



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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2nd Session

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HANSARD

Wednesday, November 10, 1982 — 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

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Chris Pearson	Whitehorse Riverdale North	Government Leader — responsible for Executive Council Office, Finance, Public Service Commission, and Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations.
Hon. Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East	Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Highways, Yukon Housing Corporation, and Yukon Liquor Corporation.
Hon. Howard Tracey	Tatchun	Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources, Renewable Resources, Government Services.
Hon. Clarke Ashley	Klondike	Minister responsible for Justice, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and Workers' Compensation.
Hon. Bea Firth	Whitehorse Riverdale South	Minister responsible for Education, Tourism, and Heritage and Cultural Resources.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

(Progressive Conservative)

Bill Brewster	Kluane
Al Falle	Hootalinqua
Kathie Nukon	Old Crow
Andy Philipsen	Whitehorse Porter Creek West

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

(New Democratic Party)

Tony Penikett	Whitehorse West Leader of the Official Opposition
Maurice Byblow	Faro
Margaret Joe	Whitehorse North Centre
Roger Kimmerly	Whitehorse South Centre
Piers McDonald	Mayo
Dave Porter	Campbell

(Independent)

Don Taylor	Watson Lake
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Clerk of the Assembly
Clerk Assistant (Legislative)
Clerk Assistant (Administrative)
Sergeant-at-Arms
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Hansard Administrator

Patrick L. Michael
Missy Follwell
Jane Steele
G.I. Cameron
Frank Ursich
Dave Robertson

Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, November 10, 1982

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

Prayers

Mr. Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling? Are there any reports of committees? Petitions? Reading or receiving of petitions? Introduction of bills? Notices of motion for the production of papers? Notices of motion?

MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 31

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 31, on a matter of pressing and urgent necessity.

Since Dr. Hilda Hellaby is today receiving, in Ottawa, a great honour by being presented with the Person's Award, I move, seconded by the Minister of Education, that the House extend congratulations to Dr. Hilda Hellaby on the occasion of her receiving the Person's Award.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion, as proposed by the hon. Minister of Justice, will require unanimous consent of the House.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Justice, seconded by the hon. Minister of Education, that the House extend congratulations to Dr. Hilda Hellaby on the occasion of receiving the Person's Award.

Hon. Mr. Ashley: It gives me great pleasure to inform this House that Dr. Hilda Hellaby, a well-known Whitehorse and Yukon woman, has been chosen to receive the Person's Award. Dr. Hellaby is one of the five Canadian women selected this year. The award was established in 1979 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1929 Person case, when women won the legal right to be recognized as persons. The ruling by the British Privy Council and Canada's Court of Last Resort allowed women to be appointed senators and paved the way for future sexual equality reforms. The awards are given to women considered in one way or another to be pioneers. Dr. Hellaby was the first woman in Canada to receive a theology licence and has served as an Anglican church deaconess since 1928. She is a member of the Order of Canada, won a centennial medal in 1967 as an outstanding Canadian, and in 1977 was presented the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medallion.

As minister responsible for the status of women in Yukon, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the outstanding achievements of this Yukon woman, Dr. Hilda Hellaby.

Mrs. Joe: I rise at this special occasion.

I have known the lady, Dr. Hilda Hellaby, for 17 years and I think that Yukon is indeed honoured to have this lady in Yukon. I think that she has been a benefit to Yukon and all people who have known her, and, indeed, I am very happy for this occasion.

Applause

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are there any statements by ministers?

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. Mrs. Firth: This morning I received a telex from the hon. Lloyd Axworthy, federal Minister of Employment and Immigration, outlining the details of the federal government's latest job creation program.

It is to be called the New Employment Expansion and Development Program, or NEED. I am extremely pleased to announce that the allocation for Yukon under this new program will be \$1,000,000. This allocation is based on a number of factors, principally the number of persons who are exhausting unemployment insurance benefits.

Mr. Axworthy's telex outlines specific guidelines for the program which I would now like to share with you. The new program will be in

existence until March 1984. Projects will be developed on a regional basis. They will be designed to ensure that the jobs created correspond as closely as possible to regional employment strategies, to the skills available among the eligible participants, and to the times at which additional employment is required.

Project employees will be required to meet the following criteria. They must be legally entitled to work in Canada, they must be unemployed, they must have the skills required, they must have exhausted all entitlement to unemployment insurance benefits, or be in receipt of social assistance. Project sponsors may be federal government departments and agencies, municipalities, voluntary non-profit organizations, private sector businesses, and unions. The Yukon Government is also eligible to sponsor projects.

Contributions will be made to the wages of eligible workers up to an average of \$200 per week, with extra contributions for key skilled supervisory personnel. Governments, non-profit organizations, businesses and unions may also top up this basic rate with funds of their own.

Projects may cover a wide range of activities. Examples are community, airports and tourism development projects, heritage restoration, social housing upgrading and repair, conservation measures, parks improvements, energy conservation, improvement of facilities for the handicapped, infrastructure and municipal services, cultural activities, social and community sports supports program, including child care and services to the elderly.

An advisory board will be established for Yukon which will recommend a strategy to ensure that the employment created matches regional requirements. It will be composed of community representatives including those concerned with women employment, business, labour, federal officials and Yukon government officials.

Project application forms for private sector, municipal and non-profit organization projects will be available at the local Canada Employment Centre by the end of December.

I would like to assure the House that I, and my officials, will be doing everything possible to ensure that these several funds are allocated to Yukon projects as soon as possible. The Yukon government will also examine the projects that it can initiate to take advantage of the funding and to create as many jobs as possible.

Mr. Byblow: With tongue in cheek, yesterday, I suggested to the minister that I might be hearing more from her today in subjects emanating from her Vancouver meeting. I am pleased to note that the NDP track record of predictability is again enhanced.

On the subject of the program, and the details announced by the minister, I am particularly intrigued with the acronym assigned to the program. I do not think anyone would object that we need NEED. The range of project activities is most encouraging and I trust that this government will ensure that local community situations are closely monitored and addressed in the implementation of this program, in a long-term sense and benefit as well.

Certainly with the creation of an advisory board, we ought to be able to do these things and, at the same time, offset some very serious employment scenarios in the outlying areas. As I said previously, to the minister, no one is particularly comfortable in a make-work economy. One of our best make-work projects, could we effect it, would be the reopening of the Cyprus Anvil mine.

I would remind the minister to address the matter of unemployment insurance eligibility, the accrual under the program, and be prepared at some time soon to indicate the remuneration levels to workers in the program.

Certainly, on behalf of this side of the House, I thank the minister for relaying the information from the other minister, with whom she seems to be developing a very good relationship.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I just want to pass on to the member for Faro that unemployment insurance exhaustees who will be working under these programs and under other job-creation programs, such as the Bridging Assistance Program, as long as these individuals are making contributions to unemployment insurance when they are working, they, again will become eligible after their certain period of time, be it 12 weeks or whatever, for unemployment benefits again.

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The renovation project of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, initiated by my colleague to my right, the hon. Mr. Tracey, is now in its final stages. I am pleased to be able to inform the

House that the renovations, which have substantially increased the capability of the centre, have been carried out by local contractors, supplemented by inmate labour and government services personnel.

The improvements which have been made include: an increase in rated bed capacity from 46 to 68; a new gymnasium, new stores, new workshop, and a new resource centre. There is also some new furniture and furnishings and the entire centre has been repainted. Security arrangements have been much improved and a communications system has been materially upgraded.

An official opening of the renovated centre is planned for the afternoon of November 19th, 1982. I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all members of the legislature to attend this function. The honourable members may rest assured that this invitation is extended only for that afternoon and that the centre is not looking to make any permanent increase in its inmate population. Thank you.

Mrs. Joe: In my reply to the Speech from the Throne, I had complimented the government on the changes that have been made. I think the changes that were made at the jail were changes that people had been trying to make for years. They not only include the structures in the building, but it also include a type of rehabilitation encouraged through classroom arts and crafts or education.

I think that the person responsible for that, as we both mentioned earlier, were Phil Durrant and Dwayne Nethery, in cooperation with the minister, who was very receptive to those changes at that time, and I also compliment the minister for that.

What I would like to mention at this time is that there are many other dedicated and concerned individuals in other departments of the justice system and I would certainly hope that those types of ideas would be encouraged and that the government would be receptive to them, as well, and that other changes for the better can be made in each and every department of the justice system.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further statements by ministers? We will now proceed to the question period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Faro staff housing

Mr. Penikett: I have a question for the Government Leader. In the 1982-83 budget estimates, \$1,500,000 was allocated to the construction of staff housing apartments for Faro. Yesterday the minister responsible for Yukon housing indicated that instead \$1,200,000 of the government's contingent aid package for Cyprus Anvil would be used to purchase housing from that company. Would the Government Leader now confirm that his aid package is really, in effect, designed to save this government \$300,000 in capital costs rather than help Cyprus Anvil reopen?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would indicate to the member opposite that that really is the responsibility of the Yukon Housing Corporation. I would say that the offer we made to Cyprus Anvil, and in turn the third party, the Government of Canada, was an offer that was made in good faith. That offer was put forward primarily on the principle that they had a cash flow problem, we had lack of staff accommodation, and wished to upgrade our staff accommodation, and therefore we felt that if we could negotiate a reasonable deal with Cyprus Anvil, we could purchase a number of those homes. If the Leader of the Opposition objects to that type of offer, which will, granted, cost less, than stand up and say so.

Mr. Penikett: I certainly object to an offer that amounts to nothing. I would like to ask the Government Leader again, since I am asking a finance question, the government has proposed that a one-time grant be made to the town of Faro under the terms of its contingent aid package and the capital assistance program. Is the money the money that is intended for the purchase of the Faro Rec Centre?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Since I am also the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I will take the questions that the Leader of the Opposition has put forward. The offer that was put forward, and I think it was clearly made as a package and would be subjected to a vote of this legislature if we were to proceed with it, was made under, first, the principle that Cyprus Anvil would be going back to work. In respect to the assistance that would be made available for the Recreation Centre, it was felt that we should go in for up to a total amount of money to see whether or not major renovations could be made for the purposes of conservation of energy. If the Leader of the Opposition objects to that, please stand up.

Mr. Penikett: I was hoping to conserve some of my own energy, by directing some of my questions to the Government Leader. But, I will try again. Considering that the Faro recreation centre originally cost about \$820,000, and its replacement value would be in excess of \$2,000,000, the \$353,000 purchase price looks like a good deal. In other words, the government achieves a benefit of between half a million and a million and a half dollars. My question again to the Government Leader, is, given that it stands to benefit more than Cyprus Anvil or Faro, the town of Faro, from its offer, where is the aid package for Faro?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think I made that specifically clear. Perhaps the member opposite was not listening the other day when I said I had informal conversations with the mayor and a number of the council members, in respect to the fact that we were looking at an aid package and it might well include the recreation facility.

I should point out — and perhaps the member opposite would get his researchers to do some work — under the original agreement, one of the responsibilities of Cyprus Anvil was to provide the recreation facility. We are putting forward what I feel is a generous offer, because we are going away from that initial agreement, and between the town of Faro and the Government of Yukon Territory, we are going to take on, over and above user fees, a certain amount of costs that were incurred on an annual basis that now is taken up by the Cyprus Anvil. I think it is a fair offer, and it was put forward in good faith, in view of what we deem could be our responsibility if Cyprus Anvil goes back to work, in view of their economic situation.

Question re: Schools

Mr. Byblow: I trust that the minister who has just spoken is not sure whose responsibility recreation really is. My question, however, is directed to the minister responsible for government services and the Minister of Public Works. I gave him notice of this question a day previous, and made reference to April of last year when the previous Minister of Public Works stated that engineers from this government were monitoring the condition of the foundation of the Faro school, to ensure that there would be no permanent damage created by the sinking of the footings. Can the minister report what has been done about the condition of the Faro school foundation in the interim?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: As the member across the floor stated, the public works department has been monitoring the settlement of the building, and the response from them is that it seems now that the settlement has completed on the building and we will proceed in the spring to put the building back into its original condition. There is nothing structurally the matter with the building. It has not affected the structure of the building to any great extent, but there are cracks and such in the building, and all those will be made good starting next spring.

Mr. Byblow: I would advise the minister that there seems to be some question whether or not the foundation movement has, in fact, stopped because the...

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe this is question period and not a time for advice. Would the hon. member please get to his question.

Mr. Byblow: Because the problem of the foundation is still present in the school, to the extent that some doors will not close properly, and a number of other deficiencies are present, such as visibility through the walls to the outside, and since it appears that corrective work is going to be done by this government, can the minister indicate to me who is really responsible for that additional work? Is it the original contractors, is it the consulting engineers and architects, or is it this government?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I believe that we accepted building as it was constructed. I have not checked with my department on this certain aspect of it. I must inform the member of that, so I could be open for correction on this. I will check with my department to make sure. I believe that we accepted the building. I do know that the consulting engineers who were involved in the original construction of the building and made the original design plan have been involved in the ongoing monitoring of the building, and they inform us that there are no serious structural damages to the building.

They also inform us that the building has not been significantly shifting in the last while, and that the settlement has completed.

Maybe the member across the floor knows more than the consulting engineers and the public works department. Perhaps he is more aware, but this is the information that I have and we are prepared, in the spring, to start rebuilding or refinishing the building to its original intent.

Mr. Byblow: I appreciate the minister's advice on the matter, and assurances. I would like to ask him if, in the course of his review of the situation facing the foundation at the Faro School, he could procure information as to whether or not there were any substantive design changes made to the plans for that foundation, from the time the consulting engineers and architects submitted their original specifications to the time of construction? If so, were these changes initiated by the consulting firm or were they initiated by this government?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Yes, I will be quite happy to obtain that information.

Question re: Civil Service vacancies

Mr. Kimmerly: I have a question to the same minister, in a different capacity.

There are at least six major positions which are now vacant or soon to be vacant in the minister's department. It is my information that advertising to fill the senior positions is occurring in major southern cities, but in Whitehorse only advertising for a junior position is occurring. Will the minister assure the House that the senior positions will also be advertised in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I am not aware that the senior positions were not advertised in Yukon. I believe that there is probably as much involvement by the Government Leader's department, the Public Service Commission, in the advertising of these jobs as there is in my own portfolio.

I would think that what has happened is that this total project has been looked at and a value judgement of these positions has been taken about whether there are actually people in the Yukon Territory who can handle the job. I think that we have had quite a few jobs advertised in my department and I am sure that the Public Service Commission, in conjunction with my department, has made a value judgement and I trust their judgement. That is all I can say about it.

Mr. Kimmerly: As a supplementary to the Government Leader, in view of the extraordinary unemployment conditions in Yukon currently, will the minister review the requirements and qualifications for these jobs, with a view to enabling Yukoners to get a more realistic chance at them?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I want to assure the honourable member that we are doing that, on a daily basis, with every job in the territorial government.

To speculatively answer his former question, I am confident that the Public Service Commission knows that there are no suitable applicants in Yukon if they are advertising outside, because that is our current policy. We simply do not advertise outside for any job unless we have determined that it cannot be filled locally under any circumstances, and we absolutely have to have the job filled. We are very reluctantly hiring from outside at this point in time.

I also want to assure the honourable member for Faro that we, on this side of the House, know full well whose responsibility it is for the provision of recreation in this territory.

Mr. Kimmerly: As a supplementary to the minister for social services, as the field supervisor job and the southern regional supervisor job and the Faro job are all now open, will the minister attempt, immediately, to get the job qualifications changed to enable local people a chance at those jobs?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I am glad the member asked me another question because it gives me the opportunity to tell him that my department has been instructed, at least two to three weeks ago, to do exactly that.

Question re: Porcupine caribou herd

Mr. Porter: My question is directed to the Government Leader. It is his government's position to protect the habitat of the Porcupine caribou herd?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, we have been very concerned and very involved in respect to the habitat of the Porcupine caribou herd ever since we were elected.

Mr. Porter: Does his government take the position that industrial

development can occur in the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd, an area that has been deemed to be most critical to their survival?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am not sure. I kind of believe that the hon. member, in a convoluted sort of way, is going to get around to Stokes Point. If he wants to ask me whether I think that Stokes Point can be developed, the answer is yes.

Mr. Porter: I am not getting on to Stokes Point. Can the Government Leader tell this House if anyone from the Old Crow Band, or any other representatives of the Old Crow Band, had informed him that they do, indeed, support an oil and gas development on the coast of the northern Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: We have advocated that, should there be a development at Stokes Point, it would have to go through the normal environmental hearing processes that have been established by the Government of Canada. At that point, all concerns, especially ours, would be made public and would be heard.

Question re: Women's Bureau

Mrs. Joe: A question for the Minister of Justice. On Monday I asked the minister responsible for the Women's Bureau a question regarding discrimination based on sex in Yukon legislation. The minister, and other cabinet members, responded with laughing and giggling as if it were some joke. This response was aired across the territory the next morning. Since I, and the majority of women, take these questions very seriously, I would like to know if the minister is prepared to apologize to the women of the Yukon for his insensitive response on Monday?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I must respond to that because I was the cause of the laughter, not the women of the territory. I whispered a rather irrelevant comment to my colleague as he got up. It had nothing to do with the question that was asked, and it caused him to giggle. Mr. Speaker, believe me, the Minister of Justice does not consider his job as the minister responsible for women in the territory to be one that he is going to giggle about, ever. He takes those responsibilities very, very seriously. So do I. We all like women, every one of us, even Mrs. Firth. There was nothing meant by it at all. The statement made by the Leader of the Opposition at that time was recorded in Hansard. He was not standing on his feet. Again, he used the opportunity.

Mrs. Joe: I would like to direct the question once again to the minister responsible for the Women's Bureau. I asked the question of him the first time. Is he prepared to apologize to the women of Yukon for this insensitive response.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure I heard that question correctly, but I really do not feel that the question would be in order. Could I have that restated?

Mrs. Joe: What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that the women of the Yukon who have responded to me in regard to the news item that was aired across the territory were very disgusted at this response. And I think that in this point in time that the minister responsible for the Women's Bureau should apologize to the women of the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker: I do not feel that matters recorded in the press are any responsibility, necessarily, of the House, and I would rule that question out of order.

Question re: School busing

Mr. McDonald: I have a question for the Minister of Education. On November 1, a petition from interested residents of Stewart Crossing, endorsed by the Mayo Indian Band, was sent to the Minister of Education endorsing the re-establishment of the school bus from Stewart Crossing to Mayo. Could the minister tell the House what the reaction has been from her department on this issue?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The bus route will not be re-established because it was never established. There is no bus route from the two areas the member is asking about.

Mr. McDonald: My information is that two years ago there was a bus service established and last year, the Department of Indian Affairs had provided funding to provide a bus service. Would the minister at this point undertake to conduct discussions with local residents to coordinate the operation of a private school bus service from Stewart Crossing to Mayo and return?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: These people receive a subsidy for busing their children to school and if they would like to make arrangements to have

a vehicle taken under contract and use their subsidies to provide expense for that vehicle, that is up to them. But the department is not entertaining providing a school bus for that route.

Mr. McDonald: With a view to longer term, more secure solutions for these native students, largely native students in Stewart Crossing, would the minister undertake to request the Department of Indian Affairs to supply funding for the school bus in order that these native students' academic studies are in no way jeopardized.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I have, I believe, on two previous occasions, made requests of the Department of Indian Affairs regarding funding for the Kluane Tribal Brotherhood school, and for other native language program funding. It was made very clear to me by the Department of Indian Affairs that there would be no funding provided for that.

Question response re: Legal assistance

Hon. Mr. Ashley: Yesterday, I undertook to supply the answer to a question asked by the honourable member for Whitehorse North Centre with regard to legal assistance provided by the government in processing maintenance claims.

In the past, the government has had staff lawyers who pursued court actions in cases of reciprocal enforcement of maintenance orders and represented women qualifying for social assistance. They were also available for advice in appointing others not qualified in the right direction. In their desire to be helpful, they probably went beyond the bounds of their duty and, on occasion, considerably so.

Because of illness and education leave, the department is now, and shall be for some time, short of staff lawyers. They can therefore only deal with matters involving reciprocal enforcement of maintenance orders for recipients of social assistance. When women do not qualify under either of these, they will be referred to legal aid to determine if they meet the criteria for assistance under that plan.

It is not the intention of this government to assist women where either they have the means of their own to retain a lawyer or where the lawyer could obtain suit money from the husband to cover the cost of the maintenance action.

Question re: Yukon financial aid

Mr. Penikett: On September 13th, the *Whitehorse Star* reported, that following the Government Leader's trip to Edmonton to request federal aid, that federal cabinet ministers seemed eager to help and promised to take the proposal for \$10,000,000 in aid to the full federal cabinet within two weeks.

I would like to ask the Government Leader, since we have not seen or heard any rebuttal of that report coming from this government, may we assume that that report was an accurate assessment of the reception given this government at that time?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am not prepared to comment on the report in the *Whitehorse Star* or any other newspaper, for that matter, but I am prepared to say that it was my assessment of that meeting with the federal ministers that they were sympathetic, that they understood exactly the situation Yukon finds itself in, and that when the package that we hope the minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development puts before the cabinet in fact gets there, they will be considering our plight very, very sympathetically.

Speaker's ruling

Mr. Speaker: Just before I recognize the hon. Leader of the Opposition with a supplementary, I think that it might be useful to all members of the House, to draw the attention of the House to annotation 362 of Beauchesne affecting question period, "Reading telegrams, letters or extracts from newspapers, as an opening to an oral question, is an abuse of the rules of the House. It is not good parliamentary practice to communicate written allegations to the House and then ask ministers to either confirm or deny them. It is the member's duty to ascertain the truth of any statement before he brings it to the attention of Parliament."

I raise this to the attention of the hon. members in case they may have overlooked this in considering the phrasing of questions in question period, as it relates to the press.

Mr. Penikett: To assist the Government Leader, I always like to quote from a reliable source, that is all.

My question does concern the reports of the two-week consideration period, or a two-week period by which we were to expect an answer which, I assume, emanated originally from the federal cabinet. Could the Government Leader indicate if he has been given any reason why we have not heard any firm word before now on an official reaction to the aid package, even though seven weeks has now past since the federal-territorial meeting?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No, I cannot give any reason, other than that we have pursued the matter with the federal government. We are dealing directly with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and his departmental people. I am hopeful that we are going to get word, fairly soon, because if we do not, then, in respect to a lot of the make-work projects, it will be too late. If we cannot get them started fairly quickly, we are not going to be able to get them started this winter at all.

Mr. Penikett: The Government Leader might indicate to the House whether there has been any definite response from the federal cabinet to date? I specifically ask him if he has been advised whether the package has been actually submitted to cabinet yet or have we even been given a deadline date, or date, by which we can expect a decision by the federal cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I have learned from bitter experience that there is no such thing as a deadline date, or even a projected date, for something to go to cabinet. It just does not happen. They are normally unrealistic. It is highly likely that the two-week period that was reported was unrealistic. The cabinet agenda is put together by someone in Ottawa, and I would anticipate that the moment that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development can get the Yukon Territory's problems on the agenda, they will be there. I hope that it is very, very soon.

Question re: Energy grants

Mr. Byblow: As any good businessman would, I have a question for the Government Leader on his government's corporate investments. The Conservation and Renewable Energy Development Agreement Program, which is cost-shared between the federal government and this government, and administered by the territorial government, is mandated to provide financial incentives, including grants, for such projects as small hydro developments. Can the Government Leader say whether or not Yukon Hydro will be eligible for support under that program for its McIntyre 3 project?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I do not think that they are eligible for the McIntyre 3 project. However, a partner company of Yukon Hydro, or their parent company, Yukon Electrical, is certainly eligible, and is certainly participating, under that program, in various projects now.

Mr. Byblow: If there is any particular reason why this particular project is singled out as being ineligible for support under the program, would the reason have anything to do with YTG's involvement in the project?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No, that is not any sort of a reason at all. In fact, that program is designed for new, different types of energy generation, in order to get off oil. Hydro, in fact, has been around for a long time.

Mr. Byblow: On the same subject, I note that the board of directors of Yukon Hydro have only one Yukon resident in a total membership of nine. In part of the negotiations for the 50 percent equity involvement of Yukon Hydro, in order to protect the interests of Yukoners, and in order to give Yukon more control over its economy, is the government pressing for more Yukon residents on the board of directors?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I would like to assure the hon. member that there are good businessmen on this side of the House as well, and he can be assured that that is a factor in the negotiations.

Question re: Social assistance

Mr. Kimmerly: I have a question for the minister responsible for social assistance. Will the minister confirm that there is now a waiting list, in excess of two weeks, for social assistance applicants?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No, I do not believe that I can confirm that. I am aware that it is about eight days, the last I knew about it. There has always been a period that is necessary for some of these people to wait. It is usually three or four days. Due to the increased necessity for the

handling of these people, and the increase in people that come into my department, that period has stretched somewhat. I must assure the member across the floor and all members of the House, that if anybody feels that they are in dire need, my department is quite available to have them sit there until there is an opportunity to talk to these people. If they are in dire necessity, we can handle them almost immediately.

Mr. Kimmerly: Are there reorganizations planned to facilitate the intake procedures to alleviate the pressure on the current staff?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No, I believe that in order to alleviate that pressure on the staff we would have to hire more staff and I do not believe, at this time, that I would allow my department to put more members on the staff.

There is a certain amount of works that is entailed in order to qualify these people for receiving welfare and it takes a fair amount of work. People are handled just as quickly as possible. As I said earlier, if they are in dire straits they can sit there and wait and, as soon as a few moments come open, one of the staff will handle these people.

Mr. Kimmerly: Is the current expenditure level, as known to the minister by the last monthly statements, on target with the present estimates?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Yes, we are staying within our estimates for the balance of the year. I hope we will be able to maintain it. I am glad that the Minister of Manpower has announced some of these programs, especially the ones that she announced today, which are going to allow us, perhaps, to put some of the employable people on the welfare rolls out to work in some area. That is one area that my Yukon Opportunities Plan person will certainly be looking at.

Question re: Stokes Point

Mr. Porter: My question is directed to the Government Leader and it is to satisfy his request earlier about Stokes Point.

Does his government support a proliferation of oil-gas related infrastructure to take place on the northern coast of Yukon or does his government favour a policy of restricting development to the area of Stokes Point?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I do not think that anyone on this side or, in fact, anyone in this territory who has ever been on that north coast would favour a proliferation of development on the north coast. I have said it before and I will say it again, it is a very, very fragile environment, and it is easily damaged. Frankly, one of the reasons that I think that Stokes Point is such a logical place is because it has already been environmentally damaged. It is the former Bar II site, and there was a site there for a number of years some 25 years ago, so the land in the immediate area has suffered the environmental damage that is going to remain there forever. You can still see all of the signs of 25 years ago. I do not imagine that they will ever go away. I would not be in favour of the north coast of the territory being just opened up holus-bolus. That is not what we are suggesting at all.

Mrs. Joe: My question, again, is to the Minister of Justice. I would thank you for the response that you gave me today in answer to some of the questions that I have had. What you said to me, as I understand it, is if these women who are not on social assistance meet the criteria through legal aid then they would be assisted. The information that I have at this time that it is not covered under legal aid...

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member is now entering into debate. Would the hon. member kindly state her question.

Mrs. Joe: Will the minister instruct his officials to cover these cases under the Legal Aid Plan in the future, if they are not already covered under legal aid?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: As the member opposite should realize by now, we are in terrible financial difficulties and I cannot foresee us doing that, not in the near future anyway.

Mrs. Joe: Can the minister responsible for Justice give me an indication as to what these women have to do in order to get that kind of assistance because they may possibly have to get social assistance in order to do that?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: There is a legal aid committee that they must qualify through.

Question re: Driveway plowing

Mr. McDonald: I have an easy question for the Minister for Highways. Recently I asked the minister if he knew whether residents

outside Whitehorse are facing up to a 300 percent increase over the last year for having their driveways plowed out in winter months. I have in my hand a receipt for one such incident of snow clearance by the new contractors which clearly indicates a 300 percent increase. Could the minister indicate once again government policy for snow clearance for persons outside Whitehorse?

Hon. Mr. Lang: It is my understanding that they are charging the same amount that we would have charged, as our policy throughout the territory, for the area that they are covering within the Whitehorse surrounding parameter. I have not seen the invoice or receipt that the member has brought forward, but perhaps we are undercharging. Perhaps that accusation could be put forward, I am not sure.

Mr. Speaker: The time normally allotted for the question period has now expired. At this time, if it be the will of the House, we will now receive Mr. Commissioner in his capacity as Lieutenant-Governor to give assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, could you ascertain if Mr. Commissioner is now available?

¹⁸

Mr. Commissioner enters the Chambers

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the assembly has at its present session passed a number of bills to which, in the name and on behalf of the assembly, I respectfully request your assent.

Mr. Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, Fifth Appropriation Act, 1981/82.*

Commissioner Bell: I hereby assent to the bills as enumerated by the clerk.

Mr. Commissioner leaves the Chambers

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed under orders of the day to motions other than government motions.

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Mr. Clerk: Item number one, standing in the name of Mr. Philipsen.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member prepared, at this time, to deal with item one.

Mr. Philipsen: Next sitting day.

Motion 4:

Mr. Clerk: Item number two, standing in the name of Mr. Brewster.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member prepared to deal with item two.

Mr. Brewster: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. member for Kluane, seconded by the hon. member for Hootalinqua, that it is the opinion of this assembly that the Government of Yukon should initiate, where necessary, a poison program to control the wolf population in Yukon.

Mr. Brewster: I would imagine that this is the first time that I have been on the hot seat, since I am the rookie on this side of the place, however, it is about time to get started on this thing.

I would like to advise the members of this House that I am convinced that the opinion expressed in this motion is the most humane method of dealing with the wolf problem. I have spent many of my years of my life as an outfitter and, because of this, I have developed an appreciation for the ways of life in the wilderness and the part that the wolf plays in the struggle for life and death in the wild.

As an outfitter, I have waged an ongoing battle to protect the natural balance and to protect my interests, such as my horses, from the ravages of nature. Even though I agree that I have probably had more experience with wolves than most members now in this House, I do not claim to be an expert on wolves and their habits. In fact, I would raise an eyebrow to anyone in Yukon who claims to be a so-called expert on wolves.

I would suggest, therefore, that we, the elected representatives, must look at the circumstances regarding wolf control and choose the most reasonable, humane and cost-effective means of dealing with it.

To me, a wolf is a very smart and cunning animal. Because of this it manages to be one of the predators that survives relatively well during

nature's cycles. We have witnessed, in the last while, a decline in the rabbit, small bird and moose population. As a result, the natural balance between the wolf and the food supply has been upset. This fact of nature, I might add, has been gradually getting worse for a number of years.

¹⁹ The wolves, in an effort to survive against great odds, have turned to those sources of food that have been introduced by man. Our horses and cattle have been the victims. The fact that our domestic animals are being attacked, wounded and killed by wolves, gives us an indication of the difficulties that our moose population is now going through in the wild. Once wolves get the taste of domestic stock, they, being a very smart animal, will very seldom go back to wild game, as domestic stock is much easier to catch.

The natural balance is beginning to work its way through its cycle. The land can only support so much wildlife. When one population suffers, so will the others that survive on that population. This is what lies ahead for our wolf population once the natural source of food has been depleted. The wolf will die a slow and sometimes violent death. Starvation is a fact of life in the natural order of things, but starvation is by no one's standard here today a humane way to die.

I am not arguing that we should get rid of all the wolves, but I am arguing that we must act to control the negative effect that that huge wolf population is now creating. Good game management is a must in Yukon. I would only hope that the game biologists in the renewable resources department have learned from this current wolf problem so that we can prevent a familiar problem in years to come.

If the situation is not corrected soon, we may be looking at the restricting of the hunting of moose and other species by man in the near future. In some areas, this may already be the case. I do not look forward to the day that we, as elected members, have to face the public — and, I might add, a vocal public — when we tell them that we have to close some hunting areas because of a lack of moose.

We can let nature solve the problem for us, but that would mean that all wildlife species in Yukon would suffer. Our hunting privileges would probably be suspended and starvation would be the controlling factor. I suggest that we attempt to lessen the negative effects on other animal populations, such as moose, by controlling the wolf population effectively and humanely. I believe the control option is the responsible choice, and a controlled poisoning program is the best means to accomplish it.

I would like to expand on this a little. Those arguing against the poisoning program say it is a very cruel and inhumane way to kill animals. I disagree, when you look at the other options. Once a wolf has eaten poisoned meat it is almost immediately killed, and travels only a couple of hundred yards. Is it any more inhumane than shooting wolves from airplanes where wounded animals are left to wander and die in the bush? I ask if it is any more humane to chase wolves with snowmobiles until they collapse from exhaustion or are run over by skis?

Unless something is done, people are going to be taking matters into their own hands. This compromises a number of very inhumane things. One is the loading of large fish hooks into squirrels and setting them out into snares, which the wolf grasps and then turns around and suffers while dying by infection, or using carbon from a car battery that explodes inside the animal once the carbon is warmed by wolves.

²⁰ If the government cannot take effective action to solve this problem, some people in desperation are going to resort to these truly inhuman ways. If a poison program is done properly, it can be very effective. The bait must be frozen into lakes and checked regularly for results. Not only are the wolves dealt with humanely, but one is able to keep an exact account of the number of wolves killed. They will be within a couple of hundred yards of the bait. By removing the carcasses and the bait, one will have a clean lake and a controlled situation.

Opponents may argue that other species will fall victim to the poison. This may be true to a degree, but it is a trade-off. If the wolf population is not brought under control, these other species that feed on the same food as wolves, will face the same starvation as the wolves when the food supplies are depleted. If the bait is monitored regularly, this complication can be minimized.

The wolf problem is not just a Mayo road problem, it exists all through southern and central Yukon. The government, in all fairness, has tried a number of controlled methods, and the Minister of Renew-

able Resources has no doubt spent many agonizing hours on this problem. It is now becoming apparent that the methods that have been used to date are expensive and are only a limited success. However, the people in the outlying districts are at their wits end, and they are looking to the government for leadership. It is because of this that I am advocating a controlled program, if no other humane and successful method can be found quickly.

I realize that this is a controversial issue, but it seems very strange to me that in our society, children can be beaten, abused and abandoned regularly and very little is said, yet when we have a very pressing problem that needs a quick solution, like the case of wolves, there is an incredible controversy. We in this House were elected to make difficult decisions, I urge the members of this House to stand and be counted on this issue.

Mr. Porter: We are not satisfied that members of the government office can tell the difference between a dog and a wolf, so that we fear for the consequences of the passage of such an action. Otherwise, we would rather advocate that Mr. Tracey and his friends trap the wolves and bring in the much needed revenue to the Yukon.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I have to rise in respect to my capacity as the MLA for Porter Creek East. For the member's information opposite, it has come to my attention that just last night, or the night previous, there was a dog on Evergreen avenue, which is in a suburb of Whitehorse, apparently taken by a wolf. I gather from the position that is being put forward by the members opposite, that they oppose any wolf predator control program, and if that is the case, then it is very good that the member from Kluane brought this issue forward.

I want to say one thing in respect to this situation, and the member from Kluane stated it, is that it is just not in the Mayo road area, or south of Whitehorse, it is predominate throughout the territory at the present time. I recognize the member opposite does not get out hunting very often, but I will relay my experience this last summer, when I went into an area that is supposedly a very good area for the purposes of moose hunting. I will tell you, from the signs that were there, there were not that many around. I am saying this as a recreational hunter and on behalf of those people who go out for the purposes of not only getting their food, but recreation, that we have a very serious problem. And if we do not arrest that problem and approach that problem and try to solve it, we are in a situation, as the member from Kluane so aptly put it, where we are going to be putting further regulations on the hunter to the point where perhaps he or she cannot go out and partake of the recreation that they deem fit in the fall, as well as getting their food supply for the winter months.

It would seem to me, from where I sit that the member of this House representing a constituency, that we, as a government and a legislature, have a responsibility to let the people of the territory know just exactly what direction we should be taking in this situation, which is a very serious question of game management. I would submit to the member from Campbell that he perhaps has not travelled around the territory to speak with the people he should. If you talk to the people who are very knowledgeable on the subject, and in particular the native elders, who have come forward to my colleague over the past spring saying there is a real problem. They reminded them of the situation in the 30s when the wolf population had expanded to the point where the moose population was down to the extent they could not get the necessary food supply for the winter months. It is a very serious situation throughout the territory. I am glad the member from Kluane put it forward for some public debate because I think it is fully warranted. It is a discussion which is taking place, not in just some organization, but also coffee time in the various establishments. When you are driving down the road, people are now spotting wolves one, two, three, or four, sometimes, from here to Dawson City, something which you normally never see. So I have to say to the member opposite that I think they have a responsibility to stand up and be counted on the subject, as opposed to ignoring it.

Mr. Penikett: I would not have risen in this debate except that since the member opposite has attempted to persuade the House that the member for Campbell and my party hold some position other than the one we hold, I feel bound to correct the record.

I think it is unfortunate that the member from Porter Creek East rarely gets up in his house except to cry wolf or do his "chicken licken" speech, "the sky is falling". The fact of the matter is that it

is a problem; wolves are a problem. It is a problem that has been raised in this House by the member from Campbell. It is a problem that the member from Campbell has, in fact, communicated to the minister about, so he is not unaware of the problem.

Mr. Speaker, we are not being asked to express an opinion on whether there is a problem and whether the government ought to do something about it. We are being asked to express opinion on whether poison is an appropriate solution to the problem. The member has suggested that there was a wolf attacked by a dog in Porter Creek. Rather, a wolf attacked a dog. I cannot count on the member opposite for facts. I am just repeating what I think I just heard him say. He cannot tell a wolf from a dog, but I may tell him that I have seen evidence of other contacts between wolves and dogs, too. Sometimes they engage in other activities.

The point is, I doubt if we were given a case right now before us of a dog in this city, rabid or otherwise, having attacked a child — and that is not an uncommon problem with the number of dogs we have around — that there would be an extremely violent, fearful and negative reaction if poison were proposed as a solution.

²² To the same extent, on the same potentially serious environmental grounds, poison can have the same kind of awful consequences. The member opposite, when he spoke, suggested that it can be precisely controlled. I submit that he did not, in his speech, prove that case sufficiently to earn our support for this motion.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I would like to make some comments regarding this poison program, since we are talking about a poison program. As the member of the opposition tried to indicate, and then wandered off somewhere about rabid dogs attacking children, I am very interested in his analysis of the outcry there would be if we decided to, in fact, poison dogs because, as the member for Campbell has commented, this side of the House knows nothing about hunting. It just indicates to me that the Leader of the Opposition knows even less about hunting. I am sure if he knew something, he would know that with a dog you can take the dog and put a gun to his head and shoot him without any difficulty. A wolf is not an animal that stands there and waits for you to shoot him, or use some other acceptable method. The member of the opposition is inferring that there are more acceptable methods than poisoning.

I would like to relate a story that an elderly man told me when I first came to the Yukon Territory. Mrs. Joe, the member for Whitehorse North Centre, may remember this man. He was in Whitehorse General Hospital and he was a very elderly Indian gentleman. This man told me a story about wolves in the territory. I, of course, knew very little then about wildlife in the territory. This man told me that wolves were very cunning animals. They are extremely cunning. If people saw wolves, particularly on highways or coming close to communities, it was an indication that there were far too many wolves for it to be safe for the wildlife or for people.

I am sure the members opposite will share with me in the thought that when elderly native people tell stories, they are not based on fiction and hearsay, and that there is, in fact, some truth to these stories. I would just like to say to the assembly that I do support this motion that the member for Kluane has brought forward because I believe that a poison program is the most humane way of eliminating this wolf problem.

It indicates to me that the members opposite have a way of sitting on the fence when there is a decision to be made like this and then coming out strongly, one way or the other, usually the opposite of the way the government decides. It just indicates to me that, when there is a decision to make, and when there is a tough decision to make, that this side of the House can make it and that is why we are here and they are over there.

²³ **Mr. Falle:** I would like to rise in support of this motion. I seconded it for a very good reason. In my riding, there have been multiple attacks on livestock. There is also a great decline in the moose population and the wildlife population.

I have a very unique riding. It is a donut shape around Whitehorse but it is very highly populated with wildlife, as a rule. I have talked to prospectors, miners, native people and trappers, and all the people with whom I have spoken have come back with the one that always balanced out: the moose population, the elk and the deer are declining drastically and all contributed to by the upsurge in the wolf population.

I do not think any member of this House relishes the idea of having to do away with any wild animal, but it has been pointed out to me that poison can control the number of wolves that are killed in an area. It is a very effective way. You know exactly how many wolves you want to take out of a pack and when that number has been reached you remove the bait. You have no more problems. You are not going to completely eliminate the wolves or upset the balance of nature too much.

It is a very sensitive area and I hope that we are making the right decision. I feel we are, and I certainly like hunting myself and I do not want anymore horses, if possible, taken from my riding, so I definitely stand in support of this motion.

Mr. Philipson: It seems unfortunate to me that the members on the opposite side of the House can stand up and criticize a matter of this importance. I do not hear solutions from their side. I do hear them criticizing at great length any other attempt that has been made in regards to the wolf problem. I would be very interested, indeed, to hear one of them stand up and give me their solution to what is right now a very serious problem, or do they wish to wait until the wolves are wandering around the streets of town and then say, "My goodness, what shall we do now?"

Hon. Mr. Tracey: As the eventual control of what happens to the wolves rests on my shoulders and those of my cabinet colleagues, I believe that I should take this opportunity to give the House some information that I have.

²⁴ First of all, I would like to give members the information that I have from a study done in northeastern Alberta. For every adult moose that the wolves devoured, they took 0.91 moose calves, 3.56 beavers and 6.27 snowshoe hares. The actual consumption of other game was fairly insignificant, when it amounted to what the wolves diet was. The wolves diet is almost totally moose and caribou and sheep, in areas where there are sheep.

My department has also acquired a study that was done in Alaska in the Tananau Flats. There was a very serious problem on the Tananau Flats. The moose population dropped to about 12 moose to one wolf. The Government of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, did a wolf eradication program there in the 1970s. They went in there and destroyed 162 wolves in this area. What has happened is that by reducing the wolf population, the moose population has come back significantly. In fact, it is back to the stage now where there are abundant moose. The recommendations from that area was that wolf predation be reduced, through the means of taking at least 30 percent of the wolves out of that area every year in order to maintain the moose at a population that was beneficial to hunters.

They recommend that the moose population be maintained at about 45 moose to one calf moose. My department has also done an investigation of the Finlayson caribou and they have made a recommendation that we do some wolf-control programs there because the Finlayson caribou herd is reducing in size and it is because of the wolf predation. The recommendation is that we have controlled aerial hunting, we license some people to go and aerial hunt and perhaps, if it is found necessary, to also do a poison program there.

I also have been saying, in this House, that my department has been working on some recommendations to make to me, and they have done so. They recognize that there is a serious wolf problem in the territory and their recommendations are that we continue with the trapper education program — and, incidentally, quite a few of the trappers are in total agreement with that. A number of the trappers have asked me when this man is going to be here, can they get in the program, and I am going to make it as easy as possible for the trappers to attend this program, because I am going to try to move the program around the territory.

The man is only going to be here for a short period of time so I am going to make an airplane available for him and we are going to take him around to some of the communities so that all of the people will not have to come to Whitehorse.

They also recommend that we do a poison program around the communities where the wolf population is extremely high. Their recommendation is that we do a wolf poison program and also that we do a wolf collaring program. The reason for the wolf collaring program is so that we can collar the wolves and then we could aerial hunt them in the future. Their recommendation is also that we should concentrate our poison program around existing communities where the problems

are such as around Whitehorse, that we should give the trappers an incentive to collar wolves by giving them the money the value of the pelt and we would call it a wolf and turn it loose. They also recommend that in the outlying areas of the territory, such as the Finlayson area and other areas of the territory, that we license some pilots. Some of the big game outfitters, I know, are interested in this, and allow them to aerial hunt the wolves on the lakes during the winter.

My department has recognized that we do have a problem with wolves. They have made recommendations, and one of those recommendations is that we use poison. I would recommend that every member of this House support this motion. It is not a motion for indiscriminate use of poison. It is a motion that says we will poison where necessary.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed to government motions.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 5

Mr. Clerk: Item No. 1, standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Lang.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member prepared to discuss Item No. 1?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the hon. member for Old Crow, that the Yukon Legislative Assembly is opposed to the COPE Agreement-in-Principle, in respect to its effect on Yukon, signed by the Government of Canada and COPE.

Hon. Mr. Lang: This is a resolution that we felt should come forward because negotiations appear to be resuming. We felt that the legislature, since it was a newly-elected one, should reaffirm its position respecting the present COPE agreement and how it now reads.

I think it is important for newly-elected members to recognize the significance of this agreement and what its short-term and long-term implications to the territory could be, if implemented with the language it was written in when signed some three years ago.

As all members know, the Conservative Party of the Yukon has taken a very strong and very consistent stand in respect to that present agreement. I have to say that the Government of Canada and the present and previous ministers of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, with the exception of the honourable Hugh Faulkner, who is no longer in political life and who signed the agreement, have recognized and, I think, realized that we do have a very legitimate point of view which has to be taken into account and should be taken into account. I give them a fair amount of credit for not going forward and implementing the present agreement the way it now stands.

For members' information, I just want to go very briefly through the consequences of the agreement and, if members do not have copies, I am sure we could see whether or not we could provide them with one. For example, under Clause 12(8), the way it now stands, approximately one half of Yukon's only coastline, up to 1,000 square miles of titled land, could be granted to the beneficiaries of the COPE land claim. This would include any potential sites for, perhaps, harbour development, if that were to take place.

I think the most significant point is the fact that the people of the territory have a responsibility over only 360 square miles of Yukon and yet, at the same time, we have an agreement which was negotiated outside the parameters of the Yukon Indian land claims, which would cede 1,000 square miles of Yukon to people who do not live here, people who do not pay taxes here, and people who do not intend to move here.

The other point that is very critical, as far as the agreement is concerned, are the principles under Clauses 12(8), 12(3), 12(3)(a), 12(6), 12(7) and 12(7)(a), which establish what we believe to be a very detrimental precedent as far as the people of Yukon are concerned, native and non-native alike, and they are allocating an area of Yukon for the purposes and the special privileges of hunting and trapping, which would effectively, in northern Yukon's case, make people of Old Crow second fiddle, and other Yukoners third fiddle in that area. It also would have, if the precedent is set, very significant effects from the area that Mr. Speaker represents, in the Watson Lake area, in respect to the British Columbia coast, and could well have an effect in

the area that the member from Campbell represents, where, in effect, Yukoners would be divested, to some degree if not totally, of the right to go out and hunt, which is the reason many of our people live here, native and non-native alike.

I think another significant clause of the agreement, if members take time to read it, is under Section 12(3)(a), Section 14(2)(a)(6), 14(2)(a)(3), 12(8) and 12(5). That is where the agreement permits, if it were to be implemented, the right for the Inuit people of the Northwest Territories to come into Yukon, take wildlife such as the Porcupine caribou herd, slaughter them, and take them over to the Northwest Territories and sell them commercially, which is a right no Yukoner has in the territory, by decree of this legislature.

I think members opposite would agree that that is a major infringement upon the responsibilities that we have been invested within respect to our responsibilities for wildlife and the management thereof.

Further to that, which is of significance because of the national interest that is being exhibited for the Beaufort Sea, it gives that amount of land in one form or another, with rights, to people who would have preference for the purposes of employment opportunities at the expense of residents of Old Crow and, for that matter, all Yukoners. I think if one takes a look at the agreement, and the fact that it was signed, sealed and delivered on Hallowe'en night, without any consultation at all with Yukoners, I think all members could agree, and could unanimously say that that was wrong.

I think that we should go back in time, and I am sure the Leader of the Official Opposition would probably agree that one should look back in respect to the votes and proceedings insofar as this issue was concerned. It was discussed at some length and, if my memory serves me, I think the Leader of the Official Opposition and I got into a wrangle, which is very much out of the ordinary, and very unusual as far as our general conduct in this House is concerned. I think that it is important that the resolution at that time that was put forward read as follows, "That the Yukon Legislative Assembly is opposed to the COPE Agreement-in-Principle, signed by the Government of Canada and COPE, with respect to its effect on Yukon and endorses and supports the position taken by the Government of Yukon as outlined in the position paper, North Yukon Resource Management Model".

If you take a look at the resolution that is before you, we have intentionally taken out the portion that was in the previous motion that was to get in the previous legislation the question of asking whether or not we should endorse and support the position taken by the Government of Yukon, as outlined in the position paper, North Yukon Resource Management Model. Therefore, as you have indicated, and you have read, "that the Yukon Legislative Assembly is opposed to the COPE Agreement-in-Principle in respects to its effect on Yukon, signed by the Government of Canada and COPE", I think meets perhaps some of the opposition put forward by the Leader of the Official Opposition. I would like to quote some comments that were made when the member opposite was having trouble making up his mind.

He did make some, what I thought, valid comments. In fact, I think he may have quoted me from previous speeches I have made on the subject. "It is not every day, thank goodness, that we wake up to find out that a large part of the Yukon has been negotiated out from under us. It was a terrible blow to Yukon, and Yukoners, and it was the day that everyone will remember, the day that the deal went down. As I said, the Inuvialuit have a legitimate claim to the north Yukon coast but what of other claims. The members opposite have referred to their claims in the areas. The claims of the people of Yukon. It is true that Ottawa ignored us and for that I, like most Yukoners, am offended." I recognize that, if the member opposite has the opportunity to speak now, he would probably recommend that I spend a lot of spare time in the theatre.

I think it is important that we look back on that debate and the points that were raised by the member of the official opposition who was having a difficult time trying to determine what his position would be. He did make a point, and I think it was a valid one, in retrospect, that there were two issues that were being discussed in the body of the motion.

If one refers further on in the debate, when I was speaking — and, I would not use the word, rudely interrupted, but I was interrupted by

the Leader of the Official Opposition — he asked, on a point of order, "I will come directly to my point of order. There are, in this motion before us, two principles. The first principle which may be desirable from some people's point of view and not from others. The second one, which is a more devious proposition, I would ask to make a submission to you, on a point of order, such has been done in the House of Commons on a number of occasions, that is the only precedent that I can cite, that the question be split on the two questions in the motion and that you permit a vote on the first part and a vote on the second part, to be recorded separately."

As I indicated earlier, we have looked at it and we feel that, perhaps, that is a separate issue and we could debate that as a separate issue at a later date. I think it is interesting to note that in the debate that took place — and I recognize the quandary that the members opposite must be in — that the member for Faro voted with the government that day, with the resolution, but the member for Whitehorse West opposed that motion. I do not know if it was strictly for the sake of opposing government or if it was under the pretense that there were two issues being discussed and, subsequently, he could not support it.

As I indicated in my opening remarks, we feel that the motion put forward to you is a very important issue affecting Yukon and it is going to have some very important ramifications if it goes through in its present context. I think I have clearly delineated for those who have not had the opportunity to read the agreement-in-principle or who have, perhaps, misunderstood it, the full understanding and consequences of the agreement, not only to the northern Yukon, not only to the integrity and the jurisdictional responsibilities that we hope to gain in this House, but for the land in the Yukon, and also offshore royalties.

I just want to go on to another point that was made by the Leader of the Official Opposition. I have to agree with him on this point and, if the member will hear me out, it has to do with the fact that he and his party supported the principle that we should have access to both onshore and offshore royalties. Well, if we have no access to our northern coast, then I think it is ludicrous for us to sit here and say that we will have access to the resource revenue from offshore potential of that area. It would seem to me that in order to be logical and to take the common sense approach that we feel we are taking, we must have some authority and jurisdiction over that area, not only for the short term, but for the long term, so that if any economic benefits do occur — and it is all hypothetical at the present time, it is in the exploration stages — then we will have the legitimate right to come forward as a jurisdiction similar to Nova Scotia and see whether or not we can negotiate a resource revenue-sharing type of a proposition with the national government.

I am trying to make it easy for the members opposite respecting the arguments that they put forward at an earlier time. I am sure that the Leader of the Official Opposition is referring back to the previous Votes and Proceedings to make sure that he does not have to retract statements that he made at an earlier time and to make sure they are totally dead-on. I am sure, and I say this in all sincerity, that if he does make a mistake, I will be the first to correct him, so there would be no problem there as far as a consistent stand on the matter is concerned.

What we are asking here is reaffirmation of a policy of this legislature for a number of years, and one that we believe should continue, and that is that we, the representatives of the people of the territory, whether we be from Whitehorse North Centre or Mayo, or the member for Whitehorse South Centre or the member for Porter Creek West, that we, as duly elected members from a constituency, believe the implications of the COPE agreement, if it were to go through in its present form, would have everlasting effects on Yukon and, just as importantly, on our children of tomorrow.

Mr. Byblow: At this time I would like to move an amendment to Motion No. 5, seconded by the member for Mayo, that Motion No. 5 be amended by adding at the end the following words: "and further that this assembly will remain opposed to the agreement-in-principle until such time as the parties, including the Government of Yukon and representatives of the Old Crow Band, have agreed to renegotiate the areas that affect the northern Yukon".

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. member for Faro, seconded by the hon. member for Mayo, that Motion No. 5 be amended by adding at the end the following words: "and further that this assembly will remain opposed to the agreement-in-principle until

such time as the parties, including the Government of Yukon and representatives of the Old Crow Band, have agreed to renegotiate the areas that affect the northern Yukon".

Mr. Porter: I would like to speak to the amendment. Prior to doing so, for the record, I would like to assure the Minister of Municipal Affairs that if he doubts my hunting ability, he is welcome to come out in the bush with me anytime that he wants.

I believe that it is time to end what I describe as the era of confrontation between this government and aboriginal peoples. I believe it is time that this government dropped all confrontation tactics that they have used in the past, that they have used as a strategy to try to mitigate against everything that is usually progressive in the Yukon. I think that, in terms of the relationship that they have enjoyed with the federal government, it is safe to say, over the past few years, it can only be described as "fed bashing", in which they have become artisan. What I say to them is that they should take a change of heart and they should start a more reasonable tactic in terms of realizing their responsibilities as a government.

We have seen, in the last few days, some fruits of that kind of cooperation that can go on between ministers of this government and ministers of the federal government. As a matter of fact, we had the Minister of Education rise on three distinct, different occasions, in this House, to inform this House of various progress that she and Mr. Axworthy have made over the last week of negotiations in Vancouver. I believe that they should build on this kind of relationship that their Minister of Education enjoys with the Minister of Manpower and they should continue that kind of thrust in terms of their overall governmental policies.

As a result of the number of times that the minister has arisen in this House to tell us about that achievement, I think that I can see why the federal government has agreed to a different kind of policy with respect to the announcement of programs. I can see why they are afraid of a lot of the political fruit of these negotiations going to the more junior governments, in respect of joint announcements of programs.

Nonetheless, we do not down play the importance of such an agreement, the importance of the dollars and the training that will result in the Yukon. That is the kind of responsible attitude that has to be injected into this government.

With the amendment that has been presented today, I believe that this side of the House is encouraging that kind of maturity on the part of the government. I think the point of the amendment is to inject a degree of sanity into the motion that has been presented to this House. Like many Yukoners it is my opinion, and shared by many members on this side, that this government must begin to conduct itself in a mature and responsible fashion. Rather than consultation, I suggest that we should be advocating a more logical process of negotiation. For the government to do otherwise would be for them to be labelled as destructive obstructionists. I think it is for the good of all parties involved in these negotiations that this new kind of change has to occur in the government, that they have to undergo an osmosis of change, of becoming a much more reasonable group of people to deal with. I think that is the only way the COPE agreement is going to be resolved, and that is through a process of negotiations. It is not going to be resolved through the Legislature Chambers of this House, it is not going to be resolved in the Legislature of the NWT; it is going to be resolved when the Government of the Yukon, the Inuvialuit of the western Arctic, the Old Crow people and the Government of Canada sit down and negotiate a reasonable agreement that all parties can live with. I think the motion that we see today is done in a point of defeating that kind of good will. That is why I urge the government to support the amendment that we have brought forth today.

There is no question that there are problems contained in the COPE Agreement-in-Principle, particularly sections 12 and 14. There are many other problems. There are problems in respect to the ability of the Old Crow people to gain employment in the proposed natural wilderness park in the area. There are problems in terms of the whole concept of resource revenue sharing with the people of Old Crow and the people of the Yukon. There are problems involved with the whole question of hunting and fishing boundaries that exist between the people of Old Crow and the people of Old Crow.

Although the list is a long one, the only remedy is one of consultation. It is not a crusade of confrontational politics. That is something

that we must learn here in the Yukon. I think that if the Yukon government did learn to advocate its policies in a manner, and conduct itself as a government in such a manner, that, generally, the people of Canada would benefit from that kind of change. I think that with those concluding words, I urge all members of this House to support the very mature and reasonable motion that has been brought forward by this side of the House.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: What a pity. This is an issue so important to every person in this territory. I have been accused by a lot of people, but I will not stand to be accused by the NDP, for "fed-bashing". After all, everyone knows that the NDP and the Liberals are in bed together in Ottawa. They are mouthing Liberal gibberish in this House right now. We have not ever "fed-bashed" unless it was legitimate and it was proper. We opposed COPE, and let me tell you, it was a good thing for everyone in this territory that we did. It is a good thing for the people of Old Crow, it is a good thing for you members sitting over there that we did. Because if we had not, COPE would have been signed, it would have been put into place, and we would never have gotten onto the north coast of Yukon.

¹² We are such obstructionists, that, in good faith, and without any prompting from the federal government, but, as a matter of trying to get along with people from COPE, we granted COPE a group trapping area in northern Yukon. We have given them five of our six polar bear tags, which are of considerable economic benefit to COPE. We have amended our *Wildlife Act*, giving COPE a special licence to hunt in northern Yukon. As well, we have committed, and will provide, any opportunities for them that we can, to become involved in a resource management regime if the federal government ever let us put it in place.

Now, we are not the obstructionists in this matter, by any stretch of the imagination. And I also have to emphasize something else. Our argument has never been with COPE. Our argument has always been with the federal government. It was the federal government that signed that agreement on behalf of all of the people of Canada, without ever having us involved in it. And there is absolutely no way that I am ever going to apologize to anyone for bashing the feds for COPE.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further debate on the amendment?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I would just like to rise on the one comment that the member across the floor made. He accuses this side of the House of confrontational politics. I would like to ask the members across the floor, exactly what the member, who just completed his speech from the opposite side of the House, has been doing since this session started on November 1st?

Ms Nukon: The previous member for Old Crow had some very strong concerns with respect to the COPE agreement. And he expressed opposition to it. I have not had a chance to study the details on the agreement, but I am getting all the information that I need as I require it. There are some parts of the agreement that could hurt the people of Old Crow, and their livelihood. For instance, the COPE agreement allows the people of the Northwest Territories to take wildlife from the Yukon into the Northwest Territories and sell it commercially.

I am very concerned that it can affect the land claims settlement of the Old Crow people. The COPE agreement allows the people of the Northwest Territories to select a thousand square miles of land in the northern Yukon.

Also, the residents of the Northwest Territories are given preference for job opportunities over people of Old Crow. Therefore, as the member for Old Crow, and on behalf of the people of Old Crow, and overall, for the people of Yukon, I also, strongly oppose the COPE agreement. I do not believe that the COPE agreement is not a threat to the Yukon.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I did not realize the Government Leader had given me a new portfolio, it almost took me off balance. I just want to rise in respect to this amendment, and the spirit that was put forward. I have to say that I totally agree with it. I think our past practice has indicated that. And for the member for Campbell's edification, as will be noted in the record, the previous speaker represents the community of Old Crow, and is duly elected.

We will be working through the Old Crow Band, along with Ms Nukon, the MLA for the area, recognizing that they have some legitimate concerns that should be heard and dealt with.

I just want to point out to the member for Campbell, respecting the

present agreement and how it affects the Old Crow Band, that I think one of the major areas is the ability to commercially hunt in Yukon. I think it could have major effects upon the caribou herd that the Old Crow people rely so heavily upon. I think it would be a disaster if we were not to speak up on principle on issues of this kind. I take affront to the member for Campbell's position respecting federal government bashing. He has a tendency I have noticed, even in the short time he has been in this House, not to listen to what is being said.

I indicated, and I gave credit, on behalf of this government to the present Minister of Indian Affairs and the Minister of Indian Affairs before him, Mr. Epp, who knew and realized that we do have legitimate concerns, not only as Canadians, but as Yukoners. This resolution was not put here primarily for the purposes of "federal bashing", it was to reaffirm the position of the people of the territory, since this is a newly elected legislature.

I just want to go back in history to approximately three and a half, four years ago. I, personally, as an MLA of this House, when the COPE agreement was signed, sent a letter to the local NDP asking what position they were going to take and, for that matter, the Liberal party. I did not even get a reply, a courtesy of a thank you with something to follow. I am saying, similar to what the Government Leader has said, we are very, very fortunate that at least one political party in Yukon took a firm stand. Now we are in a position where the Government of Canada recognizes that we have a legitimate stand. Subsequently, I would like to think that we could resolve this in an amicable manner, as opposed to it continuing on for years, from the point of view of the people of Old Crow, from the cloud of uncertainty that it brings to the territory. We will be supporting the amendment.

Mr. Falle: I support the amendment. The honourable member for Campbell has got up in this House and chastised this government for "fed bashing". Any matter as important as this amendment coming through to me on this side of the House, as an elected representative of the people in my riding, I must whole-heartedly support the amendment. If this is what it takes to get COPE on the right road, at least, the road that this House sees that it should be, I fully support it.

To me, as a member, it does not really matter where an amendment comes from, either side of the House; if it is worthwhile supporting it, I will support it.

¹⁴ *Amendment agreed to*

Mr. Penikett: I had not intended to get into the debate but I was sorely provoked by the member for Porter Creek East. Of course, after I have introduced a few thoughts into the discussion, I am sure the Government Leader will want to respond with his version of the same events.

I want to begin by apologizing, on behalf of my party, since this is the third time he has raised it, to the fact that we did not reply to the letter from the member for Porter Creek East back in 1974, 1978, or whenever it was, probably 1977. It was a very important issue, and such an important issue that I want to put in context the reason for our failure to respond because I will be frank and honest and say that we were suspicious of the member's intentions. I will say, and emphasize it again today, the other day the Government Leader indicated that their position on aboriginal rights had changed slightly in respect that now that they were in the constitution they could not simply be common law rights. The member for Porter Creek East will recall that he is on record in this House as having been personally opposed to aboriginal rights. December 10, 1975, of Hansard, the member is quoted as saying that he is personally opposed to aboriginal rights. We were fundamentally dealing, in a period going into an election then, with an attitudinal difference. My party is on record, going back to 1973, as being in support of the concept of aboriginal rights. I am sure both sides will admit that there is some considerable work of definition to be done. I expect the process of negotiation will be part of the conference which the government is going to be represented at.

If you like, there is a fundamental division in attitudes, which I suspect still exists in this community and may still, for all I know, be represented in the House. I want to say that the member opposite, who refers to organizations of which I am president — I am very proud of my association with the organization of which I am president, it is the only organization I am president of right now — I refer to another organization of which the member opposite was president, and that is something called The Society for Northern Land Research.

I want to quote something from a press release published by the organization, February 1974, and I want to say that it sums up the views of many people in the territory, and, in fact, to some extent, represents my own views. Perhaps it gives you some indication of how attitudes on this question have evolved in the last few years. This quote says, "We are deeply suspicious of the present secrecy surrounding land claims negotiations. We feel the news media must be allowed access to the meetings, as it is only just that Yukon people, as well as the rest of Canada, be fully informed for the future dispersment of public lands, public monies and public resources", et cetera.

I want to ask the Government Leader, before we conclude this debate, because now that the motion is amended I think he will have his support on this side, to explain a fundamental contradiction.

³⁵ This is the third or the fourth time, on the initiative of the member opposite that we, in this House, are discussing the COPE question. We are discussing the COPE question for the third or fourth time, but we are discussing some of the matters of principle, some of the policy issues surrounding that claim. Now the member opposite has just suggested that if I had my way we would never have discussed it. Rather the opposite, the Government Leader will know that many occasions in the last four years I have attempted to provoke discussion on the Yukon claim, policy questions, by way of questions in the House. And even my colleague from South Centre attempted to present resolutions similar to the one we have today for which he was roundly and soundly rebuked as doing something treacherous and divisive and somehow subversive.

Does it not seem contradictory that although we are prepared to have this discussion about the COPE claim, that the members opposite do not want to have this kind of discussion about the Yukon land claim. I am not talking about the detailed particulars at the land claims table. What I want to know, since we have one minister of this government who was previously personally opposed to aboriginal rights, we have other members opposite who have previously expressed personal opinions on the subject — and can only assume what the attitude of the member from Old Crow is — all we have tried to do is get the same kind of discussion from the Government of Yukon on the principles, the broad policy principles, affecting the land claims in Yukon.

I want to say two last things about it. The cabinet, the Government Leader has indicated, is directing the negotiator, so I assume the cabinet has made some policy decisions. All we have asked for is the same kind of debate on Yukon claim as they want on the COPE. Not to do that seems to me to have some unfortunate effects. The text of the motion we have today talks about the poison program — no that is a different motion. In respect to the effects on Yukon, that seems to be the key phrase. Gramatically, its position is peculiar, but that is the key phrase of the motion. What are some of the effects? I do not think the effects on Yukon have been, as might have been suggested, a profound impact on the development pattern on the north slope, yet. I want to hear from the Government Leader about this. I want to hear some specifics.

³⁶ I do not think there has been a mass exodus of good Yukoners from the area. It has affected the political life in this territory in that it has encouraged a kind of, I think, unfortunate jingoism, without a kind of discussion of the matters of substance affecting the claim that we saw in the information published by the government in respect to the COPE claim. There are several positions of principle and policy applied in the documents that were mailed around that have never been discussed in this House in respect to Yukon claims.

I think the kind of discussion we have had about the COPE claim has potentially negatively affected relationships between the people here and in the Northwest Territories. It creates an unfortunate kind of impression of the Government of Yukon outside, in respect to its attitude on land claims, generally. Worse still, it creates some kind of false sense of history. Tories have only been around the territory, I assume, for about 100 years, but before there were Tories, there were people here, and those people were here for thousands of years. I assume that some of those people, their descendants, would assume they have some rights in the area. To somehow generate a notion that that is not the case is to really breed a false sense of history.

As a politician, I do not want people to become cynical about politics. I do not want people to be deluded into somehow thinking that

when we discuss COPE that we have made ourselves clear in respect of the general principles of land claims.

I have said this before, and I believe it, some time ago, at the initiative of the opposition, we debated a question of a definition of aboriginal rights. Now, we differed strongly with the government on that because we argued that that their position, namely that aboriginal rights had no more status than common law rights, meant that aboriginal rights did not exist. Those rights have since been enshrined in the Canadian Constitution.

The process of defining those rights go on, I admit, principally at the negotiating tables, however, I think this House, having joined that debate once, still has a responsibility to participate in the discussion around the definition of those rights, especially when we are dealing with questions of principle. From my point of view, it would not be a satisfactory procedure simply to have to deal with a *fait accompli*, as we had to do in the COPE claim, when we got a settlement.

The Government Leader started to berate the member for Campbell about this being an issue that was so important. Well, let me say, I do not want to denigrate the COPE claim, but I want to say that the Yukon land claim is even more important.

If we are to be consistent, if the government is going to be consistent, we should have the same kind of discussion about the broad policy principles of the Yukon land claims as has been attempted to have been had, on a number of occasions, about COPE. I submit that, in the end, that is the only useful purpose for which this kind of debate can serve.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am appalled. The Leader of the Opposition, who I had given much more credit to before this, is living in a cocoon. There is a difference between the COPE Agreement-in-Principle and the negotiation for a land claims settlement that is going on between the Council for Yukon Indians and the Government of Canada. There is a decided difference. The difference is the agreements-in-principle.

I would like to assure the hon. member, without reservation, that when there is a Yukon agreement-in-principle, it will be tabled in this House and it will be there for debate in the minutest detail, not in broad policy terms at all. I am prepared to table it so that it can be debated in the smallest, finest, detail when it is an agreement-in-principle because that is the only way that we are going to get an agreement-in-principle, that is, to negotiate the agreement-in-principle, in confidence, with the Council for Yukon Indians and the Government of Canada, and then table it in this House. I have no problem with that.

We are talking about a negotiated agreement-in-principle. I have said before, and I will say again, we did not have any problem with the COPE Agreement-in-Principle, except that it was negotiated by two parties that have nothing to do with the Yukon Territory at all and it affects this territory, and it affects every person who lives in it. It was wrong. The Government of Canada has admitted that it was wrong, but not the Leader of the Opposition. He just will not make that admission.

The fact of the matter is that the COPE Agreement-in-Principle does not fly. It is not fair. It is not legal the way it is right now. It must be renegotiated. Our stand has not been one of confrontation. We have said, for the past four years, that we are prepared to sit down and negotiate with COPE and the Government of Canada in respect of the north coast of the Yukon Territory. There has never been any argument about it. There may well be some hesitation, on the part of the other two parties, to recognize our right to that demand, but that does not stop us from making that demand.

³⁸ I would like to say, though, that I think the resolution, notwithstanding what the Leader of the Opposition has said, comes forward at a most appropriate time, because we have been advised that negotiations of the COPE claim could very well be starting up again very soon. As you are aware, they have been broken down for something in excess of two years now, but on October 22nd, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development announced the appointment of a new federal negotiator, Mr. Simon Reesman. The previous negotiator, Senator David Stewart, stepped down because he felt that a change in the federal negotiators may well facilitate the reactivation of the negotiations and hopefully a settlement of the claim.

I would like to express my personal best wishes and the best wishes of this government to Senator Stewart for his two years of dedicated service. Senator Stewart worked very hard at the job. It was one that was very difficult, and I am convinced that Senator Stewart felt a great

degree of frustration, because he was just having trouble all the way along getting things off of square one. But the one thing that Senator Stewart had going for him as far as this territory was concerned, was that he was the first federal COPE negotiator that gave us any kind of a fair hearing, and who recognized that we did have a legitimate claim in respect to the COPE Agreement-in-Principle.

We anticipate with this change in federal negotiators, and in recognition of the fact that intensive negotiations are about to resume, I think it is critical that this assembly be on record as to exactly where we stand in respect to the COPE Agreement-in-Principle as it is written to date.

Let no one mistake our intentions. There is absolutely no reason why there should not be a settlement of the COPE agreement. None, whatever. We are prepared to facilitate that settlement in every way that we can. But there has to be some recognition of Yukon as a jurisdiction if, in fact, the people of COPE, who do not live in this territory, are interested in using a part of the territory for some of their aboriginal pursuits. We have never ever had any problem with that. So, I would encourage all members of the House to support the motion because I believe that it is a good motion that will give us direction and will also be a good message to our friends in the federal government.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Point of order. It is my understanding that the member opposite has already spoken once on this motion. Is that not correct?

Mr. Speaker: No, that is incorrect.

Mr. Porter: You have to try to learn the procedure and policy over there. I think that via the adoption of the amendment that we have put forward before this House today to the main motion, the government opposite has indicated a departure from their confrontationalist style of government that they have levied in the past. I must say that we, on this side, are glad to see that kind of change take place. We will do everything in our power to encourage it. I think it is vitally important that around these issues of aboriginal negotiations that have continued in the north and that are going to continue toward a resolution of agreement, there has been a lot of confrontation, there has been a lot of ill will. It is time, I think, that everyone concerned, including the aboriginal peoples, the Government of Canada and the governments of the NWT and Yukon, committed themselves to an end to that kind of process because it will not achieve any agreements in that area. I think in some areas, we are very close to agreements, and I think that we should as a legislature do everything within our power to allow that process to conclude itself into a reasonable agreement for all parties.

Another aspect of the whole question of being an obstructionist to the process could only result in harm to the whole area of human relations between various members of those communities. I can remember speaking to the elders, not only Yukon elders but elders of Aklavik, MacPherson and elders of Cahlkitsik, at Fort Yukon in Alaska, that there was a real sense of community that existed in the entire northern Yukon, that existed between the Inuvaliut, the Loucheux people of Old Crow, Fort MacPherson, Arctic Red River and also into the communities of northern Alaska. To a large extent, the initiatives that have been brought about in that area by government and by developers have severely impacted those relationships. In many respects some attempts have been made. One that I can site is the whole question of the Porcupine caribou herd agreement. I think that kind of initiative is needed to bring together a sense of community that existed in the past between those people because, largely, those people I speak of are the main users of that Porcupine caribou herd and continue to be so.

It is those bonds of culture, not only in terms of them being all aboriginal people, but in many instances the people of Fort MacPherson and Arctic Red River in the Northwest Territories and Aklavik and the people of Old Crow in Yukon and people of Fort Yukon in the surrounding communities of Alaska are, in fact, related to one another. They are all of the Loucheux people. They all speak the same language, they have the same culture, and, in many instances, as I have indicated, there are brothers and sisters living in three separate jurisdictions of the same family.

⁴⁰ I think that for us to have to continue any kind of area of confrontation on this will have a serious effect on that. I might point out that, within my own family, there is a lot of attachment to the area that we are talking about in respect to this motion. The great, great grand-

mother of my children resides in Old Crow. The children's grandmother is from Old Crow and now resides in Inuvik. Their grandfather spent his entire life living and trapping along the north coast, not only in places like Herschel Island, Shingle Point, but also in areas like Gary Island and Kendal Island. As a matter of fact, this summer my children and their grandfather spent some time on the north coasts of the NWT and Yukon hunting whales, practising a part of their tradition. There is a real, deep concern on my part that any kind of fractious debate on this subject can only result in all kinds of harm to the parties concerned.

So, in a sense, if I hear this government correctly, that they are committed to a process of negotiation and that they will confine their efforts to resolving this question through the process and negotiation, then I suggest that that can only be of help to all parties involved, not only to the people of Yukon, but also to the people of the north in general.

Mr. Speaker: I must say to the honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs that, in speaking now, the honourable minister will close the debate.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think there are a number of points that have to be raised in view of the comments of the Leader of the Official Opposition and the member for Campbell.

First of all, I want to assure members opposite that we are negotiating and negotiating in good faith. This government that has signed 31 agreements and it looks as if we are well on our way to coming to a culmination of the negotiations, if all parties go forward in good faith. We are doing everything we possibly can to ensure that happens.

I would also point out, respecting the secrecy that surrounds the negotiations, that the Government of Canada and the CYI have insisted that there be, in certain areas, secrecy and, in some cases, we agree, until we come to some resolution. I think I can speak for all members on this side of the House when I say that there is no question that, once we come to a resolution, there is going to be a debate, as the Government Leader has indicated.

I appreciated the short course in geneology the honourable member for Campbell gave to all members in this House. I personally, for one, maintain that one should personally keep their own personal life out of the legislature, because you are representing the people of the territory and it is not a question of bringing up the situation of close personal family ties. I just want to put that position forward.

I want to speak for the record, because I will be calling division on this resolution, and I want to refer the member for Campbell to a guest editorial — and I believe it is the one saying Mr. Dave Porter — of May 20th, 1980, when he wrote for the *Whitehorse Star*, indicating to the general public at large, that the COPE agreement did not have any major implications to the territory and that it was a smoke-screen and a reason for an election. I quote, "The reason why the CYI will endeavour to make available copies of the COPE Agreement-in-Principle is directly related to the final point which I would like to make: in all the statements that I have recently read or heard concerning the so-called repugnant nature of the COPE Agreement-in-Principle, not one has been substantiated by direct reference to the actual provisions of the agreement..." and it goes on.

I appreciate the position that the member has taken, and I recognize, in view of the comments that I made in the opening of the debate here, specific sections, and how they would affect the territory, that the member opposite has obviously changed his mind. I appreciate the fact that he has every right to do so.

I think it is important. We have clearly delineated why we are opposed to that agreement-in-principle. I have not heard from the side opposite specifically what they oppose in the COPE agreement or what they agree to. We have said that these are the sections that we disagree with, in principle, and we will stand up on principle in respect to those areas of concern that we outlined. I would suggest that the members opposite have a responsibility to say if they believe, which they have not told anybody in this House, whether or not, in that agreement-in-principle, it is acceptable to them to have people from some other part of Canada to commercially hunt our wildlife. We say no. I am just using that as an example.

I take what has been brought forward by the members opposite, as you can see in a non-combative, non-partisan manner. We have tried to ensure that we could have support of all members of the House. The

reason we have brought it forward, as the Government Leader has indicated, is that we were cooperating, trying to come to a resolution of the political issues that are confronting us today, and hopefully resolving them as soon as we can, so that we can get down to the business at hand. I would submit to you, in respect to our position, I think that the member for Campbell's children, which he spoke so fondly of, will thank us in the long run.

Some Members: Division.

Mr. Speaker: Division has been called. Mr. Clerk, as most members appear to be in their seats, could you kindly poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Agree.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Ashley: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Agree.

Mr. Falle: Agree.

Ms Nukon: Agree.

Mr. Philipsen: Agree.

Mr. Brewster: Agree.

Mr. Penikett: Agree.

Mr. Byblow: Agree.

Mr. Kimmerly: Agree.

Mr. Porter: Agree.

Mrs. Joe: Agree.

Mr. McDonald: Agree.

Mr. Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 15 yay, zip nay.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Motion agreed to

42 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. Chairman: I would call the Committee of the Whole to order. We will have a short break.

Recess

43 **Mr. Chairman:** I will call Committee of the Whole to order.

We will continue with the Department of Education under the program Schools which is found on page 34 of the Operation and Maintenance Estimates, 1982/83.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I would like to clarify a question for the member for Faro that was asked of me yesterday and I would also like to clarify some questions asked by the member for Whitehorse South Centre.

The member for Faro asked me about a person-year that had been added to the administrative portion of the department. That person-year was for a native language instructor. It is the second full-time native language instructor for this current school year.

For the member for Whitehorse South Centre, who had asked questions regarding the drop-out statistics that we have in Yukon, I quoted a drop-out statistic of 39 percent for grades ten to 12, and that is an old statistic. I could not find in my research whether it was a provincial or national statistic, however, I do have some information for him regarding our own statistics in Yukon. For example, the 1978 statistic for F.H. Collins school for the grades nine to 12 was a 25 percent drop-out rate. In 1981/82 the drop-out rate was down to 18.4 percent, and I can break those down to grades for the member: grade 9, 20 percent; grade 10, 22 percent; grade 11, 19 percent; grade 12, 17 percent. Our drop-out rates in the high school grades are comparable to B.C.'s, and always have been.

I do not have them broken down to rural and urban, as we do not with the literacy rates. The reason for this is that, after doing much thinking and having much discussion about it, because of the varied numbers that we have in the rural and urban schools — the rural ones could be

very small numbers, and I will explain this further when we come to the literacy testing — it is really not fair to the children to divide it into rural and urban because then it gives almost an invalid statistical outcome. We did have a statistical rating for the drop-outs in rural schools in 1978, because we had done the whole territory at that time, and the drop-out rate for students grade nine to 12 in the rural areas was 9 percent.

44 We do have a Canadian test for basic skills that we do from grade three to eight. We have been doing this for 12 years now in the territory. There are achievement skills, as I am sure members are aware. We are just a little below the B.C. average, however I do not have accurate figures for the member. I will get those for him if he is still insistent on having them.

Something we have noticed is that we have had a primary supervisor who has been in Yukon for four years and we noticed a remarkable improvement in the reading skills of the children. We were not able to assess whether it was the consistency of having that primary teacher here for the four years or it was some new textbooks we had introduced into those primary levels of education. So, I reassure the member that the department is constantly monitoring it and I am now aware of it after he has brought it to my attention. Perhaps in the next budget session we will be able to report more statistics back to them.

Mr. Kimmerly: I thank the minister very much for that information. It is good to put it on the record. Another more detailed question I did not ask, and I am not sure if the expense of collecting the information is worth it, but I wish to put a suggestion on record, I suppose, for the minister's officials. It is not a question, it is a suggestion.

Pursuant to the Sharp Report in Yukon, there is a discussion, and I suppose some controversy, about the utility of taking children out of their natural homes and putting them in other settings, either dormitory settings or other kinds of foster care settings, and I am interested in a continued analysis after the Sharp Report of the drop-out rate of students in their natural homes and in dormitory settings, as I expect it would be different. I would suggest that may be a fruitful area of research in the department in the future years.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: These statistics I did give were from that report that was done in August 1979. I appreciate the member's suggestions.

On Schools

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further general debate?

Mr. Byblow: Is the minister going to give any statement to introduce the Schools portion?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: No, I had not planned on it. I think we will just get down to the matter of the business.

Mr. Byblow: Then I have just a couple of general questions. I observe that the reduction in expenditure in this vote is down by seven percent from the spring.

The dollar amount is \$1,270,000. The bulk of that I assume is in the wage area of teachers. It is also fair to say that more than half of this budget is in the form of wages, and it is right here. Could the minister indicate in the Schools Programming portion of the budget that we are looking at now, if there is any criteria of prioritization in terms of what was deemed to be areas for cutting? What was the thinking behind the total amount of \$1,270,000 that was cut?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The statement that the member for Faro is making regarding the reduction being due to teachers wages is not in fact accurate. As he is aware, we did not reduce the teachers' wages at all. They had signed their collective agreement and their ten percent increase went into effect and we have not touched their wages, other the present negotiations that we are having with them for the \$250,000. Where the cuts were actually made, the reduction, would be of course in personnel costs and transportation and administrative costs. Our priorities were to maintain the programs that the children were used to receiving and to maintain, of course, the quality of education that we are presently accustomed to in the schools.

Mr. Byblow: I am going to need a little more explanation there: I realize that the minister is saying that nobody's wages got cut, but when I look at the personnel portion of the reduction, I see \$1,100,000 reduced in the estimated expenditure under personnel, yet I see under the person-years, an increase of five person-years in the total allocation. So, while I recognize that nobody got wages cut, can the minister tell me where the \$1,200,000 in personnel got reduced in the estimate

then.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am sure if we went through the different areas and into a more detailed breakdown, I could explain to the member where each cut was made, and I am sure it would add up to the \$1,200,000 that he is indicating. I think if we did an analysis right now and went through all of the portions, building maintenance, elementary and secondary school, et cetera, we will arrive at those figures.

Mr. Byblow: Perhaps we shall, so I can bow down to that suggestion.

One more general question on the total portion of the budget: why is building maintenance inserted into this portion of the budget, not having been there before, as such? If the minister will recall my opening remarks yesterday, I did a comparison between Highways and Education and noted that, in fact, building maintenance was pulled out of Highways as a total item and now I see a portion of that building maintenance in here. I am not suggesting there is a relationship, but I want to know why building maintenance is now instituted into the School's portion of the budget, not having been there before.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: It was there before. It has always been there. We are responsible, in Education, for a certain portion of the building maintenance.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: If I may, in the reorganization that was done after the election, it is true that Public Works was moved from Highways and it was moved to Government Services, but that did not affect in any way, shape or form, building maintenance in Education. That has been that way for quite a number of years.

On Building Maintenance

Mr. Byblow: Could I ask the minister whether or not that amount that is now isolated in the budget — and I use the word "isolated" because clearly, in the spring budget, it did not show up under Schools unless it was hidden in Administration or it was hidden in Custodial Services or it was hidden in some other program. Could I ask the minister whether or not that \$220,000 building maintenance represents personnel costs or is that just materials?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Yes, that does include personnel costs. It includes the salaries of three maintenance crew. There were increased personnel costs of \$13,000, due to a higher number of vacancies in 1981-82, therefore, fewer salary dollars were spent to partially offset the effect of the reduced fortnight.

Building Maintenance agreed to

On Elementary and Secondary

Mr. Byblow: As I was pursuing earlier, to me this represents the major portion of any kind of expenditure cutting. We have a difference from the spring budget of \$913,000, which represents, as indicated there, a three percent increase over last year's actual.

I assume this primarily represents the salaries of the elementary and secondary school teachers. To pursue what I started earlier, if we have a staffing increase of 5.4 and if our student enrolment remains the same as predicted in the spring — I think there is a difference of one — can the minister explain how we chopped \$1,000,000 in that program?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I do not know if the member is taking into account the fact that the teachers had negotiated for a higher percentage and then had come down to the ten percent. There was a considerable saving in that area. As well, we had decreased a lot of costs in transportation and communication, freight charges, long distance calls, rental decreases, repairs and maintenance. We implemented the hold-the-line budget on textbooks, and a severe restraint budget for the general school supplies, as I have said before. This was one of the areas where we went through every item on a line-by-line basis and totalled up all the reductions that we could come up with, to that figure that the member for Faro seems to think is unreasonably high.

Mr. Byblow: Perhaps I was miscalculating what total items were included in that program, because I assume that the primary portion of that \$13,000,000 was salaries but, as I am listening to the minister, it includes supplies, transportation and a number of other things. My only question, before we leave it, would be, is the transportation we are talking about at all related to the transportation item later, that is busing?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: No, that transportation is mileage allowances for teachers because of decreased numbers of teachers, the decreased freight charges and some shipping charges for materials to Old Crow.

I want to just remind the member for Faro that the cuts that we have made — again I will tell him — because such a large portion of the people were exempted because they were teachers — and we'll find this in the vocational training college, as well, because they are instructors — we could not reduce the number of school days, therefore, they were not applicable to the nine-day fortnight and were, in effect, exempt. Half of our budget was subject to that restriction. Therefore, we had to, line by line and fine tooth-comb the budget and every item, and cut \$500 and \$1,000 wherever we could, to fulfill our commitment.

Mr. Byblow: It is quite apparent that the cuts were made in the non-wage categories because, it would seem to me as I recall a discussion from the spring budget, we had already built into it, I believe, an eight or ten percent increase on wages. Apparently, that percentage, was in order not to affect negotiations going on.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: That is not entirely accurate. There was some adjustments in the wages because there are clerical staff, the administrative staff, who were subject to the nine-day fortnight, and we did have some savings in that area. As well as, do not forget, the reduction in the proposed increase for the teachers' salaries.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Although we could not say it publicly at the time, in the budget that was prepared for spring we had 12.5 percent in for teachers and ten percent for other employees. That was what was built in for salary increases. There were two numbers involved.

Mr. Byblow: I did not realize that high an increase was built into the budget. I was of the understanding it was much less. Under this portion of the budget, as it affects the dollar amounts, are we including programs at all in the elementary and secondary school service. I am referring to the numbers of available courses that are supplied in the various schools. Is this built into this portion of the budget?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The only instance of that I can detect is the possibility of an elimination of some of the electives at F.H. Collins. The reasons that those electives would have been eliminated was because there was not high enough student interest for that course or elective to be presented, as I believe was indicated in arts and music. Apparently there are not enough children showing an interest in those two particular subjects. There have to be ten children who are prepared to take the course before the department will offer that course at F.H. Collins, otherwise it is just too expensive and we cannot handle that financially.

Mr. Byblow: The minister earlier admitted that there was a conscious restraint effort in the area of supplies. I think I brought this up earlier. Could the minister clarify just what policy directive there was respecting that and perhaps address it in the context I raised the matter yesterday. It is an area of concern where there are severe shortages in a number of schools in these areas.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: We have not had that complaint from teachers or principals. In fact, from the ones I have been talking to, and the feedback from the department is that the principals and teachers are being quite inventive amongst their schools, in borrowing from one who has an excess, or whatever. They seem to be getting along fairly well in that way. I notice they are cutting erasers in half and saving on chalk. There is less waste of paper, and I think it is good.

Mr. McDonald: I would like to pursue a little investigation on rather a specific matter, that dealing with the operating costs of the Elsa school. I realize that this subject would cross the boundaries of various budgetary items. I am not that well versed on how the government is budgeted, or how they would have delineated the budgetary expenditures on page 34, but what I would like to know is the cost of operating the Elsa school, the entire costs plus, if possible, a detailed breakdown of those costs, and in addition, get some indication of what the general costs of operating the school were at the end of the last school year as opposed to what it costs currently to operate the school with the one teacher.

The minister can always correct me if this is not the appropriate time to be asking questions about school bus transportation, but I would also like to pursue a line of questioning, briefly, I suppose, on what the costs had been to operate between the Keno and Mayo area. We will leave it at that for the moment.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am not able at this moment to give the member a breakdown of the cost for the Elsa school exactly. However, I wish to indicate to the member that there are only ten children in the Elsa

school, which really does not qualify it to be open. I believe that we like to have twelve students in a school to maintain it.

I think I should clarify the government's position regarding the whole Elsa school situation, as I can see the member from Mayo is going to pursue this avenue, and pursue the busing matter. The Department of Education was notified by the chairman of the school committee from Elsa a few weeks before school started that, in fact, the people in Elsa wanted their children — and I am talking about the ten children from kindergarten to grade 7 — to be in fact bused to Mayo to school. They wanted to keep the bus on and have the children bused to Mayo. Then we received a phone call the day before school started, and there was a great crisis and emergency in Elsa because the people had then changed their minds, and wanted their children to go to the school in Elsa. They were refusing to put their children on the school bus, in fact, and send them to school in Mayo, at which time I phoned the member for Mayo, and he was totally unaware of the whole situation.

Of course, responding to the demands of the people very quickly, as we do in this government, we called the chairman of the school committee in and we called the member for Mayo in, and we spoke to the mine manager. The mine manager was in a great flurry, as I am sure he recognized the difficulty of encouraging people to come back to Elsa, without a school facility there, and the mine manager was very adamant that we do, in fact, open the school. I indicated to the member that we had made these budgetary arrangements and that at this time, we could not financially support a school with ten students as well as a bus to Mayo to bus the other children.

⁵⁰ After much negotiation, and I must say, much hard work on the Department of Education's part with keeping in touch and keeping the mine manager informed, the mine manager decided that the mine could supply the bus to bus the children if the Department of Education was prepared to open the school. That is what the negotiation was all about, not, in fact, the member indicating that the government was not fulfilling its responsibilities. In fact, we are bending the rules for Elsa to keep the school open for these ten students.

I just wanted to make that clarification because a school bus does cost us approximately \$52,000 to \$53,000 a year. We pay an additional \$2,000 to \$2,500 for gas for the bus. It was a \$55,000 expense that we were not prepared to absorb at the time because we just did not have the money.

I am indicating this now because I feel that the department and I, as the minister, have taken unnecessary criticism from the member for Mayo, as far as fulfilling our commitments and our obligations to the people in Elsa. I think we are doing more than that now to help these people.

Mr. McDonald: I did not expect to be getting into general debate as my questions were, I believe, quite innocent and I would like to set the record straight on the minister's rather bizarre presentation of the facts, as she calls them, that lead up to the negotiations, which ultimately ended up with the company operating the school bus and the Department of Education operating the school.

The minister said that she had heard about some sort of a fracas which was brewing in the Elsa area and she phoned me up and called on me to conduct a meeting to discuss this issue. As part of the consultation which I was, in fact, conducting with the Government Leader over a whole range of things — this was merely just one other phone call that I made during this period when we were trying to iron out difficulties, and I admit that this was very much the tail end of this whole period of ironing the obvious problems that would correspond to the mine shutdown — that I phoned the minister and I did suggest to her that there was a problem of communication here. The school committee was, in all likelihood, out of touch with the parents, and I admit that freely. I was not, at any time, taking sides with either the school committee or the parents, and I was hoping that the minister would take sides with neither the school committee nor with the parents. We were faced with a very awkward situation. Obviously, there was a lack of communication. I think everybody would admit that.

⁵¹ We are faced with a situation which we needed to remedy. I related some of the activity that was occurring in the Elsa area, quite candidly, to the minister at the time, about what I thought the parents felt, because I was parachuting into that issue not much earlier than the minister was aware of the issue herself.

As I said, I related to the minister what I thought the parents' reaction would likely be and we tried to discover options which would allow for both the school and the bus to be operated. Initially, it was my hope that they could be operated by the Department of Education, simultaneously. It turned out that the Department of Education was not prepared to operate the school bus and operate the school at the same time because, as the minister has said, the school bus would cost \$55,000 and the school, which would not have the requisite number of students, would be an additional cost. She felt that, in order to be fair to all territorial residents, she could not operate both the school and the school bus simultaneously.

It was made quite clear at the time that there were, in fact, 11 students who would be requiring the services of the school and there were 24 students who would be requiring the services of the bus. 11 students were just one under the requisite number for operating the school and the 24 students was just under the number requisite for operating the bus.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Ah, but those 24 students are high school students.

Mr. McDonald: At the time, people were not aware that 25 students was necessary for operating the bus. We have since been able to clear that up through repeated questions in question period.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McDonald, at this moment I would like to say that we should possibly stay to the elementary and secondary estimate, and we should probably try and refrain from any long debates, on either side of the House, and stick to the estimates which are at hand, except in the case of general debate.

Mr. McDonald: On that point, I would just like to mention that the general philosophical debate was not started by me and I think, in all fairness, that I ought to be given my shot at the general debate, as it was begun by the minister. I really do not have very much more to say about the general philosophical debate which led up to this problem. All I merely asked at the beginning, and I wish to get some sort of answer, and I thank the minister for her answer regarding bus transportation and, if notice is required, I would like to get the costs of operation of the school at the end of last year and the cost of the operation of the school currently, as is anticipated for the coming year.

⁵² **Hon. Mrs. Firth:** My debate was not philosophical. My debate was factual, and listening to the member for Mayo, I am starting to get really nervous. Now he is asking me for a school bus, for a school for kindergarten to grade seven, and now he is criticizing us because we do not have grade seven to 12 there as well. However I will bring the figures for the member. I can tell him that the costs of operating the school in Elsa, that is for kindergarten to grade seven, is approximately the same cost as a school bus, which is approximately \$55,000. So if we were to give both, it would be \$110,000, and I do not know what it would be if we were to add the other grades. I do wish to stress again that the comments I made were facts. They were factual, they were not philosophical.

Mr. McDonald: On the same point, I admit that the use of the term philosophical has been rather stretched, but I think that was the ruling of the Chair, not my particular ruling. I was willing to take the Chair's interpretation of what philosophical meant at face value and present it here for that purpose.

First of all, I would like to say that no one's intention from my riding has ever been to suggest that grades seven to 12 should be offered at the Elsa primary school. There always were grades one to seven. The number of students we are talking about are grades one to seven, ten students now, apparently, for those seven grades. That has never changed. The 24 students that I was referring to are the students who normally would be travelling to Mayo from the Keno-Elsa-Mayo area and are currently travelling to Mayo from the Keno-Mayo-Elsa area.

I would like to ask notice of one other question, which has to do with school enrolments. I think it is *apropos* of the current discussion. I understand that Elsa is not such a welfare case as the minister might impute. There are two other schools in the territory which do have enrolments less than the required number according to the *Schools Ordinance* regulations. They are Destruction Bay and Burwash. I would like confirmation on that from the minister if she could provide that?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The Destruction Bay-Kluane Lake school has 11 students, so if the member from Mayo wants to refer to that as a

welfare case, I am glad it is he who is doing it and not I. The Klwane Tribal Brotherhood school has 13 students, so maybe that would be a borderline welfare case of schools. Again, I am certainly happy it is he not I who is making that inference and that it is the member for Mayo.

Mr. McDonald: The reason I was suggesting that the minister might be referring to schools with enrolments of less than 12 students as welfare cases, was that the whole implication of the Department of Education's position in this whole matter has been that they are doing the people of Elsa a great service, people who have been living in Elsa and the Elsa area for years, an area which has been providing considerable revenue to this territory for years, should now be put in the position where they should be made to feel that they are some sort of welfare case. That is the implication that the minister has clearly been giving to this legislature and that is the reason I used what I thought were her implications when making comparisons with the Destruction Bay school. In no way am I suggesting that schools with enrolments less than some arbitrary number set by regulations are welfare cases. Everybody is deserving of education in this territory and the more schools that we have in this territory which are close and accessible to rural residents, the better the education system will be.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am sure that tomorrow's record will show that it was not the Minister of Education who initiated the comment "welfare case".

I just would like to say that the member for Mayo has presented this to the Legislative Assembly when he, in question period one day, indicated that the Department of Education was not fulfilling its commitment to the community of Elsa in the Department of Education.

This, I say, is absolutely untrue. When the department was notified, the day before school started — and that gives you some indication of the time we were allowed to get the school operational in Elsa — that the parents did not want the children to go on the bus, the Department of Education could have said, "Look, we have made the arrangements, the bus is there. I am sorry we cannot open the school and the children will have to go on the bus". We did not do that and it was not at the insistence of the member for Mayo, it was at the insistence of the chairman of the school committee for Elsa, who had said to us, "I made a mistake, the people want their children to go to school in Elsa". We said, "Fine, if they want to send the children on the bus to Mayo for the first few days of school to give the department a chance to get the school operational, that is fine. If they do not, that is also fine. We will try to be as fast as we can" and, I believe, in three or four days we had the school operational.

I am defending my department because every effort was made on behalf of that department to get that school operational, to respond to the wishes of the people in Elsa. We certainly recognize all of the attributes of the people in Elsa and their concerns and that that was, in fact, an issue we recognized far before the member for Mayo did.

Mr. Chairman: There seems to be some dispute as to the allegation of the facts. Could we get back to the elementary and secondary appropriation.

Mr. McDonald: I will bow to the Chairman's decision, as I am not that familiar with parliamentary procedure, such as having the member who made the allegation also answer the final allegation, and I think that, in my sense of fairness, it is not appropriate. Nevertheless, I will bow to that. My questions, I think, are in the record and I would like very much some specific answers and that not round figure answers be provided.

Mr. Byblow: I am intrigued by the debate, and I have to ask a couple of questions. They border on broad policy matters, but they relate to the budget. Am I correct in understanding that the Department of Education closed the school in late August at Elsa? Am I correct in assuming that the Department of Education closed the school in late August in Elsa?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The school in Elsa was closed at the end of the school term as, it was all over the territory. The decision to reopen that school, or to send the children from kindergarten to grade 7, was left up to the school committee in Elsa and the people of Elsa and they were to get back to the department.

Mr. Byblow: As the events have unfolded here this afternoon, the decision was made to restore the school in that community. I am still not clear as to what dollars and cents this department is injecting into

that community for educational purposes. I would like to know that and, if there are no dollars and cents available, just what areas are they looking at here, and relate that to the transportation of students as well. I am suddenly a little confused.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: At the time of the beginning of the school year, I am sure that the member is aware, we were making budget adjustments. We were very anxiously awaiting the news from the school committee in Elsa as to whether they were going to have the school or the bus, whether they wanted the children to go to school in Elsa or whether they were going to send the kiddies on the bus to Mayo.

When the school committee chairman notified the department, we allotted that money, \$55,000 for the bus, because that was the decision they had made. Then, when the decision came the day before school opened that, no, they did not want the kiddies to ride on the bus, they wanted the kiddies to go to school in Elsa, we then had to make a decision which we allowed the mine and the parents to be involved in, as to whether we were going to have the children go to school in Elsa and remove the bus, because it was going to cost us approximately the same amount to get the school operational with the teachers, supplies and O & M costs, or whether the children were going to ride on the bus. It was at that time that the people of Elsa said, we want the children to go to school in Elsa. We opened the school, we got the necessary teachers and the Elsa mine assumed the responsibility for the busing, and we paid the subsidy to the parents for the busing, which was an additional cost that we include in the maintenance of the school.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Byblow, before you start, I would like to clear something up. It seems that the other side of the House feels that I am being unfair in how I am handling this. As far as I am concerned, I am not handling it unfairly. When Mr. Byblow asked the questions for a direct answer to the elementary and secondary program, he is allowed to ask that question fully and as many times as he wishes. Mrs. Firth has been answering those questions completely. What I was objecting to was a large debate which was getting away from the elementary and secondary portion of this bill. That is my decision and how it will stand.

Mr. Byblow: As I understand the department's obligations as regards Elsa, it is providing an elementary school function in the community, but it is not providing transportation for the high school students to Mayo, and if so, why not?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: It is providing transportation. Those people who have high school children that are going to school in Mayo receive a busing subsidy. And what they do with that busing subsidy is up to them. That money is paid by the department to the parents of the children who are taking the bus to Mayo to go to school. Whereas before, it was a bus we provided. When the bus was removed, we provided a busing subsidy. Because the number of children is twenty-four — it is twenty-five that are needed to be eligible for a bus — we did not identify funds in the budget for both. So we said that we will provide a busing subsidy for these children, which we are doing.

Mr. Byblow: Is the busing subsidy still provided to the high school students who are transported from that region?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Yes.

Elementary and Secondary in the amount of \$13,360,000 agreed to On Custodial Services

Mr. Byblow: I have two questions. One, how did the department achieve a \$44,000 reduced expenditure, and, two, did the department engage in any contracting-out of custodial services in schools during this administration?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: No, not that I am aware of. We have not engaged in any contracting of any custodial services. We had some savings in personnel costs and salary costs for all custodial personnel. We have made some savings in transportation and communication and in travel for the custodial inspection purposes, some rentals, some repairs and maintenance, custodial equipment repairs, materials, supplies, utilities, some toiletries and cleaning supplies, we were able to save, particularly in the material and supplies area, again.

Mr. Byblow: Can the minister confirm whether or not there was any actual person-year cut-backs in the course of that \$44,000 reduction, or, in the last four months?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: No, we have not laid off any custodial workers, if that is what the member for Faro is asking. The only reduction we do have, of course, is in the nine-day fortnight where the custodial workers are working a shorter week.

Mr. Byblow: So there was no reduction in custodial staff, even by attrition?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Not that I am aware of, however, there could have been. If the member for Faro would like an accurate answer to that I could bring that back to him tomorrow, but not that I am aware of.

I have just noticed something I wrote in here that has caught my attention regarding Custodial Service. There was a custodial supervisor position that we did not hire for. We are having one of the other staff members try to fill that position on a temporary basis.

Custodial Service agreed to

On Clerical Support

Clerical Support agreed to

On Transportation

Mr. Byblow: I was anticipating a lengthy delivery from the minister, so I will simply put the question. How far did we cut in Transportation? How many buses did we have last year? How many buses have we got this year? What dollars and cents have we saved and what are the consequences?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Of course the member is aware that there were some buses cut. I want to indicate to the House that these buses were cut, however, legislatively we are not obligated to bus the children who were deriving the benefit of this bus because they are out of the range of the 3.2 kilometres, or the two-mile limit, that we have in legislation.

We were able to eliminate two buses, which was a saving of approximately \$110,000, however, all of that saving is not derived this year because, of course, it was only for an 11-month, or so, period of time. As well, we had an expense there for \$28,000 for a transit bus for the city so that the municipal bus service could accommodate these children.

The savings to us this year may reach \$100,000, but that is not an accurate figure. It would be more like \$70,000 to \$80,000, with the city bus being subtracted. The thing that we are looking at is the savings and, in the long run, the roll-over effect, I believe they call it. Next year, we hope to save up to \$200,000 because of the elimination of the two buses.

Mr. Byblow: I assume, from what the minister has said, that we have reduced the number of buses in the system that are being supplied presently by Diversified Transport, from, correct me if I am wrong, 14 to 12, in addition to the one at Elsa. In addition, they have contributed towards the City of Whitehorse transit system for the inclusion of an additional bus on their system to do some pickups of an extraordinary nature. Could she explain how the Whitehorse transit bus supplemented the vacuum created by the two other buses?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: When the whole busing issue began, and I am sure the member is aware of what a controversial issue it was, we had meetings with the school committee members in Porter Creek and with the parents who were concerned, and whose children who were affected by this, and some who were not affected by this but were just concerned about it.

I approached the transit people and it was almost a simultaneous meeting. The Transit Commission came to me as well as me going to them. We met in the hallway and we both asked a question at the same time as to whether the municipal bus could accommodate the children who lived within that 3.2 kilometres. When the Chairman of the Transit Commission took a look at it he said he could but he would need another bus because it is a high bus user area.

It just so happened that Hay River was trying to get rid of a bus that the federal government had purchased for it under the Urban Transportation and Assistance Program, UTAP, and we made an appeal, federally and to Hay River, and came to a very quick agreement to purchase this bus for \$28,000. Under the UTAP program, the federal government paid the other portion, which is about \$85,000. We were very fortunate, not only to acquire a brand new bus, one of the large buses, for our city, but also it was able to accommodate these children who were no longer able to ride the school buses.

We investigated all aspects of safety. The Whitehorse transit people assured me that the bus stops could be placed in strategic locations so that it was not a safety hazard, as the school buses were not there with the flashing red lights at the back indicating that there children coming

off the bus, and that the stops could be placed in strategic locations to overcome that safety factor.

All the exhaust systems on the transit buses come out from underneath the bus and go up the side of the bus, so the exhaust is dispensed up in the air and not around the bus, thus obliterating the children. We have spoken to Whitehorse transit about initiating a safety program in the schools, which they are doing. They have the safety bear, they go to the schools, they take the young children out for a ride on the transit system and they give them a certificate saying they have ridden the transit system. It seems to be working very well. I have had calls from parents who are indicating to me that they are pleased with the efforts shown by the transit system. The transit drivers are very courteous. There are other adults on the bus, therefore the children are inclined to be better behaved. I was pleased because I was very concerned about the controversial nature of it, about the impact of it. I am fairly pleased, mind you not 100 percent. I am waiting to see if time will indicate that there are problems or maybe that there are not. I am pleased at the co-operation between the transit commission and the YTG and the parents in Porter Creek, when it comes to the busing situation.

Mr. Byblow: Has the minister had any recent solicitations with respect to those areas of bus routing that no longer have pick-ups, as parents became accustomed to over the past couple of years?

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

Mr. Byblow: I would assume that the minister is reassuring the House that the busing problem — by the cutback of the two units — is adequately solved and should not pose any problem for the rest of the year?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am hoping so, and I would like to reassure the House that is in fact so, but we are dealing with people here and people are not predictable. There are various things that could happen so it could resurface. In the event that it does, we will again start all over if we have to.

Mr. Byblow: As I am sure the minister is aware, the critical busing moments of the year surface at 48 and 50 below and I do not think we have reached that time yet. I have an additional question related to the line item. This is with respect to the firm with whom the government has a contract on the buses. Was the government able to reduce the number of buses by two, I guess three — and I am not sure if that third one belongs to this contract — without any fiscal consequences on the contract price for the original provision of the service?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am not aware of any fiscal impact on the part of Diversified Transport Company.

Mr. Byblow: Is the minister aware, and if she is not I will simply put notice of the question, if, in the Diversified Transport contract, it is a per-bus, fixed-cost that is applied in that service contract or is it a guaranteed minimum, or is there some percentage calculation with respect to reducing the number of buses? Can the minister advise on that?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am under the impression that it is on a per-bus basis, but that may not be entirely accurate. I am just used to talking about buses in terms of a bus and how much a bus costs, so, if the member would like an accurate answer to that, I will bring that back tomorrow.

Mr. Byblow: Certainly, without belabouring the issue, I would be curious to see a copy of the contract, not for permanent filing, but to just browse through it.

Mrs. Joe: I just have one question in terms of busing. I think it is gratifying that we have saved a bit of money by taking the buses away, but I hope that there is something else that is not lost in the meantime, and that is the life of a child. What I have been hearing from some parents is that they are having to pay to ride the bus and, in some cases in these hard economic times, some of the parents cannot afford to bus their children each day when there are more than, possibly, two children in the same family and, in fact, sometimes when there is only one in the family that has to take a bus, there are not provisions for those people to take a bus if, in fact, they cannot afford it.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: To respond to the second part of the member's question, I know that we identified the issue of costs and the fact that \$15, which is what a bus pass for a child costs, may be unbearable for some families in these tough economic times. We indicated and identified that problem and those people can go and apply for assist-

ance for that to the social welfare department. There have been people who have gone and received the bus pass for the children. As you know, the \$15 pass makes the child eligible to ride the bus at any time, not only to and from school, but that child can go downtown on the weekends or after school, or whenever.

As far as the philosophical aspect of losing a life, I am here to educate, or to see that the children of Yukon receive the quality of education to which they have become accustomed. I do not really appreciate the member bringing up that kind of a subject, as to losing a life, because a child can lose his life just as easily on Saturday when he is going down to the shopping mall to go shopping. It really is the responsibility of the parents to get these children to school. I certainly am appreciative of the life of a child, having been a nurse for 14 years and spending much time with children and with parents, and with parents and their children in all kinds of circumstances. I hope the member appreciates that I do recognize the concern that parents have.

Mr. Joe: Just one question. In terms of applying for assistance from human resources to ride a bus to school, do those families have to be on social assistance at that time?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: No.

Mr. Byblow: I thank the minister from Whitehorse North Centre for the information, as it allowed me to uncover in my notes an unanswered question. With regard to the safety of buses outside the Diversified Transport system, the minister made reference to that particular unit that was procured out of the NWT under the federal fund-sharing program. Has the minister had any discussions with officials of the city to see whether or not safety aspects to the standard of school busing might be placed on those units? I say that because of what, in part, has transpired as the solution, which is more students using the city system to make their way to school.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Yes, I have not done that and I really do not have any intention of doing that because, you see, those municipal buses are not there to take the place of school buses. They are buses that the general public uses. What the object of the exercise is is to have the children ride that bus along with adults, because we can no longer afford the other system — the school bus system. I think the safety program in schools points this out to children, and it does not segregate them. I think it may make them more cautious. I think it may be very good for the children to learn about their own personal safety, when they do not have that extra protection of a school bus and they do not have to worry about what is out there when they run around from behind the bus. I think it is very educational for children, and apparently the program has been received very well in schools and very enthusiastically by the children.

Mr. Byblow: With respect to the regulations surrounding bus transportation, that of the distance from school being applied as to whether or not they are allowed to ride a bus, can the minister confirm that no student living beyond the two mile or 3.2 kilometre distance is denied school busing service, as per the present regulation?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am not quite clear what question the member is asking. I cannot give you an answer as to whether there are children beyond this 3.2 kilometre limit being denied. Are they being denied busing? Not that I am aware of.

Transportation in the amount of \$996,000 agreed to

Mr. Chairman: The time now being 5:30 p.m., we shall recess until 7:30 p.m. tonight.

Recess

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

On Special Education

Mr. Byblow: I guess I ought to tell the minister, quite bluntly, that I am somewhat concerned about the rather extensive cut that was done in this particular area. In the spring budget, for comparative figures, there is a drop of \$165,000 in this area, even though the percentage increase from last year may reflect an 11 percent increase. I say this with a couple of concerns that have been brought to my attention very recently, specifically, as affecting Teslin. I had a couple of parents call me on the absence of special education in that school when, in fact, it had been promised the year previous and when the Canadian Tests of

Basic Skills results indicate that certainly the skills levels would, and could, use substantial support. Could the minister elaborate generally on the special education cutback and, secondly, the Teslin situation.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am not sure where the member gets the impression that there has been an 11 percent cutback as I have an 11 percent increase.

There has been an increase of \$83,400.00 in personnel costs due largely to no expected turnover in this area, together with the 10 percent negotiated salary increase as of September 1, and one salary grid increase. Also, there has been an increase in other costs, due largely to the fact that in 1981 we had two special needs children at outside institutions. Also, in 1982-83 we required additional funding for one other special needs child.

There was some talk of a learning assistant at the elementary level in Teslin, which would have required provision of an extra 0.5 man-year. Due to budget restraint we made a decision in Teslin that we would continue to provide the senior alternate program because some parents were very concerned that dropping this program for the learning assistants would cause a lot of difficulty. I believe the parents spoke out in favour of keeping the senior alternate program, due to the immediate needs of the potential high school students, preventing them from dropping out. Apparently the program did have the backing of both the school committee and the Indian band because they recognized that there was a potential for high school students to drop out.

Well, the member is correct in saying that there was some commitment made regarding learning assistants at the elementary level, but because it would require the additional man-years we were just unable to do that.

Mr. Byblow: I guess it is unfortunate that we have to be faced with an either/or situation in providing an area of services like special education. It is certainly an area that we would like to think should not be cut, because you are simply forcing greater disadvantages onto a disadvantaged group. It is unfortunate indeed.

I want to touch on another aspect of policy in this area, again related to the budget. I believe the department came out in the last year with a policy position that said in effect that parents would have a choice of sending their special needs children out of the territory or keeping them in school, at which point, the department then would procure the qualified services of instruction, and thereby would save money. As I recollect, that is what the department concluded. Can the minister report whether, having put that policy into practice, it has been utilized, and if it does save dollars when you compare the costs of sending these students out to retaining them and hiring especially for them.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: In the member's riding, if he had children who were taking some special course and if they were to come to Whitehorse where the course and the facility were, it would definitely be cheaper for the department for them to come here to the central location as opposed to us putting the specialized people in the outlying area. I can only relate it to that and anticipate that it may be less costly. Now, with the special education situation it may be more because the parents would have to send the child to Whitehorse or to an outside facility, say in Vancouver or Edmonton. My immediate reaction to that would be that it would be very costly. However, as far as reporting on the progress of the department as to whether they are doing this, I do not have all the facts at my fingertips regarding special education and how many children are going out of or staying in the territory. If the member would like that information, I am prepared to bring it back to him.

Mr. Porter: Earlier, the minister stated in respect to the special education program that there had been representations made by the concerned parents in Teslin to the effect that they wanted the continuation of the alternate program. I was in Teslin for a meeting that was convened specifically for the discussion on special education. There were in excess of 20 people at that meeting, and one of your department officials also attended. There was serious concern raised by the parents for the continuation of that program for the school in Teslin.

As a matter of fact, one of the individuals is seriously looking at relocating out of the territory so that their daughter can receive the education that that particular child needs. Further to that, one of the teachers, upon being informed last year that this program would be

taught in the school this year, did, in fact, go outside to a university this summer and take courses specifically in the area of special education so that she was prepared to deal with that subject this year. I would just like to highlight that it does come as a serious blow to the people of Teslin to have had this program dropped from the curriculum this year, and I would like to ask the minister if there are any plans within the department to reintroduce the program for the curriculum in the coming year?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: This learning assistant at the elementary level was not dropped, it was not cut, it was not making an either/or choice. This program was not ever there before. There was not a learning assistant at the elementary level in Teslin. It would have involved creating another 0.5 of a man-year. It was not that we cut or dropped it, we never started it.

Mr. Porter: The question remains. Has the minister, or the department, given consideration to introducing to the school curriculum, a special education program?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Not this year. We will not be able to introduce this program into the Teslin School this year.

Mr. Porter: How about next year?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: We may have a better idea in our financial situation. The department is always open to, and will give consideration to, these suggestions but whether we will be able to follow them through or not will depend on our financial situation in the spring.

Mr. Kimmerly: I have several questions in this area. Firstly, following Mr. Byblow's questions, the minister did not really answer why the amount estimated in the spring budget was \$1,169,000. This budget shows a decrease of \$165,000. Is the minister able to identify why the change was made and what was cut out of the spring budget?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: We are not dealing with the spring budget. In the budget we are dealing with now, our revenues are \$11,500,000 less than they were in the spring.

Mr. Kimmerly: I am very well aware of that, and I am not going to ask any more questions because I am obviously not going to get a satisfactory answer. Alternatively, I am going to make a little speech about it.

Now, in the 1981-82 estimates, and I realize that we are not talking about the 1981-82 estimates, but it is all related and I will come to the point very quickly. The estimate in 1981-82 was \$1,018,000, an increase of 16 percent over the 1980-81 forecast. However, the 1981-82 actual was only \$908,000, a decrease of \$110,000 over the estimate.

Now, in the spring, which the minister refuses to talk about, there was an estimate of \$1,169,000 in this budget, a decrease of \$165,000. I am interested in two things. There was a projected expenditure made last spring, albeit in better circumstances, of increased expenditures in the department. We, on this side, applaud that. It is money well spent. And on the amount estimated, we applaud that as far as it goes. However, I make the statement in very strong terms that in my view, the special education program is underdeveloped in the Yukon. It ought to be a priority of the department, and, ultimately, it will save the taxpayers money. These people, who are assisted by the special education program, are assisted in very very fundamental ways early in their lives. The drop-outs from Yukon schools, and schools all over the world, are most frequently people with special needs which, if the special need were identified and properly dealt with, would not be drop-outs.

^m In the juvenile courts in Yukon, more than 95 percent of the cases are either school drop-outs or expulsions. In the juvenile courts in the country, over 80 percent — and in some studies over 90 percent — have learning disabilities identified. The amount estimated here is woefully inadequate and in my opinion the priorities of the department ought to be reorganized to emphasize these services even at the expense of other services.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I would just like to indicate to the member that the discrepancies he may be noticing are probably due to salaries in that budget that he likes to talk about. We had anticipated higher increases for the teachers and for the civil servants, which in fact did not happen, so that could reflect some of the differences in monies there. I would just like to say that I appreciate the member's philosophical comments about special education. I, too, recognize the need for special education.

Mr. Byblow: Just to clear the matter up, can the minister advise

me of the number of person-years now in special education?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: There are, I believe, 22.5 special education person-years.

Mr. Porter: Is there one particular community that has in excess of one man-year allocated to its school?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Whitehorse would of course, but I do not have a breakdown of it on a community by community basis.

Mr. Porter: (inaudible)...has one?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: If the members would like a breakdown school by school, I suppose I could get that for them. I do not know when, exactly, but I will bring that back sometime.

Mr. Byblow: I think this side would certainly appreciate that because this is one area, if I could advise the minister, where we do get a number of questions relative to the level of service and number of people provided in the system to give special education.

^m *Special Education in the amount of \$1,004,000 agreed to On Student Accommodation*

Mr. Porter: In the respect to the monies allocated under student accommodation, does that also provide for students who are going to school outside of the Yukon Territory or simply the students from the rural areas?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: That is just for students in rural areas.

Student Accommodation in the amount of \$146,000 agreed to On Remedial Tutor

Mr. Kimmerly: I would ask the minister to explain why there can be a decrease over last year of \$14,000.00. Also I will again mention the problem about the spring budget where there is a \$48,000.00 cut. I will ask the minister to explain that.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am sure that again the member would mean the predicted salary increase. That is why there is that discrepancy; however, the \$14,000.00 decrease he is talking about in our budget now — the real budget — is due to personnel costs due to allowance for vacancies and is partially offset by the negotiated salaries.

Mr. Byblow: I cannot help it — to have the admission that the spring budget was anything of a fairytale budget, with this being the real one; however, I say that in jest. The Government Leader, I am sure, takes it in that spirit. Just on the remedial tutor again, could I ask the minister if she has, at her fingertips, the number of person-years allocated to this.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Remedial Tutor, 16.2 person-years.

Mr. Byblow: Can the minister indicate if this is up by one since last year?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Not since last year.

Remedial Tutor in the amount of \$302,000 agreed to

Mr. Byblow: Before we clear the entire vote, I just want to make one more point. Because it falls under this category and it is of a more general nature, it really did not apply to any specific line item. It is with respect to the Carcross School. My information, and calls I have received, relate to a number of deficiencies that have been raised by that community relative to the school. I realize that, on the capital side of things, the minister may very well be looking in the long term to an improved facility and an expansion. I believe that there is some degree of commitment to that already.

Is the Carcross School going to receive any upgrading this winter — that is with respect to storage space, furniture and improvements to either one of the two buildings?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: No, they will not be.

Mr. Byblow: Would the minister take this opportunity to report what her department's plans are with respect to addressing the concerns in Carcross?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: We are addressing the concerns in Carcross, but I am not at liberty to reveal them at this time. The Carcross people have indicated that they would like to be involved in the plan changes and I think I will leave it at that. I will involve the Carcross people and the Carcross School committee, as opposed to the member for Faro.

Mr. Byblow: I can appreciate that and certainly the school committee appreciated reviewing the line drawings provided to them last night.

In the presentation that was made in Edmonton by the Government Leader, one item applied for in the funding to the federal government was, specifically, the Carcross School, in the amount of \$1,200,000, I

believe. Should that funding not come to fruition, what then will the department be doing with respect to the total expansion plans?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: We had three schools that had planned renovations, and Christ the King High was one of them that we had to defer, as well as the Jeckell windows and the Carcross addition. Now, in the event that that does not materialize, we will have to look at some forecast in the capital budget in setting aside funds for all three of these projects.

Mr. Byblow: Just one last general question on this portion of the vote: the school enrolment is projected to be one more, in actual fact, than was projected in the spring. Staffing allocation, according to these figures, indicates an increase of 5.2 person-years, in the staffing component, and I would assume that that is inclusive of teachers, clerical, custodial and all other applicable personnel in this schools vote. Can the minister advise me whether the staffing component, the number of teachers in the territory, has gone up or down since the close of last year.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Yes, it has gone down.

Mr. Byblow: The minister cannot advise by how much, can she? And, while she is doing that, perhaps she could advise where the 5.4, person-year increase in this vote has come from if it has not been in the teaching component?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I believe I have to do some looking through my notes to get that broken down for the member. Perhaps I could bring that answer back for him tomorrow.

Mr. Byblow: I have no problem with that, it is more of an informational rather than a line inquiry so I will be quite content with that, and I hope the minister understands what I am asking. We have a five person-year increase; we have a reduction in the number of teachers. I want to know numbers, and where.

Schools in the amount of \$17,970,000 agreed to

On French Language

Mr. Byblow: Perhaps in future budget debates it would help this side if the minister would give some introductory statement on each category of the vote and it may, in fact, get rid of a number of questions. Under French Language, there have been a couple of questions. I notice that we are allocating \$170,000 in the expenditure portion of this program and there is \$182,000 shown under recoveries. I would assume the recoveries are, as indicated in the information on one of the pages, from the federal government and some may come from the Secretary of State through the French Immersion Program. I would like several points cleared up. Why do we have a higher recovery figure than an expenditure, and if it is being used somewhere else, what is the justification for taking \$12,000 of French language money and using it elsewhere? I would be curious whether this money comes from the Secretary of State or some other recovery program? I would be curious also where, if at all, in the French language program the Faro French immersion fits in? And, I suppose, if there is a substantial reduction in dollars being spent from the spring, what lesser service are we providing in this area?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: With regard to some of the technical detailed questions the member has asked, I will come back to him with the answers. I have not been giving brief statements for each separate program because, as I indicated at the beginning, all of our cuts were mainly in the area of supplies, equipment and administrative costs, and this applies throughout the whole Department of Education. It is needless for me to get up and say that each time. I would prefer that the member just keep that in mind and then he can ask me particular questions.

In regard to the French language program, this was one program we left virtually untouched. There was a very small decrease which was really insignificant. We actually had some increases in personnel costs due to negotiated salary increases and that was partially offset by the reduced fortnight.

¹¹ Other than that, our decreases were maybe \$1,200.

Mr. Byblow: It is thousands, I am quite sure. The minister did not answer, and did not indicate whether she would answer, why the recovery figure is \$12,000 more than the expenditure item. Am I correct in assuming that this money has been transferred into another vote?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I will bring that answer back.

On Administration

Administration in the amount of \$79,000 agreed to

On Community Programs

Community Programs in the amount of \$73,000 agreed to

On French Immersion

French Immersion in the amount of \$18,000 agreed to

French Language in the amount of \$170,000 agreed to

On Yukon Campus

Mr. Byblow: There must be some explanation the minister will afford us, because this is the second vote in the entire education budget where we have seen an increase. We saw a two percent increase in administration, which we raised questions about, and the minister answered. In Yukon Campus we have a 30 percent increase and what appears to be a person-year increase. It all falls into the category of "Other". It does not appear to be personnel, it does not appear to be in transfer payments. I would be curious to know what is transpiring to create the increase.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: In 1981-82 and prior years, the person-year that we have increased was covered by the position of clerk-typist. The position of the director was covered by an individual who had been seconded to that position from the teaching work-force. With the become a full-time position rather than a teacher position, so the become a full time position rather than a teacher position, so the addition of the extra person-year allowed us to do that.

Now I am sure the member opposite is aware that in the times when jobs are in short supply, more young people turn towards education and I think this may explain some of the increase in costs. Also, we have a more sophisticated program selection for them.

Mr. Penikett: It occurs to me, with the changes announced in the teacher education program this spring, that the overall program here has probably experienced a fundamental shift in direction. I wonder if the minister might have some advice to the house about the aspirations for this operation now that we have evolved from being basically a teacher education facility to something much more than that? Perhaps the minister in her answer might indicate in a slightly longer time frame than next year, perhaps three or four, what her aspirations are for this facility. Is it going to be related to, and integrated into, the vocational occupational training focus of the department — an increasing focus — or is it going to be more in the way of an adult education facility for those people who may be short a few courses in degrees, in order to pick up those courses and perhaps begin university courses. It seems obvious to me that the program is now in a transitional stage, and for that reason I would like to ask the minister about what we hope to see emerge in two or three years' time.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The member is asking questions along the lines that the department has already been moving. If you look at the organizational chart for advanced education and manpower you will find the Yukon Campus has indeed been put on the organizational chart with the the Yukon Vocational Technical and Training Centre, and that they are coming under the same umbrella and utilizing the same administrative staff and resource centres, and so on. Certainly the intention of the department is to look at combining the two facilities and making one post secondary education facility in Yukon.

¹⁴ We have undergone some structural changes and hopefully we will have a post-secondary institution some year in Yukon. I would not like to predict when.

Mr. Penikett: I appreciate the minister calling the new organization of the department to my attention. I appreciate the fact that there appears to be some healthy integration between this part of the educational system and the overall manpower and vocational training.

I would just ask the minister if she might indicate a willingness, at some point, to report to the House a little more about her short-term plans for the campus, and I will explain why. I want to emphasize that I do not expect her to do it tonight. I have no interest in holding up the estimates in doing it. She might indicate a willingness to perhaps by way of a ministerial statement or some other method, for the following reason: there is, as she will be aware, an ongoing debate about higher learning, about advanced education, particularly university education, between those who favour the liberal arts approach — which is to give people as good a general education as they possibly can — and those who favour the more professional type training, such as might be

experienced in law schools, medical schools, nursing schools, engineering schools. I would guess that we are a long way from being able to do either of those things, but there are some professional occupations that we might be able to give people a start in. There are other ways, it seems to me, of giving many of the kind of the courses that have been offered at the Yukon campus where we could fulfill the aspirations of those who favour a liberal arts education. Since I am not clear, by virtue of the information contained in these estimates, what the intention of the department is — perhaps they hope to do a bit of both or perhaps they do intend to go in one direction rather than the other — I would be interested at some point, if it is possible during this session, if the minister might give some indication of the mid-term plans for this institution?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I certainly would be prepared to give a ministerial statement in regard to the plans of the education department and the system of education we are going to be delivering. I do not know if the member was in the House at the time we were speaking of comprehensive education. This concept is certainly foremost in the minds of the department officials in the Department of Education and also in mine. I understand from talking to students and parents that we are already providing a form of this kind of education in the territory, where a student can take subjects in the high school grades and he can engineer and design his future along the lines of what his capabilities are. For example, he can take electrical subjects and develop some abilities in that area, and when he finishes high school, he graduates with a high school diploma, as well as being able to go to university or go to a technical school, if he so wishes.

¹³ It is certainly our intention to make that individual interested in staying in the education system as long as he can, and advancing to his highest potential. When we have the whole plan pulled together, I would be pleased to issue a ministerial statement.

Mr. Penikett: Just one last comment: I was in the House when the minister was discussing comprehensive education and that is something that I know a little bit about, as I believe that is what they thought they were giving to me when I was in high school and in university — I believe I was a victim of the liberal arts system, but I am not quite sure. As a result of those two experiences I have retained an interest in the subject. I only say this because I particularly want to ask the question in the context of what I think are bound, for the next few years, to be scarce resources, and I am concerned about the best utilization of them.

On Operations

*Operations in the amount of \$345,000 agreed to
Yukon Campus in the amount of \$345,000 agreed to*

On Recreation

Mrs. Joe: In regards to the recreation budget, I notice that there is a decrease in the administration services. I would just as soon see that amount of money for other areas such as community programs. I wondered why there was a decrease in administration?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: We had a decrease in the administrative aspect due to restraint in the utilization of professional and special services and expenditures for materials and supplies. We also had a decrease in transfer payments due to anticipated later grants to the communities because of decreased populations.

Mrs. Joe: I would like to know a little bit more about recreation in general. I am aware of a lot of the things that the recreation department includes, such as the elite athletes included, and I do not know what an elite athlete is. What kind of money goes out to that person and what is it used for?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: For example, you have a skater who has a particular ability, or a boxer such as George Mason, and you can help fund this individual so that he can advance to his highest potential and, possibly, represent Yukon in national competitions. The funding is used to send this person to competitions and, I believe, to advance his particular specialty.

¹⁴ **Mrs. Joe:** The other question that I have at this time is regarding the recreation review committee that was set up. I understand that that committee has been working over the past year trying to put together some kind of a report to your department in regards to upgrading the recreation department. I am just wondering what stage that committee is in at this time.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: If this is the Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee the member is asking about — is it the green paper she is referring to? If not, I am not sure what she is asking.

Mrs. Joe: What I am asking about is some information that I have picked up, as I have done some reading: it says that there is a review committee that will be holding a seminar in April and May, and will be having public discussions to review briefs submitted. Now, as I understand it, that was not YRAC, but it was taking briefs and other recommendations from different groups throughout the Yukon.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The committee that the member is asking about is the Green Paper Committee, and the briefs that they were receiving were the briefs from the sports people, the arts people, the elderly, the disabled people, and the communities. Those were the briefs that were compiled to make the draft of the green paper. That committee is presently *status quo*. There are two members, and I believe that we are going to be appointing another member for the arts person who had resigned, so the committee is still active.

Mrs. Joe: As I understand it, this committee that has been set has been doing an awful lot of work on a volunteer basis, and that they have almost completed their work in the area and are ready to make recommendations to your department. One of the recommendations, of course, includes the possibility of the recreation department being transferred to municipal affairs. There is another one that recommends that option number one of the YRAC structure be implemented, and many others. But what I would like to know from the minister is when will all of these recommendations come into effect. Will it be in this fiscal year or in the next one?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: We have just compiled all of these recommendations in the form of the draft of the green paper. Now, my understanding is that the green paper committee was responsible for receiving these briefs, and that they are going through them with the recreation director of YTG. They form the initial draft of the green paper. The Green Paper Committee has been in consultation. We have had public meetings with all the people involved, the arts, sports communities, and the disabled and elderly people, and the Green Paper Committee has been in attendance at these meetings, as well as the YRAC members. The life of the Green Paper Committee will depend on recommendations of YRAC when the final decision is made as to the composition of YRAC.

Right now, the Green Paper Committee is still in the process of advising the minister and the department as to another draft of the green paper, since we have all the public input. We are just about prepared to proceed with the final drafting of the green paper.

Following that, we will look at legislation, and I am not prepared, at this time, to make any commitment as to when we will have recreation legislation.

Mrs. Joe: I have another question. I am not sure whether it falls into this line of discussion or not, but it is in relation to the teams from the Yukon that have gone to outside championships. What kind of teams go out? What percentage of their expenses are paid by the recreation department and what degree of championships are they — national, provincial, whatever?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I cannot give the member a breakdown of which teams go and which do not. I can tell her that they apply to YRAC for funding. The funding they get is derived from the Yukon Lottery. They go to both provincial and national competitions, I believe.

Mrs. Joe: I would like a little bit more information on that if the minister can provide me with that kind of information. The reason for that is because there are many, many teams that go outside, and I just do not know what preference the government has for one over the other. It is not criticism, it is just information I want.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: It is not the government that chooses. It is YRAC that reviews the application and grants the applications on the basis of merit. They allot the amount of money as well. We have nothing to do with that.

Mr. Byblow: I have just a couple of clarification questions surrounding YRAC. The minister issued a couple of memorandums in the last month surrounding what, I believe, firstly, may happen, and then what will happen, surrounding YRAC. Is it her intention to appoint members to YRAC for this interim period until the review process is over, as per the existing legislation which states that each MLA in the House is permitted to appoint a member to YRAC?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I sent — actually, not memos, they were letters — to the members of the Legislative Assembly asking them to hold off on their appointments as I have not made a decision yet as to whether the composition of YRAC was going to be changed or not. Then, after meeting with several of the groups I decided that we would accept the recommendations and the appointments of each MLA on an interim basis, and that is what has happened now so YRAC will proceed with the 16 members.

Mr. Byblow: So, then, it is the full intention of YRAC to continue for the next while, and I assume that to be six months to a year or whatever, in the capacity of disbursing funds as they are made available to it in this budget and through the lotteries commission, and that committee at the same time is carrying out its mandate as per legislation and will also take part in the review process.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: That is correct, the make-up of the committee can only be changed by legislation, and so the committee will proceed as is and they will be involved in the review. There was a certain amount of urgency in getting the letters out to the MLAs because applications are coming in, or are all in, I understand, and there is a certain amount of funds that have to be distributed, so I wanted to have the committee available to distribute the funds.

Mr. Byblow: Is YRAC still automatically the lotteries commission?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further debate?

If there is no further general debate we will stop now for a recess of 10 minutes.

Recess

Mr. Chairman: I call this Committee of the Whole to order. We will return to Page 42, Recreation, under the heading, Administration, \$110,000.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I wonder, if before we proceeded with Recreation, I could answer two of the questions that the member for Faro had asked. I have the breakdown of the special education teachers: F.H. Collins - 2; Christ the King High - 1; Christ the King Elementary - 1; Jack Hulland - 1.5; Selkirk - 2; Takhini - 0.5; Whitehorse Elementary - 3; Jeckell - 3; Grey Mountain - 0.5; Porter Creek Junior High - 1; Mayo - 1; Faro - 2; Ross River - 0.5; Dawson - 1; Watson Lake High - 0.5; Watson Lake Elementary - 1.5; and Haines Junction - 0.5; for a total of 22.5.

I would like to clear up the misconception about French language with regard to the recoveries being more than the expenditures. We recover \$170,000 from the federal government and we get \$182,000. The reason for the discrepancy is that we spend all of that \$182,000, plus, because the salaries for the French immersion teachers are paid out of schools, out of teachers' salaries.

Mr. Byblow: Just in response to that last item, is the minister saying that all the French immersion instructors are paid from the schools budget? Then what is the \$170,000 applied to under the French language proportion of it?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: It is applied to the French language program as well as the French immersion program. We only get paid \$50,000 toward the expansion program. The rest the YTG pays for.

On Administration

Mr. Byblow: Could the minister, by way of information, first advise how many years are involved in administration, and what functions are those persons? Could the minister just tell us very briefly, in not too much detail, what the administrative component consists of.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The administrative and recreation is made up of four person-years, I believe, and there is a recreational director, there is a clerical person and two recreation consultants who travel to the outlying areas.

Mr. Byblow: In the administration, or even the delivery of programs, is there very much in recreational programming that is contracted out, either administratively or in program delivery?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I believe we do have some casuals. I am looking at my person-years allotment for recreation, and 2.81 is in casual and that is in the pool program.

Recreation administration in the amount of \$110,000 agreed to

On Community Program

Mrs. Joe: I would like to know from the minister what the \$272,000 includes. What is that to be spent on?

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Joe, could you repeat the question?

Mrs. Joe: I had a little note a while ago to talk into the mike or talk louder. What I wanted to know is what the \$272,000 for community programs includes, what it is spent on?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: In community programs, that amount of money includes personnel costs in person-years, the two recreation consultants, and there are special recreation grants to special interest groups such as Skookum Jim Friendship Center, the TEST program and for the administration of the elite athlete assistance program. Other costs include travel for the consultants and operation of project clinics, advertising costs, program supplies and materials.

Mrs. Joe: I think the minister must be reading the same paragraph from *Hansard* last spring. Are the two consultants that are included in this \$272,000 in addition to the two consultants under administration?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: They are the same two consultants.

Maybe I could clarify that for the member. The personnel costs under administration are for the position of the director and the clerk typist, and the consultants come under Community Program.

Community Program in the amount of \$272,000 agreed to On Pool Program

Mrs. Joe: Just a brief explanation, from the minister, on what pools these are and in what communities?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Pool Program, personnel costs and person-years, and it covers the part time employment of the aquatic supervisor and swimming pool managers in the various communities, the ones that are not large enough to administer their own pool program. Transfer payments cover the grants to the communities for the total pool operation. Other costs are for items such as travel for the credit supervisor, freight, material and equipment charges and the general cost of operating the pool program in the communities that are unable to administer their own programs.

Pool Program in the amount of \$83,000 agreed to On Games

Mrs. Joe: I would just like to know what those games are. Are they the Arctic Winter Games, Polar Games, or what?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I think they include all the games. The transfer payments include grants to the sports governing bodies to train athletes that qualify under game plans, special training assistance, and to assist in the preparation of Yukon teams for games, and the YRAC grants for the Arctic Winter Games Corporation.

Games in the amount of \$68,000 agreed to On Cultural Programs

Mrs. Joe: I would still like to know from the minister, although Cultural Programs is under recreation, why is it under recreation.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am just assuming that culture is considered part of recreation, so the culture people tell me.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: In fact, one of the interesting conundrums about organizational government in Canada is that in every jurisdiction in Canada, culture and recreation are considered one and the same. They are combined and it makes it quite difficult for us when we go to provincial meetings, and this type of thing, if, in fact, our minister is not responsible for both, so we have followed the trend in other areas and have put culture and recreation together, for that purpose primarily. It is an administrative purpose, primarily.

Cultural Programs in the amount of \$13,000 agreed to On Advisory Committee

Mrs. Joe: I understand what the advisory committee does in most cases, but I do not understand how the monies are spent for them. What does that include?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The monies spent on YRAC is for travel for the committee members who are from out of town.

Mrs. Joe: How many times a year does the committee meet?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The committee members meet at least twice a year to review applications for grants, which are done in October and April, I believe, and then I believe that they have been meeting more regularly, up to maybe four times a year, because of the green paper review. We have been requiring their input.

Advisory Committee in the amount of \$171,000 agreed to Recreation in the amount of \$717,000 agreed to

²³ *On Advanced Education and Manpower*

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I would like to make a few comments that may just clarify things for the member for Faro who I am sure is going to have a lot of questions. You will have to appreciate that the manpower portion of this department has been moved to education recently. We are short quite a few positions. We have the positions available, but we have not filled them. One of those positions is the Deputy Minister of Adult Education and Manpower. I want to indicate this to you because you may notice some discrepancies in person-years, and there has been additional person-years in this department.

Mr. Byblow: I take it that what the minister has provided me with was an explanation of why two additional person-years have come into the department since we saw this budget in its other form, and an additional casual person-year as well.

I notice in general that the Adult Education component is one of the portions that has been cut back substantially. I notice in the supplementary information provided that the number of students estimated to use the services of this branch are roughly in the same magnitude as estimated last spring.

I guess my general question would be, how can the minister explain a man-year increase and a reduced expenditure in educational components of the branch. As a second part to that question, how does the Advanced Education and Manpower component of this government now interrelate or interconnect with the federal job training funding that is coming available?

²⁴ **Hon. Mrs. Firth:** I just want to indicate to the member that this government has taken the initiative to prioritize advanced education and manpower and that we have recognized the need for some immediate organization in this department. I think you will notice that there has been a 31 percent increase in the courses provided. I would like to give the member some detail about the additional person-years and the fact that we are providing more courses.

As for federal funding, signing the new *National Training Act* brings \$13,000 in over the next three years, and that is the funding that we will be using in advanced education and manpower. It is not two person-years, as the member indicated, it is eight person-years. The apprenticeship services necessitated an additional person-year to allow for the new senior clerical position to assist with the increased demands for the apprenticeship services.

In the area of the vocational technical training centre, we needed the addition of five person-years, one being the position of native student counsellor, which was created in May to assist with counselling of students, particularly native counselling. The demand has grown over the past years. As the course offerings have been expanded, the demand has also grown. We also created a position of an arts and crafts instructor at the correctional institute, and that was created by a transfer of a person-year from the teaching work-force. A new position of a curriculum development officer is required in order to update and revise the curriculum on an ongoing basis and, as well, to research and prepare curriculum for new courses.

We had a position of corrections academic instructor, which was required at the correctional institute, to provide academic upgrading for inmates, and provision was made for this in the program forecast. We have a position of coordinator of women's programs, and this is in order to coordinate and act as a prime instructor for the courses aimed specifically at women, that is, employment orientation for women and the pretrades training for women.

The other three positions were required for the establishment of the manpower section. It covers the director of manpower planning and the manager of secretary services and the research assistant. In addition, a salary provision was made for the services of a clerk typist in this section during the latter part of the current year. It is possible that the requirement for this position will not materialize until the 1983-84 year. We hope to include that in our main estimates for 1983-84.

Mr. Byblow: I think it should be clarified that the eight man-years that the minister is referring to is the change that has, in effect, taken place from the time of about 18 months ago until now — last year to this year.

²⁵ By way of clarifying, the last time we saw those numbers of person-years presented in the House in the budget, was in March of 1981, and that is 18 months ago. That is the point I am making. In the spring budget, which would be a year apart, we had a six person-years

difference from the year previous. Now, we have eight, so in fact, I agree with the increase of eight person years, I have no question on that. I am just clarifying the period of time during which it took place, and I am certainly not in any way criticizing the creation of those positions for those services and for those programs. This side of the House has quite adamantly, over the past four years, raised the issue of the need to increase and step up the vocational side of education, and making it available to the communities, to the people outside the formal school system.

The point that would also have to be challenged is, I believe, that the minister indicated that there was a 31 percent increase in funding in courses. Okay, fine, a 30 percent increase in courses is correct, a 30 percent increase in funding would not be. It is a seven percent increase in funding over the 18 month period, and, in fact, an 18 percent decrease from the spring. But I realize that government would rather not be reminded of that. I would raise the question: in terms of the federal funding made available under the training act, could the minister just clarify for me the process that is going to be taking place, and relate it to the delivery of the programs in the vocational school? As I understand, in the old apprenticeship and training agreement, Canada Manpower purchased seats for recognized courses that would be provided in the vocational school, and efforts were made to provide that course if the numbers of people were available, and if there was the demand and need there. Is the process now, by which we are going to be delivering this \$13,000,000 over the next three years, going to be much the same, or will there be some different emphasis as to who is going to make the decision regarding what courses are going to be delivered? Is there going to be any shift in the delivery system?

²⁶ **Hon. Mrs. Firth:** The Canada Employment and Immigration Commission will still be purchasing seats from us as they did in the past. The difference would be that we are being invited to have more input into the course selection and what we feel is necessary for our regional needs. I indicated that in the ministerial statement regarding the *National Training Act*.

Mr. Byblow: If I can extract from that answer and the minister's statement this afternoon, I would then be concluding that the method by which course selection is going to be made over at the vocational school is going to be determined by this suggested advisory council, and that will consist of people from industry, labour, government and from the feds.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The member is confusing two things. The ministerial statement I gave today was in regard to the \$1,000,000 that we are getting under the \$500 million dollar job creation program that Lloyd Axworthy announced, via Mr. Lalonde. That is the committee you are referring to. This is the committee that we have input into with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and is another committee which we have a representative on. It is, I believe, the Deputy Minister of Education right at the moment until we have a Deputy Minister of Manpower, and a federal person from Vancouver. This is the committee that we have input on, as to trades and apprenticeships that will be established in Yukon, and they still will be buying seats.

However, I just want to caution the member, and I would like to give him an example why, for example, the heavy duty equipment course was not offered this year. That was because they were very reluctant to purchase seats from us because it is a very expensive course. A normal course at the vocational school costs about \$35 to \$40 per student per day, and the heavy duty equipment one was as high as \$185 per day, which, by the time you had a heavy duty equipment operator trained, was costing up to about \$18,000. So they were, of course, very reluctant to purchase those seats because money is tight all over. I want to indicate to the member that we will be providing courses on a basis of some input from the CEIC.

Mr. Byblow: I believe I was misinterpreting the process selection and confusing two different programs. Then, the process of selection to determine the courses and areas that are going to be pursued over at the Vocational School through the new training agreement, and the funding made available under it, is going to be made through a smaller committee consisting of a representative from this government and CEIC people. Could I inquire if that group is going to be any larger than the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission group and government? Will it include any broader component of the Yukon

community in determining the course selection? I raise that with a long-term concern because I think that one of the things the minister and I both talked about in earlier discussions surrounding training programs is that what we must do is rebuild our whole job training component as a society.

I think we both share the same feeling that this country has neglected an area of training for its work-force, so if the minister can provide a little more elaboration on just the manpower planning process that she is going to be pursuing as we get into this \$13,000,000.00 expenditure, I would appreciate it.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: This is a very complicated system that the member wants me to explain in 40 words or less. The committee is a joint committee made up of YTG officials and federal officials. They have the ability to make the decisions regarding courses and trades provided in the Yukon, course feasibility, course program feasibility studies, and we have to identify methods by which we can evaluate, on an ongoing basis, the benefit to Yukon. I want to reassure the member that we have a grip on it; we have it under control, and certainly if he has some recommendations to make to me I am prepared to listen to them.

Mr. Byblow: Certainly I will, in this whole area that I am raising. Essentially, what I am talking about is manpower planning and I would certainly want to go into some length on this subject. To bring the discussion back down to a very immediate situation, I raise a concern that probably has been brought up in the past in the House, but it has been brought up again, recently. Who, at the present moment, determines which courses are going to be offered at the vocational school and the range of courses that are being provided now?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: In a sense, the CEIC did, as far as what they were prepared to purchase. If they were not prepared to purchase something we were not able to afford it, as a small government, such as the heavy duty equipment course. To give the member some more insight into the committee, I found my notes on the Canada-Yukon Joint Committee, and it does in fact consist of the Deputy Minister of Education; the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations; the Director of Advanced Education and Manpower, YTG; Territorial Manager, Canada Employment Centre; Regional Manager, Department of Regional & Economic Expansion; Regional Director, Indian and Inuit Affairs; Manager, Employment Development Branch, CIEC Whitehorse.

Mr. Byblow: I trust that there are some good businessmen in that group. There are two questions that have come to my attention recently regarding vocational school specifics. I want to pose the questions to the minister, and she can answer them or take notice.

Why have applicants to the grade 10 level for upgrading been turned down in the last couple of months? Why has the carpentry course been dropped? I realize we are getting into specifics, and the minister can waive answering, but those are two specific concerns brought to my attention.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I believe the carpentry course was dropped because we had quite a number of unemployed carpenters, as far as the federal statistics were concerned. Some of the questions the member asks — I wish I was an administrator in order to answer the questions he is asking me, I would rather answer policy questions — as a matter of fact, I forgot the question.

Mr. Byblow: I will give it a different preamble. In this particular period, economic depression and, by the minister's own admission, a lot more people are taking the opportunity to upgrade themselves. One of the concerns brought to my attention is that, in fact, upgrading programs for high school graduation are not being provided adequately because there are a number of people who cannot get into the program. I simply ask why? The minister does not have to answer. I just simply bring it to her attention. It is something that I am sure she would agree ought to be addressed and attended to immediately.

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am sure that if they were unable to get in that there was some legitimate reason, probably that the course was already filled to maximum. I believe the member is talking about the basic training skills development course, or the upgrading one. My immediate reaction would be that that course was already full.

Mr. Byblow: Obviously, there is a need for another course at the same time. I want to raise another matter. In the advanced education and manpower component, is the Knowledge Network part of the

responsibility of this branch in the outlying areas? Can the minister advise if it is being delivered in communities other than where the learning centres presently exist?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Yes, it is part of this department. The Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre is responsible for distance education, I believe it is called. I am not sure which communities have it. My first reaction was that most Yukon communities have it. Faro certainly does. Anyone who is hooked up to the Anik, Watson Lake, I believe, may have it as well. Your specific question was: are the communities with community learning centres the only ones that have it, and I do not know for sure.

Administration in the amount of \$110,000 agreed to
On Apprenticeship Training
Apprenticeship training in the amount of \$134,000 agreed to
On Adult Education
Adult education in the amount of \$3,285,000 agreed to
On Manpower
Manpower in the amount of \$115,000 agreed to
Advanced Education and Manpower agreed to

Mr. Chairman We will then move to page 48, Revenue and Recoveries. There will be no vote on this. Is there any general discussion?

We will move from there to the Grants, Contributions and Other Transfer Payments on page 49 and page 50. Is there any general discussion?

If there is no further discussion, we will then move back to page 30. We have a sub-total of \$25,323,000. Shall that sub-total carry?

Department of Education in the amount of \$25,323,000 agreed to

Mr. Chairman What is the pleasure of the committee?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I move that you report progress on Bill Number 3, and that Mr. Speaker do now resume the Chair.
Motion agreed to

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

Mr. Philippen: The Committee of the Whole has considered Bill Number 3, *Second Appropriation Act, 1982-83*, and directed me to report progress on same.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, that we do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Education, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that we do now adjourn. This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Monday next.

The House adjourned at 9:22 p.m.