



# The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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Number 86

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26th Legislature

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## **HANSARD**

Tuesday, April 14, 1987 — 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 Penikett	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 Kimmerly	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

Danny Joe	Tatchun
Sam Johnston	Campbell
Norma Kassi	Old Crow
Art Webster	Klondike

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### Progressive Conservative

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

### Liberal

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
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Frank Ursich
Hansard Administrator	Dave Robertson

<sup>01</sup> **Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Tuesday, April 14, 1987 — 1:30 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

#### DAILY ROUTINE

**Speaker:** We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.  
 Introduction of Visitors?  
 Are there any Returns or Documents for Tabling?  
 Are there any Reports of Committees?  
 Are there any Petitions?  
 Introduction of Bills?  
 Are there any Notices of Motion for the Production of Papers?  
 Are there any Notices of Motion?  
 Are there any Statements by Ministers?

#### <sup>02</sup> MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

##### International Award of Excellence for Expo '86 Slide Show

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** It gives me great pleasure to announce that the tourism department has won an international award of excellence for the Expo slideshow, entitled "Out of the Silence".

The 12-minute, multi-projector show has been accorded the award of excellence in the multi-media sight and sound program by the International Association of Business Communicators, or IABC. The IABC award is conferred by a respected professional association that is highly discriminating in its selection process.

"Out of the Silence" was selected best entry from 24 submissions and 15 countries, and was commissioned by Tourism Yukon and produced by Scribblers Inc. of Vancouver. The award will be presented at a gala ceremony in London, England, at the IABC's conference this summer.

"Out of the Silence" has been transferred to 16mm film, VHS and Beta, so more people will have a chance to view this spectacular audio-visual production.

This is another opportunity for Yukoners to feel proud of their territory, and I hope that all Members join me in conveying this to the people of the Yukon.

**Mr. Lang:** I want to convey our congratulations to the Department of Tourism. I think everyone in the House has seen the production. It truly deserves the International Award of Excellence.

<sup>03</sup> **Speaker:** This then brings us to the Question Period. Are there any questions?

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Question re: Ross River Band road blockade

**Mr. Phelps:** I have a few questions about the Ross River Indian Band blockade. We have heard that the land use permit has been extended for Mr. Lafave and Central Pacific. I wonder whether the Minister in charge of Transportation Services could confirm that and give us details on the extension.

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** All that I know is that there has been an extension. It is provided on a day-by-day basis. I do not know details beyond that.

**Mr. Phelps:** Could we be advised whether that extension was as a result of recommendations made by the FTLAC of which officials from the Minister's department formed a part?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I do not believe so; I do not believe FTLAC met.

**Mr. Phelps:** Could the Minister give us further information about the \$20,000 that was to be given to Mr. Lafave and his company under the Roads to Resources Program? Is that still going to be given to the company, and, if so, has any of it been spent yet?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** My understanding is that the money has

not been spent yet; certainly it has not been allocated by the department. There has to be an investigation or inspection of the right-of-way to determine whether or not it met the requirements of the agreement. I am not sure whether that exercise has been done.

If the terms of the agreement are adhered to, the money would be paid.

##### Question re: Ross River Band road blockade

**Mr. Phelps:** That is very interesting. I am wondering whether or not there have been any investigations done with regard to the work done on the road under the agreement, and, if so, what officials from the Minister's department have gone out there and when?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I answered that. I did say that I did not know whether inspections had been completed to the satisfaction of the department, or whether any inspections had been undertaken at all. I indicate again that I will undertake to find out whether or not the inspection has been completed.

<sup>04</sup> **Mr. Phelps:** I wonder whether any other officials from the department have gone out to look at the blockade and the situation that has been going on there. The blockade has been ongoing for a long time; the roads are under the jurisdiction of this government. I am wondering whether or not any senior officials have gone out to visit the blockade site?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** The Director of Highway maintenance has been past the site this week, on Monday.

**Mr. Phelps:** Did he drive past at 90 miles an hour or did he stop in and check things out?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** The speed limit is 90 kilometers an hour, and I am sure that he stopped long enough to see what was going on.

##### Question re: Ross River Band road blockade

**Mr. McLachlan:** I have a question for the Government Leader. The Ross River Indian Band has said that the site of the proposed fishing lodge at McEvoy Lake is part of their traditional land. Can the Government Leader confirm if the site of the fishing lodge is also part of the identified land in the land selection process?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** The Ross River Band, as you know, under the 1984 Agreement-in-Principle, did not select land. They have subsequently filed an R-block for the area on that side of the lake, which I believe includes the site that Mr. Lafave was planning to develop as a lodge.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Can the Government Leader advise if the federal government has responded to the R-block request for land identification put forward by the Band, or has nothing happened? Has there been no response by the federal government to that request?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I am not sure what the Member means by a response, but I know that the federal government and our government are looking at the situation. The federal land claims negotiator for the Yukon claim is examining the options for the federal government in this respect, and we are currently in communications with the federal government as to the possible remedies for this situation.

<sup>05</sup> **Mr. McLachlan:** The answer to the second supplementary is important. Is it normal practice to issue a land use permit when an area has been identified in the land selection process?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I am not quite sure which land use permit the Member is referring to. If he is talking about the one on the road, I believe the road is not covered by the selection.

##### Question re: Service contracts

**Mrs. Firth:** With respect to the question I asked the Minister of Government Services yesterday on service contracts, can the Minister tell us today why some of the change orders of some contracts have not been included in the printout list the Minister has provided the public with?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** My answer today is the same as my answer yesterday. There are many change orders. I am looking into the situation, as asked by the Member yesterday. I do not have a more specific answer today.

**Mrs. Firth:** With respect to the same issue of service contracts, can the Minister tell us why there are missing contracts, according to the numerical order of the listings? I have gone through the contracts, and there are several instances where there are some missing, even a series of contracts missing. How do we get those contracts?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** It was a clear and specific instruction to the public officials to include every contract. If there are contracts missing, we will find out why and will also reproduce those contracts. It is not my information that there are any missing, but out of 12,000-odd, there may be some. If any are identified, we will explain that situation as best we are able.

**Mrs. Firth:** Can the Minister explain why, on page 6 of the 1986-87 service contract documentation, the contract A-61081 is missing?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** No, not on my feet. I do not have the book in front of me. However, I will certainly find out and get back as soon as is reasonable.

#### Question re: Service contracts

**Mrs. Firth:** Referring to the same 1986-87 service contract printout that the Minister tabled, on page seven there is also a contract missing; on page eight there is also a contract missing; on page 39 there are three contracts missing; on page 48 there are two contracts missing; on page 102 there are three contracts missing. I am just picking a few out, there are many contracts missing out of this documentation. I would like a commitment from the Minister to get back to us as soon as possible with the missing contracts. He is going to have to have someone sit down and go through it as I have done, because I have not given him a complete list of the missing contracts, simply enough to make my point and to make it a credible point. We would like to know where the missing contracts are.

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I will respond to that explanation of the previous questions. I would not assume that there are contracts missing; there are certainly gaps in the numbers. I will explain that, and if there are any missing, we will include those as well. However, it is wrong to simply assume that those represent missing contracts. I expect that that is not the case. However, I will check, specifically.

**Mrs. Firth:** The Minister stood in this House and very specifically said that he had given explicit instruction that every contract be included. What other conclusion should one arrive at then that they be in a sequence of numerical order and would include all of the contracts.

For an example, on page 48 we skip from S-6-0469/02 to S-6-0472, so there are obviously two missing contracts. The Minister himself said that he would have every contract included in here; if there are numbers missing one would conclude that there are contracts missing. For the Minister to stand and dismiss it and say the reason they are not there is probably because they did not exist is not acceptable. All I am asking for is a commitment that the Minister bring back a list of the contracts that are missing in this documentation that he has tabled.

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I will respond to the question again. I will explain the gap in the numbers. I would caution against making the assumption that that represents missing contracts. I do not specifically know; however, I suspect that is not the case. I will repeat that if there are any contracts missing we will produce a list as soon as we are able. If there are any missing, it is entirely through clerical error because the instruction is exactly as I have repeated it. In any event, to make it clear, for I believe the third time today, if there are gaps in the information, we will fill in those gaps.

#### Question re: Service contracts

**Mr. Phillips:** I also have a question for the Minister of Government Services regarding contracts. I, too, have been reviewing the contract information tabled by the Minister and I have found that, in many instances, the description or purpose of the contract is missing or, if the purpose is given, such as consulting services, it does not really convey what the contract was all about.

Can the Minister explain why?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** Because that could possibly be the description of the services in the contract, perhaps, but the contracts were listed by their general purpose. I would emphasize that I made it abundantly clear in the announcement of this policy, and the tabling, that this information will be improved as the computer technology improves and as the experience with the information reveals the need for improvement. It is exactly this kind of categorization that will be most useful to business people who are planning their business. The Opposition demanded the information at its earliest possible moment and we have bent over backwards to do that. That is one of the reasons why the information is not as categorized ...

**Speaker:** Order please.

**Mr. Phillips:** Some of the gaps left in the list of contracts raises more questions than answers. We are dealing with a lot of public money here. For example, in a quick perusal of the information, I found the following: on May 16, 1986, \$41,500 contract to a company called Butters from Austin, Quebec; May 16, 1986, \$24,900, Great Plains Research, Calgary, Alberta; July 12, 1986, \$24,750, Criteria Research Corporation, Winnipeg; August 8, 1986, \$26,070, Cipher Consultants, Ottawa; October 14, 1986, \$84,000, Matrix Enterprises; December 11, 1986, \$73,860, Barry G. Berg, of B.C.; December 16, 1986, \$64,500, Trans Mode Consulting, Toronto. That is a total of \$339,580 in a few pages.

Is the Minister going to provide some more complete information so we know what these contracts were all about?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I have two answers. One is that reading of the list is, in itself, a good example why it is most appropriate to look at the these contracts in a forum such as Public Accounts, or something like that.

Secondly, it is most appropriate that this information be made public. I am pleased that our government is doing this, which has never been done before, and is not done in the provinces at all. However, it is an example of the kind of analysis that can be done. I am ...

**Speaker:** Order, please. Will the Member please conclude his answer.

**Mr. Phillips:** We hear many excuses from the Minister and the government on the other side, who tells us that this has never been done before. The Minister across the floor ...

**Speaker:** Order, please. Would the Member please get to the supplementary question.

**Mr. Phillips:** The Minister gave us a commitment in the House that he would provide this information. I just read a list of contracts that the Minister provided, and he did not provide the information that he said he would provide.

When will the Minister come back to the House and provide the information that he promised? I know he is a man of honour and will provide this information.

**Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I am confident that this debate will go on for sometime, and I am confident that the more information provided, the more questioning we will get. I would reiterate the commitment that I made that we will continue to improve this practice as a completely open government, and improve the way this information is presented.

**Mr. Phillips:** You are rather rapid to correct me when I went on with my question. I asked a question about when the Minister will provide the information, and he is going on and on; he is not telling me when he is going to provide the information. It is a simple question, when is the information going to be provided?

**Speaker:** I find there is no point of order. New question.

#### Question re: Service contracts

**Mr. Lang:** Perhaps I could help out with Question Period here and ask a very direct question similar to my colleague from Riverdale North. When is the Minister going to provide the information of the description of the contracts that were let, which is in the neighbourhood of millions of dollars, with no explanation whatsoever? When will that information be provided?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** We will fill any specific gaps in

information that are identified to us. We will not be presenting this information in early April next year. We will be presenting it at approximately the end of April with a categorization that is refined over the past year's categorization. The method of reporting will constantly be improved.

**Mr. Lang:** I am sure that the task that will have to be undertaken in view of the fact that these contracts will to be put into the computer on a daily basis, and in view of the fact that the Minister will not have to go back to the year 1900 to peruse the contracts in the past. I would submit to the Minister that the contracts should be made available in the first week in April so they can be dealt with in the supplementaries that will be tabled and have to be dealt with by the government. Could the Minister tell me why he has made that reversal in policy to delay until the end of May? Is that because we will be out of Session?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** There has not been a reversal of the policy at all, and I did not say the end of May. The aim here is to present the information so that it is most useful to the public, and especially the business person who is supplying goods and services to the government. Our method of entering them into the computer and the computer analysis that is possible will be improved through the years.

**Speaker:** Order please. Would the Member please conclude his answer?

#### Question re: Squatter policy

**Mr. Lang:** This will be a new question, not a final supplementary, in view of the fact I am not up for a filibuster today. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Community and Transportation. Could the Minister update the Legislature on the status of the squatter policy?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** From the last time the question was put in this Session, there has been essentially no change. We have not heard from the federal Minister's office his concurrence or no concurrence with the official position put forward.

**Mr. Lang:** Could I ask the Minister: will the implementation of the squatter policy not take place until such time as the Government of Canada comes out with its concurrence or modified changes to the policy that the Government of the Yukon Territory can agree to? Is that the position of the government?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** Yes, we made the decision well over a year ago that we would go with a joint policy, a federal-territorial policy. Most of the squatting situations are on federal Crown land. We said we would go with a joint policy, and that is still our intention.

**Mr. Lang:** Just to get it clear in my mind: implementation of any policy will have to await the federal government decision. Is that correct?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** That is correct.

#### Question re: Squatter policy

**Mr. Lang:** Could I ask the Minister why we have gone into a \$142,975 contract with Carruthers and Associates to implement a squatter policy on February 23rd 1987?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** We were receiving all kinds of encouraging signals from the federal Minister's office that it was just a matter of weeks, and then it turned into more weeks, at which time it was necessary for us to start planning for the implementation of the policy. There are many things that have to be done in advance. I am sure Members will be familiar with the complexity of the issue and the sensitivity of the issue. And it behooved the federal-territorial government to be ready and prepared when the announcement was made. So we initiated plans for preparation, and we got people on line, and we will be ready at any time to implement that policy.

**Mr. Lang:** For \$142,000 we had better be ready to do something. Could the Minister inform the public and the Members of this House what we are doing for \$142,000?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** If the Members of the Legislature are under the misapprehension that you tell people to write into the government and things will be legitimized at the administrative level, they are mistaken. That is not the way it is going to work.

There is no possible way it can work. I realize it is not proper discussion for the Question Period, and I am sure you will cut me off before I get a complete answer out, but there are a number of things that have to be taken into account. There have to be people who go out to the squatter situations, investigate the squatter situations, prepare the hearings for both the review boards and appeal boards and organize the appeal boards and review boards, so that judicious decisions are made. There are many things that are involved.

**Mr. Lang:** I am sure the front bench would prefer that we just cut out Question Period, since nothing is appropriate for Question Period, according to the side opposite. I do not understand why we are spending \$142,000 for Mr. Carruthers, when we increase the person years in the Department of Lands by two in order to deal with subjects like this. Can the Minister tell the public why we are increasing the staff in the department and, at that same time, going into private contracts?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** It is because the department was understaffed. It was not doing its job to the best of its ability, because the previous government had not given it the kind of priority that this government has given it. That is the major reason. Secondly, the desire to implement the squatter policy, which will be implemented over a period of a few months after the applications are first made by squatters to the review boards and appeal panels, and will require the digestion of a lot of information very quickly on each squatting situation — of which there are approximately 400 in the territory. There needs to be a lot of very intense work done over a very short period of time. Lands Branch is not currently capable of taking on that work. We decided it would be appropriate and necessary to ensure that the necessary resources are put behind this policy to make sure it works.

#### Question re: Squatter policy

**Mr. Lang:** Since we are talking about a significant amount of money, and in view of the fact that we have previously spent \$30,000 with Carruthers Associates on the question of the squatter-homesteader policy, could the Minister tell us whether or not this \$142,000 contract went out for public tender?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I believe it did. I can check for the Member. With respect to the \$30,000, there was a period over the last year where a review process whereby the views of the public were accepted and digested on the question of the squatter policy. That was a very lengthy process. It required a lot of hard work and liaison with federal officials and with Council for Yukon Indians and Association of Yukon Communities, as well as many other groups and individuals. The work that was done culminated in a policy that is the best compromise possible.

**Mr. Lang:** For \$30,000, I hope we had somebody talking to somebody. With respect to the \$142,000, could the Minister tell me if money has been transferred for the purpose of this contract to date?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I do not appreciate the very cynical remarks about the very hard work that has been done for the Department by the contractor. Very, very good work has been done and the proof will be in the pudding. With respect to the issuance of money, I do not have that administrative detail but I can have the Department produce it.

#### Question re: Game Zone 7 & 9, moose calves

**Mr. Brewster:** My question is to the Minister for Renewable Resources.

Can the Minister advise the House what is being done this spring in Game Zone 7 and 9 to protect the newborn moose calves?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** Clearly the question is pointed to the policy issue as to whether or not the government will be continuing the predator control program. The answer to that question is that the government has not decided to continue with that program.

**Mr. Brewster:** Apparently we do not have to worry about the little calves dying, so we will have less moose shortly.

Can the Minister tell the House what the calf mortality rate was due to wolves and grizzlies last spring?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** That specific information will be requested

of the Department. Once that has been received by my office, I will make sure the Member receives it.

**Mr. Brewster:** If that comes back like the rest of the answers from that Department, it will be next year.

If the predator control study in Zones 7 and 9 is not to be continued, can the Minister advise the House what is going to be done to remove the collars from the grizzly bears?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** Those collars will be removed this spring.

**Question re: Home heating oil subsidy**

**Mr. McLachlan:** I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development.

Can the Minister confirm that the equalization program for the subsidy of the home heating oil between Whitehorse and the rural communities is going to be carried forward from April 1, 1987 onwards?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I indicated, I believe, in answer to a previous question from the Member, that at this moment we are reviewing the structure of the subsidy programs that we have inherited from the federal government, and the structure of the energy equalization arrangements from the federal government. Until such time as we come to some conclusions about any changes that may be warranted in those programs, the existing programs will be maintained.

**Mr. McLachlan:** That is certainly not the indication that I am getting. I believe that that one particular program, although it is not worth a lot of money, is in jeopardy. Often with the government we get a press release with a great deal of fanfare when agreements are signed and programs are initiated. When they fall by the wayside we often hear very little.

Can I get a commitment from the federal government that when a program is dropped at the federal level, we, in this case as rural MLAs, are advised, or are told that the territorial government is prepared to pick it up and go in its stead in place of the federal government?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** There are several points to the Member's question and it will not surprise him, of course, that the federal government does not, with great fanfare, announce that they are dropping programs.

I hope the Member opposite understands that we have some trepidation about compromising our devolution bargaining position by instantly picking up programs that the federal government drops. The Member opposite knows that there have been cases where the federal government has dropped programs that were greatly in demand and highly regarded in this community.

The suggestion that we petition the federal government to have it announce any programs that they are dropping and to have us indicate our response to this situation immediately is something I will take under advisement. It may be, I think, prudent public policy to advise the recipients that a program is not going to be continued, and I would be hesitant to commit us to fill the gap without any commensurate transfer of resources from the federal government.

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**Question re: Career Services Program**

**Mrs. Firth:** My question is for the Minister of Education, about the career services program. Last evening in the budget debate on the Department of Education, we got into a debate about the Career Services Program, about which the Minister seemed to have little information. There is even less information in his budget about the program. However, it was quite an astonishing announcement in a news release issued that day about two new programs that were in the education budget. Can the Minister tell us today if he is considering this to be a program or is it still not a program in the classic sense? This is something the government asked for \$230,000 for.

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I thought I had provided answers to the questions on the Career Services Program. There was another program the Member was talking about which I would return with more clear information. But, with respect to the Career Services Program, I do not remember doing anything other than providing as much information as she requested. There is a seeming discrepancy

in the budget book as to whether or not a career services program was considered the same kind of program as another manpower or wage subsidy program; I indicated that perhaps the reason why it was not in the budget book was because the Career Services Program was more a service provided to the general public and less a manpower or wage subsidy training program in the classic sense. I still will try to find out why there may have been a discrepancy in the budget book.

**Speaker:** Order, please. Would the Member please conclude his answer?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** That is all.

**Mrs. Firth:** Yesterday we had a news release announcing this new program. If you will bear with me, the answer that the Minister gave in the budget debate was: "It is simply that it is a service and not a program in the classic sense. It does not explain why there is no reference to it. However, in terms of development programs, it may be that the career services program is not considered to be a program in the same sense." Well, I thought the Minister answered it yesterday too, and when I read the answer, it is the same mumbo-jumbo that he just gave us. I would like to know why the Minister knew nothing about this program, made no announcements about it when we started the budget debate, and I had to raise it from a press release that was issued that day.

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** It is hardly mumbo-jumbo. The Career Services Program was announced in the training strategy which the Member herself said was a good document when it was tabled in this House. It was one of three things that the government was going to do in the area of training. It would be the Career Services Program, the Yukon Training Opportunities Program and work with the college. The Career Services Program was something that is mentioned in the training strategy; it is definitely a major facet of this government's initiatives with respect to training. It may not be a manpower program, if the Member wants to get hung up on semantics. It may not be a manpower program, but nevertheless it is a service which, not only I knew about, but I told the House about in the training strategy.

**Mrs. Firth:** The Minister was given opportunity in the debate yesterday to announce new initiatives. Just because it was in the discussion paper, the Minister had never announced it before. I came in with the press release and had to ask the . . .

**Speaker:** Order, please. Would the Member please get to the supplementary question?

**Mrs. Firth:** Is this a program that we are paying \$230,000 for, or is it like the road situation, where it is a road but it is not a road? Is this a program or is this not a program included in this Budget?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** It is a service that the government is providing to the public, the way of manpower consultancy services are provided and the way business services are provided to the public. It is a service that is being provided to the public.

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

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Speaker:** Government Bills?

**GOVERNMENT BILLS**

**Bill No. 9: Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 9, standing in the name of the hon. Mrs. Joe.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I move that Bill No. 9, entitled *Young Persons Offences Act*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Human Resources that Bill No. 9, entitled *Young Persons Offences Act*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The federal *Young Offenders Act*, proclaimed on April 2, 1984, applies to all young persons from age 12 to 17 inclusive for offences under federal law only. This Act, the *Yukon Young Persons Offences Act*, is enforcement legislation that outlines

the procedures and sanctions to be used in dealing with young persons aged 12 to 17 inclusive who violate territorial laws.

At the present time, violations of territorial law by young persons are dealt with pursuant to Sections 112 to 116 of *The Childrens Act*. These sections incorporate by reference the full procedures of the federal *Young Offenders Act*. This present arrangement creates problems in that all offences, including minor territorial offences, must be addressed through formal Youth Court proceedings.

These procedures are often not only inconvenient, but both time-consuming for all persons concerned and very costly. Consequently, an offence that, if committed by an adult and which would follow the simple ticketing procedures of the *Summary Convictions Act*, requires full Youth Court procedures under the *Young Offenders Act* if committed by a young person under age 18.

The Association for Yukon Communities, the regional office of the Attorney General of Canada and the RCMP have expressed concerns about the practical problems of dealing with minor infractions of territorial law by young persons. Specifically, there is no provision in the present legislation for the use of summary conviction procedures when dealing with young persons who have committed territorial offences of a minor nature, such as harassment of wildlife, interference with traplines or minor infractions of municipal bylaws, such as parking infractions and operating a vehicle in a protected area.

This Act addresses the concerns of these groups and individuals by clearly outlining the procedures in charging and prosecuting violations of territorial legislation by this age group and by outlining sanctions available to the courts.

In order to remain consistent with the principles of the *Young Offenders Act*, the sections of this Act follow the major procedures of the established federal legislation for young offenders, while incorporating the provisions of the *Summary Convictions Act*, which applied to the adult population in the territory.

This new Act provides enforcement officials, the courts, all young people and their families with separate legislation that clearly defines all young persons' status with respect to the violation of territorial laws.

I hope all Members will join the Association for Yukon Communities, RCMP, judges, Crown prosecutors and defence lawyers in welcoming this legislation.

<sup>15</sup> **Mr. Phillips:** We on this side agree with the principle of the Act that has been put forth by the Minister. We feel that a change in the Act should streamline the system. I do have a little problem with some aspects of the Act. First of all, I would have hoped that the Act could have been written in layman's terms. The Minister wrote the Yukon *Human Rights Act*, which was 13 pages long, and here we have this Act that is 22 pages. It is a little more difficult for the average person to understand. The government did give us a commitment that they would bring legislation to this House under those terms so that they would be easier to understand.

We have a few questions when we get into the Bill in Committee regarding the costs of the change, and we will have a few questions on how the fine option program will work. We are pleased to see this legislation being brought forward. I guess, like the *Young Offenders Act*, a test of time will prove how good the legislation is.

*Motion agreed to*

#### **Bill No. 97: Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 97, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Penikett.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I move that Bill No. 97, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Government Leader that Bill No. 97, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** The purposes of the Bill before us are summarized in the explanatory notes. We have attempted to expand upon the traditional explanatory note so that the purposes of the Bill will be more clear. As Members will see, these are largely housekeeping amendments, but there are also changes designed to

advance specific objectives of the government. I will elaborate on the proposed amendments in the order in which they appear in the Bill, rather than perhaps the order of importance.

The first of these is that the definition of a contract is being broadened to permit compensation to a contractor other than a payment of money. The desirability of this amendment arises from the fact that there are occasions when contractors are compensated by such things as the right to salvage materials in a demolition contract and in the case with the recent contract with the Bank of Commerce, the entitlement of the bank to retain the proceeds from a minimum level of cash on deposit rather than a specific fee.

Also in the definition section, the Women's Directorate is being classified as a department. The proposed change provides the Director with the same financial management authority as the deputy head of a department, which is necessary for the proper management of the directorate. This change also serves to highlight the importance of women's issues in this government and the priority placed upon them.

With respect to the use of the term "treasurer", its abolition is proposed because it is archaic and does not reflect normal provincial usage. A couple of provinces had retained the title at the ministerial level. The change does not affect the respective powers of the Minister or the Deputy Minister and is in concert with the change of name from Treasury Department to the Department of Finance, brought about as a result of the new *Financial Administration Act*.

<sup>16</sup> At present the Act specifies that the Treasurer should be the Secretary of the Management Board. As such the Treasurer functions as both an advisor to the board as well as Secretary and this amendment will make it possible to clarify these roles and make a clear-cut distinction between the secretarial function and the advisory function. This form of role separation is also coincident with the method used by the majority of provinces and reflects the continued emergence of the Yukon with responsibilities and roles similar to those of the provinces.

It has become evident over the last two years that the Section of the *Financial Administration Act* dealing with public property is both confusing and quite cumbersome. The present wording in the Act makes it unclear whether the management of government property is subject to regulations or directives. The proposed change will eliminate this ambiguity by making clear that Management Board has this responsibility in keeping with its duties under other sections of the *Financial Administration Act* for the overall management of the assets of the government.

The present limit of \$800,000 for the garage, parts and fuel inventory fund is inadequate to meet current operating requirements. As a result, many of the expenditures are being made outside the fund and this is making it increasingly difficult to maintain control of inventory and accounting procedures. The \$800,000 ceiling is also no longer adequate in light of rising costs and the necessity to maintain larger inventory. The proposed new limit of \$1,750,000 is expected to meet operating requirements for approximately two years, during which time a special effort is being directed to a more efficient and, if necessary, a computerized system of inventory management.

When the new *Financial Administration Act* was introduced in 1983, the Road Equipment Replacement Fund was rolled into the Act with the same terms of reference and authority that existed at the time for revolving funds. For sometime the Auditor General has been suggesting that consideration should be given to clarification of a statutory position and this is what this amendment will accomplish.

At present the Road Equipment Replacement Fund functions as a reserve fund and not as a full revolving fund. One option considered by the government was to make the Road Equipment Replacement Fund into a true revolving fund. To do so, however, would have meant a very large increase in the spending authority of the fund, for example, from \$3 million up to \$25 million. In our view this would have been exorbitant. Instead it is being proposed that the fund be pulled out of the section dealing with revolving funds, because it is not a revolving fund, and be established separately in a new section as a Road Equipment Reserve Fund

which would place a ceiling of \$5 million on annual expenditures, would identify the source of the revenues to be credited to the fund, but would retain the accounting and reporting controls required in connection with revolving funds.

At present, there is no limit to the number of expenditures not exceeding \$3 million that can be made in any given period of time. In effect, there is no limit on the amount of money that can be spent as long as sufficient revenue has accumulated in the fund. On the other hand, it is not clear what happens to the revenues if they should at any time exceed \$3 million.

<sup>17</sup> The proposed wording is clear, we think more realistic, and in our view makes the operation of the fund more accountable.

When reference to the Yukon Development Corporation was wrapped into the Act last fall, there should have been a consequential change to the *Financial Administration Act* to provide the same kind of protection as the Workers' Compensation Board and the Yukon Housing Corporation in the event that the Minister of Finance is requested to invest on their behalf and losses are incurred in making such investments. This amendment will make that change.

In order to make it clear that directives issued by the Management Board are public documents and available to the public, clear statutory provision is being included in the Act to identify how this is to be done and to authorize publication of the directives to the *Yukon Gazette*. Of necessity, directives have always been public documents but in the interests of a more open government this will now be specified in the wording of the *Financial Administration Act*.

I look forward to discussing these matters in greater detail with hon. Members, and I would be pleased to answer in Committee any questions they may have.

*Motion agreed to*

#### **Bill No. 15: Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 15, standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Penikett.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I move that Bill No. 15, *An Act to Amend the Yukon Development Corporation Act*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Government Leader that Bill No. 15, entitled *An Act to Amend the Yukon Development Corporation Act*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** The proposed amendment to the *Yukon Development Corporation Act* arises out of the acquisition of the Yukon assets of Northern Canada Power Commission by the Yukon Power Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Yukon Development Corporation.

Its purpose is threefold: it recognizes that the public utility will be operated by a subsidiary of the Development Corporation rather than by the Development Corporation itself and extends the application of section 13 of the *Yukon Development Corporation Act* to the subsidiary. This ensures that the *Public Utilities Act* and the Yukon laws in general will apply to the subsidiary. Yukon Development Corporation is deemed to have a franchise which it may assign to its subsidiary, the Yukon Power Corporation. This deeming of a franchise is similar in principle to provisions in the *Public Utilities Act* deeming franchises to be held by NCPC and Yukon Electrical. The franchise is deemed to be on the terms and conditions of our agreement with Canada. This is necessary to allow Yukon to meet its contracted commitments to the federal government. For instance, part of the transfer transaction required the Yukon to provide Canada with an undertaking that rates would be frozen for a period of two years immediately following transfer.

Passage of the amendments will fulfill the Yukon's obligations specified in the transfer agreement with Canada.

<sup>18</sup> **Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I will add a word about the question of the franchise. The purpose of the provision of the franchise is to give effect to the agreement among Canada, the power corporations and the territory.

This section ensures the ability of the new utility to comply with

the terms and conditions of the transfer agreement by deeming a franchise to be in place.

*Motion agreed to*

#### **Bill No. 2: Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 2, standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Penikett.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I move that Bill No. 2, entitled *An Act to Amend the Business Development Assistance Act*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Government Leader that Bill No. 2, entitled *An Act to Amend the Business Development Assistance Act*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I shall be brief. I am presenting this Act to amend the *Business Development Assistance Act*. These are two minor amendments that will permit us to provide direct assistance to businesses for the financing of inventories and working capital, and to provide loan guarantees. This is consistent with the programs that were established in the Capital Budget that we passed some weeks ago.

The requirements for working capital and for inventory financing have been identified in the Access to Capital Study during the Yukon 2000 consultation process, through our Department's daily contacts and consultation with the Yukon business community. Approval of the changes to the Act to permit financing of working capital and inventories will enable Yukon businesses to sell more products and services locally.

With a significant portion of our economy subject to seasonal fluctuations, adequate provision for inventory will help many entrepreneurs capture more of the local market, hence reducing import leakage. Inventory assistance will finance the purchase of new or expanded inventory; short-term loans or loan guarantees will facilitate inventory purchase.

The provision of working capital assistance will help those businesses in the service sector, as well as other Yukon businesses that are seeking to expand or to meet local demand for goods and services. Working capital loans will cover operational costs during that period where businesses have expanded to meet a demand, but revenue has not grown sufficiently to meet operational needs. This is especially important to our renewable resources industries.

The provision of loan guarantees in partnership with the commercial banks will provide this government with another tool to assist the private sector to access commercial banking services. Loan guarantees will be used to cover inventory working capital or, in some cases, capital extension.

Guarantees, by their nature, would only be undertaken with commercial banks, where both the bank and this government were satisfied with the soundness of the loan application.

I am sure all Members will remember that the specific programs that caused these amendments to be brought to the House were approved in our Capital Budget, and these amendments will enable the full implementation of the 1987-88 Capital Estimates that have already been approved by this House.

Since that approval, the Department of Economic Development has been in consultation with many groups throughout the territory: the Economic Council, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Yukon Forestry Association and Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association are but a few of the more than 20 groups with whom we are now consulting.

These consultations will be completed shortly and, on the basis of the feedback obtained, regulations will be presented to Cabinet to implement these specific initiatives. Approval of these amendments will see much needed help flow to Yukon businesses, creating jobs and strengthening our economy.

<sup>19</sup> **Mr. Nordling:** I will also be brief; in fact, much briefer than the Minister. I would just like to give notice that we will be asking, in Committee of the Whole, for an explanation with respect to the second amendment — to clearly authorize the government to give debt guarantees — an explanation of why the government has chosen to give the Minister the power to grant the guarantee of debt



instead of the Cabinet, because the Minister granting a loan guarantee may result in the spending of an awful lot of money if the debt goes bad.

**Mr. McLachlan:** I also have questions with part B of the Bill. Although specific reference, I realize, is made to the *Business Development Assistance Act*, I want to serve notice on the Minister during Committee of the Whole debate to bring back information about the legislation that passed through this House on October 28, 1985, when the government guaranteed a line of credit assistance to Curragh Resources in the amount of millions of dollars. Does this mean, in fact, that the government has been operating illegally in this area of loan guarantees on a line of credit that went as high as \$15 million?

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I can respond briefly to both the comments of the Member for Porter Creek West and the Member for Faro, although I would welcome further discussion in Committee. As a purely practical matter, with respect to the question asked by the Member for Porter Creek West, most of the legislation is written in the terms of Ministerial authority. If the Members opposite are alarmed on that score with respect to this Minister, I would be quite happy to hear representations to the idea that there should be Cabinet approval or Management Board approval. I will save discussion of that for the Committee stage.

I can answer the question asked by the Member for Faro quite briefly. He will recall that the loan guarantee that was provided for Curragh required legislation. That legislation came to this House and was approved by this House. The reason it required legislation was because there was no specific legislative authority for us to do that without a specific Bill.

I would emphasize immediately that the order of magnitude, or the sums involved under this program, would only be a fraction of the amount voted for Curragh, and this is talk about a guarantee that would only be provided in concert with a bank. A much more modest venture would be covered by the *Business Development Assistance Act* and the programs that we announced under the Capital Budget last fall, which, as the Member will know from the budgeted amounts, or the amounts in that budget, are quite modest.

<sup>20</sup> *Motion agreed to*

**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 Committee of the Whole.

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chairman:** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. We will recess for 15 minutes.

*Recess*

**Chairman:** Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

### Bill No. 6 — *Second Appropriation Act, 1987-88* — continued

**Chairman:** We are on Department of Government Services, general debate.

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I would first draw attention to information I gave the House on page 165 of *Hansard* yesterday. I was asked about the insurance. I was asked if F.H. Collins was to be the only building insured. I said that is correct. My knowledge was not completely up-to-date. That information is not accurate.

The situation is that Management Board made a decision exactly as I stated it, that we would self-insure for buildings except for F.H. Collins. We were to look at a \$1 million deductible figure for F.H. Collins.

Subsequent to that, negotiations occurred with the insurance industry. I was not completely up-to-date about those. That is why the information I gave was wrong. The insurance industry — I do not know precisely why — would not insure only one school. The result is that there is an insurance premium quoted for insurance on all of the schools in the territory.

<sup>21</sup> The insurance that is now in place includes insurance for up to \$10 million per occurrence. There may be more than one occurrence in a year, but the maximum per occurrence is \$10 million. There is a deductible of \$1 million. All of the schools in the territory are insured to their assessed value. It is interesting that the assessed value of F.H. Collins is \$9,054,000; the assessed value of Porter Creek Junior High School is \$9,222,000; the assessed value of Del Van Gorder in Faro is \$8,347,000, and I have the assessed values of all of the schools. The total assessed value of all of the schools in the Yukon is \$83,960,000, and the insurance premium is \$100,000 for that coverage, for that package.

It was not identified in the budget because that information was not known at the time of the publication of the budget. It may mean a supplementary; however it is still conceivable that it will not as the other insurance packages are negotiated at various points in the year.

**Mr. Lang:** I think it is safe to say we are looking at a supplementary of \$100,000 from what we have here. One who is just new to the House might accept that observation from the side opposite, but I have been here too long.

I am pleased to see that we do have some coverage, and I see the rationale for the kind of coverage that the government has pursued. I fully understand and support that as far as the schools are concerned. My concern is the other buildings that are not insured throughout the territory. I do not know what the assessed values of our other properties would be, but I would assume it to be in the \$100 million bracket, just for the sake of conversation. I believe that for the amount of money we are being asked to spend, with the deductible, the government is not making the most prudent choice in avoiding the responsibility saying they will save \$100,000 this year, but if something burns down it will cost us \$2 million.

<sup>22</sup> Of course, that is a conscious decision one makes. I know the federal government is self-insured, but the federal government is a much larger monstrosity than this little government and can well afford, I guess, a number of conflagrations through the year. In our particular case, I do not believe we can, especially in view of the fact that we are taking down our surplus and in view of the fact that that financial formula is going to be in the process of being renegotiated once again. That is just my observation; I do not want to pursue it further, but I believe that obviously there is a difference of opinion.

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$765,000 agreed to*

*On Property Management*

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I am sure Members will be interested in the locations, and I will give them. I emphasize that some of these figures are fixed figures for negotiated rents; some are estimates, in that there may be an escalation in the second and third and subsequent years of a lease. The Workers' Compensation Board and Human Resources are in the Yukon Centre, commonly called the Royal Bank Building, and the estimated rent is \$150,000 a year. Part of Community and Transportation Services is in the Mainsteele Building and the estimated rent is \$87,000. In 10 Burns Road, next to Keith's Plumbing, the rent is \$437,000 a year and it is primarily the Department of Renewable Resources, but there is also a small portion for Education and a larger portion for Government Services — the government records and micrographics are up there. In the Lynn Building, which is Community and Transportation Services, the rent is \$244,000. In the Medical Arts Building, the rent is \$107,000 — Tourism and the Commissioner is there. To the Carcross Indian Band, an office for Health and Human Resources, \$4,100.

<sup>23</sup> Tutshi Holdings: this is Mines and Small Business presently, \$55,000. They are moving out soon. I believe the juvenile probation or young offenders or juvenile justice are moving in there.

In Teslin, the Department of Human Resources pays \$10,000 a year rent; in the Mackenzie Building, which is Renewable Resources, \$14,000.

In Carmacks, the rent to Mitchell Holdings for Human Resources is \$3,500;

In Ottawa, the rent is estimated at \$36,000.

In the Financial Plaza, the rent is \$12,000 and that is the Department of Tourism, Heritage Branch.

In the federal building, commonly called the nursing station in Haines Junction, we rent space for Health and Human Resources for \$4,000.

In Horwoods Mall, the Land Claims department, \$25,000.

In the M&R Building, that is the Public Works Department of Government Services, \$50,000; to the Carmacks Indian Band, \$3,600; to Hope Agencies, \$3,600; for Shoppers Plaza in Whitehorse, \$153,000 — that is the entire Department of Economic Development, except the field offices.

In Ross River for Human Resources, \$6,000; and an additional \$4,000 for probations, for a total of \$1,408,800.

**Mr. Lang:** It supports what I have been saying. I have a house at 39 Cedar Crescent that I would be interested in renting in view of the largesse of the government. I think everybody would like to get in on the gravy train.

**Mr. McLachlan:** The Minister read out the Mackenzie Resources Building in Ross River and said it was for Renewable Resources and quoted a figure of \$4,000, I believe. He then proceeded to give an enumeration of Health and Human Resources as well as Probation Services. Are all those three departments in the same building?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I am informed that they are not all in the same building.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Is the figure for Renewable Resources \$4,000 or \$14,000 at the Mackenzie Resources Building in Ross River?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** \$14,000.

**Mr. Brewster:** I do not know why I should even waste my time getting up on this when I have been fighting it ever since I have been in government. We have 24 square meters of space leased to Northern Health and we pay \$4,000 for that. We have a great big territorial building with empty offices. It has been this way for five years that I have been around the government and it is still this way. I have a couple of reasons given to me. One is that it is not big enough, it has not got two rooms. When Renewable Resources moved out and built their big fancy offices there was two office spaces there. Then, the Welfare Nurse told me one time that they did not want to move down there, they liked it where they were and they were going to stay there. It cost the taxpayers \$4,000 a year and yet we have empty space. It has been going on for four or five years so I do not expect it to change, but I will register it again. I may be here ten years from now and I will register it again then, probably.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Does the figure of 2300 square meters in Faro include Chateau Jomini?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** No, it does not.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Does the figure of 2300 square meters in Faro represent only the Liquor Store and Territorial Agent's office and Health and Human Resources?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I believe that is accurate, but I am not sure where that information is coming from. Yes, it is accurate.

**Mr. McLachlan:** How then do we show all the property acquired as part of the Curragh deal in Faro for which the government paid \$1.6 million, if it is not leased and not owned? How is the government carrying that on the books?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I apologise. Chateau Jomini is included in the figure of 2,300 square meters of owned space in Faro. The decision on Chateau Jomini is to mothball the building for now and to look at the use of the building in a year's time. The consideration was to lease it to the private sector under certain conditions or to sell it or to mothball it. Because of the prospects for development in Faro, and the consideration of competing with the existing private sector, it was decided to mothball the building for a year.

*Property Management in the amount of \$2,700,000 agreed to Administration in the amount of \$3,465,000 agreed to*

*On Systems and Computing Services*

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$287,000 agreed to*

*On Processing Services*

*Processing Services in the amount of \$762,000 agreed to*

*On Systems Development*

*Systems Development in the amount of \$619,000 agreed to*

*On Technical Services*

*Technical Services in the amount of \$441,000 agreed to*

*On Information Centre*

**Mr. Lang:** I would just like a quick update with respect to where we are on the question of privacy in respect of the information that is collected by such a body as this. What is the intention of the government. We have had an ongoing debate, sporadic as it might be, with respect to the general principle here.

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** Because of the identified problems and the existence of the *Access to Information Act* here, it was decided to not ask for substantial monies for development of specific computer privacy legislation but to pool our resources with all of the provinces, which means that we will move essentially as fast as the rest of the country moves. The alternative is to take substantial risks or to put substantial money into development of unique legislation. It continues to be my policy, largely as a result of the representations made here, to mention this issue, and to push it aggressively, at federal-provincial conferences dealing with computer information.

**Mr. McLachlan:** As a matter of record, what did the government budget for the April 1 increase in mailroom costs. I am aware of the volume of mail that goes through there. Two cents a letter may not seem like much, but there are some packages that are considerably more. Does this cost us \$100,000, \$50,000 or \$10,000?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** That is in Supply Services. It is also identified on the statistical information on page 150. I have found the figure. We have budgeted for postage and freight, if that is the specific question, \$212,000. This is specifically under Supply Services Records, which is coming up in a few moments.

*Information Services in the amount of \$428,000 agreed to Systems and Computing Services in the amount of \$2,537,000 agreed to*

*On Supply Services*

**Mr. Lang:** Could we have an explanation why under allotments there is \$500,000 difference between 1986-87 and 1987-88?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** That is an anomaly that requires some explanation. I am glad the Member asked the question.

The intent of the department is to find some savings here. It is always a problem. It involves diplomacy between or among the other departments of the government and the central agency, in this case Government Services.

Our intent is to have the individual departments carry the costs for gasoline for cars and for Xerox costs — specifically photocopying paper. The intent of this is on the general principle that he who uses the service should be responsible for the costs. If someone else pays, there is no incentive to economize. We are purposely trying to decentralize the costing of those particular items, which are the largest ones. That is a decision that the Management Board has postponed for a full review, but that is the reason why the estimate here is lower.

In order to keep within the limits established by the Management Board, we have to reallocate some expenses. That is what we are trying to do this year.

**Mr. Lang:** Before I pursue this, I would like to acknowledge a past Member of the House who is in the Gallery. I will not pursue it further.

I would like to ask this question with respect to Supply Services: I do not understand how you can have a budget where you say that the decision by Management Board for \$500,000 has been deferred, yet your budget is \$500,000 light. In other words, is that \$500,000 you have deferred put into other Departments? Or are the other Ministers going to go and find it?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** That is the problem. It is easily identified by the Member opposite because he has experience on the

Management Board. The intent here is to find some savings. If we do not try we will never do it. We are trying to budget for less than we spent last year, as is obvious. We are serious about trying to find those savings. We will do our best.

**Mr. Lang:** Did the other Departments, in concert with this decision, allocate dollars in their departments for the purpose of buying paper?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** No, I believe they did not.

**Mr. Lang:** Then maybe that is the reason why we could not get a copy of the contracts then. Nobody had any paper. Here is \$500,000 that obviously is going to be in a supplementary. You are going to add \$500,000 onto the budget right away, plus \$100,000 for insurance, or \$600,000 in two or three programs here that have not been allocated. The Minister will say that he is the first man that has come to the Yukon to try to find savings in government and he is doing it through this method. I would like to refresh memories that this has been done before, I assure you, where departments paid for it and then there was a conscious decision to go to a central pooling situation, i.e. Government Services, in order to get away from the costs and duplications with all departments ordering.

The goal is admirable, but what I find is deceitful is that there is no money that has been allocated in any of the other departments and no notice given by anybody that this is being done. I am not going to pursue this because I know I will get a lot of opportunity next fall or spring to talk about this because it is going to be coming up.

The other thing I do not understand is in Personnel. In 1986-87, after supplementaries, we have \$1,951,000 and we had 51 person years. In Personnel here we have \$1,968,000 and we have 55 person years. Maybe everybody took a cut in pay, but I do not believe that if they have it has been made public. Could the Minister explain that difference? Or is this false economy again?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** To take the two questions out of order, the reason is the overtime and casual help last year. If you note the 1985-86 Actual and look at the progression over three years, it is a fairly substantial increase. It is responsibly budgeted here. To go back to the first questions, I have never tried to present myself as the first person trying to find savings in the government. I am obviously not.

However, we certainly have to try. The question about ordering of paper supply and control is an interesting one. The proposal that we have is that the ordering and the supply will be centralized, but the departments will be charged for the supplies that they use, which is the case with some other supplies, but which is not the case with paper.

It is interesting that the Member opposite talks about contracts. Yes, it is exactly that kind of thing that we should not abuse the ability of the technology to readily make copies. Those copies are all expensive, and it is generally thought by myself — and, I would suggest, many members of the public — that we can reduce copying and save paper and, consequently, the taxpayers' dollars. That is one of the areas where savings may occur.

There are more dollars involved when talking about gasoline for cars, approximately five times more. Those are two areas where we are specifically trying to economize in this next year.

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$110,000 agreed to*

*On Purchasing*

*Purchasing in the amount of \$364,000 agreed to*

*On Queen's Printer*

*Queen's Printer in the amount of \$808,000 agreed to*

*On Asset Control*

**Mr. McLachlan:** The revenue produced from properties in Faro is down significantly, but what is the one entry sale for \$20,000? What do you expect to deal off there?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I will get the detail checked, but I expect it is the sale of the surplus trailers.

**Mr. McLachlan:** The statistics are on page 149. It was my understanding that all the trailers are gone, and certainly there do not appear to be any left in Faro. I could be wrong though.

In 1985-86, revenue from surplus highway equipment generated \$419,000. Why is it down so significantly in the past year and the

current year to \$70,000 and \$80,000? Is that a conscious decision by Community and Transportation Services not to put a lot of equipment up for auction, or is this the reflection of burning up two graders that are no longer available for sale?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** The recoveries for Faro we believe in fact are the tail-end of the trailers — perhaps the tail-end of the payment for the trailers that are already transferred. The question about highway vehicles is explainable by the fact that the amount has fluctuated over the years in the declaring of assets as surplus; it has nothing to do with the fires in the two graders recently, and it is simply a fluctuation in the normal course of the number of vehicles available for sale or declared surplus by, in this case, the Board of Survey.

**Mr. McLachlan:** The statistics, which seem to bespeak the Minister's answer, are just the opposite: 65 sales produced \$70,000; in 1985-86, 21 sales produced \$419,000.

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** In the 1985-86 Actual that was referred to, there were two scrapers for \$151,000 each, which explains that amount.

*Asset Control in the amount of \$93,000 agreed to  
On Transportation*

**Mr. McLachlan:** I am not satisfied with the answer I got last evening from the Minister about the insurance on the pool cars. I do not understand why the fleet is so large and the insurance is so small, unless it is covered under another line item.

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** We have approximately 600 vehicles, most of them in Highways. There are approximately 200 vehicles in the car fleet. The insurance costs here are under Administration, under Insurance. The policy is that we do maintain insurance for liability as a result of accidents, but not for the government's loss as a result of an accident.

The decision was made long ago — I believe in excess of 10 years ago — in view of the budget of the government, the size of the fleet and the regularly occurring accidents, that it was cost-effective to be self-insuring for our own loss for vehicles.

**Mr. Lang:** Could he explain the difference between the forecast of 1986 of over \$1 million, and the figure now at \$853,000?

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** That is almost entirely due to the effort of trying to economize on fuel, to get the departments to pay on a chargeback basis for the fuel that they consume.

*Transportation in the amount of \$853,000 agreed to  
On Warehousing*

*Warehousing in the amount of \$240,000 agreed to  
On Records Management*

*Records Management in the amount of \$959,000 agreed to  
On Contract Administration*

*Contract Administration in the amount of \$164,000 agreed to  
Supply Services in the amount of \$3,591,000 agreed to*

*On Public Works*

**Mr. Lang:** I do not have a lot to add, other than the fact that I think there are some major changes taking place with respect to contracting, especially, that I do not think is in the best interest of the public. But that is our opinion, and obviously we are going to be discussing that at more length as we go on.

*On Administration*

*Administration in the amount of \$154,000 agreed to  
On Building Maintenance*

*Building Maintenance in the amount of \$2,775,000 agreed to  
On Internal Energy*

*Internal Energy in the amount of \$105,000 agreed to  
On Construction*

*Construction in the amount of nil agreed to*

*Public Works in the total of \$3,034,000 agreed to  
On Recoveries*

*Recoveries in the amount of \$126,000 agreed to*

**Government Services in the total amount of \$12,627,000 agreed to**

**Department of Health and Human Resources**

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I have the speech and some other information I will give right now while I wait for my Departmental officials to come down.

I am pleased to introduce debate on the O&M Budget for the Department of Health and Human Resources. This budget has been developed to meet new objectives and address new policy and program priorities. Our government's goals of equality and quality of life for all Yukoners are clearly reflected in the new Departmental objective to reduce lack of opportunity due to health or social condition and enhance the potential and wellbeing of all Yukoners while recognizing and respecting age, gender, culture, abilities and community differences.

This government does not believe that you necessarily need to spend more money in order to get more service. We strive to be both more effective in what we are trying to accomplish and more efficient in terms of the resources used to get the job done.

For 1987-88, we established priorities to guide hard-nosed planning of health and social services programs. With this approach I believe we have accomplished a lot for Yukoners. In many areas, we will do more with the same or fewer resources, and I am proud of this achievement.

In our view, a fundamental redirection of health and social services is necessary. First, it is essential that policies and programs serve the goals of equality, quality of life and regional development.

Second, it is essential that prevention and promotion be given priority to redress and present a balance that sees resources primarily devoted to treatment and costly after-the-fact interventions and services.

Third, it is essential that services complement the natural support systems of family, neighbours and organizations at the community level, and that Yukoners participate in their development and delivery.

Fourth, it is essential that services be coordinated to ensure effectiveness. I believe that significant progress has been made on the social priorities of this government for the people of the Yukon. Not only are we working together with individual business people, in small and large businesses, and the labour movement in helping to put people back to work, we are working together with individuals, groups and communities to better our quality of life and to achieve equality for all, irrespective of age, gender, culture, ability and community differences. This budget for Health and Human Resources reflects new priorities and contains many new initiatives and improvements, big and small. In a number of instances, while the investment is modest, we think that the returns will be substantial.

In the Health Services Branch, some of the new initiatives are the quality of care and safety of seniors residing at Macaulay Lodge will be improved through provision for medical, nutrition and pharmacy advisors. Facility planning for future extended care services will continue in conjunction with the Whitehorse General Hospital replacement project. A chronic disease and disability program will be fully operational for its first year of service to Yukoners. Planning for the transfer of health services presently administered by the federal government will proceed with the goal of achieving a unified effective and locally controlled service in the territory and mental health programming will be reviewed in conjunction with proposed new legislation.

In the Community and Family Services Branch, some of the initiatives are: a Ministerial advisory committee on Indian child welfare will be established to bring renewed attention to the needs of Indian children; support will be provided for the establishment of a community sponsored mediation service for child custody disputes associated with divorce and marital conflicts; a family violence coordinator will be contracted to coordinate government and community efforts and develop new programs where gaps exist; the rural safe homes program will be expanded to establish services in up to four communities; funding for the child welfare pilot project with the Champagne-Aishihik Social Services Society will be increased to meet emerging needs; financial compensation for the very important role of foster parents in the territory will be increased, together with the introduction of a new rate structure that will provide higher rates in much of rural Yukon; use of out-of-territory institutions will be significantly reduced through the establishment of a six-bed treatment home for children in

Whitehorse and a family support worker service will be created to provide assistance to families in distress with the objective of addressing problems at source and reducing the number of children who are protection concerns or come into the care of the Director of Family Services.

In the Social Services Branch, increased support will be provided for the Ministerial advisory committee on substance abuse. A new long-range public education strategy respecting alcohol and drug abuse will be developed. The treatment and personal support components of the recently created home care program will be operational throughout the territory — the first full year of service to Yukoners. Funding has been allocated to support the important community services provided by the Yukon Association of Special Needs People. Support for the second stage housing project managed by the Yukon Women's Transition Home; the society will be continued for a second year and social assistance rates for food, clothing and shelter will be increased in the fall.

Under the Juvenile Justice Branch, a new open-custody facility known as 501 Taylor in Whitehorse will be fully operational for the first year. Day programming for young offenders and youths in conflict with the law, including life skills, educational and work experience activities, will be established, and planning for secure custody services will proceed in conjunction with design and construction of the planned secure custody facility in Whitehorse.

**Mrs. Firth:** It always interests me to hear the Department of Health and Human Resources talk about hard-nosed planning with their budgets, yet, in the same breath, manage to convey the message that everybody is going to have better quality of life and everybody is going to be equal, and that they are going to be working with everybody in the community and everything is going to be just fine.

That is an impossible goal to achieve. We can try our best, but we will never have things perfect. Otherwise, we would not have any requirement for this department, and we would not have any requirement for some \$37,957,000 that we are being asked to authorize in the Legislature today.

I do not have any new issues to raise with the Minister of Health and Human Resources, other than to again express my concern about the abolishment of medicare premiums, which I am going to continue to do in this Legislature, and to raise some concerns about the expansion of the chronic disease list. In a general sense, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Human Resources about the abolishment of the medicare premiums.

Is information regarding the numbers of individuals who are receiving medicare coverage in the territory going to be available to Members of the Legislature? Are lists going to be available with numbers of individuals who are benefiting from medical premiums?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** That information will be available. I cannot give it to her today or tomorrow, but we will have a list of those individuals. We are still trying to register all those individuals who are eligible for health care in the Yukon.

**Mrs. Firth:** Will the department be keeping track of the amounts of revenues that would have been coming in, had we been charging medicare premiums, or will they just be keeping a list of recipients of Yukon medical services?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** We will be keeping track of the recipients of medical services. With respect to the revenue coming in, I think that would be under the Minister of Finance's portfolio.

**Mrs. Firth:** There will be no revenue coming in, so my question is in the context of, are we going to in any way know, on an ongoing basis, revenues that the government would have derived had we still been charging medicare premiums?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I am not sure what that would be required for. I am not sure what the Member is getting at. If there is something that she feels that this department should provide, and we think that it is a necessary thing to do, then we can certainly look at it, but I am not sure what she is trying to ask me.

**Mrs. Firth:** Obviously, the department is not going to be keeping track of any potential revenues from medicare premiums.

Can the Minister tell me how much is predicted in this Budget for the cost of the chronic disease list?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** It is \$369,000.

**Mrs. Firth:** Can the Minister give us some details, in a general sense, as to the regulations that accompany the expansion of the chronic disease list? I have had some conversations with physicians who feel that the government has kind of left them with an open-ended form of regulation or decision-making. In other words, someone can come into their office and say that they have arthritis and they take aspirin for it, and it is left rather open-ended as to whether they are eligible to be put on the chronic disease list or not. I believe the discretion is left up to the physician.

Could the Minister elaborate on what the regulations are within her department, and what kind of direction the physicians are being given as to how extensive the illness has to be? Is there anything that says they have to be diagnosed as a chronic arthritic or a chronic heart patient? Could we have some more information about that?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** It is a chronic disease and disability program; therefore, all those individuals who suffer from a chronic disease or a chronic disability will be, and are, eligible for a prescribed medication as prescribed by the doctor.

We are running across individuals who keep coming back and are questioning whether or not the non-prescription drugs should be available. That has not been established as yet. There has been a committee set up to review that situation. That, and a number of other concerns, have been brought forward as a result of that program, and we are continuing to meet with that review committee. When I say "we", I mean members of our department. We will be making some kind of a decision as to what should be included, other than what is listed under the regulations.

It is a new program, and we are bound to run into a few problems.

**Mrs. Firth:** I raised this when the new program was announced and asked how much homework had been done and how much preparation had been done and how much analysis went into the cost of the program. I was given as much information then as I am being given now. I raised it as a concern and as an issue, and I raised it again when I responded to the Government Leader's presentation of the Operating and Maintenance Budget.

The concern I raised was that I had had many doctors approach me and tell me that they had as many as two or three individuals come to see them on a daily basis to their office, asking to be put on this list. I asked the Minister the questions about how severely ill individuals had to be to be eligible, and I asked about prescription drugs. She led us to believe that all the research had been done and it was going to cost \$179,000, or something to that effect, and that it was no problem.

We got that brief review in the form of a Ministerial Statement. I think all Members of the Legislature would like some indication that there has been some analysis and review done as to what the potential costs of this program could be to the Yukon taxpayer. Some of the medical profession are predicting costs far higher than \$369,000.

<sup>35</sup> They are predicting that the costs could be in the millions, and I would like to know what the guidelines of the program are.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I would like to thank the Member for bringing these concerns to my attention again. I have heard it all before and do appreciate her bringing it back.

As I mentioned before, we went on the information that was available to us at that time and determined from that the amount of money that we would set aside for the Chronic Disease Program. She already knows that the money that we allocated at that time to that program was in addition to the money that was already being spent.

It may be, sometime down the road, that we find that it is going to cost more money, and if it does then I believe that those individuals out there who require that attention and that care are going to have to continue to have it. It may cost us more money. I do not really think it will go into the millions, I hope it does not, but if it does we will still have to look after the needs of those Yukoners, especially those Yukoners who cannot afford to pay for those drugs month after month after month.

**Mrs. Firth:** The Minister is going to continue to hear from me about it because she has done nothing about it since the last time I

raised it.

I do not recall the Minister saying that a requirement or an eligibility criteria to be on the chronic disease list was inability to pay. Now she is saying that I do not have any sympathy for those who cannot pay. That is what she is trying to allude to. Her program does not assist those individuals. It is simply that individuals who have a particular chronic disease are put on the list whether they can pay or not — whether they can pay or not.

It was my suggestion that if there was a problem and if there were individuals who could not pay, then we do something to assist those individuals who, through no fault of their own, could not afford to pay. The Government Leader got up and raved on about how we believed in a two-class system.

I am cautioning this government that this could be a very expensive undertaking and I do not want to see us use our lottery funds, like the province of Manitoba is doing now, to help pay for our medical costs. I expected this analysis to be done before the program was announced so that we would have some idea of what the costs would be that the taxpayer of the Yukon would face.

I raised the issue that other provinces give subsidies. The individual is required to pay the first portion or a certain percentage and then the government comes in to assist them. If they cannot pay that percentage then the government pays it all for them.

The Minister comes in and gives a Ministerial Statement and says we are going to do this and everybody is going to be on it. I talked to the pharmacists, the doctors and the nurses and CNAs. First of all, none of them were aware that this government was going to do this. They all asked me the same questions about the cost implications. So I am here in the Legislature asking the Minister the same questions and raising concerns on behalf of those people as well as on behalf of the constituents that I represent.

I do not get the feeling that the analysis has been done. Like the Minister says, we are going to have to wait to see what the costs are going to be. We are going to have to pay them. I do not know where we are going to get the money from, but we are going to have to pay because once you give people this kind of benefit it is very difficult to take it away, or to decide who should have it taken away.

My preference would be that we do that kind of analysis before we establish a program.

<sup>36</sup> **Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I respect the views of other people just as well as the Member for Whitehorse South Centre does. I think they are very important. The Medical Association has some concerns about it; the certified nursing assistants have some concerns about it; the registered nurses have some concern about it. It was a program that we felt very confident was a good program, that it was needed, and I do not think in the area of any kind of health care that we have to go to a two-tier system where if you can afford it, pay it; if you cannot, do not. Let the government subsidize. We could very well look back on what has happened over the years with Medicare. If you were rich, you paid for your medical assistance. If you were not, get somebody else to pay for it. I think it is a good program. Not every program you set up is going to be perfect — the Member knows that. It happens to just about every new program anywhere. Problems will arise, but I do not think we are going to have to worry down the road about having to pay millions of extra dollars.

**Mr. Brewster:** I would just like to go a little further on other people who are concerned about this. One of my constituents approached me. They pay \$700 a year for medicine; they have been doing this for years; they have looked after themselves. Unknown to them, apparently the instructions were given to the nurses in the northern health centres to turn around and put all these people on the chronic list. They did not ask for this. They want to stand on their own feet, and they are very insulted that they are told they are now going to be on a social thing and be given this when they have been paying for it for years and they did not ask for this.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** If somebody is quite willing to pay those expenses themselves rather than be on a disability list, I cannot see any reason why they cannot do that.

**Mr. Brewster:** Well then, why apparently were the orders issued for the nurses to write all these people and tell them they were on this chronic list?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I do not know why the nurse did that, but there are some individuals out there who do require the assistance that this program provides and are happy for it. I do not know if we are giving information out to everybody, whether or not those individuals do require that help. We do not know that; I am sure that the nurse does not know it, and really, if they do not want it, then ask them to have their name taken off the list. I am sure that would not be a problem.

**Mr. Brewster:** Number one, we are not talking about the people who need it. We agree there are lots of people who need it. Number two, I rather resent that you tell me the nurses do not know the people in their area. That is what they are out there for and they certainly know. In my area, they have less than 400 people, and there are three or four nurses out there. They did not do this on their own; they were given instructions from someplace in this great building of ours. This is a goody program. Everybody is going to get everything free. Well, there are some people who still believe they would like to stay in the world and look after themselves as long as they can.

<sup>37</sup> **Mrs. Firth:** I guess we are not going to get anymore answers from the Minister about it. The comments about the goody program are interesting, because I heard that comment, too, here in Whitehorse. I would like to express again, on behalf of the Yukon taxpayer, that I have some concerns about the future costs of this program. There is no denying that those individuals who are recipients on the Chronic Disease List, for whatever reason, and it is for the reason of the disease that they have, not their ability to pay, and the unfortunate situation they have found themselves in having these diseases. I want to raise the concern, and I want the Minister to be forewarned that we will be looking at it again. If the analysis is not done properly in the beginning, the Minister may find that she has a program that will be coming to haunt her in the future.

I received from the Minister a response to questions I had asked about the progress of the hospital reconstruction, the Extended Care Facility, during the Capital Budget debates. Are the professional staff at the hospital being consulted in any way on that whole process; the process of redesign, architectural design, planning? Are the opinions of the professionals who are going to be working within those facilities being sought?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** At this point in time, we do have a committee with professionals on it. I am not sure whether or not those individuals go back to the federal employees, Medical Services, and inform them as to what is happening. Right now, it is just a meeting to look at some of the different programs within Medical Services. At this point in time, there have also been some sub-committees struck to deal with certain parts of the transfer. I do not think that there are established meetings with professionals to keep them informed on a daily or monthly basis with regard to the progress of the transfer.

**Mrs. Firth:** It would be my desire to have those individuals consulted at some particular time. I know it can be done by the territorial government; it does not have to be done by the federal government. The professional people working within that facility should be afforded the opportunity to have some kind of consultation.

The Minister mentioned the review committee that was dealing with the Chronic Disease List. Who is on that committee?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I can get the names for the Member by tomorrow.

<sup>38</sup> **Mrs. Firth:** I would like that list. I would like to talk to the Minister a bit and get some ideas about the native child welfare initiatives that she mentioned again today and that she announced yesterday in the Legislature in the form of a Ministerial Statement.

The Minister is talking about a ministerial advisory council on Indian child welfare. Can she tell me what the makeup of that council will be and what their mandate will be?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** That committee and the plans to strike that committee are in the planning stages right now. We are consulting with Indian people and have been for a long time, with respect to what that committee is going to do. It goes back to many meetings with frustrated Indian people saying, "We do not like what is

happening with our children; they are being sent away from our communities, and they are being put into homes out of the extended family, and that if you are going to be doing things with our Indian children, the Indian people should be involved." Right now, we are putting together a plan and a mandate for that committee to work with. I would hope that we will be able to come up with a fair way of selecting those individuals.

**Mrs. Firth:** So, the Minister is saying that she has made another Ministerial announcement but cannot tell me anything about how the committee is going to be composed or what they are going to do. Am I correct in saying that?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** No, she is not correct. We have had a number of discussions with them. I do not have anything in writing that says that this is exactly what is going to happen, this is the mandate of the advisory committee, but that committee will be there to advise me on different things with respect to our Indian children in care.

**Mrs. Firth:** Can the Minister tell us who is going to be on it and what they are going to do? Who is going to be represented on this committee? The Minister is sighing, yet she is telling me that she has had discussions. Who is going to be on the committee? Is it going to be representative groups? Is it going to be the Status of Women? Is it going to be the Contractors Association? Who is going to be on this committee?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** There will be Indian people on that committee. It will be all Indian people. The way that it will be established has not been determined yet as to how many people we will have, whether there will be representation from each and every Band, or whether the Bands will nominate certain people from certain areas, but we have allocated \$5,000 for that. It will not be a large committee, but it will be a committee that will advise us, meet with us and try to help us with the job.

**Mrs. Firth:** Does the government have any other committees that are all-Indian committees in an advisory capacity?

<sup>39</sup> **Hon. Mrs. Joe:** Not in my Department.

**Mrs. Firth:** I have some concerns about that because if we are talking about native child welfare, I know that there are some Indian children who are in white foster homes, and who are adopted by white people. I think it would only be fair that the committee would have representation of white people on it as well. I am quite surprised. I mentioned, when I responded to the Ministerial Statement, that I felt this was a precedent that the government may be setting. I would like the Minister to reconsider that and having white representation on the committee as well, particularly if there are foster parents and adoptive homes of native children in Whitehorse, because there is a cultural adjustment to make and those individuals would have a tremendous amount to share with that committee and with the Minister in an advisory capacity.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I am not really the person who makes some kind of decision that says nothing can ever change. If, for instance, someone decides that it would be a good idea to include somebody on that committee who is not an Indian, I would seriously look at that. I would have no problems doing that. At this point in time, the representation that has been made to me is for an advisory committee of Indian people. Nobody has ever mentioned any other person being on there.

The Member mentioned that I should take into consideration some of the white families that have Indian foster children in their homes, and that I should look at the possibility of their concerns — if they are happy in that home, do not disturb them. I cannot stand here right now and say that that will not happen. It may very well be that a foster child who is in care right now has a chance to go back to the extended family. We have too many complaints over the years, and we still, every year, at an annual assembly, at a health conference in the Yukon, have people coming to us wanting to know where their children are. These children have been taken out of their homes, up until ten years ago, and they have never seen them again. That is the biggest concern.

The biggest concern of Indian people is to keep those children either in the extended family or in another Indian home. If there is some reason that they feel, or I feel, that someone else should be sitting on that committee, well, we will look at it.



**Mrs. Firth:** I want to know what the Minister thinks. I want to know what the Minister feels, because the Minister of Justice has made it very clear in this House that he wants equal representation: gender, racial, rural, urban. I want to know what this Minister is saying. She makes it sound like somebody else is making the decision about the committee for her. She is the Minister, and she is responsible. I want to know what kind of committee she wants.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** Because of the number of Indian children in our care, there has been a concern expressed by many Indian people directly to me — not individuals alone, but other groups as well. If I feel that a group of Indian people could be most helpful because they understand the situation, because they have lived it, because they are here and have lived here all their lives and want their children to stay here, then I will look at a committee of Indian people.

**Mrs. Firth:** So the Minister is saying that she is not going to have any other people but Indian people on the committee? I believe that was her last comment — that this will be a committee with only Indian people on it.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I said that if, for some reason, the Indian people, the Council for Yukon Indians and the other groups we are meeting with, feel it would be helpful to have a non-Indian person on the committee, I would look at that possibility. I did not say I would not do it.

**Chairman:** We will now recess for 15 minutes.

*Recess*

**Chairman:** The Committee of the Whole will come to order.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I have, for the information of the Member for Whitehorse South Centre, the names of those individuals on the Technical Advisory Committee for Chronic Disease. They are: Doctor Wintonyk, Doctor Sally Macdonald, pharmacists Ed Demchuk and Larry Iverson, and representing our department are Alan Davidson and Janet Mann.

**Mrs. Firth:** I thank the Minister for the names of the people on the committee. The only last comment I want to make before we move on to the line items is that I am very concerned about the precedent the Minister is establishing; and, most of all, I am concerned about the children who are presently in the situation that the Minister finds unacceptable and that the people who are advising her find unacceptable. Children do not have these attitudes until they are brought forward by adults, and my concern is for the children and that they get the best care we can give them. I think it takes everyone's advice and opinion to see that that happens.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I really should not respond to that, but I believe the Member was making statements that the care they were getting was not acceptable. I did not say that. It is not said anywhere. There was a concern about some things that happened in the department many years ago, and I have already stated that. I believe that what is happening with the children in our care right now is good; they are being cared for, but there are some problems. If there were no problems, the people would not be coming to us and telling us that that was so. I will not accept those remarks, because they simply are not true, but I am always willing to go out there to look at some way to improve something right now that we already have. If it takes an advisory committee, then I will do that.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Five weeks ago, the Public Accounts Committee was blocked in its efforts — perhaps by ministerial order — to determine the mechanism by which the department is going to pursue the collection of outstanding health care premiums. Will the Minister now reveal that in the course of this debate?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** There has already been a process in place where, in a small way over the past few months, somebody has been working on the collection of those outstanding premiums. We are having a plan put together on how we are going to do it. There are a number of questions that have to be answered with respect to the health care premiums, and this is: do we really have that much money owed to us? Some individuals have left the Yukon and continued to be billed after that. There are some individuals who

were required to pay premiums who were in a situation where they could have been subsidized. All those things have to be worked out in the meantime, but we will be pursuing the collection of outstanding premiums.

**Mr. McLachlan:** The number slips my mind, but it was provided for the Committee, and it was no small number. If there is a problem within the department, it should have been clarified long before this as to some method of writing off those who have left or those who are on another contribution plan.

I will not pursue it too much longer, but to what extent is it the intention of the department to pursue people? What is a small debt? What is a large debt? If they owe \$100, is that worth going after? If they owe \$1,000, will the department carry on? What is the mechanism? That is still not clear.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** There is a policy that has been established and would need Cabinet approval.

**Mr. McLachlan:** I take it that this issue has not been approved by a Cabinet prior to the discharge of premiums, as of April 1? It has yet to be dealt with in the Cabinet agenda? Is that correct?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** It has been included in some of the things that have taken place, but this is specifically to deal with the collection of outstanding premiums.

**Mr. McLachlan:** With respect to the jet air charter operation that comes to Whitehorse for medical evacuations out of the territory, is that operation based only in Edmonton? Does the department award an equal amount of work among the air charter operators for jets based in Vancouver and Edmonton?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I do not have that answer, but I could certainly bring it back. It is contracted through Government Services.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Do the statistics on charters outside of the territory revealed here in the budget not apply to that medical evacuation service by charter jet? Is that not in our figures?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** Is the Member looking at page 180 under Statistics for Medical Travel? Is he wanting to know, with regard to the number of trips by chartered aircraft, if one company is getting those charters?

**Mr. McLachlan:** That is correct. There are two parts to the question. I would like to know if the 15 trips referred to in the statistics for out-of-territory are inbound flights to take people out? If that is the case, are they awarded only to an Edmonton charter company, or is that operation coming out of Vancouver and Edmonton? Or are the out-of-territory flights referred to there by CP Air to take people to Edmonton?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The scheduled aircraft flights are listed here as scheduled aircraft. The charter flights, depending on the kind of plane you were going to use, if not available here, would have to come from out of the territory and then return.

**Mr. McLachlan:** That is still only half an answer. If there are life threatening situations that require the use of an Edmonton or Vancouver operation, whether there is a plane available in the territory has nothing to do with it. I am still not certain of the Minister's answer. Perhaps she is not so certain of the question. They are very costly, that is my question. It costs a lot of money to keep that jet in the air, and I am just wondering what is the financial impact of those operations? It was my understanding they were coming out of Vancouver and Edmonton.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I do not have that information with regard to the costing and where we charter them from, if we require a charter from outside. I would bring that information back to the Member probably by tomorrow.

**Mr. McLachlan:** That is acceptable.

When were the rates for social assistance payments last adjusted upwards, not downwards?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** October, 1983.

**Chairman:** The first program, Policy, Planning and Administration. Any general debate?

On Policy, Planning and Administration

On Administration

Administration in the amount of \$1,263,000 agreed to  
Policy, Planning and Administration in the amount of \$1,263,000 agreed to

On Community and Family Services

*On Program Management*

**Mrs. Firth:** Could the Minister tell us what the 12 percent increase is?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The Budget was increased by approximately \$14,000 due to the provision of \$12,000 for the review of the Family and Children Services program delivery approaches and minor increases in salaries and supplies.

*Program Management in the amount of \$133,000 agreed to On Family and Children's Services*  
*Family and Children's Services in the amount of \$701,000 agreed to*

*On Placement and Support Services*  
*Placement and Support Services in the amount of \$2,676,000 agreed to*

*On Regional Services*  
**Mr. McLachlan:** In the area of Regional Services, does the Minister have any positions not filled? Have we still got vacancies in a number of areas?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** We have, as of today, five positions that are not filled. Those are, specifically, the secretary in Ross River, which is in the recruitment stage; Community Addictions Worker in Haines Junction is under review; the Community Addictions Worker in Old Crow is in the process of recruitment; the Social Service Worker in Pelly is in the process of recruitment; the Social Service Worker in Faro is in classification, then to recruitment.

**Mr. McLachlan:** What Social Service Worker in Faro? That position is filled and is now based in Ross River, unless the Minister is referring to someone else about to be hired.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** It is a position of Social Service Worker to be based in Faro.

*Regional Services in the amount of \$2,462,000 agreed to*  
**Mrs. Firth:** Could the Minister tell us what the increase in personnel is under allotments?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The \$126,000 increase in the personnel allotment for 1987-88 is due to transfer of the Child Welfare Pilot Project Coordinator from the Policy and Planning unit, a full year cost for this support services unit and Family and Childrens Services unit located in the Royal Centre in Whitehorse, actual salary levels for staff recruited for positions in the communities, together with merit and benefits adjustments throughout the branch.

**Mrs. Firth:** Is the Minister saying that this was transferred from Policy and Planning into Family Services? Is there a comparable cost as a reduction in Policy and Planning?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** There was some reduction, but there was an offset as well.

**Mrs. Firth:** What was that?  
**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The overall reduction was \$13,000.  
*Community and Family Services in the amount of \$5,972,000 agreed to*

*On Social Services Program*  
*On Program Management*  
**Mrs. Firth:** Could we have an explanation of the 12 percent increase?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The increase amounts to \$12,000 over forecast expenditures for the 1987-88 fiscal year. The increase is a result of a combination of factors including merit benefits and Yukon Bonus adjustments, provision for writing and production of study group reports, \$50,000, offset by reductions in travel, supplies and communications.

*Program Management in the amount of \$113,000 agreed to On Alcohol and Drug Services*  
**Mr. McLachlan:** Is the facility of Crossroads potentially overloaded or chronically overloaded? If so, how does the Minister deal with that problem? Where does the overload go?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** We received the regular minutes from the Crossroads Society, and I have no indication that it is overcrowded at this time.

*Alcohol and Drug Services in the amount of \$1,223,000 agreed to On Social Assistance Services*

**Mrs. Firth:** Could the Minister tell us why we have an increase in Social Assistance Services?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The increasing budget over the project

year-end for 1986-87 represents \$178,000. It is due to the following factors: full year costs for position staffed during 1986-87 fiscal year previously covered by acting appointments, together with merit paid and Yukon Bonus adjustments, increase to \$26,000 in a contribution agreement with the Yukon Women's transition Home, an increase of \$16,000 in the Yukon Employment Incentive Program cost-shared with the Department of Education, an increase of \$16,500 for the establishment of an auxiliary position for the Yukon Opportunity Plan, a projected composition of social assistance recipients involves an even larger proportion of single parent families, which are the most costly caseloads assisted.

**Mrs. Firth:** Again, I raise the issue of our unemployment statistics that are supposed to be less, on the decline, yet we continue to pay more and more out for social assistance. I see that as somewhat of an inconsistency.

*Social Assistance Services in the amount of \$2,323,000 agreed to On Seniors Services*

**Mr. McLachlan:** Why is it up by three-eighths in one budget year?

**Chairman:** We are on Seniors Services.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The Budget increase represents \$285,000 and is due to the following factors: approximately \$235,000 for the personnel and home care coordinator, home care social worker associated program delivery cost for the first full year of funding for the home care service; approximately \$50,000 for projected increases in eligible applicants for Pioneer Utility Grants and Seniors Income Supplements.

*Seniors Services in the amount of \$1,048,000 agreed to On Rehabilitation Services*

*Rehabilitation Services in the amount of \$1,182,000 agreed to*  
**Mrs. Firth:** Can the Minister explain what the increase of \$477,000 under Allotments, Other, represents?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The increase of \$377,000 in the other O&M allotment for 1987-88 is due to the new home care program and reinstatement of activities for which funding lapsed in 1986-87.

**Mrs. Firth:** Was there not an identification of the home care program under the Senior Services line for \$235,000? Is this an additional amount for the home care program?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** It is the same amount.

**Mrs. Firth:** The Minister said it is the same amount. What does she mean?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The money in the overall budget is included here under seniors, but this is the overall allotment for O&M.

*Social Services Program in the amount of \$5,889,000 agreed to On Health Services*  
*On Program Management*

**Mrs. Firth:** I think it would be nice if the Minister volunteered an explanation for the 155 percent increase.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The budget has increased by \$180,000 due to the following factors: \$184,000 has been allocated for the Health transfer planning activities; merit benefits and Yukon Bonus adjustments and salaries; these increases have been offset slightly by a reduction in out-of-territory travel.

**Mrs. Firth:** Did I just hear the Minister say that we are going to have \$184,000 to plan the health transfer? I thought that was all planned and happening any day.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The planning is progressive. We have to do the planning in stages. I think the Member understands that.

**Mrs. Firth:** How much have we spent already on health planning for the health transfers? It is starting to sound like a whole negotiation process that is going to be a job creation project forever because we are never going to transfer the health care program to the Government of the Yukon Territory.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I have been informed that this is the first year of funding for the health care transfer planning activities.

*Program Management in the amount of \$296,000 agreed to On Health Insurance*  
*Health Insurance in the amount of \$18,324,000 agreed to*

*On Community Health*  
*Community Health in the amount of \$2,539,000 agreed to On Extended Health*

*Extended Health in the amount of \$1,367,000 agreed to*



*On Vital Statistics*

**Mr. McLachlan:** I believe there is a fee charged in the Department of Vital Statistics for data recorded or requested by the public. Why is there no revenue item associated to revenue for this department?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** Apparently, there is a revenue of \$14,000 on page 189.

**Mr. McLachlan:** That says registration fees. It is not apparent that that is attached to Vital Statistics. That is the Minister's answer, that this is a Vital Statistics entry?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** It is for Vital Statistics.

**Chairman:** Anything further?

*Vital Statistics in the amount of \$44,000 agreed to  
Health Services in the amount of \$22,570,000 agreed to  
On Juvenile Justice Program*

**Chairman:** The last program is on page 185. General debate?

**Mr. McLachlan:** The Minister of Government Services has informed us that Juvenile Justice is moving into a different location. Is this program expanding with the number of people in it? Is it necessary to move to more area? Is this a simple mechanical adjustment?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** They will be moving into another building. They are not expanding. It is just that there was not enough room in that area, and they will be a lot more accessible where they are moving to.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Has the Director of the Juvenile Justice Program been filled in this department? Is there a director?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** Yes. It is Bonnie Clark.

**Mr. Phillips:** What is the status of 501 Taylor Street?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** There is an appeal by the courts. With regard to our own position, we have individuals at 501 Taylor, and I have not made any decision as to what would happen if it was a negative judgment.

**Mr. Phillips:** I understand that it is the City that is appealing and not the Court. I also understand that there has been a series of delays in it going to court. Can the Minister explain if her department has asked for those delays?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** We did not even know that there was a delay. We were not informed about it until just before it was to take place.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Could the Minister explain the description of the program Youth Accepted for Alternative Services? Is that out of territory, or is that in territory?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** That is the term that we are using for diversion committees and other prevention type programs.

**Mr. Phillips:** I noticed in one of the line items, and I am sure we will get to it, that Community and Court Services has increased dramatically. I would have thought that the legislation that the Minister put forth today would have decreased those costs. Can the Minister comment on that?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I think that the people who have been coming to court and are charged has increased over the last little while. The increase for that line item was \$298,000 over the year end for 1986-87. The Youth Development Activities, including day programming involving such activities as life skills, education and educational and work experience training will be operational in 1987-88.

Now that 501 Taylor has been established as an open custody facility, space for this facility will support the Youth Development Program. These services, although budgeted before, did not proceed during 1986 due to the delay in opening 501 Taylor. The service involves approximately \$153,000.

<sup>50</sup> *On Program Management*

*Program Management in the amount of \$134,000 agreed to  
On Community and Court Services  
Community and Court Services in the amount of \$799,000 agreed to*

*On Residential Rehabilitation*

*Residential Rehabilitation in the amount of \$1,330,000 agreed to  
Juvenile Justice Program in the total amount of \$2,263,000  
agreed to*

*On Revenues*

*Revenues in the amount of \$14,000 agreed to*

*On Recoveries*

*Recoveries in the amount of \$9,218,000 agreed to  
On Grants*

**Mr. McLachlan:** Is the entry under the Handy Bus for \$82,000 a 100 percent government contribution, or is any part of this put up by the Whitehorse Transit people themselves?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The users pay a fee and we supplement that.

**Mrs. Firth:** Can the Minister tell us why all the areas under contributions got an increase, except Alcohol and Drug Services under Crossroads? Can she tell me what Crossroads had requested for their budget?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** Under the Alcohol and Drug Services, Crossroads contribution of \$336,000, these funds provide for the operation of the Crossroads Alcohol and Drug Residential Treatment Service by the Crossroads Society in Whitehorse. The funding provided in 1986-87 included one year only special purpose funds for facility improvements. It is administered by the Social Services Branch.

**Mrs. Firth:** It is \$336,000 that the Minister is giving Crossroads in her budget. In 1986-87, the budget was \$348,360. I have a concern. Crossroads has had one of their salaries knocked down because of NNADAP. The Minister is decreasing their salary. Apparently, the statistics at Crossroads are showing that the users are up, particularly native clientele. They attribute it to a greater awareness of the problem and the Indian people are wanting some assistance with the problem. I would like to know why the Minister is cutting their budget.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** The Crossroads Society was given an additional \$25,000 last year for some renovations that they needed done. That was not given to them again, because it was on a one-shot thing. Apparently, without that there has been a small increase.

**Mrs. Firth:** They are still getting a decrease. The Crossroads were given an \$11,000 grant last year for some rent assistance. Their basic operating and maintenance grant is being reduced compared to what it was last year.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I am informed that there is no decrease. If the Member would like a breakdown of why that has happened, I do not have it here in front of me, but I can certainly get that information to her with respect to the \$25,000 and other money that may have been spent.

**Mrs. Firth:** I have a concern about that. Everybody else indicated here is getting an increase. I do not understand what the Minister is saying, that they are still going to be getting an increase. It is very obviously a decrease from what they received last year. I have had some concerns expressed to me by people working at Crossroads. It appears that there is a decrease in the funding that they are being given.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** They were given a one-year allotment of \$25,000, and they did not get it again this year. That is why the decrease is here. It was for renovations. If you take that \$25,000 from the \$336,000, they have had a \$3,000 increase.

**Mrs. Firth:** I would like to know if the Minister will give me a detailed breakdown so I can have it available for the individuals at Crossroads. While I am on my feet, and before we finish the total Budget, as we have gone through, I have made an observation about the increases in all of the programs of the department.

My observation is that, for a hard-nosed budget, I would say most of the increases have all been in the program management area, particularly for benefits, staff salary increases, probably as an implication of the JES, and that there has been very little real program increase or program initiatives.

<sup>51</sup> I just wanted to raise that as an observation after having gone through this budget.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I will bring back information on the Crossroads Budget. With regard to the increase in service, there has been money allotted to the Safe Home Program; there has been money allotted to the expansion of a family worker program; there has been money increased to the Champagne-Aishihik Welfare Pilot Project; there has been monies used to increase the foster homes, including a three zone rate structure; there has been money for the establishment of a proposed youth treatment centre; increased financial support to the Transition Home; Yukon Family Services

and the Yukon Association of Special Needs; increased participation with the Department of Education, the jointly operated and funded Yukon Employment Incentive Program; provision for contracted community and diversion measures for young offenders and youth in Watson Lake; establishment of service contracts for pharmacy, medical and nutrition advisors at Macaulay Lodge, and a number of other projects.

**Mrs. Firth:** That is fine and well, but when you look at the percentage increases, I think you will find that the staff have received a major portion of the increase of the Health and Human Resources Budget.

**Mr. McLachlan:** There is a line entry for \$16,000 for cancer patients. Is cancer the only chronic disease that we get transfer payments from the federal government on? I believe there are others.

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** That is for subsistence money for cancer patients who require treatment when they go outside. I do not believe we have the same kind of program for some of the other illnesses.

**Mr. McLachlan:** The Yukon Opportunity Plan has a 30 percent increase. There was a move in the program to increase staffing in that department. Was that successful, or is there still only one individual employed there?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** That was a person whom we had on contract and who moved on. We are looking at a possible seasonal employee there during the working season.

**Mr. McLachlan:** Why is there no entry in the current year for the Whitehorse hospital planning project? Why has it dropped by \$50,000? Are we not proceeding any further in the current year?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** I am informed that it is being federally funded.

**Mr. McLachlan:** The total studies for planning in the new Whitehorse General is a total federal commitment; there is no portion whatsoever by this government?

**Hon. Mrs. Joe:** There is a one-year only requirement. That has already been done.

**Department of Health and Human Resources in the amount of \$37,957,000 agreed to**

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** I move that you report progress on Bill No. 6.

*Motion agreed to*

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

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

May we have the report from the Chairman of Committee of the Whole?

**Mr. Webster:** The Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 6, *Second Appropriation Act, 1987-88*, and directed me to report progress on the same.

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

**Some Hon. 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 5:29 p.m.*