



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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3rd Session

26th Legislature

HANSARD

Tuesday, May 13, 1986 — 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 Directorate.

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
Alan Nordling	Whitehorse Porter Creek West
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

⁰¹ **Whitehorse, Yukon**
Tuesday, May 13, 1986 — 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: I now call the House to order.
 At this time, we will begin with prayers.

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will proceed with the Order Paper.
 Introduction of Visitors?
 Are there any Returns or Documents for Tabling?
 Reports of Committees?
 Petitions?
 Introduction of Bills?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 4: First Reading

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I move that Bill No. 4, entitled *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 4, entitled *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Speaker: Are there any Notices of Motion for the Production of Papers?

Notices of Motion?

Are there any Statements by Ministers?

This then brings us to the Question Period

QUESTION PERIOD

⁰² **Question re: Standing Committee on Transportation**

Mr. Phelps: I have a question of the Minister in charge of Transportation with regard to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transportation. Is it true that this so-called open government asked for a secret meeting with the committee?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is not true, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Phelps: I understand that the Minister did make a rather brief presentation to the committee. Is the Minister prepared to table that brief?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I did give a presentation. It lasted approximately an hour, with questions and answers. It was intended to be a casual presentation. I had notes from which I operated, but clearly the discussion was meant to be more open and free-wheeling than formal. I gave indication to the Transport Committee that a formal presentation would be sent to them in the future.

Mr. Phelps: Will the Minister, in due course, table that presentation in the House, in the fall?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes. It will be much more clearly delineated, and I hope a formal presentation will be presented to the standing committee on a variety of fronts before then, but I can certainly table it in the House.

Question re: Placer mining

Mr. Phelps: I have a question of the Government Leader with regard to the Task Force on Placer Mining. Has the government made a presentation to that committee?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I do not believe the government as a whole has made a presentation yet, but I do believe officials of the Department of Renewable Resources have met with the task force at their request. I am not sure if they were summoned or invited, but I know they appeared.

Mr. Phelps: Could I ask the Minister of Renewable Resources whether he would make his department's position public by tabling a copy of it in the House?

⁰³ **Hon. Mr. Porter:** Yes.

Mr. Phelps: To the Government Leader: does his Department of Economic Development: Mines and Small Business intend to make a written or verbal presentation to the committee?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I will have to check on the facts. I know that my department is, at this moment, working on some placer mining-related issues, but I do not, to be perfectly clear, recall whether that is in preparation for a direct representation to the Minister, to this committee, or to federal Ministers. In any event, I will confirm the facts and report back to the House.

Question re: Fuel prices

Mr. McLachlan: Some time in the last month I asked the Government Leader about apparent discrepancies regarding pricing of gasoline and heating fuel at the retail level. He has spent some time now reviewing the problem with the department staff; I am wondering whether he has any answers that seem to make sense yet?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I apologize to the Member for Faro, but when he asked the question we immediately proceeded to contact the suppliers. To the best of my knowledge, we have only had a substantial response from one of the wholesalers so far. I did not believe that that provided sufficient information; it was not a complete picture. I was hoping to hear from everybody we communicated with before I reported back to the House. If the Member is feeling a sense of urgency about the information that we have received to date, I am sure I can table it. The analysis of all the responses we get, I think, will have to wait until we have heard from everybody to whom we enquired.

Mr. McLachlan: I am intensely interested in the question because the problem, in many cases, seems to be exacerbated when you have competing Chevron and Gulf Petrocan stations in the same location. I know that differences can occur in Dawson, Watson Lake, Haines Junction and Faro. Because of this, I now have a closed situation in Faro. The Government Leader has indicated one reason why, but does he know why the oil companies are not responding? Is it because of the fear of competition between one and another, and knowing the other's business? Why are they slow in getting back?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I hesitate to speculate at this point. I do recall some information I received to the effect that one difference between the rural situation and urban situation had to do with inventories. In some rural cases, the inventories were large and quite old, and they felt that they wanted to sell off the high-priced inventory before they would lower their prices and replace it with low-priced products.

As I indicated at the time, I also had an enquiry from the Member for Riverdale North with respect to the spread between gasoline and diesel prices, or between diesel prices here and elsewhere. I also hope to report on that to the House as soon as I get the information from the people from whom I sought it.

⁰⁴ **Mr. McLachlan:** I appreciate everything the Minister has said, and I wonder if we could make some attempt to get it before the conclusion of this session and wrap that one up. There are a number of people interested in the answer.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I will do that.

Question re: Standing Committee on Transportation

Mr. Lang: I want to follow up a little further, as far as the question of the Standing Committee on Transportation is concerned, and the appearance of the government. I would like to rephrase a question that was put earlier by the Leader of the Official Opposition. Did the government request an in-camera meeting with the members of the Standing Committee?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No, we did not.

Mr. Lang: Then the information we were provided was obviously not accurate, if that is the case. Since due notice was given that the Standing Committee was coming to the Yukon, to the point that three weeks to a month's notice was given, why did the government not give a formal presentation to the Standing Committee?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The government gave a presentation to the committee. I attended the committee hearings. We gave another

presentation before the same committee in Vancouver on the subject of the Freedom to Move initiative. We treat this committee with respect. We discussed a variety of issues in the time allotted. There was quite a bit to discuss. There is a good deal more to discuss than could be discussed in one hour. Our commitment to provide a detailed response in the future was to give the committee greater understanding of the positions that we have taken in the past and the positions we hope to take in the future on the subject of transportation policy, per se.

Mr. Lang: It seems that standing committees are coming here and there does not seem to be any formal policy positions taken by the government. It seems that the time is always asked for, and that the resources of the government are at the disposal of the government, and rightfully so. There should be formal positions taken, especially if they are given to the Yukon.

What more in the policy area does the Minister see being presented to this particular committee before which, on at least two occasions, the government has had the opportunity of appearing, and in this particular case, in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The government has appeared in both cases and has expressed its position to the committee. The government intends to communicate its transportation policy to the committee as we develop them over the coming year.

There are a variety of areas where we feel that further study is required. We have gone through the trucking deregulation before in Estimates debate. We discussed the *Canada Shipping Act*, and user pay policies that would affect the airline industry. We have taken very clear positions on a number of these areas.

We recognize that the positions have to be fleshed out in some cases, and they have to be developed in others. We do not have a position on everything. Certainly that is the case now, and it has been the case in the past. We intend to communicate fully with this committee. We regard it as being a valuable contact with the federal government and we will keep it apprised of developments as they occur.

Question re: Economic Council Committee

Mr. Nordling: As Chairman of the Economic Council Committee, could the Member for Klondike tell me if the committee has considered the possible addition of representatives from the agriculture and forestry industries to the Council?

Mr. Webster: Yes, it was considered some time ago when I was the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Nordling: Can the Member tell me who the Chairman is now?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: On a point of order, it is perfectly within the order and the Rules to ask a question of a Member who is Chairman of a committee. Since the Member in question has recently resigned, I am not sure that we can contemplate him answering questions like that as, at this point, the replacement has not been named.

Mr. Nordling: I would like my question to be the third supplementary, to the Government Leader. Why was the resignation of the Member for Klondike not announced?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is very rare for a Member who resigns from a board or committee to have his resignation announced by way of a press release. This is the first time in the time that the Member served as Chairman that any question has been put to him.

The Council was made aware because it received his resignation. At the point when we make an announcement of a new Chair, that would have been apparent. In the meantime, there is a very capable vice-Chair who will continue to conduct the business of the committee.

Question re: Petition No. 3

Mrs. Firth: Although, according to standing order 67(1), the Executive Council is required to respond to Petition No. 3, tabled on Thursday, May 8, 1986, which has been received by the Legislative Assembly within two weeks of its presentation, will the Minister of Health and Human Resources give a commitment to respond to the petition before the session ends?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: I will take that under advisement.

Mrs. Firth: When the Minister takes it under advisement, could she give us a commitment that she will give us a response in writing if she is not able to get a response prepared for the session?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: I could look at that.

Mrs. Firth: I would like to get a commitment from the Minister to get some kind of response, even if it is: No, I cannot respond to the petition. Can she give us some kind of commitment that she will, in some way, respond to the petition?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: I realize that it is important, and I am not ignoring the fact. I will respond in some way.

Question re: Carmacks lots

Mr. Coles: Last week or the week before I asked the Minister of Community and Transportation Affairs about industrial lots in Carmacks, at which time I also asked why the country-residential lots were not made available yet; does he have an answer?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The lottery documents should be ready for the sale of the lots by May 19.

Mr. Coles: One of the major problems with the industrial lots was the telephone service, which they were attempting to put into the lots and did not happen. There is also a residential area to the south of Carmacks that butts up to the industrial lots with no telephone service. I wonder if the Minister's department is working on giving them some sort of emergency telephone service and perhaps a permanent service into those areas?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have no direct knowledge of the department actively pursuing emergency telephone access to those areas. Of course, radio telephone is still available to persons without land lines. I will check on the suitability, in the government's opinion, of adding telephone lines to the area — and thereby increasing the sale prices of the lots — and check back with the Member.

Mr. Coles: The question of telephone lines into that area is a very important one, with the police problems they have had and with fires and things in the Indian village itself. In the first answer, was the Minister referring to the industrial lots, the country-residential lots, or both, when he said they would be on the market soon?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I was referring to the country-residential lots.

Question re: Economic Council membership

Mr. Lang: I have a question for the Government Leader. Could he inform the House when the Member for Klondike resigned from the Economic Council?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I do not recall the exact date, but I will find out and advise the Member.

Mr. Lang: Could he inform the House why he resigned?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I believe basically it is because he was too busy with other activities.

Mr. Lang: Since the Government Leader has indicated to this House and the public that the Economic Council is a very important body, and since we were doing his line-by-line debates on the Main Estimates in Economic Development, why did he not inform the Members of this House that changes had taken place and replacements were going to be made?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The Council is a very important body and meets extremely frequently now, much more frequently than with the former government. When an announcement is made about a new Chair, there will be a public announcement. If the House is sitting, it will be made in the House; if not, there will be a press release. In the meantime, as I indicated to the House, there is a very capable Vice-Chair who is capable of conducting business in the meantime.

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Question re: Yukon Alaska Transport Limited

Hon. Mr. Nordling: I understand that Yukon Alaska Transport Limited has applied to the City of Whitehorse to locate a shop in the Crestview gravel pit. Will the safety aspects of this location be considered in the safety plan that will be tabled in this House very shortly?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Question re: Alternate energy

Mr. McLachlan: The Government Leader has made a lot of plans and budget preparation work on alternative energy sources for use in the territory, in order to avoid the problem of importing expensive hydrocarbon fuels into this territory. Is natural gas one of those alternative sources of fuel that the Minister feels is capable of extensive exploitation locally?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: There is evidence of gas potential in the territory. At this point, there is no commercially viable gas in the Whitehorse market area. We know about the fields in southern Yukon, but there is no accessible gas, as a fuel. The recent news stories about gas potential in this area have been known to the government and have been the subject of study and inquiry especially with the current price situation. Even if there were commercial finds made in this area, it would be quite a few years before it could come into production.

Mr. McLachlan: Can the Minister confirm if any applications for assistance have been made by a local company under the Energy Alternative Program or the Alternative Energy Development Funds Program?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I cannot say if any applications have been made. I am pretty sure that none have been approved at this point for gas.

Mr. McLachlan: Although the use of local natural gas would go a long way toward solving the woodsmoke problem in Riverdale, it is probably quite a few years away. Would the Government Leader not agree that in order to bring a find of local gas into commercial production, it would take a very large scale industrial user to make that worthwhile?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I am not sure I can confirm that, nor can I confirm that gas is pollution-free. There are some gases in the world that have quite a high sulphur content and are a nuisance from that point of view.

I suppose it is historically true that you need a commercial customer but, if my memory serves me correctly, there are a couple of communities in southern Alberta that discovered gas within their municipal limits and created municipally-owned utilities that then supplied the gas to the whole community. That created enough demand to warrant the field coming into production. I do not know what the economics of it are. I think that is an entirely speculative question at this point.

Question re: Young offenders facilities

Mr. Phillips: Has the Minister of Health and Human Resources made any decisions regarding the building or purchasing of a closed custody young offenders facility in Whitehorse?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Phillips: The Minister stated in the House several times the urgency of providing that facility. On April 28, she said she would be making that decision very shortly. Has the Minister, or Yukon Government officials, met with the city with respect to zoning changes? Did they make recommendations regarding the location and nature of that facility?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: Not to zoning changes, but to bylaw amendments.

Mr. Phillips: Again, the Minister has told us that she would act quickly on this, and I think everyone in the House realizes the urgency of the matter. The Minister, by now, must have an idea of what type of facility they are proposing. Can she tell the House what type of facility it is that is proposed, and where do they hope to build the facility, and what is the estimated cost?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: I do not have that kind of information yet, because we have not come to a decision. I would be pretty wary about telling the Member for Riverdale North anyhow.

Question re: School Committee Conference

Mrs. Firth: I have a follow-up question for the Minister of Education regarding some information I requested. The school committee conference passed a resolution saying that they would like a committee established to review corporal punishment. Can the Minister tell us if they have made a decision about that yet, and if the committee has been set up and when it is going to meet?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No, I have not made a decision with respect to that, but that is not to suggest that we are in any way looking upon the idea with disfavour. We hope to be making a decision with respect to that, with a recommendation, very soon.

Mrs. Firth: I want to emphasize that it is very important to those people, and they are looking for a solution very quickly.

The other follow-up question I had was a constituency question regarding the date of the tender for the construction of the Grey Mountain Primary Activity Room. The Minister said he would bring back the time it was going to be tendered out, and I have quite a few requests as to when that would be.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It can be made available this afternoon. I will provide it for the Member.

Question re: Free trade

Mr. Nordling: My question is to the Government Leader with respect to free trade. In response to a question on April 23, the Government Leader told this House that a free trade impact study had been completed, and that the report would be assessed by his department and studied by Cabinet. Has this been done?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: No, the assessment has not been done yet.

Mr. Nordling: Has the government heard back with respect to its nominees to sit on the free trade subcommittees, and whether or not these nominees will represent the views of the government? Will there be a policy in place by the time these people meet?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: No, we have not heard back about the government's nominees although, a few days ago, there were some announcements made about the chairs of some of the sectoral subcommittees. There were no Yukoners appointed to the chair of any of these sectoral subcommittees. In most cases, they were nationally prominent Canadians from the relevant or respective industries.

I think it is unlikely that we will instruct our nominees on those subcommittees. I assume that there will be some public debate here about some of the dimensions of free trade as more and more facts and information become available about it. We will want to have some kind of method of continuing communication with the Yukon nominees on those bodies.

As to whether we would have periodic briefings, or they would brief us on what is happening and we would brief them on the views of the government, I am not sure. I think it will depend, to some extent, on how many nominees we have accepted.

Mr. Nordling: Can the Government Leader tell us when we can expect to hear the government's policy with respect to free trade or at least have a discussion paper on the subject?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I hope it will be very soon. I believe, as I indicated previously in the House, the research work that has been done will be subject of discussion at Economic Council and at Cabinet before it is made public. I believe the Economic Council has decided it wants to hear both of the major points of view on the subject before it makes recommendations to the government.

Question re: Natural gas exploration

Mr. McLachlan: To the Minister again on natural gas production. I believe that an operation as big as Curragh Resources could be one that could use natural gas on a large scale, depending upon how you would get it there, and any reduced savings that could be shown to them. Can the Government Leader foresee the use of natural gas by an operation like the Yukon Development Corporation for power generation as one of the uses for gas?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is clearly a possibility, but I put it no stronger than that at this point. At this point, no permits have even been given to do the kind of exploration in this area, about which there has been some recent interest. Those would have to be handed out by the federal government. We have been asked if we would support exploration activity and we said yes. Whether any of the companies that are likely to do it will be able to assemble the capital to do it, especially in the current pricing situation, is an open question. PetroCanada has briefed us on their knowledge of the potential in the area, and they advise us that considerable millions will be needed to do a proper exploration program. Given the present price situation, they do not have that money available,

and it is not a prime target.

Mr. McLachlan: Has PetroCanada offered in any way to the Yukon an interest in a joint-venture partnership deal for gas exploration in the Yukon Territory?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: No. I think it would be more accurate to say that the Mayor of Whitehorse has floated with this government and with the federal government, the possibility that should there not be enough private sector interest around to want to pursue this prospect, that some combination of public interests might want to do it, but we have not had any reason to seriously examine that possibility at all yet.

Mr. McLachlan: The Kotaneelee Gas Fields in southwestern Yukon has been known of for sometime, of course, but what is the Government Leader's perception of why it is still capped and cannot be brought into commercial production?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I believe it is a function of market conditions. It was in production at one point, but it is not now. I assume that it is a function of price and production costs.

Question re: Animals at large

Mr. Phelps: Some time ago, the Minister of Renewable Resources was going to look into the state of affairs with regard to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture's Sub-Committee, which was to produce a discussion paper on the issue of animal control. Has the Minister looked into this?

Hon. Mr. Porter: Yes. The APEC Committee did produce a discussion paper on livestock control. I believe they met on April 12, 1986. From that meeting they produced, for my consideration, a discussion paper. If I had any problems, I was to make them known.

I have read through the discussion paper, and I think it is a good document to go to the public with to solicit input. My instructions have been that it is cleared, and that it should go back to the APEC Committee and then be released to the public for discussion.

Mr. Phelps: Can the Minister advise as to what form the public consultation will take on this urgent matter?

Hon. Mr. Porter: It is not so much a decision that is being made by my office as it is being made by the committee, which is made up of both government and industry representatives.

I have been apprised as to the details of the nature of the public discussions, but I can check into that, obtain the information and deliver it to the Member.

Mr. Phelps: The issue is of grave concern to me, primarily because of the potential risk of accidents on the highways. Is the Minister of Transportation taking any steps to ensure the safety of motorists on the highways, pending the outcome of the formulation of a policy by the Minister of Renewable Resources?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The government has traditionally looked upon highway signs warning the driver that there could be a potential problem with livestock in any area.

That is not any sort of long term solution to the problem. It is not producing the kinds of results to prevent accidents. It is something this department is doing and will continue to do.

Question re: Animals at large

Mr. Phelps: We see the resolution of this problem as an urgent requirement. What time frame has the Minister set to resolve the problem of domestic animal control?

Hon. Mr. Porter: I recognize the urgency of the issue, and I would like to be able to be in a position to say tomorrow. Unfortunately, that is not the case. We have a very complex issue. We are talking about a question of jurisdiction and landownership.

The ideas that are currently being considered are expensive. We look at requiring all animal owners to fence their properties where they are adjacent to public highways. On some of the land holdings of individuals concerned, for example in the Mayo area, that could be a very expensive proposition.

Then there is the question of whether or not the government should be subsidizing the industry by developing a communally-run grazing area, and let the government undertake the expense of putting up fences.

Those are cost items, and they are complex. We have existing

legislation that has not proven to be effective in the past. I would suggest that it would take some time. At this time, I cannot be committed to a timeframe. I hope that the public discussion process goes well, and that there is some solution that the owners of the animals can agree to.

Mr. Phelps: Could the Minister not set some kind of a timeframe within which this problem can be resolved? We recognize the problem is a tough one. The solutions will not be easy. Nonetheless, it is a very urgent problem, particularly with respect to safety on the highways, but there are other associated problems, as well.

Could the Minister not show the public that the solving of this problem is a priority, and set some kind of timetable down?

Hon. Mr. Porter: One thing that I have learned in terms of political public life is about tying yourself to specific timeframes and then have unfortunate events cause those timeframes to slip by. There is no mercy in that room up there or the floor across the way when those timeframes are not met. I would be reluctant to give a specific timeframe, but I would hope that I could make a general statement with effect that with the course of this fall, we would have some general agreement by this fall with respect to the APEC Committee members, the government and the public, as to where we are going with the issue and what exactly it is that we are going to be doing.

Mr. Phelps: I thank the Minister for his answer. Is he hoping that the appropriate legislation can be tabled in the fall?

Hon. Mr. Porter: Given the kind of discussions we have had internally with the long-term legislative plan, it would be difficult to insert the legislation into the fall session, both from the perspective of the legislative program and from the perspective of concluding discussions and reaching agreement. Because of the complexity of the issue, with respect to the matter of jurisdiction, I would suggest that the spring would be a more favourable timetable to look at legislation.

Question re: Casino Trail

Mr. Coles: What status does the Casino Trail project have within the Minister of Economic Development's department, at this time?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Under the Resource for Roads Program, which is being delivered by Community and Transportation Services, some monies have been approved for the project for this season.

Mr. Coles: Does the Minister of Community and Transportation Services plan to see some actual work done on the road this summer?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I am not certain whether there will be actual physical catwork, or something of that nature, done, but a lot of engineering work will be undertaken towards the project. I can discover the details for the support of the project for the Member, and inform him of what is happening, specifically.

Mr. Coles: Does that mean that money has been approved by Treasury Board in Ottawa, also, for the project?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No. I am not aware of any funding for the project under DIAND's budget. I do know that approximately \$700,000 would be a ballpark figures under the Yukon government's Resource Roads Program.

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Question re: Elk

Mr. Brewster: To the Minister of Renewable Resources: does he or anyone in his department know how many elk we have in the Yukon in the wild?

Hon. Mr. Porter: I have not seen any specific number. I recollect that, from discussions with the department, over the years, there has been problems with reproduction rates in the wild. The Fish and Game Association held a raffle to raise money for to obtain biological information so we can better understand the condition of the elk.

I do not know how many elk exist in the wild, but I will look into it. I remember at one time there were five in the Stony Creek area. As to the numbers in Hutshi and area, I will have to check.

Mr. Brewster: Can the Minister also tell me the exact state of

health of the herd? Also, is the herd in the Yukon reproducing by normal standards?

Hon. Mr. Porter: As I stated in the answer to the first question, the herd has experienced difficulty in reproducing at what is considered normal rates. I do not think we know all the reasons for that, but I will obtain what knowledge we do have on this subject and make it available to the Member for Kluane.

Mr. Brewster: I find it strange, because on November 7, 1983 a gentleman by the name of Mr. Porter, on page 611 asked exactly the same questions. I thought he would have the answers by now.

Can the Minister tell me, due to the fact the government is looking at elk farming, is there a plan to study the two elk herds in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Porter: I missed part of the question, but heard about studying the elk herds in the Yukon. I obviously do not have the information with respect to whether or not we are doing any studies at this point, and I will review *Hansard* and get the gist of the question the Member asked and respond accordingly.

Speaker: Time for Question Period has elapsed.

Question of Privilege

Mrs. Firth: I rise today on a question of privilege. During Question Period on Monday, May 12, I addressed questions to the Minister of Education regarding the secondment of an individual to the Land Claims Secretariat from the Department of Education. The Government Leader rose to answer my question and, during the course of his remarks, he made the following statements in reference to myself. "If she had an ounce of integrity, and if she had an ounce of honesty", and again "does not have the honesty". I believe that these statements constitute an attack on myself and, as such, are a breach of my privileges as a Member.

I would like to remind the House that you have sent a memo to all Members dated April 7, 1986 in which you were noticing that, in the heat of debate, Members had been using language that is not appropriate to the dignity of the House. You said that you would appreciate it if, at all times, Members would refrain from using abusive or profane language in the House.

Also, Mr. Speaker, you said, in the same vein, "I would ask Members to refrain from using disrespectful terms when referring to any other Member of the House".

I have not addressed any other Member, or been addressed by any other Member, of this Legislature, nor used abusive or profane language, and have a great deal of concern that the Government Leader continues to conduct himself in a manner that reflects poorly upon all of us as legislators and community leaders.

If you should be satisfied that a prima facie case of breach of privilege has taken place, it would be my intention to immediately move the following motion: "THAT this House regards the accusations made by the Government Leader during Question Period on May 12, 1986, in regard to the Member for Whitehorse Riverdale South, as being a breach of privilege, and that this House demands that the Government Leader withdraw those offending remarks."

Speaker's Ruling

Speaker: Order, please. I am ready to rule on this.

Pursuant to Standing Order 7(1)(b), the Member for Whitehorse Riverdale South has provided the Chair with the required two hours' written notice of question of privilege. I must find, however, there is no prima facie case of breach of privilege.

The hon. Member has pointed out an occasion on which she believes the Government Leader used unparliamentary language. Pursuant to our own rules, particularly Standing Order 19, to our own practices and to parliamentary authorities such as Annotation 323 of *Beauchesne*, we find that unparliamentary language must be raised as a point of order and not as a question of privilege.

Also, it is equally clear that the proper time to raise such a point of order is when the words are used and not afterwards. Based on these rules, practices and authorities, I cannot find the question raised by the Member for Whitehorse Riverdale South as being a case of breach of privilege. It more properly should be raised as a

point of order, but I am not now able to deal with it as a point of order, since it was not raised immediately after the offending words were used.

Without commenting on whether the language used yesterday by the Government Leader is unparliamentary, I would like to comment, in a general way, on the issue raised by the Member for Whitehorse Riverdale South. I would ask all Members to give careful consideration to the remarks they make in the heat of debate. Name calling and impugning the motives of other Members does nothing for the tone of debate nor for the reputation of the Legislative Assembly. In the future I would ask for the cooperation of all Members in using language that is appropriate to the dignity of the House.

We will now proceed with Orders of the Day.

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

Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Government House Leader that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole.

Motion agreed to

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

Point of Order

Mr. Lang: I would rise under the Standing Orders on a point of order. It has to do with the extension of hours for sitting, as far as the Legislature is concerned.

As I stated yesterday, we were prepared to extend hours of sitting, under the understanding that it did not set a precedent as far as the workings of the House were concerned at further Sessions, at the request of the government.

At that time, it was not told to me that there would be no transcript of the extended proceedings. I just want to point out to the government that, as the House Leader on this side, I feel that we should have been informed that that was going to be the case, and it would not have been our intention to extend the working hours of the Legislature unless we got some assurances that the proceedings would be transcribed for the record.

One of the most important elements of the proceedings here is that there is a record kept of not only what decisions have been made, but how we arrive at those decisions. If we are lacking the record, we have nothing to go back to with respect to what decisions and what positions either the Opposition or the government has taken in any case.

Just to close, if we were to accept the principle that a portion of our proceedings not to be transcribed then, obviously and logically, the question follows why are we transcribing any of the proceedings.

I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, that hopefully we can resolve this over the course of the next day to ensure, at some point, the proceedings will be transcribed, knowing the workload of the people who do the work — recognizing again that they may not be able to do it the same day, but at least within the week or the next two weeks, a transcript of the proceedings will be provided to all Members and, more important, to the public.

Hon. Mr. Porter: On a point of order to correct the record: I did, in very private quarters, inform the Leader of the Official Opposition last evening that there would not be *Hansard*.

Mr. Lang: On the same point of order and just to follow that through: that was fairly late in the evening. I had discussions with my Caucus, in my capacity as House Leader, to get the mandate to extend sitting hours. I do not intend to get into a wrangle here. I am just saying for the record that it was not our understanding we would not have a transcript of the proceedings when we agreed to extend the hours. All I am asking is that the Government House Leader check into it to see whether or not that can be remedied in order that we can carry on and have a public record for future deliberations.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: On the same point of order, I think one

thing should be made perfectly clear: the transcript of the House is not kept by the government. It is not the responsibility of the government to provide the transcript; it is the Clerk's Office, which is a collective responsibility of all Members. The Clerk does not report to the government. As well, the government sometimes reports to the Clerk.

¹⁵ The point is that we cannot reasonably expect the people who work in there to work past midnight. I understand there is going to be a transcript. It is just a question that it will be late.

Mr. Lang: Those are all the assurances I have. I have had various discussions. I have heard that we will not get transcripts, and I have heard that at a much later date they will be transcribed. I recognize the problems of the people who are working on *Hansard*, and they do a good job. All I am asking, through the Chair, of the Clerk's office and the Government House Leader, is that we get the necessary assurances in order to be able to meet the requests put to us by the government.

Mrs. Firth: As a participant in the debate, I find it somewhat offensive to put the responsibility on the Clerk's office and lay the blame at the feet of the Clerk's office. If I had known that the transcription would not take place, I would have been very reluctant to extend the hours last evening.

I do not know how the Minister of Education feels — he is holding his head — but we had almost two hours of debate that was very important. It was a very important exchange of ideas. I am sure he does not want to have to go into the debate all over again.

I feel that it was the House Leader's responsibility to pass the message on to the opposition leaders so that we could all have been informed that the transcribing was not going to take place.

Hon. Mr. Porter: This is turning into a very silly debate, I know. Some Members like to read about what they have said for hours and hours.

I did not have that information when I went into the House Leader's meetings that decided the extension of hours. I had a discussion with the House Leader last night, but I did not remember to pass on the information. I was reminded by the Clerk to do that and, at the first opportunity after having recalled it, I did make an attempt to let the side opposite know through the Leader of the Official Opposition.

I think we should bring this to a close because there is no other point. We will do everything we can with the offices to make sure the transcripts do arrive when they are available. We cannot ask these people to do the impossible. We will cooperate on this as much as we can so that the transcripts will arrive, and the Members will be able to read what they said.

Chairman: Does any other Member wish to speak on the point of order?

I assure all Members that this point has been transcribed. There is no point of order.

We will now recess for 15 minutes.

Recess

¹⁶ **Chairman:** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. We will continue with the Department of Education, Finance and Administration, line item Administration, on page 88.

Bill No. 5 — Second Appropriation Act, 1986-87 — continued
On Department of Education
On Finance and Administration
On Administration

Mrs. Firth: I believe, when we left off last evening, we had asked a question about the person-years that were included in the Administration line. The Minister said he would bring that back today. Could he report back on that matter?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In Finance and Administration, there are 73.8 person-years, of which 61.8 are involved in Facilities/Transportation. Most of those are custodial workers.

The previous Finance and Administration unit incorporated 12 persons, of which there are two in the Deputy Ministers office, three in Administration, 5.5 in Finance, and 1.5 in Personnel. There have been no changes from previous years, for a total of 12.

Four of those people — the Deputy Minister, Director of Finance and Administration, the Manager of Finance and Personnel, and the Transportation Supervisor — are people earning salaries greater than \$40,000.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister just repeat the last ones who are earning greater than \$40,000?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Deputy Minister is earning over \$40,000. The Director of Finance and Administration, the Manager of Finance and Personnel and the Facilities Transportation Supervisor are making greater than \$40,000.

Mrs. Firth: Has there been any change in the structure, the reporting authorities or the organizational structure of the Administration branch in the last year?

¹⁷ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** The Manager of Finance Personnel reports to the Director of Finance and Administration. The Director, who has always been there, reports to the Deputy Minister.

Mrs. Firth: Is there still an Administrative Services and Research Assistant under the Director of Finance and Administration and Director of Policy and Planning?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There is no researcher under the Director of Finance and Administration; there is a researcher under Policy Planning.

Mrs. Firth: Under the Director of Finance and Administration there are approximately nine person-years in Administrative Services. Is that still true?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Including the Director of Finance and Administration, there are 10 person-years, and there are two in the Deputy Minister's office, the Deputy Minister and Secretary.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister give us a breakdown of what that is, please?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Does the Member want a breakdown of the whole \$293,000?

Mrs. Firth: The actual for 1984-85 was \$275,000; it went down considerably. I would like him to explain why it went down. Then it went up, in 1986-87, to \$293,000. Can he explain what caused that to happen?

¹⁸ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I do not have the specifics of what happened between 1984-85 and 1985-86. Between 1985-86 and 1986-87, there was a \$30,000 increase in salary for a secretary who had been charged to Finance and Personnel in error during the restatement of the 1985-86 figures for the 1986-87 budget.

There is also a \$6,000 increase for supplies and materials. It is estimated that JES and merit increases from April 1 would be \$19,000, and \$7,000 was funds that lapsed from Period 9 as a result of vacancies in other departments, but they would be incorporated into this budget. That explains the change.

Mrs. Firth: Is the Minister considering any structural changes in the Administration portion of this Finance and Administration Services?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There will be no changes.
Administration in the amount of \$293,000 agreed to
On Finance/Personnel

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister explain the same fluctuation that has occurred here of \$252,000 up to \$286,000 down to \$268,000?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In Finance/Personnel, the \$30,000 salary for the secretary that moved to Administration was removed. That is offset somewhat by the increase in spending from 1985-86 to 1986-87 of \$12,000 for JES and merit increases.

¹⁹ *Finance/Personnel in the amount of \$268,000 agreed to*
On Facilities/Transportation

Mrs. Firth: This is quite a substantial amount of money. Could the Minister give us a breakdown of what this \$3 million buys.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The one percent change is almost exclusively for JES, but the items that it buys under this section would include the operations of the department, the busing contract, the custodial services and maintenance services. I believe there were 61.8 person-years associated with this section.

The busing budget is \$1,196,700 plus \$152,000 for fuel. Those are the items that are covered under this line item.

Mrs. Firth: How much are we talking about for JES for 61.8 person-years? Are some of those person-years filled by contract

positions right now?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There are no contract positions. JES would be in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 for these people.

Mr. Brewster: Just for my information, the Minister will recall last fall we were up the highway. There are a lot of local buses that would like to take over some of these contracts, and we run into an insurance problem, which the Minister said he was going to look at. Has anything been able to be solved on that?

²⁰ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** We do not have a resolution as yet with respect to the insurance associated with providing the busing service. There have been a number of proposals made to us for consideration, which would allow a small contractor to provide the service. We know we have to investigate those to determine whether or not we can amend the method by which we contract out the service.

The Member knows I am very interested in encouraging the small contractor to bid. In Burwash Landing and Stewart Crossing, the contract is now open for them to bid.

Mr. Brewster: I would like to thank the Minister. I am one of these impatient people, but realize sometimes when people deal with the government they let things slow down, and I thought it was a chance to do a little shoving.

Mr. McLachlan: Do I understand the Minister to say that the contract for bus transportation is awarded simply for the buses and we buy the fuel for the operator over and above that?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is correct.

Mr. McLachlan: Is it correct that the figure of one and one-third million dollars does not include the figure then for student transportation for functions other than transportation to and from school? It is the contribution amount of \$79,000 I am referring to.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The busing contract is exclusively for transporting children to and from school. Each school has a transportation budget for extracurricular activities in addition to those funds provided for in this line item.

Mr. McLachlan: What the Minister means is that they have a budget, although slight. Is there any thought being given by the department for increasing the figures available in this? I have run into this in many cases throughout the territory, moreso in rural areas where the amount of money they have available to transport them from point A to point B is a little more than enough gas to fill a suburban and move about eight or nine children from point-to-point. Does the Minister have any thoughts on this area?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There is in this budget an increase in extra fare travel over last year. It is not in this line item; it is in public schools. When we get to public schools, perhaps the exact figure could be found for the Member. Clearly we would like to encourage more extracurricular travel this year and in future years. We recognize the value of that travel, the contacts that can be made between schools, around the communities and on field trips for investigating the wilderness, et cetera.

Now the Member may not be entirely satisfied with the increase we have provided. The Member may never be satisfied with the amount of funds in the busing budget, but clearly we are committed to increasing it, and I would hope to see it increased over the years to provide for more extra-curricular activity in the schools.

²¹ **Mr. McLachlan:** Is it a policy of the department that when transportation costs for extracurricular activities cannot be met within the available funds that the school has been given by the department that the children are encouraged to bring some contribution towards defraying the costs? Is that a policy within the department that is recommended to principals?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not know if that encouragement has been provided to principals. It is not generally accepted that students should depend upon their own resources for extracurricular activities. The ability to pay differs.

We would like to have a system where funding of this nature is provided by the government to cover the costs. There will be times when schools will edge up against the allocation and be tempted to seek funding from other sources, whether it be a cookie sale, a bake sale or a bottle drive.

To my knowledge, there has been no direction of that sort. I will check for the Member. I imagine that it would vary from school to

school.

Mr. McLachlan: Can the Minister confirm that the bus that runs between Stewart Crossing and Mayo has the lowest number of children riding on any transportation system paid for by the department?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is tied with the Burwash-Destruction Bay bus for the lowest number of passengers.

Mr. McLachlan: Can the Minister advise the House what the unit cost per head is to transport children under this system? Are we looking at \$50-a-head per week? Are we looking at \$150-per-head per week? I am curious because the numbers are low and the cost seems high.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not know. I will have to check for the Member. There are offsets, of course, with respect to accommodation transfer payments that we provide to students who are not taking the bus. There is the transportation subsidy that we provide to students who do not have a bus to take them back and forth to school.

I am not sure exactly what the unit costs would be once those offsets are determined, but I can find out for the Member. We have taken a very strong position on student busing. We realize it is an expensive proposition. The life and health of the communities is a very high priority for us, and we are going to continue to support them in that vein.

Mr. McLachlan: Does the Minister anticipate expanding the use of the bus contract? Are there any situations coming up that he can visualize in the 1986-87 school year that will require putting on additional busing?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The bus routes that were established last year in Whitehorse, Burwash and Stewart Crossing will be continued. The decisions for Burwash and Stewart Crossing must be made on an annual basis, and we will make that decision in due course.

²² **Mr. McLachlan:** Does the Minister anticipate busing the grade 10, 11 and 12 children from Ross River to Faro in order to justify the establishment of the senior grades at Faro?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member has made that representation before. To my knowledge, a decision has not been made. Perhaps during Public Schools Estimates I could provide more detail with respect to the consultation that has taken place to date.

The distance involved is as great, or greater, than any busing distance in the territory. I do not know of any initiative to take Ross River students to Faro, simply to justify a high school in Faro. More than likely, there may be sufficient numbers in Faro to justify a high school. We do not know. We are working that out.

The viability of busing between Ross River and Faro will depend very much on the parents in Ross River.

Mr. Coles: Could the Minister tell us what the transportation subsidy is right now for people taking their own children to school who live outside of a bus route? Does it vary according to distance?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will find the exact figure for the Member. It is a per family per day fee.

Mr. Coles: That means that distance is of no consequence at all. It is just a set amount for each day?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: To a maximum of \$10 per family per day.

Mr. Coles: Has there been any thought given to increasing that amount?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Not specifically. If the Member has a case that he would like to bring forward — a hardship case — where it would warrant an increase of the subsidy, I would be interested in hearing it.

Mr. Coles: I would think that there are many families who live far enough away from schooling that \$10 a day would not really cover a lot, perhaps not even the gasoline, let alone the wear and tear on the vehicles, and it is still a lot cheaper than having a bus run out to pick them up.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The subsidy is \$11 per family per day. There was a five percent allowance for increase prior to March 31, 1986.

Mr. Coles: I know of one particular case in my riding where a person has to drive 80 miles a day to get his children to school and

back. I do not think that \$11 goes all that far. I do not know how many cases there are like that, but I suspect that is not the only one.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will take the question under advisement. I do not have details on every situation in the territory. We would like to improve the busing system. There are obvious problems with a universal busing system. We would like to improve it. We would be interested in taking any suggestions from a Member in that vein, keeping in mind the cost implications. If we can improve it, we will.

²³ **Mr. Coles:** I can appreciate what the Minister is saying. I do not know how many cases there are like that in the territory. I think it warrants some examination, because it would seem that somebody who drives 80 miles a day to get their kids into school and receive \$11, while other parents are having their kids transported virtually for free by bus, it creates some kind of a problem.

I also understand that people live where they choose, and they must pay part of that cost themselves, but perhaps it is worth looking at again, as the Minister said.

Facilities/Transportation in the amount of \$3,653,000 agreed to

Mrs. Firth: I would like to ask some questions about the allotments before we move from Finance and Administration. I wanted to know specifically what the increase in personnel represents and what the Other is?

Under the Percentage Change column, is that one a typo? Should that just be a dash?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is a typo. The three percent is JES and the merit increases.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister tell me what the one percent in Other is? The Personnel is merit increases and JES.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There are minor increases: cost of living, costs of supplies, et cetera. It is not any one identifiable item. It is a general increase.

On Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch

Mrs. Firth: From the program objectives, these two policy, planning and evaluation people seem to have a lot of work to do and a tremendous mandate. Can the Minister tell us what some of the efforts of this department have been over the last six months or so? What new policies have they developed? What are they currently working on, and what have they currently been evaluating?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The unit is small. The Member will remember that there is a small policy unit in Advanced Education and Manpower that supplements the activities in the area of policy, planning and evaluation in the department. The kinds of work that the unit is involved in is essentially the very things we were discussing last night, developing time lines, consultation, schedules, terms of reference for such things as a review of the *Education Act*, the Indian Education Commission, the Training Strategy Paper, developing consultation strategy for the Whitehorse Facilities Study, et cetera.

It is an ongoing mandate in the department. They have been responsible for short pieces of research work, small projects in the past. They assist the entire department in providing that kind of assistance on a project-by-project basis.

The unit is essentially no different in terms of its mandate from any other policy unit in the government.

²⁴ **Mrs. Firth:** I am assuming that because of the indication in last year's budget that the person-years were transferred late in the year, but the dollars were not, and that the large increase represents the salary dollars now being shown in the 1986-87 budget. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The salary dollars are transferred, of course, from one year to the next. They are shown in this year's allotment as well. Included in the funding for this year are those other costs associated with program delivery, which were picked up in previous years by the Administration branch of the department. That would include such things as employee travel inside and outside of the territory, contract services, program materials and telephone, that sort of thing — the support materials to support this branch.

Mrs. Firth: It was shown in the budget that the salary dollars were transferred in 1985-86. Ninety-seven thousand dollars was the estimate in the 1985-86 Budget, and the forecast for 1985-86 shows

\$85,000. Why has it gone up to \$125,000?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: First of all, the salaries actually dropped from last year to this year because the position, when vacant, was reclassified downwards by the JES. The estimate last year was \$97,000, and the estimate this year was \$92,000 for salaries and benefits for the unit.

Included in this year's budget are such things as \$6,400 for travel inside the territory, \$2,500 for meetings with the Association of Canadian Universities and Northern Studies. There is \$3,400 for two trips outside the Yukon for training or familiarization for program review; \$1,600 for research studies; \$2,000 for management training outside the Yukon; Contract Services for \$13,700; Program materials for \$3,000 and telephone \$2,200.

Essentially there are a variety of costs associated with program delivery, which are now subsumed in this branch that used to be spread out over the rest of the department.

Mrs. Firth: I have the last three figures the Minister gave us: \$1,600 for research, \$2,000 for management training and \$13,700 was for contract services. What are those three things? What is the research and who does the research?

²⁵ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** This is primarily for small, short-term research contracts that we would do locally to support the activities of the entire department. It is an estimate from past practice and previous experience. It is a small budget to support this branch.

Mrs. Firth: What is the \$2,000 for Outside Management Training?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is to provide for training and upgrading of skills for the staff of the department. The staff of this branch are on a staff development program for managers. It is intended to improve their administrative, management and interpersonal qualifications and allow them to become better prepared for further challenges within the government.

As a part of the program, there will be a need to travel to Vancouver for an intensive 40-hour training program. It is expected that two trips will be required in the coming year. It is professional development.

Mrs. Firth: Is that in addition to the \$3,400 of outside travel. What would that \$3,400 be spent on for those two individuals?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The branch is responsible for conducting program evaluations on every major program in the department. The staff requires special training in order for them to efficiently conduct these studies. The funding is for two trips outside to enhance their ability to conduct efficient program evaluations. It is also for professional development.

Mrs. Firth: I do not want to be picky about a small amount of money, but it is for two people. We have \$5,400 for professional training and management training. Is this something that is going to be a one-time training, or is this something that will be there every year?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It depends very much on the turnover in this branch. One of the things that we have to recognize when we accept local hire, as a general principle, is that quite often upgrading of skills is going to be required and a certain amount of professional development is going to be required.

Historically, even in Education as a department there has been considerable funding made for the professional development of teachers. We continue to support that professional development. It is good for the teachers, and it is good for the people involved in the policy unit.

I have no trouble whatsoever supporting, in principle, the upgrading of skills for people in this government in order to provide better service to the public. Quite often, when we hire locally we do not find people with the skills we need, but we do find people with a good deal going for them, in terms of raw skills, and it is merely a matter of fine-tuning the skills that are already there. When we load on responsibility, such as program evaluation, to a unit such as this, it will require some familiarization and training. We are committed to giving that training.

²⁶ **Mrs. Firth:** I just want to know if the government is going to practice underfill in an area like Policy, Planning and Evaluation. I personally think that that is a fairly sophisticated area, and that you would want to hire people with the expertise immediately. I did not

realize that that was the government's intention. However, if that is the case, that is the case.

Can the Minister tell us what the \$13,700 is for contracts?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There will be underfill appointments where it is appropriate. There will also be, for people who are considered otherwise quite qualified, the means to upgrade skills, enhance their abilities to accept communication systems and new ways of doing things. Historically in this government, there has been a commitment to do that. We have not changed our methodology in terms of training to any great extent.

The branch is going to be responsible for undertaking fairly detailed research on many of the major policy issues that I mentioned already. They will be working with Advanced Education and the College on issues that affect the Community College.

There are such things as review of the busing policy, et cetera, which will require work. There will be certain small jobs that will require contract work to supplement them in terms of providing base information.

The research needs will be general. I cannot detail them for the Member now. This is not unlike the research budgets in many other branches and departments. They are not all tied down to the last dollar at the beginning of the year. There is a tendency for people to believe that there are slush funds to be drawn on at will, but, at the same time, they are a necessary fund, if used properly, to provide a way to undertake short term research projects.

This is the sort of fund, as the Member will know, that was in existence in the past. We try to keep them to a minimum. We try to keep an eye on the expenditures under this program so that they are not used for purposes other than for which they are intended, and that they are directed towards government initiatives and not administrative initiatives.

Those are the things that are on the government's mind and on the minds of the senior members of the administration. The figure we expect would be in the neighbourhood of \$13,000. It is an historical figure. I do not think it is too large. The Member is shaking her head. That is fine.

Over the past many years, even when the Member was the Minister of Education, there was tremendous contract research work. There were funds for large contract research work in the Department of Education, Yukon College, et cetera. They have been there for a long time.

If the Member has any reasons why the \$13,000 should be deleted, she can express her concerns, but we are committed to providing sufficient funding to undertake the initiatives promoted by this government and to be carried out by this branch. We will make sure that they have sufficient resources to do the work.

²⁷ **Mrs. Firth:** The Minister has gone off into the twilight zone somewhere. I just want to know what the money is for. I am not saying whether it is good, bad or indifferent. I want the Minister to account to the Legislature for his department needing that amount of money; why \$13,700 and not \$10,000? What is planned and what is this figure based on? Just because it was done ten years ago is not justification to me, nor would it have been when I was a Minister. Can the Minister tell me why they determined that amount of money and what they plan on doing with it?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have given the Member the justification for the size of the figure and the projects to which the money is being put. If the Member is not satisfied with that justification, I cannot offer her more.

Mrs. Firth: This is why governments and oppositions reach stalemates. I thought the question was reasonable. What kind of contracts? What is the department currently working on; what areas of policy? What are they evaluating? Are they going to have to contract for some specific purpose? I am trying to find out from the Minister how the department justified to him they need that amount of money and I am looking for examples. I do not need to know what every cent is going to be spent on, but something to satisfy me that some planning has gone into it and the money is going to be efficiently and wisely spent and spent to the benefit of Yukoners.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We spent, I think, a good solid four hours last night giving the Member an indication of what the department was doing in the policy end. I do not intend to go over

that material once again. The sorts of things they are doing is providing budget documentation for preparation of the budget. Currently there is a research assistant who is working on a casual basis, I understand, towards providing information for a training paper — a major initiative I mentioned before. The figure is approximately one-third to one-half of the cost of one person-year for a research assistant's work. There is not a very specific group of projects; there is not a detailed work plan upon which all these items are going to be undertaken over the course of the next ten months, hour-by-hour, day-by-day, upon which this estimate is based. It is a rough estimate based on what the unit thinks it can perform in terms of small project work, given the sorts of tasks it is given. That is the justification. We went over, at great length last night, the kinds of policy work that will be undertaken by the department. It is extensive. We feel the \$13,000 is justified.

Mrs. Firth: I thank the Minister for his answer — other than the four hours, minute-by-minute, day-by-day comment — and I am satisfied with the answer he gave, and I am now prepared to pass the line item.

²⁸ *On Policy and Planning*

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister just tell us what the other \$32,000 is for?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I gave a breakdown already. I had it almost down to the dollar. That is how we found out that there was

Mrs. Firth: Okay, it includes all of that then?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Policy and Planning in the amount of \$125,000 agreed to On Public Schools

Chairman: General debate?

Mrs. Firth: We have gone from one objective in Public Schools, to 10 of them. Can the Minister tell us why? Can he tell me if there are any new initiatives included in those objectives? Are these expanded objectives due to any particular reason?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There was a desire to clarify the functions that the Public Schools branch performs. One of the additions that we wanted to emphasize, which was an objective of the department in the past, was the assurance of community input into the local school. We wanted to emphasize that there should be increased emphasis on parental involvement.

In the main, the program objectives demonstrate a greater clarification of the functions of this branch. There is the transfer of French Programs from separate programming to the Public Schools branch, which the Member will note. Largely, it demonstrates more clearly what the branch is doing, than the rather narrow description provided in the O&M 1985-86 Estimates.

Generally speaking, it is to provide greater clarity.

Mrs. Firth: Was there any particular new initiative? The Minister did not really say, other than the concept of the French Language being included in the public school system.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Not as identified in program objectives. There is an enhancement of funding in curriculum development for the publishing of some booklets. There is the addition of the superintendent of schools in Mayo. There are a variety of initiatives of that sort, but nothing of major consequence, nothing that Members would want to consider as being a major government undertaking.

We want to maintain the quality of education, and we are attempting to do that with the resources the department has. We wanted to ensure that the cost of living increases would be covered, so that the quality could be maintained.

²⁹ **Mr. Lang:** To pursue the question of the regional superintendent being based in the community of Mayo, along with that, is the individual going to be provided with secretarial staff and all the kinds of things that are required to run an office and the responsibilities that go along with it? Where will his or her office be located; in the Government Services building, or in the school itself?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is yet to be decided. I think I mentioned last night that the superintendent could be located in the school itself. That means that that person could take advantage of the secretarial support provided in the school. If the person were to

be located in the Mayo Administration Building, there would be the opportunity, I presume, to share the secretarial support that currently exists in that building.

The exact location of the superintendent has not been established, but it is being worked on at the present time. It is something we recognize has to be resolved fairly soon, and we are undertaking to do that.

Mr. Lang: As an observation over my years in government, I think it would be inadvisable to put a regional superintendent into a school because, if you do, I think you will eventually have a conflict between the principal, who is supposed to be in charge of the school, and his or her immediate superior, the regional superintendent. That depends upon the personalities involved, but I could see that perhaps becoming a problem. I think that should be taken into consideration.

I also have a question about housing. Is the government going to provide housing for this individual?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not have the details with respect to housing. The Yukon Housing Corporation has been alerted that a unit will be required.

I think the Member is quite right about locating the superintendent in the school, and every effort will be made to ensure that the superintendent is located outside the school. The only limiting factor, I would think, would be the availability of suitable space outside the school building itself. Clearly, I think everyone recognizes, and it has been brought up before, that the location of the superintendent in the school could easily create tensions within the school administration.

Mr. Lang: I am becoming a bit concerned here. Perhaps I should pursue, in part, how the decision was made. The decision was made to put a regional superintendent in the community of Mayo. Simultaneous to that decision was the question of housing, the question of secretarial services and office space, considered? Or was the decision made to go ahead with the superintendent and these various other questions were going to be addressed by the administration as opposed to Cabinet.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It was considered that the decision of where one office is located was not one that should be a top priority of Cabinet to consider. The cost factor is something that has been taken into account in the budgeting process. There is an estimate of the cost for office space in the community. I believe it is \$500 a month, whether it be for Government Services or for the private sector.

There is sufficient time to work out the details. Our position has been made quite clear.

Mr. Lang: At the time that the decision was made to appoint another rural superintendent in the community of Mayo, was a decision also made at that time regarding housing and secretarial support requirements, or was that left for the department to work out after?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The decision did incorporate the implications of locations of office space for the secretarial support and housing, et cetera. The location of the office has not been determined. It has not been determined whether or not the superintendent will take advantage of school secretarial support or secretarial support in the Administration Building.

These questions can be worked out in due course. There is sufficient time to do these. This is an O&M Budget that anticipates activities in the coming year. It does not second guess every single decision that is going to be made. It does not establish every detail prior to the fact. It is not a supplementary. It is an estimate of the things to come.

Mr. Lang: That is the point of the budget. Is the government going to provide housing and secretarial help? Where is the office going to be located? You have not answered any one of those three questions. All I have heard is a bunch of mumbo-jumbo.

What is the total cost of this move that the government announced in the Throne Speech? What is the total cost of housing, a secretarial office, the salary of the individual and the vehicle?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The estimate for the placement of the superintendent, including salary, will be \$79,000. The accommodation will be paid for by the employee as is the case with other

employees. That figure includes the salary of the superintendent and what is considered to be sufficient secretarial time to support that position.

Mr. Lang: Just to pursue this thing a little further, what time is estimated that the individual involved is going to have to spend, in view of his or her administrative requirements, in coming to Whitehorse. How many trips per year? Is that considered in the \$79,000 or is that over and above?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: A rough estimate would probably be 10. It would depend very much on the needs at the time. There is not a great experience factor in having a superintendent in a rural area, but we can estimate that 10 trips to Whitehorse would be more than sufficient and if the superintendent can double up on his duties and work in trips to Carmacks on an extension of a trip to Whitehorse it would bring down the costs. Showing a person's face in Whitehorse 10 times per year would be as accurate an estimate as we could determine.

Mr. Lang: Since you have informed the House prior to giving us those numbers that you had not worked out the secretarial costs of providing that service to the Regional superintendent, is the figure you have given us including full-time secretary help, or is that not included?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is not full-time secretarial help. The degree to which the superintendent could make use of the school secretary, should the superintendent be placed in the school, would be a limiting factor on the expense. If the superintendent has a secretary who is solely responsible to him alone, then the cost estimate that we have identified in that \$79,000 figure would be insufficient. It is not estimated that a full-time secretary will be necessary.

Mr. Lang: My concern is that I see a scrambling for figures and that a decision was taken and then costs looked at after for what the total cost would be, and so-what for the consequences. That is my concern; the prospect of how the decision was made. I guess things have changed since I have been on that side, rightly or wrongly.

Mrs. Firth: This reminds me of the federal Liberal Ministers who used to go around with their officials close on their heels because the officials were terrified the Minister was going to make some announcement and the officials were going to have to scramble and scrape and try to cover the announcement the Minister had made, so were very reluctant to let him out of their sight. It is kind of humorous, but it reminds me of the same kind of story.

I asked the Minister a question in Question Period yesterday regarding the job description and whether the request had gone to the Public Service Commission for the job to be advertised for the Regional Superintendent. Can he answer that question now?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The job description had gone to PSC. It was returned to the department for revision, and I believe it is going back to the PSC.

Mrs. Firth: When does the Minister expect that the job will be advertised in the local newspapers?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would estimate that as soon as the budget is passed the position will be advertised. Certainly, the people who would be applying for the job are aware of the government's intentions, in general terms, with respect to the placement of a third superintendent in Mayo. We would hope that local candidates would be prepared to apply and achieve the position successfully.

Mr. Lang: Just out of curiosity, I have heard a couple of times from the front bench that nothing can be done until the budget is passed. Are no positions being filled while we are in the House here? I do not understand why the Minister thinks that we have to wait until the budget gets passed. Perhaps he could explain to the House as I find it confusing.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Life is going on, believe it or not, despite the delays in passing the budget. Clearly, there will be a desire to have the job posting for the superintendent going out as soon as possible. We know whom we want to target to encourage applications. We want to target the Yukon teaching population to encourage them to apply for superintendent positions. We realize that the end of the school year is coming fairly soon, and once the

end of the school year comes much of the teaching staff leave on holidays. We would like to encourage them to apply and to make the decision before that time comes. The job posting will come in due course. It will come as soon as we can. It will come before the end of the school year.

Mr. Lang: I wanted to move on to another area with the Minister, and it has to do with the French Language Program. I am getting a little concerned in looking at the estimates and recoveries. If you go back to 1984-85, it is \$453,000; 1985-86, \$742,000; now it is \$739,000. Just exactly what is taking place there? Are we going to get to the point that there are no recoveries on the French Language Program?

We are talking about the objectives of the French Language Program again. My concern was on the recoveries side. Granted it is not a lot of money; it is \$3,000 less than the past year. However, we have a further year in French Immersion and you have the 7-9 class in the First French Language course. In all, these things are starting to compound themselves and our recoveries are not going up simultaneously to reflect the interest for the programming that is underway.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would not want the Member to think that the \$742,000 to \$739,000 is a trend that predicts a decline in recoveries. As the Member will know, we will be expanding the French Immersion to Grade 6, but the class that is funded is the lead year in the expansion of the program, so we will be expanding French Immersion. We will still only be receiving funding for the lead year. It is not anticipated that there is any great change involved there specifically.

³³ There is a reduced enrollment of moderate proportions, which will affect the future of the program, and the recoveries that we will receive this year. When we get to the French Language line item, we can go through in detail what the funding is for and what recoveries we will be receiving.

In general terms, of initiatives that we have announced, there is the addition of a French Language Consultant, who has been on the job for some time; there is the expansion of French Immersion to grade six. There is always the ongoing recruitment and relocation costs for French teachers. As I explained last night, to nobody's surprise, most of the teachers are recruited from eastern Canada, Quebec or New Brunswick, the French speaking provinces. When we recruit from those areas, there are relocation costs, which we have to absorb.

There is a proposal to expand the core French in grade one in Watson Lake, Grey Mountain and Christ the King Elementary School. Those are the kinds of initiatives that we are taking.

The Member asked specifically why we moved from \$742,000 to \$739,000, a reduction of \$3,000. It is a miniscule sum, although important, and when we get to the line item, I can explain the costs associated, and why there would be a minor decrease in recoveries.

Mr. Lang: I realize the Minister has other things on his mind, and I appreciate that. I thought that there was an increase in the French programming throughout the system. My understanding is that a lot of these costs are recoverable. What I do not understand, even if it is \$3,000, is why we are getting less, as opposed to more or it staying the same. I understand the principle of the Immersion program. I do not have to go through that. My concern is on the French First Language program and the advent of going into the French as a Second Language, of how much there will be in recoveries, or if we are going to get more recoveries, I would like to hear it. We must have some projections, not just this year, but in the next three or four years, in the budgeting for this particular area of programming.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The programs that are fully cost recoverable are French First Language and advanced year First Immersion.

Chairman: At this time, we will recess for 15 minutes.

Recess

³⁴ **Chairman:** I will now call the Committee to order. Public Schools, continue general debate.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister break that down into person-years and indicate what the change is and why there are fluctuations?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Does the Member want a breakdown of person-years for the Public School Branch or just the Administration?

Mrs. Firth: The Administration.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There are 6.5 person-years in Administration, plus 3.5 in student accommodation. I could give the Member an indication why the permanent person-years have dropped by 1.4. There is very little change apart from the items that were mentioned already.

Under French First Language, there was a turnback of 1.5 person-year that could not be used. There was the addition of .1 in the administration of the French Centre and an Instructor for Adult Education to bring a net reduction in staff of 1.4.

That explains the change for all the public schools.

³⁵ The organization chart for the Public Schools Branch includes the assistant deputy minister and a secretary and three superintendents. Under Program Support and Development there are 12 person-years, a senior consultant I. In the French Language Program there are 10.1 person-years. In student accommodation, the Housemaster at 3.5 and there is a secretary to support the two regional superintendents.

Mrs. Firth: When the Minister talked about the total person-year complement going down 1.4, what was he referring to: just the administrative section?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The whole branch.

Mrs. Firth: I am looking at 1984-85 and comparing it to 1986-87, and I see an increase of 5.6; from 349.5 to 355.1. I wonder if the Minister could explain what that increase was caused by?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: One minute and I will check for the reason for an increase three years ago.

³⁶ I will have to check. The feeling is that it is probably a teacher increase, but we can check specifically on the reasons for it.

Mrs. Firth: The populations of students are not increasing. Why would we have such a dramatic teacher increase? The population of the school in Faro has increased to require two more teachers. I noticed that from the enrollment sheets that the Minister has given us. What are the other increases? Where would they be represented, when the enrollment statistics have remained exactly the same as October, 1985?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Are we talking about the same thing? I thought the Member was referring to an increase two years ago from 1984-85 Actuals to last year. My book shows a reduction of 1.4 from 1985-86 forecast to the 1986-87 estimates.

Mrs. Firth: From 1984-85 to 1986-87, a 5.6 increase.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not know the specific reasons for the change over conditions two years ago. I will undertake to check for the Member. If I speculate, then we will get into an artificial debate. I will have to hold off and check back.

Mrs. Firth: I appreciate that. The Minister also has to take into consideration the information I have been given. I was given an enrollment sheet for October, 1985, which I felt represented part of that year, the 349.5 person-years. The only change on the April 1, 1986, enrollment sheet is the students in Faro, which require two more teachers. Yet, the change in the totals of the 1984-85 to the 1986-87 has been 5.6 person-years. I would like to know where the extra came when the enrollment remained the same. How many school teachers do we have in the Yukon Territory?

³⁷ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** There are 302.23 school teachers.

Chairman: Is there anything further on Administration?

Administration in the amount of \$1,093,000 agreed to On Program Delivery

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell the House how much of that \$19 million represents salary dollars for the 302.23 teachers?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The figure of 70 percent is as accurate a round figure that we can come to. If the Member wants a very specific dollar figure, I can deliver it in due course.

Mrs. Firth: Does the superintendent's salary come out of Program Delivery or Administration?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The regional superintendent's salary comes out of Program Delivery.

Mrs. Firth: Does that apply to all three regional superintendents?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Mrs. Firth: Since the Program Delivery is the largest activity in this program, I would like to move to the allotments and ask for a reason for the substantial increase in the personnel.

I recognize it is related to the teachers' salaries, but could I get a reason from the Minister as to what has happened?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There was a contract settlement, and this is the second year of a two-year agreement.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell us what percentage for each of the two years of the settlement were?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will check that for the Member.

Mrs. Firth: I find it kind of surprising that the Minister does not have those percentages.

I understand the teachers were not affected by the JES program. Can the Minister explain that somewhat?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: They were not evaluated under the JES program. The extent to which they would have been would be the result of a government decision that was not made. It would have to be bargained collectively as was the situation with the Public Service Alliance.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell me when the two-year contract settlement for the teachers will expire and when they will be negotiating another one?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: October of 1986.

Mrs. Firth: Were there any other benefits negotiated in that contract other than a straight percentage increase?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The package of things including the salary and administrative allowances for principals were the sorts of items that were bargained and increased. The Teachers Collective Agreement, I presume, is a public document and I will secure a copy and deliver it to the Member.

Mrs. Firth: I am getting quite an outstanding list of information the Minister has committed himself to bringing back. Could he give me some indication as to when that information will be provided? I am speaking now with regard to the contract and percentages, and I have some outstanding things regarding program evaluation from yesterday, and I still have some things left over from Question Period and Supplementary Estimates.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Some of those outstanding requests could be gone over right now. Here is a copy of the Computer Policy. With respect to evaluation of the core French Pilot Program, I will attach a copy of the internal report. There was an external evaluation of the gifted program done in 1984-85. Presumably the Member has already had access to that, but I will give her access to it again. Some Member asked for reports on the program for Young Offenders. The program was established years ago with the Public Schools Branch supplying a part-time teacher and classroom for the children in the care of Human Resources and this has continued. Discussions will continue on the need and requirement as it pertains to the *Young Offenders' Act*.

One Member asked a question with respect to Project Wild and the government has been aware of the program for several years. The department has the materials and has been in touch with the Department of Renewable Resources. The materials cannot be used unless the users have been specially trained. We are still investigating the assimilation of Project Wild Program into existing programming.

The Member asked a question with respect to the Faro student increase: 15 of the 23 students transferred to Faro were from outside of the Yukon.

The Member: The Member asked a question with respect to Native Language funding. Four hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars is budgeted for the administration of the program; there is \$187,000 budgeted for two salaries for two teachers, plus casual Native Language instruction in the communities. There is classroom space and space in Whitehorse Elementary for classrooms and an office, to provide for delivery of that program.

The teacher's contract percentage increase, which went into effect

September 1, 1985, is 6.05 percent, and on September 1, 1986, it is three percent. There is a flood of information. We are always happy to deliver it when we can. The information is here and available for the Member.

Mrs. Firth: I can assure the Minister the information would be much more helpful over here than it is over there. I appreciate him bringing it to me and providing the information he just did about the contract and so on.

This is strange. I want to talk a bit about the government's policy when it comes to the program delivery in the outlying communities. I think he is providing the information.

Chairman: Mr. Phelps, on a point of order.

Mr. Phelps: On a point of order. Is the information being tabled? I do not know what the status of it is. We have had reference to some information. Is it to be tabled?

Chairman: This is a point of information.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There is nobody here to table it, Mr. Chairman. I will table it myself.

Chairman: The information has been tabled.

Mrs. Firth: The Minister is getting quite humorous. With respect to program delivery in the outlying areas, and the rural schools, has the Minister decided upon any new method of program delivery because of the small numbers of students. I am talking specifically about the availability of things like the Challenge Program. Is that going to be a problem for us, if there are requests for further French education — sort of specialty areas that they may not have the numbers of students, but still have the demands for the program.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: As a matter of course, there is an ongoing initiative to expand what kind of programming is available to rural schools. The government has made a commitment to do that. The Challenge Program is the example the Member mentions. It is to be expanded through the use of learning assistants, who exist in most of the schools in the territory. As a matter of policy, yes, it is true. We will try to expand programming as much as possible to cover off all rural schools.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister just clarify for me what program delivery is and what constitutes program support? What is in the activity Program Delivery?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Program Delivery is the actual delivery of the programs. It involves the teachers, and the remedial tutors, the people who provide the service. The Program Support is the curriculum development, the support that goes into establishing the programs that are delivered by the teachers.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister be more specific and tell me what is under the line item, Program Delivery? In the past budget, under Public Schools, there were many different areas, native language, gifted program, alternate program, remedial tutors, special education, student transportation, clerical support and all kinds of things. How has it been amalgamated?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In this section, there is administration, professional development, clerical support and general programs, which is the bulk of the \$19 million; \$16,256,000 for general programs. Extension programs, special education, remedial tutors, challenge programs, equivalency education, native language, et cetera make up the balance of the \$19 million.

In Program Support, we are talking about career counselling, Learning Resource Centre, educational computing, curriculum development, the central office level in terms of special education, Challenge Program, equivalency programs and the Native Language Program. One is delivery, one is teachers in the classrooms and one is the support for those teachers at the head office level.

Mrs. Firth: Is it fair to say that Program Support is more in the administrative area as opposed to direct programs that are delivered to the students?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes. It is administrative assistance provided to the teachers for the delivery of the programs.

Mrs. Firth: How are the Administrative Services different from the top activity? Are they similar? Are we spending almost \$3 million in Administrative Services in this department?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The administrative costs in Program Delivery that come to \$209,000 are the superintendents. The

administrative unit in Program Support and Development would include the Director of Curriculum, the Coordinator of Educational Computing and the Assistant Coordinator, the Coordinator of Primary Instruction, the Coordinator of Remedial Program, the Coordinator for the Equivalency Program and the Coordinator for the Challenge Program.

The Coordinator for Special Education and Career Counselling, the instructional materials Coordinator are also incorporated into the Administrative Unit of the Program Support and Development.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister give me the organizational structure of the two areas, or a breakdown of what is included in both of them so that when we come to the next budget debate I will have that and be able to follow it more closely?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes, I will provide that for the Member.

Mrs. Firth: The Minister mentioned something about an alternative plan for the school in Faro when we did the Supplementary Estimates and said that there may be some O&M cost implications for a new school, or whatever the decision was they were going to make regarding the Faro school for next year. Can the Minister tell us if there is any money identified in here for that?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: With respect to the deal that is to be struck between the community and Curragh and the Department of Education with respect to the use of the Rec Centre in Faro, that deal has not yet been finalized. The funding to provide for heating costs, et cetera, comes under the Facilities and Transportation component under Administration.

Mrs. Firth: So there is money identified there for heating costs and janitorial services should the Department of Education be required to use the Community Centre?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell me offhand how much that is?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Perhaps we could go on to another question and I will have the answer brought forward.

Mr. McLachlan: When the budget preparation documents were made for program delivery of \$19 million, and I realize this was probably last December or January, is there money provided in this line item for a high school in Faro, grades 10, 11 and 12?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Generally speaking, what happens throughout the territory is that needs are identified as soon as possible in all the given schools in the territory. There are a set number of teachers — I believe I said 302 or so — from which to draw upon. Once the needs are identified, teachers are allocated to the schools, showing as much sensitivity as humanly possible — and I think that was shown with respect to the teacher relocation for teachers for Faro — in accordance with need. We will determine what Faro's needs are as soon as possible, and will accommodate Faro's needs, along with the needs of every other school in the territory, once we have identified them. We will try to do that projection as soon as we can.

It is not unlike the same sort of exercise we go through in other schools in the territory, even major high schools, or larger schools. There is an exercise to determine what programs and what classes will be provided to what grades and what age levels, et cetera. That sort of calculation has to be done every year, irrespective of whether or not we provide a high school service to a particular school that did not have it before. The exercise still has to be undergone. There are a set number of teachers and we have to reallocate those teachers to the best advantage.

The Member asked a question with respect to program delivery, with respect to the amount of extra-curricular travel that the government is providing for. Last year the total budget for extra-curricular activity for all the schools was \$32,000. This year we have almost doubled it to \$59,200.

Mr. McLachlan: Correct me if I am wrong, but when the budget was passed for the year ended March 31, 1986, a large sum of money that was set out from the year previous would have been identified for Del Van Gorder School in Faro. It was not used in its entirety. Therefore, a large sum had to be turned back. I am asking for a reapplication of the turned back funds from last year into this year when it is demonstrated that it is going to be needed. I would like to advise the Minister that, after I see the enrollments for Mayo, Haines Junction and Carmacks, we will have that number of

high school students. I do not think I am asking for anything unreasonable. I am just asking for the money back that we did not expend last year to go into this year. If he could indicate that is coming, I will not bug him anymore about high school in Faro.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member will know that when the staff of the Faro school was reduced to one, the teachers were not laid off. The teachers were reallocated to other parts of the territory, and were drawn into the Whitehorse system and into other schools.

⁴³ There will be a necessary reallocation of teachers to the extent that Faro will need in the coming year. The money was not turned back in the sense that it was not spent. It was spent providing perhaps a better level of service in Whitehorse and around the territory because there was no sense that we wanted to lay off teachers; we wanted to accommodate the system as much as possible. There probably will be some relocation, depending on the kind of information we receive and the accuracy of the information we receive from Curragh.

Mrs. Firth: Perhaps I could ask about the fate of the school in Faro. What is going to happen to the gymnasium; is it going to be torn down and rebuilt? Is the rest of the school considered safe and what is the life expectancy of some of that area?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The person to best answer that would be the Minister for Government Services but my understanding is that the new addition to the school, or most of it that was placed on new foundations, shows that it is sinking significantly. To provide remedial action would be horrifically expensive. I think I remember a figure in the neighbourhood of \$3 million — I will have to check on that — to rectify the situation, with no guarantee that it would not sink any more. That is the situation we are faced with. Part of the new addition was put on existing foundations and that part, I understand, is salvagable. That part includes some classroom space and I think will be salvaged.

With respect to the new gymnasium and library centre and change rooms, they cannot be used by students. It is considered too dangerous for them to be in that facility, so my understanding is what probably will take place is that the new addition, or most of it, will be salvaged. Any equipment we can remove to supplement the Rec Centre Gymnasium will be salvaged, but clearly I think demolition of the structure will have to take place very soon. The Minister of Government Services will have to be asked how that is to be done because I do not have any first-hand knowledge of that. There will be some renovations required to the Rec Centre itself, change rooms, gymnasium, heating system, et cetera, which will be required to bring it up to a decent standard. That is the lowest cost alternative that we have. It certainly is preferable to trying to fix up the new gymnasium or tearing it down and building a new one.

Mrs. Firth: Does the Minister expect that that will take place this summer, or construction season, and are there intentions to demolish the gym, library and that new section and then do any reconstruction, or is just the demolition going to take place?

⁴⁴ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** Our intentions will be made clear in the Capital Supplementaries. I do not know when demolition will take place, or under what conditions it will take place. I am sure that the Minister of Government Services could provide that information.

Mrs. Firth: Surely the Minister has relayed to the Minister of Government Services what their wishes are, or is it dependent on the Government Services department determining whether they are going to rebuild, or how much they are going to demolish?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We have communicated our wishes very clearly that, upon the advice of Government Services with respect to the stability of the particular addition, we do not want to use the new addition. We have indicated to them that the new addition has to be either secured or demolished in order to preserve the safety of the students in the area and the whole community who might be passing by the area. I do not think there is any sort of imminent danger, but there is the possibility of danger, and we have to be mindful of that.

With respect to our needs in the Rec Centre, we have communicated those needs to Government Services to give us a cost estimate on what would be necessary to bring the facility up to standard for a school of that size. They have come back with a

specific cost estimate, which will be tabled with the Capital Supplementaries soon.

Mrs. Firth: Just speaking of the Capital Supplementaries, when is it expected that they will be tabled?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will defer that question to the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for tabling such a document.

Mrs. Firth: The Minister of Education has been talking about Capital Supps being tabled. Can the Minister of Finance tell us when he is intending on tabling them?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: This week.

Mrs. Firth: Now that we have discussed the sinking Faro school, I would like to move on to the sinking Dawson school, and ask the Minister what the plans are for the Dawson school. Are there any O&M implications in this budget?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There are O&M implications. There is a firewatch. I am sure we could dig out the specific costs associated with the firewatch, 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week. There is, and will be, some indication in the Capital Supps as to what our intentions are with respect to the Robert Service School. I would dearly like to reserve the debate on the capital upgrading of that school to that debate.

There are O&M costs associated with maintaining the school in its present condition. I cannot remember specifically what they are, but I will dig that information out. That is one of the reasons why we are moving on the capital side.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell us what the time period is that he has identified in the O&M Budget for the firewatch? Is it for a full year?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes. Any remedial action on the capital side would be for a much longer term than what this budget year covers.

Chairman: Is there anything further on Program Delivery?

Mrs. Firth: I would like to say that \$19,321,000 is a lot of money. I hope that there is not a big slush fund within that amount of money, and that it is all going to be spent very wisely. I will have to take the Minister at his word that he has checked every cent and had it justified completely.

I am prepared to pass that line item, however, with some reluctance because of the large amount.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member is quite right that there is a lot of money here. It is a very expensive system to operate successfully. I have spent a good deal of time reviewing the expenditures in considerable detail. The costs associated with teachers' salaries is significant.

I understand and appreciate the concerns of the Member. I am confident that the projects that we are putting the money towards will be projects that are worthwhile, and the money will be well spent.

I realize it is very difficult for the Member to engage in a detailed analysis on a dollar-by-dollar basis of the entire vote. I can assure her that nothing major has changed that has not been described. Thought has obviously gone into Program Delivery.

Mrs. Firth: My biggest concern is when do the costs stop increasing when the student populations are decreasing? I had a concern about that two years ago when I was the Minister. I know this amount almost represents what our total budget for Education was some two years ago. That was for the total Department of Education, Advanced Education and Manpower.

I believe it was up in the \$25 million to \$26 million area. Now we are up to \$38 million. Yet, the student populations are going down, and I find that difficult to grasp. I think a lot of people in the Yukon also do when they look at just those relationships and those figures. I am sure the Minister shares my concern as well.

⁴⁵ *On Program Delivery*

Program Delivery in the amount of \$19,321,000 agreed to

On Program Support

Program Support in the amount of \$1,959,000 agreed to

On French Language

Mrs. Firth: I would like to have the Minister tell me exactly what that line includes. Is that all of the French programs: French as a First Language, Ecole Emilie Tremblay, French Immersion, the Adult French Education, French as a Second Language, as well as

the enhanced programs? Is that the whole area that deals with any education provided in French?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The item here includes the administrative unit the Member mentioned, the contract monitors, the lead year of the French Immersion Expansion, the French First Language Program, professional development for the French Immersion and the French First Language teachers, the pilot project French as a Second Language, translation services, and the adult education portion.

It does not include French as a Second Language as part of the regular curriculum, apart from the pilot project. It does not include French Language Education, but everything else.

Mrs. Firth: What about the Immersion K to five? That is in Public Schools programs as well?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes. This is only for the lead year in the Immersion program, which will be grade six this year.

Mrs. Firth: That clarifies it quite nicely for me. The Minister is providing French First Language for kindergarten to grade nine. There is K to grade six at Whitehorse Elementary School, and grades seven, eight and nine at GA Jeckell School. Is that still the present status?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes, that is roughly the status. We are not sure of the numbers in kindergarten. That has yet to be determined.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister just give me the numbers of kindergarten to grade six, and grades seven, eight and nine?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The projections overall were contained in the information statistics on page 96. Grades one to six, 22; grades seven, eight and nine, 8. As of February 6, 1986, there were no students in kindergarten. There were four students in grade one, six in grade two, three in grade three, five in grade four, five in grade five.

We anticipated those students would still be in the system next year, for a total of 22.

⁴⁷ **Mrs. Firth:** Grades seven to nine have eight; is that what has been there this year? That is in the projections.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell me what he is doing about the requests for the grades 10, 11 and 12 parents who are requesting their children have French First Language?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We are looking at two options. The first option, I believed I mentioned it in the House before, was to seek travel assistance under funding from the Secretary of State to have the students go to a French-speaking high school for grades 10, 11 and 12. I believe that school is in Saskatchewan.

The other option is to search out the equivalent correspondence courses for those students who wish to remain in the Yukon and attempt their studies by correspondence.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell me which option they are going to pursue, and is the Secretary of State going to give agreement, and is it in agreement with the Franco-Yukonnais?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We will pursue both options to give parents a choice. They are not exclusive of each other necessarily. We will be seeking funding from the Secretary of State for that purpose. We have been given an indication that there certainly is the possibility that that will be the case. This is the preferred option of the French First Language School Committee.

Mrs. Firth: That was what I thought. The travel assistance was the first option of the Franco-Yukonnais. The Minister has been working on that for sometime now. I believe it was almost six months ago when we last sat in the Legislature, and the Minister was then talking about seeking assistance. What seems to be the delay?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The negotiations are concluded at the administrative level. They are about to receive Ministerial perusal. There is some funding available for travel assistance. I have not yet seen it, but I will report to the Member when a decision has been made.

Mrs. Firth: In the event that the funding did not come from the Secretary of State, is the Minister prepared to provide that funding?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We have made no commitment to that effect and have made no decisions respecting that.

Mrs. Firth: When would the Minister expect making that decision? Only in the event that funding was turned down?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: This is highly speculative. Administratively it appears that the funding is there. Whether it meets Ministerial approval has yet to be determined. I have not yet reviewed it, but I will review it. I realize how important it is to students leaving grade 9 who wish to pursue a course of studies. I think things look generally positive.

Mrs. Firth: My concern is for the students in grade 9. Believe it or not, I have had some parents call me and ask what is going to be available for their children for grade 9 now that I am an opposition Member and the critic for Education.

I find myself in a position of asking what the future of those children for grade 9 is. Is the Minister expecting to have some decisions made so that they can plan their next school year?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes. I appreciate the Member's concerns. I have given her an update as to how things lie. I share her concerns, and we would like to make a decision as soon as possible.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister inform me when a decision has been made so I can then pass it on to the individuals who have made requests of me?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There are only three students who take advantage of it. If the Member wants to pass on the good news, I am prepared to let her know, and she can inform the three students involved.

Mrs. Firth: I would like to get back to Recoveries. What does the \$739,000 in the Recoveries represent or exclude? The expenditure that we are estimating for 1986-87 is \$902,000. What does the \$100,000 that is not covered paying for now? Is that just the French Immersion and French as a Second Language, grades 5 to 12?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The French Immersion expansion, the French First Language program and the contract monitors are incorporated into the \$739,000. It includes \$179,300 for Recoveries for Administration, \$47,200 for recoveries on the contract monitors, \$29,700 on French Immersion expansion, \$411,700 for the French First Language program, \$32,200 for professional development, \$6,000 for student support and \$33,500 for adult education.

French Language in the amount of \$902,000 agreed to

Mrs. Firth: Is the increase in the Personnel cost represent just the combination of the JES, the administrative staff and the 6.5 and 3.0 percentage increases for the teachers' contract?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Those are the merit increases.

Mr. McLachlan: I have a question on page 94 in relation to Public Schools, the airfare for grade 11 and 12 students from Old Crow. There are no grade 11 and 12 students in Old Crow. What is the Minister referring to?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Because grade 11 and 12 is not offered in Old Crow, we fly those students to and from Whitehorse and back to Old Crow every year. There has been a special expenditure allotted for that purpose.

Mr. McLachlan: It relates specifically to Polar Games, which are not held in Whitehorse; they are in Mayo. That is why I asked. The students were there from Old Crow, but there were no grade 11 and 12 students. That is why I did not understand what this means.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Let me really try to explain. There are students in Old Crow who are at the grade 11 and 12 level. There is no grade 11 and 12 offered in Old Crow. Generally speaking, they come down to Whitehorse to take their grade 11 and 12. There is special travel support to allow them to do that.

Mrs. Firth: Could I just remind the Minister about the information he is committed to bring back to me: the person-year increase, and the two organizational charts for the program delivery and program support.

*French Language in the amount of \$902,000 agreed to
Public Schools in the amount of \$23,275,000 agreed to
On Libraries and Archives Branch*

Chairman: Page 98, general debate.

Mrs. Firth: I do not have a lot of debate about this section, probably due to the absolute efficiency of the department and the Minister's close scrutiny of the allocation of dollars.

The only question I want to ask again was to do with the population, and why there was a straight across-the-line population

prediction on page 99? There has been no fluctuation in the population served. It says Statistical Library Services. I do not know if it is significant. Perhaps the Minister could just give us a brief explanation of why?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would like to say that it takes some time for people to get used to using Library Services, so only those people who have been here for awhile, only those people from last year would use it, but I presume that is a mistake. This statistical page shows the exact number of people in the territory over the past three years, and we know for a fact there has been certain fluctuations. I do not think the program is based specifically on population figures. It is meant to indicate that there has been no major population increases anticipated, at least by the Libraries and Archives Branch.

Mrs. Firth: I am prepared to pass Libraries and Archives. We had quite a thorough debate in general debate. I see the official has just arrived, and I apologize for her having to come down before I had a chance to say we were not going to have any extensive questions. I do not see any major fluctuations in the spending allotments. They have all been justified by previous explanations of increases, namely the JES and the personnel increases.

There is a .3 person-year increase. Maybe the Minister could just tell us what that is for, and then we can pass the whole program.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There was the addition of a number of very minor increases in terms of person-years for various library clerks in various locations around the territory that added up to a .3 increase. One position would be .033 portion of a person-year, and they add up to .3 in total and are for part-time library clerks.

Chairman: Then do all the line items and the total clear?
Libraries and Archives in the amount of \$1,280,000 agreed to

Hon. Mr. Porter: I move that the Chairman do report progress on Bill No. 5.

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

May the House have the report from the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Webster: The Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 5, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 1986-87*, and ordered me to report progress on same.

Speaker: You have heard the report from the Chairman of Committee of the Whole. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Hon. Mr. Porter: 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 p.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

