The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 3 1st Session 25th Legislature

HANSARD

Wednesday, July 14 — 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor
Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Donald Taylor, MLA, Watson Lake
DEPUTY SPEAKER — Andy Philipsen, MLA, Whitehorse Porter Creek West

CABINET MINISTERS

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

We will proceed at this time with Prayers.

Prayers

Hon. Mr. Lang: I rise on what I believe to be a very serious prima facie Point of Privilege. Yesterday, the Member for Campbell raised the following questions in the House, and I quote from Hansard on page 8. The first question was as follows, "I would like to address my question to the Government Leader. On June 8th, immediately following the election, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs was quoted as saying, 'The only thing the Indian people of Yukon are interested in were 'freebies'.' Given the fact that many Indian people of the Yukon pay their own way in society. I would like to ask the Government Leader if this remark represents the view of this Government?"

The second question, which is on page 9 and 10 of Hansard, was as follows, "It has come to my attention the CBC does have a tape. It contains the Minister of Community and Municipal Affairs stating that the Indian people were only interested in 'freebies'. In light of this fact, I would like to ask the Government Leader if the Minister's remarks represent the views of this Government?"

Both myself and the Government Leader spoke on the matter that was raised, stating that it was an inaccurate quote to a question that had been put to me on the evening of the election and, further, the Honourable Mr. Pearson stated that he was very disappointed about the line of questioning that the Honourable Member for Campbell was pursuing.

I recognize that you cannot look into the question of what was said or allegedly said out of this House, however I believe the most damaging remarks of the Member for Campbell were, and I quote as follows, "I did not ask the Government Leader as to who he had respect for or whatever. I asked him about comments made by a Minister of his. As a second supplementary, I would like to ask: would the Government Leader state categorically that the statements made by the Minister were personal, racist propaganda and not supported by this Government?" The damaging allegations from my point of view in his questions were as follow: "the statements made by the Minister were personal, racist propaganda." Since the Honourable Member raised the question, CBC was contacted and requested to check the tape that the Honourable Member referred to and which I understand they did. Their news broadcast at 7:30 a.m. this morning contained the following statement, which I would like to take the liberty of quoting verbatim: "Mr. Porter suggested Mr. Lang made his remarks in an interview broadcast on the CBC. In fact, what Mr. Lang said in the interview was that Canadians in general should stop looking for freebies. He did not refer to any specific group of Canadians."

I want to say to the House that I did not make the statement to CBC allegedly made by the Member from Campbell, as substantiated by the broadcast this morning. In fact I am very disappointed that he raised this divisive type of questioning in the realm of this Legislature. Further, I would like to express my intention of making the Government Leader state categorically that the statements made by the Minister were personal, racist propaganda and not supported by this Government."

Insulting, cruel remarks the Member has made about other groups, both inside this House, and outside this House, that he should demand from anybody an apology from anything anyone else has said here.

I do not propose to go into some of the things that were said, and advertised, and broadcast, during the recent election campaign, because it is not your part to discuss any of those. Some of the things said in that campaign were unforgivable, have not been forgotten by Members on this side of the House, and will not be forgotten by Members on this side of the House. To suggest that any apology is warranted by a leading Member of the Indian community in this Territory for remarks made by this Member inside or outside the House is almost ludicrous.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further discussion on the Point of Privilege as raised by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs?

I have had the opportunity, this morning, to review the Hansard of yesterday and I must point out that, in respect to the statement made by the Honourable Member for Campbell. I find it difficult to find a case of prima facie privilege.

I would refer Members to Annotation 232 of Beauchene, "unparliamentary words may be brought to the attention of the House, either by the Speaker or by any Member. When the question is raised by a Member, it must be raised as a point of order, and not as a question of privilege. The proper time to raise such a point of order is when the words are used, and not afterwards."

Yesterday, having been my first day of being honoured as your colleague to administer the rules which you have set down for the conduct of yourselves, I felt, in the interest of the House, it would be best to offer at least some latitude in the Question Period, both in the interest of harmony and in the interest of the newer Members who, I am sure, would like to become acquainted with the rules, procedures, privileges and, perhaps, the general conduct of Members.

I had felt, having reviewed the question as raised by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, that the whole matter had in fact been dealt with in the reply of that Honourable Member to the Honourable Member for Campbell. However, it is clear to the Chair that there is, in fact, and inference — perhaps not intended in the same manner as given, perhaps so, that is not for the Chair to decide — and the offensive words were, "personal, racist propaganda," as intended to apply to another Honourable Member of the House.

I think that the matter could thus be resolved, if, as I am sure, the Honourable Member from Campbell did not intend, perhaps in the heat of debate, to intend those words or impute the motives against the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, I would think that the matter could be quickly resolved if the Honourable Member for Campbell were to withdraw the offending words, "personal, racist propaganda," as hopefully not inferred against the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Mr. Porter: On the sound advice issued from the Speaker's Chair in respect to this matter, I would like to inform this House that I would, at this point, like to withdraw those specific remarks of, "racist, personal propaganda," as to directly mean the Member opposite.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair then will consider at this point the matter is now closed. May we proceed to the Order Paper.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Speaker: Are there any tabling or returns of documents?

Reports of Committee?

Petitions?

Reading and receiving of petitions?

Introduction of bills?
Notices of motion for the production of papers?
Notices of motion?
Are there any statements by Ministers?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Firth: I have some information on a Special Employment Assistance Program for students that I wish to pass on to the Honourable Members. The Special Employment Assistance Program, designed to create summer jobs for Yukon students, has had resounding response from private industry, community organizations, Indian bands, Local Improvement Districts, the City of Whitehorse, as well as from all our outlying communities, ranging from Old Crow to Watson Lake.

To stimulate the economy, in support of Yukon students, $200,000 was identified. As of today, I am pleased to report to this House that the full amount has now been committed.

Whitehorse supporters of the program have created jobs enabling almost 100 students to be employed, with approximately $120,000 aiding the salaries of these students. Our outlying communities are to be applauded as well for their initiatives in developing work opportunities for some 50 students, and qualifying for approximately 40 percent or $80,000 of the total available funds. We are pleased with the positive supportive way businesses, associations and non-profit organizations have taken such a keen interest in this program, developing work opportunities that may not have existed for our Yukon students if this program had not been made available.

Mr. Byblow: I would like to applaud the Minister for her maiden Ministerial address, and certainly on the content of that delivery. Certainly, the program the Minister described was no doubt a welcome opportunity in the form of assistance for students and employers in the Territory. At a time when each dollar means a lot, in spite of being worth less almost everyday, any economic stimulus is a valuable aid. It would leave me with perhaps a small regret that more money was not available, and that only 100 students benefited. However, for the satisfaction of actually seeing this Government committed to job creation I have no hesitancy in complimenting their efforts, be they to any extent.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Statements by Ministers? This then brings us to the Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Yukon Dogsled Adventures — assistance application

Mr. Penikett: I have a question for the Minister of Tourism. Has the Minister’s department received an application for financial assistance from a company called Yukon Dogsled Adventures and has a decision been made on the application?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Yes, we have received an application from Yukon Dogsled Adventures and no, we have not made a decision.

Mr. Penikett: Has the Minister received any reports to the effect that the operator of this company is building a log cabin camp at Coghlan Lake using labour imported from West Germany?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: No, I have not.

Mr. Penikett: Supplementary to the Government Leader. Since I am advised that these young German workers are attracted here by advertisements in German publications for, “working holidays in Canada,” will the Government Leader investigate this situation and advise both the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration that while Yukon welcomes foreign visitors, all available jobs ought to be offered to local people first, as well as having his Labour Standards people look into the situation?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I would be most pleased to investigate it and will do so immediately. It brings to mind a similar type of scheme that operated in this Territory in the early 1970s, particularly from the United States. At that time, the Government of Yukon took an active participation in what was going on and we shall do so again.

Question re: White Pass Railroad — Skagway Road

Mr. Byblow: I have a question I will direct to the Government Leader.

It surrounds the future of the White Pass Railroad and I draw reference to the appeal from Cyprus Anvil to truck their concentrate to the tidewater. I would like to ask whether it is this Government’s commitment to the position that rail service must be maintained to Yukon regardless of whether the Skagway Road is re-opened year-round?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: We, as a Government, have a commitment to keep that railway open. It has been our policy all along that that railway performs an integral function in the economic development of this Territory, both now and in the future. Even more so now because we, along with the Federal Government, have lent the White Pass-Yukon route money to make sure that they could stay in operation over what was a very rough period for them.

Those kinds of things make us vitally interested in making sure that that railway continues to operate. The new factor of Cyprus Anvil now being in economic straits has added another element to the whole picture and that will have to be assessed along with our commitment both to and from the White Pass and Yukon Route. I cannot make a definitive statement, at this point in time, as to exactly what might happen, but the Honourable Members should be aware that we still have a definite interest in making sure that that railway continues to operate.

Mr. Byblow: During the time that an agreement was reached last year, whereby the money was loaned to the White Pass Railway, was there full consultation with Cyprus Anvil respecting the economics of that route for transportation?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes. I am confident that the Honourable Member is quite aware of the long, protracted negotiations that took place in respect to whether or not the White Pass and Yukon railway was going to continue in operation. It was a decision of the Federal Government, through their regulatory agency, that that should happen. There were also long and protracted negotiations with Cyprus Anvil Mines in respect to what they might have to pay as a compensatory rate in order to have their ore hauled from Whitehorse to Skagway by rail.

Mr. Byblow: Continuing that line of questioning, I would like to ask whether or not this Government did any cost analysis of road versus rail transport at the time of advancing last year’s loan to the rail company?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: These cost analyses were done some three years ago by White Pass, Cyprus Anvil Mines and the Canadian Government. We, in Yukon, did not do a cost analysis. There were three of them we were presented with, two of them, for sure. I know were tabled in this House.

Question re: Landlord and Tenant Act

Mr. Kimmerly: A question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. On the last day of the 24th Legislature, literally in the last moments of the Legislature, the then Minister introduced the Landlord and Tenant Bill. Since the Bill is already prepared, when will the new Minister be introducing it?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: In answer to the question, we plan to table it this fall.

Mr. Kimmerly: Given the premise made last March to bring in this Bill, can the Minister explain why the department has not yet fulfilled this commitment?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: We had an election.

Mr. Speaker: I think the question should not properly be asked of one session to another session.

Mr. Kimmerly: When the Bill is introduced in the fall, will the Minister make a commitment to submit the Bill to a Select Committee process to allow public input?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: No, it will not.

Question re: ARDA Agreement — YTG signing

Mr. Porter: I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. Given the current economic situation and given that Special ARDA is an equity pool, would the Government Leader inform this House as to when he plans to sign an extended ARDA agreement with the Federal Government?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am sorry that the Honourable Member did
not give me notice of that question because I could have probably
gotten some sort of a definitive answer for today. At this point, I am in
no position to attempt to answer that question.

Mr. Porter: If I knew that the Government did not have the
answer at this particular time, I would have issued the notice required.
It could be taken into consideration as well that we would also like to
know whether or not the Yukon Government has allocated the neces-
sary dollar resources to meet its commitment within the agreement?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, not only have we allocated it, but I
believe that we have virtually spent all of the money we had voted for
this year.

Question re: Family Court Judges — appointment of Justices of
the Peace

Mrs. Joe: I have a question for the Minister responsible for
Justice. More than a year ago the Territorial Court made application to
that department for the appointment of some Justices of the Peace as
Family Court judges. Can the Minister tell us if it is still the intention
of the Government to make these much-needed appointments?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: They are being made.

Mrs. Joe: Many family court matters have to be acted upon as
quickly as possible, such as in the best interests of a child, and in the
outlying communities this is impossible because of the absence of a
Family Court judge. Can the Minister tell us if these appointments can be
made with the same efficiency as was the appointment of Mary
McCullough, that is, without all the red tape?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I have signed a few. So far they are being
made.

Mrs. Joe: Can we expect this Minister to deal more quickly with
Territorial Court matters than has been done in the past?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I am not sure.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions?

Question re: Skagway Road upgrading

Mr. McDonald: My question is directed to the Minister responsi-
ble for Highways. In light of the request by Cyprus Anvil to have the
Skagway road upgraded to handle year round truck traffic, has the
Government discussed this request, and have they developed an offi-
cial reaction or position?

Hon. Mr. Lang: There has been some preliminary discussion, but
there has been no official response to the request that has been put
forward by Cyprus Anvil. For the Member’s edification there is an
alternative as far as trucking is concerned and that is to Haines, and
that is in the present agreement signed between the Government of
Canada and Cyprus Anvil.

Mr. McDonald: In the event the Skagway road is opened for year
round industrial truck traffic, has the Government discussed with the
Federal Government discontinuing maintenance for the Haines road?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The Member, in his question, made the assump-
tion that it was going to be opened. First of all, that decision has not
been made. If that decision were to be made then that line of discussion
would take place.

Question re: Northland Trailer Park

Mr. Penikett: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and
Corporate Affairs. Is the Minister’s department aware of the proposal
being made by Braddahead Development Corporation to convert
Northland Trailer Park into a condominium or strata-title operation,
and if so, does the department approve of the change?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: No, I am not aware of it.

Mr. Penikett: Given that the Northland Park tenants have not
received the services that they were originally promised by the de-
veloper, nor the changes to the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, and
given that these people face stall rental increases of about 80 percent in
little more than a year, what exactly is the Minister’s department
prepared to do to protect the interests of tenants who do not wish to buy
strata-title lots?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I will take the question under advisement.

Mr. Penikett: Perhaps the Minister would care to take the next
question under advisement, too.

The monthly payment for these strata-title lots will be $213 as of
next year, the same amount. I would point out, as the rent, which
means tenants are, in effect, given no choice about this even though
their collective investment in the park exceeds that of the other de-
veloper.

I would ask the Minister if he could find out for me specifically what
is being done to protect the interests of the mobile home owners in that
park?

Question re: Education — budget cuts

Mr. Byblow: I have an easy question for the Minister of Educa-

Hon. Mr. Tracey: As I told the Member yesterday, we are doing a
complete reassessment of social assistance in my department. We are
bringing out a Yukon opportunity plan which is going to make the
giving out of social assistance much easier in some respects and
perhaps harder in others. The plan will deal the placement and referral
for jobs throughout the Territory in cooperation with Canada Man-
power. I am hopeful that we will be able to get some of the people who
are available for work out to work, and for the rest of the people we will
look at what level we can afford to give them assistance.

Mr. Kimmerly: The Minister spoke yesterday about a re-
evaluation. Can the Minister state whether or not the food costs
allowances are being re-evaluated, and specifically, will food costs be
increased above the six percent projected level?

Mr. Tracey: I cannot speak right off the top of my head, as
to whether we are going to increase the amount available for food
costs, but certainly, as I stated, we are evaluating the complete social
assistance. We are looking for alternatives to get some of those people
back to work, on the job somewhere, so that they are not on our social
assistance roles, and at that time we are hopeful that we will be able to
look after the rest of them in a little better manner than we have been
able to do.

As for the increase in food costs alone, I cannot say at this moment
whether we are going to increase it above the six percent or not.

Mr. Kimmerly: Speaking about the alternatives, can the Minister
now say if participation in the Job Corps program and the Yukon
Opportunities plan are now at their projected levels?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I would have to take that question under advisement. I could not answer that right off the top of my head at this time. What we are looking at is alternatives to social assistance. We are hopeful that we can put some people in training and others, in cooperation with Canada Manpower, out to work. About 80 percent of the people right now who are drawing social assistance are capable and available for work, so we are hopeful that we will be able to get some of them out to work.

Question re: Education — Swift River

Mr. Porter: On the point of quality of education, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Education. Yesterday I pointed out that the community of Swift River was without adequate educational facilities, and that the children that were being educated in Swift River were being done so by correspondence. Can the Minister tell the House as to exactly what is going to be done about this situation?

Mrs. Firth: I will take that question under advisement.

Mr. Porter: In my reply to the Throne Speech yesterday, I also brought up the fact that there is a greater deal of alcohol abuse in the communities of Ross River and Upper Liard. I would like to at this time ask the Minister responsible for Yukon Human Resources: to what extent is he aware of the problem, and what is the Government going to do about combating the problem?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I am aware of the problem. I am not aware of the details of the problem, but certainly everybody in the Territory is aware of the alcohol problem in the Territory. In conjunction with the Minister who is responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation, I hope that we will be able to come up with some alternatives for these people.

Mr. Porter: Yesterday, in my reply to the Throne Speech, I also invited the Government Leader to participate in meeting with me in the communities in my riding to view first-hand the effects of alcoholism. Is the Government Leader prepared to do so?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I have a responsibility as Government Leader to be in the communities, and no one can accuse me of ever shirking those duties. I have been accused by the other side, on occasion, of doing too much travelling. I will be in the communities, the Honourable Member can be well assured of that. I would like to say, though, while I am on my feet, maybe in reply to his previous question as well, that I am well aware of the problem. I was made well aware of the problem by our Board as a result of the hearings that were held, both in Liard and Ross River, and we have been, for some months now, actively looking for what we can consider to be viable alternatives and real solutions to this very real problem. I want to assure the Honourable Member that we are aware of the problem.

Question re: Relocation of Kwanlin Dun Band

Mrs. Joe: I have a question for the Government Leader.

Since 1969, the Kwanlin Dun Band has had a project underway to relocate the Band across the river. Can the Government Leader tell us why the transfer is taking so long?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: There have been a number of meetings over the course of the last few years in respect to this proposed move. This Government has unreservedly supported that move ever since the day it was suggested and we have done, I believe, everything that we can to facilitate it. The fact of the matter is that what is now required is a fiscal commitment on the part of the Federal Government — and I want to reassure everyone that I am not head bashing. I am stating facts — money from the Government of Canada and nothing further is going to be happening until that money is forthcoming because the next step is the actual physical going onto the property and starting to do the work. That is what is required next.

Question re: Yukon Housing Corp. — accommodations in Elsa

Mr. McDonald: I direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation.

In the two weeks preceding the scheduled date of closure for United Keno Hill Mines, representatives of Yukon Housing Corporation indicated that either some low-cost housing or rental supplement plan was available to laid-off employees who had left Elsa or who were going to leave Elsa. Has a cost-comparison analysis been made between that expenditure, which is anticipated under these existing programs, and the cost of directly subsidizing the municipal services in the community of Elsa?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I wish the Member opposite had given me some notice. I obviously do not have the answers to such a lengthy and detailed question. My only understanding of the situation at the present time is that eight applications have been received from Elsa to date.

Mr. McDonald: I would have thought that this issue would have been of prime importance to the Government at this time.

Again, to the Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation. In light of the petition request by 24 residents of Elsa, as of yesterday, to remain in the town, will the Government make every effort through Yukon Housing Corporation to initiate comprehensive negotiations with the mine to probe and perhaps to establish the basis for an agreement allowing residents to remain in the town?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I want to assure the Member opposite that we are just as concerned about the people in Mayo and Elsa as any other area within the Territory, which has obviously been demonstrated in the preamble to his question that the Yukon Housing Corporation has been involved in discussions with those people who have been adversely affected by the low metal markets throughout the country and the world.

I am not prepared to make a commitment that the vehicle, the Yukon Housing Corporation, be utilized directly for that purpose. I would be prepared to pursue it in a conversation with the Member, find out what the implications are, and then make a decision at that time.

Question re: YTG cabins

Mr. Penikett: This will not take long, just a short written question. A question concerning the fishing and hunting cabins at Granite, Clair and Sterling Lakes maintained by the Department of Renewable Resources. (a) How long have these cabins been Territorial Government property? (b) How were they acquired? (c) What is their purpose? (d) Who authorizes their use? (e) What has been the total cost of their maintenance since they were acquired? (f) How many air charters have been made to these cabins at government expense? (g) How many government officials have visited them? (h) How many guests of government officials have been entertained at these locations?

Question re: Cyprus Anvil Mine Road — maintenance

Mr. Byblow: I have a constituency matter to raise with the Minister of Highways.

I received a copy of correspondence some time ago respecting a request by the mine to have YTG take over the maintenance of the mine road. Has the Minister responded to this request?

Hon. Mr. Lang: No.

Mr. Byblow: Can the Minister state this Government's position with respect to the servicing of resource roads?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I want to assure the Member opposite that the list of requests by the mine that was published on Friday and, I believe, we received formally on Friday, is being reviewed by the various departments in question. That will be financially costed out from the government's point of view and, of course, is one of the areas of discussion. I am sure the Member will be made fully aware of any decisions made on that matter, as well as other matters, once the conclusion of any discussion have taken place.

Mr. Byblow: I am waiting for a response because the correspondence I refer to is dated May 14th. In the event that, in the coming negotiations with the municipality and Cyprus Anvil over possible boundary changes and subsequent other agreements, will the Government assume responsibility for that road?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The question that the Member is asking is probably a $300,000 to $600,000 expenditure a year. Is the Member opposite going to say today that he is going to be putting a resolution on the floor of the House that $600,000 dollars be put forward with no assurances of what is going to happen in the future? I personally think that the line of questioning is totally out of line in view of the fact that no serious negotiations have taken place to date.

Question re: Greenwood House — renovations to Bishop's Residence
Mr. Kimmerly: A question to the same Minister in his capacity as being responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation.

I realize that there is now some landscaping work being done at Greenwood House. The desire of the residents there, however, is that the attached Bishop's Residence be renovated. Is this renovation one project that might be postponed given the present restraints?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Prior to answering the question the Member raises, I would like to point out to the Member opposite, not only am I responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation but I am also responsible for the resident at 39 Cedar Crescent and it is a responsibility which we will have as far as our own homes are concerned as well as other people's responsibility.

I do not believe it is being deferred. I will have to follow up and, if we do get out of session prior to being able to respond to the Member opposite, I will correspond with him in writing.

Mr. Kimmerly: A resident has told me that the plans for renovation have changed from community living space to storage space. What is the present plan?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, perhaps by way of a supplementary, he can inform me more on the matter and perhaps I would be in a better position to respond. I will have to get the necessary information from the Member opposite.

Mr. Kimmerly: Was there any consideration given to the previous suggestion of employing elderly people on this project?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I will take the question under advisement.

Question re: Trapline — John Scarf

Mrs. Joe: I have a question for the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. Did he receive my letter dated July 7, 1982 regarding ownership of a trapline belonging to John Scarf?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No.

Question re: Occupational health and safety — Green Paper

Mr. McDonald: My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As recently as March of this year, the Select Committee appointed by this Assembly to study and report on occupational health and safety gave notice that hearings will be conducted on Government Green Paper in the middle of March. Has the substance of the Government's position, as outlined in the Green Paper, changed in any significant manner since the paper was authored February 24th?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: There has been nothing further done on it since then.

Mr. McDonald: Would the Minister commit to the House that he will have the Committee re-established and working by the close of the summer in order to continue this very necessary work?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The answer to that question is no.

Mr. McDonald: Will the Minister set a date by the close of the Session for the re-establishment of the Committee and make a commitment to a timetable for development and completion of such legislation as will meet the needs of workers in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The answer is to the question is no.

Question re: Records storage

Mr. Penikett: I apologize for being a little slow. I was just staggered by the last answer. I have a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Can the Minister confirm or deny reports that the building housing Renewable Resources in my constituency is having its heating system changed from propane to hot water at this Government's insistence, and at enormous cost to the taxpayer?

Mr. Penikett: I believe there are six staff vacancies in Faro. We do have a resource supply of teachers in Whitehorse who could be used to go to Faro, teachers who are presently unemployed.

Mr. Byblow: Yes, but I asked the Minister how she intended to have the teachers accommodated. We are talking about the absence of accommodation in Faro for teachers, not the absence of teachers themselves.

Hon. Mr. Lang: That should probably be addressed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, since we are responsible directly for the allocation of housing. In my understanding at the present time, if things don't change too much, we will have the necessary housing accommodation. There may well be some discussion with Cyprus Anvil, and a lot of course once again depends on, in the very short future, just what is exactly going to happen in the community of Faro, in view of the difficult times we are facing.

Mr. Speaker: At this time, we will now proceed to Orders of the Day under Government Motions.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 5

Mr. Clerk: Item No. 1, standing in the name of the Honourable Mrs. Firth.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Member prepared to deal with Item No. 1?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member for Klueane, that it is the recommendation of this Assembly that the Honourable Members, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Tracey and Mr. Ashley be appointed to the Advisory Committee on Finance.
jurisdictions, (3) Consideration of budget forecasts for the Legislative Assembly vote, and (4) Consideration of policy questions concerning Assistants in accordance with salaries of House officers in other territories or proposed regulations as are referred to it by the Members' Services Board; and that the Speaker be Chairman of the said Board; and that the said Board assist the Speaker on matters of regulation is in many cases larger than the body of law, and it is an area increasingly ruled by regulation as opposed to law, or the body of regulation in many cases larger than the body of law, and it is an area requiring the increased attention of all legislators in the world, especially in the Yukon Territory and this Assembly.

Motion No. 7

Mr. Clerk: Item No. 3, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Tracey.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Minister prepared to deal with Item No. 3?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly are referred to the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges for review; that the Standing Committee recommend any recommendations for amendment to the Standing Orders; and that the Standing Committee make a separate report on the rules and practices which govern Question Period in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Penikett: Speaker, forgive me for saying a few words on this subject, but I think it is important to comment on the necessity for this measure. Following the election in 1978, the rules of this House, Members know, were referred to the same committee following its establishment, and substantial amendments were made to that body of regulations that governs the behaviour of this House. I think that at that time, since the Conservative Party had only just come out of the closet, and party politics were formalized for the first time in this place, we had expectations that there would be great changes in the way this place operated.

I think it would be fair to say that the changes were not as we all expected. In many cases, we were borrowing rules based on traditions in other places and adopting styles which were perhaps foreign to this environment. I think that it is appropriate, with a new House and new Members and, I would note, a return to the two-party system, that we reconsider these rules once again.

Particularly, I think, it is appropriate that we consider the matter of the rules governing question period. Most of the authorities and precedents under which we attempt to operate were developed in other places, in much larger legislatures, and legislatures with very long traditions. Many of those traditions are alien to us. Some of the reasons for those rules are a mystery to us, and I think it is no great fault of ours that we have sometimes fallen afoul of those great principles that are supposed to govern all parliamentary parties that operate under the British tradition.

It is, I think, the view of many Members who served in the last House, that our question period did not always flow as fluidly as it might, that the exchange between Members — heated exchanges sometimes — did not proceed as effectively as it might, that part of the problem may have been that we were operating under rules that were appropriate for a legislature with 100 or 50 Members, which may not be entirely necessary here. I think, as you have said, if you are to serve us properly as our servant in the House you really need to have a much better idea of what we need and what our hopes and aspirations are. Therefore, I think it is appropriate that we spend some time at the beginning of the life of this House reconsidering and, perhaps, redrafting, the rules for our question period. If we have in our Report from this Committee something to say — which can be written in plain English, not in Shakespeare, as the Member for Campbell refers to it — that we can all understand, where rules and guidelines are written in clear, simple and precise English — a few rules, perhaps 10 commandments would be appropriate rather than a book full of them — I think that would help all of us here and I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that it would make your life much easier.

Motion No. 8

Mr. Clerk: Item No. 4, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Lang.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Minister prepared to deal with Item No. 4?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, that the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Mr. Pearson and Mr. Penikett be appointed to the Members' Services Board; that the Speaker be Chairman of the said Board; and that the said Board assist the Speaker on matters of Assembly organization including: (1) Selection of the Clerk of Assembly, (2) Recommendation of appropriate salaries for Clerk and Clerk Assistants in accordance with salaries of House officers in other jurisdictions, (3) Consideration of budget forecasts for the Legislative Assembly vote, and (4) Consideration of policy questions concerning matters of Assembly organization such as: (a) Assembly research services, (b) Space allocation, (c) Expansion or reduction of staffing, (d) Caucus funding, (e) Press Gallery House rules, (f) Seating in the Assembly and (g) Hansard.

Motion agreed to

Motion No. 9

Mr. Clerk: Item No. 5, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Pearson.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Government Leader prepared to deal with Item No. 5?

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

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that the Honourable Members, Mr. Penikett, Mrs. Firth, Mr. Falle, Mr. Brewster and Mr. Byblow be appointed to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts; that the said Committee have the power to call for persons, papers and records; to sit during intersessional periods; and to print such papers and evidence as may be ordered; and that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the Committee.

Motion agreed to
Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Government Leader prepared to deal with Item 7?

HON. MR. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Member for Faro that the Yukon Legislative Assembly approves and supports the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development as found in its Fourth Report, and that the Yukon Legislative Assembly urges the Government of Canada to act on these recommendations with all due haste.

HON. MR. PEARSON: The Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Fourth Report, is a Report that is more commonly referred to as The Penner Report on the Northern Canada Power Commission and it is formerly entitled, Electrical Power North of 60.

This is a very, very important report to everybody north of the 60th parallel in Canada but particularly to the people of Yukon because this is the first definitive statement of any kind from the Government of Canada about the Northern Canada Power Commission in a number of years and it is a statement that, I submit, all of us, as Yukoners, can take with a great amount of pleasure and some pride, because I am convinced that had it not been for our constant input, the report would not have materialized.

There are twelve substantive recommendations in the report, but I would respectfully submit that six of them are very important, and I would like to take a couple of minutes of the House's time to delineate and specify those six recommendations.

The first one, and the first recommendation of the report, is that there should be two separate Crown corporations created, one for each Territory, and those Crown Corporations would be Territorial Crown corporations. In other words, the responsibility for the production of electrical power would be turned over to the territories, a very, very important principle, one that we have been advocating for a long, long time.

The second recommendation I think that is important is that all utilities in the Territory should be subjected to a public utilities board. I respectfully suggest that our parliamentary system does not work properly until all utilities are subjected to the public utilities board because it is the kind of thing that necessitates some control by this Legislature.

The third recommendation that I want to highlight is the recommendation that, frankly I never, never thought I would see printed on federal paper. That is, that the debt that has accrued to NCPC over the years should be written off. It is a basic fundamental right that we in Yukon should be able to expect from the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada has over the years written off very large debts that have accrued to Crown corporations, some of them in the North, but this is one corporation that has never, ever had the benefit of that largess from the Government of Canada, and now could not be a more opportune time for that to happen. It is one of those things that the Government of Canada could do that would help us tremendously in the Territory, and it would not cost the Government of Canada one penny of cash. It would not cost them any money to write off this debt.

Simply, the time to list the debts on an order and have that order signed and the debt no longer exists, and then we, as users, will no longer be required to pay some 50% of our electrical bills just to pay interest on that debt.

I would respectfully submit that it would be a very important thing to everyone in this Territory.

Another recommendation which I think deserves highlighting is that Canada should subsidize electricity north of the 60th parallel in Canada, primarily because Canada has a responsibility for the development of this part of Canada and if they are going to meet that responsibility then they have to be a party to the provision of energy. Hydro, electrical or any kind of electrical energy, of course, is very important to the development of this part of Canada. The report realistically suggests that that should be an undertaking by the Government of Canada.

The fifth recommendation, which I believe is very important, is that any new agreements that are entered into between Canada and the territories in respect to the provision of electrical energy should have a flexible financing arrangement so that if this Government or the Government of Canada decides that a certain specific development, or a number of them, should receive some kind of break regarding electrical energy until they have their feet on the ground, until they are making money, then that kind of break will be given to those of us who are required to pay off those debts. It will allow for energy to be sold at something less than what it costs to produce it. That is the very conundrum that N.C.P.C. carries at the present time. No matter how much N.C.P.C. would like to help Cyprus Anvil Mines today by selling them power at a much cheaper rate than they are receiving it, they are not allowed to do it. By Federal legislation, they are not allowed to do it. The law says that they must charge Cyprus Anvil at least as much as it costs them to produce that power.

The last recommendation which I would like to highlight is the theory put forward by Mr. Penner's Committee in their report that the provision of energy in this Territory and in the Northwest Territories, in the north, where the Government of Canada has responsibility for development, should not be any different than the provision of any other infrastructure that government normally provides. If the Government of Canada would acknowledge that as a fact, as recommended in the report, then the capital funding for the construction of hydroelectric facilities, of diesel electric facilities, of any kind of electrical facilities, would be funded the same way as the construction of roads, for instance, is funded in this Territory, in that it would be funded by the Federal Government on a grant basis.

We would not be expected to pay back those very high capital costs.

Those are the six, I think, very important or absolutely essential recommendations of the report. The other six recommendations are fundamental for making sure that the report is put into place in an orderly manner. I personally have no problem with any of them. I believe this is one of the most important documents that has come out of the Government of Canada for a number of years, in respect to this Territory. I am most pleased that the Member from Faro has indicated his support, and I, am confident, his Party's support of this report as well. I think it is imperative to us that we let the Federal Government know at the earliest possible date that we really do support this report.

Mr. Byblow: Certainly, to echo that support on behalf of my Party on this side of the House, I am pleased to extend our unanimous support to this resolution. I recall the first debate in which I participated on this subject. It was in these Chambers on March of 1979, and at that time the Legislature called for the establishment of a Yukon power corporation to be owned by the people of Yukon, through the Yukon Government, and that Yukon N.C.P.C. assets be transferred to this corporation debt-free. In the subsequent creation of the Penner commission or this report and in the public hearings that followed, and certainly today in the report we are endorsing, it is no small matter that a similar set of recommendations to the position advanced in 1979 has evolved. I believe that now, more than ever, we must be emphatic on action on these recommendations, that these recommendations be implemented immediately, that discussions toward fulfillment proceed forthwith. From a consumer point of view, the high power cost ever escalating is a burden we can ill afford. From an economic point of view, the crippling impact to commercial and industrial users of these increasing costs is a major factor in the stability of our economic faith. As the Government Leader has indicated, we are all too aware, in the last recent while, of Cyprus Anvil's appeal to have some relief in the power rates in order to have a more probable reopening and continued operation. Certainly, all industrial and commercial users would welcome some relief.

The Government Leader has highlighted the principal recommendations of the report and I would like to just touch on a couple of them. One deals with the recommendation of the report to have the present debt load eliminated and the other deals with the nature of the power corporation to be created for the transfer of the assets.

When I appeared before the Commission last June and again before the Electrical Public Utilities Board this spring, I was struck by the astronomical debt load of NCPC and the Corporation's inability to reduce it over the past several years. The Corporation was not even able to pay all of the interest payments on the $188,000,000 that it had outstanding. While nearly 40 cents of every revenue dollar went
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Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move, seconded by the Honourable Government Leader, that Bill No. 2 be now read a third time.
Mr. Speaker, the results are 15 yea, nil nay. Motion agreed to.

Bill No. 2: Third reading

Mr. Clerk: I declare that Bill No. 2 has passed this House.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would just like to make a couple of comments in respect to the Report that is before us. As most Members know, on behalf of the previous Government, I appeared before the Penner Commission to give the position of the Government. At that time I was not very optimistic that anything that was being said and put forward to the Committee would necessarily be put forward as far as their recommendations are concerned. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Penner and the Commission for the work that they have done. I think that they came here with preconceived ideas. The time that they spent here was very worthwhile, obviously, in view of the facts, from the private conversations I had initially with some members of the Committee, and to what finally transcribed itself into a public document, it changed drastically their opinions of what the energy situation North of 60 is concerned with.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would just like to make one comment. I think one of the most important elements that we have to look at for the future is not only the affordability of energy but also the ability to supply energy. In other words, we have to have a vehicle where you can have more power available than what is necessarily being used today, looking toward the future as far as investment is concerned and further development is concerned.

From our perspective, we have taken one step forward in that area through the Yukon hydro company, in partnership with Yukon Electric, to look at the generation of small plants throughout the Territory, primarily, to look at those areas that are presently being serviced by a very high cost in diesel generated energy and, at the same time, looking into the future, just exactly what could be constructed at a fairly reasonable cost with the idea of investing in the long term.

I think it is to everybody's benefit within the Territory that we in Yukon at least have a tool, an economic tool, in partnership with private enterprise, to go ahead in those areas that perhaps NCPC is not prepared to go because they lack the political will, or perhaps they lack the finances that are necessary to do what is being requested.

There is no question that we are in the dilemma we are today because of the lack of the political will of the Government of Canada in previous years. That political will had to be translated to NCPC in order to act, and it was not done, for various reasons — good, bad or indifferent — and now we are facing the real situation of our energy costs, because of that lack of direction. All I can say, as a Member from this side of the floor, and as a Member of the Legislature, that it is our intention, and it would be my intention on behalf of those people that I directly represent, to do everything we can to try to get the power back to a level of affordability, as the Minister of Finance has pointed out, as well as the Member from Faro, and also it looks into the longterm future that we have in Yukon, which I think is pretty optimistic once we get through the difficult times we face at the present time.

Mr. Speaker: Division has been called. As all Members appear to be in their seat, Mr. Clerk would you kindly poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Agreed.
Hon. Mr. Lang: Agreed.
Hon. Mrs. Firth: Agreed.
Hon. Mr. Ashley: Agreed.
Hon. Mr. Tracey: Agreed.
Mr. Falle: Agreed.
Mrs. Nukon: Agreed.
Mr. Philipson: Agreed.
Mr. Brewer: Agreed.
Mr. Penikett: Agreed.
Mr. Byblow: Agreed.
Mr. Kimmery: Agreed.
Mr. Porter: Agreed.
Mrs. Joe: Agreed.
Mr. McDonald: Agreed.
Mr. Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 15 yea, nil nay. Motion agreed to.
Bill No. 3: Third Reading  
Mr. Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 3, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Pearson.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move, seconded by the Minister of Education, that Bill No. 3, Interim Supply Appropriation Act, 1982-83 (No. 2), be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Education, that Bill No. 3 be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt a title to the Bill?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move, seconded by the Minister of Education, that Bill No. 3 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Education, that Bill No. 3 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Motion agreed to

Title agreed to

Mr. Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 3 has passed this House.

Bill No. 4: Third Reading

Mr. Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 4, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Pearson.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice, that Bill No. 4, Interim Supply Appropriation Act, 1982-83 (No. 3), be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Justice, that Bill No. 4 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt a title to the Bill?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice, that Bill No. 4 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Justice, that Bill No. 4 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Motion agreed to

Title agreed to

Mr. Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 4 has passed this House.

May I have your further pleasure?

Mr. Falle: I move, seconded by the Member for Old Crow, that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Motion agreed to

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. Chairman: I will call Committee of the Whole to order. We will proceed today with the Government Bills Numbers 5, 6 and 7. Before we proceed with those Bills, we will have a short break.

Recess

Bill No. 5

Mr. Chairman: I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. We will now proceed with Bill No. 5. Is there any general debate on Clause 1?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The purpose of this Act is to remove some of the inequities that have developed with the changing times. Eligibility requirements have been changed and the Students' Financial Assistance Committee will be given better guidelines that will grant them an increase in their discretionary powers.

This Act also improves upon the language of the old legislation and reflects the role of the Commissioner and the members of the Executive Council. In addition, the amount of assistance that may be paid to a student is increased an overall average of 30%, with some areas such as, general living allowance increasing by 50%. To more accurately reflect the current situation, another category of student eligibility for assistance has been added; that is, the new resident student. This definition is very specific. It has been deemed necessary because, over the last several years, a few cases have arisen where the requirement for two years of secondary schooling caused some students to be ineligible and yet have stayed to work and resided in Yukon. Thus, this new category will permit that type of student to receive assistance provided the student is less than 19 when he or she begins post-secondary schooling, has attended one year of secondary schooling in Yukon and has at least one parent continuously residing in the territory. Also, eligibility automatically ends at age 24. To accommodate this new category, the definition of independent and dependent student had to be changed somewhat so that they new resident student could not transfer to a dependent or independent student.

Mr. Byblow: As I indicated in my second reading speech, we are certainly encouraged by the presentation of this Bill. It does present a wider range of enabling criteria for students to acquire assistance. I think if it could be applied to these economic times, certainly students will be allowed to go out of the Territory for a variety of reasons and it would endanger their residency, necessarily, so the Minister is quite correct.

I have a number of interpretive questions relating to various clauses, and not too much in terms of general debate. However, I want to clarify something for the record that has come up a number of times and perhaps the Minister could give the correct procedure relating to this. I understand, the Students' Financial Assistance Act applies to all institutions that are accredited under the Canada Student Loans Act. If this is correct then can the Minister indicate if there are any other institutions that have special eligibility aside from the Canada Student Loans Act?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I have just been given some advice that the Board has that discretionary power as to where the student can go to university if he applies, say in Yugoslavia, the board can make that decision as long as it is accredited.

Mr. Byblow: Then it is not necessarily synonymous with the listing provided by the Canada Student Loans Act where students can qualify for financial aid to go to school. If the Minister would confirm that and, at the same time, would she also confirm that this will also supply financing outside the country as well?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am not quite sure what the Member is getting at. Is he concerned about money going out of the Territory?

Mr. Byblow: I am concerned about the number of questions that I get as to whether or not such and such an institution qualifies for student aid under the Territorial ordinance or act. What can I tell those enquirers respecting the criteria for the institutions that are acceptable?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I believe you have to get in touch with the Committee.

Mr. Kimmerly: I have a series of questions. all of them related, probably properly directed to the Minister of Finance, although entirely about this Bill.

Is there a cost estimate of the increased costs of assisting students under this Bill? If so, what is it? I would like to explain that a little further, because my main point or purpose in raising this at this time is to talk about the Established Program Financing in a specific way as it relates to student assistance and education. I do not intend to get into the kind of debate in questioning that occurred last Spring, although I do note that the Minister of Finance did say on the 31st of March last year that the EPF figure in the O & M estimates was a fixed figure — it was negotiated at a fixed amount. Also, on the 5th of April, he repeated that and said he was not anticipating a reduction in the 1982/83 fiscal year.

The announcement yesterday of a decreased figure, of course, raises a question in my mind. Is it possible to negotiate with the Federal Government that, because of this new legislation, and possibly because of a projected increase in the number of people who may be taking advantage of this plan because of the lack of employment — indeed, I know of at least two of my constituents who do not have a job and are planning on taking the opportunity of their involuntary idleness to go to school, and indeed the Minister responsible for social assistance mentioned that kind of a plan of action for welfare recipients in a general sense — so my three questions are. I suppose, what is the increased costs of this Bill over the previous legislation, firstly, and, secondly, is it possible to negotiate a better deal with the Federal
Government because of this Bill, or the economic situation generally, and I would add as a third question: because none of this money is spent in Yukon, is that a good negotiating argument with the Federal Government for increased EPF amounts?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** The increased cost is shown on Page 31 of the Budget that was tabled in the spring. That has not changed because the numbers reflected in that Budget anticipated this legislation going into place. As a consequence, we had forecast 1981-82 expenditures of $200,000 and for 1982-83 our estimate is $202,000. What that means is, in spite of these changes, the best estimates that the Department of Education has been able to come up with is that we will have fewer students going outside next year, because we propose to pay more to have them go outside to university during the course of this year.

We were advised not too long ago, about three weeks ago, that we would have to absorb locally, in our own finances, a $1.6 million dollar cut in our EPF transfer payments this year. It was very arbitrary, no negotiation at all. We were just told this is what is going to be. We are in a rather interesting situation in respect to EPF transfer payments with the Government of Canada. When it comes to EPF payments, it seems the Government of Canada wants to treat Yukon as a province, but it does not want to do that when it comes to other transfer payments, only Extended Program Financing payments. It is likely that, given these additional benefits that we will give to Yukon students, we will be in a better bargaining position next year. Certainly, it will not have any effect this year. We have been told that all of our budgeted amounts the year before, and presented to you yesterday, reflect the $1.6 million dollar cut in our EPF payments, was just done arbitrarily. There were no negotiations. There is no doubt about it, when it comes to negotiations this forthcoming year, this will be a factor we will raise with the people in Finance.

**Mr. Byblow:** I am sure the Government Leader would wish to be perfectly correct and therefore, perhaps, just for the record, the figures he was quoting respecting budgeted amounts from 31 was actually students. The budgeted amount was in the order of $417,000 versus the increase to $597,000?

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** Sorry, when I talked about 200 and 202, that is the number of students involved.

**Mr. Penkett:** I just have one question, and it is a very general question. It arises from a telephone call I received late last night. The substance of the call was an allegation, and since I was advised by the caller that the person had already spoken to the Government Leader I will put the question either to the Minister of Education or to him. It concerns this person's opinion that under the existing legislation there were people who were, in name but perhaps not in fact, residents of the Territory, but who had in fact long since left, who may not have even had parents here but may have had some kind of nominal residence here, perhaps a piece of property or something. It was alleged by this person who called me, who advised me that he had spoken to the Government Leader I was going to put the question either to the Minister of Education or to him. It concerns this person's opinion that under the existing legislation there were people who were, in name but perhaps not in fact, residents of the Territory, but who had in fact long since left, who may not have even had parents here but may have had some kind of nominal residence here, perhaps a piece of property or something. It was alleged by this person who called me, who advised me that he had spoken to the Government Leader, that there were some resident people now residents of the United States, not only going to school there but, in fact, their parents had moved there, who were beneficiaries of this program. I obviously want to see if all possible eligible Yukon residents get this money. I am well aware of what programs are available in the other Canadian provinces and in many cases they are better than what we have to offer, and in some cases different. I do not know what is available in the States. I frankly do not think it is our responsibility to finance the education of American residents. Just for the record, I would seek assurances on that point. The Government Leader is shaking his head, but I felt sure that he would know who it was who called me and in this particular case could perhaps assure me that there were no non-residents in law, non-residents getting the benefits of this program.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I have no idea who it might have been who called. I cannot recall who might have called me in respect to this. I am quite sure that I am aware of the family name that is involved, that is, the people who now live in the States. I know the way this thing has operated since the day this program was put into place in this Territory is that the decisions in regard to grants, and the continuation of grants, are made on an annual basis by the Committee, no one else. We do not have any input to the Committee, nor do we, as politicians, ever exercise any input to the Committee. We never ever have. I do not think that any Member of this Legislature has ever exercised any sort of an influence on that Committee. Some of the members have been on that Committee for a number of years. I respectfully suggest that they take the job very seriously. I have had complaints in the past that they are too strict sometimes, other times that they have a tendency to be lenient. I have had complaints both ways, complaints that I will not deny that I receive. Normally, it turns out that if an enquiry is made, without exception I have found that the Committee has had a logical and legitimate reason for the action they have taken. I would like to assure all Members that the scheme works very well for Yukon students. There may be, because there are such a large number of students involved, one or two abuses a year of the plan. On the whole, it does work very well. Certainly, it is the Yukon students who are benefiting. It is not designed, nor is it intended, that anybody other than Yukon students be the beneficiaries of this plan.

**Mr. Penkett:** Mr. Chairman, I have just one further comment to add to what the Government Leader said. He referred to the existing committee and referred to the fact that the members of that committee had been in place for some time. In fact, their appointments were all renewed last year. He may know, because I communicated this to the government at that time, I had some concern expressed to me by some constituents, including some quite good, old Yukon Conservative people, that perhaps it was appropriate from time to time to change some members of that committee, because no matter how well they had served us in the past, perhaps they were not as in touch with the needs of the students who are now in school as some parents who had kids that age, and so forth.

I make this suggestion with no disrespect to the incumbents, that the government ought perhaps to consider some fresh blood on that committee the next time appointments are due.

**Mrs. Firth:** Mr. Chairman, I will take that under advisement.

**Mr. Byblow:** I am sure that I could offer some suggestions. I have a couple of questions relating to the numbers and budgeted amounts. Does the Minister have available the actual number of recipients in this last fiscal year that we have just passed through? It makes the notation in the budget at 200, and I am wondering if that is actually the figure. I raise that because, in the forecast for this coming year, the number is 202. I dare say that we are going to have substantially more because of the opening up of eligibility criteria. Does the Minister have any response there?

**Mrs. Firth:** Mr. Chairman, that number was there with this criteria in place.

**Hon. Mr. Pearson:** I should point out to the Honourable Member as well that these recipients of this grant are not the only post-secondary education students that we have. We have another 120, or so, here in the Territory. In fact, we are finding that there are fewer and fewer students going outside each year now, because they are taking advantage of the Yukon Campus Program that is being carried on locally here in the Territory.

Respectfully, I believe we are finding that there is a saw-off. There is an increase of students each year, but this program is not increasing that fast any longer. It is one of the reasons that we thought that we should look at increasing the benefits.

**Mr. Byblow:** We will just have to see how the figures bear out in the coming year.

I just want to finish off my questioning relating to the eligibility of institutions. An approved institution is described in the Act as being one of three types. As I mentioned earlier, if it was on the list as provided under the Canada Student Loans Act, if it was a vocational or technical school of courses that were not provided in Yukon, and then it was another approval that the Government Leader mentioned especially approved institutions by the Committee.

Does each specially approved institution by the Committee require an Order-In-Council for approval or can it be done arbitrarily at the Committee level?

**Hon. Mrs. Firth:** That is done at the Committee level.

Clause 1 agreed to
On Clause 2
Clause 2 agreed to
On Clause 3
Clause 3 agreed to
On Clause 4
Clause 4 agreed to
Hon. Mrs. Firth: There would be no approval. That would be at the discretion of the Committee and they would not grant approval if it was not an accredited institution.

Mr. Byblow: What does the Minister consider an accredited institution?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: That is in the legislation. We have a list of accredited institutions.

Mr. Byblow: If the Member is questioning a decision made by that Committee, then he should come out front and say so. If he is not, then I cannot understand what the line of questioning is. It is clear, by that Committee, then he should come out front and say so. If he is accredited institutions.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: If the Member was here as a resident and the student had that point raised. If you live in Watson Lake, you can fly all the way. That is the point.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The committee does not establish the parameters. If the institution that the student is applying to is accredited, they go to the committee with that application and the committee makes it if it is an accredited institution. If it is not accredited, the committee would use good, common sense and not approve the application.

Mr. Byblow: I am raising the question with regard to the procedure and the parameters that the Committee uses to establish a new approval of an institution or a new institution for approval. That is all I am doing. I am not citing a complaint of a specific instance. Certainly, if an institution that is an accredited and recognized institution in any country automatically falls into a category of acceptability under this then that is all I am seeking.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The committee does not establish the parameters. If the institution that the student is applying to is accredited, they go to the committee with that application and the committee makes it if it is an accredited institution. If it is not accredited, the committee would use good, common sense and not approve the application.

Mr. Byblow: Under subsection 2, I require a clarification. Subsection 2 describes the dependent student where one of the student's parents is a Canadian citizen and a landed immigrant, resided in the Territory continuously since taking up residence. He would not be eligible otherwise.

Mr. Byblow: Is the Minister saying then that (a) is added to (b) and (c)?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: "The Committee may, upon application, extend the time limit imposed by subsection (6)." This is just so that legitimate students do not become disqualified. I believe it was on the advice of the committee to give them some guidelines and parameters that, because of changing times, students today pursue athletic or cultural events they consider educational experiences. They did not feel it was fair for them to lose their eligibility because they were pursuing that kind of an educational experience.

Mr. Byblow: Subsection 1, I believe, is the entirety of it. I have one question on the entirety, and that is in the last section. Subsection 2, or whatever it is: does a student disqualify himself from financial aid under this Ordinance if he is in any way sponsored by Manpower?

Hon. Mr. Lang: My understanding is that you cannot receive Manpower financing to attend university or a technical institution.

Mr. Byblow: I guess this is the most appropriate point to bring it in. I am not sure if I have the latitude to speak on this at this time. Immediately following the section being repealed and the one now being inserted under subsection (4), in the original Ordinance section 8(4) which refers to the financial assistance in regard to travel in Yukon and makes reference to Whitehorse and Watson Lake. Why was there not an expansion in the air travel to other communities? Because, under this Act, all you are allowed by regulation is 10 cents per mile from any other community to either one of these two. I have had that point raised. If you live in Watson Lake, you can fly all the way. If you live in Faro, you can receive 10 cents a mile to Whitehorse, then you fly. That is the point.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: It is my understanding that it was not a proposal to change that.

Mr. Byblow: I guess then it was my duty to have an appropriate amendment prepared.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I suppose it was, but since you do not we will just proceed.

Mr. Byblow: It is not clear for how long he and at least one of his parents take up residence.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Further on, it is clear, "both he and at least one of his parents have resided in the Territory continuously since taking up residence." He would not be eligible otherwise.

Mr. Byblow: Is the Minister saying then that (a) is added to (b) and (c)?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: "The Committee may, upon application, extend the time limit imposed by subsection (6)." This is just so that legitimate students do not become disqualified. I believe it was on the advice of the committee to give them some guidelines and parameters that, because of changing times, students today pursue athletic or cultural events they consider educational experiences. They did not feel it was fair for them to lose their eligibility because they were pursuing that kind of an educational experience.
Amend the Wildlife Act except for the Native people, who will still have their Indian rights. The hunting is open to anybody under the general laws of application, as stated in the Bill. It would have been more applicable. I only have one question, which is: would the rights that flow from section 17(3) of the Reserve, under the Land Claims, be applicable to the expanded boundaries of the Kluane Game Reserve?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: All of the rights that are under 17(3) of the Yukon Act would also be included until the actual settlement of the Land Claims. What will happen is, we will take this area and we will form a group trapping area for the Kluane Tribal Council in that area. The hunting is open to anybody under the general laws of application, except for the Native people, who will still have their Indian rights under that area.

Clause 1 agreed to
On Title
Title agreed to
Hon. Mr. Lang: I move that Bill No. 6, An Act to Amend the Municipal Act, be moved out of Committee without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I think that everything that can be said about this was said in Second Reading debate. The reason for it is to abide by one of our agreements that we made under the Land Claims. It is approximately 90 square miles, between the White and the Donjek Rivers, just about three miles wide in an almost direct line. I don't know what else I can say about it, except that is the reason why we did it, and that is the reason it is here today.

Mr. Porter: I think this Bill is wrongly named, and it should have actually been "Bill No. 1. An Act to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right." It would have been more applicable. I only have one question, and that is: would the rights that flow from section 17(3) of the Yukon Act be applicable to the expanded boundaries of the Kluane Game Reserve?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I move that you report Bill No. 7, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act out of Committee without amendment.

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

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

Mr. Philipson: The Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 5, An Act to Amend the Students' Financial Assistance Act; Bill No. 6, An Act to Amend the Municipal Act; and Bill No. 7, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, and directed me to report the same without amendment.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: At this time I believe it is the intention of the House to revert to Government Bills and Orders.

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS

Bill No. 5: Third Reading
Mr. Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 5 standing in the name of the Honourable Mrs. Firth.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Bill No. 5, An Act to Amend the Students' Financial Assistance Act, be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Bill No. 5 be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to
Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt the title to the Bill?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Bill No. 5 do now pass and that the title be An Act to Amend the Students' Financial Act as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Bill No. 5 do now pass and that the title be as on the order paper.

Motion agreed to
Mr. Speaker: I declare that Bill Number 5 has passed this House.

Bill No. 6: Third Reading
Mr. Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 6, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Lang.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I move, seconded by the Member for Hootalinqua, that Bill No. 6, An Act to Amend the Municipal Act, be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that Bill No. 6 be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Lang: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that Bill No. 6 do now pass and the title be as on the order paper. An Act to Amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that Bill No. 6 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: I will declare that Bill No. 6 has passed this House.

Bill No. 7: Third Reading
Mr. Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 7, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Tracey.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that Bill No. 7, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that Bill No. 7, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt a title to the Bill?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that Bill No. 7 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that Bill No. 7 do now pass and that the title be as on the order paper.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: I will declare that Bill No. 7 has passed this House.

Bill No. 6, An Act to Amend the Municipal Act.

Bill No. 5: Third Reading
Mr. Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 5 standing in the name of the Honourable Mrs. Firth.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Bill No. 5, An Act to Amend the Students' Financial Assistance Act, be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Bill No. 5 be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to

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

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Bill No. 5 do now pass and that the title be An Act to Amend the Students' Financial Act as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member for Old Crow, that Bill No. 5 do now pass and that the title be as on the order paper.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: I declare that Bill Number 5 has passed this House.

Bill No. 6: Third Reading
Mr. Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 6, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Lang.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I move, seconded by the Member for Hootalinqua, that Bill No. 6, An Act to Amend the Municipal Act, be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that Bill No. 6 be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Lang: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that Bill No. 6 do now pass and the title be as on the order paper. An Act to Amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hootalinqua, that Bill No. 6 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: I will declare that Bill No. 6 has passed this House.

Bill No. 7: Third Reading
Mr. Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 7, standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Tracey.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that Bill No. 7, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that Bill No. 7, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt a title to the Bill?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that Bill No. 7 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kluane, that Bill No. 7 do now pass and that the title be as on the order paper.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: I will declare that Bill No. 7 has passed this House.

Bill No. 6, An Act to Amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Commissioner: I hereby assent to the Bills as enumerated by the Clerk.

Mr. Commissioner leaves the House

Mr. Clerk: It is the Commissioner’s will and pleasure that this House be now prorogued and this House is accordingly prorogued.

The House prorogued at 4:10 p.m.