



# The Yukon Legislative Assembly

---

Number 3

4th Session

24th Legislature

---

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, March 26, 1981 — 1:30 p.m.**

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

# Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Donald Taylor, MLA, Watson Lake  
DEPUTY SPEAKER — Grafton Njootli, MLA, Old Crow

## CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Chris Pearson	Whitehorse Riverdale North	Government Leader — responsible for Executive Council Office, Public Service Commission, Pipeline, Land Claims, Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.
Hon. Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East	Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, Tourism and Economic Development, Government Services, Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Workers' Compensation Board.
Hon. Geoffrey Lattin	Whitehorse North Centre	Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works, Municipal and Community Affairs, Yukon Housing Corporation and Yukon Liquor Corporation.
Hon. Meg McCall	Klondike	Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources, Education and Information Resources.

## Government Members

### (Progressive Conservative)

Al Falle	Hootalinqua
Doug Graham	Whitehorse Porter Creek West
Jack Hibberd	Whitehorse South Centre
Peter Hanson	Mayo
Grafton Njootli	Old Crow
Donald Taylor	Watson Lake
Howard Tracey	Tatchun

## Opposition Members

### (Liberal)

Ron Veale	Whitehorse Riverdale South
Alice P. McGuire	Kluane

### (New Democratic Party)

Tony Penikett	Whitehorse West
---------------	-----------------

### (Independent)

Maurice J. Byblow	Faro
Robert Fleming	Campbell

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

**Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, March 26, 1981**

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

**DAILY ROUTINE**

**Mr. Speaker:** We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.  
Are there any Returns or Documents for Tabling?

**TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the Report on Regulations, filed with the Registrar of Regulations during the period September 17, 1980 through March 2, 1981.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling a discussion paper regarding an agricultural policy for the Yukon Territory. For the information of the Members, I met with the Livestock Association yesterday; they have taken an active interest in the discussion paper, and we are working with them in respect to trying to develop an agricultural policy for the Territory.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any Reports of Standing or Special Committees?

Petitions?

Reading or Receiving of Petitions?

Introduction of Bills?

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

Notices of Motion?

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Mr. Tracey:** Mr. Speaker, moved by myself, seconded by Mr. Hanson, that it is the recommendation of this Assembly that, pursuant to Section 12(1) of the *Yukon Act*, the Honourable E. Geoffrey Lattin be appointed to the Advisory Committee on Finance.

**Mr. Falle:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges consider, and make recommendations to the Yukon Legislative Assembly on, salaries, indemnities, and allowances of the Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, including those of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and the Members of the Executive Committee.

**Mr. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Porter Creek West, that this House oppose the passage of Bill C-48, the *Canada Oil and Gas Act*, in the Parliament of Canada.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any further Notices of Motion? Statements by Ministers?

This then brings us to the Question Period. Are there any questions?

**MOTION OF URGENT AND PRESSING NECESSITY**

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 31, regarding a matter of pressing and urgent necessity, a Notice of Motion.

Mr. Speaker, whereas 1981 has been designated as the International Year of Disabled Persons, I move, seconded by the Member for Kluane, that this Assembly recognize the special efforts and talents of Yukon's disabled individuals and extend its congratulations to three Yukoners, Peter Joseph, David Halldorson, and Sam Glada for their recent achievement at the 1981 Special Winter Olympics, for which they each received a gold medal and for which Mr. Joseph was honoured as the best athlete from among 650 international competitors; and further be it resolved that this Assembly recognize the example of excellence and sportsmanship that these athletes have set for all Yukoners.

**Mr. Speaker:** The presentation of the Motion would require unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**All Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that this Assembly recognize the special efforts and talents of Yukon's disabled individuals and extend its congratulations to three Yukoners, Peter Joseph, David Halldorson and Sam Glada, for their recent achievements at the 1981 Special Winter Olympics, for which they each received a gold medal and for which Mr. Joseph was honoured as the best athlete from among 650 international competitors; and further be it resolved that this Assembly recognize the example of excellence and sportsmanship that these athletes have set for all Yukoners.

*Motion agreed to*

**QUESTION PERIOD**

**Question re: Foothills Property Taxes**

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government Leader. Over the last year the Government Leader has been telling the House that his Pipeline Office has been negotiating with Foothills and the Northern Pipeline Agency, to receive payment of the five million dollars in property taxes which Foothills is obligated to pay for the year 1980. Will the Government Leader tell the House whether or not he has been successful in getting Foothills to pay the five million dollars in property taxes owed to the Yukon Territory?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** No, Mr. Speaker, I have not been successful, and I want to assure the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that he is very likely to be one of the first to know, when I am. Mr. Speaker, I think we have to be a bit careful in how we look at this. The Leader of the Opposition has said that we are negotiating something that Foothills is obligated to pay. Now, it would be easy if Foothills was in fact obligated to pay. It is our opinion, Mr. Speaker, that Foothills may have an obligation to pay this money; we are going on that basis. Negotiations are still under way.

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the Quill Creek project has been completed, and Foothills therefore has property presently in the Yukon Territory, will the Government Leader advise if Foothills is going to pay property taxes on that specific piece of property now in place?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, Foothills will be paying property tax. Any property taxes they are required by law to pay they will certainly be paying.

**Mr. Veale:** In the last fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, the Territorial Government spent \$900,000 preparing for the pipeline. Will the Government Leader advise the House how much has been spent in the past year preparing for the Foothills pipeline?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, we are keeping very close track of the actual amount of money we are spending as a Government in preparation for the pipeline, because we are making a claim, under the Canadian legislation, for a refund of that money from the proponents. So, I am sorry, I cannot say exactly, but our expenditures for this past year will be reflected in the budget.

**Question re: Agricultural Policy**

**Mr. Penkett:** I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. He has just tabled in the House an Agricultural Policy for the Territory; I would like to ask him what time-frame he contemplates for the final formalization of this policy, for which we have been waiting for some time. In answering that question, I wonder if he could indicate who is the author of the paper tabled: whether it is from the Government Caucus or if it is a product of the public service of his department.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, on the first question, I think a lot will depend on the cooperation that appears to be forthcoming from Members of the Association that I mentioned earlier. I met with them last evening, and they are going to be meeting with me in the very near future. I would like to think that we

could have something relatively solid over the course of the next three to four months, if not sooner.

Mr. Speaker, in respect to the author of the paper, it was done within the department by the people who are involved in it and who are, obviously, in some consultation with other experts in the field. I have not got specific names that I am prepared to bring forward, but it was an internal document prepared with the various expertise that was available to us to try to get something together. I look at it as a working paper, to try to progress another step forward to the formulation of a final policy in this matter.

**Mr. Penikett:** I thank the Minister for his answer.

I wonder if he could indicate to the House how many draft agricultural policies have been prepared, prior to the one that has just been tabled, and why none of these drafts were given to the Agricultural Association so that the Government could have benefited from this groups' earthy wisdom some time before now.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, the various reports that he is referring to are largely technical reports — and I could stand to be corrected — but it is my understanding that the majority of them have been made public at one time or another.

I cannot say specifically how far they date back, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that those reports go back almost twenty or thirty years, with respect to this particular area of concern as it relates to the Territory.

**Mr. Penikett:** I think the Minister would agree that the problem was not that they were too technical, but that they were perhaps not conservative enough. Perhaps the Minister could tell the House why, in view of his previous answer, it has taken more than two years since the election of the Government to release the draft for discussion. In view of the number of technical papers that have been around for as long as he indicated, can he commit himself to this Government's finalizing a policy on this important question during this Session of the Legislature?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, in respect to the time-frame mentioned, I think the Member knows full well that, within the various departmental responsibilities I have, a number of major issues have been resolved — I am sure to his satisfaction as well as my own. Now that I am in a position to be able to tackle the question of policy for the agricultural industry, I would like to think, as I indicated to him earlier, that we can come up with something of a pretty solid basis over the forthcoming months. Mr. Speaker, I think I would be very unwise to try to give him a time-frame of 24 hours.

**Question re: Development Grants**

**Mr. Byblow:** I have a question for the Minister of Tourism on the subject of development grants. Last fall the Minister confirmed that his department was considering a number of applications for the Dawson Accommodation Program. I would like to ask the Minister if any of these applications have been accepted, and if any grants have been awarded under that program.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, in respect to the question that has been raised: first of all, in order to accept any of the applicants we would have to have financial assistance forthcoming, so I think the question is one and the same. First of all, no applicant has been accepted. There are a number under review, as indicated; there were five or six that were initially put in. More information was required, and it has not been forthcoming. As soon as it is forthcoming, it is up to the proponents. They will be considered on their merits, when they have done the necessary things that are requested of them.

**Mr. Byblow:** Can the Minister confirm whether he expects these awards to be made this year, before this building season?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, if awards are going to be made, it would be very early this Spring so that we could get on with the job at hand. As indicated during the Budget Session, and I will indicate again for the record, there were not that many people who were prepared to come forward with propos-

als, which was rather disappointing.

**Mr. Byblow:** On the same general subject, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider broadening the terms of the incentive programs under the subagreement, to permit other communities to apply for funding.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, we have had a very difficult time getting agreement between the two levels of government, with respect to this particular program as it applies to Dawson City: in reality, an accepted fact on this side of the floor, one of the major reasons for the tourism industry in the Territory. I am not in a position to extend those particular parameters at this time. I am sure it would take a year, if not longer, to extend them. As indicated earlier, there is only so much money allocated for that portion of the Tourism Subsidiary Agreement and it remains to be seen how much can be spent.

**Question re: Whitehorse Credit Union Building**

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, or for any minister who is responsible for the Whitehorse Credit Union building. In the early 1980's, Mr. Speaker, the Government purchased the Whitehorse Credit Union building at a cost of \$450,000, and in February of this year the Government sold the same building for \$252,000. Would the Minister advise the House why the Government sold the Whitehorse Credit Union building at a loss of \$198,000?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the Member should get his facts straight. First of all, the building was appraised, at that time, at approximately \$380,000. It was not purchased by this Government. It was a question of taking that building, to offset some of the monies that we had to put forward for concluding the situation which had developed over the past ten years with respect to the Credit Union. If the Member is indicating to me that he did not feel the Government had a responsibility to ensure there was not a major recession in the Territory where we had the situation of 2,200 of our citizens with, in some cases, their life savings in the Credit Union, then he might as well come out and say it. But, Mr. Speaker, for the record, I think the Member has received inaccurate information and I am sure that now, with the information I have given him, he will be satisfied.

Mr. Speaker, there is one other aspect of it: during the time it was being debated, there was very little debate on that portion of the resolution of the Credit Union and the problems incurred by it, from the Liberal Party opposite.

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the record will indicate that the assessment value of the building was \$390,000 and that there was \$60,000 of equipment, making a total of \$450,000.

My supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is: why did this Government not have an up-set price according to the usual practices of the Yukon Housing Corporation?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the decision was made that we should go out for private tender, to see what interest there was in the private market and assess it accordingly.

**Mr. Veale:** In view of the economic conditions set out in the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, indicating the upturn in the economy in the Yukon Territory, why did the Minister not go to a second tender, so that the building could be sold in the spring, receiving a great deal more money for the Government and the people of Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, a conscious decision was made. I believe the previous Leader of the Opposition made some critical comments with respect to the fact that that building was not being utilized. We had done an assessment with respect to the Government's using it, which would have cost in the area of half a million dollars or \$600,000 to get it to a standard in respect to offices.

Further to that, Mr. Speaker, we looked at the various bids that came forward through the Department of Public Works; it was felt that we should recover the money at that time, in view of the financial situation of the Government.

**Question re: Health Care Insurance Records/Confidentiality**

**Mrs. McGuire:** I have a question for the Minister of Health and Human Resources. Mr. Speaker, considering that there have been problems in other jurisdictions in Canada regarding the confidentiality of health records, would the Minister assure this House that no Yukon Health Care Insurance records have ever been provided to the RCMP or other investigators, without the authority of the courts?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** Mr. Speaker, I would consider that a very serious matter. I would like to take that under advisement.

**Mrs. McGuire:** I would like to ask the Minister if she has investigated the security of Health Care records here in Yukon, and is she satisfied that the Yukon Health Care program is not subject to some of the weaknesses experienced in some of the provinces?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** Mr. Speaker, I have had no cause to investigate the health care system in the area of security, so I have not investigated. I have no reason to think that it would not be secure.

**Question re: Students' Financial Assistance**

**Mr. Penikett:** I have a question for the same Minister, in her capacity as Minister of Education. In view of the repeated and persistent complaints about the denial of applications for post-secondary aid to Yukon residents by the Students' Financial Assistance, can the Minister confirm that last year the Committee, and this Government, returned to the Federal Government unused student loan plan funds that were allocated for Yukon?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that. I can tell the Member opposite that that whole system is under review at present.

**Mr. Penikett:** I am pleased to hear that. Can the Minister say then, if, during the life of this Session of the Legislature, perhaps this Fall, the Minister plans to remove from the Ordinance, by legislation, the two-year Yukon high school rule, which discriminates against many good Yukoners, including for example, YTEP graduates?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Government agrees, and the department agrees, that there are some inequities in that program. I cannot guarantee anything, but we are looking at it very closely.

**Mr. Penikett:** I thank the Minister. Let me pursue the matter. Since Yukon seems to discriminate more harshly than any other jurisdiction in regards to federally-funded student loan programs, is the Minister satisfied that the Committee rules for aid are in fact legal and constitutional?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** Would you mind repeating that last bit, please?

**Mr. Penikett:** To be precise to the Minister of Education, the rules for student loans, particularly the Canada Student Loan portion, seem to be different here from some of the provinces, in fact harsher here than in any other province. Is the Minister satisfied, given the current constitutional environment, that the rules laid down by the Committee here are, in fact, legal and constitutional according to the federally funded student assistance laws?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the Federal Government. I am not aware, though having looked at that sort of funding before, that Yukon students have been discriminated against. I can only think that Yukon offers a very good assistance program, as it is; perhaps that would enter into it — that they have a better chance than students elsewhere. I do not think so, though. That would be the only possibility that I could think of.

The entire student assistance program is going to be looked at, so all that will be taken into consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is just one point before recognizing the next questioner: questions asked in the Question Period really ought not to seek opinion; they ought to seek information.

**Question re: Yukon Development Corporation**

**Mr. Byblow:** I am sure mine does.

I have a question for the Government Leader on the subject

of a Yukon Development Corporation. In a speech to an audience in Calgary on March 16th, the Government Leader said that the concept of a development corporation, with a role of supplying infrastructures for industry, was receiving active consideration by his Government. Could the Government Leader make a little more public just exactly what he proposes when he speaks of a development corporation?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I have been very forward. I believe, with this Legislature, in telling them that we, as a Government, are trying to negotiate a situation with the Government of Canada with respect to the establishment of some sort of a heritage-type fund, for some of the taxes that will accrue to this Government when the pipeline is built.

Now, Mr. Speaker, inherent in that whole concept is the establishment of — for lack of another term, now, because I honestly do not know what it might be called at that point — an organization or a group or a fund called "Yukon Development Corporation", whose prime responsibility or duty, as I envisage it, would be that of fulfilling the government role in supplying infrastructure for development in the Territory.

**Mr. Byblow:** On the subject of the Development Corporation, and in his discussion with the Alberta Government, has the Government Leader indicated that he would be interested in obtaining loan money from the Alberta Heritage Fund?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some misunderstanding. I was not talking to the Alberta Government in that speech. I was the guest speaker, on request, at the University of Alberta, at the inauguration of their northern studies program. Now, Mr. Speaker, I was talking to the people of Alberta: specifically to students and faculty of the University of Alberta at Calgary. I was not talking with, nor negotiating with, the Alberta Government at all.

**Mr. Byblow:** On the same subject, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the Government Leader, then, if he has commissioned any formal study to investigate the creation of the corporation to utilize the funds that may accrue to us as he has described?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** No, Mr. Speaker, the Legislature would know automatically if we had done so. The first issue to be resolved is the one whereby we can reach some sort of an accord, some sort of agreement with the Government of Canada, with respect to whether we are going to be able to set aside, for the creation of this kind of a corporation, any of the taxation money that will accrue to this Government with the construction of the pipeline. Now, Mr. Speaker, if at some point in time we cannot reach that primary agreement with the Government of Canada, it is certainly no use going any further. So the first issue, the first hurdle to be overcome, is the agreement with respect to a heritage-type fund.

**Question re: Food Prices**

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, in the House yesterday, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs indicated that Kelly Douglas had, "made a fair number of commitments to people in the Yukon Territory". He also advised the House that he would make public any information available from Kelly Douglas. Would the Minister now advise the House as to the specific commitments given by Kelly Douglas, in their meeting with the Minister last week?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that information is in a press release.

**Mr. Veale:** I look forward to receiving that press release, and I was not aware of any specific detailing of the commitments as stated by the Minister.

There were also, Mr. Speaker, a number of questions that were asked of the Kelly Douglas officials. Will the Minister be making public the answers to those specific questions?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, it would be my intention to make as much information available to the public as I possibly can. I have indicated that to the President of Kelly Douglas.

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister has also conducted a number of price surveys in other communities in British Col-

umbia, I understand. Will the Minister also be making that available, and will the Minister give a commitment as to a date when this information will be given to the House?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I can give you some information today. I just learned about one community in northern British Columbia where there is, I think, a one cent differential on a quart of white milk, and none on a quart of chocolate. So, there are communities in northern British Columbia much in the same position as we are in in the Territory.

In respect to information of that kind, Mr. Speaker, it is collected through a process of surveys, and we make it available as soon as we can.

**Question re: Workers' Compensation**

**Mr. Penikett:** I have a question for the Minister responsible for Labour and the Workers' Compensation Board, and milk.

I was very happy recently to receive a copy of the administration policies of the Workers' Compensation Board, and I thank the Minister for his efforts in that regard. I would like to ask the Minister, though, when do we get the real stuff: namely the actual decisions of the Board, so that an applicant requesting compensation may know the precedents that are applied in their case when they present their claim?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I am just going on memory now, but I understand that the type of information the Member is requesting is forbidden through the legislation. I think it goes to the privacy of the individual, and I understand there has been a court case, I believe in one of the provinces, which is being appealed at the present time.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am not at liberty to say that we would be prepared to make that information available. I would be very reticent in respect to the personal situations that develop; each case is subjective, each case is different, because we are dealing with people who have been hurt while working, and their personal problems should be personal problems, not Mr. Penikett's as well, unless it is an affront that has been given.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am sure the Member would agree that, with respect to the information that we have made available, it goes along with the principle that we, as a party, have adopted; that is, to try to make as much information available to the public as possible.

**Mr. Penikett:** I congratulate the Minister once again for trying to take both sides on every question. In recognizing that the confidentiality and the privacy of the individuals involved and details about particular cases must be protected, I would like to ask the Minister, whether, as a matter of policy, his officials will undertake to examine, with the Workers' Compensation Board, the prospect of presenting and tabling in this House the collected indexed decisions of the Board — not the details of the case, but the decisions of the Board, so that in certain types of cases and of injuries, the applicants will know what the precedents are; because, surely the Board does not make its decisions as the Minister has suggested, on a subjective basis, but in accordance with objective criteria.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to make any commitment, to be frank about that. As I indicated, there was a decision made by the courts in one of the provinces, which is in the process of being appealed. We are observing that very closely.

**Mr. Penikett:** Given that the Board, following the previous refusal, has now undertaken to release their administrative decisions, would he at least undertake to discuss this possibility: of publishing their case decisions in the same way the courts do? Will he undertake to discuss that with the Board, at the earliest opportunity?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier there is an appeal in the court in respect to the information the Member is seeking. We are watching that very closely. Once the appeal has been heard and re-examined and a decision made, I will then discuss it with the Board.

**Question re: NCP/ Sub-committee Study**

**Mr. Byblow:** I have a question I will direct to the Govern-

ment Leader on the subject of the Northern Canada Power Commission. As the Government Leader is no doubt aware, a special Commons sub-committee has been given a mandate to examine the operations of NCP, and is expected to hold hearings here in the north. Has the Government Leader made any preliminary plans to present a brief to the committee?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, it will be our intention to appear.

**Mr. Byblow:** Can the Minister then indicate if there have been any recent discussions with officials of NCP, regarding the transfer of headquarters from Edmonton to either Whitehorse or Yellowknife?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Not recently, Mr. Speaker. I understand there was some discussion made public some time ago. I do not know what the final decision of the NCP and the Government of Canada has been in that respect, but as soon as I find out, Mr. Speaker — this being an open government — I will make the information available to him.

**Mr. Byblow:** Perhaps then, the Minister will be very open with me, and indicate if his Government has had any communications with NCP regarding the selection of a site for the development of a hydro project, in view of the fact that it has become public that NCP has been studying several sites on the Pelly River.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, there are a number of studies, to my knowledge, that are underway at various sites. To my knowledge there has been no choice made for a particular site, but once it comes to that stage of decision-making, it would be brought to our attention what the position of NCP was, and they would be looking to us for advice, I am sure. But, as I stated earlier, Mr. Speaker, this being an open Government, when those decisions are made I will inform the Member.

**Question re: Speech Therapist**

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Human Resources. Would the Minister confirm that this Government does not have a speech therapist in its employ at the present time, and indicate why?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** Mr. Speaker, we had a very excellent speech therapist. She has been offered an irresistible job elsewhere. We are presently advertising and we have many applicants. We will soon have the position filled.

**Mr. Veale:** Will the Minister give a commitment as to what date the Territory will once again have a speech therapist?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** No, Mr. Speaker, I will not.

**Mr. Veale:** Will the Minister make a commitment that there will be somebody to perform the speech therapy function for the Territory during the interim?

**Hon. Mrs. McCall:** I think, Mr. Speaker, that I can assure the Member that we have the situation well in hand.

**Question re: Employment/Local Hire**

**Mr. Penikett:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government Leader. Is the Government Leader aware that skilled and willing Yukon workers are sometimes unable to obtain work in Yukon, in cases where the company and the union involved are both based outside the Territory?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, regrettably I am aware of that situation.

**Mr. Penikett:** Is it then the Government Leader's intention to introduce reasonable local hire laws, to give Yukoners a fair chance for jobs in Yukon, or has he taken advice that would indicate that this may be impossible, as a result of the Mobility Clause in Trudeau's Constitution?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** No, Mr. Speaker. I believe, although I am not absolutely certain on this yet, and I am having it looked at now, that this Government has the capability to make laws with respect to local hire. The subject is one that is under a considerable amount of investigation by this Government, right at this time.

**Mr. Penikett:** I ask the Government Leader specifically if the Government has taken legal advice on the question of the Mobility Clause. Could I ask him specifically if that advice tells him that we are now not able to introduce local hire laws of the

kind he has indicated, and whether this Government has contemplated any legal challenge to the Mobility Clause, regarding the way it would affect this Government's ability to manage the economy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. A question seeking any matter of legal advice or any opinion of legal advice is not quite in order, I am afraid.

**Mr. Penikett:** With respect, Mr. Speaker, on a question of order, I am not asking for legal advice, I am asking if the Government has obtained it; it is a question of fact.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will permit an answer to the question, but I believe it is very borderline in this case.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, we have to be very careful, again, that we do not get confused between two things. Our concern with respect to the Mobility Clause in the Constitution rests virtually entirely, at this point in time, on the pipeline, and the terms and conditions that we would like the Northern Pipeline Agency to sign with the proponent. That is where we have the real problem, legally: with the Mobility Clause.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the problem enunciated by the Honourable Member is a different one; it is in relation to other workers. I answered, assuming that that is what he meant, and my answer still stands. We are actively looking at this time, at the problem that exists, for other people. It has no relationship to the Mobility Clause, to my knowledge, at the present time.

**Question re: Liquor Off-sales**

**Mrs. McGuire:** I have a requested question. It was to the Minister of Yukon Liquor Corporation, but since he is not here, I will direct it to the Government Leader.

Mr. Speaker, recently there was some concern by off-sale liquor outlet operators that their markup on beer and liquor of \$1.90 and \$1.50 respectively was insufficient; many operators, in fact, refuse to sell their refreshments as a form of protest. Could the Government Leader tell this House what decision Cabinet has taken on the request of a higher markup?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the question under advisement, because, unavoidably, the responsible Minister is not here today. I do know that that problem has been receiving some consideration. I am sorry I cannot answer definitively exactly what stage it is at.

**Question re: Yukon Economic Review Quarterly Report**

**Mr. Byblow:** I have a question I will direct to the Minister of Economic Development again. The new Yukon Economic Review Quarterly Report which made its first appearance last December 2 has yet to make a second appearance. Does the Minister know why it is not available?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I think it was just put on my desk the other day. It will be made available very soon.

**Mr. Byblow:** Are these economic reports normally approved by yourself before release?

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, if the Member reads the answer I tabled yesterday to a question from the Member from Whitehorse West, he will find the answer.

**Question re: Lobird Trailer Court Highway Sign**

**Mr. Penikett:** I wonder if I could put a question to the Government Leader which perhaps he could take as notice for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Last fall, the Minister of Municipal Affairs repeated a promise to me that had been made by a previous Minister last Spring that a turn sign would be installed at the Alaska Highway at the intersection with the road to Lobird Trailer Court. Several months later the sign is still not there, and I wonder if the Minister might report to the House on the case of the missing sign.

**Question re: Foothills Property Tax (Continued)**

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government Leader regarding the property taxes to be paid by Foothills. Will the Government Leader give a commitment that, once the monies that have been expended by the Territorial Government have been satisfied out of that payment, he will then negotiate to distribute the rest of the monies to the municipalities and communities along the pipeline route?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** There being no further questions, we will proceed on the Order Paper to Orders of the Day, under Government Motions.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

**Motion Number 1**

**Mr. Clerk:** Item Number 1, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Pearson.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the Honourable Government Leader prepared to deal with Item 1?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Economic Development, that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present you with the Government of Yukon's Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1982. This is the second Operation and Maintenance Budget prepared under the total control of the elected representatives of the people of Yukon, and represents one more example of the sound fiscal responsibility which is possible through a wholly elected government.

I wish to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to advise you and Members of this Assembly of the new presentation format, and of your Government's intention to introduce an *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance*, which will have to pass by March 31.

The *Interim Supply Ordinance* will allow one-twelfth of the total budget for the coming year for the on-going expenses of the Government. This measure will then permit Members of the Assembly to give their careful consideration of the total financial package, prior to final approval.

The new format of the budget package is the result of a request from your Public Accounts Committee, and of previous concerns of the Auditor General of Canada. This new format provides more narrative and statistical information, to enable all elected Members to focus on the Government's policy thrusts, and to understand the purpose of each program.

Your Government is hopeful that this approach will promote our accountability to the Legislative Assembly and to all Yukoners. I believe a measure of recognition should be extended to the Deputy Minister of Finance and to the Budget Director and their support staff, for the effort which has gone into producing this new format.

Mr. Speaker, in order to fully implement this responsible budget, you will be asked to consider a number of legislative initiatives, aside from the *Interim Supply Ordinance*.

Bills to be presented for your consideration will include amendments to the *Fuel and Tobacco Tax Ordinances*, and a *Financial Agreement Ordinance* with the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I promised this House some time ago that your Government did not intend to raise the rate of Territorial personal income tax during the first year; that we assumed the right to set the personal income tax rate by acquiring control from the Government of Canada. This budget demonstrates that I am a man of my word, and this pledge is intact.

Your Government has shown its fiscal responsibility by tabling a budget which is intended to provide a surplus of revenues over expenditures at the end of this fiscal year. This expected surplus of 700 thousand dollars will maintain our working capital at an adequate level for your Government to operate efficiently and meet unexpected situations that arise from time to time.

You may recall that when I addressed this Assembly a year ago, I had to announce that we were going into the fiscal year starting April the 1st, 1980, with an anticipated three million dollar deficit. Needless to say, all of us who played a part in producing this new budget are proud of the positive turn-



around in your Government's expenditures.

This operating and maintenance budget of 104.5 million dollars represents a 12.2 per cent increase over our 1980-81 forecast of actual Government expenditures. The total expenditures of the Government of Yukon will be 140.1 million dollars: an actual decrease of two per cent of the total funds your Government is forecasted to have spent during the fiscal year now ending.

This total includes the 25.6 million dollar capital budget approved last fall, five million dollars for loan amortization, and five million dollars for third party loan capital.

Many of the Government's expenditure increases are the result of economic forces outside our direct control. These factors include increasing energy costs and over-all inflationary costs for materials, supplies, and transportation.

Your Government's determination to properly administer the taxpayer's dollar will result in what is probably one of the smallest growth rates in the public sector of any jurisdiction in Canada. We have forecasted an increase of only 1.3 per cent over our 1980-81 level in the public service of the Territory.

In order to meet our ever-increasing costs, we have had to propose major changes in tobacco tax, fuel tax, health care premiums, and motor vehicle registrations, to increase our estimated recoveries by 16.2 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, the format and the contents of this budget package speak for themselves. Careful examination will show some dramatic statistical changes in the operations of some departments, caused by administrative efficiency in Government, cost-cutting measures, and as a result of a redirection of your Government's priorities.

The new budget package gives a detailed explanation of the spending programs of each department, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the examples.

Federal departments and branches were affected by reorganizations and transfers of responsibility. These include the Departments of Education, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Justice, Workers' Compensation, Health, Human Resources, and the Executive Council Office.

The Department of Education's Manpower Planning Branch was transferred to Consumer and Corporate Affairs to consolidate duties related to labour, worker safety, labour standards and inspections, and manpower planning.

The consolidation of the Departments of Health and Human Resources was completed during the year, and that department now truly reflects the responsibility of this Government in the delivery of health and social programs to our citizens.

We have taken three Government components which were under the administration of the Executive Council Office, and placed them under the direction of a new Intergovernmental Relations department. This new department will absorb the services and functions of the Intergovernmental Affairs Office, the Land Claims Secretariat, and the Pipeline Office.

We intend, Mr. Speaker, to establish an Ottawa Office to facilitate our dealings with the Federal Government. This new direction and mandate reflects our growing concern and involvement with events outside our jurisdiction and their impact on the daily lives of all Yukoners.

The input of the Intergovernmental Relations department will serve to ensure that internal policies, programs and activities of your Government reflect our priorities.

The new department will also assist in seeking modifications in federal policies which may have a detrimental effect on the Government of Yukon and our constituents; it will also monitor, assess, and analyze the decisions of other governments and political events in other jurisdictions, to determine their implications for the policies and programs of the Government of Yukon.

This new thrust by your Government is the result of our desire and goal of playing a vital and increasing role in the affairs of the nation, and of doing all within our power to ensure that Yukoners are involved in those affairs.

There are various percentage figures throughout the budget

which reflect the changes in estimated expenditures for the coming year, but there is one expenditure for which a percentage increase would have been difficult to produce on one page.

This Government is taking a positive step to ensure that proper, competent, adequate, and affordable day care services can be provided to parents who are required to use the centres.

Our proposal is not a direct grant to day care centres, nor is it an attempt by this Government to directly enter into the field of providing day care services. Details of our sliding scale proposal will be outlined later in the Session but, in brief, it is our intent to share the costs borne by parents in sending their children to the centres. We have determined that \$190,000 will be made available, and this figure represents the largest single expenditure towards the funding of day care centres in the history of Yukon.

This is the International Year of the Disabled, and your Government began efforts some time ago to improve the way of life for our physically, mentally, and emotionally handicapped citizens. The Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Health and Human Resources have been playing a growing role in this important field and our budget reflects this growing role.

It was determined that the handicapped would be better served by being given an opportunity to reside in their home community, instead of being shunted off to some institution in another jurisdiction. An important role played by persons within the community is that of providing a residence for individual handicapped persons. Our total budgetary allocation to permit more individuals to be housed in individual homes will rise by 245 per cent this year.

My Government's concern for the disabled was also demonstrated last fall when this House passed a Capital Budget which included a major contribution towards the eventual establishment of a new rehabilitation centre, and our continuing concern is reflected by increases in our financial assistance to the various programs designed to improve the lifestyle of the disabled.

The Health and Human Resources budget will also result in a 32 per cent increase in our Pioneer Utilities Grant program, to help our senior citizens offset the costs of maintaining their northern homes, and a ten per cent increase in our contributions towards the Child Development Centre. This contribution to the Child Development Centre is coupled with the financial assistance provided through programs of the Department of Education.

Another area of deep social concern to your Government is the field of alcohol and drug abuse, and its treatment and prevention. We have increased our budgetary efforts in this field and have increased the funds considered necessary to mount an effective prevention and education awareness program.

Our financial contributions to ensure that Crossroads remains a vibrant force in the field of alcohol treatment are reflected in the ten per cent increase in our contributing grant towards the operation of that important private organization.

Mr. Speaker, over the years many Yukoners have expressed a desire for your Government to take over the delivery of health services in the Territory. As most of us are aware, the taxpayers of Yukon foot the bill for health care delivery in our Territory, but the administrative control of that health care delivery rests with the federal Department of National Health and Welfare.

I am not here today, Mr. Speaker, to reopen the call for the transfer of health services to this Government; the federal government has put this question on hold, pending the outcome of Yukon Indian Land Claims settlement.

But what I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, is refer all Members of this House to the expenditures of our Department of Human Resources, and show where our involvement in the health delivery system does lie. A total of 1.2 million dollars goes towards the specific delivery of health services to resi-



dents around the Territory. This figure does not include our areas of involvement, such as speech therapist, the role of rehabilitation services, the funds for medical evacuation, nor the funds that go to help related costs of alcohol and drug abuse.

Your Government pays 70 per cent of the cost of maintaining the eleven health centres and four health stations around the Territory. These facilities are owned by the Government of Canada and operated by National Health and Welfare. On the average, our costs of maintaining federally operated health services will have risen 25.3 per cent this year.

Your Government has tried to hold costs in the delivery of health related services in which we have control, and we have tried to keep our expenditure increases to less than 20 per cent. But in the specific areas in which we have very little control, namely, general health programs administered by the Federal Government, our costs have risen in excess of 25 per cent.

I only wish to bring this point out as a demonstration of our ability to temper our fiscal responsibility in the interest of all taxpayers, while efficiently meeting our social responsibilities to those in medical need.

Mr. Speaker, one of the realities being faced by all jurisdictions in Canada today is the rising cost of providing good solid medical care and coverage to our citizens. The provision of medical care is one of the fastest increasing expenditures being faced by virtually all governments today, and Yukon is certainly no exception.

It is for this reason that we have had to amend and fiscally adjust the system of medicare premiums paid by Yukoners.

We have eliminated the three tier system for determining monthly premiums paid by families, couples, and single residents, in favour of a single rate for families and couples and a new rate for single people. The majority of residents will not be severely affected by our changes because of cost-shared arrangements contained within collective agreements with employers.

Effective April 1, families and couples will pay 25 dollars per month for their medicare premiums while single residents will be billed 18 dollars a month. The previous rate for couples was 12 dollars and 50 cents a month, while it was 14 dollars for families, and 6 dollars and 50 cents for singles. I would also stress that this is the first major re-assessment of medicare premiums since the plan was introduced nine years ago.

There have been several contributing factors leading to the need to increase medicare premiums, over and above the increasing costs of providing medical services. There have been changes in medical treatment toward more sophisticated and therefore more expensive methods of treatment, especially in the area of diagnostic services. A major area of change, which has affected every province and Territory, has been a virtual lid on the federal contributions towards the cost sharing of medicare services. The federal contributions have remained fairly stable over the past few years and the fiscal burden has shifted on the Territorial Government to meet the rising costs.

The Federal Government's strategy has been to shift a larger portion of the fiscal responsibility to the provinces and territories, because the Federal Government has acknowledged that the provinces and territories are in a better position to control these costs.

Another contributing factor to our need to increase the premiums has rested with the premiums presently charged. These less than adequate premiums, coupled with increasing pressures of relatively less federal contributions, have put our program into a deficit position, and our new premium fees are an attempt to balance our medicare accounts without placing a further taxation burden on Yukoners.

Yukoners know they no longer live in the isolated world of the past. Today's modern communications networks link us with the rest of the country and the world within a moment. The need to preserve our native heritage and link our young people with the cultural realities of this nation has prompted major increases in the language training programs of the Depart-

ment of Education.

Our contributions to the teaching and development of native language programs in Yukon will include a 229 per cent increase in the administration and instruction of the native language program. This involves a three-fold increase in our contribution to the Council for Yukon Indians, for the administration of the native language program.

The French immersion program will see a 154.8 per cent increase in estimated expenditures this year, while the overall administrative cost of the total French language programs is one of the highest increases in the Department of Education, at 23.2 per cent.

Some of the major spending changes by the Department of Education this year will go towards the introduction of Grade 12 in Haines Junction, and the use of resource corps funds in a training program which will eventually benefit Carmacks residents with the construction of a new community swimming pool.

We have also set aside funds to pilot an alternate education program for students not presently being accommodated in our existing education system, and we have established a new position within the department to develop and implement proposals arising out of the recommendations contained in the report dealing with career vocational needs in Yukon public schools.

Considerations towards adult and continuing education will proceed, with site development and planning for a possible Yukon College to be based in Whitehorse.

Last Session, this Legislature approved a new *Municipal Ordinance*, which recognized that the only way the communities could properly take advantage of the new system would be if the municipal funding program was revised as well. We tabled a green paper which outlined our proposed financial program to assist our communities, and I am pleased to be able to confirm that a new *Municipal Finance Ordinance* will be presented for your consideration during this Session. This new ordinance will strengthen the role of local governments, and ensure that they are capable of responding to the needs of residents, in those areas where services can most effectively be provided by the municipality instead of another level of government.

Rising costs outside the control of Government often cause us to re-examine our spending allocations and come up with new proposals. Recent events in Dawson City have more than reinforced this reality of northern life. The cost of electricity in Dawson has increased by 125 per cent, since the water and sewer system was designed. Your Government recognizes that the operation of that system would impose a great hardship on Dawson residents unless deficit financing was available to offset the operating costs of the system.

We have been able to achieve an agreement in principle with the City of Dawson that will provide for efficient operation of the water and sewer system for the next five years. Our involvement will include a 60 per cent increase in the amount of funds which your Government will provide, to help offset the Dawson water and sewer deficit. At the same time, this Government has acknowledged the City of Dawson's concerns that there should be an equitable means of charging all Yukoners for water and sewer services, and we are currently considering establishment of a universal monthly service charge.

Our concern for the financial health of our communities is also reflected in our increases of conditional and special grants, a major increase in our grant in lieu of tax to the City of Whitehorse, and significant increases in our financial contributions to local improvement districts.

The Government is continuing to convert property assessments throughout the balance of the Territory to the new formula adopted last year. The average increase in the property tax rate will be about nine per cent for the 1981 property taxation year.

Of note within our Department of Justice budget is a five per cent increase in our police services agreement with the Royal

Canadian Mounted Police. As all Members may recall, the Federal Government has requested a major change in the cost sharing of police services in the provinces and the territories. Our projected increase for this budget is based on the agreement being renewed on terms now in force. It is your Government's hope that the Federal proposals do not result in undue hardship to the taxpayers of Yukon, and your Government is aligned with the provinces in our opposition to the Federal Government's proposed increase.

Earlier this year, this Assembly passed a Capital Budget which will permit our Department of Library and Information Resources to obtain a computer system to bring about the automation of our library system during the coming fiscal year. This service is expected to vastly improve the public's access to books, publications, and other material.

The department is also expanding its services to libraries outside of Whitehorse and its financial contributions towards the operations of our rural libraries. Our budget allocations to assist the rural libraries will rise by 21 per cent and our direct financial contributions to community library boards will increase by 35 per cent. Some of these increases will be reflected in increases in special book collections for rural schools and additional Yukon information in small communities.

The Wildlife Branch of the Department of Renewable Resources is embarking on some major initiatives to improve the public's awareness and appreciation of our wildlife resources and at the same time ensure that improper pressure is not placed on this valuable resource.

The 38.9 per cent increase in expenditures in enforcement comes as a result of posting a new conservation officer in Old Crow and more efforts to improve the enforcement of game laws.

Improved laboratory facilities and the establishment of four lab related positions will improve our enforcement capabilities as well as our wildlife management procedures.

A four-fold increase in information and education programs to the general public will enable the production of a firearms safety, conservation and education instructors' manual and course, to enable persons to become familiar with the various aspects of firearms safety, hunting and the conservation of wildlife.

This major increase in expenditures will also be reflected in the preparation of publications, radio and press releases, and audio-visual presentations regarding wildlife conservation and management in Yukon.

Your Government's investments today to preserve our wildlife resource, and our continuing efforts to ensure that resource, will result in dividends which all of us can appreciate.

Our efforts to ensure that all residents of Yukon are aware of Government programs is reflected in a major change to the Information Services budget of the Public Affairs Branch within the Government Services Department. The major change has been implemented in order to ensure Government Services and programs are properly and adequately made known to the taxpaying public so that the programs may be used to their fullest potential. This desire by your Government to keep our constituents informed of our activities will result in a 50 per cent increase in expenditures of the branch and a 98 per cent increase in expenditures in information programs.

I do have what I hope is welcome news for all employers and employees who benefit as a result of our Workers' Compensation plan. The amount of compensation to employees receiving benefits under the plan has been increased 10.1 per cent for the calendar year, and this is in line with the annual change of the consumer price index. At the same time, I am pleased to tell this House that the Workers' Compensation Board has been able to hold the line on assessment rates for all but two classes of industry in the Territory.

The Board is also expanding its effort towards worker safety and awareness and will be providing better communications with Yukon employers, employees, and others, in the area of occupational health and safety.

The role of recruitment and training within the public service of the Government was given added emphasis during the past fiscal year and this new direction in our attempts to place Yukoners in Yukon jobs is reflected within the new budget of the Public Service Commission.

Our recruitment costs are anticipated to go up only marginally during the coming year, while we have more than doubled our efforts to rehire and train local residents. We have also introduced a new "underfill" hiring policy, on a one year experimental basis, to place new and existing employees into positions for which they may not be totally qualified. The intent of this program is to make training and in-service programs available until the person is fully qualified to assume their new duties. The new training budget is a part of that endeavour.

We anticipate that the demands for our employees to embark on upgrading and training programs will rise about 30 per cent, and will result in a greater utilization of our existing work force and a larger draw on our available work force outside the public service.

An important function of Government is the protection of the public interest, and one of the key roles played by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is in the protection of the individual and the public at large. This task is aided through the appointment of various public boards, which make recommendations to Government and which help in the formation of new policies and the implementation of existing policies.

Our total budgetary allocation to these boards is small when compared to other government activities, but their impact is far-reaching. Such an example is the Electric Public Utilities Board, which investigates the proposed rate increases of the Northern Canada Power Commission and the Yukon Electrical Company. The role of this Board is increasing, as energy costs become an increasingly important factor to our northern way of life.

The Transport Public Utilities Board also plays an important role in regulating the flow of truck traffic in and through the Territory.

Administrative funding for the eight public boards which operate under the legislation of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs truly reflects this Government's determination to ensure that the public interest is protected.

The Internal Audit Office of Government is an important service which reviews, evaluates, and reports on the adequacy of the Government's financial control systems and departmental compliance to these systems. This vital function of good responsible financial management has been dormant for some time, but was re-activated early in the 1980-81 fiscal year. This began with the recruitment of an Internal Auditor and then the further recruitment of a Chief Internal Auditor.

This is but one continuing indication of your Government's desire for sound financial management and proper fiscal responsibility, and is reflected in the increase in expenditures in the internal audit program.

The largest expenditure within your Government's Operation and Maintenance Budget lies with the important role played by the Department of Highways and Public Works. The most exciting development within the Department has been the change in road surface treatment and maintenance. This new oil surface treatment, known as a bituminous surface or "oil chip", will eventually replace the calcium chloride dust control program, and will significantly reduce our highway maintenance costs in the long term. The program gained momentum in 1978 and 1980, and some \$2 million has been set aside for this year's program, which will concentrate on the Alaska Highway in the Haines Junction-Destruction Bay sections and near Watson Lake.

It is planned to complete approximately 196 kilometers of this road surface treatment this year, and we expect that about 560 kilometers of the Alaska Highway's 961 kilometers in Yukon will have been paved or will have the bituminous surface treatment. It should be possible to have most of Yukon's

Alaska Highway surface treated within three years, if funding by the federal Department of Public Works continues at its current rate.

Two of our proposed revenue increases are within the direct control of individual Yukoners through the use of motive fuels and tobacco. The taxation rate on gasoline and diesel fuel will rise by one cent a litre as of April 1st, and this will bring our share of revenues to 4.2 cents a litre for gasoline and 5.2 cents a litre for diesel fuel. These rates are still among the lowest in Canada, when compared with the majority of provinces and the Federal Government's share of revenues.

Another expanded source of revenues, as most residents are now aware, has had to come by amending motor vehicle registration fees. Fees now paid by residents are on a par with most provinces, and we will also effect some cost savings by going to the "sticker system" instead of producing replacement plates each year.

At the start of the 1980-81 fiscal year, this House was informed of my Government's plans to implement a transportation study which would result in substantial cost savings. I am pleased to report the success of this endeavour. The move resulted in the establishment of a central transportation office to assume responsibilities for all transportation arrangements, including scheduled and charter air services, rental cars, pool vehicles, general freight, and chattel movements. Our total cost savings were over \$135,000.

We also saved an additional \$90,000 through the closing of our Vancouver information office during the fiscal year.

Missing from this year's budget is any allocation for the electrical rate equalization program. As you may recall I had the unfortunate task of informing the House a year ago that the funds for the program were due to expire during the fiscal year. We had to end this program with last November's billing, and we are now actively pursuing negotiations with Ottawa in an attempt to bring in a new financial package to alleviate the high electrical costs faced by Yukoners. At the same time it is our hope that the energy conservation programs of the Tourism and Economic Development Departments will aid in helping residential and business consumers in reducing their energy costs.

While it was not possible for us to re-activate the electric rate equalization program, it was possible for us to obtain and administer Federal funds to help bring in some relief for rural Yukon electrical consumers and small businesses.

The Federal power support program administered by the Department of Finance will equalize rural residential consumers to the same per kilowatt hour rate paid by Whitehorse customers, up to the first 700 kilowatt hours per month. This program, I am sure, is welcome news for all residential consumers outside Whitehorse. The program will also help cover the first 1,000 kilowatt hours used by small businesses outside of Whitehorse each month, and should go far in helping to reduce the monthly cost of living for residents in our smaller communities.

There are two areas where your Government is directly involved in helping to defray northern living costs for our senior citizens and homeowners. We will be continuing and increasing the level of financial assistance provided through our Pioneer Utility Grant and the Homeowner Grant Program. The Pioneer Utility Grant is designed to help our senior citizens maintain their own homes, by providing funds to help meet heating costs during the winter months. This grant will be increased to three hundred and sixty dollars per year per household, from its present level of \$300.

My Government recently made changes to the regulations under the *Homeowner's Grant Ordinance* to permit more persons to apply for the program, and we are proposing a change to the program to raise the maximum grant per homeowner to \$350 a year from \$300, so that Yukoners may offset some of the high costs of maintaining their homes in a northern environment.

Mr. Speaker, in order for your Government to meet inflation-

ary costs, expand existing services, introduce new programs, and meet the level of services demanded by our constituents, we have had to carefully examine the existing sources of revenue in order to meet our new and continuing commitments to the people. Almost all of us dislike taxation increases, but I am sure that everyone will agree that our proposals for additional revenues are not as severe as those faced by our friends in British Columbia, nor do our sources of revenue come close to the levels of taxation faced by residents of Quebec. Therefore, the price of a package of cigarettes sold in Yukon will rise by 20 cents to 25 cents, effective this coming Wednesday, April 1st. We propose to raise the rate of taxation on cigarettes from .6 cents per cigarette to 1.6 cents.

Mr. Speaker, I have presented to you the essence of what is a balanced budget, forged out of our determination to spend the taxpayers' dollar wisely for the benefit of the taxpayer. Many long hours have gone into the preparation of these estimates, and it is our hope that the people of Yukon will generally benefit over the coming fiscal year.

We have produced a budget which will serve to improve the lives of all who come in contact with this Government, whether it be through improvements to our health and social programs, our education endeavours, our cost-saving moves, our expanded information and awareness programs, better road maintenance, improved conservation measures in our energy consumption, better services in our rural communities, or additional efforts to reduce the impact of pressures on our northern cost of living. We have shown that fiscal restraint can be tempered with improved program priorities which benefit the people of Yukon.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Veale:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that debate be now adjourned.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that debate be now adjourned.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent of the House to return to Daily Routine, for the purpose of introducing the money bills.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Government Leader have unanimous consent?

**All Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Proceed.

## DAILY ROUTINE

### BILLS: INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health and Human Resources, that a bill entitled *Second Appropriation Ordinance (1981-82)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources, that a bill entitled *Second Appropriation Ordinance (1981-82)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Tourism and Economic Development, that a bill entitled *Loan Agreement Ordinance (1981) No. 1*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Economic Development, that a bill entitled *Loan Agreement Ordinance (1981) No. 1*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a bill entitled *Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1981*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Gov-

ernment Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a bill entitled *Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1981*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that a bill entitled *Third Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that a bill entitled *Third Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Tatchun, that a bill entitled *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Tatchun, that a bill entitled *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that a bill entitled *Municipal General Purposes Loan Ordinance, 1981* be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that a bill entitled *Municipal General Purposes Loan Ordinance, 1981* be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a bill entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Tobacco Tax Ordinance* be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that a bill entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Tobacco Tax Ordinance* be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse South Centre, that a bill entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Home Owners' Grant Ordinance* be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse South Centre, that a bill entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Home Owners' Grant Ordinance* be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that a bill entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Fuel Oil Tax Ordinance* be now introduced and read a first time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that a bill entitled *An Ordinance to Amend the Fuel Oil Tax Ordinance* be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent of the House to proceed with the second and third readings of the bill entitled *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Government Leader have unanimous consent?

**All Members:** Agreed.

**Bill Number 9: Second Reading**

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Economic Development, that Bill Number 9, *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance,*

1981-82 be now read a second time, and that pursuant to Standing Order 57 this Bill be ordered for third reading without consideration by Committee of the Whole.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Economic Development that Bill Number 9, *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82* be now read a second time, and that pursuant to Standing Order 57 this Bill be ordered for third reading without consideration by Committee of the Whole.

*Motion agreed to*

**Mr. Speaker:** Are copies of the bill available, Mr. Clerk? Perhaps we will stand by until a copy is made available.

**Bill Number 9: Third Reading**

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Economic Development, that Bill Number 9, *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82*, be now read a third time.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Economic Development, that Bill Number 9, *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82* be now read a third time.

*Motion agreed to*

**Mr. Speaker:** Are you prepared to adopt the title to the bill?

**Some Members:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Economic Development that Bill Number 9 do now pass and that the title be *Interim Supply and Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82*.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Economic Development, that Bill Number 9 do now pass and the title be *Interim Supply Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82*.

*Motion agreed to*

**Mr. Speaker:** I declare that Bill Number 9 has passed this House.

I would, at this time, advise the House that we are now prepared to receive the Commissioner, in his capacity as Lieutenant Governor, to give Assent to a certain bill which has passed this House.

**Mr. Commissioner enters the Chamber, announced by the Sergeant-At-Arms**

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Commissioner, may it please Your Honour, the Assembly has, at its present Session, passed a bill to which, in the name and on behalf of the Assembly, I respectfully request your Assent.

**Mr. Clerk:** *Interim Supply and Appropriation Ordinance 1981-82.*

**Mr. Commissioner:** I hereby Assent to the bill as enumerated by the Clerk.

May I also take this opportunity to thank this House for the words of congratulation expressed by various Members yesterday. Thank you very much.

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

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent of the House to waive Standing Order 27, and to now resume business under the order Address and Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Government Leader have unanimous consent?

**All Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will then return to business under Address and Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

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

**Mr. Clerk:** Adjourned debate; Mr. Byblow.

**Mr. Byblow:** I would like to introduce my remarks, Mr. Speaker, with an expression of sympathy to the Honourable Member from Teslin, who is recovering from a brief illness and should be rejoining us next week. I am sure the House will join with me in wishing Mr. Fleming a speedy return. It is also a lonely back bench here.

At the same time I would like to follow the lead of the Government Leader and extend another welcome to the Leader of the Opposition, and also express my regret at the resignation of the Member for Whitehorse South Centre. In particular I am sure that my colleague who is not with us today, Mr. Fleming, who spent the last six years in the Legislature with the Honourable Member for Whitehorse South Centre, would like me to extend on his behalf best wishes to the departing Member. And I too would like to extend to the Commissioner congratulations on his appointment.

Having the protocol out of the way, Mr. Speaker, I find it hard indeed to be responding to a Throne Speech shortly on the heels of a Budget Speech and I recognize I will be restricted in my references to the Budget Speech since it is in adjourned debate. However, with respect to the Throne Speech which we witnessed last Tuesday, I was struck with a number of impressions. Primarily, Mr. Speaker, I noted that this Government has finally recognized the importance of mining to the Territory, and is giving that industry a profile more in line with its importance.

I also noted, Mr. Speaker, that this Government continues to highlight capital projects that have been announced in the past, a couple of new ones, and I certainly hope they are not trying to further justify them.

I detect also, Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech, a lessening of the federal criticism in the areas of constitutional growth and fiscal assistance, and also distinct reference to the Federal programs of benefit to the Territory. Probably most notable as any Throne Speech can be expected to show, was the glowing account the Government gives of itself. Certainly this Throne Speech was no exception.

Mr. Speaker, it is very easy to capitalize on positive developments, to get on a band wagon and, by association, imply that one was responsible for all the good that took place. In some circles I suppose this would be called coincidence, in some circles it would be called political strategy, and in some circles it would be called good planning. But it is amazing, Mr. Speaker, and I almost feel as if I am repeating an argument I heard last night that, although for the better part of the last year we have had two major mining strikes and, up until last week, a transportation strike, yet we consider our economy relatively strong. Something is definitely supporting that economic base. I am glad, Mr. Speaker, that this Government saw worthy to recognize that support, and namely in the form of exploration of development in the Pelly and North Canol area and other areas of the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the most commendable exercise of this Government in the area of economic development is the creation of its Mineral Task Force. If ever a planning agency was needed, this is it. I expect that from this grouping of industry and government labour, we have the potential for a Yukon version of the Northern Minerals Advisory Committee: a policy direction body for legislation and firm control of resource development by government in harmony with industry, with labour, and in conjunction with the outcome of land claims.

Mr. Speaker, for two successive years, and now into the third, we have been awaiting the mining and mineral and energy position and policies of Government. Perhaps now, Mr. Speaker, we might be getting closer to some articulation of the course being taken.

Mr. Speaker, last night the House did not sit and, as you know, the majority of members attended a special presentation that highlighted present activities and future plans of the major mining interest in the Territory. We witnessed the Territory from an industry's point of view, and it is not hard to see

the common and prevalent notion that Government has always been expected to, and should, play a fundamental role in economic development.

We are going to be talking, Mr. Speaker, as the Throne speech did, about enhancing the quality of life. If we are going to expect employment and worker satisfaction, if we are going to want to encourage business and the entrepreneurial spirit, and if we are going to protect the rights of individuals, and if, somehow, basic services are going to be paid for, then this whole chicken-egg syndrome has to be discarded, and someone has to take an initiative to ensure that all of these factors are in place, looked after, and attended to.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech talked about the economic strengthening that took place in 1980. It talked about the scope of programs Government instituted, to encourage that strengthening. The fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that without the initiative, on its own, by the mining industry, and primarily the activity in the north and south-central Yukon, we would still be in a recession.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask, then, what really is Government doing, to ensure that they are serious about the economic and social well-being of the Territory?

You mentioned the Task Force. Very good. B-plus. A couple of botch-ups in setting it up, some refinements still to go, but basically an excellent planning tool. Infrastructure, just short of abysmal failure, Mr. Speaker.

The North Canol is opening up early; we have a ski chalet that was built, administration buildings going up, and that is fine, but what of those elements that are needed to ensure continuity? What of the power, the transportation, the utilities, the government services to the people — to the people — who become part of the development, who become the work force, the citizenry, the very people who this Government says it listens to?

Well, the Budget Address we heard this afternoon, and I hope the Speaker does not cut me off, made a number of references to elements of infrastructure that have over-riding Federal control, which is, no doubt, very frustrating. I can deeply share some sympathy when something is out of your hands, because it is just as frustrating for me to campaign on behalf of my constituents with a Whitehorse government that does not always seem to listen.

But, that is not the point. I would like to see a number of things done by this Government, where they take the initiative. I would like to see this Government fulfill the mandate of this House, and assume the NCPC Yukon Division, with the capital debt load eliminated, so that we can get on with the job at hand. I would hope that this Government takes the initiative more than it has and demonstrates its commitment to growth and development by injecting its capital where the injection will build something stable, something lasting, and would spin-off further growth.

You do not build frills, and you do not buy a dead horse. I wince every time I hear of another information booth, another marketing program, another facade on a building, and I continue to try to answer to my constituents who try to negotiate their six mile torture test each day, and we are undergoing almost daily power blackouts, and we are in a position of strained facilities throughout the town.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about the acquisition of responsible government. We talk about assuming more control of our own affairs, and in order to demonstrate that we are really capable of doing that, we must keep our own house in order. As I said once before, we must make sure our own backyard is adequately and responsibly tended.

This Government will get my full support in its campaign towards responsible government if it steps up its own efforts, in its own areas of jurisdiction, to look after its responsibilities to the Yukon populace.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but observe this seeming hypocrisy on at least one count. On the one hand, this Government chastizes the Federal Government for ignoring Yukon and



limiting its control and, at the same time, it ignores the cries and needs of at least one of its communities. But, I shan't be brutal, Mr. Speaker; I have made my case in this House before, and I am not going to flog that case. I honestly believe that this Government is listening to my community. That it has not done too much about it means, simply, that my constituents will have to wait a little longer for more budgets, and exercise patience.

Mr. Speaker, I made some very general comments. I would love to make an assessment of the budget, but there are several general observations that I would like to conclude with.

One point I wish to make is my belief that this Government ought to advance a closer communication with its junior governments and, as noted in the budget, that municipal aid must be made available, as promised. Further, the education to municipal governments on the ordinance we passed last fall has not taken place as promised, and there are a number of complaints surrounding the awareness of the details pertaining to the re-incorporation expected later this year.

This Government cannot afford to ignore its junior governments. It cannot afford to operate in any vacuum of decision-making when it is dealing with those municipalities.

Secondly, I believe this Government ought to take, as I have indicated earlier, a much more aggressive approach in mapping out its position towards the encouragement of growth and development. It must advance its case in the development of power and transportation. I believe it is imperative that railroad extension be committed in any assistance that this Government affords to White Pass. In fact, this Government ought to be planning 20 years from now, in terms of what that railroad is going to be doing to develop this Territory.

As I emphasized in the House a couple of years ago, I firmly believe in corridor resource development, and the activity taking place in the Pelly area through to the Mac Pass cannot be understated in its economic importance to Yukon. The planning required to bring that corridor on-stream in an orderly way, with the minimum of service duplication, is something this Government must think about very seriously. I hope that the partisanship of politics does not get in the way of sensible decision-making.

Even more importantly, Mr. Speaker, this Government must assess the services that it has in place, and build on them, to ensure that the quality of life and respect for people that they are talking about is adequately met, especially in the outlying areas. Very bluntly and specifically, respecting the Mac Pass development, the service base should logically emanate from the community that now has a basic infrastructure, and lends itself to expansion that would be needed to accommodate that area growth.

Even more bluntly, Mr. Speaker, and for the benefit particularly of the Member from Tatchun, you already have a bridge on the Pelly at Faro. I believe that immediate planning should take place to connect that access with the North Canal and onward.

It cannot be forgotten that the necessary services, not only to accommodate the present population, but the rapidly expanding projected ones, should be put in place. We should not have to go through what we have gone through in the past couple of years.

Another point, Mr. Speaker: I believe that this Government must step up its initiative in the area of vocational and trades training. As noted by a speaker yesterday, when the initiative is taken by industry to train Yukoners for skilled jobs, and Government procrastinates on those initiatives, it is time to make a re-assessment of your vocational goals. Since this House began sitting two years ago, we have emphasized the need for a shift, a different thrust in educational objectives, where the vocational aspect had to be addressed. And while this Government can be complimented for their long term approach through their vocational school concept, it is today, and yesterday and tomorrow that we have unemployed and unskilled people looking for work. Education is distinctly this

Government's purview, and the vocational aspect must have redoubled efforts to meet the growing need in the market place if we are really serious about jobs for Yukoners. Further, if we are to fully appreciate and protect the Yukon worker, then we need to capitalize on the efforts of the previous Legislature, act on the advice of labour representation, and revise some of those aspects of the outmoded legislation in labour standards.

Mr. Speaker, I have dealt primarily with the economic thrust of the Throne Speech. There are a number of other areas I will not address because they will be repeating themselves in the budget. They have been mentioned by previous speakers. I cite food prices, senior citizen aid and medicare. These are distinct areas that this Government can respond to. I will have to take closer note of the budget address delivered this afternoon to assess what approach this Government is taking, but it cannot shrug anything off, at all, as a Federal area of concern, a Federal area of control. You know, it seems to me that you have to continue a dialogue on an ongoing basis with the federal government.

At the same time you show responsible attention to the needs at home. You increase communication with your citizenry, and I believe that that will take the Territory further and faster towards the responsible government we are all seeking, than the hard and the inflexible positions steeped in partisan rigidity.

Mr. Speaker, 1980 has demonstrated what economic growth can do for the Territory. I hope that 1981 will demonstrate what this Government can do for the people of the Territory in a responsible delivery of services, of infrastructure, and an ensuring of stable growth, both economically and constitutionally.

Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the comments that have been made over the last two days about the Throne Speech; what was in it and what was not in it; I want to make a couple of comments. Yesterday it was stated, "The bulk of the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, dealt with something that one would read in the annual reports of Cyprus Anvil Mines, Cattermole, or United Keno Hill. The Government wishes to bask in the sunlight from those annual reports."

Mr. Speaker, this Government can take a lot of credit for the increased activity by industry in the Yukon Territory. We have a certain mandate. That mandate is in areas of direct social responsibilities — in some areas in respect to the economic structure of the Territory, primarily the infrastructure as it applies to transportation throughout the Territory.

I will give you a few examples, Mr. Speaker. You will recall, approximately one year ago, that the development in Cyprus Anvil Mine was in the developing stages and had not been approved. In the Spring of this past year they were approved, after we had tabled our Capital Budget, and this Government made available, within a week-and-a-half's notice that this major commitment was going to be made by industry, approximately \$2.2 million dollars so that we could go ahead and upgrade the infrastructure of that particular community.

Mr. Speaker, that was what I say in respect to supporting and assisting major commitments made by industry. There are other examples, Mr. Speaker, of where we have cooperated with industry; we recognize their commitment to the Territory; we recognize our responsibilities; we recognize people coming forward. Members of this House putting their points of view across, and we have managed to allocate finances for the forthcoming year for the upgrading of the Mount Free Gold Road in the Carmacks area. There is increased activity in that area and we are taking our responsibilities by ensuring that road is passable so that those people can contribute directly to the economy and hopefully to the GNP once those prospectors have their feasibility studies completed. Hopefully, a mine will develop.

Along with that, Mr. Speaker, for an example, this Government allocated finances, with perhaps some opposition from some Members, to the upgrading of placer roads in the Dawson

City area. We recognize the contribution that placer miners make directly and indirectly to the people of the Territory, and subsequently we made the decision to upgrade that particular stretch of road which was in bad need of it due to the increased loads in that particular area.

Also, Mr. Speaker, as you know, we have kept the Carcross/Skagway Road open over the course of this past winter so that Venus Mines can go into operation once they have finished building. Along with that, Mr. Speaker, if one recalls, we were able to react, as a Government, when we saw the situation that developed in Ross River between the local population and the mining prospects. We took it upon ourselves to fix the walkway bridge which gives the community access to the other side of the river.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that — and my colleague, the Minister of Highways and Public Works is not here — we have worked out an agreement with industry and those people who have prospects in the Mac Pass area are now in the process of transporting their goods to their perspective properties in the Mac Pass area. That was worked out with Government and industry working together which created jobs for the people of the Territory.

One area, Mr. Speaker, I noticed that no one has mentioned and I think I should bring it to peoples' attention is the obvious interest that is now being demonstrated by the management of the Dome Corporation in the Beaufort Sea. There has been a great deal of publicity in the last day or two and — Mr. Speaker, we did take criticism from the two parties for keeping the Dempster Highway open — it is primarily due to the fact that we have kept a transportation corridor open year round to become the supply link to the Inuvik/Beaufort Sea area.

In the course of this last year, it has been identified that over a million dollars has been spent in the Yukon, directly through the businesses of the Territory that are established in the Territory, and it is estimated, Mr. Speaker, that over the course of the next year, it will probably exceed well over 2 million dollars, depending on how things develop.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are just things that I want to raise, and that sometimes the Members of the Opposition have a tendency to forget: the things that we have done. We have taken initiatives on our own, as a Government, collectively as a Government, to meet these demands and needs that indirectly further the cause of people to invest in the Yukon, to create that investment climate, which in turn insures that there are jobs available, and opportunities available, for Yukoners to prosper.

Along with that, I think it is important to note that the Leader of the Opposition made some comments in respect to the decentralization of Government, and perhaps here, we could have had the Speech from the Throne go for another fifteen or twenty minutes, outlining in a very administrative way the various programs that have been developed, and are being developed, and how they are operating in the Territory.

I want to take a few minutes in respect to de-centralization. In listening to the small communities, medium size communities, and the large communities of the Territory, a number of accomplishments have been made, or are in the process of being made. For example, you have the Yukon native language program, which is being extended, and when you go through your budget you will see that there is a major commitment by this Government in this particular area. One of the major accomplishments, by my colleague as well as by her predecessor, is the expansion of the grade levels in schools throughout the Territory. Namely, as indicated earlier today, Haines Junction will be getting Grade 12 this year. We had an extension in Carcross over the course of this last year, as well as Teslin, and it is the policy of this Government to provide that for the various communities, wherever possible.

I should also point out, Mr. Speaker, that this Government took the initiative, and eliminated the TV charge. Of course that is not good enough for the Opposition. They do not discuss it, they just pass it and say well, that is okay, we will sweep that

under the rug. But it was a major obligation, especially by the small communities. Through the efforts of Members on this side of the House, we managed to look at it and said, for equality throughout the Territory, we are going to do away with it; which we did. Now it does not sound like much, but when you have associations in a small community requiring one thousand dollars, if not more, to be raised for the TV service, it is a major undertaking.

This Government was the one that rectified that particular situation. Along with that, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note there have been major changes in the area of renewable resources over the course of the past year, and more changes forthcoming. With respect to our responsibilities in the northern Yukon, we have indicated that we are going to become more directly involved with the management of that area, with the stationing of a conservation officer in Old Crow, as well as liaising with the Dawson City area.

I think it is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that we have four operating districts for the Parks and Historic Resources Branch of the program, and we have permanent supervisors in communities such as Haines Junction. We have also managed, through the resources of our Government and working within our financial limitations, a major headquarters in the Dawson City area, by recognizing the pressure that has been put on by the number of people going into that area in the summertime, and we now have two officers in that particular area.

I will just give you an example with respect to the area of human resources. There is the relocation of workers to Teslin and Haines Junction in our programs. There is a conscious decision by this Government, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we attempt to get programs to all communities in the Territory for on-the-job training of local people, such as the heavy equipment operators' course that was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

Another one is in the area of Justice where, through the work of my colleagues, the local people are trained to provide probation services. This just gives you an example, Mr. Speaker, of what is happening, perhaps not as quickly as some members would like, but it is happening. Local people are taking advantage of educational programs that are being presented by this Government, and they are prospering by it, and they are becoming, in most cases, employees of this Government where job openings are available.

Another example, Mr. Speaker, when I think about it, concerns my colleague from Mayo. Over the course of this year there will be an administration building constructed putting all collective areas of government into one central building, which will not only serve the people of Mayo, but also the people who come through Mayo involved in industry, as well as the mining community of Elsa.

I think these things indicate, Mr. Speaker, that decentralization is happening in this Government. There is no question of that. It is happening in a very reasonable and well-planned manner. We are working within the complement of man-years that we have, and it is benefiting communities throughout the Territory.

Mr. Speaker, I have to refer to a statement that was made earlier regarding Whitehorse versus one community or whatever. That is not the philosophy of this Government, and we do not want to see that type of philosophy, perhaps for personal political reasons, being used by Members of the Opposition to try to set up one community against another. Every community has its unique problems. The Throne Speech mentioned the situation that has developed in Dawson City, the energy crisis or whatever. We have to deal with the water and sewer situation, and it looks as if, with the cooperation of the City Council, we will be able to enter into a long-term agreement with respect to the situation that has developed.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note — I find this hard to believe — in looking at the *Hansard*, the Liberal party appears to be taking the attitude that the community of Watson Lake does not deserve a tourism information centre.



Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Member is new, and I feel that I should inform him of what has taken place over the last number of years. This has been worked out over the last two or three years with the elected members of that particular community, which is the community which Mr. Speaker represents. It has been worked out with them and we intend to go ahead with it.

He refers to this money and says, "Oh, no, it can go into a sewage lagoon." Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the Honourable Member that he had better learn how the cost-sharing arrangements and the financial arrangements work with the Government of Canada. I would like to be the first one to hear how you could justify putting the Tourist Subsidiary Agreement money into a sewage lagoon.

Along with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make another point in respect to the sewage lagoon. One of the major problems in going ahead with it was the Federal regulatory bodies that are presently in place. What they expected from this Government was in the multi-millions of dollars, which we do not have available. Hopefully we can resolve it over the course of this spring, and something can begin to be installed there, because we are fully aware — and believe me, Mr. Speaker brings it to our attention on a regular basis — of the problems that are being created in that particular community; and not just that community, but also the community that the colleague of the Leader of the Opposition represents: Haines Junction.

Mr. Speaker, I want to get down a little further to what really concerns me, and that is the philosophy of the Liberal party, or the lack thereof. I guess that depends on the reader.

Mr. Speaker, the first motion we heard in this sitting was: we are going to have a public inquiry into the area of food pricing. Of course, Mr. Speaker, to date, nobody has said what the cost would be of such an exercise. I am sure that we are probably looking in the area of \$100,000 to \$200,000. But, Mr. Speaker, I expect to see another resolution, which I understand his party has agreed to, requesting another public inquiry.

So, let us see. That is one inquiry; we have got another public inquiry into the possibilities of the development of the Adanac property and how it relates to Yukon. So, that is two public inquiries, Mr. Speaker: so that is two halls; that is a minimum of two lawyers; then we have interveners; and then we have the various bodies being represented; so now we are into, I would say, probably with two inquiries, up to 10, to 15, maybe 20 lawyers. I am not speaking disparagingly of the legal profession, Mr. Speaker, but these are the facts of life when we get into public inquiries.

Now, as a taxpayer, of course, I will bear this burden that the Member is going to recommend to us, if we agree to it, and, along with feeding my family and the people of Yukon feeding theirs, we will be blessed with putting a great deal of money forward, through our taxpayers' dollars, for an inquiry which the Member indicates in his speech is going to give us relief. It states an inquiry will give us relief to food prices and perhaps relate to any other area he wants to enquire into.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it would be my position in looking at it that I think we should scrutinize a subject of that nature very very closely, because we are not talking about a couple of thousand dollars, we are talking hundreds of thousands of dollars, and I think the public should be aware of it. When you philosophical talk about a public inquiry, — and I can recall prior to my being in politics when they said "inquiry", so, okay, inquiry — people do not recognize what the costs are, and then they pay for it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just caution the Member opposite, and am trying to give him some advice, that if he does not scrutinize these things a little bit more closely he may well be nicknamed "Mr. Inquiry".

Mr. Speaker, there is one other comment that I would like to make, and that is with respect to the comments that were made yesterday by the Member for Kluane. I want to take exception, and I am doing this in respect to a former colleague of mine

who — I hope it was a mistake made in the *Hansard* — and that was with regard to the former Minister of Local Government for the Territory. Prior to her referring to the Northern Pipeline Agency, she referred to the non-partisan appointment that was made to PetroCanada, and to the fact that politics should not enter into our discussions with that particular government-subsidized corporation. That is fine, I do not disagree with that, Mr. Speaker. We should be cooperating and consulting wherever we can agree certain things can be done.

Further on, she goes on and, indirectly in my opinion, discredits a former colleague of mine who, in fairness to him, put in 20 years in the public arena, and was elected many, many times. He is now working very hard with the Northern Pipeline Agency, and doing everything he could possibly do with respect to bringing Yukon's case forward to the Government of Canada.

I know, from experience and discussions with him, what is going on. I want to correct, for the record, — and let us get this straight right here and now — the terms and conditions of this pipeline are a Federal responsibility. The Government of the Yukon Territory has done everything it possibly can to ensure that they are correct and proper, as the Northern Pipeline Agency has, and Foothills Pipeline has, in most areas. Those terms and conditions are now on the desk of the Minister, Bud Olson, awaiting signature. They are no other place. Now, the secretary might have them, or the executive assistant, or the executive to the executive assistant, but the point is that it is the Government of Canada that has to sign them, and we know full well why they are not being signed. The Government Leader has indicated it here in the previous Session, and I think I indicated it during one of the Question Periods as we began Session.

To indicate that there are people within the Northern Pipeline Agency, and referring to one individual in particular, — and I hope that was not the reason she did that, and I do not believe it was done in good taste — I personally want to make the point for the record that I know the individual in question is standing up on behalf of Yukon wherever he has to, in respect to the people of the Territory, and doing everything he possibly can to protect the interests of Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by saying that I believe that the Throne Speech indicates the interest and the real concerns that we have for the people in the Territory, and the responsibilities that we feel on their behalf. We are doing everything we possibly can, within the financial limitations that we are subjected to, to become involved in the areas of economic development, renewable resources, and human resources. If one takes a look at what has happened over the course of the last two years, I think it is fair to say that the job has been pretty well done, and we are looking forward to the forthcoming year. Thank you.

**Mr. Penikett:** I cannot tell for sure whether the Member is sitting down yet, Mr. Speaker, but I wonder, before he resumes his seat, if he would permit a question?

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

**Mr. Penikett:** Okay, apparently he enjoys one-sided conversations, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Member for Mayo, that the debate be adjourned.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse West, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that debate be now adjourned.

*Motion agreed to*

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

**Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo that we do now call it 5:30.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mayo, that we do now call it 5:30.

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 3:47 o'clock p.m.*

**The following Sessional Papers were tabled March 26, 1981:**

**81-4-3**

**Report on Regulations:  
September 17, 1980 - March 2, 1981**

**81-4-4**

**Report on a Proposed Agricultural Policy of the Yukon Territory**

