the lowest bidder is a local contractor then it is that much more assured that they will get the job. I am at a loss to really understand the point of the question, but I can explain generally that the policy of the previous government is being followed now as a

matter of policy. The policy is under review and when the review is completed the proper announcements will be made. Generally speaking, what we are looking at is maximizing local employment, that is, it sometimes occurs that a non-local company is using local labour to a greater degree than locally-owned companies habitually do. In those cases, it is our preference to maximize local employment, and that is one of the major reasons why the policy is under review at the present time.

<sup>15</sup> **Question re: Third party rental contracts**  
**Mr. Lang:** I have a question for the Minister of Highways. If I correctly understood the principle of equal opportunity that was just stated, if a contractor is a Yukon contractor, by definition, and is qualified, he will get the job, and that is the principle that the other side is following. I concur with that. I want to ensure that that principle is also being followed in the third party rental contracts; therefore I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communication. Is that same policy being followed for the purpose of third party rental?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I do not know specifically what the member is talking about in terms of a third party rental. Perhaps he can give me notice and I will answer him tomorrow.

**Speaker:** The time for Question Period has now elapsed. We will now proceed with Orders of the Day.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Speaker:** Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

#### Motion No. 1

**Ms Kassi:** I move that the following address be presented to the Commissioner of the Yukon:

May it please the Commissioner:

We, the Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, beg leave to offer our humble thanks for the gracious speech which you have addressed to the House.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Member for Old Crow that the following address be presented to the Commissioner of Yukon:

May it please the Commissioner:

We, the Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, beg leave to offer our humble thanks for the gracious speech which you have addressed to the House.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY TO SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

**Ms Kassi:** Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, I am very honoured to be speaking today in reply to the Speech from the Throne. This is my maiden speech in this House of Assembly, having been first elected as a member on the 13th of May to represent the Vun Tut Kutchin of Old Crow. I am very grateful to be chosen and trusted and supported as a leader of our people.

At this time it is very important for me to give a small message to my people in Old Crow in our native tongue.

Mashi-Cho chil luk kut. I stated that I will talk to you today, talk on your behalf today for the first time. I ask you for your full support. Thanking you, my people.

<sup>16</sup> We will all work very hard together in the coming days, weeks and years to accomplish the goals we have set for ourselves as a people and as a community. The people whom I take a lot of pride in representing here are rich in many respects.

Cultural and traditional ties still exist. We all work together at the struggle for survival. The respect we have for each other, the land, the animals, our environment, is very real and visible to date. Yet, we are faced with many fears and disruptions in trying to maintain all of these important values. We fear fast development, both within and surrounding our village. We fear losing our language, which is the root of our culture. We have problems caused by having to choose the post-industrial or the modern way of life, yet all the while we struggle to become more self-sufficient.

The people of Old Crow feel that we can accomplish self-sufficiency without throwing away the good things of modern society. The key to success is more control of these outside influences. Our people must have control over what happens in our community, and by accenting and working hard on the positive and strengthening aspects of our society in Old Crow we can become strong enough to withstand most pressures of the outside world. We can benefit a great many ways by working together to achieve the following: developing strength in our culture; economically viable and controlled tourism; more education programs, including higher grade levels in our school; increased basic adult education for those who need more skills, both basic and advanced; to ensure the comfort of our elders; better recreation facilities to help combat our social problems; better wildlife management with more input by the Old Crow people, especially in dealing with the Porcupine caribou herd, on which we rely so much as a source of food.

I am happy to hear that the Porcupine caribou herd agreement is very close to signing. On behalf of the people of Old Crow, I would like to take this opportunity to invite the signatories to the proposed agreement for it to be signed in my village; a strong economic base for our people through blending of new ways and old, blending traditional and modern economies; control of our justice system; support in dealing with our health and social problems and more adequate housing.

In August, with the help of our government, Old Crow made a major planning event, an event that was in some ways quite unique. We met at our traditional meeting place of Klo-Kut for several days and together, as children, as elders and as adults, we took a good hard look at our community and what we want to do in Old Crow to make things better. When it ended, people certainly felt good about what we had accomplished as a community.

<sup>17</sup> We made a long list of priorities we want to accomplish for our people. My colleagues, the Members of Cabinet, and especially the Hon. Member for Mayo, the Minister of Community and Transportation Services, know what I am talking about when I say the list is a long one. Our Government Leader also knows how much needs to be done in Old Crow. He heard a lot of the concerns brought up when he visited us on September 10th, and I thank him for his help and responses so far.

I have to thank the Minister of Community and Transportation Services for being so helpful in trying to meet the requests of Old Crow. He knows that I am around to remind him of the needs of my people and I know that they want to help. However, I do realize that some of these things do take time.

One thing our community has been asking for for some time now is a road to Old Crow Mountain. I am not talking about a big road or a long one. It will be a road with special meaning. It will be a road to a special place. The Elders in my village want to establish a spiritual camp on Old Crow Mountain. Because of the high food costs and fuel costs, and the re-routing of the migration of the caribou herd, we need that mountain and we need the road to it for easier access for our Elders. We already have a path to the mountain but we need it to be widened.

This camp would be a place for hunting caribou but also for cultural development. A place where Elders can teach the younger people more of the old ways. It will be a place where the use of alcohol and drugs is not allowed, and will be controlled by the community. There is a rebirth of spiritual values in our community and I am going to help that along as much as I can. One great hope our community has for the future, for our children as well as ourselves, is the settlement of land claims. Our people have lived on the land at or near Old Crow for thousands and thousands of years. We are a people who are very, very proud of our heritage. It is something we are going to work very, very hard together to protect. Over the past several years, I have watched the process of negotiations and of constitutional conferences on aboriginal rights. I have seen how proud the people are that the rights of the Yukon's aboriginal people will be entrenched in the land claims settlement and very happy to see such a unified stand taken by the Yukon Indian people. The settling of land claims for the people of Old Crow and for all Yukoners is very important at this time. What we must do is acknowledge the partnership that will take place with our

people here in the Yukon. All of the people of the Yukon must join together and work together to make this place a better community for all of us. There is enough to go around. We can all share the wealth of this great land, but we must not abuse what has been given to us. We must be aware of the effects of our actions to date. We must be able to know where we are going.

<sup>18</sup> We must use what we have been given with great care. I will turn now to an equally important topic that is affecting my people today. I am talking about the world-wide anti-fur movement. My people have been raised in a way that treats the land and the animals with respect, not cruelty. We have our unique ways of conserving our animals and their habitat. Yet today, in countries far away from Old Crow, many people are mobilizing to make sure nobody will buy furs. These people are against trapping, and that hurts our people in Old Crow, and also many other trappers all over the Yukon and all over Canada and, for that matter, in many other parts of the world.

These people who are against trapping say it is so cruel, but they should look at themselves. What they are doing to my people is cruel. This is a serious issue, because our prices are dropping already. It is my hope that these anti-trapping people would come to my village so that we can talk and come to an understanding. We go trapping because it is the traditional activity, and trapping is one of the few sources of cash income for my people. There are very few jobs in Old Crow, so most people have to go out trapping. There is no choice. These people who are opposed to trapping have no idea of what it is like to live in the north, let alone what it is like to go out trapping and to rely on trapping for survival. They think that what they are doing is good, but I believe that what they are doing is wrong.

I want this government to work closely with other governments and trappers' groups to help fight the propaganda war, and convince these people they are on the wrong course. I think the federal government should get more active on this issue, too. We heard on the radio the other day that they have decided against participation on behalf of Canadian trappers. I think this is a serious mistake. If we do not act now, it will be too late and there will be no trapping left. We will not be able to sell our furs to anyone for any price.

I raised this issue and the issue of aboriginal rights with the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Yukon have done pretty well on this issue. They believe, like our people, wise harvesting is consistent with the Creator's will. These are good steps, but native people and trappers need more support from many churches and in many parts of the world.

Old Crow is a tiny community, when you look at how big the world is. For many people in my village the world is not that big. It is only as big as Old Crow, maybe even Crow Flats. We are affected by world-wide events, and do not have the ability to defend ourselves from things that happen in places that far away.

<sup>19</sup> That is when my people look to governments such as this for assistance and protection.

This is a new government, a government that has acted positively so far on many issues that were raised by my people, and I am very, very proud to be a part of this government. The people of Old Crow look forward to continuing and improving this relationship and I look forward to helping my people and this government work together to solve the problems that affect us, because we will all benefit in the end.

Kwak qua thut Chik no wha ue leh.

Mr. Speaker, Goon-nahl-cheesh.

*(Applause)*

**Mr. Webster:** Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, it is indeed an honour for me to rise in this House as the MLA for Klondike to deliver my maiden speech. I want to begin by saying thank-you to the electors of Klondike for your support and to those individuals who worked on my behalf. I will do my best to be worthy of your trust and confidence as I fulfill my only campaign promise: to represent the interests and concerns of all people of the Klondike on a fulltime, permanent basis.

The electoral district of Klondike is a large one, stretching from its southern limit at Kirkman Creek and Moose Creek Lodge around

the constituency of Old Crow to its northern boundary of Herschel Island in the Beaufort Sea, some 30,000 square miles. An examination of the riding reveals that it is fairly representative of Yukon society. Its small population of 1,500, of which approximately twenty-five percent are of aboriginal descent, consists of an equal number of long time residents and newcomers scattered throughout, living as they choose in town, in small community residential subdivisions, on farms, along the Yukon River, or simply on a creek in the bush. They work at almost every occupation engaged in by Yukoners — trapping, fishing, logging and construction, to name a few — and naturally all those occupations are related to Yukon's three largest contributors to our economy: mining, tourism and government, which are all well represented in the Klondike.

I have been involved in each of these areas, first as a labourer on YTG's road crews, then in placer mining operations, and finally in the field of tourism as river guide and last year as coordinator of the World Gold Panning Championships. Such employment has provided me with the opportunity to explore a great deal of the Klondike constituency and to meet many of its residents. For this, I feel extremely fortunate, as it has enabled me, over the years, to develop a knowledge of the riding and of its people. In addition to the famous gold rush of '98, it is the wealth of this land and its people for which the Klondike is known around the world. It is the reason I was first attracted to the area and, having been welcomed and accepted so readily, it is where I and my family chose to live and call home.

With such a wealth of land and people, naturally I am most optimistic for its future. There is reason for optimism in the goldfields, as there is a general feeling that this currently depressed industry has seen its worst and an upward swing is inevitable. Naturally, our flourishing tourism industry has enormous potential for growth with the addition of new attractions and service facilities and will continue to increase its contribution to the Yukon economy.

Another favourable sign is the greater role renewable resources is playing in our local economy.

<sup>20</sup> For example, the Han Fishery continues to improve its production, recently reaching a limit in its ability to process this year's chum salmon run. As work proceeds on a dike to significantly reduce the threat of flood to Dawson City, while maintaining the town's historic character, there will be more demand for our local lumber products.

The interest in agriculture is evident with an increase in volume and variety of locally grown vegetables appearing on our grocery shelves, and from the large number of applications of lands for agricultural pursuits. Thus, it was most welcome news in yesterday's Throne Speech, of an agreement of all parties involved in Yukon Indian Land Claims to begin exploring arrangements for the transfer of land to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries alike for these and other purposes.

Those fortunate enough to travel to Dawson City on a regular basis over the past few years, cannot help but notice the improvements to the community. Various agencies and levels of Government, be it Parks Canada, the City of Dawson, the Department of Community Services, the Dawson Indian Band, and the private sector have made substantial contributions. This same optimism is reflected in the recent housing boom, and the pride residents are taking to improve the appearance of their properties.

The foregoing is not to suggest, however, that all is well in the Klondike, as we have more than our fair share of problems. For example, we are all aware of those affecting the Bear Creek subdivision. I am pleased with the efforts of our Department of Community Services to alleviate the concerns of Bear Creek residents, although in the opinion of this newly elected member, progress is slow.

In Dawson City, itself, many improvements are needed. Our nursing station should be upgraded to the same Cottage Hospital status already taken for granted by less populated Yukon communities. Our firehall is a condemned building. Perhaps the old section of the Robert Service School should also be declared so. Our Territorial Government Administration Building, more commonly



referred to as the Liquor Store, is not only an eyesore but boasts as many structural defects as it has holes in its roof. The fact of the matter is that we must fully rehabilitate our original Territorial Administration Building, not only for the sake of restoring Yukon's first seat of government, which is ample reason itself, or for the preservation, proper interpretation and display of Yukon's heritage by the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society, but also for the availability of permanent office facilities for various departments of this Yukon government.

Speaking of the Government of Yukon, I recall the Member for Tatchun presenting an argument for a decentralized government in his maiden speech. I would like to compliment him for his comments as he expressed very well my feelings on the subject. This government must make a careful examination of the needs of each and every rural community and make some hard decisions as to relocating positions in our Civil Service. For example, I cannot understand why a rural Superintendent of Education does not live in a rural riding, and will the northern Regional Officer of Renewable Resources operate from Whitehorse, now that the employee in this position has been transferred from Dawson City without a replacement? Why doesn't Dawson City, with all its economic growth, and potential for growth, have its own Government of Yukon employee responsible for economic development, tourism marketing and promotion? It is neither necessary nor desirable for the vast majority of government employees to be located in Whitehorse.

<sup>21</sup> The condition of our roads is a subject which rivals the weather as a standard opener of conversations among local residents. Unlike the weather, however, something can be done to improve roads. We look forward to the day we can expand our horizons beyond dust control measures and continuously filling potholes so that we, too, may enjoy a safe and smooth ride on a BST surface. Hopefully, this will occur once remedial work on our water and sewer system has been completed, and extensions to open new areas for development have been constructed.

There are some problems with our recreation facilities. For example, our pool is not enclosed, and therefore is enjoyed for only three months of the year. On the other hand, our community centre, Centennial Hall, which was rehabilitated and expanded a few years ago with financial assistance provided by a CYTA agreement and some \$700,000 by the Klondike Visitors Association, closes for three months in winter. I find it difficult to accept the fact that we have a million dollar structure we cannot afford to operate for the year-round enjoyment and benefit of all residents of the Klondike valley. This must change.

This lack of opportunity for some recreational activity is just one of several reasons why more Klondikers consider leaving for the winter. However, reasons of greater significance accounting for this disturbing trend are the high cost of living and the lack of jobs. The former problem can largely be attributed to high energy costs. Whatever can be done to reduce energy costs must be done. I am pleased the fuel tax exemption applied to home heating oil, propane and gas for off-road vehicles will become a permanent measure. This is the first step in the right direction.

Further, we must support the development of the Klondike North Fork hydro project to bring about lower costs for electricity. The construction of roads to old burn areas close to Dawson are needed to end our reliance on transporting wood for heating purposes from the Pelly area at a cost to the consumer of \$100 a cord, minimum.

On the subject of jobs, this new government has repeatedly stated that improving Yukon's economy and creating employment are its top priorities and has responded accordingly with the announcement of many new initiatives in the Throne Speech. I am confident that countless hours consumed by negotiations to reopen the Cyprus Anvil Mine and to produce capital works budgets will be rewarded with the creation of employment opportunities for all Yukoners.

In conclusion, although many of Klondike's problems may not be common to those of the entire Yukon, all share this one characteristic: each has a solution. It is the responsibility of all members of this House to make the compromises necessary to find such solutions. We need the knowledge and experience of all members of all political parties to address the many concerns and to pass the legislation required to improve the social and economic

wellbeing of our society. It is only with such a will to cooperate and contribute that the Yukon can realize the benefits of its unlimited potential for growth and prosperity. I urge all members to commit this will, for when I look back years from now at our term of office, I would like to take satisfaction in knowing that this twenty-sixth Legislature made significant progress, and in doing so earned the respect of those we represent, all people of the Yukon.

*Applause*

<sup>22</sup> **Mr. Phelps:** I have already said publicly that I am appalled by the Speech from the Throne. Upon reflection, I think it would be more accurate to say that I am saddened by it — saddened because the people of Yukon deserve more. The Throne Speech confirms that the members opposite are unable to lead and have no new policies. I am saddened because, as a government, we have wasted five months.

Since the election there have been no new initiatives to speak of, no new direction. This government has really done nothing so far but to administer our previous initiatives. Many Yukoners are unemployed. Yukoners are forced to leave the Yukon, their homeland, in search of jobs. This government offers no new hope, no new policies, no new direction.

I am saddened by what I can only term as the deceitful approach this government is taking, form rather than substance, smoke and mirrors rather than new policy. In this regard, I want to examine two things: first, the Speech from the Throne which goes on for 42 pages and which could have been written completely in three or four; and secondly, the Hon. Government Leader's remarks about placing a heavy agenda before us — one that may take until Christmas. What a laugh. We are here to work; we are here to offer a constructive opposition. Give us some work. Give us some meat. Give us some new policies. Give us some new direction. Do not simply throw back at us initiatives that we initiated and, presumably, the budget that was drawn a long time ago now by Mr. Pearson.

Let us start, then, with the Speech from the Throne and examine it for substance. I will do this as quickly as I can because I find the entire speech to be a facade, and a painful one at that.

The first five pages of this document are full of platitudes and little else. Oh, I note that it speaks of being an open government. That, it is not. Take land claims. The window that we struggled, and I personally struggled, to open to the Yukon media and the Yukon population as a whole, has been slammed shut.

<sup>23</sup> This government is obsessed with secrecy when it comes to land claims. It has failed, thus far, to tell the people where it stands on key land claims issues. That is the first five pages. Let us move to page six.

Cyprus Anvil is the heading, the re-opening of the Cyprus Anvil Mine. The government says it has been working tirelessly towards the re-opening of that mine. Nonsense. Nonsense, because I am sure that virtually each and every issue was addressed by the previous administration and that we had put virtually everything in place that this government is responsible for. That happened last spring. All this government really had to do is finish off some things, some minor things, and then attempt to claim the credit for it all.

Year-round operation of the Skagway Road: my government had reached an agreement-in-principle with Alaska in regard to that item back in April. Negotiations, again, were largely complete prior to the election. Sure, the government has done a little work. We expect something from them after five months.

Page seven, let us move on, mining initiatives. I signed the agreement they refer to time and time again in this portion of the speech back in May. I initiated the fuel tax exemption. That was already on the books and already being worked on by the department. That was initiated well before the election.

Page eight, Mount Skukum Mine development. The government, as a filler, because they have not much to report to us, is trying to take credit for that. Let me tell you, as you must know, we were the ones who put the contract out for the roadwork. That was done before you people came along. Page nine, economic diversification. Again: the Economic Development Agreements. We signed those in

May. Yukon Development Strategy: almost five months after the election, this government is going to initiate the development of the strategy. Is that not great? They had no strategy when they were in opposition, they had no strategy when they were elected, and now we are going to start after five months of critical economic times in Yukon.

Tourism: no substance. Again, they talk about the Economic Development Agreement, which we signed in May, after negotiations with the Hon. Tom McMillan. Page 13, Renewable Resource Development. No substance here, nothing new. They mention again the Economic Development Agreement, which offered \$4.2 million. Again, we signed that before the election.

Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement: this was negotiated to the stage in which there were only three outstanding issues. I am very interested in ascertaining how those last three issues of this large agreement were dealt with.

Agricultural Development, nothing new here. Again, they rely upon an attempt to take some credit for the Economic Development Agreement, which was signed in early May. Energy conservation: no substance here. The Savings Energy Action Loan program: they are going to raise the ceiling. We have no problem with that. Good. Something new.

Finally, on page 19, something interesting, something referred to as an energy development fund. We supported the development of indigenous sources of energy. For example, we were working with the logging industry toward establishing alternate heating that would utilize forest by-products. The only new thing here is the statement of intent and the identifying of some monies.

Internal Energy Management Program: again, a motherhood issue. We started the process, we are pleased to see it continue. The NCPC transfer, page 21: is the NDP government trying to claim credit for setting up a committee in June? We started the process way back in late March. I consulted with the ministers. We had got the whole thing started and I announced it in a speech to the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce in April. I recall the Government Leader being rather upset by the fact that the consulting contract was in existence after the election.

Yukon Development Corporation: this has been a major platform of Conservative governments for years. We initiated the establishment of a corporation as part of the NCPC study in April.

Yukon Business Development Office: I created a separate Department of Mines and Small Business early in my mandate, and it was to provide a one-stop service for small business.

Page 24, local hire, local materials: nothing new here — motherhood statements of intent.

Fuel tax exemption: a permanent one. That was a policy I announced during the leadership campaign, back in January. I said it before, it is nothing new. It was on the books and you know it, and your department had the work. We had not completed it, that is right.

What we would like is to hear some new ideas from your side. That is really what I am saying. We are at page 25, and so far it is fluff. Need I go on to say who is responsible for implementing the construction of Yukon College, for example, or who was in the office when the JES survey was being conducted, and so on, and so on, and so on.

**Som Hon. Member:** You shelved it.

**Mr. Phelps:** No we did not shelve it. We did not.

The second thing I want to examine are the statements of the Government Leader to the effect that this will be a heavy session. Again, I am sad to say that that is nonsense. There is very little for us to do. Most everything in the Throne Speech was ours.

The O&M budget is Mr. Pearson's. I think that we will finish off examining the meager offering of the NDP very quickly.

We are here to work. We are willing to work Monday nights and Wednesday nights. We are willing to work hard. We are willing to provide Yukon with effective opposition and constructive opposition. To do that, we require something to deal with — something new, some policies, some direction, some leadership, some substance.

I am honestly concerned that Yukon has lost five months. This is a do-nothing government; it is a caretaker government. "We are

glad to see you over there, sort of keeping our seats warm" while they are doing nothing new and nothing socialistic. That is good for Yukon. It is a good thing you are in a minority position. We will let you stay there until we get back to power, as long as you do not do anything too radical, ladies and gentlemen. In the meantime, however, without leadership, without new policies, without new initiatives, Yukon itself is on hold.

(Applause)

**Mr. Coles:** I am honoured to have the opportunity to respond to the Speech from the Throne, which has at least given us a sense of the direction that this government intends to take. Although most of the speech was vague and announced many programs or new policies that have already been announced, it has given us the basic approach that this government will be taking while carrying out their duties.

I am sure everyone will agree that the first Throne Speech by the new government was one of the shortest ever heard in this House. Over the summer, I heard time and time again, "I told you so. They are no different than the last ones. The NDP will promise anything because they never really expected to be the government." I must admit that I, too, share some of these doubts and, although I am pleased with some of the initiatives that have been taken, this new government is a long way from fulfilling its past campaign promises.

Being new to the House and to this job, I spent much of this summer asking Yukoners what they thought of our political process. It was truly an eye-opener. Yukoners are concerned. Most talk freely about their needs but nearly all added that they doubted the ability or willingness of any government to accomplish their promises.

We must do something now to change that negative image that so many people have towards the legislative bodies in this country. If we fail to do this, our open and democratic system will undoubtedly, and rightly so, be challenged by the constituency it represents. Most alarming were the comments regarding what would happen after the election. "They are like the last bunch. They promise you anything to get elected but only before the next election will we hear these promises again or see anything of substance."

One person described politics to me as two-dimensional — or, as he said, the "two-D syndrome" — deception and duplicity. When not in power, one party accuses the other of patronage and excessive spending. Winning their point, or the election, they repeat the abuse that they accused others of. And then we ask ourselves why the public is so cynical.

In opening session last summer, we heard the former Government Leader accuse the new government of secrecy, inconsistency, and arrogance. Those were probably the most amusing remarks that I have heard in this House to date.

In the last seven years we had what started out to be a fairly good government, in a party system which was untested in our territory, and then evolved into one of the most arrogant, inconsistent and self-serving governments in this country. I hope for all of our sakes that the new government, and all of us combined — and that includes you — have learned something from the obvious mistakes made during that period.

Another comment often heard was, "Have we really had a change?" If the new government appears to do anything right, the old government claims a credit, and we just heard all about that. If the new government does something wrong, it blames it on the previous government; not unlike what has been happening in Ottawa for the last year. But, further into its mandate, the new government will have to accept responsibility for all its actions.

When the federal budget was released, we found the former Government Leader saying it was fair, and the new Government Leader saying nothing at all. Perhaps, they thought it was fair; but, to the poor, the senior citizens, and the children in this country the fairness was not apparent. It seems the more unfortunate members of our society are once again taking up the burdens, while the wealthy and more fortunate are being catered to. This is the way of the new federal government. It certainly does not need to be the way we operate.

Sometimes, humour disguises the true insights as to how others may view us. One person told me that he would believe nothing the government told him, until they officially denied it. We may be unable to change the thinking of the government in Ottawa, but here in the Yukon, we can avoid many of the problems that have been evident with some governments in our country. Our youth is our greatest asset, and I believe that our habits are not yet embedded; at least, I certainly hope they are not. There should always be room for change and improvement in our systems.

Consider the thoughts and spoken words we say when with family or friends, in the security of our own homes, or when we are taking time out from our political duties. Even though we may not acknowledge our fears and doubts regarding the status quo in the open, we are nonetheless very concerned. Being well aware that something is wrong with our present system, we must always continue to think of ways in which we may be able to improve the lives of all fellow Yukoners. We must always try to remain near the middle of the political spectrum, and keep moving forward.

I would like now to turn to some of the initiatives that we would like to see as government priorities. We do not believe this government has put a true effort into solving the plight of Yukon government casual employees. We are urging the Government Leader to take swift and serious action towards finding a solution to the unacceptable situation that these people find themselves in each year.

Liberals will be putting forth an in-depth motion calling for a completely autonomous Yukon College with its own board of governors and ample community and rural representation. The educational system in our territory, is much too important for the politicians alone to deal with. Education requires a continuity of the public as a whole. We would like to see courses offered which meet the needs of Yukoners. We would like to see education linked to economic development and the realities of the employment opportunities in our territory.

<sup>27</sup> Tourism training for high school students is imperative if we are to stop importing workers and exporting our own.

We would like to see more native teachers in our system which would increase the cultural advantage we are now lacking for Indian students and would provide a cross-cultural experience for non-native students. We also have some serious questions about the practices used when hiring teachers from outside the Yukon, and the Minister of Education will be hearing from us in regard to that issue.

On Government Services: having some of our furniture requirements made here in the Yukon, using local materials and being constructed by local craftsmen, is a step in the right direction. I would like to commend the government, but we will not be satisfied until these local initiatives become a major part of our economy. We would like to see an all-out effort by the government and private sector in promoting the use of local materials and talent.

A few years ago, the Yukon had a very successful marketing program called "Heart of Gold". We would like to see a similar promotion for local hire and local material purchase. Government must take a lead and do everything possible to encourage Yukoners to participate in this program. We strongly urge the minister of this department to find a way to enhance the program. It is probably the most worthwhile and economically beneficial project this government can contribute to the Yukon at this time. If it is promoted and supported by everyone in this House, it will be a success.

Community and Transportation Services should finally give our rural areas something to cheer about. They need more control and authority over their own affairs. They are tired of being dictated to. Give them more control over financial resources and a chance to develop their own programs. The minister's announcement of block funding for municipalities is another step in the right direction, along with the fifty thousand dollars allocated to the Association of Yukon Communities so that it may hire an executive director. The AYC works hard on behalf of all municipalities in the territory, with the exception of one, and deserves all the support and encouragement that this government can give it.

The housing situation in many of the smaller communities is almost non-existent when it comes to senior citizens, single parents,

single people and the handicapped. This government must give immediate attention to this continuing and unacceptable problem.

In Justice, we would like to see much more emphasis on the victims of crime and the protection of society. The *Young Offenders Act* appears to be frustrating and harming the very people it is supposed to serve. The emphasis in our justice system serves to protect everyone but the victim. We would also like to see this government look at the possibility of helping to establish tribal justice councils and provide encouragement to the local committees who have also been helping with the young offenders. We also believe that more interaction between the Departments of Justice and Human Resources would create a better understanding of these problems in both departments. This coordination is especially important when dealing with the young offenders.

We were very disappointed to discover that, as of yet, this government has taken no action towards the phasing out of medicare premiums. We consider this to be a top priority item and we would ask the minister to give this House, at the very least, a time schedule for the implementation and completion of this initiative.

Another serious concern we have with Human Resources is the *Day Care Act* and assistance to the institutions which come under it. Back in 1981, one minister said, "Let them sink or swim, like anyone else in business." But we do not share this view. Our children must be top priority, and we will be tabling a major motion in support of our children and the institutions that serve them.

<sup>28</sup> I would like to say, as I have said in the past, that we want this government to act on some form of decentralization through our communities. All we have to do to convince ourselves that decentralization will be a great benefit to the smaller communities is to look at what our neighbours in the Northwest Territories are doing.

The government decentralization has turned what at one time were almost ghost towns into thriving and economically stable communities. It is the hope of the Liberal caucus and the rural population of Yukon that the new government begins the decentralization process to ensure the stability and existence of our smaller communities, which are so very important to the intricate beadwork of this territory.

Decentralization of government services is the only hope left for some of our communities, which have become stagnant over the recession period and in some cases are still shrinking because the economic base does not exist. These folks whom I am speaking about have a tremendous bond with their communities and do not wish to live elsewhere. Many are forced to move on to find more stable employment opportunities, or end up leaving their families for many months each year to earn a decent living. These people are counting on us to bring some sense of stability into their communities.

To quote our Commissioner who recalled an old proverb at the Governor General's dinner the other night, "do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there is not path and leave a trail". Liberals believe in blazing new trails and I am encouraged to see that some members of this government are using this approach. If the government continues to cut new trails in the right direction, it will have our support. As new members of the House, the Liberals will remain a constructive opposition. We believe that mature criticism does not stop movement, it creates progress. We will continue to blaze our own trails, some that this government may wish to follow as well as some they may not.

In closing, the issues of priorities I have mentioned are of great importance to all Yukoners. I hope we can deal with them as quickly and wisely as possible.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I am very pleased today to have the opportunity to speak to the Throne Speech, not only as the Minister of Health and Human Resources but as the representative of the residents of Whitehorse North Centre. I would like to take a moment to thank my constituents for re-electing me. The support and confidence in me is heartening and you can be ensured that I will continue to serve them to the best of my ability. Although my

responsibilities as minister are very time consuming, I continue to be available to discuss the constituency concerns.

The Speech from the Throne focussed on aggregates, on the economy or sectors of it, on groups or on the agencies of government. As Minister of Health and Human Resources, I wish to focus on those areas that bear directly on the individual Yukoners and the policies and programs of our health and human resources sectors. In focussing on these sectors I am fully aware that Yukoners are placing a high value on efficiency in the use of scarce resources and want to be assured that we are getting value for our money. In this way, health and human resource policies and programs are no different from others. On the other hand, my discussions with the very broad spectrum of Yukoners suggest that we also bring to the health and human resources field a broad set of values which must be brought to bear in the development and operation of policies and programs in this field.

Yukoners value equity, security, opportunity and sharing, and our health and social programs must be tailored to reflect these values and yet achieve an appropriate degree on economic efficiency. It is my intention as minister to achieve the best possible combination of equity, security, opportunity and sharing, coupled with economic efficiency.

It must be to contribute to the wellbeing of each and every Yukoner in this increasingly competitive world. With respect to equity, I need only re-state that tenet contained in the Throne Speech: my department will develop policies and programs that are rooted in gender, racial and economic equality. Without such a commitment to equality, we would be unable to support the aspirations of Yukoners. It is my intention to consult with Yukoners to determine their aspirations and to tailor policies and programs to reflect those hopes. Yukoners, particularly the elderly, the infirm and the handicapped, value security. We all require some assurance that in the face of family breakdown, illness or loss of employment, we receive some protection. I would like to assure all Yukoners that my department will continue to ensure that protection is afforded to those in need. We may debate the extent of the protection, but it is unquestionable that it will be provided. I am currently reviewing many of our so-called security-net programs and anticipate being in a position to report my findings and recommendations to the House at a future session.

To most Yukoners, opportunity means labour-force attachment. It represents the route to upward mobility and is a basic ingredient of one's self identity. Today, there are many employable Yukoners who find themselves in a situation of being in receipt of government protection, that is they are recipients of social assistance. As minister responsible for the social assistance program, I am working to structure our human resource program in such a way as to help find opportunities to assist clients in taking advantage of these opportunities and to gain some economic headway when the opportunity is seized. In addition to the enhancement of the Yukon opportunity plan, my officers are working diligently with federal officials and with those of our Department of Education to identify and provide additional employment opportunities for the eighty-five percent of our social assistance recipients who are employable. I will be happy to report progress on this subject during the course of this session.

Sharing is a basic Yukon characteristic. The miner on the creeks does not lock his cabin because he believed it was a responsibility to help those who, through the hand of fate or through some disability, could not provide fully for himself. Eighty years later, sharing is an important aspect of our society. As the minister responsible for social programs, I will reflect the approach of our early miners and will ensure that social programs will be tailored so that those in our society who, through no fault of their own, have profited less fully from the many opportunities available in our economy, will at least receive some of those rewards.

As I assess our current policies and programs over the next few months in consultation with all Yukoners, we will keep in mind both the goals we have set for ourselves and the potential of using a variety of means to achieve these goals. We will keep in mind that the policies and programs must best fit our concept of the equity. We must encourage individuals to grasp opportunities and be

delivered in the most efficient fashion. We will seek to find the best possible balance amongst many goals. Thank you.

(Applause)

**Mr. Brewster:** I am pleased to be able to rise in response to the Speech from the Throne. In July, when I last had such an opportunity, I advised the government to pull up their socks and do some work. I am very disappointed to see their socks still resting around their ankles. I have heard a lot of talk and seen a lot of touring around the Yukon, especially in my riding, but I have not seen much action.

Yesterday's Throne Speech was a prime example. Have you ever had the experience of having listened to a speech and thinking that you heard it all before? Well, that happened to me yesterday. It all sounded familiar, because it was familiar. With a few exceptions, it was our initiatives you were talking about. You expanded some of our programs and were fairly generous with the money we negotiated for you.

I am pleased to see you carrying on with our programs and legislative incentives, but I am beginning to wonder when you are going to develop your own policies. I noticed, too, that whenever you are going to try something on your own you need a task force or a committee to help you do it. Perhaps that tendency is understandable in a new and inexperienced government, but you claimed prior to the election about being a government in waiting. Four and a half months later we are still waiting.

Consultation is commendable, providing you actually do something with all the advice you are getting from people and actually producing something. I noticed that throughout your speech you keep referring to a rural Yukon as if it was something you just discovered. As a member from a rural riding, I am flattered by all the attention we are getting, but we still want to see some results.

Most of all, we want to see the government keep its word. I refer here specifically to the school bus situation in Burwash. The Kluane Tribal Council was told that they would be able to bid on the school bus contract to bus their children to Destruction Bay. I know the Minister of Education has apologized for not giving the band a chance in this instance. A similar situation occurred with the school dormitory in Haines Junction. Officials of the Department of Education promised that the dorm would be ready for school opening when, in fact, they just started remodelling two days before school started. I am pleased, however, that the same minister, in his capacity as Minister of Community and Transportation Services, has recognized Burwash and is cooperating with the band on other local matters.

I also have a bone to pick with the Minister of Justice with regard to policing in the Burwash area. Although we have had meetings with the RCMP and the minister, it is apparent that the people in the area are very dissatisfied with the present policing policy. I must admit that this is a peculiar situation, especially in the Yukon, where we probably have more police per person than anywhere in Canada. Just why we have four police officers concentrated in Haines Junction and then none for 190 miles is very strange. The policy that the police cannot be stationed alone in an area must be a rule made up by Ottawa bureaucrats who do not understand the situation here.

I might suggest that if this is not settled to the satisfaction of the Burwash people, we will be facing a fact of life of having two police forces in Yukon. No one can tell me that these people's concerns are not justified.

I have heard a lot in the Throne Speech about local hire, but once again, you are not practicing what you preach. I am very concerned about the number of unemployed among the residents of Kluane, particularly in the two bands, yet the Minister of Justice is considering using inmates from the Correctional School at Haines Junction to apparently clear trails for the parks and do other jobs in the community. The money required just to move and maintain these inmates in the area would go a long way in solving our unemployment problem.

There are young people out there in their late twenties, who have never been able to get a job, and have to live on welfare. I frankly do not buy the argument that prisoners will be doing the work that

would not be done otherwise. I am amazed that this government which claims to be so sensitive to the rural needs and local hire would resort to this type of program and bring in people from outside the area to be replace local people.

Why should people who obey the law and stay out of trouble be penalized by prisoner inmates taking their jobs? This is not fair. I will await comments from the Kluane constituency before I decide what action should be taken.

I am also very concerned when I hear that government, both federal and territorial, are talking about more tourism studies. The Yukon has been studied long enough. In the Kluane area there is a complete plan which cost thousands of dollars to prepare which few people know anything about. It has apparently been put on the shelf to gather dust so the bureaucrats can start over. It bothers me that in all these cases where money is allotted for a program by federal and territorial governments that 40 to 50 percent is used by governments themselves to conduct these studies instead of getting the money out into the field and produce some practical results.

In listening to the government over the course of the last few months, I have not been able to find any policy trend of any kind. The Government Leader keeps talking about visions. Well, I too have visions, but a long time ago I learned that you have to be practical. You cannot eat fancy words, and I am sure that the government leader does not want to eat his either. We have a lot of young people here in the Yukon who are not only hungry for work but are becoming very frustrated with no action from a government which was supposed to create jobs.

In relation to the correspondence with government, I recommend we have more sessions, as that appears to be the only time I can get government to respond to my letters regarding constituency concerns. My constituents waited for months, and just before this session opened I find a flood of responses. At least I am getting a response and I thank the government for that.

In closing, I would like to conclude on a positive note. I am very pleased to see the government take our campaign promise of removing the fuel tax for certain industries, and I recommend very strongly that the fuel tax exemption be extended to all highway lodges that have to produce their own electricity. As a caretaker government, on the implementation of some of our policies they are doing a very good job.

Thank you.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I move that debate be now adjourned.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Education that debate be now adjourned. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** I would like to ask unanimous consent of the House to waive the provision of Standing Order No. 2 so that the House might be recessed until 7:30 p.m.

**Speaker:** Is consent unanimous?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is unanimous consent. The House stands in recess until 7:30 p.m. this evening.

*Recess from 3:20 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.*

**Speaker:** I will call the House to order.

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** I would ask the unanimous consent of the House to revert to Introduction of Bills.

**Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 2: Introduction and First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I move that Bill No. 2 entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 1985-86*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Government Leader that Bill No. 2 entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 1985-86*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

## GOVERNMENT BILLS

### Bill No. 2: Second Reading

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I move that Bill No. 2, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 1985-86*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Government Leader that Bill No. 2 entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 1985-86*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, I am pleased to introduce today the Operations and Maintenance Budget for the fiscal year 1985-86.

This budget is designed to promote the economic well-being of the Yukon and to provide a basis for long term economic growth.

The past year has seen a steady improvement in the national economy. Recent forecasts are predicting that the gross national product will have grown at a rate of 3.9 percent in real terms. Inflation has declined from the highs experienced in the early 1980s to an annualized rate of 4.0 percent. Interest rates also have declined from record highs to a point where the prime rate is in the 10.5 percent range. Unemployment, however, remains a major problem with the seasonally adjusted Canadian unemployment rate for August being 10.3 percent. It is anticipated that the unemployment level will moderate only slightly over the medium term.

For the Yukon the economic recovery has been uneven and tenuous. While the mining and tourism sectors are expected to surpass 1984 production and expenditure levels, the Yukon continues to face an unemployment rate in excess of the national average. Prolonged high levels of unemployment are intolerable. It is the government's intention, through this budget and other measures, to increase the unemployment opportunities for all Yukoners now and over the longer term.

The series of economic reverses that our economy has experienced over the past several years has left its mark in the form of an abnormally high rate of employment and a generally depressed business environment. While my government sees a gradual improvement occurring in job opportunities and in the general health of the business community, we do not intend to stand idly by while many individuals and families in Yukon suffer the debilitating effects of unemployment.

For too long, monies spent by government have flowed out of Yukon, not to the benefit of the businesses and citizens of the Yukon. We are determined to reverse this trend. To this end, we have already initiated a full-scale review of all spending programs and capital projects carried out by the government with a view to maximizing the local employment and purchase potential of each. We will examine the alternative methods of carrying out each and every program and project to ensure that the maximum benefit accrues to the Yukon's economy. In essence, we are saying that local employment generation and procurement of local materials will be significant factors in determining the government's spending priorities.

As must be apparent to this House, a review of this magnitude cannot be done overnight. We have already begun the process and it will, in fact, be a continuing process that will have an impact upon all of the spending decisions the government makes in the future. The Yukon has a wealth of business and labour skills that are underutilized and the review process that we have begun will ensure that these skills are not left idle while others outside the Yukon benefit from the government's expenditures.

The estimates that you will be asked to approve during the current sitting will reflect only a small portion of the review that we have been able to complete in the short time that has been available to us.

As part of the review, the Department of Finance has been instructed to determine the impact of government programs on private sector employment. This exercise has never been carried out before. Now that the methodology is in place, with continual

refinement we will be able to monitor the impact of government expenditures on employment creation and maintenance in the private sector. As an example we expect that it will be possible to identify more precisely the employment potential for women and single parents of such small but important programs as day care subsidies.

In an effort to foster economic growth, this government intends to develop an economic strategic plan as part of our Economic Planning Initiative. The Department of Economic Development has been allocated \$25,000 to begin developing the strategic plan. Such a plan will identify areas of potential economic opportunity and job creation and aid in the rational development of the Yukon economy.

Our fiscal capacity, like that of any individual, business or other government, is finite and we must ensure that every dollar spent is done so efficiently and for a purpose that coincides with the government's policy objectives. Over the course of the next year, my Ministers will be conducting a comprehensive review of the government with the object of rationalizing the delivery of the myriad of services currently provided. We will be examining program objectives to ensure that they are internally consistent, consistent with each other and with government goals and objectives. We will be looking for duplication and overlapping of programs and, in conjunction with the program evaluation process, we will also be looking at value for money.

As indicated in the Throne Speech we are also undertaking a comprehensive examination of our sources of revenue and the rate structure of our tax system. Such a comprehensive review has not been carried out for many years. I am hopeful that the review will be completed in sufficient time to incorporate any measures that may flow from it in the budget process for 1986-87.

The Department of Finance is also undertaking a comparative analysis of the banking services currently being provided to the government in relation to our requirements. These services, as far as they go, are sufficient for operating purposes but are glaringly insufficient in terms of the banking services available to the public, especially in the outlying communities. It is the government's intention to ensure that a review of our banking requirements also takes into account the provision of adequate banking services throughout the Yukon.

<sup>02</sup> Mr. Speaker, the Operation and Maintenance Estimates for 1985-86 which I am introducing amount to a total of \$160,141,000. This represents an increase over the Main Estimates for 1984-85 of 8.0 percent.

In the Legislative Assembly an additional \$140,000 has been allocated for support staff for opposition members of the Legislature.

The enhancement and protection of human rights coupled with the tabling of human rights legislation is a commitment of this government. The \$70,000 allocated to the development of human rights legislation signals this government's continued commitment to ensuring the dignity of all Yukoners.

In the Department of Economic Development, monies have been provided to develop a "one-stop shopping" approach to the provision of business assistance programs. This initiative is in keeping with my government's commitment to facilitate business opportunities and private sector creation of job opportunities. This program is also a reflection of this government's policy of developing programs that are both efficient and effective. Another \$68,000 has been provided to the Han Fisheries. This initiative resulted in the saving of 15 jobs.

This government campaigned on a promise to improve the services provided to Native people. As part of that commitment \$121,000 has been included in the Department of Community and Transportation Services for the operation of the Old Crow water and sewer system. These funds are in addition to the capital funds that have been provided for the construction of the system.

To ensure that Native languages are transcribed and preserved for future generations, an additional \$100,000 has been provided to the Native Language Centre.

An additional \$205,000 has been allocated to the Department of Health and Human Resources for the training of resident social development workers. This program will provide job opportunities

for Yukoners and ensure the delivery of social programs by workers who are familiar with the social priorities and economic needs of the communities. As part of our commitment to provide additional job opportunities, funds have been allocated to enhance the Yukon Opportunity Plan. This will enable those currently receiving social assistance to pursue career opportunities and to once again become part of the economic mainstream.

<sup>03</sup> In the 1984-85 Main Estimates, Own Source Revenues including Income Tax and Recoveries were estimated to be \$38,302,000 and \$24,692,000 respectively. For the current fiscal year, these figures are estimated to be \$41,388,000 and \$27,102,000 respectively. Similarly the estimated transfers from Canada for Established Program Financing (EPF) and the grant under Formula Financing are expected to increase over 1984-85.

With the introduction of Formula Financing the funding we will receive is much more certain than it was in the past. Formula Financing will also permit the Yukon to develop programs that are truly reflective of the needs and aspirations of all Yukoners.

The previously announced moratorium on off-road fuel oil tax, my government proposes to make permanent. The estimated cost of the exemptions of approximately \$800,000 in revenue will be more than offset by the estimated benefit to the economy of \$2.4 million. In these times of reduced economic activity, it is our view that the greatest possible relief should be afforded to those sectors of the economy most in need. This initiative then will provide a much-needed stimulus for the mining, trapping, logging and commercial fishing and hunting sectors.

To ensure the Yukon's economic recovery, it is my intention not to propose any tax increases for the fiscal year 1985-86.

This budget represents the beginning of our efforts to foster the creation of job opportunities for all Yukoners. This is a goal, I am sure, that all members of this House can support and to that end I commend it to the favourable attention of all Hon. Members.

<sup>05</sup> Mr. Phelps: I move that debate be now adjourned.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition that debate be now adjourned.

*Motion agreed to*

Hon. Mr. Porter: I wish to inform the House, pursuant to Standing Order 26, that consideration of a motion for an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne shall take place during tomorrow's sitting.

I move that the House do now adjourn.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Government House Leader that the House do now adjourn.

*Motion agreed to*

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow.

*The House adjourned at 7:44 p.m.*

#### The following Sessional Papers were tabled October 2, 1985:

85-2-2

The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon on the 1985 General Election (Johnston - Speaker)

85-2-3

Letter from David Crombie, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs re Assembly resolution concerning offshore boundary (Johnston - Speaker)

#### The following Legislative Return was tabled October 2, 1985:

85-2-1

Mosquito Control Program (McDonald) (W.Q. No. 1, 1st Session)