

The Pukon Legislative Assembly

Number 9

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25th Legislature

HANSARD

Tuesday, November 16, 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

Hootalingua Old Crow

Kathle Nukon **Andy Philipsen**

Whitehorse Porter Creek West

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

(New Democratic Party)

Tony Penikett

Whitehorse West

Leader of the Official Opposition

Maurice Byblow

Margaret Joe

Whitehorse North Centre

Roger Kimmerly

Whitehorse South Centre

Piers McDonald

Mayo

Dave Porter Campbell

(Independent)

Don Taylor

Watson Lake

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
Tuesday, November 16, 1982

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed with daily routines. Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Petitions?

Reading or receiving of petitions? Are there any introduction of bills?

Notices of motion for the production of papers?

Are there any notices of motion?

Are there any statements by ministers?

This then brings us to the question period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Game officers

Mr. Porter: It has become public knowledge that the game officer in Ross River, a man who has done a great deal to bolster the credibility of the renewable resources department, has recently been terminated. Would the minister responsible explain his department's actions? Why was he dismissed?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: The handling of staff within this government's departments is a matter between the department and the person involved and it is not my intention, nor will it ever be my intention, to bring that kind of a situation before this legislature.

Mr. Porter: Seeing that this issue has become a public issue by way of the petition being brought about by the citizens of Ross River, will the minister give the public the commitment that he will undertake to re-examine Mr. Michalski's case?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I have said all I am going to say about this situation, as I would about any other situation. I am not prepared to drag anybody's name before the public. I will refuse to answer any more questions on it. It is a question between this government and Mr. Michalski, or any other person. And I do not believe that this is the time or the place. I am not going to do this publicly here in this legislature. Nor am I going to do it in the press.

Mr. Porter: Seeing as the minister has refused to answer any further questions with respect to this matter, I would like to direct my next supplementary to the government leader. Seeing as how the situation is regarded in Ross River, and seeing as how the individual conspirant has been so universally regarded and has such a wide base of support within the community, would he undertake, as the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission, to personally undertake to examine Mr. Michalski's case?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: There are appeal procedures, and there are also the courts that the gentleman in question can go to. Like my colleague, the minister responsible, I am bound to not reveal anything publicly in respect to this matter.

Question re: Recreation

Mrs. Joe: I have a question for the minister responsible for

The minister stated, on Monday, that appointments are made to Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee by members of the Legislative Assembly, because the government is bound by legislation requiring that system. Will the minister indicate whether she is satisfied with the present system, or whether she will be introducing legislation to have YRAC appointments made by cabinet?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: I am, obviously, satisfied with the present legislation because I have done nothing to change it. However, I am in the process of reviewing it.

Mrs. Joe: This question is in relation to some statements that were made, and reported in *Hansard* on November 9. The minister has stated that she wants people on YRAC who she can trust. Does this statement by the minister indicate that she does not trust the

present members of YRAC who are appointed by members of this assembly?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: It does not necessarily mean that I do not trust the present members, because I am not aware of who all the present members are. All of the recommendations have not come in from the members of the Legislative Assembly, on this side of the House, or on the other side of the House.

What I indicated, and I am sure the member opposite, if she were to be in my position, would feel the same way, is if you have a committee that is in an advisory capacity to the minister, I believe, were the member opposite a minister, she would want representatives and people on that committee who she had some trust in, and knew that they were capable of doing their job, that they were hard workers, that they were concerned about recreation, or whatever committee they were on, and that they were concerned about that particular committee that they were representing to the minister in an advisory capacity and had some knowledge of that particular group that they were representing.

I do not think that it is a matter of trust that I am questioning the members of the YRAC committee at present. This committee was, of course, started many years ago and was a committee of the commissioner.

of It started with seven members, it went up to 12 members, I believe, and then it went up to 16 members. This is a government committee that is appointed by the government that is presently in power. This committee is in an advisory capacity to the minister, and if the member opposite cannot understand and appreciate that, I am sorry, but I can alleviate her fears no further.

Mrs. Joe: The importance of these questions is, as I believe it, concerning all people who are interested in recreation. I would like to ask the minister if she believes that the purpose of YRAC is to represent the interests of the different communities in Yukon in the area of recreation, or does the minister wish to see YRAC as an advisory group sitting at the pleasure of the minister and intended to advise the minister when asked to?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I have difficulty in ruling that question out of order. The hon. member is again, as yesterday, asking for an opinion of the minister, which is contrary to the rules governing question period. Perhaps I will allow the member to rephrase the question to be a little more specific.

Mrs. Joe: What I am asking is if the minister has the interests of the community in mind under this YRAC advisory committee or if she has the interests of only appointing who she can trust?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: Again, the minister wishes to have a committee. Maybe the member is not aware of what this committee does: the Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee and the Yukon Lottery Commission advise the minister regarding recreation in Yukon and is responsible for the distribution and the allocation of funding. The funding could be done by the Department of Recreation. It does not have to be done by a Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee or by a committee of any name. The funds could be allocated by the recreation director of the department.

The present committee does have representation on it by opposition members and I am sure the opposition members would like to see all government boards and committees with their representation on them, and I am sure we will be getting a motion to that effect. The point is that this committee is responsible for advising the minister regarding recreation in the territory. The minister has reassured all groups that she has met with, including culture — which the member continually forgets is in recreation — and has expressed to these groups that the government is looking into this and reviewing the Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee.

The Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee has not received that much unfavourable comment, as the member opposite indicates. I do not know who her sources are, who is complaining to her, but they are not complaining to me and I have met with the art groups, the culture groups, the sports and disabled groups, and with the elderly and community groups.

Speaker's Ruling

Mr. Speaker: Before we continue, this type of questioning and the lengthy replies by the government benches are really contrary to

the true intent and spirit of the question period. Perhaps, in phrasing our questions, honourable members and honourable ministers, at the same time, would try to make their statements a little briefer in order that we not allow the question period to become a debating period. If members are not satisfied with the replies they have received, there are other ways, through the due processes of the House, to accomplish the same result.

Question re: Wildlife officers

Mr. McDonald: I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Yesterday, I asked the minister why the vacancy for the position of wildlife officer in Mayo was created to fill the vacancy for the position of wildlife officer in Dawson. The minister was unable to answer yesterday and I would like to know if he is able to do so today.

⁶⁰ Hon. Mr. Tracey: No. The department moves people around within the department to suit the best interests of the department and also the interests of the person, or persons, involved. A decision was made by the department to move the person from Mayo to Dawson where they thought that they would get a better job done and they would also have the ability to increase the effectiveness of the member who works for them.

Sometimes, when a person is moved, perhaps they do not like it. People work for this government, on the government's terms, not on the terms of the person who is the employee. It is up to the department of the government to make the best decisions it can to serve the purposes of the taxpayer. In this case, the decision was made to move the person from Mayo to Dawson for the benefit of the department.

Mr. McDonald: Yesterday, the minister also mentioned that he was recruiting the services of campground personnel to act as conservation officers. Could the minister tell the House how many campground personnel are currently bolstering the ranks of these qualified conservation officers and where they are located?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I did not say yesterday that we were recruiting campground personnel in order to serve as conservation officers. I said that the staff in our campground department also have the ability to be conservation officers. Those people who are on staff have that ability.

Mr. McDonald: One last question. I would like to know whether or not any of these campground persons, providing auxiliary support, are providing the support in areas not staffed by qualified conservation officers?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Not to the best of my knowledge.

Question re: Yukon Hydro

Mr. Penikett: I have a question for the government leader concerning YTG's application to become a subsidiary of Alberta Power

On Monday, the government leader stated that the sales of power by Yukon Hydro to Yukon Electrical would be regulated by the Yukon Public Utilities Board. Would the government leader clarify if that means that the Yukon Electrical Public Utilities Board would, in fact, regulate the price of energy bought by Yukon Electrical from Yukon Hydro and, as a result, determine the income or profit levels of Yukon Hydro?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: They do that now.

Mr. Penikett: Since the Yukon Electrical Public Utilities Board must approve the rates set by both Yukon Electrical and Yukon Hydro, and since board appointments are made by this government, what assurances may the taxpayer and the electric consumer have that the Electrical Public Utilities Board will not be used to guarantee the financial success of this government's half ownership of Yukon Hydro at the expense of the Yukon consumer?

on Hon. Mr. Pearson: The object of the exercise is just the opposite. The taxpayers and the people of the territory can rest well assured that what we intend to do is stabilize the price of electricity in the territory. What we intend is to make sure that there is a supply of electricity at reasonable rates for the people of the territory. This is probably the most efficient way that the Government of Yukon can do this.

Mr. Penikett: The government leader's "probable" is arguable, but I will not pursue that now. The Yukon Electrical Public

Utilities Board, as the government leader knows, has some well-known members of the Conservative party on its board, and since the Yukon Electrical Public Utilities Board is appointed by this government, and since this government will be appointing members for the Yukon Hydro Board, will the government leader assure the House that some independent, qualified people, possibly including some recognized consumer advocates, rather than just partisans from his side, will be on that board?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: The board is not set up as a consumer

Hon. Mr. Pearson: The board is not set up as a consumer advocacy, it is set up to make some recommendations in respect to the price of electricity in the territory. Now, the reason that the board is there is so that the public, including the consumers, have a means of getting to this government exactly what their concerns are in respect to the price of power in the territory. The very make-up of the board is such that there is legislation requiring the board to hold hearings to set these rates so that the consumers in the territory are protected. That is the only protection that they do have.

Question re: Employment programs

Mr. Byblow: I have a question for the government leader. I have received a number of calls surrounding the various employment programs announced by this government. With regard to yesterday's announced capital works projects, as well as this government's employment development program, both programs which involve work on government infrastructure, can the government leader say whether just some, or most, of those projects will be put to public tender, and if not, what criteria governs those that will be, and those that will not.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I would respectfully suggest that to the best of my knowledge, all of these jobs will be put to public tender.

Mr. Byblow: Further to that, the government leader announced yesterday the formation of a coordinating office to administer program application, funding and other detail. For the benefit of constituents who are inquiring, can the government leader advise what plans are in place, or will be in place, for public dissemination of information relating the various programs?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Over the course of the summer, we ran a student employment program from this government and from a coordinating committee established by the government. I respectfully suggest that it went very well. It proved to be a success. We learned a lot, we learned how to disseminate the pertinent information. I think we managed to get it out. It is our intention to follow basically the same procedure this time around. We are doing it with a fair degree of confidence this time, in that we have already been through it once.

Mr. Byblow: I trust the government leader will have more information on that itself. The minister responsible for Manpower, in her address on the NEED program, announced that an advisory board would be struck to deliver that program. This board was to be a broad cross section of business, labour and government. Is this government's advisory board coordinating office now a substitution for that other advisory board on the other program?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: The board that the hon. minister was talking about is a federal board. It is required by federal legislation. It is required by the federal act. This will not be a board. It is a committee, a group of people who work for this government that will be charged with coordinating the work programs that we are initiating. Do not get it confused with the program that the federal government is involved in directly.

Question re: Fair Practices Act

Mr. Kimmerly: I have a question to the Minister of Justice. Will the minister make a commitment to bring in a new Fair Practices Act before the end of 1983?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The question should be directed to me as the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. That is what it is under, but, no, I will not.

Mr. Kimmerly: Will the minister be tabling a green paper on fair practices legislation before tabling the actual bill?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: Not very likely, at this time.

Mr. Kimmerly: Previous ministers have promised a green paper. Will the minister state whether or not the department is

working on fair practices legislation in any way, shape or form at all?

⁶⁹ Hon. Mr. Ashley: Yes, we are certainly looking at human rights legislation.

Question re: Wolves

Mr. Porter: My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources, who has also admitted to being the minister of campground conservation officers. On Wednesday, November 10th, and in discussions with a local press reporter, the minister referred to studies that have been done by his department which recommended the poisoning of wolves. I would like to ask the minister, point-blank, has his department given him studies recommending the poisoning of wolves and, if so, when will those studies be tabled in this House?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: First of all, I am not going to answer any questions that result from what was written in the press. However, in this case, I was talking to a member of the press. As you are all probably aware, there are many reports about wolves throughout the territory and Alberta and in Alaska. I was under the impression, when I was talking to the reporter, that one of the reports that I did have for my government recommended wolf poisoning. However, that was not so. Subsequent to that, we have come into this House and passed a motion that we will poison wolves, and when the poison arrives and as soon as my department has the proposal put together on how we are going to do it, we will proceed with the poisoning of wolves.

As far as tabling the reports of my committee in this House, I have no intentions of doing so.

Mr. Porter: On September 16th, the Department of Renewable Resources issued a press release that stated "The one-time only wolf poisoning program for the Mayo road area". On November 10th, there was a motion passed calling for the poisoning of wolves "where necessary". Is it the intent of his department to use poison throughout the territory in areas other than the Mayo road area?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: It is the intent of my department to do exactly what it says in that motion, to use the poison where necessary.

Mr. Porter: In the same speech, delivered on November 10th, the minister referred to the wolf eradication program in Alaska. Since there could be confusion created by the minister by referring to the Alaska program during debate concerning wolf poisoning, will the minister confirm for the record that the Alaska program, in fact, did not involve the use of poisoning?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Yes, one Alaska program did not involve the use of poison, but other programs did. The one I was referring to in this House was the one done on the Tanana Flats, and it did not use poison, it used aerial hunting.

Question re: Motor Vehicles Act

Mrs. Joe: I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

On November 4th, the minister stated that the new *Motor Vehicles Act* pertaining to impaired drivers would be proclaimed on December 15. Since the new act contains a number of penalties for persons convicted of impaired driving and prevention of the problems and goals we are all aiming at, could the minister tell us what plans the department has in terms of advertising the changes in legislation?

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the minister to be brief. The way these questions are phrased would require lengthy replies, and if a lengthy reply is required, a written question would be more appropriate. Could the ministers be brief, please.

Hon. Mr. Ashley: My department is working on advertising. They have a program ready.

Mrs. Joe: Just briefly, will the advertising be done on the radio and in local newspapers and, also, when will the advertising start?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The advertising will start as soon as possible.

Question re: Employment Development Program
Mr. McDonald: I have a question for the government leader. It
is a constituency question with territorial implications.

One of my constituents understood the government leader to say, yesterday, that some jobs under the new employment development program would be made available by early December. Could the minister tell me if jobs will be created in the Mayo/Keno/Elsa area?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I have a fair amount of background material with me in respect to these jobs, but I do not have exactly which jobs are being called at what time. I am aware, though, that some of the jobs were called yesterday. There are jobs in Watson Lake, Haines Junction, on the Tagish road, here in Whitehorse, Dawson city and then, quite an extensive program of clearing jobs on highways. There is some in the Mayo area, but I do not know exactly where that would be.

Mr. McDonald: Just a brief supplementary. Is the government prepared to consider other project suggestions, should they be announced by constituents?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: By all means. I would be more than happy to hear of any suggestions from anyone at all in respect to jobs that we might be able to do over the course of the winter. Although we have been looking at this for a long time, and we do have a fairly lengthy list, if the hon. member, or one of his constituents, has a substantive suggestion to make, by all means, we would always be prepared to consider it.

Mr. McDonald: The government leader's answer is very encouraging. This constituent has proposed a recreation program for the Elsa/Keno area, employing one person, and utilizing some of the United Keno Hill recreational facilities. Would such a proposal be considered under the auspices of this program, and to whom should such a proposal be made?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Well, I would appreciate it very much if the member or his constituents got in touch with Mr. Ferbey, the Deputy Minister of Economic Development. It is his department that is acting as coordinator for all this work, and certainly that would have to be the place where they would have to go to first.

Question re: "Six and five" wage controls

Mr. Penikett: Mr. Ferbey's phone is ringing off the wall already. I have a question for the government leader. Earlier this fall, the government leader said that he expected the federal government to order the Yukon government to impose the so-called "six and five" wage control program on Yukon public servants. Will the government leader state whether he has had any more indication from the federal government on their intentions in the matter of wage controls, and does this government endorse or oppose the imposition of the specific "six and five" program in Yukon.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: We were deemed, for this year, to have met the "six and five" guideline set by the federal government, in spite of the fact that we did not. I think that that is sufficient to answer the question of whether we agree with it or disagree with it. That is not the question, it is whether it is practical or impractical in this territory. I submit that we were in a situation with our employees where it was not practical, and we were able to convince the federal government of that.

Now, in respect to the imposition of "six and five", there is little doubt that the federal government expects us to live within those guidelines. I do not believe anymore that they are going to order us, at this point in time. I do not believe that they are going to say to us that we must impose "six and five". What they are saying to us, though, and we are on notice and have been told it quite emphatically, that "six and five" is a fact of life, and they will govern all transfer payments to this territory.

Mr. Penikett: I thank the government leader for his answer. I ask him a very specific question in regard to that general program. Is it the intention of this government to support the federal government's moves, by legislation — it is now law — to remove collective bargaining rights from public servants, as was done by an act of parliament.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No. I sincerely hope that I am never put in a position where I have to — never mind support, but — be the author of that kind of legislation. We have no interest in limiting collective bargaining rights in any way, shape or form.

12 Mr. Penikett: I am glad to see the government leader take a

considerably more progressive position than his federal counterparts. Will this government assure members of this House that any future control scheme will be applied to all levels of government employees, equally, or at least that the managerial exclusion employees will not continue to receive their so-called merit increases to give effective raises of ten percent, instead of the other employees' six percent, if that is the guideline we have to operate under next year?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Everything that we have done we have done as equally as we possibly can, notwithstanding merit increases. Unless the leader of the opposition has something specific to give me, I cannot acknowledge that I have to guarantee him anything. We have been as honest, as fair and as open as we possibly can be in respect to this. We will continue to do that.

Question re: Northern benefits

Mr. Byblow: I have a question for the government leader in order to clarify a matter raised yesterday. At the time, the government leader made a commitment on behalf of his government to rebate any tax imposed on northern benefits, he also said very emphatically it will be Yukon government policy to not accept its share, or 43 percent, of any tax imposed. I would like to ask very bluntly if it is his government's policy still to be committed to rebating any tax imposed in the expected new regime on northern taxation?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Very bluntly, no.

Mr. Byblow: Can the government leader clarify his government's present position on the refunding of any northern benefits taxation to Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Yes, there will be none. I answered that question yesterday. It does not matter how many times the hon. member asks the question, the answer will have to be the same until we know what the new taxation regime is going to be.

Mr. Byblow: I would suggest that the government leader is perhaps reneging on an election promise. I would, instead, like to ask him if he has any specific information respecting any announcement of a new regime coming from the feds?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: The hon. member from Faro has implied many times that he has better information from Ottawa than I have. I am confident that he does not have any information that I do not have at the moment.

Questions re: Faro school and air charter services, written

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I have for tabling of the answers to the questions from the member for Faro regarding the school in Faro, and also the answers to the written questions by the leader of the opposition regarding airplane contracts.

Question re: Yukon Liquor Corporation

Mr. Kimmerly: I have a question for the minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation. Is the department looking at increased enforcement measures for the widespread under-age drinking problem in Whitehorse bars?

13 Hon. Mr. Lang: There are people on staff whose responsibilities include that and I understand they are monitoring that closely. If he has any specifics, I would like to hear them.

Mr. Kimmerly: Is the department also looking at increased enforcement measures for the widespread practise of bar patrons being served well after the point of intoxication?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I mentioned earlier to the member that I would be more than prepared to listen to any specific complaint that he may have had brought to his attention. Whether or not they are true remains to be seen.

Just as an aside, I get the distinct impression that the member opposite would regulate every part of my life, if he had the ability to do so.

Mr. Kimmerly: Is the department also looking at legislation, comparable to the Northwest Territories' legislation, imposing civil liability on bar owners who allow patrons to become intoxicated in their bars and, subsequently, cause damage?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Not to my knowledge. If the member opposite

feels the liquor laws are that good in the NWT, I would have to question why he does not move there.

Question re: Placer mining

Mr. McDonald: I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Last week, the minister stated that the Government of Yukon officials participated only at an observer level with federal officials in determining the new guidelines for the regulation of the placer industry. Could the minister tell the House the amount of involvement, in terms of numbers of meetings attended, and the sorts of concerns raised by the territorial representatives?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No, I cannot give the member that detail. I do not run my department on a day-to-day basis, as members in the department do. I am aware, though, that they have been contacted on a few occasions regarding some of the guidelines, but I could not give the member that kind of detail.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps that kind of question is one that should form a written question requiring detailed replies.

Mr. McDonald: Unfortunately, this question will not be satisfied by a yes or no answer, but perhaps the minister will make his answer short.

While the Yukon government has admitted only to participation at the level of observer status, can the minister tell the House whether the government decided not to carry full participation, or whether they simply were not invited to participate fully by federal officials?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I think the members across the floor are well aware of what the federal government is doing in this territory. We would like to not only participate, we would like to be the people who write the legislation that requires the obeying of the laws within the territory.

We have a constant problem with the federal government becoming involved with things that affect people in this territory, and to a very, very large extent we, as the Government of the Yukon Territory, are not allowed to participate in them. In most cases, when the federal government says they have consulted with the territorial government, usually it means they have handed us the finished product and said, "What do you think of it?" That is about the level of the consultation that we have.

I think that the member, in respect to placer mine guidelines, is quite aware that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and many other federal departments call the tune. We participate at a level so far below the decision-making level that it is unbelievable.

I would like to know, specifically, whether or not the government has officially requested full participation, and whether or not meetings at the ministerial level, that is between the territorial cabinet and the federal cabinet, have been convened to discuss the placer mining issue and, if not, are meetings planned in the future?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I suggest that the man wake up and realize what goes on in this territory. We do not tell the federal government to sit down with us, as a cabinet, and discuss placer mining guidelines. We have talked about placer mining guidelines for the last four years, or more. Certainly, we want to participate. We very much want to participate, but the participation has to come from both sides and the federal government does not want to participate with us.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will now proceed to orders of the day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I would move, seconded by the Minister of Education, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

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

Motion agreed to

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. We will now take a short recess.

Recess

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Just at the end of the last session, yesterday, the member for Whitehorse South Centre asked me a question regarding the detox centre. He made the statement that I spoke of four or five intake beds. I would like to correct that, I did not say four or five intake beds. I said that I was over there and there were about four or five people around, and the average, around that place, to the best of my knowledge, is about five or six people. On intake beds, the member is right.

He also commented fairly extensively on whether we should upgrade and increase the detox centre and get rid of the drunk tank and a few other things. The member has a right to his own opinion, but I think that, after a person has been drunk three or four hundred times, and he has come to the detox facility for a place to stay, it reaches the point where something other than the detox centre what he considers a hotel room for himself when he is drinking has to be looked at. I am not sure just exactly what that something else should be, but I would certainly have full intentions of having my department check around the country, and around the world, if necessary, to find out what other means can be used. I do not think it is beneficial for the taxpayer to maintain a facility when all it really is doing is making it possible for these people to go and spend whatever dollars they do have on booze and then count on the government to supply the facility that they can stay in and feed them. I think that is also the wrong answer. We will be looking very closely at the detox centre in the ensuing years.

Mr. Kimmerly: I thank the minister for that answer and I have an additional comment. I appreciate the minister's statements about the expense to the taxpayer of, essentially, a "flophouse" or "overnight hotel", and I can empathize with that statement. I do comment, though, that the problem of public drunkenness is with us, and the professionals in the area frequently talk about rehabilitation and correcting the problem.

In the past I have got into some trouble with those people by stating a more modest goal. The modest goal is, essentially, for the skid row type of alcoholic, or the person who is a chronic alcoholic, it is at this stage of our knowledge, and this stage of the level of the public's responsibility to do something about the problem, it is virtually a waste of money to continue on the rehabilitative goal.

The success rate is extremely low all over the country, indeed all over the world. The modest proposal is more like a public order proposal. The public demands that chronically drunk people be essentially out of sight. It is a provocative way to put it, but there is a public demand about that. The public drinking laws are a symptom of that. Also, the public, I perceive, is uncomfortable if people freeze to death in the winter-time, especially in the northern climates. Also, the public is concerned about the cost of these kinds of facilities. The rethinking or the evaluation of existing facilities that I am talking about is to find the cheapest way that the problem of public intoxication can be dealt with humanely.

It is my view that probably all the people who were having problems because of public intoxication could be put in a facility which does not need to be a medical facility, per se, where there is no requirement that it be a luxurious facility, simply that it is warm and relatively clean and that emergency medical is available, or that there is a capacity to identify emergency problems. I am not talking about a doctor, I am talking about a nurse or in some cases a St. John's Ambulance certificate qualification. The expense of maintaining a person in the RCMP cells is substantially greater than the expense of maintaining a person in the detox centre, and, similarly, in the emergency ward, where some other people end up. That is the point, and I realize that if there is to be a change in policy because of the substantial capital investments already, it is going to be a long time in coming. It will not occur overnight. I suggest that it is a saving to the taxpayer and it is a more acceptable service from the point of view of overall humanity.

¹⁷ Mr. Kimmerly: Those are my points in general. I have a specific question. The decrease is approximately ten percent. What services or expenses will not be incurred in 1982-83 that were incurred in 1981-82?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I do not have that information with me. We did move a person-year and the salary allocation into administrative program field region, which would allow for the decrease in that budget.

Mr. Kimmerly: Another fairly simple question. In the past, there was almost a policy conflict between Crossroads and the detox centre as to the rehabilitative programs of the detox centre. Are the programs at detox and Crossroads fully integrated to the minister's satisfaction or is there a continuing problem in this area?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I believe that we have most of the problems ironed out between detox and Crossroads. I think everything is going along fairly smoothly between the two organizations as of this date.

Detoxification in the amount of \$257,000 agreed to

Residential Facilities in the amount of \$1,867,000 agreed to

On Administration-Health Services

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I, yesterday, in my opening remarks, gave most of the opening remarks for each one of these parts.

On General

General, in the amount of \$168,000, agreed to

Hon. Mr. Tracey: General Health Services is the area that I was talking about yesterday, there being a difference in numbers. I will give you those numbers now for the record.

On page 90, the Dental Program says \$470,000, it should say \$379,000; Mental reads \$207,000 and remains the same; Environmental reads \$130,000 and remains the same; Health Education remains the same; Special and Chronic says \$22,000 and should actually read \$47,000; and Health Centres says \$670,000 but should read \$736,000. These changes do not affect the bottom line, it is merely the fact that the figures we got from the federal government were inaccurate for our use and, once we received the accurate figures, we had to change them here.

Mr. Chairman: When we get to General Health Services, I will get the numbers again and change them on the page we are on.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I jumped ahead there.

Mr. Chairman: We will now move on to Administration — Health Services.

On General Health

General Health in the amount of \$53,000 agreed to

On Yukon Hospital Insurance Services

Yukon Hospital Insurance Services in the amount of \$29,000 agreed to

On Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan

Mr. Kimmerly: I must rise on this item because, of course, if our policy were adopted, it would be entirely saved.

Is this, in fact, the administration of the medicare plan? I note, as a second question, that there is an approximate ten percent increase over the spring estimate and I am wondering at the change in estimates and the reason for that.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: If the member's government was in power it would be saved, but we would be paying for it and probably a lot more than now. At least now the users of the plan are also paying for it.

The reason for the increase is because we have included \$40,000 for pharmacare and we have also included \$80,000 for the extended care benefits for seniors, which is also in here, and which has made a significant increase in the department.

Mr. Kimmerly: I do not understand the minister's answer. On page 94, the pharmacare and other expenses are voted as specific line items. This is obviously the administration of the medicare plan and I would expect the increased answer as something else, and I

would ask the minister to reconsider that.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: We are dealing with the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan and administration of the health care plan also administers the pharmacare and the extended care for seniors.

Mr. Kimmerly: The problem of delinquent accounts and selecting accounts from non-resident companies, especially, is obviously a serious problem, and it was identified in public accounts last year as a potential problem area. Are there increased or better collection procedures over last year?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: This is an area that we are going to have constant trouble with. First of all, you cannot collect the fees in advance so that we do not have that ability to go to the companies and collect in advance. If some company chooses to abscond from the territory without paying their medicare fees, then we have the expensive process, if we can do so, of trying to collect it through the court system which, in many cases, probably would cost us more money than trying to collect it. Yes, we do try to collect the medicare premiums and, yes, we are looking at ways in order to collect it more efficiently but we are always going to have this problem with us.

Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan in the amount of \$206,000 agreed to

Administration-Health Services in the amount of \$456,000 agreed

On General Health Services

20 Hon. Mr. Tracey: Dental, \$470,000, should read \$379,000; Mental stays the same; Environmental stays the same; Health Education is the same; Special and Chronic goes from \$22,000 to \$47,000; and Health Centres goes from \$670,000 to \$736,000; Health Stations remains the same.

Mr. Penikett: I have a general question under this item and it is a question that I have asked in most years this estimate has been considered. I must confess that I have never been entirely satisfied with the answer. I was recently reading some provincial government reports on health care expenditures and I notice that the provincial administration in this country was expressing great regret at the proportions of their expenditures going on preventative health care versus remedial health care. In that province they had calculated that they were spending four percent of their health budgets on preventative medicine and 96 percent on remedial medicine. They had also calculated that if they were able to change that ratio, or those proportions, that there would be considerable savings. In fact the savings might be on the order of a factor of nine, the amount of spending they could make on preventative health care as opposed to remedial.

I would like to ask the minister if he has any similar estimate of the proportions that operate here and, if so, what steps, if any, is this government taking to see a greater emphasis spent on preventative health care as opposed to remedial health care?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I cannot give the member across the floor a definitive answer on that. I could bring it back to him, however. I agree with him in principle. I think that we should be concentrating on preventative care as much as possible because if we are successful in preventative care we will have a much lower cost down the road, a year or two or ten years in the future. I will bring that information back if we do have it.

Mr. Penikett: Just one short supplementary. I would emphasize that I have no urgent need for the particular information I asked for, but I would like to serve long-term notice that this is an area I would like to pursue in greater detail one year hence from now. I think that the savings to be obtained are, in a period of restraint, well worth trying to achieve.

On Dental Dental in the amount of \$379,000 agreed to

On Mental

Mr. Kimmerly: I had identified a line of questioning in this area previously, and what I am referring to is a mental health plan. I have referred to it before in the spring of 1982. I made a speech about it, but I will not make the same speech again.

21 The advantages, I believe, are that the services or the programs in Yukon are obviously inadequate in the general sense, and I fully understand as a restraint that the populations here are relatively small and the services relatively expensive. It is an area that requires, I believe, additional attention. I am encouraged at the evaluation plans that the minister announced, although I do realize that this is fundamentally a federal area, in that we have no real control over it whatsoever. We do have kind of a moral control, I suppose, and eventually, possibly in the life of this legislature, there will be a real control. I would recommend that the addition of additional programs and services be planned for over the next four or five years.

Now, obviously the direction in the area in the world, or the western world, anyway, is that people are not going into institutions, although the statistics are that approximately one person in six, at one point in their life, is going to be actually institutionalized for a mental problem. The direction is to especially use drugs or chemotherapy, and service the clients outside of institutions. The rural services, and indeed the Whitehorse, are, in my opinion, woefully inadequate, and the level of service borders on the negligent, in my view. I would reiterate the comments made about preventative medicine under this line. In any event, it is probably not something we have to spend a long time at, but the federal people will probably read this and be put on notice — well, I will send them a copy myself, and will promise that — and will take it as a notice of a dissatisfaction with the service being provided. 22 Hon. Mr. Tracey: I recognize where the member is coming from. There was negotiation done in regard to mental health, and there are three positions for this branch that are frozen presently by the federal government. If, and when, the federal government release the manpower restraint, perhaps we can do something further in mental health. As the member also stated, it is mainly a federal responsibility at this time.

Mental in the amount of \$207,000 agreed to

On Environmental

Environmental in the amount of \$130,000 agreed to

On Health Education

Mr. Kimmerly: I simply wish to make a comment. This is a woefully inadequate amount and I will also send that to the feds. Health Education in the amount of \$32,000 agreed to

On Special and Chronic

Special and chronic in the amount of \$47,000 agreed to

On Health Centres

Mr. Kimmerly: Is the minister aware of any activity similar to the recent RCMP activity about an orientation program for new Yukoners or, specifically, nurses, who go into the rural Yukon? Is there an orientation program, or an orientation program planned?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Yes, I believe there is an orientation program for them to acquaint them with the country.

Mr. Byblow: Just before we clear this item, I realize that on the supplementary page to the vote there is information that explains the relationship this government has with the feds in terms of operating the stations. Can the minister elaborate at all whether or not there is an actual documented agreement that exists between the federal government, national health and this government, whereby they pay the 70 percent portion of costs of operating a station?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Yes, there certainly is an agreement. We would like to get rid of that agreement and take it over ourselves, because, as you can see, we pay the bill but we do not call the shots, so we would like to change that. There is an agreement, yes. 23 Mr. Byblow: What influence is YTG able to exert, at this point in time, relative to issues and problems and the delivery of services in the health centres?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: The government leader says 30 percent, but I do not think we even have that much. We consult with them, we put our position forward, but I am not sure that we even get 30 percent input into it. It is the same as every other federal government program, I guess. We pay the bill and they call the tune.

Health Centres, in the amount of \$736,000, agreed to

On Health Stations

Health Stations, in the amount of \$28,000, agreed to

General Health Services in the amount of \$1,559,000, agreed to

On Yukon Hospital Insurance Services

On In-Patient Services

Mr. Kimmerly: I am interested in any update, if possible, on the children's ward in Whitehorse. Is the planning now only in place for the next year or is there a long-term commitment to keep the children's ward open?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I could not give you a definitive answer on that. I would hope that it is long term, to keep the children's ward open, but I am not aware of whether it is or it is not. All I know is that they are under budgetary restraints. They have orders from on high that they have to reduce their costs, and they explore every means within their power to reduce that cost.

The closing of the pediatric ward was one method of reducing cost. However, they, in their wisdom and with a lot of help from this government and the public, modified that to a certain extent. I would hope that it stays modified, but I cannot give any guarantee.

Mr. Kimmerly: The estimates in the spring were \$280,000 greater. Is the minister aware of the planned expenditure in the spring which, in fact, was cut?

²⁴ Hon. Mr. Tracey: No. It is a reduction due to the anticipated slight decrease that we will have in territorial hospital claims because of reduced population.

Mr. Kimmerly: I am also interested, in a general way, about the state of negotiations for a geriatric ward or geriatric facility in the Whitehorse building? Is that only at a very exploratory stage or is negotiation actually occurring?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: My department has talked to the officials in the hospital, but it is just beginning now.

In-Patient Services in the amount of \$7,523,000 agreed to

On Out-Patient Services

Mr. Kimmerly: I am interested in the amount attributable to physiotherapy and, if possible, the income generated through physiotherapy, if that information is available?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No, I do not have it broke down to that level.

Mr. Kimmerly: I would ask the minister to take the question as notice. I am instructed that there are approximately 250 patients per week in the physiotherapy program and the treatments used to cost \$31.50 and recently went up to \$37.00 a treatment. This, of course, is a substantial revenue producer in the scheme of things. It is interesting that the increase in fees is above the "six and five" guidelines. I am interested in that information if it can be made available.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Yes, I will be happy to make it available to the member.

Out-Patient Services in the amount of \$453,000 agreed to

Yukon Hospital Insurance Services in the amount of \$7,976,000 agreed to

On Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan

Mr. Kimmerly: First of all, I appreciate the breakdown of information which is an addition from the previous budgets. I am specifically interested in the cost of the addition of physiotherapy. The minister mentioned, in a very, very general sense, on July 13, a figure of \$400,000, and yesterday a figure of approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Kimmerly: I am interested in the way the \$100,000 is arrived at, and the projections around the cost of adding physiotherapy to the plan. I am specifically interested, because I am instructed by the private physiotherapy clinic in town that all of the clients are

referred by doctors, and the fee for treatment is \$22.50 a treatment. And, in fact, the gross revenue of the clinic is approximately \$7,000 a week. Given those figures, it appears that it may be a very reasonable expense to add physiotherapy to the existing plan, especially if an individual limit is placed on the amount of treatment, for example, \$250 or, for seniors, perhaps a bit more.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: The figures for physiotherapy are calculated in the same way as any other calculation would be. You use the actuals that you have and you project the increase that you are going to have because the people are not paying the bill themselves, or whatever, and if you limit it to \$200 or \$250 you might perhaps get it for less than \$100,000, though I doubt it.

But if I used the member's figures, \$7,000 a week times 52 weeks in the year comes to \$360,000 in my calculation, and I think that is fairly expensive for physiotherapy.

Mr. Kimmerly: I would correct an error. I meant \$7,000 a month. Of course, there is a substantial difference, that is my mistake. But that is the figure I was given as the actual expenditure that the public is put to at the present time. The indication I had is that the expenditure would probably be closer to \$75,000 than \$100,000, and I would recommend the addition of the service at the earliest opportunity.

²⁶ Hon. Mr. Tracey: I think I have made my position clear on a number of occasions. Physiotherapy will be added as soon as we can justify the additional cost to the taxpayer.

On In-Territory Doctors

Mr. Kimmerly: I have a question about the negotiations with doctors. I realize the problem of public discussions, but can the minister assure us that, at the very least, the position of the government is that the medicare taxpayers will be, if at all possible, kept to an increase of "six and five", and will the minister also attempt to actually negotiate a decrease or a maintenance of the present price levels?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: First of all, I would like to correct the member across the floor. They are not medicare taxpayers. They are paying premiums for an insurance plan. It is not tax.

Also, as we are negotiating the fee increase for doctors, it is certainly our intention of getting the lowest price increase, or no price increase, that we can possibly get. I do not think the member has to stand up in the House and ask me whether it is our intention to do so. Certainly, it is our intention to do so. It is our intention to get the lowest rate that we can possibly negotiate.

In-Territory Doctors, in the amount of \$3,514,000, agreed to

On Out-of-Territory Doctors

Out-of-Territory Doctors in the amount of \$582,000 agreed to

On Reimbursements to Residents

Reimbursements to Residents in the amount of \$39,000 agreed to

On Payment to Dentists

Payment to Dentists in the amount of \$15,000 agreed to

On Pharmacare

Mr. Kimmerly: I asked this question in question period. I was told by a representative of the Medical Association that, several years ago, the Medical Association sent a letter about the chronic diseases list and it mentioned a number of diseases. As opposed to a question, I would make the comment that it is my information — and I am authorized to say this — that the medical association would support an initiative by the minister to make additions to the federal chronic diseases list. One of these additions ought to be Parkinson's disease, and the expense would probably be fairly minimal

27 Hon. Mr. Tracey: I was talking to the member across the floor yesterday, and I assured him that I am not only looking at Parkinson's disease, I am looking at the total chronic disease program to see if it can be changed or modified. I am hopeful that we will be able to do something on it in the near future.

Mr. Kimmerly: I will ask the question again next year of course. I would assume that in the next year something can be done

about this.

Pharmacare in the amount of \$40,000 agreed to

On Extended Health
Extended Health in the amount of \$80,000 agreed to

Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan in the amount of \$4,270,000 agreed to

On Mental Health Services

Mr. Kimmerly: I will not repeat the comments made in the spring. I am assuming that the dollar figure is exactly the same and the breakdown is the same, that \$14,000 odd dollars is for travel and \$222,000 odd dollars for care, and it is spent mainly in Alberta. I do make the comment that I am aware that it is a federal responsibility still, but this is almost a quarter of a million dollars, and next year it will probably go over a quarter of a million dollars. It ought to be spent more wisely. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. A portion of the money, I believe, ought to be eventually, in the long term, used for a facility here in Yukon. The direction or the policy of mental institutions, allowing the release of more and more people, ought to be continued, and if the support services in the community existed at a greater level, more people could be released and come home.

think we all agree that if we can have it in the territory and have a capital expenditure that allows us to have it in the territory, we will all support it. Unfortunately, this day, we do not have the capital to invest in such a facility. I am aware that there is at least one company that has recently arrived in Whitehorse that has mental health experience and we are talking with them. Perhaps we can work something out, I am not sure. He is talking motherhood. We all agree. We should try to keep as much as possible in the Yukon.

Mental Health Services in the amount of \$237,000 agreed to

On Subsidized Medical Travel

On Travel Outside Territory
Travel Outside Territory in the amount of \$342,000 agreed to

On Travel Within Territory
Travel Within Territory in the amount of \$136,000 agreed to

Subsidized Medical Travel in the amount of \$478,000 agreed to

On Disease Control

On Venereal Disease Venereal Disease in the amount of \$14,000 agreed to

On Tuberculosis
Tuberculosis in the amount of \$17,000 agreed to

On Cancer Cancer in the amount of \$100,000 agreed to

On Communicable Disease Communicable Disease in the amount of \$42,000 agreed to

Disease Control in the amount of \$173,000 agreed to

On Speech Pathology

Mr. Kimmerly: I think I have to comment. The explanation of the decrease has already been made, of course. I certainly understand it, although I regret it very much.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I would like to comment that we do have two positions that we are keeping open in this department. I regret that we are unable to fill them, and we are unable to carry the program forward as we wanted to, as well. We are keeping the positions open so that we can fill them.

Speech Pathology in the amount of \$136,000 agreed to

Mr. Chairman: Are there any general questions on the supplementary information?

Mr. Kimmerly: In recoveries, under medicare, the estimate is \$1,000,000 lower than the spring estimate. This has already been explained in a general sense, about the declining population and the declining work-force as well. On what population figures is the new estimate made?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I believe the population figure used is right around the 24,000 population range.

Mr. Chairman: If there is no further debate under the supplementary information, we will go back to page 72, Department of Health and Human Resources, to the sub-total, \$25.136.000.

Department of Health and Human Resources in the amount of \$25,136,000 agreed to

Mr. Chairman: We will next go on to page 107, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, after we have taken a short coffee-break.

Recess

30 Mr. Chairman: I call Committee of the Whole to order. We will proceed with Municipal and Community Affairs. Is there any general debate?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would like to begin by making a couple of comments about the department and the 1982-83 budget. I think it is safe to say that there have been significant changes over the previous year, with the introduction of the new Municipal Finance Act. I think the act has done a great deal to alleviate the limited taxing authority that the communities throughout the territory have, namely the City of Dawson, Whitehorse and Faro.

It is significant to note that, in the overall budget, we only have a seven percent increase over last year, to a total of \$6,223,000. It is a reduction, due to the financial restraints we are under, of approximately \$426,000 over the budget that had been tabled in the spring.

The \$426,000 that was pared from municipal affairs when we had to go through the cost-cutting exercise — which none of us enjoyed but had to do — went as follows: there was \$193,000 reduced from the various grants to the municipalities and LIDs; approximately \$160,000 reduced from the dwelling unit grant and the remaining \$33,000 was the difference in the estimated natural tax rates for the distribution of grants in lieu of taxes of property tax dispersements in communities other than the municipalities. The balance of \$232,000 was reduced within the department from personnel and administrative costs.

I think it is important to note, and I do not think the public is fully aware of it, that, with the advent of the *Municipal Finance Act*, we have made significant increase in money to our municipalities and LIDs, in comparison to other years. If one takes a look at the City of Whitehorse, with the formula that was adopted last spring, the increase, over the course of this year, is approximately \$565,000, which was transferred to the City of Whitehorse. In Dawson City, we contributed approximately \$50,000 and, in Faro, there was an increase of approximately \$184,000.

I do not have the figures for our local improvement districts, but they will be approximately the same as they were last year, if not somewhat higher, in respect to the transfers. I think it is important to know that the LIDs now are benefactors of the tax levy in those communities. Previously, it was going directly to the territorial government and being handed out as a deficit grant, or part of a deficit grant. It is over and above that.

There has been some criticism regarding a number of the LIDs, and the results of the budgeting process they were asked to go on, as opposed to previous years. In years previous, they used to work their budgets from April 1st to the succeeding April 1st, and now, with the advent of the new municipal finance act, they have to go to the calendar year, which is similar to any other part of Canada — January to January. Subsequently I think there has been some misunderstanding of how the financing works. The levy that we

have allocated to them is for that nine-month period, from April 1st of our budget until January 1st. There has to be an interim financing for that three-month period. Subsequently, I think that was an area in which there was some misunderstanding. I know there are some problems down in Teslin. I will be going down there in the next couple of weeks to discuss their situation. It appears they have overbudgeted by \$50,000, for one reason or another, and we are analyzing it at the present time.

Regarding the original calculation of payments to LIDs for property taxes and grants in lieu of taxes on federal and territorial properties, the minimal \$100 tax levied by the Government of Yukon was not taken into account. We found this over the course of the summer, and I am pleased to advise the House that we have found a further \$8,952 within the budget to cover this, and it will be transferred to the five local improvement districts as a tax grant payment varying from \$1,000 to \$2,600.

In the unincorporated communities, direct aid will be increased by 14 percent to \$300,000. I should point out that we are still continuing on with our responsibilities that we have assumed over the past year, such as mosquito control and television programs in small communities.

The municipal services branch has held the line on administrative programs, as I indicated earlier, because the priority was to transfer the largest amount of money as we possibly could to the municipalities. I might add that there was approximately \$4,300,000 in capital funds directed to the communities under the various community assistance programs.

32 As you will notice, there has been a decline in the lands branch overall budget. This is largely due to reduction in special services, and also you will note in the protective services, \$1,099,000 will be spent on fire protection services, examine and inspection of buildings, mechanical and electrical systems to ensure that they comply with Yukon acts and regulations. Along with that, we will continue providing our ambulance service, which costs approximately \$480,000 to provide.

With the decline in construction over the course of this past year, and with our inspection branch and the number of personnel we have, we recognize that there would be less work for them to perform in respect to inspections. Therefore, we have taken two of our inspectors from the branch, and they are just in the process of completing an energy conservation audit training program, sponsored by the Government of Canada in conjunction with the Government of Yukon and, upon completion of that training, they are going to be seconded to the Department of Economic Development to assist in the inspection of territorial and municipal buildings for energy conservation purposes, which will, in the long run, save the taxpayers a great number of dollars.

I also should note that we are also providing some members of our inspection staff to public works for the purpose of assisting that department by providing inspection services which are required in a number of contracts that we have let out at the present time.

There is a slight increase in the assessment branch and that is due largely to salary increases. I should inform the House that in the fall of this year the municipal engineering branch was transferred to the department from the Department of Highways and Transportation, and this branch's overall budget has declined somewhat from last year, due to a decrease in travel costs and salary costs.

I should point out, looking ahead, that one of the main tasks I feel I have is to implement the *Municipal Ordinance*, which we all know has come upon some problems. I have met with the Association of Yukon Communities, and I intend to meet with them in December to discuss possible amendments that may be considered, depending on what they are, how they are proposed and, of course, I will have to have the support of my colleagues.

So, with those few comments, I will leave the floor open to questions. I am more than prepared to assist the member for Campbell in understanding the budget that we have before us.

Mr. Porter: I would like to begin my comments by stating that with the combination of the fact of my being a neophyte in these matters, and the minister being a veteran in not only this legislature, but this department, the discussion should be over and done with very quickly. However, I can assure him that they will

not be as quick as the discussions we had this spring, which were all of about five minutes, I believe.

I think that in this particular department there has been much said in the past about the importance of the department because of its relative closeness to the citizens in the communities. I do not want to speak at length in terms of the whole question of the division of responsibility between this legislature and the community governments, but I think that if we conduct ourselves with one good piece of advice in mind, and that is to remember that we are elected to represent this legislature and its legislative jurisdiction and the municipal politicians are elected to run the community governments, then we should not have any problem with the general rule of thumb.

33 Mr. Porter: With respect to problems in the department, in terms of the current political atmosphere, there has been some problems with respect to developing a one-government approach throughout the Yukon that addresses the question of community governments to the satisfaction of all the citizens of the communities. It is very fortunate to see that groups like the Association of Yukon Communities and CYI are directly addressing that question, and have been for some time and, apparently, from all accounts, have been doing quite well in terms of their negotiations on the whole question.

There is very little problem in the hard services area, when you talk about sewer and water and fire trucks and that kind of thing, because it does not make any sense to have one red fire truck and one white fire truck in each of our communities. It has been said that there is nothing culturally unique about a sewer pipe. There should be very little hindrance to getting hard municipal services out of the way and the upgrading of those services put into place.

The problem areas have been the soft services, if you will, that community governments are responsible for, and the future services that they wish to acquire. All of those issues are being addressed in the land claims process and, hopefully, we will see a resolution.

The question that I did have for the minister that was, in a sense, answered and was in respect to the very question of the future development and the future proclamation of the eventual *Municipal Ordinance*, the ordinance that has been passed by the legislature and will, undoubtedly, be put before this House again for proclamation.

In a sense, he said that there was an agreement to work collectively with the AYC and that he would be meeting with them in the future. I just wonder if the process of consultation would then involve the CYI, because they had specific remarks in respect to the *Municipal Ordinance* that has been passed by this legislature.

On the whole question of restraint in the municipal area, I think that everyone recognizes that restraint must be practised when government is given the responsibility of allocating dollars for the taxpayer. That should be a general rule of government that, where necessary, restraint be practised. However, given the economic situation in which we find ourselves, there is much greater pressure for restraint. I would just like, for the record, to indicate my party's sense of appreciation for the Association of Yukon Communities who, in their recent assembly in Faro, did pass a resolution calling for zero growth in the salary area. I think that that path should be learned from and, unfortunately, some of the members of government still refuse to learn the lesson, and drive cars around at the expense of the taxpayer.

In terms of the overall area, I have no further questions, but I have some limited specific questions which I will address as we move along.

Mr. Penikett: I won't, at this point, put what I have to say in the form of questions, but I would make a couple of comments, which I might elaborate on later in the form of questions.

I note the newly streamlined, simplified departmental objective and, following from that, I appreciated the minister's comments about "new organizational changes". He referred specifically to the director of municipal engineering, and that relationship, and I would be interested in pursuing with him any other organizational shifts or realignments that might have gone on since the deputy minister has been in place, and what new emphasis or new arrangements may have followed from that event.

I also will be curious, in respect to the *Municipal Act*, which has been raised by Mr. Porter, about whether — because we have not been following the events of the Association of Yukon Communities' discussions with the government as closely — we are shortly contemplating new amendments of any kind and, if we are, when we might expect them.

I also feel bound to raise a couple of questions about the lands question, only in a general way, because I think there has been some public discussion. The kind of discussion I have been hearing is inevitable, as a result of the economic circumstances. Some of the land which we had developed and hoped to see on the market, and which we had hoped to see homes and buildings on, is clearly sitting idle right now. I would guess that our carrying costs have been quite considerable and that will have, probably, a detrimental effect, from a consumer point of view, on the attractiveness or appeal of that land once it gets on the market. I would ask, when we get into that, if the minister has any detail, or what kind of thoughts he has on that kind of problem, and what we may be doing about it.

Just let me go back to the question on municipal services and engineering, I am curious about project planning. Previously, we had a relationship with Highways and Public Works, by virtue of the same minister. I am curious now as to what changes may have taken place in respect of project planning, since much of the capital spending by this government and the local governments in the territory is, in fact, in the area which we would generally call municipal works. I would be pleased to hear the minister say something about how, under the slightly changed arrangements, that kind of planning and project management would be carried out. If there is really no change, I would be interested in hearing that, but if there is some new development in the way in which we are handling, particularly, major projects, I would be interested in hearing that, too.

39 Hon. Mr. Lang: As far as the Municipal Ordinance is concerned, I think that every member in the House would like to see that act, or maybe a modified form of the act, come into place, since we have passed the Municipal Finance Act. I think on this side of the House we have made our position clear in respect to municipal government, just like I believe in this legislature — one man, one vote. I think that when we listened on November 11 to the various services that is the reason there were a couple of wars fought.

As far as the reorganization is concerned, the point of the question from the leader of the opposition, it was a count of the planning function. Municipal services was transferred from public works into municipal affairs. We are responsible for those particular major projects within the communities, especially the local improvement districts as well as the unorganized communities, those people directly working on those projects who had to deal with the elected council of the area, as well as through municipal services, and the money was being allocated, in most part, if not in total, through municipal affairs. Subsequently I think it is going to help for alignment and furthering the planning as far as logistics are concerned.

The question of whether or not there will be any further amendments to the *Municipal Act* is a question mark. If I and my colleagues can be convinced there are a number of areas that should be modified, perhaps it will come forward. I was reading with interest the debate that took place when the *Municipal Act* was put forward and I am starting to share some concerns that the leader of the opposition put forward, as to the function of the municipal board, and just what it is going to do to the elected council and the legislature, as far as the actual decision-making is concerned, and the speed of decision-making.

I think I have answered the questions that were put forward and I am more than prepared to go through item by item.

Mr. Penikett: I am quite prepared to let my question about the bank of land that we have, or the availability of land, wait until the specific, but the minister may have some general comment now.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I have a list of what lots are available. I do not have the actual carrying charges. I am just going on memory, but I believe those accounting procedures are in finance. It

a long-term investment. It is interesting to note that with the news that the government made in conjunction with the City of Whitehorse regarding land — I speak mainly of the Crestview subdivision — I believe there is a total of 24 mobile home lots out of approximately 50 to 60 lots that are available. When we can provide that service, I think it is important to the general public, as well as the principle that people should be owning their own land, as opposed to being subjected to a landlord now and again. 36 Mr. Penikett: I did not mean to cause any particular aggravation with this line of questioning because I understand the problem. The question I specifically asked the minister is not a financial question, because I think I understand the dimensions of that. From the point of view of the minister responsible for land development, it seems that if we have that land in the bank for a long time and, since we are going to sell it, presumably at development cost, it would seem that the cost, when we eventually find a buyer, could be quite high as a result of those carrying charges, and it may be, for example, relatively unattractive as compared with some land

definitely is having an effect financially on the government, but it is

I am interested in knowing if the minister has considered that problem, or if his officials are looking at it, or if they have considered some kind of advance sales. I would be curious to know whether they have considered some kind of sale which might have been under unusual rules, for example, as a development centre or something.

which the government might have just developed that year of a

different kind or similar kind.

Hon. Mr. Lang: First of all, we did change our regulations to allow for 20 percent down and five years to pay the balance, which was designed as an incentive for people to pay over a period of time at a fixed interest rate. Our interest rates are less than what you can get at a banking institution at the present time.

The question of whether or not we would ever address the problem that the member has indicated, remains to be seen. I would not want to make a commitment one way or the other. I think, even now, our land and the price of our land that we have developed, in comparison to any other part of the country, compares favourably, if not better, as far as a residential lot is concerned, or, for that matter, industrial or commercial. If one compares the cost of what one would pay in a similar community in the mainland, in Alberta or Ontario. That is subject to change and I do not think I would even want to speculate. It is not my intention to recommend a change in policy at this time.

We would have the ability to right off certain dollars, if that decision were to come about. I think we would be premature to make a decision on that at the present time. I think our land, overall, is pretty favourable, as far as the consumer is concerned. If you take a look at Crestview, those lots range in the area of \$8,000 to \$9,000 for a fully-serviced lot, except for asphalt and curb and gutter. With prices like that I do not think anyone can argue. Overall, they are a pretty good price, plus the incentive that we put on in respect to the time period for payment.

Mr. Penikett: Just one last general question on that subject and the minister may wish to take it as notice.

From time to time, I have heard reference to problems we may be experiencing in the new Hillcrest area with the sewer and water system. I would like to ask the minister, as a general question, if we are having problems with that sewer and water system and if those problems will get worse if it is not used soon? I guess the general question is, what is the department doing about that problem, if it is a problem? I understand it may be more of a detailed question. If the minister wanted to wait until we get to the particular item, I will be happy to wait.

37 Hon. Mr. Lang: The leader of the opposition knows full well I am always fully prepared.

The only problem that we had there was the question of the pump station, which I understand has been rectified. As far as the ability of the system in the Hillcrest area to accommodate building when necessary, it is my understanding that it has been checked out and it is ready to go when the demand indicates that it should be going on market

Mr. Penikett: Just for the record, then, there is no problem

with the system if it continues to be unused for some period of time?

Hon. Mr. Lang: As far as I know. They are steel pipes and all the regulations have been met. As long as we are not putting through very limited amounts of sewage or water, which causes freeze-ups, and which we are not doing — which would be caused if we only sold one, two or three lots in the area — no, I do not think there is going to be any problem with decay.

Mr. Porter: On the question of the Hillcrest subdivision, could the minister inform us as to whether or not any overtures have been made by his government to the Qwanlin Dun Band for the pursuit of relocation to that area?

Hon. Mr. Lang: There has been some discussion with the band to see whether or not they would consider utilizing a portion of that subdivision. The decision is largely up to them. As long as we have enough people to move in to the area to justify turning on the water and sewer, which is really a technical question in order that we do not have major servicing problems, we cannot see any problem with it. It makes a lot more sense, in view of the economic situation that we face. If they were to purchase around 80 lots, they would be looking at approximately \$1,400,000 for the purchase of the land, and whatever balance of money was available could be used in going ahead with the necessary building of homes. But that is a decision that they will have to make, along with the Government of Canada.

The only other factor in here, if it does get down to serious discussions, is that the Municipality of Whitehorse is definitely going to have to be brought into this to see just exactly where it is.

Hon. Mr. Porter: When speaking of benefits, we must mention the revenue that would accrue to this government, as well.

In respect to the process of the discussion that could eventually come about as a result of public discussion on the issue, can the minister tell us whether or not those discussions would be contained in the overall broad area of aboriginal land claims negotiations, or would these negotiations be carried out separately, and a process be established with the city, the federal and territorial governments, the band and CYI?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would not want to form another committee, but my understanding is that they would be separate discussions. There was some tacit approval by the Government of Canada for the purposes of relocation. I think we all agree that if relocation can be done successfully, it would be to the benefit of those people.

I just want to caution the member opposite respecting the inference that he made at the start of his statement, that this government would make a profit in selling those properties. We sell those properties for development costs and that is why we can provide these properties at the cost that we do.

³⁸ Mr. Porter: Continuing with the general area of discussion and moving on to the whole area of the *Municipal Finance Ordinance*, I would just like to ask the minister if my understanding is correct that what happens under this particular ordinance is that the senior government, the territorial government, goes to the money market and borrows a lump sum of money, and then in turn, loans those monies at a preferred rate, to those communities?

Hon. Mr. Lang: No, we have a certain amount of money borrowed from the Government of Canada. I am not stepping out of line here, but I think probably next year we will have to go outside on the open market and borrow money, as opposed to borrowing from the Government of Canada, as we did have a preference as far as rates are concerned. If we do loan money, it would be a straight loan though. It would not be a question of subsidizing interest rates, at least from my perspective.

Mr. McDonald: I intend to speak generally, and ask questions about a couple of areas as they arise in the budget. However, there are areas where I would ask for specifics, if at all possible, though I note Mr. Lang says he is fully prepared and perhaps we will not have to wait

The notice of questions which I would like to investigate include Keno waterworks engineering, LID funding in Mayo, specifically, property assessments directly outside the LID Mayo boundary lines and, to a certain brief extent, I guess, government services in Elsa, because I understand that they are brief indeed.

The implication in the questioning of these areas, I believe, is quite significant.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I find it difficult to answer the question unless he asks it. He gave me an area in which he was going to ask questions in. I have no problem if he would just outline the questions and I will give him the answers.

Mr. McDonald: I am fully aware that perhaps I will be ruled out of order for asking specifics. As I said, these are notices for questions for which I would be happy to be more specific when the time comes, and I surely will plumb the depths of these issues when the time comes.

Mr. Penikett: Someone asked me recently about the general question under assessments, if there had been some change in government policy this year, and, perhaps, any change in the way the policy was administered. As I understood it, the question that came to me concerned improvements on mining claims, and whether there had been a decision not to proceed with an assessment — and I do not know what the status was before, whether they had been previously assessed and taxed, whether they were embarking on that and had decided not to proceed because of cost or whatever — and perhaps the minister could provide me some information on that point.

39 Hon. Mr. Lang: There was some discussion with the placer miners regarding the assessment on placer claims. We initially indicated to them that we would not be proceeding over the course of this year with assessments until we sorted out some problems that they had. After those initial discussions, it was found that under the legislation we were required and bound to. Therefore, we are assessing placer mine claims where there are improvements. By improvements I mean garages, houses and this type of thing. The big question mark with the placer industry is what is assessable as far as equipment is concerned — whether it is movable, and other such questions. I made the commitment that we would be going with the improvements. The question which is outstanding would be the question of whether or not we are going to be assessing equipment. It is such an intangible subjective area. It can change year to year, month to month. To answer his question, we are continuing along with the legislation as it requires us to do.

Mr. Penikett: Just a supplementary to that. I understand the problem with capital equipment and movable improvements on mining claims. Some of the capital equipment can be quite large and can involve housing employees and offices and so forth. Could I ask the minister if the option that is used in some jurisdictions under property tax laws, or what they call a capital equipment levy or tax of equipment over a million dollars has been considered?

Hon. Mr. Lang: We are committed to talking to the placer organization about just exactly the areas we would be looking at. I have a lot of reservations about looking at further taxes within that industry at the present time, especially in view of the uncertainty they face with the federal regulations. I think it is tough enough right now for them to sort out whether they can operate without another authority coming in and saying gleefully that they are going to tax them even further than they presently are. Also, gold has stabilized somewhat, but it has not increased dramatically to any great extent over the past year. I guess the answer to the question would be no.

Mr. Penikett: I want to make it perfectly clear that I was not proposing a new tax, either. I wanted to make sure the minister was not examining such a proposal as it exists in some other Conservative jurisdictions.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I can assure the member I will not be taking his recommendation into account.

On Administration

Hon. Mr. Lang: This is strictly the administration of the department. This is the departmental administrator, the deputy minister, secretary and accounting clerks. The major costs are stationary and supplies in the area of \$10,000. Along with that, there are telephone expenses and miscellaneous office expenses, as well as some travel for the DM, mostly internally. The major change from the previous year was the removal of office rent from the base, and also from the spring submission there was \$16,900

reduction in personnel costs as a result of the nine-day fortnight.

There was also a reduction in the deputy minister's travel from the projected costs in the previous tabled budget.

Mr. Porter: When I opened up the discussion in the general area, I talked about the rapidity of the debate and, unfortunately, I failed to inform the minister that I did not speak on behalf of my colleagues.

In respect to the whole area of administration, I think that one of the areas of responsibility is in respect to the communities. What kinds of programs does this department have in respect to upgrading the administrative services that the communities, in turn, will have to deliver to their citizens? I am looking in areas such as accounting and budgeting that could possibly be undertaken through some seminar approach.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I know that in the past there has been some work done of this kind, mostly on a one-to-one basis between the local government advisors and the personnel at the municipal level. I should point out that if there is a demand from the communities for a seminar of that kind, I will seriously entertain it. I think, overall, it has effectively worked throughout the territory. Sometimes, you get some criticism and that is part of public life. For that matter, being a member of the public service is sometimes high profile but, overall, I would say our communities are working and functioning fairly well in respect to the responsibilities that they presently have.

Mr. Porter: The previous minister in the previous government expressed a great deal of support for the role that the Association of Yukon Communities provide in this particular area. Do you support their efforts in this area?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think there is a role for the Association of Yukon Communities but, to what degree, one could argue. I made it very clear that I felt that it was an organization that required the communities to support it. We transferred the monies to the communities and they make the decision as to how much money is going to be allocated to the association, as opposed to big brother passing "x" amount of dollars to the association. Their credibility will continue with their ability to function as an organization and retaining the membership that they have.

Mr. Penikett: If I could get just a little bit more detail from the minister on the reduction in this item that has been achieved. The minister alluded to a \$16,000 savings as a result of the implementation of the nine-day fortnight, a reduction in deputy minister travel — I do not know how large an amount that was — and some saving in office rent. Do those three items make up the total \$45,000 to \$50,000 reduction, or are there other items also? Perhaps he could indicate some of the larger numbers?

Hon. Mr. Lang: One was the removal of office rent from the base, which was \$53,500, a \$16,900 reduction in personnel costs due to the nine-day fortnight, a \$400 reduction in deputy minister's travel — the amount originally allocated at \$3,000, we are recommending \$2,600, because I do believe the deputy minister has responsibility to get throughout the territory in view of the responsibilities to the communities. That is roughly it.

44 Administration in the amount of \$162,000 agreed to

On Lands

Hon. Mr. Lang: The personnel costs are roughly \$155,000, which are the costs for the director of lands, land use officer, land disposal officer and three support staff. The major costs are: travel, which is \$3,300; telephone expenses are estimated at roughly \$2,900; professional and special services is \$3,400, which are really surveys and, in some cases, we will get these costs back. Also, we are looking at some questions about quarrying, which the leader of the opposition seems to feel is an outstanding problem within the City of Whitehorse. There are some requirements for advertising of land sales and whatever, in the area of \$1,400.

I should point out that we have taken over the responsibility of the Agricultural Council during the middle of this year. An appropriation adjustment was processed in the amount of \$14,700 from the renewable resources branch, and this is included in the budget and will probably have to be discussed in the supplementaries. There was \$20,000 originally budgeted in renewable resources

for this function.

A major change from the previous year is that there was a \$32,600 reduction in professional and special services and, in view of the financial restraints, there has been a scale-down in our research and projects, such as mapping and recreational cottage subdivisions. There was a \$27,700 reduction in personnel costs due to the nine-day fortnight — a ten percent general increase as opposed to the 13.5 percent increase that had been estimated in the budget. We have also delayed in hiring one or two staff members, which also eliminated some of the travel costs, a reduction in advertising, and other miscellaneous reductions.

Mr. Porter: Does the decision to assume responsibility for the Agricultural Council mean that this department will assume all the responsibility for the disposition of agricultural land?

Hon. Mr. Lang: At the present time, that is correct. There is a great deal of relationship between the Department of Renewable Resources and ourselves and there always will be, but it was felt that this time it should be in municipal affairs, due to the fact that we are largely dealing with the disposition of land, surveying, this type of thing, which is really the function of municipal affairs. We have the people and strength, as opposed to putting more people in government to do the same function that this department is presently doing.

42 As for lots available for disposal, if the members want to write this down and take it to their constituents, if they ever get a question, they are: in Beaver Creek, we have seven lots; Carcross, one; Carmacks, 20; Dawson, six; Destruction Bay, 11; Faro, 13; Haines Junction, 29; Mayo, 11; Ross River, 18; Teslin, four; Watson Lake, 59; and Whitehorse, 753. I should point out that we also have 13 cottage lots for sale, and, while we are discussing that aspect of it, I should point out that with the disposition of land, we are now only going to be publicizing a sale in a certain area once, and after that, they can come to the counter to purchase them. Prior to this change, what took place was that we had to try to bank a bunch of land and put it up for tender, and it seems to me that once it has been tendered once, then it is first come, first serve. It is added expense and also an inconvenience for those people who want a lot, and we say "Well, we have to wait two months for the public tendering process". If in any of your discussions with constituents, or people who you know are interested in this type of thing, maybe you should alert them to that, and if they need any added information, I would be more than prepared to help them.

Mr. Porter: The reduction in the need for personnel services, does that show up in what is called "other" in the budget?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I guess yes, you could refer to it as that I think. "Personnel" is in respect to personnel, and "other" is in respect to other miscellaneous costs, which I think I outlined specifically when I went through, in respect to rentals and all this type of thing that are required to run this branch of the department.

Mr. Porter: In respect to the available lots, you mentioned that Watson Lake had fifty-five available lots. Would that include lots within Liard?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think the member knows the answer to that question. No, we do not have any lots in Liard.

Mr. Penikett: I have heard a number of inquiries recently about wood — not surprising given the weather in October and the economic circumstances — and I did make a passing comment on the prices of wood that the government was proposing to buy in the economic recovery package. I assume that was perhaps a transposition, or that there was a zero missing, or something, in the number.

I wonder if the minister could explain a little bit more about the reference in explanation of changes under this item. It says that in addition to the agricultural dispositions, the department will be inventoring and accessing fuel-wood areas in the Whitehorse area.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Yes, if the member opposite does not have a copy of the press release that I sent out approximately one month and a half ago, we worked with the Government of Canada, for example, in upgrading the road behind the Takhini hot springs with the idea of having easier access into an area that has approximately 250,000 cords of wood available for the general public.

43 We are working with the Government of Canada and it is working quite well. I have to say that I am impressed with the cooperation

that we are receiving from them and we hope to continue to do that, as far as trying to get ready access into areas that have the necessary woodlots that could be made available to the general public.

Mr. Porter: Could the minister tell us whether or not there are any plans to assist the communities in respect to accessibility to fuel-wood areas? I say this because I had contacted a number of his departments with respect to the old sawmill road, which is located on the Albert Creek area in Upper Liard, and it goes back in for about 30 miles, and there are all kinds of roads built off of it. The original request from the citizens was to simply run a grader through areas where there was a great deal of water, simply gravel, and they estimated that it would not be more than four truckloads of gravel needed.

This area is an old area that was originally logged when the logging process first hit the Liard valley, and this area is not only used by the citizens of Liard, but is used quite extensively by the people of Watson Lake proper.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would be more than prepared to discuss the situation with the member opposite. I should point out that it would be through municipal affairs if you were going to go into that area. I think that I should caution members. Every once in a while everyone talks about a grader and it would just take a few minutes to go and do this type of work and, all of a sudden, we do not have the major thoroughfares cleared anymore, we are off on the side roads clearing off access roads. I want to caution members that the primary function of the Highways department is to maintain our highways and keep them open. I would be prepared to look at some options. I am not talking 30 miles, I will tell you that. If it has some accessibility and some common sense to it, I would be more than prepared to look at it.

Mr. Penikett: Just further to the question that I was asking about the inventoring and accessing, could the minister indicate who exactly is doing that in the lands office? Under the program objectives in the department, it talks about administering and managing Yukon government land and forests and quarry resources. I guess if we were talking about all the forest in Yukon, that would be a tad unconstitutional, but could I ask him about the relationship between the forest management in the territory, generally, and the management which he is asserting on the forests on Yukon land, presumably?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Obviously, we have some responsibility in the lands that we have authority over. We have not taken over full control. It is an area that we work with forestry on. They are very cooperative in any effort that we have gone ahead with them on. Perhaps I would recommend to the government leader that we do not put these objectives in here and then we would not get any major discussions in respect to what word means what. All I am saying is that this is an area in which we work with the Government of Canada. We do have certain responsibilities. We are prepared to work outside the purview of our various communities. For example, as I indicated earlier, establish wood lots and this type of thing. If both governments can work jointly, great. I should point out, in reference to opening up the area for easier access behind the Takhini Hot Springs, it was privately tendered on an hourly basis through the Department of Municipal Affairs.

44 Mr. Penikett: Just before we lose track of that question, I did not want to let the minister's petition to the government leader go uncommented upon. I certainly hope on this one occasion the government leader does not accept the advice of his minister. I know he does on most other matters. I make the representation that the objectives are probably the most useful thing, the most useful thing in the estimates, since they are closest we come to some kind of statement of policy. I want to say to the minister that I did not raise the question about the department's jurisdiction frivolously. I think it is probably extremely useful that the Government of Yukon develop such expertise as it can in such matters as it can in such matters as forest management. However, on a previous occasion in this House, I had a serious concern about the goals and objectives as they were drawn by the Department of Renewable Resources. In this same area, they had an objective written in such a way as to give them powers that clearly the federal government has not yet surrendered, and probably is not planning to in the next couple of weeks. I did not want to let that comment by the minister go past because I think that the objectives that we have begun to see written in the estimates are useful, and, if anything, they need, over a period of time, elaborating and further defining rather than obliterating.

Mr. McDonald: I have a couple of brief questions and I recognize that my colleagues are chomping at the bit. But there are a couple of areas that I would like to clear up for my own purposes. I will ask them both in case I do not get another chance. Does the first-come, first-serve policy after the lotteries option has been exhausted for land disbursement apply to cottage lots, Judas Creek for example, as well as the lots in the areas mentioned by the minister? The second question is whether or not there are limits to funding for firewood access roads about which the minister made it clear he would entertain the possibility of clearing access road in communities outside Whitehorse?

Hon. Mr. Lang: In respect to the first-come, first-serve basis, yes it would apply to any type of land in order that we can better facilitate the public as long as there is one public tender out on certain subdivisions. As far as the allocation of dollars for the purposes of clearing wood roads, I do not want to give anyone the impression that we are going to start a full-scale program tomorrow. As I indicated to you, I was prepared to look at anything that had some common sense and would help a community that had an easy access for those people to get their firewood. That would be under a capital expenditure in any case. I would probably have to work with the Government of Canada on this since it would probably in all likelihood be on federal lands.

45 Mr. McDonald: I have one other question that would probably pertain to this area, and that is whether or not there is any available land under the Government of Yukon's jurisdiction, which could currently be suitable for agriculture and, if so, whether or not this land is currently surveyed?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I do not think the member opposite understands the Agriculture Development Council's policy. At the present time, the idea is for an individual to go out and prove that the land is suitable for agricultural purposes. The Agricultural Development Council then reviews the application and indicates what requirements are necessary to put the land into production.

I should point out that there is some land, within the territorial land block transfer, in the City of Whitehorse, that has proven to be viable for agriculture for those people who want to pursue that type of a lifestyle. We have granted approximately eight leases for the purpose of eventually acquiring title and there are a number of others under consideration at the present time.

Mr. Porter: When my colleague raised a question of "first come, first served", I thought he was going to question the debating procedure with the Chairman.

I have just a very brief question. In respect of the recreational lots, you say that 900 were transferred from the federal government; 300 remain under lease. Does that mean that 600 have been sold?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I could not say specifically. There is quite a number under active negotiation with the people involved. These people have the option of either purchasing title or continuing their lease.

Lands in the amount of \$178,000 agreed to

On Protective Services

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think I briefly outlined the functions of the department in my opening remarks. I should point out that I was questioning this particular branch of the department on what was actually taking place with inspections. I think it is interesting to note that, over the past three or four months, there has been something like 300 fireplaces put in individual residences, which requires a certain amount of responsibility by protective services to ensure that they are installed properly for fire and building purposes.

The personnel costs come to \$370,000. This includes directors, deputy, fire marshal, 9.3 inspection staff, 13 ambulance personnel and two clerical support staff. It should be pointed out that one of the large items in this allocation has to be attributed to the cost of running our ambulance service which, I think, has to be given a

certain amount of credit because they are providing first-class service.

Major changes from the previous year has been a reduction of one person-year in the abolishment of an ambulance supervisor position. Also there has been a reduction in the personnel cost due to the reduction in person-years in the ambulance service. More utilization of casual staff, as opposed to overtime, amounts to \$59,000. A \$17,500 reduction in repairs and maintenance which was made in 1981-82, and was not necessary this year. A reduction in professional and special services for our contract boiler and elevator inspector for a shorter period of time, which reduced it by \$22,200.

Rentals are down due to reduction in anticipated air charters and less use of pool cars. I should point out from the budget that was discussed in the spring, or was in the process of being discussed, we have a \$71,000 reduction in personnel costs from the nine-day fortnight, and we also had a reduction of \$12,000 in the utilization of contract plumbing inspector and boiler inspector which was found unnecessary as well as some reduction in ambulance training funds. There was also \$12,000 travel in the territory and rental of pool cars, which indicated the cost-saving exercise we went through.

Mr. Porter: On the question of ambulances, just for the purposes of benefit to me, could the minister tell me where those ambulances are located and what the numbers of ambulances are in the territory?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The question almost has me stumped. The major responsibility is within the municipality of Whitehorse and it services 50 miles on either side of the community and sometimes further depending on where the accident has taken place. Within each community, I believe there is an ambulance: Destruction Bay, Watson Lake, Dawson City, Mayo and the list goes on. I think most communities are provided, or at least have access, within a 30 or 40 radius, to ambulances. Those are run on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Porter: My next question deals with a fire truck. I believe, in a letter earlier this year that the minister wrote to a resident of the Burwash area that the fire truck was taken back from that particular community. Could the minister tell the House if there are any plans to bring the fire truck back and has there been, in fact, a volunteer fire department put together in Burwash.

47 Hon. Mr. Lang: It was found that through vandalism or whatever, that the fire truck that was there was no longer running. In fact, I think somebody had gone in and siphoned out the fuel. There is no question that if there is enough interest there that we would seriously consider putting in a volunteer fire-fighting system. I can assure the member for Campbell that the member for Kluane has raised this question with me and I am more than prepared to work with him.

Mr. Penikett: The minister's answer raises a small question in my mind. Could he just indicate to us how they do routine maintenance checks on those ambulances and fire trucks, which are presumably operated by volunteers, but which are the property of this government and, therefore, it is a mechanical responsibility?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The fire marshall does a circuit around the territory and works with the volunteer fire-fighters. If there is some indication that there could be some mechanical problem, then it obviously would be brought to either the Department of Highways' attention or that of a contractor, depending on the area we are talking about, and then it would be fixed.

I should point out to the member opposite that, as far as the vehicles are concerned, as far as I know, they are all in pretty good shape. There has been a replacement program in place over the last ten years and I think the member was here when we voted a number of times for a new fire truck. It should be further pointed out that, hopefully, they do not get that much mileage on them so they will last a long time.

Mr. Penikett: Presumably then, when there is routine mechanical work done there will be a chargeback, then, if it is done by the highway crews, for example, to the minister's department?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Yes, I am sure that it would be charged back. I do not have a specific answer to that question. I could get the answer for the member opposite privately, but I do not think it is going to make or break the budget.

Mrs. Joe: I just want to get back to the ambulance question. Are there any communities that do not have an ambulance? The other question that I have, the volunteers that they have in the communities, do those volunteers have some kind of training?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I should correct one misconception about the volunteer ambulance drivers. In most cases, they are members of the highway crew and there is a certain amount of training that is done. They are on a call-out situation and would be paid by the government.

In the situation of fire-fighters, in most, if not all cases, they are all volunteers except in the City of Whitehorse, which has also added a volunteer segment to their organization. There is constant training going on. In fact, I think a lot of credit has to go to these communities for the work that these individuals do in getting a good fire-fighting crew together to fight that uneventful situation that does take place in any of these communities. I think the reflection is that in some of the situations that have taken place, such as in Watson Lake or Dawson City, or wherever the case may be, they have fought these fires successfully, to the point that they can contain them. I should say that I believe that all of our communities do have fire-fighting equipment.

48 Mrs. Joe: I asked about the ambulance, if there were any communities that did not have an ambulance.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Some communities do not. I do not have a list, but they are within a driving radius to a close community that would provide that service.

Mrs. Joe: Just to be specific, I wondered if Beaver Creek would have an ambulance. That was one of the communities that I was concerned about.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I am sure if it did not, the member from Kluane would have brought it to my attention, so I assume that it does, and he is nodding his head in accordance, so you can rest assured that Kluane is being well taken care of by the member from Kluane.

Mr. McDonald: I just have a brief question. I was just wondering, of the protective services amount here, what amount of subsidy is provided to the Elsa community? I notice that the program objective is to establish fire-fighting services in all communities, and I was wondering how much of that is allocated for Elsa

Hon. Mr. Lang: The member opposite knows that this is one of the responsibilities that the company takes on. We would provide certain services from the community of Mayo if it was necessary, so I think that I have answered the question.

Mr. McDonald: One brief supplement. I would like to know whether or not the company has requested that the government take these services and, if so, what the reaction from the government has been.

Hon. Mr. Lang: There has been no reaction because there has been no submission brought forward by the company. I understand that the mine has shut down right now, and they are hoping to open it up in the near future.

Mr. McDonald: I guess for all members' information, there are still people living in Elsa and working in Elsa. There are approximately twenty people now who have a full-time salary, which is probably considered in most areas of the Yukon now, a considerable amount. I was wondering how the government would react to a request by the company to provide these services. If the company did request these services, would the government consider providing them?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think it would be very difficult at this time to say yes to such a submission, unless the member opposite was going to bring forward a tax bill at the same time, because the costs are very onerous, and is one of the costs Elsa assumed when they said that they wanted a company town. That is one of the principles that they accepted upon assuming that responsibility.

Mr McDonald: I think when we get into tax assessments, we will probably discover that Elsa is assessed a certain amount of property tax, but I think the point to be made, though, is that the people of Elsa are those who would require the services. They have belongings and goods which they would like to protect. When I think, above all, of the people who do pay personal income tax to

the government, that would require that the government do take responsibility for certain services that are known to be governmental services.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Everybody is entitled to his opinion. Protective Services in the amount of \$617,000 agreed to

49 On Ambulance Services

Ambulance Services in the amount of \$482,000 agreed to

Protective Services in the amount of \$1,099,000 agreed to

On Assessment Services

Hon. Mr. Lang: This is the part of the department that I have to say as minister, no news is good news. It was a very difficult area here a number of years ago with the new Taxation Assessment Act that is in place. I think we have resolved a lot of the inequities that were apparent in the previous legislation. I think it is fair to say that most of the money is for personnel and the other is for travel, as far as their responsibility is concerned in relation to assessment.

Mr. McDonald: There are a couple of areas I would like to pursue in tax assessments, and I hope it is not seen that I am being quite picky about my line of questioning. I would like to concentrate on the Mayo area as it is an area which I have some knowledge of. And if I do not, I am sure the minister will supplement that knowledge in his customary fashion. The two areas that I would like to pursue include the property assessments inside the Mayo LID boundary and outside the Mayo LID boundary. I will begin with the latter first. A number of constituents, who live just outside the LID boundary and who were expected to be considered part of the Mayo municipality when the act came about, had their properties assessed. In one case, the 1980 assessment for 1981 taxes was some \$27,000 dollars. The assessed taxes, should that person have been part of the new Mayo municipality, were assessed at \$61,700, and once it became clear that the municipality would not take shape, the land was assessed at \$42,000. Unfortunately, because of the varying rates across the territory, and I understand that the rate for Mayo is currently 0.49 and for all other districts which this person has found himself in, is 0.93. I guess it ends up that the person pays more tax than he probably ought to be paying because of that shift in policy, and in the return back to the old policy under which the person was living in the year 1980. I was wondering if the minister was familiar with this situation, and whether or not he could elaborate a little more on that?

Hon. Mr. Lang: If anyone else can make out the question the member is putting to me, I would very much appreciate it. I think the member has it clear in his mind that there is a difference between assessment and taxation. Assessment is what your property is valued at, the taxation levy is the levy that, in the case that the member speaks of, is a responsibility of the Government of the Yukon Territory.

so I recognize, and it has been brought to my attention by the LID, that there is an inequity in view of the fact that, within the LID boundaries, it costs less for taxation purposes than outside the boundaries of the LID. I think the member is probably saying to me that we should be increasing our tax levy equivalent to what was recommended last year, and I just want to let the member know that it is under serious consideration and I would like to thank him for his support.

Mr. McDonald: I would like to inform the minister that, while my knowledge of municipal taxation and assessments is not as widespread as his, I am certainly aware of the difference between assessments and taxes. If we are going to be dealing with that right now, I would like to ask the minister whether or not any shortfall in expected tax revenue would be made up by the close of this fiscal year?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think he deviated to the next item on the agenda, which is municipal services, and outlines the allocation of dollars to the communities. I just was to assure the member opposite that, from my perspective, I think there has to be equity as far as assessment is concerned. My understanding is that the assessment has been done and has been done properly. If there are problems with an assessment, by an individual, there is a route for

appeal. It is a two-step appeal, so that a fair hearing is heard and a decision can be made in respect to that individual or, collectively, a group of individuals, when they feel that they have been unduly assessed as far as their property is concerned.

That vehicle is there and it is in the legislation and it is a requirement to go through if there is a request. I want to assure the member opposite that that is there in legislation and, if he does not have a copy of the legislation, I will see that he is provided with one so that he can bring this to the attention of whomever has this problem. I should point out that there is a time period, though, for appeals of assessment. If one does not take advantage of that, then it is common acceptance that they have accepted what the assessment was and, therefore, they will be levied a tax on that assessment which is, in our terminology, a percentage.

In respect to the local improvement district, now that I am on my feet, I recognize that it is the next program. We are in discussion with the local improvement district within Mayo. As I indicated, there was a misunderstanding that, from the April to April year, which they were initially on, it would appear that with some help from the department they will be able to cover the bills and, at least to my knowledge, they will be.

Mr. McDonald: I thank Mr. Lang for his account of the individual assessment review. I am sure, if anyone has any specific problems which are beyond the scope of the general problem which faces the Mayo LID, then I will certainly pass that account of the review process on immediately.

There is still a problem, I guess, and if the minister is not going to provide that commitment now, I think I will understand. Whether or not this shortfall in revenue, and I will just paraphrase from the letter from the LID, where they have said that they submitted a budget based on a minimum tax of 0.82 set by the government. In April, two months prior to the election, the deputy minister sent a letter stating that the rate would be 0.70.

51 During the campaign, the rate was set for 0.49, and I think the bottom line for that was that most people expected that there would be a shortfall in tax revenue. They say that they received a verbal promise from YTG, stating that they would make up the difference in lost tax revenue.

The bottom line, as it stands now, according to the chairman of the LID, is that he is down 60 percent of the expected tax revenue, and he terms this as a cut of 11 percent of the total budget. I am wondering whether or not this shortfall will be made up prior to the end of their financial year, and whether or not they will have to cut any services?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think it is safe to say that we do not have the excess funds for "more financial commitments", as far as the communities are concerned. If you look at the white paper and look, over a 12-month period, what the community of Mayo or the community of Teslin is going to receive over the course of the year, it is significantly more than the previous year.

The point is that I have instructed the deputy minister, with his local government advisors, to meet with these local improvement districts, go through their budgeting and see where things could be accommodated. I am hopeful things do not have to be cut. Indications are that, in Mayo's case, they probably can get through the year without any major significant changes in financing. The major problem, as far as I know and have been informed of, is that that they did not recognize it was a nine-month period as opposed to a twelve-month period that they had to operate on, and we are working with them on that matter.

Mr. Porter: If I could interject at this particular point, and for the purpose of clarification on the matter, I would like to read into the record a letter that was addressed to old C.W., otherwise known for the purposes of this House, as the government leader. It is sent from the LID chairman in Mayo.

"Dear Mr. Pearson. We understand the need for cutbacks in the unconditional grants and support the general government restraint programs. The conclusion over our tax rate is, however, another matter.

In December, '81, we submitted a budget based on a minimum tax of .82, set by your government: .82 times tax base of \$8,157,780 equals \$66,893 tax due payable. In April, with no

consultation or word of explanation, Grant Livingston sent out letters stating that the rate would be .70: .70 times \$8,157,780 is \$57,100.

During the recent election campaign, again with no explanation, we were told that the rate for Mayo would be .49, and that, times the tax base is equal to \$39,973. We did, at that time, receive a verbal promise that the YTG would make up the difference in lost tax revenues. So far, we have received 75 percent of the .49 rate: 75 percent of .49 times \$8,157,780 is equal to \$29,970.

We are now down to 60 percent of expected tax revenue. This is a cut of 11 percent of our total budget on tax of the other economy cuts. For four years we have kept the LID books in the black through careful management and spending. We do not intend to go back to the situation faced by earlier boards of living from hand to mouth and making personal guarantees to the bank to cover overdrafts. Arbitrary and unexplained cuts of this nature make a joke of any idea of local government. The cut means that some present services will have to be dropped and other services curtailed. Your government made the cuts and we are waiting for your government to explain to the people of Mayo how the new budget can be balanced and what services you think are expendable."

12 I think very clearly that letter lays out the dilemma of the problem that is being faced. This problem is a problem that not only Mayo faces but it also is the very same problem that Teslin faces because they, in effect, were one of the other communities that was impacted by this decision because their rate was lowered to .41, as well as Carmacks, which was also lowered to .41.

Aside from all the figuring and the percentages and the questions about taxes and assessments, the short of it all is that those communities, particularly Mayo and Teslin, whom Piers and I deal with, have come to us and advised us that they are short in terms of their overall expenditure. They attribute the shortfall in their particular budget not to their inability to budget correctly but because of the change that was made in the tax base. I am wondering if the minister could address that whole area and assure us that there will be something done with those communities?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I have pointed out that we have allocated considerable more dollars to the communities than we did last year, forgetting about the tax revenues that are levied. I also indicated in my opening remarks that over and above the transfer of dollars to the communities, the LIDs were now keeping whatever tax dollars were accumulated through property taxation. That is what I think is an important aspect of the Municipal Finance Act as opposed to the Municipal Ordinance. I think the parent act must come into play.

I do not understand why we are discussing the tax rate of Mayo in this House. I think it is really the responsibility of the people in Mayo. That is the purpose of the new Municipal Ordinance and that is why we went through the process of trying to get an act together that would provide that authority to those duly elected people in a community to allocate a tax levy. I should point out that the increase that was recommended was not implemented was that it was felt it was a very major jump to all taxpayers in the community of Mayo. If it was implemented it should be phased over a period of time. If the members opposite are saying, and I am making this assumption, that this coming year if the LID passes a resolution that they need .82 for a tax levy, then we should implement through our regulations. Am I correct or not?

Mr. Penikett: The minister has asked the question, "why are we discussing it in this House?" We are discussing it in this House because there is a feeling on behalf of the locally elected people in these communities that rather than doing what the minister has proposed, which is to have the rate set by some kind of, as he indicated, bilateral discussions, in fact, what we had was an arbitrary decision by this government in respect to this matter, and it was done not with the advice and consent of the communities affected, but rather the opposite. That is why, inevitably, you have the elected representatives of the people in those communities coming to the House to raise the concerns of the people in that community because they have not been able to get satisfactory redress of their concern any other way. That is the political reality.

34 Hon. Mr. Lang: In my opening remarks, if anybody on the

other side had been listening, I indicated that we were discussing the problems with the communities that were affected. Indications are, except for Teslin, who over-budgeted by \$50,000, and were told by the Association of Yukon Communities, as well as the government of the day, that they had over-budgeted and should scale down their budget — and that is a question that I will have to address when I meet with the local improvement district in Teslin — the fact that remains is that these communities, as far as I know and with the information I have, will be able to financially get through the course of this year without any major cut. Now, I could stand to be corrected and will be checking with my department over the course of the next couple of days on this matter.

Mr. Penikett: I do not want to prolong this unnecessarily, I just want to say to the minister that we always listen to everything he says with the greatest of care. In fact, our attention to the utterances of the minister is acute. The fact that we are occasionally stunned into silence when we hear some of the things that he says is another matter.

But I think he will understand, having heard the petitions by the representatives of the people of Teslin and the petitions by the representatives of the people of Mayo, that there is a considerable problem on this score and we will accept, for now, his undertaking that he will have a closer look at the matter. I just did not want the minister to think that we were being somehow neglectful or inattentive to the pearls of wisdom that are occasionally found in his pontifications.

Hon. Mr. Lang: The thought never crossed my mind that the member opposite would not take everything I said in the manner that it was being presented. I just wanted to assure the member opposite that I will continue to put forward my views in the manner that I have in the past. I am sure that the member opposite, if he would take the time to analyse and to listen, will, in many cases, change his mind on various positions that perhaps he at first tentatively had taken.

Mr. Penikett: I continue to be attentive, and I will continue to be curious and fascinated by the member's views. But I doubt very much that even if the minister's best friends would tell the minister that his views will stand any analysis. Clearly they will not stand up to that kind of inspection at all.

Mr. Chairman: Have we not somewhat digressed from the general debate on assessment services?

Mr. Porter: Aside from all the fancy footwork that we are seeing displayed this afternoon, the basic question that it comes down to is that Teslin finds itself \$30,000 short, and they tell me that the reason of that particular shortage, over and above the fact that you may feel that they over-budgeted, was because of the arbitrary tax rate change that this government brought on. If that is the case, will this government be assisting them directly in terms of any unconditional grants or whatever to alleviate the problem? 54 Hon. Mr. Lang: I do not say this facetiously or combatively, but the member's obvious resolution to any problem is a grant. I have indicated to the member opposite that I am going down to Teslin, within the next two weeks, to meet with the LID. We will go over the financial situation. I will have a better understanding of the situation we will be discussing at that time. I am not prepared, at this time, to commit the taxpayers of the territory to give anybody a grant until I see just exactly what the real reasons are for any financial situation that a community finds itself in. I would be totally irresponsible in just taking the word of the member opposite, because I have seen some of the comments that he has made, and I have sometimes had to correct him, and I am sure he appreciates it.

Mr. Porter: In respect to the question of a grant, it had not been proposed specifically by myself to have a grant as being the final determining factor, but I suggested it as a possibility. There is a distinction between a possibility and a decision, which he may or may not know.

With respect to the visit that you promised to the people of Teslin, I would like to know if you have a determined date?

Hon. Mr. Lang: It is just being lined up at the present time.

Mr. McDonald: I would just like to bore the members a little
bit more on tax assessments. I know it sounds complicated and it
certainly seems to be beyond the comprehension of some members

of this legislature but, nevertheless, I will take another couple of runs at it.

Last year the territorial government decided to reassess the properties outside Mayo, along the stretch of road between the Mayo LID boundary and the airport. The reasons given at the time were because it had not been performed since 1969 and because it was planned that this area be included in the Mayo expansion, as I said once before.

The assessment of the properties along that road were assessed at 1.29 percent of assessed value. They were taxed at 1.29 of the assessed value. The LID properties were taxed at .8 percent of the assessment value. Let me provide a little bit of mathematics for you just to make it a little more clear for those people whose eyes glaze over in debates of this sort.

The assessment for a particular property, with the tax rate at 1.29 percent of assessed value of \$42,000, was \$542.00. The tax rate for Mayo LID properties was .8 percent, which meant that, if he had been part of the Mayo LID, his new assessment was \$61,000 and, therefore, the \$61,000 times .8 percent would mean that he would have to pay \$493.00.

Unfortunately, he is paying, as part of the other district's designation in the 1981-82 tax study, approximately \$50.00 more in property tax than he would have paid in Mayo, and he does not receive, at the same time, the services that the residents of Mayo receive. This is a big problem for him. The point to be made is that the changes in assessments and the changes in property taxes mean that this man has been left paying more taxes for less services.

The point to be made is that he is not alone. This is a policy issue for a number of people. I am wondering whether or not the minister is prepared to take a look at this situation to see whether or not he would be willing to deal with this as a policy matter, so that each one of these individuals does not have to come and make special representation on his own?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I will say to the members opposite, the member for Campbell and the member for Mayo, that I understand they feel there is a discrepancy in the percentage levy that was given last year. I will make a commitment to the member opposite—and I am greatful for the support that he has demonstrated in this House—that when a resolution comes from that local improvement district that the percentage levy should be 450 percent, we will implement it, and that will resolve the discrepancy that you have indicated in the arguments you have put forward here. I agree right now that there is a discrepancy, and I appreciate the member for Mayo raising it, and I am sure he will support us in respect to the fact that we may well have to do that this spring.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I move that you report slow progress on Bill Number 3.

Motion agreed to

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

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker resumes the Chair

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

May we have a report from the Chairman of Committees?

Mr. Philipsen: Mr. Speaker, 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. Mr. Lang: I move, seconded by the Minister of Education, that we do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Education, that we do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

The following Legislative Returns were tabled November 16, 1982:

82-2-1

Foundation of Faro School (Tracey)

82-2-2

Yukon Air Charter Services: use by Yukon Government (Tracev)