Debates & Proceedings

Monday, March 20, 1978

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor
Mr. Speaker: I will now call the House to order. We will proceed at this time with morning Prayers.

Prayers

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with the Order Paper this morning, on March 16th, the Honourable Member from Pelly River rose on a Point of Privilege respecting a matter debated in Committee of the Whole on March 14th. As Members are aware, I have ruled that matters raised in Committee of the Whole must be dealt with in Committee of the Whole and are not normally considered by the Chair, except upon report from the Chairman of Committees.

In this instance, the Honourable Member has erred in that the debated referred to by the Honourable Member from Pelly River, did in fact take place in the House under Orders of the Day and not in Committee of the Whole as stated.

The Chair has reviewed the points advanced by the Honourable Member and can find no prima facie case for a Point of Privilege. Rather, I find a difference of opinion between two Members respecting an allegation of fact. I would once again draw to the attention of all Honourable Members, Annotation 113 of Beauchesne, which states that a dispute arising between two members as to allegations of fact does not fulfill the conditions of Parliamentary Privilege. Accordingly, I must rule that the Honourable Member from Pelly River has no Point of Privilege.

We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper. Are there any documents for tabling? Are there any Reports of Committees? Petitions? Introduction of Bills?

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

BILLS: INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill entitled Dawson City Utilities Replacement Ordinance be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Highways and Public Works that a Bill entitled Dawson City Utilities Replacement Ordinance be now introduced and read a first time. Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: When shall the Bill be read for a second time?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: At the next sitting of the Assembly, please, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: So ordered.

Are there any further Introduction of Bills?

Are there any Notices of Motion for the Production of Papers? Notices of Motion or Resolution?

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mrs. Watson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Hootalinqua, THAT WHEREAS the Recreation Grants Regulations presently establish criteria for grants made pursuant to the Recreation Development Ordinance on a per capita basis within the communities enumerated in the regulation or within neighbouring communities; and THAT WHEREAS it is sometimes the case that persons utilizing the recreation facilities supported by such grants are not resident within such community; IT IS THEREFORE the opinion of this Assembly, that the said regulations be amended as follows: by adding immediately after subsection 4(4) thereof the following subsection:

4(1) where any person not resident in a community listed in Section 16 or in a neighbouring community referred to in subsection 4, satisfies the Commissioner that he is in receipt of recreation service provided by a local authority, that person may be included in the calculation of the per capita grant payable pursuant to subsection.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Notices of Motion or Resolution?

Are there any Statements by Ministers?

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to inform the House that Section 113 of the Elections Act was amended last Thursday by the House of Commons and it has been given Third Reading and has been transmitted to the Senate and Royal Assent will be given to the amendment, apparently, or this coming Wednesday. So, it would appear that the responsibility for running our elections has finally come back home to the Yukon.

Applause

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Statements by Ministers?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I have been questioning in the House and I know the importance of this matter to the Honourable Member from Ogilvie and from Klondike, and to the Klondike Visitors' Association and I would like to inform the House that I have had correspondence with Her Worship the Mayor of the City of Dawson to tell her that for the 1978 ferry season, there will be no change in the ferry schedule, that it will be operating on a 24-hour a day basis.

I also told Her Worship that we are examining the possibility of eliminating the midnight to 8 a.m. shift for 1979, and subsequent operating seasons. Review will be taking place because with the reduction in use caused by the lack of Clinton Creek traffic, the cost of transporting a vehicle will naturally increase, and if there is a chance of saving the money of the taxpayer, then we must do this.

For example, in 1977 the ferry operated 164 days, and during the midnight to 8 a.m. shift, a total of 4,390 vehicles were carried. The cost per vehicle amounted to $8.75. The season's cost for this shift was approximately $38,000. Of the 4,390 vehicles carried during this shift, we estimate that 1,230 vehicles were associated with Clinton Creek. This number is deducted from 4,390, then the cost per vehicle will increase to about $12 per vehicle. As you can see, the ferry is by no means cheap and however desirable it might be to offer free ferry service for the patrons of Diamond Tooth Gerties, there may be other priorities for $38,000 in Territorial funds.

The Directors of Tourism and Highways are in the process of preparing a report, Mr. Speaker, in consultation with tourism interest groups, and a decision with respect to operating hours in future years will be made sometime within the next few months.

Mr. Speaker, the maintenance of the Boundary Road will continue this year at the same, or better, level as it has. This summer we will make a special effort to do a small re-surfacing program between the Clinton Creek junction and the Boundary and this should greatly improve conditions for tourists. The reconstruction of this section has been programmed in past years, but has been periodically postponed because of other priorities. Mr. Speaker, regardless of what the Honourable Member from Ogilvie tells you about not being kept informed of this Government of decisions made in her area, I have, as usual carbon copies for both herself and the Honourable Member for Klondike of that correspondence.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Statements by Ministers? This then brings us to the Question Period, have you any questions?
QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Pipeline Bill/Amendments to

Mr. Berger: Mr. Speaker, on March 14th, I asked a question of the Minister responsible for pipeline matters, what extra burden it would put on the Yukon if a proposal by the Calgary South MP, Peter Bawden, if it would be put into reality. Then the answer the Minister gave me is academic because it was rejected by the Government. On March 16th, I came across in the Canadian Press reports where it states "He", and the reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to reference is to the Yukon MP, Mr. Nielsen, "said an agreement also in close on a compromise over a conservative push to

My question, again, is, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister: what additional cost would this put on the Yukon, if this agreement would become a reality?

Mr. Speaker: Before the Minister replies, I should advise all Honourable Members that it is not proper, in the Question Period, to read telegrams, letters, extracts from newspapers, as an opening to a question.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I still understand that the legislation that is going to the House does not contain a provision which has now passed the Committee stage and is in the House for Third Reading, does not contain a provision limiting the amount of dollars or personnel regarding the single regulatory agency or the costs upon the applicant, that there is a maximum cost on that regulatory agency, or the number of people that will be involved in that regulatory agency.

As far as I understand, everything was sweetness and light and kissy-poo, once the Minister responsible for the pipeline agreed that there will be a parliamentary monitoring agency, that the other parties drop the amendments, which they could not have introduced because they were money amendments limiting the amount of personnel and the amount of money that Foothills, the applicant, would be responsible for up to a maximum cost.

I still say, and I think that once the legislation is gone through, that the question will still prove an academic exercise, because such amendments would be declared out of order, they would not be accepted and I think that there is probably an all-Party agreement now with the monitoring of parliament of the progress of the pipeline, that those amendments are not going to be continued to be sought, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is: would the Minister check with the Federal Government in this particular respect, with the Minister of the Yukon to the House of Parliament and see what this is all about?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to check with the horse's mouth or otherwise, which would be the government who is sponsoring the Bill, however, my communications with them are not that excellent or immediate or sympathetic and I would certainly attempt to find out the status of the Bill at the present time, but I understand those amendments were not cleared in Committee and they are not part of the Bill that is now before the House for Third Reading, Mr. Speaker.

I will attempt to endeavor to find our further the state of the legislation, at this time.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling an answer to Written Question Number 7.

Hon. Mr. Bibberd: Mr. Speaker, on March 7th, 1978, Mr. Fleming asked the following question: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs on the memorandum of electrical rate equalization. I notice that they have quoted that the mining industry does have a special rate of their own." His question, Mr. Speaker, "I am wondering if the Minister could inform us as to whether the Government has any special rate consideration for their power.

"In other words, would the Department of Public Works, in the area of Teslin, say, the M.O.T. and the institutions such as schools and in this area, would they be different from private enterprise and, if so, what are they?"

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is as follows: I have confirmed with Chris Pearson, the Chairman of the Electrical Utilities Board, that no differential rates exist for government departments or institutions anywhere in Yukon. The last differential rates existed in Dawson City and were abolished last year.

Question re: White Pass/Aquisition of Land

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Commissioner is not here this morning so Mr. Bell, I guess I will direct the question to him. There has been possibly a rumour and possibly not a rumor, that White Pass has acquired some land just in the past few weeks in the Carcross area close to the Town of Carcross. I am wondering if the Commissioner or Mr. Bell has any knowledge at all?

Mr. Deputy Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, I do not know at this time, I will have to see what I can discover and report back.

Question re: Pipeline Bill/Amendments to (Cont.)

Mrs. Watson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to that asked by Mr. Berger. What he was referring to was a statement by the Member of Parliament for Yukon that an agreement he thought was going to be reached, and therefore it would not be an amendment to the Bill, so would an agreement limiting the amount of costs that could be charged to the pipeline company, so would the Minister undertake to find out from the Government of Canada whether there is going to be an agreement which will limit the amount of money that can be charged by the regulatory agency to the pipeline company?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I would attempt to find that out. I think it might be a sensible suggestion to ask the Member from Yukon whether or not he would be prepared to appear before Committee on discussions of Bill C-25, which I think there is a motion to have it discussed. I know that everybody knows that he has been tremendously active in the process of this Bill through its different committee stages and in the House. I am sure that it would be a learning experience for all of us to ask those questions directly to a person who has been personally involved in all stages of the Bill, Mr. Speaker.

Question re: Van Gorda School/O & M Breakdown

Mr. McCall: Mr. Speaker, I have a written question for the Minister of Education. Would the Minister provide me with a complete breakdown of the operating and maintenance costs for Van Gorda School for the fiscal year 1976-77?

Question re: Arctic Winter Games Decentralization

Ms Millard: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Education and Recreation. Some time last week it was promised to us that letters would be tabled in this House concerning correspondence between the Recreation Department and outlying areas about the Arctic Winter Games and decentralizing them from Whitehorse to other communities. These were promised for this morning to be tabled, I am wondering when they will be tabled?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I am not too sure of how this would work, but I missed the tabling of documents. I do have the correspondence here and if we could revert back to the tabling of documents, I would be prepared to table them.

Mr. Speaker: I think at this point I would permit the tabling of these documents, however, perhaps we will table documents in their normal place on the Order Paper from now on.

Question re Workmen's Compensation Ordinance

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

During the debates on the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, there was the point raised that there might be a possibility of exploring with either Alberta or British Colum-
Mr. Speaker: A supplementary from the Honourable Member from Kluane.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Speaker, then when does the Minister think he will have the material.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the Minister has answered the question already and I do not think he ought to be asked to give a restatement of that answer.

Question re: Motor Vehicle Ordinance Regulations

Ms Millard: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Some time ago I gave written recommendations to the Minister concerning changes to Regulations attached to the Motor Vehicles Ordinance about Old Crow, specifically. I am wondering how far along those changes in the Regulations are?

Hon. Mr. Hibberd: I believe I communicated with the Member, Mr. Speaker, that when my Deputy Head returned we would be dealing with it and I would be speaking with her about it at that time.

Question re: White Pass Lay-offs (Cont.)

Mr. McCall: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to the Minister of Consumer Affairs dealing with the same question that the Honourable Member from Klondike brought up. Would the Minister endeavor to find out information and the position of Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation as to what their position is going to be this summer with the possibility of a closure impending, at the same time as he is inquiring about the White Pass lay-off situation?

Hon. Mr. Hibberd: Mr. Speaker, I have no idea what the Member is talking about. Perhaps he could give me more information, I have no idea what I am dealing with and I have nowhere to go unless there is more information available. If he could make that available to me perhaps I could help him with an answer to an entirely hypothetical question.

Mr. McCall: With due respect, Mr. Speaker, it is not a hypothetical question, and I would be only too glad to give the information to the Minister that I know of, which also is involved with the lay-offs dealing with White Pass & Yukon Railroad, so it is not hypothetical, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions?

Question re: Planning Council/Selection of Lands

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Speaker, on February 28th I asked the Minister of Local Government to provide this House with a list of all lands which the Planning Council has identified as specific community lands which may require protection and which the Planning Council has recommended to the Minister to be withdrawn for possible selection by the beneficiaries to the claim. The answer was no such lands have been identified at this time.

Yet, in the newspaper on Friday, the manager of the Champagne-Aishihik Band made this statement that one-third of the lands that are to be turned over to YTG for disposal are to be given to Indian people. Was this ever brought up at the Planning Council and was this commitment made with the endorsement of the Planning Council or the endorsement of the Yukon delegation at the Planning Council?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question, the question of block land transfers has been brought up at the Planning Council. It would just seem to be a matter of course, and I understood that such a contentious and sensitive area would be brought up particularly by the YTG participants at the table. The answer to the second part of the question is no, there has never been such an agreement reached, and no, there has never been specific community lands identified and placed on the negotiating table for negotiations, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Watson: Supplementary, then, would the Minister state then or agree that this commitment was a commitment that was made by the Minister of Indian Affairs on his own, outside the Planning Council?
Hon. Mr. McKinnon: I have no knowledge of any such agreement or any such discussion, Mr. Speaker. I was not present or privy to any such discussions.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions?

We will proceed to the Order Paper, under Motions and Resolutions.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Madam Clerk: Item Number standing in the name of the Honourable Member, Mr. Berger.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Member prepared to proceed with Item Number 1?

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Klondike, seconded by the Honourable Member from Pelly River, that the letter to Dr. W.J. McCall, Father Judge Memorial Hospital in Dawson, and other doctors around the Territory be referred to Committee of the Whole for discussion.

Action agreed to

Madam Clerk: Item Number 2 standing in the name of the Honourable Member, Mr. Berger.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Member prepared to proceed with Item Number 2?

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Klondike, seconded by the Honourable Member from Pelly River, THAT IT IS THE OPINION of this Assembly that the Government of Yukon introduce legislation in his Session of the Assembly respecting rent control, based on the individual adjustment system.

FURTHER, that such rent control legislation apply to all residential tenancies, including government housing.

FURTHER that such rent control legislation be subject to proclamation and that such proclamation be made by the commissioner, acting on the advice of the Executive Committee, at such time as, in the opinion of the Committee, proclamation and enforcement of such legislation is necessary.

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the debate should last very long, because I think we debated the subject enough already.

It is another attempt by myself and other Members of this House to give the Government a tool, a club, as the Honourable Member from Klondike proposed this motion, I think I can say that the Government has not got unless they have legislation in place and they can enforce when the need arises.

It is also, as I think is spelled out well, that it would be up to the Executive Committee and not one Member only of the Executive Committee to enforce such and proclaim such an ordinance.

I still say, Mr. Speaker, that this Ordinance is necessary to save on the books, to have in place, when the need arises.

That is just about all I have to say at this time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Any further debate?

Hon. Mr. Hibberd: Mr. Speaker, in reviewing this Resolution proposed by Mr. Berger, I think I can say that the Government is prepared to accept the opinion of the House that they should be considering such legislation, but I would like to take some statements with regard to the recent conference that I was on, with reference to this subject.

As Members know, I was at the Provincial-Federal Ministers Conference of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, in Victoria, the latter part of last week and I took that opportunity to discuss with various Ministers the problems that they have had with rent controls and their views on rent controls at this time.

As you know, they have been involved with rent controls in most places for a period of more than three years and most jurisdictions are in the process of reviewing their situation as far as rent controls are concerned. Some of them are in the process of deregulation of rent controls now. The vast majority of them are going to a monitoring system, rather than straight control. Those that are opting to stay with rent controls are doing it on a very modified basis. I would suggest, for instance, that Quebec, which has had a system of rent controls in one form or another for twenty years, is now taking the position that first of all no new units would be involved in any rent control legislation, and secondly, any older building to increase their rents, they would be permitted to do so, there would be no limit imposed on their increase, but if a tenant complained, then it would be subject to review by their rent control board. So it hardly consists of a rigid method of restricting rental increases.

The one thing that I did gather from everyone that I spoke to with regard to rent controls, they all said that you just do not know what you are getting into. This is an exceedingly difficult field of legislation. All of them have encountered considerable problems, they are very apprehensive about having anything to do with it at all.

I did express the opinion that we had a situation here that was somewhat unique and we had intended to take advantage of that by reviewing all rental increases on an individual basis. They felt that if we had to get into rent controls then this would be by far the safest way. I would like to point out to Members of this House who happen to have a political affiliation that sponsored this motion, there is only one jurisdiction in Canada that still flies the NDP banner, in Saskatchewan, and their reply to me was strong and clear: do not do it. They have had too much in the way of problems.

While I was there, Mr. Speaker, I took advantage of that opportunity to ask these various people for a good deal of background information on their rent controls on the problems and what not, and anything that might benefit us in getting into rent controls and so with their agreement, they are sending me a good deal of material that we, I would hope, would benefit from if we are getting into a legislation of this kind.

In particular, Ontario has a green paper that they have just recently tabled as to what direction they are going to take and I was very apprehensive about asking for it, because it is like this House, it sounds like there is going to be a lot of work to go through to get out of it what we need for our best legislation. Loopholes are the name of the game and you have to be very careful with this kind of legislation.

But I would suggest with this background and with this material that is coming, we will need time to extract what we need from this material and to draw up the legislation that is most appropriate to the Yukon. So I would hope the House would not put too much pressure on this to have it in place too quickly. We do have to have good legislation, otherwise the loopholes will be the predominant thing and it would be completely effective. So, in the meantime, while this is being done, I would urge Members to recognize that we do have, in Consumer and Corporate Affairs, a body that is responsive to complaints from both tenants and landlords, and I would urge them to pass on the message that we are eager to hear from these people if they do have problems.

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the Minister of Corporate Affairs made those remarks. My remarks will be very brief.

If you recall, I did move an amendment to the first motion that the Honourable Member, Mr. Berger brought forward some time ago. I expressed that I am not in favour of rent controls, really, at any time. I do recognize, however, that, you know, there is a last resort situation and I have expressed that.

I do recognize, of course, that most Members in this House.
when we talked about pipeline development and the problems that that may bring and, certainly, have said that they recognize some form of control, be it rent or whatever.

But my concern is that the rent control legislation has to be very comprehensive, as the Minister has said. We should not, really, as a Government, relax our efforts now that we are going to bring in rent control, we should not relax our efforts in the other areas of trying to bring on more land and do the other types of things to cope with the situation of housing.

I strongly feel that Yukoners or, for that matter, Canadians should not be forced to rent instead of owning their own homes and I have always been a believer that homeownership should be made much easier in this country and I think there are ways. When we have rent control situations, to me it is a situation, then, that we are really building more bureaucracies and I think we need to build more homes.

I will vote in favour of that resolution, however.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I have made no bones about my position in this House regarding the actual implementation of rent control. I do not think any of us, really, would hope, would even want to think that it would be necessary to go into rent controls. There must be other ways of controlling rent, rather than having a bureaucracy which goes around and tells people what to do and tells landlords and land tenants what to do.

I would hope that the housing stock is sufficient in itself to keep rents at a level that people can afford.

However, I see nothing wrong with this motion. Reading the paper the other day I noticed an ad in the paper where someone is asking $550 a month rent. If you don’t do something, you are going to be hit by the situation of housing.

So, if any of you are thinking of renting you homes, putting them up for rent — But this is the kind of thing that I think a lot of us are worried about. If you have a few people coming in, companies who have to place people here, they are wanting to get proper accommodation and they are prepared to pay this kind of a price, and there are enough of them coming in, you know what it is going to do to our rent situation.

I am quite prepared to support the motion to have the legislation in place. One reason is because it is on the individual adjustment system, which is just a little beyond monitoring rent.

You just have the authority to do something. When you are monitoring rents, you do not have the authority to do something. I would feel that if legislation was brought into this House and properly considered, and even passed by this House, that the Executive Committee would then feel more obligated to really see that the rent situation is monitored properly. And if they are being pushed by one group or another to enact to proclaim the legislation, they will in fact be able to have statistics to support their decision one way or another.

It is one thing for us to go away and the Government takes on, and the Executive Committee are probably very conscientious in their committee, that yes, we are going to monitor the rents and keep an eye on it. But if you are going to have that piece of legislation sitting on the books and it is your decision based on the statistics in the monitoring of the rents, you are going to make sure that a good job is being done and that you are getting all the information you need in monitoring the rent.

Mr. Speaker, I would certainly hope in Yukon, even during this period of time that we could be facing, that we will not need rent control. It is an artificial economic situation which only causes a lot of problems, but when you see people being charged, who cannot afford homes, as the Honourable Member from Riverdale has stated, and who have to rent, being charged excessive rates and possibly it is our responsibility to try in some way to protect these people. I would see nothing wrong with having legislation on the books and having a good monitoring system. That way you would be showing the private sector yes, go ahead and invest, be realistic in your rents, and being realistic is when your taxes go up 300 per cent, you cannot roll back your rent because that is a justifiable increase. So when you do it on an individual basis, I think it is a lot fairer than the other way.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to be supporting the motion, even though I do not believe in rent controls, and I would hope that with this on the books, it will spur the Government along to make sure that rent controls will not in fact be necessary.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have not too much more to add to the debate. I just want to make one point to all Members and I am hopeful that the press will pick this up, is the fact that if legislation does come into this House, it will exempt new construction. I think that is very important, Mr. Speaker, so that people that are thinking of investing into the housing market have no fear that government is going to move in initially and set them back, because as in the debate on the rent stabilization paper, it was brought out time in and time out that the whole rental market depends on supply and demand, and if people are investing in the market and there are more houses than the demand calls for, then the rents will come down to a level that is comparable to 1977 or 1978 dollars.

But I think it is a very important point that has to be made, Mr. Speaker, that new construction would not come, initially under the legislation.

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am going to stand to support the motion and I notice the note that possibly I might have a conflict of interest because I have a motel, which can or cannot, I do not know, I am not sure just whether that would be a conflict of interest, but I take it this way, that if I own the motel and I am willing to vote for a motion to bring something forth to help the people in the Yukon Territory, against myself, I hardly think it is much of a conflict, in that sense.

But I would say that there are eleven Members here and many of them have stayed in my motel and if I have a conflict of interest, everyone of them should not be voting at all.

I can only agree with the Honourable Minister of Education, because I feel, myself, that we have got to have the land, we have got to have more homes built by private enterprise and that is the only way we are really ever going to actually, not control it, but just get the best of it and bring it down where the price is right for everything.

However, as the Minister of Consumer Affairs has said, it is a complex situation, it is going to take some time, maybe, but it is something that the Government should have been working at, because they knew this was coming and I think that, you know, it is better that we have it in place, rather than to say we will start to get it in place, after the fact, and it is a little too late.

So, those are some of my reasons I will be supporting the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Any further debate?

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to answer the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

I realize that lots of provinces are thinking of getting out of rent control. There is a very complex reason for that, that is because of the economic down-turn Canada faces right now.

A few years ago, in Vancouver, Mr. Speaker, and Toronto and other places around Canada, when there was an economic boom situation, this is when the Government found it absolutely necessary to implement rent control and this, Mr. Speaker, was...
one of the main reasons for that was because landlords took advantage of the shortage of houses that were created, because of that boom situation in economies.

This is what I am afraid is going to happen here in the Territory. I mean, we are facing a very real situation where there is going to be a real shortage of housing created, because there is no land. This talking about land, this one is academic.

Mr. Speaker, because the Federal Government is not going to release any land because they have a stranglehold on it right now.

I think it is our duty to the people in Yukon to come up with some measure of control to soften the impact of this pipeline, which was not done because the people in Yukon wanted it.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Klondike having twice spoken, has now closed the debate.

Motion agreed to

Madam Clerk: Item 3, standing in the name of the Honourable Member, Mrs. Watson.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Member prepared to proceed with Item 3?

Mrs. Watson: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Kluane, seconded by the Honourable Member from Haines, THAT this House recommends that the Recreation Grants Regulations be amended so that the Commissioner may pay a grant in lieu of taxes (as defined in the Taxation Ordinance) to a community organization that has received a receipt of a grant pursuant to Section 8 of the Community Assistance Ordinance.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I think this is the problem that most of us have, communities in our ridings, encountered in the past; I had the pleasure of being present at an opening of a community centre over the weekend and I think if anybody had been there, they would have realized the sense of pride and independence that goes with a community when they have a complex such as this.

I must give credit to the Government of the Territory for the Community Assistance Ordinance that we now have in place, which makes it possible, on a cost-shared basis and a very generous cost-shared basis, for communities to in fact have their own recreational facilities. It was this very small community who lost their community hall, or part of it, through a fire and it was only through the efforts of this Government that they were able to have the proof of the Government's co-operation there on this weekend. I must commend the Minister of Local Government who himself personally became involved in the situation, co-operated with the community, he and members of his department, Mr. Livingston and Mr. Emery particularly, who not only supported the community in a monetary fashion, but also in an advisory and gave the support that was required.

As a result of that support, from the Government, that small community has a community centre that they can be very, very proud of and that is adapted and constructed to meet the needs of a small community. It is not just a huge big hall, and if any of you ever have the opportunity, drop in and see it because it is the pride of it and I am sure that the Government of the Territory is. I certainly know that the people there are.

Mr. Speaker, these community centres do create a problem in the fact that they require electricity, and they require fuel and they require maintenance. Also, most of them require the organization to pay property taxes. The Community Assistance Ordinance made it possible for community centres that were having problems in operating on their own to have the community centre come under the authority of the L.I.D. Some areas have gone for this, others are fighting it. It is very strange, even though the L.I.D. and the community organization are the same people, that sense of pride of that community organization twenty years ago built that hall, and they are not going to hand it over to any branch of the Government, as they say the L.I.D. is, which is wrong, but it is a feeling of pride that they have and they want to keep it.

One of the big stumbling blocks that they have is the property tax. Because our property taxes are going up, we will be facing new assessments and they just will not be able to be independent and carry on on their own, to pay that ever-increasing fuel bill, to pay that ever-increasing light bill, to do the necessary maintenance, and still pay the property taxes.

Now, as the Minister of Local Government stated when he answered my question, that if a community centre is turned over to an L.I.D. and the L.I.D. does in fact operate it, then the L.I.D. must pay taxes, but the L.I.D. gets their revenue in the form of a grant from the Territorial Government.

However, if the L.I.D. leases the facility back to an organization, that I think, then the organization must pay the taxes. That is when this resolution of mine would be beneficial to practically every community centre in the rural communities in the Yukon Territory.

It would be just a paper transfer. You would get the grant, but the grant would have to be the amount of property taxes, and would have to be returned as a payment of the taxes.

I am not looking to have the Government forgive taxes. I do not believe in forgiving taxes. I think if one person pays taxes, all people should pay taxes. If one organization should, they should. If a special case can be made, such as this, then the Government could give them a grant, but they would have to be obligated to use that grant to, in fact, pay their taxes.

I know that there are quite a few details that the Government would have to work out with the motion. It is just the bare bones, it is giving the Government some direction, this is what we would like. I hope it gets support from the rest of the Members.

I know the Government may be saying, and I could support this, that if a community facility did, for five or for a number of years, get a grant in lieu of taxes to pay their taxes, and then the community decides to sell that facility, then I certainly agree that the Government would have first charge on that revenue from that sale, to get back the taxes, because those are public funds and no private organization should make a profit on public funds.

So, I would hope very much that we can get the support of the Members of this House so that these community organizations can continue to be independent, because if we do not assist them in some way, they are going to have to be taken over by the Government, eventually. They are going to go belly-up somehow or other and if the Government wants to run them, it is going to cost a lot more than when your community organization operates them.

When you think of the volunteer hours of work and the volunteer assistance that goes to community organizations that Government would not get, so, actually, we would be saving the taxpayer money.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the Government supports the resolution in principle. As the Honourable Member knows, I have been looking at various options of how we can alleviate the monetary situation of these various community clubs, yet at the same time, taking into consideration the universality of taxation, which the Honourable Member alluded to earlier in her remarks.

I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that we have, just in the process of Recreation, Local Government and Treasury, trying to find a way to help these organizations, yet at the same time have it in such a way that it is not going to distort the taxation structure of the Territory.

I would like to say furthermore, Mr. Speaker, that as long as it is understood that we are prepared to accept the resolution in
principle, but possibly there may be another avenue that we may follow, rather than the one outlined in the resolution. We will go along with the resolution and see what we can come up with to alleviate the situation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that it was nice to hear a few credits coming towards the Government in respect to helping the outlying communities. I know that the Minister of Local Government worked very hard for the financing that was made available to the community club at Destruction Bay. Further, it goes with our concept of stay option in the various communities to try to get a stable population in all our outlying communities. Regardless of the innumerable insinuations that are made during the budget debate and whatever, Mr. Speaker, I think it states fairly well for the Members of the Government that we are concerned about the rural communities and will do whatever we can to alleviate the situation.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to hear that the Government is willing to co-operate in this. I think this is not the first time that I have stood up in this House over taxes on the recreational facilities that are built by, or was built by, the people themselves, and of course, with the co-operation of the Government again, where we got grants and so forth to build them, I agree. We did not do it as one party; we did it together, and I was very happy when the recreational program was set up so that there was a 60-40 split.

I would say that if we keep on that way, maybe we can run those organizations in these areas a lot cheaper than we can if we go all one way. I am very afraid that some day the Government will end up with the total set-ups in the communities and then the people will lose the interest and then it will be the taxpayer that has to put all of the money into the operation. Whereas, if you have the co-operation of the citizens and it is still partially theirs, then you are going to see that they will be producing quite a bit of money to help run the organizations as they are now.

On this motion, I do not think really the Government has a choice in a sense. I am happy to see them go along with it, if they will, because if they take them they are going to pay the bill, that is all there is to it. If they do not do this, or something in this line, they will end up with the communities then, that is all there is to it. They will be paying all the bills because the minute they take it away from those people, they are going to say run her, you got her son, you can have it.

If they go along with this motion they will find, maybe, co-operation in many, many ways from the people for many years yet, possibly.

I see the Minister for Local Government is laughing. He does not think it is going to last long enough, but I can see many communities going along for a good many years yet, if they get it. Consequently, we may be able to go along with a 60-40 split in that community with raising money for themselves to operate.

With that, I will say that I will be voting, of course, for the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Any further debate?

Some Members: Question.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed to Public Bills.

PUBLIC BILLS

BILL NUMBER 2: Third Reading

Hon. Mr. Hiebert: Next sitting day, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: So ordered.

Mr. McCall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I thought you had forgotten.

I would move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Lengerke: I second that.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Pelly River, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker leaves Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. Chairman: Committee of the Whole please come to order.

After a short recess, we will carry on with our review of the Estimates and we will be dealing with Health and Welfare.

Recess

Mr. Chairman: Would Committee please come to order.

We are on Vote 5, Human Resources. The Treasury witnesses are not here yet, they are on their way down, they will be here shortly. In the meantime perhaps we could have the Minister's statement.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, if I may, while we are waiting for the witnesses, I would like to take a few moments to make some general remarks regarding the Human Resources Branch and some of the important changes which have been made in the past year.

In July 1977, the Executive Committee recommended that a committee be struck to examine alternative futures for the Corrections Branch. A committee consisting of the Directors of Social Welfare, Legal Affairs, and the Public Service Commissioner was formed. To aid this committee, the consulting firm, Westbrooke Management Centre of Vancouver was hired. Their review resulted in changes within the Social Welfare branch also, and I would like to take this opportunity to outline some of these changes.

The major one, Mr. Chairman, has been the establishment of a Youth Services division within the Social Welfare Branch. The establishment of this division resulted in the transfer of juvenile probation from the Corrections Branch to the Social Welfare Branch. This transfer involved 25 man years, consisting of one Juvenile Probation Officer, one Youth Social Worker, and 23 staff at Wolf Creek Juvenile Training Home. The introduction of a Youth Services division within the Social Welfare Branch has affected the existing organizational structure and a complete internal review was necessary.

This review resulted in several changes. Among them, the four program units within the Social Welfare Branch were restructured to allow the incorporation of the Youth Services division. The five program units now within the Branch are: Youth Services, Community and Family Services, Placement and Support Services, Field Services, and Social Services. It resulted in the introduction of a Training Co-ordinator on a one year contract basis, the renaming of Wolf Creek Juvenile Training Home to Youth Services Centre, and the renaming of the Social Welfare Branch to Human Resources.

The entire reorganization within the Human Resources Branch entails the addition of only one permanent man year, in the Administration section of the Branch. I think all Members have been provided with the organizational chart, which shows our new look in the the Department.

A major reorganization always requires frequent and in-depth evaluation to ensure the purposes, as well as the aims and objectives of the Branch are met and no change can be written in stone, Mr. Chairman.

Over the next several months, we will be evaluating the reorganizational structure to ensure that we are providing the best service delivery possible. We hope that the reorganization will encourage a greater co-ordination of service delivery to clients, whether they be individuals, families or community groups.
Beyond co-ordination of existing and planned services, we have the goal of encouraging more activities that are preventive in nature. Preventive services will be a large thrust of the community and family service staff, although such activities will be a part of the role of staff in most of the other program divisions, as well.

Consistent with the goal of a more preventive focus is the perceived need to work more closely with community agencies, organizations and individuals. Through such activity it is hoped that the strength that lies within each of the communities in the Territory can be drawn upon to help contribute toward the meeting of people’s needs.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to go into any further details involving the prefecting of the reorganization because every Member of Committee has been provided with a stack of background information on all of these changes. I hope there has been sufficient time to read it.

For the first time, Mr. Chairman, the staff of the Social Welfare Branch has provided a profile showing what our clients are, where they come from, their background, age, circumstances, where we are spending our money and what we are getting for it and it has been such an encouraging operation, an exercise in research. Mr. Chairman, that I hope it will be an annual update exercise in that Branch, because I think it has been of great use to them, as well as to us.

I would just like to say a word about the relocation of the Corrections Branch, which formerly was in this Department. After a study by an internal committee of this Government last summer, prior to the locating of a new Director of Corrections, the Juvenile Section was detached, as you know, from Corrections and put into the Human Resources Branch.

The Corrections Branch now deals with adults only, and it is going to form part of what will someday become a Department of Justice in this Government. It is going now with Legal Affairs and Courts, which I think is where it belongs and should have been for some time. I feel that it has been a major operation within this Government to make that change. It has required a great deal of work on the part of the Public Service Commission for a reclassification of all the positions involved, and retraining of people whose objectives have been changed.

I am very pleased, Mr. Chairman, that this progress has been made in that Branch, and that with the arrival of a new Director and new programs using Field Services and projects in forestry and management and land use, we may look forward to a new approach to diversion, rather than simple penal corrections attitudes for inmates. I know that it has been because of the loyalty of the staff of the Corrections Branch that this has been possible. They served very well throughout many months without a Director of their own, and I am most grateful to them for the loyalty they showed during that time of change and adjustment.

I would also like to say a word, Mr. Chairman, in tribute to the Director of Human Resources, Mr. Jim Davie, who for some months doubled under a very heavy burden of responsibility as Acting Director of Corrections, in addition to his own duties. I think most members are aware that Mr. Davie, having finally departed for a holiday in London, was taken seriously ill and has been ill for some time and is only now has returned to his home in Whitehorse but is not yet back at his official duties, and I think this Government owes Mr. Davie a great debt.

In the meantime, during his absence, Mr. Ross Findlater, the Assistant Director of Human Resources has done an excellent job of administering the Branch during a time of change and adjustment for all staff.

I think that is all I need to say in general introduction, Mr. Chairman. You have reports before you which cover all the programs for which we are asking financing in this Vote, and I would just suggest that we now carry on. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

On Establishment 530

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 530, Administration, $1,219,200.

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, a general question on the transfer from Corrections to Human Resources of the Juvenile Training Home, now the Youth Services Centre. My concern is with the Juvenile Probation Officer. I am wondering if statistics support the transfer of only one probation officer from Corrections to Human Resources? Was that the amount of the caseload that Corrections used to have with probation? Is there an overwhelming amount of adult probation and only about 10 per cent of juvenile probation to warrant only one transfer in that field?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. There was only one probation officer who dealt exclusively with juvenile cases. As it happens, the new superintendent at the Youth Services Centre is the former juvenile probation officer and we now have someone who has been on both sides of the fence dealing with the children in care out there.

There is an establishment only for one probation officer dealing with juveniles. Mr. Chairman.

Ms Millard: Further on that, Mr. Chairman, then is the one probation officer who is transferred from Corrections now the Superintendent, or is there an additional probation officer in the Youth Services Centre, working strictly with juveniles?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, there is a probation officer, in addition to the Youth Service Centre's one.

Mr. Chairman: Any discussion on 530, Administration?

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, if I could ask one further question on that, on the subject I was on.

I understand that, in the field, the juvenile probation services will be dealt with by the area social workers. Is there any program of training for them or at they just going to be expected to carry on with this, without any experience with the court, under some kind of direction from a probation officer?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, the supervisor of the Youth Services is currently, or has just completed, travelling to the location of every social worker who needs to now be indoctrinated into handling the juvenile caseload. Many of them, of course, have for some time, as part, as the Honourable Member knows, it is part of the workload. If you are the only person in the area to do it.

But it is certainly the plan of the Branch, Mr. Chairman, to provide additional assistance to them, in consultation, and whatever can be offered to them in the way of assistance in this load.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further on 530?

Establishment 530, Administration, $1,219,200.

Establishment 531 agreed to

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, with respect, there was a question.

Mr. Chairman: There was plenty of time to ask the questions before I said I was going to call 530 Administration. If the Honourable Member will get her hand up quicker, she will be recognized.

We are now on 531, Child Welfare Services.

On Establishment 531

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I would like to explain to Honourable Members that the increase in costs there can be broken down into 100 per cent increase in the costs of homes for children in care, which is based on the rising utilities and general costs of food and so forth.

We have also been faced with a 15 per cent increase in the rates for institutions outside to which we refer some of our children in care, and there is also an amount there included in that figure which covers the use of a new type of foster home, therapeutic foster home where we have specially qualified people...
Mr. Chairman: Any discussion on 531, Child Welfare Services?

Mrs. Millard: Mr. Chairman, I notice there is a reduction from the Main Estimate of 77-78 to 78-79 in Foster Homes, under that. Could we have some explanation of that?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I think Mr. Chairman, I will have to ask Treasury. I do not have that.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, we have the figures for 78-79, but there is no indication as to why the reduction occurred. I am sorry, I do not have that information. We will try and locate the 77-78 figures in the other book and see how they—.

Mrs. Millard: Mr. Chairman, I think I have worked it out in my mind while I am looking at it again. I see probably what has happened is that Therapeutic Foster Homes were included with Foster Homes in the previous budget, and this year they are separate.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether we could have an explanation on Other Resources, $177,000?

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, we have the figures, but I am sorry. I am not sure that we know what they mean. Perhaps Mrs. Whyard, do you have the back-up sheet, it is under Primary 52. Figures made up of numbers of children times a certain rate, but I have no idea what the meaning of that is.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I will have to get clarification and bring that back. I do not have it here.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I would like that, if the Honourable Member could get that information for us. I wonder whether the Department has done rough calculations on determining the cost of keeping a child per year or even on a monthly basis in a group home, compared to the cost of keeping a child in a foster home. We are looking at a $451,000, almost half a million dollars, and it would be interesting to note what the per capita cost is there so that we can compare it with the per capita cost of a child in the juvenile detention home and also compare it to the per capita day cost of $57, which it now costs to have someone in the Correctional Institute, just to give a comparison of the costs on a daily basis in the institutions, rough calculations?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe we have done such a study. I am sure it could be done. Because of the special circumstances affecting a number of children, there would almost have to be an individual study because they do not all have the same kind of treatment or care, and there are different rates paid to various homes, as you know, depending on the facilities they provide.

We could do a general breakdown, I suppose, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I am not asking for a study. If you could give us an approximate cost, I know that the rates vary with the different needs of some of the people who are in care.

But, if we could get something on group home per day, foster home per day, an average, so we can compare it with the juvenile detention home per day.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

There was an item in 531, dealing with some information that was not provided. Would this interfere with the passing of this particular item?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether it would interfere. As far as I am concerned, I think it is a fait accompli. I would not want to hold up the budget—.

Mr. Chairman: What I am getting at is if the information is provided, is something that would not hold up the Estimates in this particular case?

Mrs. Watson: Not as far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Establishment 531 agreed to
department review each case individually, and do they in fact encourage mothers, especially if they are dependent or small children to in fact stay at home and properly care for those children? What policy is the department inclined to follow?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I think that the policy depends upon the client. I think it is an individual matter of when someone new appears at the intake counter in Social Welfare, a new file is opened and they have a case worker assigned and they sit down and work out together all the pertinent information, the problems and what is causing them and what that client needs in the way of assistance in order to lead a normal life. I do not think there is any, as far as I know, I do not know of any general policy saying all single parents with one child should go to work, two children you should—there is nothing that you can lay down because it depends upon the circumstances of the case.

You may very well have an applicant who wants to stay home and look after her children and I would think that in that case, we would do everything that is possible to assist her to do so.

There are others who are anxious to work and help support themselves. In that case, I think the policy of this Branch, Mr. Chairman, is to try to do what is best for each client and try to assist them in their objectives and their goals, rather than telling them what we think they should do.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could check this out for sure, because it is my understanding that at one time, if an applicant went for social assistance, a single parent, they had to show the Brave that they, in fact, had tried to have employment, to get some type of employment. This was almost a prerequisite, before they were able to get social assistance.

I have always thought this is wrong, that sometimes it is better for the children if the mother is allowed to stay at home and properly care for her own children, so I would hope that the Minister checks this out for sure.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I will check, but that is my understanding.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further on 532?

Ms Millard: is there anything you want?

Ms Millard: I did not have my hand up.

Mr. Chairman: I know. I am just giving you the opportunity of asking.

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, I will make sure you see my hand.

Establishment 532 agreed to

On Establishment 534

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 534, Social Service Agencies, $36,700.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, this is the grant which is given to the Yukon Family Counselling Service annually which does a two fold service for this Government. It not only extends the counselling services available to people in this community, some of whom of course prefer to go to a private agency when they are having problems, but it also as well does a service for me when I wear my other hat as Minister of Health because they have been very competent in the area of what we used to call sex education in my day, Mr. Chairman. I do not know whether it is called family life or what these days, but it is very competent in the area of what we used to call sex education in my day.

I do not think it does, I think it is probably the other way.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

Ms Millard: Well, Mr. Chairman, I find it very unrealistic that $7,000 should cover all the expenses of a group home and the contract with the group home parents in Dawson City, for instance. I do not think it does, I think it is probably the other way.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, that is correct, that is the total cost.

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, I believe there is a per diem rate paid to parents for empty or full beds and I do not think that that could be included in $7,000.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, you may ask the Treasurer to clarify that.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, it is not perfectly clear to me either, but I presume that that is covered under 531 and it may well be in that Other Resources one, which we are going to clarify for you.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I would really like 535, because, as the Honourable Member from Ogilvie states, it is not realistic to say that even the group home parents at Mayo Group Home operate for $7,000 a year. That is not realistic when sometimes you have two people.

Whitewater Group Homes, we must have four of them here, for $14,000, that is not going to pay the salaries. The actual cost of operating the group home, I assume, is in 531, but I would really like to know what 535 is.

Mr. Sherlock: As we understand it, 535 are the support costs only. They are not the group home costs, they are support costs to that, telephones, utilities, this kind of thing. It is not the group homes themselves. The group home costs are included in 531.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the permission of Committee to allow my Administrator to sit in witness, because he can undertake these things.
Mr. Chairman: Is that agreeable.

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: I would point out to Members that 535, Children's Group Homes, on page 93, it distinctly shows that all these costs are divided among communications, telephone, cartage and so on, the support costs.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, why are they separated then? Why are they such a special thing that they need a separate establishment?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: For the purposes of the record, Mr. Jim O'Byrne is the Administrator for the Branch.

Mr. Sherlock: According to the advice received, the reason that 535 is separated from 531 is it is simply an easier method of keeping track of the support costs, where, if you put them into the 531, then it would probably have to have another activity to break them out, because they do want to know what the costs of the support costs are. It is just an easier system of separating or keeping track of the costs, support costs.

Mr. Lengerke: Under 535, how many group homes have we got then, in Whitehorse?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, in Whitehorse?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: We have the Villa Madonna, which has rates different from the others because they provide their own building. This is what makes it so difficult to give you an average cost for any child in a group home. They are different factors in nearly all of them.

We have a group home for adolescents, we have a standard group home which is a parent situation with children in care there, and we have a group home for multi-handicapped children, which is a very special place with very special requirements, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, then in 531, I had assumed... by glancing at it that the costs of the supervisors in the group homes would be reflected in the Group Homes in 535. It would be interesting to have that broken down, even though it has passed at the present time.

Mr. O'Byrne: Mr. Chairman, if I could explain. With reference to Establishment 531, that is the establishment we use to pay a per diem cost for the group homes. That per diem cost includes the salaries within the group home contracts. Establishment 535 we have inserted simply for ease of administering the utility costs required for the seven government owned group homes. I believe that is the breakdown that was asked for.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I take it the $451,000 is the per diem cost to operate seven group homes in Yukon?

Mr. O'Byrne: Mr. Chairman, if I could clarify. The per diem cost for operating seven government owned group homes plus one privately owned group home, for a total of eight, yes.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further? Establishment 535, Children's Group Homes, $49,600.

Establishment 535 agreed to

Mr. Chairman: There probably will be considerable discussion on 536, so we will recess now until 1:30.

Recess

Mr. Chairman: Would the Committee please come to order.

We will return to Vote 5, Human Resources, Establishment 536, Youth Services Centre and Senior Citizens' Facilities, $1,227,000.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, just before getting into the Vote, could I have permission of Committee to bring in the additional information that was asked for this morning?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Some Members: Agreed.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, there was some question about the meaning of the word "available" or "unavailable", regarding clients receiving assistance.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to confirm what I said this morning. My interpretation is correct. The individual client is the factor which decides whether or not she is or he is available or non-available for employment, if they are employable.

If a client says they are not available for employment because they wish to stay home and look after their family, this is encouraged by the Branch. I do not believe there is anything further I need to say to that point, Mr. Chairman.

There is no blanket policy. If any blanket policy exists, it is to adapt to the individual's needs, in the best way the Branch can support the client.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, there were questions regarding 531 and 535, on costs of group homes. I think we clarified before adjourning at noon, Mr. Chairman, but it is now clear, I hope, that Establishment 535 includes the utilities costs for these group homes and the other Establishment is the contracts and other costs for the children in the other group homes.

The average costs which the Honourable Member asked for, concerning children in group homes, all and including 535 and 531, would be $22.88 per child, and that is based on an optimum number of 60 children.

In foster homes, Mr. Chairman, the average cost is $6.63 per day, based on an optimum of 54 children.

Therapeutic Foster Homes, Mr. Chairman, as most Members know, having read the background information, are used for children who have special problems which may not necessarily be physical, but may be emotional or mental and require particular individual care for that child by people with special training and background. Based on 8.8 children in therapeutic foster homes, the average cost is $27.55 per day.

The other resources outside the Territory as, Mr. Chairman, we all know, are the places to which we refer children from Yukon. The average cost there in places such as Ranch Ehrlo would be $55.32 per day based on the number of 9, which is the normal figure.

I do not know that there were any other questions on that point. If you combine our Establishments 531 and 535, the average cost per child based on 200 children in care, Mr. Chairman, is $13.62 per day for approximately $4,900 per year. I am told, Mr. Chairman, by members of the Branch that have been professionally employed in Ontario and other jurisdictions that these figures are considerably below the daily costs for comparable care in cities such as Toronto.

Mr. Chairman: Any discussion on 536?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Honourable Member for the information, and when we were at the Correctional Institution the other day, we were informed that it costs $57 per day to keep someone in there, so it is cheaper for our children to be kept in the type of homes we keep them in, rather than when they grow up and become inmates of the other place.

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, on 536, Primary 20, Professional and Special Services, there is a fair increase there. I am wondering if there is some special program to be implemented?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, this of course includes optical, dental, medical and so forth for the people at the Centre, and also for special training facilities and attendance at a seminar. I really cannot break it down any further than that.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, in addition to the things that Mrs. Whyard mentions, it includes the contract position for Macauley Lodge.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I cannot hear you.

Mr. Sherlock: It includes a contract position also for Macauley Lodge.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, may I refer to Recoveries with this thing, for 536 for lodges?
Mr. Chairman: We will be going on to it.
Mrs. Watson: Would you rather deal with the Recoveries later on when we come to them?
Mr. Chairman: Yes.
Mrs. Watson: Fine.
Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister tell us how many people are on staff at the McDonald Lodge and how many patients there are?
Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, we have an average of 45 residents at the Macaulay Lodge. Man years?
Mr. Sherlock: Seven point three man years.
Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, the question was on the McDonald Lodge, from Dawson City.
Hon. Mrs. Whyard: McDonald.
Ms Millard: McDonald.
Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman. I may need some assistance for an update on this. I have an average of six, at the time these figures were compiled some time ago, and we are, in addition, providing the main meals for ten people who come in and use the facilities of the Lodge, which is an encouraging new development.
Staff of seven?
Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, current figures are nine. An average of nine and the answer previously given, 7.3, is incorrect. It is McDonald Lodge.
Mr. Lengerke: While we are on staff and people involved, could we also have the same figures for the Youth Services Centre?
Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Sherlock, I am sorry, I have not got them all.
Mr. Sherlock: The man years are as given there, 23, and the 25 is the juveniles, number of juveniles, 25.
Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I have one more question on Youth Services Centre. I know that the ratio of supervisors to the number of people is almost on a one-to-one basis, but I still have to ask the question of whether it is the intention of the Branch or whether they are considering making provision to having someone within the centre who is able to give instruction, to have a teacher at the centre, so that you could almost establish a school, because these children who are in that centre are of school age. It does create problems within the schools to take these children down. There is sometimes a reaction.
Also, they have very special educational needs, where they do not seem to fit into a normal classroom situation. I think if a person dug down, many of the people who are in the centre, one of the reasons probably that they are there is that there were not able to cope with the existing school system, as it is today.
I am wondering whether the Minister is aware of this situation and whether they have any plans of trying to resolve the problem and establish some kind of educational centre, at the centre itself?
Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, yes, we are certainly aware of the problem. If we were not aware of it in the first instance, it has also been brought to our attention by school advisory committees, who are very much concerned by the presence of some of our wards in their classrooms with their children. They are asking us to provide special facilities for them, outside of those classrooms because they consider them a disturbing factor and a difficulty for the teacher in the class.
All Honourable Members have received a background paper which deals in some length and in detail with problems of children in our care, who many of them are there because they dropped out of school, or were playing truant and never actually committed a crime in the eyes of the law, but have found themselves committed to the Youth Services Centre because they do not fit in anywhere else. When the Youth Service Centre tries to send them to regular classrooms, they are rejected once again. So it is a very difficult cycle. The Youth Service Centre feels a very serious need for some kind of person with teaching abilities, special educational assessment and teaching abilities in order to provide what these children need to get them back into a normal classroom level.
We have been looking at this very closely, Mr. Chairman, we do not have a man year at the Youth Service Centre for the position of teacher, and we have been negotiating with the Department of Education in the hope that we might be able to work out some kind of an agreement to provide that service.
We feel that now with upwards of twenty teenagers at the Centre, it is the equivalent of a normal classroom-teacher ratio and in fact for special education, it is more than is justified or required for a special teacher. Until we have someone who can do this and work with these kids and get them back into a normal classroom setting, we are going to continue to have problems with them after they are released.
I would certainly welcome the support of Members of Committee towards such a purpose.
Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether the Minister is aware that there is an extra man year within the Department of Education that has been vacant for some years. The vice-principal of the Vocational Training Centre, I do not think that job has been filled in the last five or six years and there might be some justification for the Youth Services Centre to take that man year and apply it into an educational structure within the Centre. I am sure that most Members of this House would support such a move.
Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I will certainly bring that to the attention of the Minister of Education at the earliest opportunity, Mr. Chairman, the Minister having earlier assured me that there were no available man years for the purpose I have been referring to.
Mr. Sherlock: I was just going to clarify this, that includes positions for three shifts which was not made clear initially.
Mr. Chairman: Anything further?
Mr. Berger: Mr. Chairman, what does the Minister of Education have to say on this proposal?
Hon. Mr. Lang: I do not know what you are talking about.
Mr. Berger: As he happens to be present in the House, Mr. Chairman.
Hon. Mr. Lang: I find myself at a loss, Mr. Chairman, it does not happen very often but this seems to be one of the times.
Mr. Chairman: Anything further?
Establishment 536, Youth Services Centre & Senior Citizens' Facilities, $1,227,000.
Establishment 536 agreed to On Establishment 537
Mr. Chairman: Establishment 537, Senior Citizens' Program, $100.
Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
Mr. Chairman, I referred earlier in this House to my hope that, during this Session, I would receive approval of Members to proceed with a special subsidy for senior citizens. I have not yet been able to bring forward to you a Sessional Paper which describes in detail that program. It is now in process of being examined by two other committees, but it is in final stages and it has received approval in principle by the Executive Committee. We are just doing the final details of preparation to bring before you.
I have an item here, in the Mains, which makes it possible to pursue this program, once it has been presented to you and has
Mr. Chairman: Any questions?

Mrs. Watson: My question on the lodges, does that include the cost-sharing with Cap, and also does it include what the individual residents in the lodge contribute as their share of the costs of staying in the Lodge?

Mrs. Whyard: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman, yes.

Mr. Chairman: —rather than the information.

Mrs. Whyard: Yes, please.

Mr. Chairman: Page 230, Department of Health. $2,917,100. The first item, 1500, Disease Control.

On Establishment 1500

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, we would perhaps like to make just a few general comments about the Department of Health and its progress in the past year.

I think all Members were as disappointed as we were in the Department, when the proposed turn-over of the delivery of Health Services in Yukon from the Federal Government to the Territorial Government was delayed and has now been postponed.

A great deal of work had been done on this transfer by all the staff and it was a big job. There were some 269 Federal health workers involved in the transfer, a great amount of inventory of buildings, equipment and so on, and we are in a hold position now, ready to resume our preparations to assume the responsibility for delivering health care, at any time the Federal Government is ready to start talking to us about it again.

Our position, Mr. Chairman, is that this Government is paying the bill for the Health Services and we would like very much to assume the responsibility of administering that delivery of health care.

I do not think I need go into any more detail on that, except to say that we felt that we were ready and willing and able and that still pertains.

There is the same uncertainty involved in that area, I guess, as there is in the Human Resources area for block funding and continual federal funding, because it is the policy of the Federal Government, it seems to me, in most departments now, to be pulling back from actual cost-sharing fifty cent dollars, to block funding, based on an average year's contribution to the province or the Territory.

But we have been assured once again, Mr. Chairman, that shortfalls in this area would appear in the Deficit Grant negotiated annually by this Government with the Federal Department of Indian Affairs, so we just have to make very sure that is where it is. I do not think that any abnormal health problems arose during the year, Mr. Chairman. We had no serious epidemics. We have had a pretty good year clinically, I think, and we have extended, in small ways, the services which the people of Yukon are receiving under their insurance, medical care and hospital insurance. We have added another specialist to the list of people who come up here to be consulted, we have added a few more benefits for prosthetic devices, which may seem small in the overall picture, but to the individual con-
cerned can be very important. I think the Department of Health has had a very good year administratively and as I have said earlier in this House, I am very pleased that one of our own public servants was selected during the competition for the Director of Health, and that Mr. Duncan is at the helm.

Mr. Chairman, under Disease Control, there is an increase there which is attributable to the addition of two public health nurses who will be planned for in the following year and the overall 6 per cent population increase which contributes to the operation costs.

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Chairman, I am glad the Minister mentioned the fact that we do now have a new Director of the Department of Health. I am just wondering could the Minister tell us just how many did compete for that particular job. I know that it was advertised Outside. Did we have some good applicants for it, or did we have any response, period?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, there were approximately twenty applicants for the position and after Public Service screening, three final candidates were interviewed here in Whitehorse, two of them from outside Yukon.

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, I am interested in the fair increase in the amount under Communicable Disease. Does that indicate an increase in communicable disease or an increase in some kind of program?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: That represents the cost of an additional nurse in Whitehorse in the Communicable Disease Unit in the Public Health offices.

Mr. Chairman, I should explain that there is not an entire year's salary shown in there for her because the position was not added until late in the year.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further on 1500, Disease Control?

Establishment 1500 agreed to

On Establishment 1501

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1501, Mental Health, $191,000.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I have no particular comment to make here, except that there is a question that should be asked regarding that figure under that 1977-78 Projected, which I do not understand because, in 1976-7, it was $220,000, and I fail to see how it could have dropped to $135,000 the following year.

I would like Members to have that straightened out before they look at this year's $191,000.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, that refers to the transfer out, to, we have, about $100,000, just over $100,000. That was included in the Supplementaries.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, my point is that we did not handle all our mental health costs for $135,000, in that year.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, if you relate to the adjustments in the Supplementaries, you will see that, yes, that figure is in fact correct. That is what they are projecting.

Then, you transfer out 2507, there was a portion attributable to Rehabilitation, these are the figures that we are working with.

Mr. Lengerke: I have probably got it in front of me somewhere, but I was just wondering what was the patient load, with respect to mental patients this year? Is it up or down?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I do not have a breakdown. I will have to get it for the Honourable Member.

We do not really know how many people are going to have mental breakdowns in the coming year. We know how many are in institutions outside and who are going to stay there.

Mr. Chairman, I will try to get that figure. I am sure we have it here. Mr. Sherlock?

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, perhaps we can help out.

The calculation is based on 3,000 days, so that would give us, probably, about 12 to 13 patients.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Does this take into account, Mr. Chairman, the impact of a pipeline, or?

Mr. Sherlock: That is the projection, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further on 1501?

Establishment 1501 agreed to

On Establishment 1502

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1502, General Health Services, $742,700.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, most of these figures represent simply an overall increase in utilities and operation costs. I would like to point out that under the Mental Health Program under 1502, we have added a psychiatric nurse, which we have been wanting to get for a long time. The man year, of course, is still Federal, but the costs of the salary are there in that figure.

I would like to tell Members of Committee, Mr. Chairman, that with the help of the psychiatric nurse, this program can now look out of Whitehorse for the first time to people in other communities. Up until now there has never been a body available to do that particular job and I am very pleased to see that added. We have been trying to get that for some time.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, in the Appendix booklet for Establishment 1502, it lists the General Health Services Shared Station Costs. What do these costs involve? Do these costs involve the salaries of the people who are working at the health stations? I mean does it include the health nurses' salaries, the public health nurses' salaries?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I do not have that.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, it does include our 70 per cent share of the salaries.

Mrs. Watson: This is only approximately 70 per cent of cost of the operation of each one of the health stations?

Mr. Sherlock: Yes, that is correct.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I am extremely disappointed then and I was hoping that there would have been some upgrading for the Beaver Creek Health Station and I was looking specifically for another public health nurse at Haines Junction. We were not given any indication that we would have a second man year for Haines Junction, but we were told that we would possibly get part of a man year and I see, Mr. Chairman, that the costs of the Haines Junction Health Centre actually down approximately $1,000. Does that mean that there is not an extra man year for another health nurse at Haines Junction? I am looking at the Staffing on page 23 of the Appendix, there is an increase of 3/4 man years in graduate nurse level III. I understand one of those relates to the communicable diseases in Whitehorse. Where will the other 3/4 man years be for? A graduate nurse, level III, that must be a public health nurse, is it? There is an increase.

Mr. Sherlock: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is public health nurse. We do not have a breakdown as to where they would be, though, unless Mrs. Whyard can answer that.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, as Members of Committee realize, they are not our staff and we do not employ them. They are federal employees and it is in the Federal man years, not ours.

We pay 70-30 cost-sharing for the services provided in health centres and nursing stations, but we do not have control over where public health services are assigned, as I think we all understand.

I have every sympathy with the Honourable Member in her approach to this problem, because it is her community and she knows what the need is, and we have supported her other approaches to the Federal Health Department, in her attempts to get an additional nurse now, not in a year from now, as they have forecast in their program.
Mr. Chairman, until we have administrative control over those many years, there is no way we can add to them from this Government or move them from one place to another. They are not our staff.

But, Mr. Chairman, we will continue to support the Honourable Member in her attempts to get at least a contract or casual assistance there, at Haines Junction, prior to the permanent Government or move them from one place to another. They are not our staff.

Mrs. Watson: Well, Mr. Chairman, I realize that we do not set the priorities and it becomes a little more galling all the time and as far as I am concerned, and I would hope every Member in this House rejects this 1502 Establishment, until Northern Health is prepared to come back and give us a forecast of man years that reflects the needs in the Territory, not the needs as the Department sees it, but the needs as the people of the Territory see it.

I cannot understand, when you have one individual who is supposed to be covering 526 patients over a radius of approximately 100 miles, and you are expanding the services that a public health nurse is required to do, she has to okay medical emergency evacuations often, because we do not have trained ambulance people. She has to accompany the ambulance on the trips, and it is just getting to be a ridiculous situation.

When we have people in these stations who are completely dedicated, as we have had in the past, the individuals have gone beyond what can be expected of anyone in a job. You lose them, we lose them because of the fact that, after four years of 50-60 hours of overtime a week, in dedication to a community, and for the Northern Health Services, when they complain, they ask to be transferred and we lose these people. We have just lost another one.

I am not going to support, and I hope every Member just tells Northern Health to shove this one until they can come back and reflect our priorities.

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just a question: we pay 70-30. On what, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, we pay 70-30 on the total costs of these health stations and health centres, and as I have said like a broken record in this House over and over again, we are paying the bill but we have no control, not as well we would like the turnover of health delivery to this Government. If this Government were in charge of general health services today, we would have an additional nurse at Haines Junction, and the Honourable Member knows that because we have assured her that this is our intention. We can see the need here at the local level and so, in all respect, in fairness, Mr. Chairman, so can the Regional Director of the Federal Department but his requests and his budgets have to be winnowed through two or three other levels to the Federal Cabinet level, before they ever get approval and he has to do what he is told at the Federal level, and his dollar constraints are set there, not here.

I really do not know how much he could do, more than he is doing now, in all fairness, because he has been told that there were so many man years and so many dollars for his budget. Now he does not have the facility that an elected Member of this Government has of coming back to Executive Committee and saying we need an additional nurse here, and so we are going to put one there, and we have to come back with a supplementary because we spent more money. We have that facility, and the taxpayers of Yukon know that they are getting their dollar's worth when they have a public health nurse in a community like that and they are not going to complain about the additional costs because they know it is good insurance. That is why it is so important to get control of delivery of Health Services for this Government. But, Mr. Chairman, really, I do not know what you would achieve by holding up this one particular Vote. You are not going to get the turnover of Health Services this month, and I just would like to try once again to support the Honourable Member in her approach and I think that she should take it higher than the Regional Director and go directly to the Director General of Medical Services who certainly knows what the situation is because I informed him two months ago.

Mr. Berger: Mr. Chairman, the reason I asked the question is because something does not make much sense. The Dawson Health Centre pays $19,000. Pelly Crossing Health Centre is $21,500. Could we have an explanation for that? Something is completely out of line here somehow.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, these items are for general health services which means roughly translated, public health, not your nursing centre or your hospital, the public health program in the community.

Mr. Berger: With all due respect, Mr. Chairman, you have a community like Pelly, you have Carmacks, they are all higher than Dawson City. We have a higher concentration of people in Dawson than you have in Pelly or Carmacks. What is the story here?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I would assume that at Pelly Crossing, for example, we have operation and maintenance costs to meet there in a special trailer with facilities for the nurse living there. At Dawson, the health nurse works out of the Father Judge Memorial Hospital, so there is not the overhead there for that particular public health operation.

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Chairman, I am certainly concerned with the remarks of the Minister when she says that we have really no control of putting in, for instance, the additional nurse at Haines Junction.

We are, as I understand it, paying 70 per cent?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Yes, we always have.

Mr. Lengerke: It is just incredible that we, and I sympathize, that we just cannot say that we want another person there and we are going to withhold our funding until we get that person there.

My question is, why do we not then, at least, if we recognize and if the Minister recognizes that there is some merit in having this person there, she has said, why, in fact, do we not, as a Yukon Government, provide the funding and put that person there anyway and say here, Federal Government, here is the position, period? Now use it, because I think it is time that we did something on our own.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Well, Mr. Chairman, that is very inviting. I just do not know how we hire a Federal public health nurse, as a Territorial Government, when they are not our employees.

Mr. Berger: Mr. Chairman, they are not our employees. They are employees of the Federal Department of Health.

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Chairman, you mean to tell me that if we provided the full dollar value to hire that person, the amount of money to pay the benefits and everything else, that the Federal Government would still turn it down? Have we tried it?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: No, Mr. Chairman, we have never tried that. In some other cases we have tried other routes to make funds available when an extra nurse was needed in a community and, on a very short-term basis, this has worked.

I just do not know what you would get into with Federal Public Service and all the red tape involved in a federal employee who is not a federal employee.

I really would like to have a look at it and see how we could manage to add a member of the staff to a federal institution, staffed by Federal people. It might be kind of fun.

Mr. Berger: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Honourable Member from Riverdale has a valid point and I would like to take it one step further and this does not necessarily have to be a public health nurse, it just has to be a nurse in the hospital, to relieve the burden of the public health nurse. I think this is really
what needs to be done.

I think Dawson, for an example, they have been crying for years to get an additional nurse, not a public health nurse. I think this is a possible route to take.

Mrs. Watson: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is precisely the type of thing that I have recommended within the community, because of the serious situation we have there and because of the lack of housing facilities.

The Northern Health have been very fortunate. They have a fully qualified nurse who has been working for the past five years as a lay dispenser, and has been providing nursing, doing nursing functions, but been getting lay dispenser salary. But, if they would hire her as a second nurse, then the workload could be carried properly, scheduled between the health nurse and the lay dispenser will work at lay dispenser salary to nurse will work these extremely long hours to accommodate that, the lay dispenser will work at lay dispenser salary to complement it.

We need, we absolutely have to have two nurses there. They have an opportunity. They would not have to provide housing. The people who have been there have been working, have provided satisfactory service, and yet I see where we are not getting anything and the Shakwak Project is starting this summer.

Mr. Lengerke: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further on 1502?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I think all Members know that we are faced with increasing costs of airline tickets and also for fuel for inside-territory travel and this figure simply reflects that increased cost. There is nothing unusual in the Estimate where we are looking at an estimated 300 trips out of the Territory at an average cost of $839 and an estimated 660 trips inside the territory at an average cost of $93.

We are budgeting for 50 charters, if we have to, at $880 an average. We will be probably paying a mileage rate of 80,000 miles within the Territory, for people coming to see doctors, for a total $236,025.

Mr. Chairman: Any discussion on 1504, Subsidized Medical Travel?

Mr. Lengerke: Yes, just some clarification. I think it probably can be clarified. Under 1504, we have the travel costs for mental diseases, as per the Travel for Medical Treatment Ordinance, and then, under 1501, we also cover some transportation costs. Could you just give me, other than, I wonder if you could give me the difference there?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, 1504 is funds for medically necessary specified travel, either inside or outside the Territory, for diseases other than cancer, TB or mental diseases.

Mr. Lengerke: Thank you, I should have read that a little closer.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, a question: what management technique is the Department employing to make sure that this Establishment does not get out of hand, because I think that we all realize it is one of the areas where there could be an abuse of this type of a program. You know, if you want to go on a holiday, there is nothing like going to see your doctor and have him refer you out to a specialist. We all know fairly well that this has happened.

What kind of controls do we place on it so we just do not leave it wide open? If you leave things wide open, there is bound to be abuse.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Well, Mr. Chairman, within the Territory, of course, there are certain authorities who have to authorize a charter trip, emergency evacuation or other kinds of medical travel.

The people who come in their own vehicles put in for mileage and there is not much you can do about controlling that.

When you are sending someone outside for emergency or other treatment, it is very carefully controlled and there are certain forms that must be filled in by the proper authorities. Otherwise, no payment is made for the travel.

It has been our experience, Mr. Chairman, that we get more
complaints because we will not authorize certain costs for travel, than because we authorize too many.

I can bring in, if Members wish, a breakdown of all the instructions and the authorities who are required to authorize such travel, perhaps that would answer the Member’s question.

Mrs. Watson: Well, Mr. Chairman, who are the authorities who can authorize travel outside of the Territory? I know that medical evacuation inside the Territory has, you have to have a referral by a doctor or a health nurse, in an emergency situation, but that does not concern me as much as the travelling to specialists outside of the Territory. What controls? Who has to sign this authorization? Just one doctor, just on one doctor’s say-so, or have we some other form that puts a little bit more of a check on it?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, it always begins with one doctor, but it does not end there. I think I had better bring in the actual forms that are used for the benefit of all Members to see how it is handled.

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, what happens with the other diseases, cancer, TB, mental diseases, under another Establishment? Or is it Federally sponsored?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, there are other ordinances which cover those costs and there are other cost-sharing arrangements available for those particular diseases. This program, Mr. Chairman, Subsidized Medical Travel item that we are discussing now is a Territorial program which exists only in Yukon, nowhere else in Canada, and is entirely funded by the Territorial Government. It is a unique system, I do not think most of us realize how valuable it is. We take it for granted. There has been a great deal of discussion on the other side of the mountains, Mr. Chairman, in the Northwest Territories during their recently concluded session, because they are expanding the subsidy they provide for residents of the NWT for medical travel, and believe me, Mr. Chairman, they have a long way to go before they get to the state we are at. You still have to pay $100 of your own costs when you go out for medical treatment from the Northwest Territories and they consider that a very, very generous new allowance.

This program is completely separate from the ordinances which cover costs for cancer, TB and mental disease. Mr. Sherlock might like to add a word on that.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, the other costs are shown on the other Establishments as the Member stated.

Mr. Berger: Is medical evacuation covered under the same program? I cannot see why we should have to fund the whole program because I tabbed a letter the other day in this House and it is up to the Federal Government to provide the medical facilities in the outlying areas, and they are using our program to make it cheaper for them to get away from providing the services in the outlying areas, and we are paying for this in actual fact. I think this should not be done. I think it should be hammered home to the people in the Territory and to the Federal Government. They are using our money to save money in that respect.

Mrs. Watson: Is that the letter the Member was talking about. I never did receive a copy.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, Mrs. Watson, I think there is one placed in your desk.

Mr. Berger: Maybe the Minister could provide us with a breakdown like she did for Dawson City to Whitehorse for all the outlying communities, how many patients and the costs involved that have been referred to specialists outside of the program, and how many people were involved in each community on strictly an admission basis to the Whitehorse General Hospital and the costs involved.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I am sure this exercise could be carried through if the Honourable Member requires it, but I must warn him that when you do see the figures, you still do not know how many of those patients might have had to come to this hospital anyway, whether you were fully staffed at Dawson or Watson, or Haines, or somewhere else, because of the seriousness and the special treatment or special equipment that might require which would not be available anywhere but here in any case.

You would also have to breakdown the number of people who were coming in to see a specialist on referral from their own doctor, who would come in any case, whether or not Watson was fully staffed. The specialist would still be someone who comes only here from Vancouver.

I really do not know how you are going to arrive at a ball park figure of how much we are paying, out of Territorial money, to bring patients to Whitehorse who could stay in their own jurisdiction if it were fully staffed. I think that is what the Honourable Member is trying to arrive at.

We might be able to get some kind of an estimate, but it will not be that accurate.

Mr. Berger: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not a doctor or a nurse, but going to the hospital in my own community, I find that there is a file on hand which says that a patient has to be referred to a specialist or the patient has to be, and I am sure they say the same thing when the patient has to be evacuated, because he extended his welcome in that place there, in Dawson, I am quite sure there must be a figure around someplace, or a file around someplace.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, we can provide figures as we did for Dawson. That has already been broken down, but I am simply saying you still have to break it down further, to arrive at the point you are trying to achieve, if you are trying to prove that it would be—

I do not know what you are trying to prove, Mr. Chairman, except I can certainly agree with the Honourable Member that we are paying twice, in some cases, to the Federal Government, for one service. You are quite right, Mr. Chairman.

Ms Millard: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that those statistics would be very valuable in discussions with the Federal Government, upon expanding the nursing staff in these various areas.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Establishment 1504 agreed to
On Establishment 1505

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1505, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, $345,900.

Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I think Honourable Members have all received some background material on the Alcoholism and Drug program and our expansion during the past year, through the use of community counsellors, who are part-time workers, resource people, in four communities to begin with, who have been given special training by our Alcoholism and Drug administration, and who are acting in their own home communities as a very special resource in the referral of people with alcohol programs to treatment centres, in counselling the people with alcoholism problems.

This system, which is, I think, new in Canada, is proving itself in a very encouraging way and we are very pleased to say that, because of this success with the first four, and on the request of a number of other communities, we are not looking at the addition of other such resource people to the program, in the coming year or two.

There is absolutely no reason, Mr. Chairman, for a professional worker to breeze through a community once a month or once every two weeks and try to handle a case load of people with alcoholic problems. But if there is someone living in that community who has the inclination and a very special sort of dedication to be willing to work with people with these problems, they are the focal point for the professional who comes
through to support and advise and consult and work with the community resident. That is one of the new parts of our program during the past year that we are very pleased about, and we have now, as you will see, four part-time people who will add up to one whole man year under the community program.

Mr. Chairman: Any discussion?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, is there anything show that the money we are expending is showing results?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I believe in your report there are figures for the treatment which has been given at Crossroads for the past year or two, and we are now getting an updated assessment of the program at Crossroads and the rate of recidivism there and I think that we are finding it compares very favourably with any programs offered anywhere else. You are never going to hit 100 or 300 or whatever it is you are supposed to bat in baseball. It is certainly what we are putting into it, I think. We have quite a bit of breakdown on figures in that alcoholism report for both Detox and Crossroads, Mr. Chairman.

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, under the Community Program, Primary 20, I am wondering, I just presumed that the community workers were hired under a contract and that would come under Professional Services. I am wondering what the $77,000 is for then?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, a breakdown, we have two ongoing worker salaries in Carcross and Teslin, the vacation pay of 6 per cent for them and benefits. There is an item of travel for $2,000, we bring these people in and out for training and they do travel while they are working with us; training costs for the whole program were $14,340, and supplies $3,716. At Ross River, the salary is paid by Indian Affairs and the Dawson City alcoholism worker salary is paid by Human Resources. The training total here will cover training for the 10 altogether, the 10 workers.

Ms Millard: Mr. Chairman, why is there a difference in the treatment? Some them are on one quarter time salary of the Territorial Government, others are on contracts, I can understand if Indian Affairs is involved, but I cannot see why the Territory treats some employees differently from others, why are some on contracts and some are employees?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, part-time community people are on contract. We also have full-time workers in the Alcoholism and Drug administration who work with the part-time workers while they are on the road and handling their own area. There is a worker for each area, I would have to look at the man year breakdown, I think to figure that one out for you.

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Chairman, under 40, Advertising, I see we are spending $33,000. Are we still making another movie? I remember last year we were told that there was going to be another movie made, something like Nice 'n Easy, is that happening?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, we did not make another full film feature, half hour film, this is the total cost for all our information programs which includes some new slides, which you have seen on television, advertising in newspapers and on the radio and on television, brochures and information pamphlets and leaflets and so on. We could probably include in there the cost of the reports that you people have, a red covered booklet called "Alcohol and Youth".

Mr. Lengerke: Can the Minister tell me then, last year we spent $30,000. Did that include some of the costs of making the movie? What I am trying to get at is that if it did, then we spent quite a bit of the $30,000 probably to make a movie production so this year spending $33,000 we should be getting some pretty good advertising, I would hope.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Well, we should.

Mr. Lengerke: Well, we are, we have a good program and I am for it.
Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, this is the Vote where we are juggling that $100,000 for Mental Health back and forth, which Mr. Sherlock has explained.

I would like to point out that, under the word “training”, which I find a misnomer, but which is apparently what is supposed to be here, we are including the cost of institutions outside for mental care. It is not, in every case, training by any means.

I think you all have a copy of a summary of the rehabilitation services program from Mr. Wood, the Co-ordinator. There is a complete breakdown there on caseload and so forth. You will see that the current caseload is a little over 100.

The heading “Restorative” includes what the client may need in the way of dental, optical or therapeutic assistance, in costs.

I think the rest of it is pretty well self-explanatory.

Mr. Chairman: Anything else.

Establishment 1507 agreed to

On Establishment 1510

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1510, Administration, $455,600.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I do not think I have anything particularly to say about this Vote.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, this one does concern me, particularly after we heard the Treasurer’s comments on the computer and the fact that CU&C, I guess it is, costs were not being charged out to the two programs, particularly YHCIP, that they were still within Treasury.

So, we look at Yukon Health Care Insurance Premium Administration, and we look at it at up to a quarter of a million and an increase of one man year, and yet that is not even including the cost of CU&C, which used to be included in the administration costs of the program.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, that is a one time only cost and will no longer be applicable, because of the transfer of the computer work to the Yukon Government’s computer.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, are CU&C costs included there, on that Administration, in Establishment 1510? They cannot be, because you are doing the service now.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, no, there are no CU&C costs in there. If you look at 1977-78 Mains, there. 302 on the bottom line. Compare that to the $248,000, that is a reduction of CU&C costs, or part of it is the reduction of CU&C costs.

However, there were man year increases last year, in that Establishment, as well as that one this year, which had to do with the conversion and reparation of the CU&C program.

I believe that last year Health added four people to their staff, through the year, who were now in fact involved in the program and, I believe, this additional man year, it also is one of the ones that is going to be involved in the program.

Mrs. Watson: Well, Mr. Chairman, you know, I find it just really overwhelming, the increase in cost of the administration of this program and I believe when we went into the program originally, the administration was not supposed to cost more than eight per cent, it was six or eight per cent of the total cost of the program.

In 1976-77, the administration cost was $164,234. In 1977-78, it jumped to $302,400, and that was, I suppose, with the CU&C. Now this year, we are at $248,000 and for 1977-78, we were looking at, this did not get the percentage, but for the 1978-79, we are looking at twelve per cent of the total cost of the program.

I would like to know why the administration costs of this program have increased so much. I know that the 1977-78 year is an exceptional year because of the CU&C and you were hiring staff to do your own. But even looking at $248,000, that is a quarter of a million dollars to administer the program, and that is quite a bit more than 8 per cent of the fund. It was my understanding that when we would be taking it over ourselves, it would be much cheaper to do. You look at 1977-78 and the costs were $164,000. The population of Yukon certainly has not increased that much. I believe somewhere we saw the figures were 24,000, the medicare figures or the health care. The increase I know that you negotiate a new agreement with the doctors every year, but that should not affect the administration costs.

Now it is necessary to overload this program with such high administration costs? You were warned about this time after time, when you go into a program, watch your administration, make sure you do not overload it. Otherwise, it makes them too expensive to have a program. I can just see us going in that direction at this time if we are not careful, and we know that our health care scheme is in the deficit position. Twelve per cent of the total cost is administration?

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, I will let Mrs. Whyard speak to the program, but I should mention that in the figure of $248,000 there was a transfer of an inspector from the Secretary and Registrar to this, and that is included in that administration program. So there is an additional man year in there of perhaps twenty some thousand dollars worth.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I should also point out in that $248,000, the computer time is not charged to it. You would be looking at another $100,000 if you were paying CU&C. I think oh about four years ago we were paying about $75,000 for that service. What did we pay the last year? You could add it, now, we could easily be at $348,000 as the administration costs to that program for 24,000 people. That is pretty high. You do not get billings every month.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I cannot go into all the detail of administrative costs because I do not have them before me. I only know that the national per capita costs for medicare in Canada right now is $85.32 and in Yukon it is $83.

We have had a Field Inspector added and a Clerk Typist III transferred from Vital Statistics, which the Treasurer has noted, and we have an overall increase in salaries for everybody involved and the work increase is on a population increase of 6 per cent. There is a 9 per cent increase, there is going to be a 9 per cent increase in salary and another 6 per cent volume increase in 1979-80, so it just grows. There is no way that you are going to have less expense in administering your Health Insurance or medicare plans.

I do not know whether the Honourable Member wants an in House study of the efficiency of the Branch or its administration, or what it is she really would like to know?

Mr. Sherlock: Maybe I can help this way, Mr. Chairman. If you were to relate the costs that we were paying to CU&C for that program, you would have net saving, ongoing, of about $50,000, or just under, and that I think is the figure that Mrs. Watson is after. What, in fact, is the saving to the Government. Aside from the fact that there was some one time costs this year from the repatriating and reconverting the program, the ongoing costs to this Government will be in the neighbourhood of $40,000 to $50,000.

Mrs. Watson: That helped somewhat. But the administration costs in 1977-78 were $302,000, so if you take your $248,000 this time, and use $90,000 for the computer rather than the $138,000, you are still up to $338,000 and your administration costs, I am not talking about the rest of the costs, just administration, you are increasing that by at least 10 per cent.

You are allowing for a factor of 4 per cent for increase in salaries, so 10 per cent is a lot more than 4 per cent. I am just thinking that we have to really put our thumb down on this to make sure that the overhead of the program does not gobble up
Looking at a number of suggestions as to how we can increase the efficiency of lowering the costs of this system, but do not expect any miracles in the next few weeks.

One of the things that has already been implemented is that there is now a different system in effect in the hospital when an ambulance call comes in, which was proposed by a committee of doctors, medical staff in the hospital, who thought that they could see a better way to do it. We encouraged them to implement it.

The doctor on call now controls trips made by the ambulance and he makes the decision as to whether an ambulance is required, rather than the driver on duty having to make that medical decision.

That is one very small thing. It is a very expensive service, but, when you need it, you do not stop to ask how much it is going to cost.

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Chairman, speaking of proposals, it is my understanding that the ambulance drivers themselves came up with a proposal which could accrue a substantial saving to the Government. I was wondering if the Minister could elaborate on this and when it is going to be considered by the Department.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Chairman, the ambulance drivers themselves came up with a proposal that would save this Government a large amount of money.

Mr. Chairman, under my stewardship, it went from $200 a call, in the Whitehorse area, in the first year, to $300 a call in the second year, to $400 a call in the third year.

Everytime, Mr. Chairman, I opened my mouth to complain about the exorbitant cost ambulance trip in Whitehorse, I got the full Medical Association down unanimously upon my shoulders, plus the Public Service Alliance Association.

I, Mr. Chairman, frankly, thought that my honourable colleague, the Minister of Health, could deal in a much more diplomatic and a much nicer way, with the Medical Association, who she seems to have no problem with in bargaining with in scale rates every year, rather than a cold, calculated business approach, which I took to the situation.

I was totally and completely unsuccessful on every occasion that I tried to move into the field of saving the taxpayers some bucks in this area.

I realize, Mr. Chairman, when I am beaten completely and bloodied but unbowed, I turned the responsibility over to my colleague to see whether she can get some rationale to the costs of this service.

I want to say, that this is in the Whitehorse Ambulance Service only, that it is an efficient, well-run, economic and a service that we can all be proud of in all of the areas of Yukon, but it is run at a cost we can afford, other than in the Whitehorse area.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of ways we would like to go and, once again, many of our plans have been delayed because of the non-transfer of control of that hospital to this Government.

Until that takes place, we cannot start mixing classifications in various public service positions around, but we do have ideas and we are getting more from other sources and we have a very co-operative group of people over there in that hospital, who would like to work to make the image better.

There have been a couple of minor changes regarding the way the calls are handled on the switchboard, and, as I said, there is now a requirement for a doctor to make the decision and we will be working from there.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further on Ambulance Services.

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Chairman, how many calls do we respond to? 800 and some?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Chairman, an annual report of the Protective Services Branch, which comes down, which
brings all of that detail, which has to be tabled by statute annually, and I know that it has to be tabled at this Session and I am just wondering whether it has been tabled or not, because it is available, as far as I know, to be tabled by the House.

I always tried to get it tabled prior to the ambulance vote coming in so that the people could see the actual number of calls and the actual per cost within the metropolitan area of Whitehorse and outside.

I know that it is available and should be tabled in the immediate future.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I will undertake to do that tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Chairman, I just want to add that I think, in fact I know, and I have heard so many good things about the ambulance system, both within the area of the City of Whitehorse and beyond the boundaries of the City of Whitehorse, there is nobody, but nobody denies that we do not have just a first class ambulance service throughout Yukon.

I just think that about $400 a call is a little rich in the area of Whitehorse, and somehow, Mr. Chairman, whether it can be done to increase the efficiency so that the service is similar to the type that people in Whitehorse depend upon now, whether it can be done at a lower cost or not, I do not know. The medical profession and my colleague in Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the present Minister and I have had long and some very animated discussions on whether or not it can be run on an efficient or more efficient basis and still maintain the type of service that the Yukon public has come to expect from the ambulance service. I just find it, Mr. Chairman, regardless of the service which is excellent, and I just do not deny for a second that it is, I find it a little rich for the taxpayers’ blood at the present time.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I just cannot let that one go over my head. We were talking about ambulance service for the City of Whitehorse and then we got into the ambulance service throughout Yukon, its first class service throughout Yukon. Those are the Minister’s remarks and I cannot agree with him. In some areas of Yukon it certainly is not a first class service. Unfortunately, a lot of the old vehicles are still out on the highway being used in the evacuation into Whitehorse and unless you have a special kind of stretcher it will not fit into the ambulance so it is too bad if your patient is not on the right kind of stretcher, you have got to move them. If you have to have a nurse attendant go along, that is tough too because there just is not room for an attendant so she has to sit with her head in her lap most of the way into town, but that still, I suppose, makes it a first class ambulance service.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Oh, Mr. Chairman, cheap shot, gee.

Mrs. Watson: Do not be so surprised you should know what it is all about.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: You better believe I know what it is all about. I know the people that come in—

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mrs. Watson: Also, Mr. Chairman, it is because of the people who live in the outlying areas, who, on a volunteer basis, they get paid for the hours that they are driving an ambulance, this is true, but we would not have an ambulance service in these areas if people were not willing to let their names stand and be on call to get up in the middle of the night and to take that ambulance into town. These people deserve a lot of credit too.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Well then give them credit.

Mrs. Watson: And Mr. Chairman, some areas where they do not have a volunteer service, you have the people who are employed by the Territorial Government maintenance crews and they have to, on a rotating basis be on a standby situation, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in case there is an ambulance call to, in fact take the ambulance into Whitehorse and it is because of this service of a lot of these people that we actually do have ambulance service in the outlying areas because if we were using the Whitehorse service as a criteria to the outlying areas, then we just absolutely could not afford ambulance service. The service in the outlying areas cost much less because the people realize that there is no way that you can hire someone for 24 hour shifts so I think we have to give credit to the people who run these things up and down the road in the middle of the night.

Establishment 1511 agreed to

On Establishment 1515

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1515, Yukon Health Insurance Service, $5,627,300. Any discussion?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: This is a straight increase in the daily rates that we pay and the rising costs of hospitalization that I think we are all familiar with.

If I could just give Committee a comparison, the daily rates now, in the hospitals outside to which we refer our patients, vary from the lowest at St. Paul’s in Vancouver, $149.40 a day, through $158 at Royal Alex, Edmonton, to $165 at Vancouver General and Saskatoon, to $172 at the University of Alberta. That is what we are faced with.

Mr. Chairman: Any discussion?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, what is the rate in the Whitehorse General Hospital?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, $156.00.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, in the Estimates, in the forecasting, are you forecasting an increase in the utilization of the hospitals or is that just a reflection of the increase in the cost of the facilities?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, we just apply our rule of thumb average increase in number of cases, something like six per cent overall.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, we still utilize this as a Medical Referee who controls or who supervises the number of days that a patient is allowed to stay in the hospital. We still use this as to sort of control the hospitalization of patients.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, we certainly do and we still have the same efficient referee, who is familiar with all the workings of our plan and with most of the people who refer patients to the Plan.

I think he has a heart of stone sometimes, but he certainly keeps the Plan on the rails and you have to have a pretty good case to upset one of his decisions. You have to have proof that your hospitalization was required and that there were special circumstances that he did not know about when he put thumbs down on your claim.

Mrs. Watson: Does he in fact act on cases that were referred to hospitals outside?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Yes, Mr. Chairman, he does.

Mr. Chairman: Anything else? Establishment 1515, Yukon Health Insurance Scheme, $5,627,300.

Establishment 1515 agreed to

On Establishment 1525

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1525, Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan, $2,066,900.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, this is the item which covers the fee schedule paid to doctors for the care they give Yukon patients, and it also includes a number of laboratory tests and other medical charges.

Mrs. Watson: The Minister said the other day that they had just concluded the negotiations with the doctors for a new fee schedule. What were the results of that negotiation, what in-
crease in fees can we be looking for in 1978-79?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I do not have that piece of paper before me, but I did inform the House at the time, and I think it was an increase of 8.1 subject to the Anti-Inflation Board approval and this has been forwarded to the Anti-Inflation Board for approval of the contract. It is a proposal which is made up in part of the increased costs in overhead for operating their offices and clinics, and the maximum is all allowed per year by A1B, which I believe is $2,400.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, another question, how much are we in the red with Yukon Health Care Insurance Scheme? Our revenues and recoveries, we recover on a cost-sharing basis up to the present time we have, from the Department of National Health, we recover for costs of medicare for status Indian people, I believe, we have premiums that are paid by the private individual, we have premiums that are cost-shared by employers, so we have an expenditure. What is our revenue and what is the red, I am sure it is red?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I require an updating of this, but I know that we were $200,000 in the red on our medicare costs last year, and we dipped into the revenue pot of this Government to make up that amount, rather than increase the fee for medicare premiums. Now I cannot, without assistance from the Treasurer, say what our current stake is for total expenditures at this time.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, the recovery figure is on page 254, $855,000. The position of the Plan, I am sorry, we do not have that calculation. I understand that Mr. Duncan has it.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I am sorry, I cannot hear you, Mr. Sherlock.

Mr. Sherlock: I am sorry, we do not have the calculation of the Plan’s position. I believe the Director did prepare it because we asked him to, but we did not get the figures.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I will bring that in.

Mr. Chairman: Anything else?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I certainly would like it, because we have revenue and recoveries, we have both areas and I would really like to have that information for last year and what is being forecast for 1978-79, to give us an indication of what financial position we were in last year, at the end of last year, because we had to vote funds and also what financial position we will be in this year.

I think we should also estimate an administrative cost for the computer service against that. I would like to see that done, too. However, I could do that on my own, but I would really like to get a financial position of this scheme.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wonder while they were bringing that in if they could also bring in what was outstanding last year, not paid yet, and what is outstanding this year, that has not been collected, the two figures?

Mr. Chairman: Anything else?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member wants to know people who were in arrears in their medicare premiums and what was collected and what was not. Yes, we can bring that in.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Establishment 1525 agreed to

Mr. Chairman: Now we will turn to the Recoveries, they are on page 253 and 254. Are there any questions or discussion related to Expenditure Recoveries and Revenue?

Mr. Sherlock: Perhaps I could explain. This might answer some of the questions raised earlier.

We show no recoveries for 1978-79, because that has now gone to block funding, or the established program’s funding.

We have a paper on established program’s funding, which we will hand out, perhaps, during break. The revenue aspect is on page 254 and we have just mentioned that.

I guess that is all I can say, pending other questions.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

We will now recess for a brief period.

Recess

Mr. Chairman: Would Committee please come to order. We will go on to Department of Information Resources, $1,470,200, pages 203 and 204.

On Establishment 1300

Mr. Chairman: The first Establishment is 1300, Administration. Any general comments or remarks will be welcome.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, just a few words in general about this Department, which all Members know is the consolidation of a number of pockets of information throughout the Government which has now been all put under one department entitled Information Resources. I think that we spoke quite fully about this earlier in Supplementary considerations. We feel this is a good move and that we will be able to serve every department of Government now through this one Department of Information, rather than being disseminated into smaller sections.

This Department of course includes Libraries, Archives, the Information branch itself, and Media Services, which as we all know, is the film circulating library, and services in audio-visual areas.

One of the things we are concentrating on in this Department is the integration of information in small communities. This is going to be shown very clearly in our formation of pipeline impact information, because we are going to be using our libraries in the small communities as part of that plan. It is great to hear the comments from the residents of the smaller communities who know the value of those libraries in those areas. We have found that librarians generally, Mr. Chairman, we have the Administrator from this Department available to us, Mrs. O’Byrne, two areas in which this department is developing studies in the coming year. One of them is a public library development plan, looking toward working with library boards to see how far we can go and how far we have come. The other one is the development of libraries’ technical services, a systems study, Mr. Chairman which gets us into orbit in the space system practically with computerization cataloguing in library services which is now becoming a very general thing in North America and into which this department hopes to be. It sounds pretty involved and elaborate but two or three years down the line, Mr. Chairman, this community library service here in Yukon will be in a network throughout the whole of North America and will be using that kind of technical data and computerizing and systems analysis.

I think that we are very fortunate to have people in this Branch who are au courant with that kind of technical development and I do hope that you will take advantage of the invitation to go and see the new equipment which has just been installed in the Archives and have a look at all the other facilities, while you are here.

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1300, Administration. Any discussion?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, could I ask to circulate this organizational chart, which I find has not been passed around.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, Mrs. Whyard.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Thank you.

Mrs. Watson: What staff are we looking at for the administration of this new department? We are looking at four man years.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: The four man years, Mr. Chairman,
include the Director and a clerk and a clerk-typist and a Clerical Typist II.

Mr. Chairman: Any discussion?

Mrs. Watson: What is the difference between media services and information services? Media services come under the Libraries and then the Information Services, under Information Services Director.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I find this a misleading sub-heading. Media, to me, means the media, the press, radio and TV, but, in this context, media services are the services performed in the audio-visual field, by a technician in our staff, who is in charge of the circulating film library, repairs to films, cataloguing and ordering and indexing of the film services, territorial, and just general audio-visual, rather than what I would call the printed word, which is a medium as well.

It is not part of the Information Branch per se.

Mr. Chairman: Anyone else? Establishment 1300, Administration, $101,800.

Establishment 1300 agreed to

On Establishment 1310

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1310, Libraries, $539,600.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I think it is just a general across the board increase, the salaries and operating costs here, there is nothing unusual.

Mrs. Watson: This is 1310, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1310, Libraries.

Mrs. Watson: What is the per pupil allotment now under school services, school libraries?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the assistance of Treasury on that?

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, $8.90 per pupil.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, could I expand a little more on Media Services in answer to the previous question, still under this?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: The Media Services librarian has under her Vote an item for travel because she goes to Faro, Dawson and Watson Lake, and other centres to instruct and assist in the use the film library and media services. There is an amount of $3,500 for transportation of film shipments to Yukon communities in schools during the year, advertising. There is an amount of $4,000 under materials and supplies, which includes circulation control forms, replacement for audio visual materials and equipment such as bulbs and film leaders, cleanings and film cases, $10,000, the main item, is for acquisition of film library and audio visual materials, and then there is a rental charge, of course, to that service and repairs of other equipment for $1,300.

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Chairman, under Primary 20, Professional and Special Services, the $10,300 Technical Services, what is that for? And could I have an explanation for the $5,500 as well under Community and School Services?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, under Professional and Special Services, we have an amount of $4,300 budgeted for bibliographic and data processing services, and the purchase of commercial cataloguing with built-in machine readable computer applications. I told you it was getting pretty electronic.

There is also the systems study which I mentioned earlier to implement future data processing and that is an amount of $2,000. There is a reorganization of the location file, which is a special project, necessary to facilitate the move towards the computerized system and an upgrading of efficiency of book distribution services to public libraries and schools. There is a $4,000 item to cover both of those.

Then there is a technical services librarian who will require 15 days travel in Yukon, to supervise public and school library operating procedures. That costs $900.

Did you wish to go further, or was 20 all you needed? 

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, some of these things become a little disturbing to me. I notice that, under Media Services, we have $73,000 and only $10,000 of that is actually for acquiring the films and the actual supplies that you use that is the service that is being given to the community.

When we look at libraries, community and school services, we are looking at $230,000 for the acquisition of books and library material that people use. Yet, the whole library budget is $359,000.

So, the administration, the top end of the library services costs 50 percent and the actual books cost the other 50 percent. It seems an imbalance to me. We provide a library service to provide books and what we are doing is spending half of it on administration, somewhere along the line we are out of kilter.

I would sooner have books than people in a library.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I think the comments of the Honourable Member are valid when applied to the technical services end of it, because you have technical staff who are being paid more than whatever, but, in your community and school services, which means your libraries, you are spending three times as much on books as you on your administration of that.

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Chairman, I might not, I might have misunderstood what the Minister told me when I was asking about Primary 20, but she did mention something about a technical services librarian in that expenditure and I was wondering why that person would appear there when we do pay a technical services librarian, under our administration anyway. So, why would you be picking up some costs there for that?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I am confused. Could Treasury help me on this?

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, I think the preceding statement might have been incorrect. It does refer to travel, not technical services. It is Primary 30.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, please, could I hear the Treasurer. I cannot hear his comments.

Mrs. Watson: Put on your earphone.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Well, I guess I will have to.

Mr. Sherlock: It referred to travel and not to technical services.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: There is still a question outstanding that I think we might have an answer for here.

Mr. Chairman, the question was the amount spent on books rather than on travel and administrative costs and I would like some kind of clarification, please.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure what I am being asked to answer here. The statement made by Mrs. Watson is perfectly correct, if you look at the two figures, you have got a figure of $239,000 versus $299,000. I am certainly not going to comment on the operation of the department, that is Mrs. Whyard's department. She is saying the administrative costs versus the actual library books available to users are almost 50-50, so she is asking you, Mrs. Whyard, to comment on that.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I will have to come back with an answer because I do not think that is satisfactory.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, it is a 50 per cent split almost, and I think it is a policy decision and it was a decision that was made by the Deputy Head of the Library, and with the concurrence of the Executive Committee Member and the concurrence of all the Executive Committee when they passed the budget. We would want to know how you justify 50-50 split on it. It is perfectly normal, $239,000 and then total cost of Libraries is $359,000, so this is my question.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I have already said, I will have to come back with further information.
Mr. Chairman: Well then we will stand over 1310, Libraries.

Establishment 1310 stood over.

On Establishment 1320

Mr. Chairman: We will go on to 1320, Yukon Archives and Records Services, $487,900.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: There is no substantial increase in these items, the same man years and the normal increase in costs.

Mr. Chairman: Any questions? Order please. Any discussion of 1320?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, the Records Services, that is a combination. Is it in your chart of Records Management and Records Operation?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier to all Members, the Records Centre you will find in this building is quite an extensive operation for recording of cataloguing and filing all government records. This has been incorporated into the Department. Government records are part of the Information Resources of this Government.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, Records Management and Records Operation under the chart provides for 5 man years somewhere. Records Services says 15. Archives has 5, but where would the man years be shown in the chart for Records Management?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I do not know what the question means, Mr. Chairman. I have a chart before me and it is shown here. What is the question?

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Whyard, I think the question is that there is not anything in the chart that says Records Services. It says Records Management and Records Operations.

Mrs. Watson: And that is five man years.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, Record Services, to me, is obviously the compilation of those Records Management and Operations. There are fifteen man years altogether, three in the management side and a supervisor and twelve clerks.

Mr. Sherlock: Mr. Chairman, perhaps a little assistance there, there are three shown under Record Management, on the chart, and the other figure should be eleven, one plus eleven under Records Operation. That includes the operation of substations throughout the Government, for a total of fifteen, which then relates to the budget.

Mr. Chairman: Anything else?

Mr. Sherlock: It should be eleven, not twelve, I am sorry. The figure on the chart should be eleven, so it is, one, two, one and eleven, for a total of fifteen.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I took that as a two.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Establishment 1320 agreed to.

On Establishment 1330

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 1330, Information Services, $340,900.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I think all Members are aware of the transfer of these man years out of the former Tourism and Information Branch into the new Information Resources Department, leaving Tourism to move, eventually, into Tourism and Economic Development.

We have 11.25 man years here, total, which includes the staff down at the Vancouver information centre, Yukon House.

Mrs. Watson: Could I ask who the Information Services Director is?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, that position has been vacant and we are in the throes now of recruiting for it. There has been a vacancy there since Mr. Sillak went to Vancouver, and the position has now been readvertised under the new set-up in the Department of Information Resources, rather than under the classification it had formerly, because whoever comes in now in that position will be in charge of the Information Services, the putting out of information from this Government to all areas.

Mr. Chairman: Anything else?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, are we going to be using the Information Services in the outlying areas, any of this staff in the outlying areas for dispensing of information regarding the pipeline and the Shakwak Project, or are these people stationed here in the headquarters area?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, at present these people are all based in Whitehorse, but they will be travelling as they have done in past years to various parts of the Territory when there is a need for their services.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, is there any thought given to co-ordinating or combining Information Services and Tourist Information services in some of the small communities, because this is where people go? They say information, and anyone who are travelling will go there. Are you going to be working with these people who often are not that busy and probably could dispense some of the information the Government has available to them?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I think that is a very good way to go and I know that in the past years, government brochures and information not necessarily totally tourism has been circulated through the Information Centres. I would find then a very useful tool because the people who are working in those centres are knowledgeable and local people and I think that it would be great to have them co-operating with us in our job as well. I am sure that we will be using them, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Anything else?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I just have one more question. We have the audio visual structure within the Library Service. At one time the Department of Education also had an audio visual structure within the department. Do they still in fact have that service within the Department?

Hon. Mr. Lang: This is correct, Mr. Chairman. We do have a Resource Centre where all the books, textbooks and audio visual equipment and programs that are necessary for, especially the outlying communities, all come into one resource base and distributed accordingly. I may add it works very well, apparently.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, if I may just comment on that. One of the things that the new Department of Information Resources wants to implement as soon as possible is an inventory in every department of Government, which I do not believe has ever been done of who has got what and how many cameras there are around this Government, and how many people are taking pictures and how many people are using audio visual equipment and where it all belongs. We would like very much to do an inventory and centralize the use of a great deal of this equipment to the best advantage of this Government.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further? Establishment 1330, Information Services, $340,900.

Establishment 1330 agreed to.

Well, we will go to Recoveries and Revenue from Information Services, page 213. Any discussion arising out of this?

It seems to have finished for this afternoon our discussion of Information Services, and if the Minister of Education is prepared and has distributed some information, perhaps we could go back to Vote 3, Education.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, just for clarification, we are not clearing 1310 until information is brought back. Is that correct?
Mr. Chairman: Well, I do not think we received a satisfactory explanation of why the ratio between the two items was really not consistent. I do not think anybody was satisfied with the information they received.

Page 36 and 37, the details on page 37 and the first item, we did not carry the first three items and we did not carry 321, so we will start with 300, Administration, in the Education Vote.

On Establishment 300

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 300, Administration, $1,177,600.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, the information that was requested has been drawn up and has been distributed to all Members here, approximately four or five days ago, and I hope that all Members had an opportunity of going through it.

If they analyze Vote 300 and 302, you can see with the increase in the administration and the transfers that have come into the Department, we have increased, actually, the number of man years to the Department over the last year by two and a half man years. Where, in the teacher-pupil ratio, the man years, that we had over-estimated and this kind of a thing.

So, overall, I believe the Department has done very well, and if you reflect in looking back at the supplementary of $23,000, I think it speaks very well for the Department and the administration of the Department working within the monies that we had projected.

I think the information that has been given, if Members have had an opportunity to go through it, I do not think there should be very many more questions posed, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Any question of the Minister? Any discussion on 300?

Mrs. Watson: No, if we would have had the material when we first started discussing the budget, I am sure that it would have stopped an awful lot of the discussions, however, I am very pleased that we have it now.

I would like to just make one comment, that I would hope that the Government of Yukon and possibly not within the next few years, would be looking at separating school administration from the Department of Education, to have your school system a different structure and the Department of Education, a different structure.

It does not really allow a Department of Education to operate the way it really should be. However, because of the small numbers that we have, that, by having them combined, we are exercising a certain amount of savings and, when we see some of the charts that are coming ahead of us, maybe it is just as well that you are staying together for awhile.

Mr. Chairman: Any further discussion? Establishment 300, Administration, $1,177,600.

Establishment 300 agreed to

On Establishment 302

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 302, Schools - Curriculum Supplies and Salaries, $7,710,200.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, as I spoke earlier, the information has been provided and I think it clarifies the situation for all Members.

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I find a rather amusing Establishment 302 on Substitute Teachers, and I would like to know whether the Department is looking forward to having more illness within their teaching staff, because they say the increase in allocation for substitute teachers reflects the increase in salaries paid to substitute teachers, and provides for an anticipated increase during the forthcoming fiscal year? I do not know whether you know of any disease that we could be looking forward to, or are you just—I think that is bad strategy. You never increase for more sick leave, or budget for more sick leave.

Hon. Mr. Lang: No, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that is correct really. It just reflects the costs to this Government and attempting to go to attending and looking at the past years the numbers that were absent and then estimating accordingly.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to find the sheet which gives the pupil-teacher ratios and the enrollment in the various schools. Just give me one minute before we leave it, it will not take me a minute. I have a question to ask regarding it.

I am looking at Beaver Creek at January of 1977. We have 5 in kindergarten and 3 in the regular school class, that makes 18. In January of 1978 we have 3 in kindergarten in 15 in the regular class. We have one half man year for kindergarten instructor and two man years for teachers. I wonder if it would be possible whether the Department would consider offering grade nine at the Beaver Creek school next year if you continue to have that enriched pupil-teacher ratio of 7.5 to 1? It seems a shame that three students that are in grade eight now will have to leave their home community to take grade nine, when it appears that the staff is overworked at the present time. I would request that the Department give consideration to offering grade nine at that school so these children do not have to leave home at the age of 14.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, I will take the comments from the Honourable Member under advisement. I have to agree with her on the subject. At the same time, possibly, if I could ask the Honourable Member to do something for me and possibly see that we get some parents up there with children that are old enough to go to school.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further, Establishment 302, Schools - Curriculum Supplies and Salaries, $7,710,200.

Establishment 302 agreed to

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Chairman, that is where the remedial tutors are too, is it not?

Mr. Chairman: No, the remedial tutors are passed in 315.

Establishment 302 agreed to

Mr. Chairman: Establishment 303, School Support, Salaries, supplies, leases and rentals, $3,207,000.

Hon. Mr. Lang: The question in the Establishment 303 had to do with Primary 99, the miscellaneous $41,400 and the breakdown as was outlined during the debate at that time was the security patrol for $15,290 and lawn maintenance for $26,110. The question, if I recall correctly, was put was, was wondering why monies were not allocated for the outlying communities. The reason is that in any of the communities that do have lawns, the lawns are small enough that the custodial staff to cope with. That holds true in some cases in the Whitehorse area as well where there is a small lawn that has to be maintained, but where there is a larger lawn, and the necessity for upkeep and this type of thing, we have to go to contract for maintenance so if it does happen in an outlying community where there is a large area of lawn put in then we would automatically project lawn maintenance if the custodial staff could not maintain it.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further?

Establishment 303, School support, $3,207,000.

Establishment 303 agreed to

Mr. Chairman: The next one is 321, Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre, $2,137,800.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, the questions that were asked pertaining to this were all answered in the information that was given. I think it was fair to say that the lapsing of the monies is pretty well outlined of the $310,000 we lapsed last year as opposed to the budget for the forthcoming year. I think the department has done a good job outlining the various questions that were raised and answered in a very adequate manner.
Mr. Chairman: Anything further?  
Establishment 321 agreed to  

Mr. Chairman: Now perhaps we can look at any Recoveries. These will be found on page 69. Any questions or discussion regarding these Recoveries.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one point, that they are the same as last year's amounts that were outlined in the budget, with some normal increases included in them.

Yes, Mr. Fleming, have you a question?

Mr. Fleming: No.

Mr. Chairman: Well, this will conclude—

Mrs. Watson: Just the one more question: occupational training recoveries, why are we not budgeting for more recoveries this year when we are budgeting for a greater expenditure for courses at the Vocational School?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, as opposed to last year, the increase in 321 is approximately $100,000 more than it was last year and it reflects the changes as outlined in the debate of that establishment, of the changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act and various other ramifications of how it reflects our budgeting.

The recoveries in the Yukon Vocational Technical Training Centre are projected to be roughly the same as they were last year, without the money for the unemployment insurance. So, really, what we are doing, it has been increased from last year. It maintains the same figure in the recoveries, but what I am getting at is there less money paid out for spaces for students, so, subsequently, that goes into the Operation and Maintenance side of the facilities, and this kind of thing.

Mr. Chairman: If there is nothing further—

Mr. Lengerke: I would move that Mr. Speaker do now resume the Chair.

Mr. Fleming: I second that.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. It has been moved by Mr. Lengerke, seconded by Mr. Fleming, that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker resumes Chair

Mr. Speaker: I call this House to order. May we have a report from the Chairman of Committees?

Mr. Mcintyre: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has considered Bill Number 3, First Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79 and directed me to report progress on same, and asked leave to sit again.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Leave is so granted, may I have your further pleasure?

Mr. Lengerke: Mr. Speaker, I move that we do now call it 5 o'clock.

Ms Millard: I second that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Speaker, I move that we do now call it 5 o'clock.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Adjourned
The following Legislative Return was Tabled March 20, 1978

78-1-12
Commissioner's Discussions of Resolution No.2 with Members
(Written Question No.7)

The following Sessional Paper was Tabled March 20, 1978

78-1-13
Arctic Winter Games Letters

LEGISLATIVE RETURN #13
1978-1979 session

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the Assembly

On March 16, 1974, Mr. McCall asked the following question:

In view of the fact that I have received information that the Commissioner has discussed Resolution No.2 with some members of this House other than Executive members prior to the Resolution being debated in this House, and, further, that my information revealed that the Commissioner wanted to know how some members were going to vote with respect to Resolution No.2, my question is:

What were the reasons other than mentioned for discussing the Resolution prior to debate taking place in this House and does the Commissioner feel that this was the wrong thing to do? That by discussing Resolution No.2 with other than Executive members, could it be suggested that the Commissioner was trying to influence those Members as to the way their vote would be cast, and further, if this was the case, which members were approached?

The answer to the above question is as follows:

The Commissioner has the right and the obligation to consult with Members of Council from time to time on issues of interest and importance to Yukoners, their constituents, and their government.

If, in the course of consultations or discussions with Members they are influenced by information or opinions proffered by the Commissioner, that is clearly their prerogative.

Members of this Assembly must have the right to receive information from or give their views to the Commissioner at any time, on any issue.

Date: [Insert Date]

[Signature]