The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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HANSARD

Thursday, October 27, 1983 — 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Donald Taylor, MLA, Watson Lake

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Bill Brewster, MLA, Kluane

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Hon. Howard Tracey	Tatchun	Minister responsible for Renewable Resources; Highways and Transportation; and, Consumer and Corporate Affairs
Hon. Bea Firth	Whitehorse Riverdale South	Minister responsible for Education; Tourism, Heritage and Cultural Resources
Hon. Clarke Ashley	Klondike	Minister responsible for Justice; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Housing Corporation; and, Workers' Compensation Board
Hon. Andy Philipsen	Whitehorse Porter Creek West	Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources; and, Government Services

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Maurice Byblow	Faro
Margaret Joe	Whitehorse North Centre
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[11] **Whitehorse, Yukon**
Thursday, October 27,1983 — 1:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.

DAILY ROUTINE

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

TABLING OF RETURNS OR DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I would like to table the answer to a question, asked on October 24th, 1983, by the leader of the opposition, relating to government advertising.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I have for tabling the errata to the Economic Summary that was tabled yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any reports of committees?
Petitions?
Introduction of bills?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill Number 26: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I move that Bill Number 26, *Constitutional Questions Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Justice that a bill, entitled the *Constitutional Questions Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Bill Number 28: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move that Bill Number 28, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 1984-85*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. government leader that a bill, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 1984-85*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Bill Number 29: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move that Bill Number 29, entitled *Fourth Appropriation Act, 1983-84*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. government leader that a bill, entitled *Fourth Appropriation Act, 1983-84*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: Are there any notices of motion for the production of papers?
Notices of motion?
Statements by ministers?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I have been absent from the House for the past few days in order to participate in a Provincial-Territorial Conference of Ministers reporting for Housing. I would like to take this opportunity to advise this House of the outcome of those deliberations.

One of the major issues discussed was the concern facing both provincial and territorial governments regarding the need to ensure affordable housing costs for Canadians, be they renters, homeowners or public housing tenants.

[12] Most jurisdictions acknowledge the problem of public sector expenditures no longer being able to keep pace with the continually rising costs of some of the existing universal housing programs.

The priority facing all governments across Canada, therefore, is the need to review present programs to ensure their continued viability and see that such programs are properly and appropriately targetted to meet present and future needs.

It is essential for us, as a government, to design, establish and continue programs which will guarantee that those persons in need do, in fact, receive appropriate assistance. It is also important, however, that such programs do not become self-sustaining or self-generating, thereby placing an unnecessary burden on the taxpayer. For this reason, we will continue to review our housing programs here in Yukon so that we are able to make adjustments when and if they are required.

We are all aware that there is a finite limit to which Yukon taxpayers can be asked to contribute to public programs in this area. In a similar vein, the ministers discussed at length their existing programs and the role of the provincial and territorial governments in the promotion of home ownership. Most provinces indicated that they have learned from experience that it is far more beneficial, primarily from the taxpayers' viewpoint, to assist people to live in their own homes as opposed to encouraging them to live in subsidized public housing.

I agree with this principle and I will be asking the Yukon Housing Corporation to explore this concept further, in light of the situation here in Yukon.

All the ministers met for informal discussions with the hon. Romeo LeBlanc, the federal minister reporting for the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, regarding provincial and territorial concerns relating to the federal government's rural and native housing program. These concerns will be investigated further by officials from federal, provincial and territorial governments. Their findings will be submitted to the provincial and territorial ministers at our next annual meeting.

Thank you.

[13] **Mr. Kimmerly:** This is an interesting statement and it is informative in my view, from the point of view of what it does not say, rather than from the point of view of what it does say. The statements concerning existing programs and the targets are interesting, although very generally stated. I am reminded of a debate in these chambers in years past. However, the most important comment I can make is the statement is significant because it does not say that this minister identified the needs and goals in Yukon with respect to housing. It is absolutely clear that the market is a buyer's market at the present time and the attention to social housing is important. However, that is not the primary problem in Yukon. The primarly problem is that almost one-third of our population is in deplorable housing conditions, basically under federal jurisdiction. I am referring to Indian Affairs houses. That matter was discussed, obviously, informally, and I am sorry that there is not a statement from our minister emphasizing that problem and encouraging federal and territorial action about that most pressing housing problem in the territory.

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The member opposite seems to be quite confused on housing and the various projects that Yukon Housing looks at. He has stated that we look after, actually, native housing. That is not what the native and rural housing program is all about. It is not an Indian Affairs program which he talked about. He is confused again.

QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am rising today to clarify some statements which I made to this House Tuesday, which included some erroneous information concerning Yukon alcohol consumption statistics. There were two points of error in the figures which I quoted. The first was the use of the word "litre" with respect to the total volume of alcohol consumed in Yukon on an annual basis; it should have read "gallons".

Secondly, I have spoken with Yukon Liquor Corporation this morning and they have advised me that, in calculating their per capita consumption statistics, they used the wrong population figures. Instead of applying population figures relating to Yukon

residents who are 15 and over, they used a total Yukon population statistic which, of course, is somewhat higher and would, therefore, result in a lower per capita calculation.

I should point out that, while I certainly regret providing this House with erroneous information, I must stress that there was never any deliberate attempt by myself or the Yukon Liquor Corporation to manipulate statistics in order to paint a false picture. As is usually the case with varying statistics, one can often use them to whatever advantage one wants. In my discussions with the Yukon Liquor Corporation, I asked them to consider what they felt the fairest calculation method would be to determine approximately where Yukon stands in Canada with respect to our per capita consumption.

There are varying population figures between our Yukon health record figure and those of Statistics Canada. There has always been a discrepancy in this regard and I am certain this discrepancy will always continue. For example, while the most recent population statistics from Statistics Canada for Yukon's population of those 15 years of age or over put the number at 17,500, our health care records, for the same period, put that number at 20,200. In attempting to draw a reasonable conclusion on Yukon's per capital alcohol consumption, the Yukon Liquor Corporation looked at several methods of calculations. I found the following most reasonable.

Liquor purchases from October 1981 through March 1982 totalled 1,489,188 litres. This represents the time of year when tourists would not play a major factor in liquor sales, but also includes three major festive times: Christmas, New Year's and Rendezvous. If we multiply this six-month figure by two in order to arrive at an average annual alcohol purchase figure by Yukoners, the total would be 2,978,376 litres. From this point, we can calculate two results, one using Statistics Canada figures and one using our health care figures.

If we apply Statistics Canada's population figures, we are left with a per capital alcohol consumption figure of 170.1 litres per year for each Yukoner 15 years and older.

On the other hand, if we apply Yukon health care figures, that amount drops to 147.4 litres, admittedly, still the highest in Canada, but certainly far below the Statistics Canada figure of 230.8 litres per person per year.

I hope that this helps to set the record straight and, once again, I wish to state my regret that incorrect information was presented to this House on this issue.

Thank you.

Question re: Alcohol consumption in Yukon

Mr. Kimmerly: On the same issue, I would ask the government leader if, in making this new comparison, he is comparing the projected Yukon per capita consumption without considering tourist intake with provincial consumptions, which do include tourist intake in those provinces?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: That is true; however, I think that the hon. member should be aware of one other statistic, and I know I am right on this one. Yukon has something in the neighbourhood of 12 times its population, as tourists, in this territory each summer. There is no province in Canada that comes anywhere even remotely close to that.

Mr. Kimmerly: Concerning the general issue and considering the impaired driving rate is three-and-a-half times the national average in all months, will the government leader consider that factor, as well, in forming government policy on the alcohol issue?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No, because the number of impaired drivers is a symptom. It is not a cause of the statistics, it is a symptom of the statistics.

These are the statistics. These, I submit, have been put together in the fairest way possible.

They are accurate and they show that Yukoners are still the heaviest drinkers in Canada. It is true. But we do not drink three times as much, as the hon. member from across the floor would have the public believe. Just because our driving statistics happen to be bad, it might be that we have a whole bunch of worse drivers in the territory. I submit, and I will continue to say to everybody in Canada, that we do not have any more heavy drinkers here than they have anywhere else in Canada.

Mr. Kimmerly: Will the government leader agree that this debate as to statistics is unproductive and it is far better to pay attention to ways and means of correcting the problem?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: The leader of the opposition, a couple of days ago, said to me that I could make statistics do anything I want them to do. I could make them say whatever I wanted. It was the opposition that raised the question of statistics with respect to alcohol consumption in this territory. All I did was present the statistics to the House.

Question re: White Pass railroad

Mr. Byblow: And they still seem to do what they want.

I have a question for the government leader on the subject of the White Pass Railroad, whose closure has not seemed to have affected our ability to transport our liquor into the territory.

I previously raised with the government leader the current status of the $1,000,000 loan with the railroad. Could the government leader clarify just what steps his government has taken towards ensuring that that loan is recoverable, given the current status of the railroad?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am sure that everyone who is present in the gallery today, and I hope the members opposite, and certainly anyone who reads *Hansard*, will know the exact status of the railway. That loan is one that we made under a certain set of circumstances and conditions. It is repayable at a given point in time and I have seen nothing to make me change my mind that, in fact, the corporation that we loaned that money to will not pay it back when it is required.

Mr. Byblow: The government has said previously, also, that the money loaned was used for the specified purpose intended and this, of course, he confirmed in a question from me the other day. I would like to ask him what capital acquisitions or improvements the money was used for and what evidence do we have of that?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: The $1,000,000 which, when you stop and think of it, is pretty small potatoes with respect to the financial situation that the White Pass and Yukon Route finds itself in, was loaned specifically for the purchase of new capital acquisitions. That money was used to purchase new locomotives that, if they are not finished being constructed yet, are in the process of being built in Quebec. They are creating Canadian labour. So we cannot knock it very much.

Mr. Byblow: I may pursue the question of those locomotives and where they are in another series of question, but I want to ask the government leader if he has taken the opportunity that was made available in the loan agreement to this government of appointing a member to the board of directors. Did this government do that and, if so, who is it?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am sure that a diligent search of *Hansard* would reveal that the appointment of Mr. Mervin Milner of Whitehorse to the board of directors of the White Pass and Yukon Corporation some, at least, 18 months ago, is recorded. I know that we advised this House.

Question re: Housing for native people

Mr. Kimmerly: To the minister responsible for housing.

At the recent informal discussions with the federal minister reporting for CMHC, did the minister raise the problem of the low housing standard for Yukon native peoples?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The member opposite is totally confused on the issue. That was not part of the discussions in any way, shape or form.

Mr. Kimmerly: Obviously the minister did not.

Does the minister consider it any part of his responsibility at all to be concerned about the deplorable state of native housing in the territory?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The member is totally confused on the issue. His mind is just totally made up in a whole different direction than what we have a responsibility for. That is a responsibility of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Kimmerly: Would the minister answer clearly. Is he doing

anything at all about the native housing situation?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The member still has not heard me clearly. His mind is just totally confused on the issue.

Question re Visible minorities, hearings on

Mrs. Joe: I hope that this minister's mind is not confused.

I have a question for the government leader. In view of the government's absence from this morning's hearing on visible minorities, I have some questions I would like to ask.

Since the parliamentary committee was interested in hearing positive suggestions for dealing with the problems faced by visible minorities, did the goverment's absence indicate an inability to make a positive contribution?

Mr. Speaker: I would think that question would be argumentative; however, if the government leader wishes to respond, I will permit it.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

We are meeting with these people tomorrow. As far as I know, officials of this government will be meeting them tomorrow afternoon and I believe that I and some of my colleagues, sometime in the morning. I would assume that the reason we were not there today — when I understand that the member, after voting against development on the North Slope yesterday and which we told them would provide a number of jobs to Yukoners — stated that we do not provide enough jobs to Indian people. I wish I had have been there then.

Mrs. Joe: I am glad to hear that the government is going to be meeting with this committee; however, I would like to ask another question and that is: is the government aware that the plane was leaving with this group today?

Hon. Mr. Pearson: No, I understand that there is a meeting established for tomorrow morning for myself and some of my colleagues, and there is a meeting established for noon tomorrow with some of the officials of this government. As to when airplanes take off and go, I cannot answer for that.

Question re: Highway signing policy

Mr. McDonald: I have a question for the minister responsible for tourism regarding the highway signing policy. The minister said during the spring session that a policy would be in place that encompasses all highway signs prior to this year's tourist season. Can she confirm now that such a highway signing policy does exist for businesses within communities, and that regulations will be in place to clearly guide the public?

Hon. Mrs. Firth: The highway sign policy is in place and, if the member has any questions about the particular areas within city limits or municipalities, he can direct the questions to them because we have given them responsibility for highway signage within their jurisdictions.

Mr. McDonald: The minister also mentioned that a policy would similarly exist for signs at highway junctions. Could she briefly tell the House the highlights of that policy?

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the minister to be very brief. That type of question is so broad as to beg for a very lengthy reply, but perhaps if the minister could be very brief, proceed.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: That is not the Minister of Tourism's responsibility, it is the Minister of Highways' responsibility. We are looking at it and we fully intend to put highway signs at junctions, as the member across the floor full well knows from previous discussions with me.

Mr. McDonald: I have a question supplementary to the same minister, to the highways minister. In August, the minister approached the YVA and subsequently the AYC to suggest that a committee be established to administer highway sign policies for businesses within communities. Could the minister state what his reasons were for establishing this committee and what the reactions of these groups were?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I did not establish a committee. I put a suggestion to the Yukon Visitors Association and I also put a suggestion to the AYC as to how they could potentially mitigate the sign problem that I could see. I have had representation from various businesses on what is going to happen next spring when we require all highway signs to come down inside the boundaries of municipalities.

Question re: Accidents to livestock on highways

Mr. Byblow: I have a question for the same minister in his capacity as highways and transportation minister. I am personally aware of at least two motor vehicle accidents involving free-ranging livestock, and specifically horses, in the last two weeks on the Mayo road just outside Whitehorse, and I have reason to believe that similar accidents are occurring on quite a regular basis. Could the minister tell me if his corporate and consumer affairs department or his motor vehicle branch routine does analysis of such accidents?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No.

Mr. Byblow: The minister is quite correct in his answer.

Does he intend to instruct his department to examine its accident records so that the extent of this problem can be fully determined and, perhaps, some action taken in accordance to the results of those revelations?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I would suggest that, if the members across the floor were really interested in having something done about this situation, they would support the government on this side in their request for transfer of lands, and other things, from the federal government so that we could do something about it. Until we have land to make available to people in this territory, there is no way that we can force livestock owners to contain their animals.

Mr. Byblow: The minister is quite aware that the lands in question, drawn in reference on the first question, are territorial lands and, thereby, under purview of this government. Can I ask the minister again: does he intend to have something done to examine the degree of accidents affecting territorial lands where livestock is free-ranging and traffic accidents are occuring on a regular basis?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: The member across the floor, I fully believe, is very much mistaken. It is not territorial lands that we are talking about.

Question re: Senior citizens, means tests

Mr. Kimmerly: Again, about housing, and this time within the very narrow purview that the minister recognizes. He made a ministerial statement approximately two weeks ago about senior citizens and means tests. In the interim, what is the situation with regard to those means tests?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: The Board of the Yukon Housing Corporation, to which I referred the matter, will be meeting the first weekend in November.

Mr. Kimmerly: Is the minister expecting an answer early in November and, in the last months and now, is the minister taking any action at all to correct the immediate situation?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I believe I have just answered the question: the Board will be meeting next weekend, the weekend following this one, and they will be dealing with the situation at that time.

Mr. Kimmerly: Has this minister made any communication at all to the Board concerning a seniors policy for Yukon Housing?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: As I have said, it is the Board's responsibility for making policy. I made recommendations to them to look at it, yes, as I advised the House.

Question re: Justice of the Peace training

Mrs. Joe: I would like to welcome the Minister of Justice back: I have a question for him.

Since the training of JP's in any capacity is limited because of lack of funding by this government, does the minister recognize the problem and, if he does, will he make a commitment to increase the funding for this training?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: It is the member opposite's opinion that there is a lack of funding supplied and a lack of training supplied to our JPs. I do not necessarily agree with that.

Under budget cuts last year, as was discussed in the budget, there had to be one training circuit group that had to be taken away because of our budget restraints, but we will have to wait to find out whether that will be reinstated again next year, when the budget comes up.

10 **Mrs. Joe:** The Northern Careers Program has provided wages for people of Indian ancestry training as JPs. Could the minister tell us if his department has considered offering the same training program to other JPs?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I let the JP Council and the Chief Territorial Court Judge decide on what kind of training the JPs should have.

Mrs. Joe: Could the minister tell us if it is the intention of this government to continue to appoint untrained JPs?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I have answered this question many times in the House before for the member opposite. She is totally confused on the issue. We never appoint JPs without their being trained to be able to sit on cases that they will hear.

Question re: Land use planning

Mr. McDonald: I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources.

Recently the government announced a new accord on land use planning with the federal government. Can the minister say when the policy committee will be established and whether the government plans to nominate members evenly split between urban and rural representation?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: It will be done when the agreement is finalized by the federal government and we get some support from the members across the floor to proceed with some kind of development in this territory. Otherwise, the minister probably never will sign any of it.

Mr. McDonald: That is an amazing, eccentric analysis. The *Yukon Land Planning Act*, passed last November in this House, has not yet been proclaimed. Can the minister say when the government is planning to proclaim the act and whether the act will effectively be applied to Yukon crown lands?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I think all the members in this House are well aware of why we introduced that act in the House. We introduced that act in the House when the federal government was taking the position that they were going to plan all the land in this territory without involving the territorial government. Since we have introduced that act in the House, we have, in my department, been negotiating with the federal government. Until we reach an agreement on land planning in the territory, one that we have signed and that the native people have signed, then we are waiting for the signature from the federal government. Unless the federal government does not sign that agreement, we will not be proclaiming our act at this time. Our act can be used at any time for planning land in the territory but we would sooner have an agreement reached with the federal government.

Mr. McDonald: We did not really realize last November that it was a political ploy. It certainly did not come out in debate.

Can the minister state now what areas of Yukon does the Government of Yukon intend to plan first?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: Contrary to the Minister of Economic Development's point that it would be Mayo, it will not be Mayo.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Porter Creek?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: It could possibly be Carmacks. More than likely what we would try to do in the immediate future would be to work on two or three areas, but we would concentrate an awful lot of our efforts on the North Slope in order to facilitate the settlement of the situation on the North Slope, so that we could set the boundaries of the park and so that we could have a management plan for the North Slope to control development in that area in the manner that it should be controlled.

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Question re: North slope

Mr. Brewster: I would like to address my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Apparently, as the North Slope is not going to be brought up by my friends across the road, I think I would like to bring it up. Could the minister tell me if any jobs have been offered to Indians or to the COPE people by Kiewit on their proposal for the North Slope quarry?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I thought no one would ever ask. After all the dribble that we heard from the no-development party across the floor yesterday, I thought I would give some facts and figures to them, and also to the media. I would hope that they would publish some of these facts and figures.

Approximately a month or two ago, Peter Kiewit and Sons met with Mr. Willie Joe, Mr. Vic Mitander and Mr. Dave Porter, one of the members from across the floor, and Mr. Bob Ward, and they made some contract offers regarding their proposal on the North Slope.

They proposed to offer to an Indian businessman in the territory, represented by CYI, to give him the contract for the haul road maintenance. The requirement for that haul road maintenance would require approximately $2,000,000 worth of equipment and 15 jobs on the project. When you consider just this one job for a development — it would probably last in excess of 20 years — I think all of the members in this House can recognize the benefit that that would bring to this territory and the benefit it would bring to the native people.

That is only one part of it. There was also a proposal to put the camp catering out, and they also offered this to CYI. They offered to make a proposal to the 12 Indian bands in the territory that they could put a proposal to Kiewit to do the camp catering. The camp catering there amounts to 40 jobs; 40 jobs for this same 20-25 years.

I think you could probably guess what the CYI said. The CYI said "No. Our position is no development in the North Slope, so we cannot agree to that proposal." There are 55 jobs to native people in this territory on that one project to which the CYI, represented by one of the members from the party across the floor — the "no development party" — said "no".

I would also like to give you some information about COPE.

Mr. Speaker: I would like the minister to please be brief as lengthy replies are not permitted.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: I will be very brief. They offered COPE a harbor tug, a fuel barge, an oil response vessel, a crew boat and/or supply vessel, a survey boat, an ocean-going tug, 100 x 400, 1500 class, flat deck, barges and a camp barge. This was offered to the COPE people across the floor. That is just to give you an example of some of the job opportunities that the members across the floor are voting against and the CYI and COPE are voting against.

Question re: Job assurances for North Slope

Mr. Byblow: Would the hon. member who just spoke, the minister responsible for North Slope development, table the letter from which he is reading and any other signed agreements of job assurances?

Hon. Mr. Tracey: No. I have no intention of tabling them.

Mr. Byblow: I rest my case.

Hon. Mr. Tracey: What case?

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Mr. Speaker: There being no further questions, we will proceed to the Order Paper, to Orders of the Day under government bills.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 25: Second reading

Mr. Clerk: Second reading, Bill No. 25, standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Ashley.

Hon. Mr. Ashley: I move that *An Act to Amend the Compensation For Victims of Crime Act* be now read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Minister of Justice that Bill No. 25 be now read a second time. Is there any debate?

Hon. Mr. Ashley: This bill makes some changes in relation to administrative matters for recovering from a criminal the amount awarded under the act to the victim in compensation as a result of criminal activity. Presently, in the matter of obtaining money from a criminal, the government has a general right of subrogation to the right of the victim against a criminal. This simply means that we can bring the same court action against the criminal that the victim could have. This is not satisfactory, because it forces us to use the victim to recover from the criminal the amount we paid out. However, after the trauma, the victim may well just want to forget the whole affair. Our own legitimate interest is to recover from the criminal the amount of the award we paid out to the victim. This

bill then creates for us a right to exactly that, without forcing us to interfere with whatever action the victim may choose to take or choose not to take against a criminal. At the same time, this bill preserves the victim's right to sue the criminal and it gives us our own right of recovery directly against the criminal. Yet, it protects the criminals from double payment; one to the victim and one to us. It also protects the alleged criminal against having to pay us when he would not have had to pay the victim.

The new procedures established by this bill, then, will be more expedient throughout without sacrificing anyone's rights.

Mrs. Joe: This side of the House will support this bill in second reading. There is a good possibility that there may be amendments in Committee of the Whole but at this point in time we agree with the amendments.

Motion agreed to

Bill No. 28: Second reading

Mr. Clerk: Second reading, Bill No. 28, standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Pearson.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move that Bill No. 28, entitled *First Appropriation Act 1984-85*, be now read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. government leader that Bill No. 28 be now read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I am honoured to table the capital budget for the 1984-85 fiscal year. As has become our practice, we are introducing this budget at the fall session of the legislature preceeding the fiscal year in which the budget applies, so that the required preparatory work can be done over the winter.

My message to the legislature on October 17th outlined the difficulties facing the Yukon economy and the initiatives that this government has taken to alleviate the effects of those difficulties upon Yukoners. This budget has been designed to continue into 1984-85 the stimulative measures that are presently being undertaken by our government. Particular emphasis has been placed on economic development and on the smaller communities of the territory. The expenditure program outlined in this budget will create approximately 285 person-years of direct employment and, when the multiplier effect is taken into account, approximately 500 jobs should be created in Yukon in the course of the coming fiscal year.

The budget has been prepared to allow for a total expenditure of $25,959,000 with a surplus of $5,743,000. These surplus funds will give the government the capacity to respond to new federal initiatives and changing circumstances within Yukon. It is my intention to review this situation again when the Operation and Maintenance Estimates are introduced in the House next spring.

I would now like to speak to some of the major items contained in the Capital Estimates.

As I have previously mentioned, economic development has received special emphasis in the current budget and we are proposing that $1,200,000 more be spent than was budgeted for in 1983-84, in this area.

Increased funds have been provided for the continuation of the renewable energy and energy conservation agreements and, in addition, funds have been allocated to two new energy programs, namely the Energy Supply Investigation Fund and the Energy Conservation Fund. The Special ARDA Agreement has been extended and, as a consequence, funds are provided to finance Yukon's share of this important development program. Finally, in recognition of the importance of small businesses to the economic well-being of Yukon, $500,000 has been allocated to the small business development program to provide funding for the first year of a five-year program that is currently estimated to amount to $5,460,500.

Hon. members will notice that there is a significant decline in the amount budgeted for the Department of Education, Recreation and Manpower, in comparison with last year. This is the result of our major school expansion program being virtually complete, other than the work at Christ the King High School. There are, however, a number of renovations and upgrading projects for which we are requesting approval to proceed. Foremost among these are the new industrial arts facilities at the Ross River and Teslin schools, improvements at the Jack Hulland School, upgrading the electrical and fire alarm system at the Whitehorse Elementary School and improvements to school grounds throughout the territory. Approval is also being sought for new and replacement equipment for the public school system and Yukon College.

The Department of Government Services has received a significant increase in funding, largely for the modernization and upgrading of the government's data processing capability. At present, this is seriously deficient, in the light of current requirements and modern technology.

The highways system continues to receive a high proportion of capital funds in recognition of its importance to the Yukon economy. You will be asked to approve increased funding for the South Canol Road Drainage Replacement Program and for the Klondike Highway, where the BST program for unpaved sections through to Dawson City will continue. It is also proposed to replace one of the two load restraints, the Ketza River Bridge, on the Campbell Highway, and funding is included in the budget for this purpose.

In Municipal and Community Affairs, we propose to increase spending by $2,000,000 over that budgeted last year. The bulk of this increase is in the Community Assistance Program and is designed to help Yukon communities by providing employment and much-needed infrastructure. Increased funding has also been provided for fire and ambulance services, road, streets and sidewalks, local services, land development and the BST program.

Campground expansion and development by the Department of Renewable Resources is proposed to continue at a high level with major expenditures planned for Million Dollar Falls, Pine Creek, Tatchun/Frenchman Lake, Yukon River, Crow River Mineral Springs and Kusawa Lake campgrounds.

It is unnecessary for me to reiterate the importance of tourism in Yukon to the members of this House and our budget reflects the high priority it deserves. You will be asked to approve $1,344,000 as the capital budget of the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Cultural Resources, an increase of more than $500,000 over last year. The major item in this increase is the Tourism Facilities Program that will provide funds for an incentive program for tourist related businesses. In addition, we have budgeted for a number of projects that will stabilize and preserve Yukon's heritage and contribute to its attractiveness to tourists. Examples of the latter are: repairs and stabilization of the Ladue Mill and old Territorial Administration Building in Dawson City; Fort Selkirk; the S.S. Tutshi at Carcross; and the road houses at Hootalinqua and Robinson.

I have mentioned the foregoing items specifically because they are new or involve large dollar amounts. In doing so, I do not wish to minimize the importance of other projects, such as Yukon Housing's Alexander Seniors building renovations, the completion of sewage lagoons at Haines Junction and Watson Lake by Municipal and Community Affairs, or the numerous other on-going or smaller projects that are important to the people of Yukon.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I commend this budget to the favourable consideration of the House, and I and my colleagues will be pleased to answer any questions that hon. members may have.

Mr. Byblow: Mr. Speaker, I move that debate on this motion be now adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. member for Faro that debate be now adjourned.

Motion to adjourn debate agreed to

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I move, Mr. Speaker, that we do now adjourn.

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The following Legislative Return was tabled October 27, 1983:

83-3-30
Government Advertising (Pearson)
(*Hansard* p. 449, 83-10-24)

The following Sessional Paper was tabled October 27, 1983:

83-3-23
Errata regarding executive summary of Yukon's position respecting development on the North coast (Tracey)