



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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3rd Session

26th Legislature

HANSARD

Wednesday, May 7, 1986 — 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Sam Johnston

Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Sam Johnston, MLA, Campbell

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Art Webster, MLA, Klondike

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Tony Penikett	Whitehorse West	Government Leader. Minister responsible for: Executive Council Office; Finance; Economic Development; Mines and Small Business; Public Service Commission
Hon. Dave Porter	Watson Lake	Government House Leader. Minister responsible for: Tourism; Renewable Resources.
Hon. Roger Kimmerly	Whitehorse South Centre	Minister responsible for: Justice; Government Services.
Hon. Piers McDonald	Mayo	Minister responsible for: Education; Community and Transportation Services.
Hon. Margaret Joe	Whitehorse North Centre	Minister responsible for: Health and Human Resources; Women's Directorate.

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

New Democratic Party

Sam Johnston	Campbell
Norma Kassl	Old Crow
Art Webster	Klondike

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Progressive Conservative

Willard Phelps	Leader of the Official Opposition Hootalinqua
Bill Brewster	Kluane
Bea Firth	Whitehorse Riverdale South
Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East
Alan Nordling	Whitehorse Porter Creek West
Doug Phillips	Whitehorse Riverdale North

Liberal

Roger Coles	Liberal Leader Tatchun
James McLachlan	Faro

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Hansard Administrator	Dave Robertson

at Whitehorse, Yukon

Wednesday, May 7, 1986 — 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.
At this time we will proceed with prayers.

Prayers

INTRODUCTION OF PAGE

Speaker: It gives me great pleasure to introduce to the House a pay who will be serving the House for the duration of this session. He is Scott Tyrner from Christ the King High School.
I invite him to join us at this time.

Applause

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: At this time we will proceed with the Order Paper.
Are there any Introduction of Visitors?

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Coles: We have with us a dignitary from Alberta. I am proud to introduce to the House my mother, Betty Coles, from Leduc, Alberta.

Speaker: Are there any Returns or Documents for Tabling?
Are there any Reports of Committees?
Are there any Petitions?

PETITIONS

Clerk: I have had the honour to review a petition, being Petition No. 2 of the third session of the twenty-sixth Legislative Assembly, as presented by the honourable Member for Whitehorse Riverdale South on May 6, 1986.

Pursuant to standing order 66.1 of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, it is my responsibility to report whether petitions conform to the rules recognized by the House.

This petition does not conform in the following respects: one, the petition is not addressed to the Yukon Legislative Assembly, as required by Standing Order 65.1 and Appendix 2 of the Standing Orders; two, the petition is comprised of photocopies. Annotation 676 of Beauchesne stipulates that the petition must have original signatures or marks.

Speaker: I must therefore rule that Petition No. 2 cannot be received.

Are there any Introduction of Bills?
Are there any Notices of Motion for the Production of Papers?
Are there any Notices of Motion?
Are there any Statements by Ministers?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse

Hon. Mrs. Joe: The problem of substance abuse has been with mankind since we discovered the special properties of some plants and the fermentation process that produces alcohol. Unfortunately, with "progress" we have also discovered other substances that can be sniffed, drunk or eaten that can be addictive and that have negative effects on our bodies.

We all know of individuals whose lives are affected by the abuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances. We must do as much as we can to prevent future abuse by our young people and to help those who are already having problems.

This means that we need to know what the abuse problems are in our communities, and we also need to know what steps we should take to combat the abuse.

On March 25th and 26th, the Alcohol Integration and Alcohol Abuse Coordinating Committees held a joint workshop called

"Future Directions".

From this workshop came two recommendations:

1. That a formalized advisory committee on substance abuse be established by the Minister of Health and Human Resources. Further, that resources, both of staffing and funding for meetings, be allocated to the committee and that the committee members serve as volunteers.

2. That the long-term goals be the establishment of an alcohol and drug commission or commission-like body with the advisory committee being an interim measure.

I am pleased to announce today that, as Minister of Health and Human Resources, I have accepted these recommendations and will be striking a Ministerial Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse.

This committee will advise me, as Minister, on topics that relate to substance abuse. An immediate task will be to work towards an improvement in the co-ordination and delivery of services and to investigate the ultimate establishment of a commission or commission-like structure.

This committee will have fourteen members. Twelve of the members will represent government and organizations that are involved with the problems of substance abuse and the other two members will be from outlying communities. These last two individuals will be appointed by myself as Minister.

I would like to thank the participants in the "Future Directions" workshop for their dedication to their task and for their recommendations. I would also like to thank all the members, past and present, of the Alcohol Integration and Alcohol Abuse Committees for the time and energy that they have given to these committees over the past two years.

The battle against substance abuse is a serious one. We cannot afford to lose our friends, relatives and children to this battle. Problems of alcohol abuse, prescription and non-prescription drug abuse and the abuse of other substances are not limited to any cultural, economic or age group or to any profession.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I make the announcement of the creation of this advisory committee.

Mrs. Firth: We find the ministerial statement today to be of some interest, and we look forward to further information coming on the advisory committee that the Minister has decided to establish, specifically, what the terms of reference of the committee are, and what purpose it is going to serve and the function that it is going to be serving and doing in relation to what is already being done in the area of alcohol and drug abuse.

We have some interest and concern about the commission. We would like to know what the terms of reference of the commission would be, and what the Minister's expectations of the authority of that commission are.

As to the committee that is going to be formed, it would be our wish that there would be a broader cross-section of people on the committee, a broader mix of laypeople and professional people. I just hand that out to the Minister as a constructive criticism or recommendation and thank her for her statement.

Hon. Mrs. Joe: The advisory committee has already been established by the workshop. There were recommendations brought to me with respect to who they wanted on that committee. I think that we will meet the needs as expressed by the Member for Riverdale South.

Speaker: This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Municipal grants

Mr. Phelps: This morning, I was listening with a great deal of interest to the comments made by the Minister of Community and Transportation Services with respect to the present difficulties that the City of Dawson finds itself in, as a result of inequities in the formula under the *Municipal Finance Act* and the O&M grants that have been given to various municipalities.

The Minister seemed to be saying that it was not a very big

problem, in Dawson's case, because they were only going down by some \$6,000 this year. The day before, we heard the mayor of Dawson City complaining, not only about that \$6,000, but stating that they had gone down by \$80,000 the year before.

Could the Minister advise the House whether or not Dawson did suffer a decrease of some \$80,000 the year before?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Based on their increased assessment, the assessment equalization grant was calculated the year before to show, yes, a decrease of approximately \$80,000 for the year previous to this last one.

Mr. Phelps: The Minister may get away with saying that a \$6,000 increase is not a big deal. Would he not agree that over two years a decrease of \$86,000 is a fairly important problem for a community such as the City of Dawson?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The City of Dawson did face the \$80,000 decrease the year before, and they balanced their budget for that given year with the existing revenue sources they had. I was drawing reference, on the radio this morning, to the fact that the assessment equalization grant had only dropped this year by \$6,000 as a result of the increase in the overall property assessments for that community. I believe it is in the neighbourhood of \$13 million over the last few years.

Mr. Phelps: It would seem that the City of Dawson is in pretty dire financial straits and very tight circumstances. They have not been willing to raise their tax rates because the tax rates are so high already in that municipality. Has the Minister or his officials discussed the financing problem with Dawson at all in recent months?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes, and as early as yesterday and frequently over the last few months. The department and I have discussed it with the City Council in Dawson and with the Mayor, both in Dawson and in Whitehorse.

Question re: Municipal grants

Mr. Phelps: From what we have been able to ascertain, we would have to come to the conclusion and logic that the problem still exists. We have a situation where the grant to Faro has gone up by approximately \$80,000, Whitehorse by approximately \$150,000, Dawson, for two years now, \$86,000, Watson Lake down over \$30,000, and other municipalities staying the same. Does the Minister really feel that the present formula is fair to all these municipalities?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not know how many times we have been through this in this session. We have debated it not only in motion debate a couple of times, but it has been the subject of discussion in Question Period for many days.

The position that the government has taken is on record. We are prepared, if the Association of Yukon Communities and Mayo wish, to discuss changes to any formula grant that the government provides to the communities. The fact remains that the government has increased its funding to communities significantly. As Members will note in the Estimates of this session, this evening perhaps, that increase is in the neighbourhood of \$189,000.

Mr. Phelps: The reason the subject keeps coming up in the House again and again is because we have an unfair situation with regard to the *Municipal Finance Act* and the formula. If it was fair and the municipalities were content with what they are receiving under this act, it would not be coming forward in the House.

Does the Minister intend to put forward a proposal to AYC and Mayo with regard to restructuring the formula in order to make it more palatable to the various communities?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Government of Yukon has approached the Association of Yukon Communities, long before it ever hit the floor of this House and long before the Members opposite ever considered it to be topical. We tried to establish what it was that was of great concern to the communities. We tried to establish what it was about the equalization grant that was unfair. We tried to determine what they could suggest to make it fair.

Not only has the Yukon Association of Communities just very recently stated that they are going to review the situation once again at the insistence of one or two members, but they recognize that it will take a good deal of time to establish a formula that all

members, for a long period of time, will consider fair.

We have bent over backwards as a government to try to establish a fair system for the distribution of funds. We have worked with individual communities. We have worked primarily with the AYC as an umbrella body. We have suggested other ways to assist communities. We have introduced legislation in this House that will assist communities. We are doing a lot to assist communities besides simply increasing the operating grants for those communities.

Mr. Phelps: The fact is that a lot of the communities are unhappy with the present formula. Why has the Minister and his department not come forward with a proposal to amend the formula?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member is offering an assumption, by saying that a lot of communities are unhappy with the formula. It is an assumption that I would question. Firstly, the communities that have expressed concern about the formula include Watson Lake and Dawson; Dawson only very recently. Watson Lake is not blaming the formula as the sole culprit for all of what they perceive to be financial problems.

Given that Dawson balanced their budget last year, and that this year the assessment equalization grant has only dropped \$6,000, the formula is not considered to be the sole culprit for the town council to pare its budget to the extent that the Mayor of Dawson wishes. The assessment equalization grant went down by only \$6,000 from last year.

Question re: Willingdon Correctional Institute

Mr. Coles: Yesterday, I asked the Minister of Health Human Resources a question about a reporter being denied access to a young offender in Willingdon. Does the Minister have an answer to the question today?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: With regard to the question yesterday, a member of the staff at Willingdon did contact our department, the acting probation officer, with regard to the request. The probation officer discussed the situation with the Director of Community and Family Services, and it was decided that it was not in the best interest of the young person to allow the interview to take place. There was not likely to be any positive result from the young person, and there was also the possibility that the identity of the youth might be discovered through the eventual reporting of the interview.

The request from the interview did not come from the youth and/or his parents or lawyer. If the request had come from these sources, with the understanding that all parties believed the experience would be of benefit to the young person, then the Director would, perhaps, have considered the request more favourably. There was no representation made by the lawyer representing the young person; it was not deemed to be in the best interest of the mental and emotional health of that individual to allow the interview to proceed. We have to remember that that individual is still a young person, and we had to look after those needs.

With regard to the question about how many individuals we have in Willingdon; we still have six, one on remand, one on treatment, and four others who are in the wilderness camp of Willingdon.

Mr. Coles: That answer is total gibberish and totally unacceptable. Under the new *Young Offenders Act*, children's names cannot be identified in the press or by any other means to the public. The Minister well knows that. I want to know if the young offender, himself, was considered or asked about the interview, and if the young offender's lawyer or parents were considered when the talks were proceeding?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: It is my understanding that the lawyer and the parents were not involved. I think you also have to consider the circumstances of the individual who was going to be interviewed and that a lot of the information that might have been gathered from that young person was very confidential. The possibility of that kind of information getting out to the public would not be in the best interest of that person.

Mr. Coles: I put it to the Minister: Willingdon is not in the best interests of that young person and, perhaps, her department, denying access to a reporter, only proves the point of what I have

been trying to relate to the Minister for the last two weeks that Willingdon is really a lot worse than what we can imagine. When is the Minister going to get the Yukon young offenders out of that penitentiary or children's jail?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: We could have had those individuals out of Willingdon right now if we were able to do as we wanted and go ahead with the plan that we had. That plan has fallen through with the false information that has gotten out to the people with regard to our young offenders, who are not really dangerous people. It may be a lot longer than we had hoped. Within the next few weeks we hope to have a plan in place so we know what we will be doing with our young offenders and how soon we will be able to have them in the Yukon. I am serious about bringing these young offenders home to the Yukon. I think they belong here. I feel the same way the Member for Tatchun does; Willingdon is not a good place for our young people to be.

07

Question re: Municipal grants

Mr. Lang: I would like to preface my remarks to the Minister of Community and Transportation Services by saying that I resent the inference that the issue that is before us was not brought to the Minister's attention prior to a couple of weeks ago.

Is it not true that the Minister received correspondence from the community of Mayo, Dawson City, as well as Watson Lake and myself, in the months of February and early March drawing to his attention major problems as far as the *Municipal Finance Act* was concerned?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I did receive a letter from the community of Dan Lang in February. The work was done by the department and by myself, in terms of seeking a position from AYC, was undertaken in December and January.

Mr. Lang: Is it not true, in the letter that I wrote to you, that I brought forward, at least in part, a suggestion to amend the *Municipal Finance Act*? Is it not true, in that same correspondence, that I assured the Minister of speedy passage of any amendment to the *Municipal Finance Act*, as far as the Conservative Party was concerned?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member sent a letter to me stating that he concurred with Watson Lake's position with respect to changing a formula by changing the methodology by which dwelling units were counted. Approximately around that time, AYC made it clear, as I have said many times, that for the time being the membership did not wish to see a change in the assessment equalization grant.

I have taken the Member's representation and Watson Lake's representation on notice. I have responded to Watson Lake's letter, and I believe I have even shown the courtesy of delivering a copy of that letter to the Member for Porter Creek East.

Mr. Lang: Further to that, the day before yesterday the Minister pointed out that the formula was not his and that he had not put it into effect, that the previous government had. Is the government's position, then, that they are fully satisfied with the *Municipal Finance Act* and the way the formula is laid out at the present time?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The acceptability of the formula very much depends on the desire by the communities to maintain that formula. It very much depends on the communities' impression of whether or not the formula is fair. As far as this government is concerned, we have increased the operating grants significantly over last year. That is our position. We would like to assist communities to the fullest extent possible.

If those communities wish to review the formula, then we will sit down with them and help them review the formula. We will make every effort to ensure that a fair formula is determined, to their satisfaction.

Question re: Municipal grants

Mr. Lang: Is it the position of the government that the present formula, which permitted Whitehorse to get an increase of \$150,000 and Dawson City \$6,000 less this year is fair, to the community of Dawson City?

08 **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** The Member is fudging two different

formulas. The City of Dawson had its assessment equalization grant dropped by \$6,000. Whitehorse does not even get an assessment equalization grant.

Mr. Lang: Is it not true that through the formulas that have been developed the City of Whitehorse got an increase of \$150,000 in total and the City of Dawson got \$6,000 less this year? Is that not a fact?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I just explained, and the Member was not listening. There are two different formulas. The formula Dawson is complaining about is the assessment equalization grant. The formula Watson Lake was complaining about was the assessment equalization grant. Whitehorse does not even get an assessment equalization grant.

Mr. Lang: Is it not true that there is a pot of money available to the communities to be divided up under the terms of the *Municipal Finance Act*? Is it not true that the City of Whitehorse received \$150,000 more than last year, and Dawson City received \$6,000 less this year?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I am going to keep repeating for the Member until he understands. There are two operating grants. The grant that Dawson City and Watson Lake were complaining about was the assessment equalization grant. To my knowledge, they did not complain about the dwelling unit grant. It was under the dwelling unit grant formula that Whitehorse had its grant increased. Under the assessment equalization grant, Dawson saw a reduction of \$6,000. The only complaints have been about the assessment equalization grant formula.

Question re: Municipal grants

Mr. Lang: It is incredible how the Minister refuses to answer the question. Do I take it now the Ministry of Municipal Affairs lies with the Association of Yukon Communities and not the present incumbent in the portfolio, in order to make changes happen?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not even understand the question, so I am not in the position to answer it. The only formula that has been under criticism is the formula establishing the assessment equalization grant. That is the only one that has been questioned. In Watson Lake's case, they have not blamed the formula as being the sole cause of their financial problems. In Dawson's case, the assessment equalization grant dropped by \$6,000, and they are talking about paring back their budget by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Our position is that should the communities feel that the assessment equalization formula is unfair, we will sit down and discuss it with them.

Mr. Lang: Does the Minister believe himself? I am asking him. If I want to ask the Association for Yukon Communities, I will phone them directly. Does he believe that the present formula in place for the transfer of dollars to the communities is fair to those communities? In his judgment, not in the judgment of the Association of Yukon Communities.

Point of Order

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: The question is out of order. Under our Standing Orders, a question seeking a personal opinion of a Minister is not allowed.

Speaker: There is a point of order. Questions should not seek an opinion.

09 **Mr. Lang:** Is it the position of the present Minister, who we pay \$60,000, that the present formula and the *Municipal Finance Act* is fair to the communities?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I thank the Member opposite for the \$8,000 raise. The Government of Yukon has taken the position that should the communities themselves think that the formula, under which they receive funding, is fair then we are satisfied with that formula.

We will work out problems that any one community may face. If a community feels grieved, we will continue, in association with the AYC and Mayo, to resolve any ongoing perceptions of unfairness.

Question re: Municipal grants

Mr. Lang: Do I take it from the Minister that it is the position

of his government that they have taken no position on the *Municipal Finance Act* as to whether it is fair or unfair?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No, the Member is quite wrong. The formula is meant to provide communities with sufficient levels of funding to carry on their operations. Part of the formula is an equalization formula that attempts to cover off peaks and troughs in the financial operations of the various communities.

Currently, there is such a formula in place. While it is the subject of some discussion in this Legislature, it seems to have served a purpose in the past and has allowed these communities that have faced hard times to get extra benefits. It also helps those communities whose property assessment has increased dramatically.

Some communities do not like the idea of an equalization formula. They do not like it because it means, in practical terms, that the grant is dropped even though their revenue generating potential has increased. We will work out the problem as perceived by a couple of communities — there are three out eight — to the satisfaction of all the communities.

Mr. Lang: I have major concerns with what the Minister has just told us. The reality of the situation is that you were assured speedy passage if proper amendments were brought to the House. The Minister tells me that the *Municipal Finance Act* is in place to take care of the peaks and the troughs.

I am here to tell you that the towns of Watson Lake and Dawson City have had those troughs, along with Mayo. How does the Minister account to the public for transferring an increased \$150,000 to the community of Whitehorse, a \$6,000 decrease to Dawson and a \$35,000 decrease to Watson Lake. How does he account to the public that that is fair policy?

¹⁰ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** The Member's ignorance is almost becoming unbearable. There are two grants involved here. The only grant that is under dispute, by any community, is the assessment equalization grant, and Whitehorse does not receive it. No community has expressed concern to this government that the dwelling unit grant is under dispute, or should be changed in any way.

I understand the rhetorical point that the Member is making, because he only wants to make a rhetorical point. The Member is suggesting that the Government of Yukon should change the assessment equalization grant in opposition to the expressed interests of the majority of the members of AYC. That is what the Member has been counselling the government to do all along.

The Member is saying that in order to satisfy some concerns that are expressed by one or two communities, it is necessary for the government to anger all the other communities. The government is not prepared to do that. The government is prepared to negotiate and speak to all the communities, to try to resolve the differences as perceived by those communities. That is our position. That is the position of the government over the past 11 months. I will not vouch for the position of the previous government. That will be the position of the government in the future.

Mr. Lang: When it was brought to the Minister's attention that there were inequities in the municipal financing of communities, within the dollar limits that this House votes, did the Minister put forward, on behalf of the government, options for the Association of Yukon Communities to consider to revise that particular act in order to make it more equitable to the communities throughout the territory? Did he put some options and alternatives forward?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Let us get things absolutely clear. The inequities, as perceived by the Member opposite, were not shared by the majority of the members of AYC. I have attempted to explain the specific instances that have taken place in both Dawson and Watson Lake for the past eight weeks of this session, and they are not getting through to the Members, because the Members do not want to understand.

The reason they do not want to understand is because they want to try to make a cheap political point. It is not going to work. The points that the Members are trying to make would cause a great deal of disruption in this territory, would anger communities in this territory. It would not be done with full consultation of all the members of the AYC and Mayo, because it would take a lot of time.

Early on, we were faced with a very clear indication from the AYC that they were satisfied with the formula grant. I do not know which one the Member is speaking of. He is fudging them all over the place in order to find an angle.

Speaker: Order, please. Would the Member please conclude his answer.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have given this answer many times. I do not need to repeat it again.

Question re: Radiation

Mr. McLachlan: In light of news reports yesterday that the first recorded measurements of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear accident are beginning to reach Alaska, and some trace elements have surfaced in Vancouver, can the Government Leader advise this House, and all the Yukon, what steps he has taken to monitor the situation for any possible radiation readings here in the Yukon?

¹¹ **Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I thank the Member for the question. Technically the question is a matter that is in the domain of federal government jurisdiction. Although we have had some discussion of this in our government, we are advised that at this point there is no imminent danger or concern for the Yukon Territory. However, I am more than prepared to communicate with the federal government to seek further assurances on that point. I guess all Members are aware of the tragedy. For our part, we would be happier should there be a fitting occasion to have a full discussion of the question.

Mr. McLachlan: Although at least one Member's riding is closer to Alaska than the rest of ours, I appreciate the fact that radiation levels are indeed minute and dispersed at the moment. I am wondering if the Government Leader has had any communication with federal officials on radiation levels in the event that a freak atmospheric condition should all of a sudden increase levels here.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I appreciate the Member's concern and do indeed take it seriously. I hope the Member will also understand the federal government does not respond kindly to hypothetical inquiries that we may put to them. The federal government has established a hot-line, an information line, to answer specific inquiries about the radiation hazard particularly. I understand that the information provided is only of the most basic kind, and I think would not provide us with the kind of technical information that would reassure the Member. I will, however, communicate substantially today, if it is the wish of the House and the Member, so I can assure myself and the government that should the type of occurrence that the Member speculates about happens there is either some emergency measures plan in place or some remedial action that can be contemplated.

Mr. McLachlan: My final supplementary is directed to the Minister of Community and Transportation Services and not to sound overly alarmist in any respect is simply to ask him if any instructions have as yet been issued to the EMO Coordinator to update and review any contingency plans.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I excuse myself for intruding on the question, but such an instruction the Member is talking about would come as a result of a Cabinet decision. From the information I have, and you will understand I am not literate in this area of science at all, is that should we experience some atmospheric radiation problem, the normal kind of emergency procedures that would operate in the case of a flood, or some other natural disaster, would not equip us very much. As I understand it, at this point there is little prospect of radiation levels reaching such a level that measures such as were introduced by the Swedish Government, for example, or some of the Eastern block countries — such as cautions about using unwashed vegetables and playing outside excessively — should even be contemplated. While I do not want to appear at all alarmist, I do take the questions asked by the Member seriously. While I believe there is no immediate and present danger, it is, of course, important to anticipate the worst and be ready to respond accordingly.

¹²

Question re: Wolf studies

Mr. Brewster: On April 14, the Minister of Renewable

Resources outlined three or four wolf studies that are ongoing or have been recently completed throughout the Yukon Territory. Will the Minister tell the House, in general terms, the intent of these studies?

Hon. Mr. Porter: One of the studies was dealing with the predation rates with respect to dall sheep. We are attempting to accurately be able to predict the predation rate by wolves on dall sheep.

I would have to go back to the particular programs on the other studies to extract the details.

Mr. Brewster: Does the Minister and his government not agree that predator control is an effective management tool?

Hon. Mr. Porter: We see predator control as an effective tool with respect to the results from the Finlayson caribou herd. We are talking about a process of counting numbers and monitoring the population level in terms of percentage of increase.

There is no question that, with the implementation of the predator control program on the Finlayson caribou herd, the program did result in the herd responding and the herd increasing.

Mr. Brewster: Can the Minister explain why he has, in one instance, continued with the predator reduction program on the Finlayson caribou herd and yet curtailed the predator control program in the game zones 7 and 9, when, in both cases, it was clearly shown that the population of animals was declining because of predation?

Hon. Mr. Porter: The two questions are very different ones. When we gathered the data on the Finlayson herd, we saw that the wolves were responsible for the predation on caribou in the area. The situation in the game zones 7 and 9 is complicated by the fact that the moose in the area are not preyed upon only by the wolves but by grizzlies as well. In that case, the grizzlies are responsible for the majority of the predation that occurs.

If the Member is asking me at this point if I am prepared to utilize government equipment and personnel to take out grizzlies, the answer is no. If the Members opposite are prepared to counsel the government to do that, I would like to hear from them on that subject.

Question re: Workers' Compensation Board

Mrs. Firth: On October 9, 1985, the Minister of Justice issued a Ministerial Statement regarding the Workers' Compensation Board reorganization. In the statement, he said that he had some reservations about the legality of that reorganization being in line with its legislative mandate. He said that it was under serious review by the officials and the board, and that it was under his direction. Is the Minister planning to table any changes to the legislation or the structure of the Board during this session?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Yes, in the fall sitting.

Mrs. Firth: In that ministerial statement, he also talked about some of the problems that may have existed, and how they were going to be resolving them. Can the Minister tell the House if the problems have been identified and resolved?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Yes, in a general sense. The Workers' Compensation Board is established as an independent board by a statute. Under the reorganization done by the Pearson government, the independent board reported through the Chairman of the board, who was a civil servant, to an Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice.

The resolution is to have a totally independent board.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Hon. Mr. Porter: Pursuant to Standing Order 13, I would like to give the House notice that the motion for concurrence in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments will be called as Government Business on Monday, May 12, 1986.

Speaker: We will now proceed with the Orders of the Day. Motions other than Government Motions.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Mr. McLachlan: I request unanimous consent to waive the provisions of Standing Order 12 and call the items under Motions other than Government Motions in the order agreed to by the House Leaders and communicated to the Clerk.

Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is unanimous consent.

Motion No. 28

Clerk: Item number 2, standing in the name of Mr. Brewster.

Speaker: Is the hon. Member prepared to proceed with item number 2?

Mr. Brewster: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Member for Kluane:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Economic Development: Mines and Small Business to ensure that representatives from the agricultural and forestry sectors are appointed to the Yukon Economic Council.

Mr. Brewster: An Economic Council should be representative of all the various economic units in the Yukon. When I rose in the Legislature on April 10, I asked the Minister responsible for Economic Development about renewable resource-based industries and their involvement in the Economic Council. I was encouraged, and yet disappointed, by the statement made by the Minister.

First, let me say that I am very pleased to hear that the Minister has extended a place to the Yukon Trappers Association on the Council. I was concerned that the Council did not reflect all the various economic units in the Yukon economy, especially with respect to renewable resource sectors. The Trappers Association is truly an organization that is representative of the trappers in the Yukon and is unique to the other members of the Council.

I believe that this is a first step to ensure that all Yukon economic sectors can participate as members of the council. However, as the Trappers' Association is unique in representing the economics of the trapping industry, so too are other organizations. The Yukon Forestry Association and Yukon Livestock and Agriculture Association both represent their unique industries in the overall economic sphere of the Yukon.

The only common thread that exists between these three distinct industries is that they represent different economic sectors that are of a renewable resource organization. I believe, if we take a close look at the other members of the council, we will find that the same relationship exists. The Yukon Visitors Association, the Yukon Indian Development Corporation, the Yukon Federation of Labour, and, surely, even the Yukon Status of Women Council all have links to renewable resource activities.

While the Yukon Forestry Association is solely representative of its industry, the Yukon Livestock and Agriculture Association is but one of the three agriculture-based organizations with aims to further enhance the agricultural industry. The other two organizations I refer to are the Yukon Bee-Keeping Society and the Yukon Horticulture and Landscaping Society.

With the rising prominence and importance of the agriculture and forestry industry over the years, I believe it is important that these industries are active members of the council. I do not think that these added sectors of the council would in any way create an imbalance or have a predominance of votes on the council. Whereas I have stated already, they are truly unique industries.

The addition to the council of these two industries will, in my mind, round out the council and provide the Minister with economic diversification and the advice that he is seeking. Not having forestry and agricultural representatives on the council only indicates the council has a slight membership and is not representative of all sectors in our economy.

It is for all these reasons, which I have cited, that I believe the Members of this Legislature should support the motion I have introduced today.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I rise in my capacity as Minister of Economic Development to respond to the initiative proposed by the Member for Kluane. The Member indicated that he believed that all

groups with economic interests should be included in the Economic Council. I hope to be able to persuade him, in a few minutes, that, as a practical possibility, that is not easy to achieve.

As the council is now structured, the Member will know it includes a number of major groups that were not included by the previous government, even during the brief time he was chairman of the council. We have a number of organizations that are territorial wide and have broad constituencies. The Association of Yukon Communities was included by this government at the request of the Association not only because of a statutory requirement that they be involved in economic planning under the *Municipal Act*, but also because this government is interested in community-based economic development. It was clear from discussions with the Association of Yukon Communities that they were increasingly interested in economic questions.

The Building Trades Council is made up of people very much involved in the construction trade.

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce is an umbrella group composed of all the significant Chambers of Commerce in the territory.

²⁰ The Chamber of Mines, likewise, is an umbrella group representing that industry. The Yukon Federation of Labour is an umbrella group representing labour interests — not all of them, of course, because of divisions in the house of labour. Only the unions that are affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress are members of the Federation of Labour. That is an indication of the kind of problem we have all over the place in trying to find representative groups.

The Indian Development Corporation is hoped to be, by the Indian people, a large scale holding company with interests in many sectors, but one that is principally directed to the economic development of Indian people.

The Status of Women Council was established because of this government's commitment to provide a woman's perspective on economic questions — one that has been left out in the past, but one that we were persuaded was necessary.

The Visitors Association is the major organization representing the tourist industry.

The Trappers Association was, as the Member mentions, added recently.

The government really does want all sectors represented and we have changed the terms of reference for the council so that the council members will evolve with the leadership of those organizations. For example, if the YVA chooses a new president, or the AYC chooses a new president, those members will automatically become members of the council, even though the organizations may delegate some other person to fill in from time to time.

The real reason that we cannot include all the economic groups, and there are many economic interest groups in the territory, is that when you look at them — and we did do this — depending on who you include and the number of groups, including some mentioned by the Member for Kluane, range from 30 to 50 organizations. Many of them have overlapping memberships, but, as the Member also indicated, that is a very large number, and we do not believe that an Economic Council composed of 30 to 50 members would be a practical body. It would be unwieldy and expensive.

For example, it would have been quite reasonable, given the size of the different sectors in our economy, to have made room for the Mine Operators Association, the Yukon Prospectors Association, the Klondike Placer Miners Association, but they do not have seats for the very good reason that there is not room for them on a council of the present size. Instead, we went to the Chamber of Mines, which was an umbrella organization representing all of those.

By the same score, in tourism, we did not include the Klondike Visitors Association, the Alaska Highway Visitors Association, the Association of Yukon Wilderness Guides, the Yukon Outfitters' Association. The Beekeepers Association is another that the Member for Kluane indicated. They do not have seats. The umbrella organization, the Yukon Visitors Association, can represent the tourist industry.

The Member for Kluane is shaking his head vigorously because I think he believes that some of those groups mentioned do not feel

represented by the Visitors Association. I know well, for example, what the Wilderness Guides have felt about that from time to time. That is a problem, and I concede that, but if the Member will bear with me until we get to the Renewable Resources sector, I will explain why it is even more of a problem.

¹⁶ In the case of the chambers, we included the Yukon Chamber rather than the Whitehorse Chamber or any other chambers, because there was not room on the Council for the Whitehorse Chamber, the Dawson Chamber, the Faro Chamber, the Silver Trails Chamber, the Southern Lakes Chamber, the Watson Lake Chamber, all of them.

We hoped that the Yukon Chamber of Commerce would be able to represent all those interests. Similarly, there are dozens of labour, civic, construction, transportation and native organizations. I would like to have been able to find room, as well, for the Transportation Association and a number of others that I think represent key sectors in the economy but which, as the Council is presently constituted, we just could not make room for.

The problem with the renewable resources sector is one that is quite difficult. The reason we did not make appointments in the renewable resources sector right away is that we spent some time looking at this question. The problem there is that there is no umbrella group that includes the new forestry group, the agricultural people, the trappers, and so forth.

What we did, in looking at that, is go through a list of those organizations and look at their longevity and their membership. We looked at the Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association; we looked at the Wilderness Committee Association; we looked at the Yukon Trappers Association; we looked at the Outfitters Association; we looked at the Fish and Game Association; we looked at the Conservation Society; we looked at some of the others.

Because there was no umbrella group that represented all of them, the decision we made, in that case, was to go with the organization that had the largest membership, recognizing and conceding, instantly, that that organization might not be able to adequately represent all the renewable resource interests. That organization was the Trappers Association, which has had a membership of between 400 and 600. The next largest organizations — the Fish and Game Association and the Conservation Society — both have 200 plus. Next to that is the Livestock and Agricultural Association, which, I am informed, has about 150 members.

Had we included all of those, I think that for the sake of balance we would have been obliged to also include other groups in the mining sector and other groups in the tourism sector that would have claimed as large a membership, and would have claimed as much economic clout in the territory.

I want to emphasize that, in reaching the decision to nominate the Trappers Association, rather than any one of the others, or rather than the others, we did so not cavalierly, nor did we do it in a sense of neglect for the other organizations or the important sectors, such as agriculture and forestry, both of which this government is committed to develop.

When it comes to the agricultural sector and the creation of an agricultural branch, the introduction of farm credit, the EDA projects involving everything from elks to eggs to aquaculture, and given that the Agricultural Association is already a member of the Agricultural Planning and Wildlife Advisory Committees of YTG, they do have a voice; we are listening to them and are working with them.

In the case of the new forestry association, Economic Development and Renewable Resources are both working with them. We are working with the association to try to promote drying kilns and planing mills. We are trying to see that, in future, government buildings are designed using more local materials. We are involved with those associations in the study of markets, transportation, technology. We are also involved in similar initiatives when it comes to the fishing sector.

We have engaged in the removal of fuel taxes for renewable resource use, or the roads to resources program, which also has a renewable resources dimension in the energy area. We are very much committed to the renewable resources sector. We do believe that it is an undeveloped area of the economy. We do believe there

is room for much more growth there.

¹⁷ Economic strategy is intended to strengthen renewable resource industries in the Yukon economy. As that occurs, we will be looking to changes in the membership of the Economic Council over time to reflect the growth of these sectors.

It is quite appropriate for the government in a year to review the structure of the Economic Council to see if it is functioning as it should, to see if the organizations that are represented on it are representing the interests of the various sectors and interests in the Yukon economy, and to see if, as things evolve, there might not be a more adequate representation.

Organizations thrive, and they go through highs and lows, and there may be some times when an organization may be relatively ineffective. It is possible, within the next few months, that an umbrella organization could come along and end up involving the forestry group, the agricultural group, the trappers and people involved in the fishery successfully.

If that happens, it would give us a good reason to take a look at the structure of the council. We are committed to being open-minded on it. We are committed to reviewing it from time to time. But, given what I have said, we are not persuaded that this is the right time to add all the groups that the Member for Kluane suggested.

We do believe that it would create imbalance unless we offset that imbalance by the addition of other appropriate groups in other sectors. In that event, the Economic Council would become too large, too unwieldy and too expensive.

Mrs. Firth: I would have to disagree with the previous speaker because I think it is particularly the right time to add an agricultural and a forestry representative to the Economic Council.

The Government Leader has made comments about the positions he has taken regarding his government giving a higher profile to agricultural interests. The Minister of Government Services has talked at great length about pursuing and enhancing the forestry industry.

In the Throne Speech and the Budget Speech, the government talked on at a bit about how these two particular unique areas are going to be promoted, enhanced and encouraged by this government. I feel that one way for the government to prove its intentions is to give some consideration to these two areas being represented on the committee, right now, and not at some time down the road.

We find that the Economic Review somewhat ignores the agriculture and the forestry industries. If the Economic Council does not have that representation, I perceive that to be a continuing problem and a continuing lack of information that is provided to Yukoners.

The Council, after all, is to deal with economic matters, future economic direction of the Yukon Territory, the interests that are becoming very prevalent among a growing group of Yukoners and the Agriculture and Livestock Association. I believe there are three chapters, one in Dawson, one in Mayo and one in Whitehorse. They are certainly a very active organization and are very enthusiastic and are prepared to give the government a lot of information, a lot of assistance and a lot of advice in the future development of this industry.

¹⁸ I do not think we should just cast that aside because often we are looking for that kind of input and are encouraging people to participate. That organization has already demonstrated that it is more than willing and ready to participate and has also demonstrated that they are prepared to work very hard at developing the figures, statistics and new information that would be to the advantage of all Yukoners as well as the government.

I feel very strongly that we cannot homogenize a group to represent particular distinct, specific interests, and agriculture and forestry do present very specific interests. I just want to state an example. The last Economic Council meeting we received the minutes for discussing the issue of land and the whole land process and northern land use planning. There was a very interesting presentation given by some of the officials in renewable resources. The economic-planning process was also discussed. I think that is information that the agriculture association and forestry industry

would be interested in. Not only the information received, but I am sure they would have very useful and relevant comments to make about concerns they have about land use planning and distribution of land.

The Government Leader raises some good points about overlapping memberships. It is very difficult sometimes to give everyone equal representation and satisfy all the very diverse groups we have in the Yukon. I do get the feeling the Minister has made his decision based on membership and I find the membership numbers very interesting. I would like to verify those. I do not know if that is a valid point when you talk about the economic potential an industry can present. We recognize the contribution the trappers make to the Yukon and recognize that the Minister made a wise decision representing that group on the council. However, the agricultural association does present the Yukon with a lot of potential. It is a new industry, although that would be argued by many, but it seems to me that the newness of it is in the enthusiasm that is being presented by the members of that association now, and the eagerness and keenness with which they want to develop and promote their industry. I would have thought the Government Leader would have been more imaginative and receptive to the idea of this organization being represented on the Economic Council.

I rise to speak very briefly to the motion and to support the Member for Kluane and to thank him for bringing the motion forward.

¹⁹ As always, he brings forward very sensible, practical, wise recommendations. I would ask the government Members to reconsider the position that they have taken, and take into account the wisdom that the Member for Kluane brings to this Legislature. I wish them well with their deliberations.

Mr. Phelps: I will be fairly brief in my support of the motion. I would like to make a number of points that have been touched upon already. The first point is that, as the Government Leader has said, there is no umbrella group that represents all people whose industry is based on renewable resources in Yukon. That is very natural. It is very unlikely to change, because their interests, in many cases, are not the same. In some cases they are opposed in some ways. There are conflicts there, and I think we all know that. Most of the potential for those conflicts was pointed out, to some extent, as issues in the green paper, and certainly spoken to at community meetings — certainly the ones I attended in Hootalinqua.

I think I would be very surprised if any one person or group could be found that represented all these, in some cases, conflicting points of view in the renewable resource sector.

The Government Leader spoke, in defending his position on the motion, of looking at criteria, which, I think, do not go far enough. He mentioned looking at the membership of various groups, and choosing the Trappers Association, because it enjoyed the largest membership. He also spoke in terms of balancing the economic clout of various groups. Again, both of these criteria, I would submit to the Members, are of some significance. It would seem to me, far more important than those criteria, is that of ensuring that there is a voice to speak about unique problems facing a sector of our economy, such as agriculture, which point of view, and which unique problem may not be shared by the other groups on the Economic Council.

I submit that agriculture stands in a rather unique position from those members already on the board. They certainly do not hold very much in common with the Trappers Association. They have some very fundamental problems with regard, firstly, to the acquisition of land and ensuring that they can obtain a base for the industry.

It is an industry that simply is not reflected, from my perspective at least, in any of the other groups that have a membership on this council, which is a very important advisory body to government. ²⁰ One of the main reasons for my supporting the addition of agriculture, as it is with forestry, is that the industry is so closely tied to some of the major, immediate problems of government — that of acquiring land and land claims and the interplay there.

Because those issues ought to be, and are, undoubtedly, a prime concern to any government of the day in these times, I think it is

extremely important to ensure that these people's perspectives be heard, that the voice of agriculture be heard. Again, they are in conflict with some of the other positions that will be taken in that council, and because they are so closely tied to constitutional devolution and so on.

I will make the same points about forestry as I have already made. I think that we all know that the future of at least one major community, Watson Lake, is very closely tied to the future of the forestry industry in the Liard region of Yukon. Forestry has a great potential in the rest of Yukon, and that has been readily acknowledged by this government. I am pleased to see that, and I am pleased to see that they are taking certain initiatives to encourage the industry itself, outside of the membership to this council.

Forestry also represents a program, or an area of jurisdiction, that perhaps could be turned over to Yukon as one of the first areas in devolution. Because that potential exists, and because the Government of Yukon must be looking at assuming jurisdiction for this industry, it would seem that there is a need for a coordinated approach throughout government, and particularly from any initiatives that have to do with economic benefits and the economic development of the territory.

Because of its unique position with regard, not only to some of the important communities in the territory, but with regard to where we stand in progressing toward responsible government, I would urge the Government Leader and all Members to consider the representation of forestry to the Economic Council. I would urge all Members to support this motion.

Mr. Brewster: In some ways, I am a little disappointed. I realize the problem that the Government Leader has; however, I would like to point out that forestry and agriculture are two new organizations that have tried, lately, to move ahead in this part of the world. Maybe if we put some of them on there, we would have some fresh faces instead of the same old people all the time. These are two new industries that are just trying to get on their feet.

I would like to point out that the Department of Renewable Resources has formed a separate branch for agriculture, so it must be quite important. They have not done the same for trappers. I do not think we can go by the number factor. I do not think this is a true way of doing it. The agriculture branch worked very closely with the Agriculture Association. The Agriculture Association is probably the mother of our legislation that the Minister put through here last fall.

²¹ They have also worked very close on two or three studies to help the Department of Renewable Resources out on a number of things. These are done at no charge; a lot of work is their own; they are doing these things; I certainly think they have proved their point; they are prepared to work. We take the situation that the Visitors Association represents all the people of the Yukon and all the lodge and such things. I wish some of you were up Sunday when I brought up that the kilometre sign was shot down and was shot down because the Minister said that the Visitors Association said that it was not needed. It stays a little too close to Whitehorse. I guess, like some government bureaucrats, it did not get out and know what is going on in the rest of the country, so I think they should maybe be looking at this.

I just, quite frankly, think that these two organizations would do wonders to it. The Government Leader is quite correct, I sat on it. I think probably one of my problems was that we seem to get the same old faces on all these committees, and here is a chance to change this. I certainly would like the Government Leader and the government to reconsider this and look at this. I mainly am only asking for two.

You state that there is not an umbrella association. The bee association is affiliated with the Yukon Agriculture Association. They have chapters in Dawson; they have chapters in Mayo; they have chapters in Whitehorse. Haines Junction people are members of the Whitehorse one and they have their general meetings where they all get together and they have to separate meetings, which is sensible, because they are in different parts of the country. They have fought very hard.

Another thing I could point out is that you say there is more trappers; this is true. There is more area to trap. But, you try and get a little bit of land to farm and find out how many agriculture people around here cannot farm because they cannot get land. I do not think numbers are a good answer. I think maybe we should look at how hard and how sincere they have worked with both governments — with our government when we were there, and with the present government — to try to get a sensible situation going. I think both the forestry and agriculture worked very, very close to try and do things. I would certainly like every Member of this Legislature to put these two members on.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Division.

Speaker: Division has been called.

²² It has been moved by the Member for Kluane that this House urges the Minister of Economic Development: Mines and Small Business to ensure that representatives from the agricultural and forestry sectors are appointed to the Yukon Economic Council.

Mr. Clerk, would you kindly poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Disagreed.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Disagreed.

Hon. Mr. Porter: Disagreed.

Hon. Mrs. Joe: Disagreed.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Disagreed.

Mr. Webster: Disagreed.

Ms. Kassi: Disagreed.

Mr. Phelps: Agreed.

Mr. Brewster: Agreed.

Mr. Lang: Agreed.

Mr. Nordling: Agreed.

Mrs. Firth: Agreed.

Mr. Phillips: Agreed.

Mr. Coles: Agreed.

Mr. McLachlan: Disagreed.

Clerk: The results are 7 yea, 8 nay.

Motion No. 28 negatived

Motion No. 39

Clerk: Item No. 9, standing in the name of Mr. Phelps.

Speaker: Is the honourable Member prepared to proceed with Motion No. 39.

Mr. Phelps: Yes.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition: THAT it is the opinion of this House that the government should undertake a cost feasibility study of installing a gravity-powered tramline from a turnaround at the summit of the Carcross-Skagway Road direct to the ore sheds at the dock in Skagway as an alternative to trucking ore from the summit to the said ore sheds, and freight from Skagway to the summit.

Mr. Phelps: We are putting forward this motion as something that we would like the government to consider and to take some preliminary steps on to have an overview of this as one possible method that might be used in the future as the Yukon develops, as we have more mines and the need for more ore to be hauled over the road to the Pacific.

It is not something that we see as of immediate urgency, although it may turn out to be something that the government will gain interest in as it studies it. They may want to implement it sooner than it thinks, once it actually looks at this issue and deals with it.

Basically, we have a problem facing Yukoners, facing those who have potential mines in the Yukon and facing the public. The major area of concern is with regard to the hauling of ore from the summit, approximately 14 miles by road, down and through Skagway to the ore terminal there.

²³ Most of that portion of the road is in Alaska, under Alaskan jurisdiction. The road has extremely steep grades. This means that the snow problem is intensified on that portion that is on the steep grades. There is a braking problem for trucks carrying heavy loads. That leads to a safety problem with vehicles going from the summit down to Skagway.

It is very expensive in terms of the fuel required to pull loads of freight from Skagway up some 3,300 feet to the summit. Large rigs hauling such freight, and so on, go very slowly up that 14-mile stretch, which causes congestion. It causes another problem of safety with respect to tourists who become impatient and want to pull out and pass. It would seem to me that, in the lingo of the department officials of the good Minister of Community and Transportation Services, that that stretch from the summit down to Skagway is a "choke point", with respect to the feasibility of the entire corridor, particularly in the future. We must be forward looking, as my friends opposite are so fond of saying, and we must look forward to a time when we do have more mines, when we enjoy more prosperity, when Yukon is exporting more goods and materials.

If the main corridor is to be that road, and it would seem very likely because of the decisions that have been taken over the past year, it would seem that we should be looking at the choke point, which is that last small distance from the summit down to Skagway.

We have heard that the trucking company may require a spot off the highway where trucks can stop and change their trailer configurations to travel over that small portion of the road, that last 14.2 miles, down and through Skagway. Safety rules and regulations on the Alaskan side may require different configurations than are amenable to this jurisdiction.

As I have already said, the concern is that these problems, on this stretch of road, will intensify as other mines come into production and as the Yukon grows economically.

I very recently received a letter from Mr. Arnie Philipsen, the father of Andy Philipsen. He was thanking us for sending him *Hansard*, as he had been receiving it over the years, and writing to him asking his opinion on various issues in the Yukon. He follows the activities in the Legislature very closely. He is very keenly interested.

²⁴ In his letter to me, he mentioned that in discussions with Andy last summer, prior to the tragic accident, Andy had been discussing an idea that he had developed that perhaps a gravity-powered tramline would be a solution to this bottleneck problem. When I received this letter, I discussed it with some engineers in Yukon, because it seemed to me it was an alternative that I had not heard discussed before, and I thought it would be a fitting tribute to Andy to bring this idea forward for frank discussion. It does have a certain quality to it that I think is rather exciting.

Yukon is no stranger to tramlines. At the turn of the century, in fact, the longest tramline in the free world was the tramline that went from the Carcross-Skagway Road on Windy Arm at a place called Conrad, up over a mountain ridge and on some four miles to Montana Mine on Montana Mountain. That tramline worked very well and was one of many on those mountains. In fact some of the tramline is still standing, so when tourists drive from Carcross to Skagway they can stop and look up the mountain and see the towers, the cables and many of the cars or buckets, in the area. For those Yukoners and tourists who have had the opportunity to climb and ski on Montana Mountain, the view from the tramline down to Windy Arm, several thousand feet, is really spectacular.

As the Minister of Community Affairs will know, there have been several tramlines associated with what is now called United Keno Mine. One is still being used to my knowledge. My uncle designed the tramline that is still being used, many years ago.

One of the fascinating things is that when you have a gravity line, you actually generate energy in trying to brake the weights coming downhill. That energy, in certain circumstances, can be something to be looked into for generating electricity, given the huge drop of the summit. If the feed is fairly constant, depending on the size of the tram cars or buckets, it may be that such a device would have this spin-off benefit, namely generating some power to meet some of the needs of Skagway, or a highway camp or lodge in the area.

And, of course, because you would be taking heavy materials down from the summit — the ore concentrates would be the main commodity transported initially — you would be able, in the return buckets, to send all kinds of freight that otherwise would have to be driven at slow speeds on large trucks or buses up the steep grades from Skagway to the summit.

²⁵ I am really asking this government and the House to consider taking some preliminary steps and to catalogue this as an alternative for the future for this important transportation corridor.

We are asking for a preliminary feasibility report. It need not be expensive, just as my good friend, the Member for Kluane, asked for a fairly simple preliminary look at Tarr Inlet as an alternative port for the Yukon.

We feel that this could be an extremely important alternative in the future of the Yukon. It is a forward-looking request. If we ever did have a tramline, we would then at least get away from the costs of maintaining the road on the Alaska side.

Such a tramline surely would enhance safety and enhance tourism. That definitely is the choke point on that road. Once you have the freight up to the summit, or down from the summit to the ore shed, the rest of the road can take a lot more traffic than is envisaged in the near future, even with the addition of the Curragh Resources haul.

Therefore, I would urge all Members to look with favour on this suggestion and support the motion.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I intend to be brief. The government recognizes the spirit of the motion presented, the desire by the Yukon, by the opposition and the House to seek alternatives to choke point access to the territory. In that vein, I can say that we would be interested in acceding to the Member's request.

The history of tramlines in the territory is fairly extensive. I come from a community, Elsa, that had a tramline operating until 1972 from Calumet to Elsa. It carried ore concentrate, and it was not until the better transportation route between Calumet and Elsa was devised, trucking technology had improved and the ore reserves dwindled in Calumet, that the tramline met its demise.

Certainly, the technology, at least in rudimentary form, has been tested in the territory in the past. It is a little bit of our heritage, and it would probably be worth investigating in the future.

²⁶ There are a number of things to consider. I do not want to sound negative, but there are some problems that are probably not insurmountable that we should be mindful of in our endeavour to seek alternatives to a road route between Whitehorse and Skagway. Some of those considerations include the fact that there will still be some necessity to truck concentrates from whatever mines to the top of the hill; there will be a necessity of building 14 miles worth of tramline, which is probably not a small expense. It is probably a considerable expense in the end. We will determine that with a feasibility study.

There will be the cost of maintaining a tramline on an ongoing basis. From the experience of the Calumet-Elsa tramline, there was considerable maintenance work done regularly on the tramline, given the weather conditions, et cetera, which caused some failures.

It would be necessary to find an easement for the tramline. That is not easy, but not insurmountable. We would have to consider the fact that there may be some persons in tourist-conscious Skagway who may not be altogether happy with the tramline. Then again, there will be a trucking operation otherwise in the town, so that may not be insurmountable, either.

There would have to be a recognition that the tramline would be used to haul freight and nothing else, that the tramline would have to be designed to not only carry concentrates down the hill, but to carry all forms of backhaul freight up the hill. That is probably not insurmountable, from a technical point of view, but would have to be considered.

There would have to be a consideration of the costs associated with offloading at the top of the hill and offloading again at the bottom of the hill. There would be some extra handling. There would have to be some recognition of maintenance costs on a 14-mile-long tramline, which would have to be incorporated into the operation costs of such a piece of work.

There would have to be some determination, from the outset, as to who would build the tramline, given consideration that the tramline would be built almost exclusively in Alaska, and who would bear the capital costs.

There would have to be some recognition that, even though the choke point associated with the actual road would be somewhat

lessened, there would still be a single exit — that is, the docking facility at Skagway — to be given consideration. In the past there have been industrial relations issues that have prevented a free flow of traffic on that route, and they would still remain.

²⁷ There would have to be some understanding that even under the best of systems, the reliability of the system would have to be given consideration. I recall, in Elsa, times when one bucket would hang up on the tramline and the tramline would stop. There was no passing possible.

There are obviously technical considerations involved. There are significant financial considerations, but we are certainly prepared to give consideration to undertaking a feasibility study of this sort. I would ask Members to bear in mind that a very rough cost estimate would probably be in the area of \$20,000. I have been told by engineers working for this government that if we were to provide an estimate accurate to plus or minus ten percent of the final cost associated with the tramline, we would be looking at figures much higher than that.

Certainly, a preliminary look, as the Member for Hootalinqua has mentioned, is something we should do. We recognize the problems that are associated with our limited access to tidewater. We recognized that with respect to our desire to investigate the feasibility of a port and highway to Tarr Inlet. I think this warrants some consideration as well.

Since the time tramline technology was used in Elsa to the present, presumably it has advanced, and hopefully some of the technical problems would have been overcome in the interim.

We will support the motion. We recognize there are some technical problems to overcome but presumably we should all consider leaving the matter up to the consultants or the people whom we have to do the work. I have been told there is nobody in our government who is familiar with tramline technology who would be competent to do the work, but we would leave many of those considerations up to the people we would hire as experts in the field to determine what the pitfalls and benefits might be from a proposal such as this. Having said that and in deference to an idea put forward by an honoured colleague of the past, we would be prepared to support the motion.

Mr. McLachlan: I am having some problem trying to determine, in a specialized case, the situation related to Faro and Curragh Resources, how the use of a tramline will improve the operations at the mine. I have some experience in alternate studies for transportation, because a similar problem surfaced at Faro years ago in trying to determine how the ore from the secondary mineral deposit would get to the main mill, and one of the particular choices at that point was a slurry solution for moving by truck. I think perhaps that that type of solution may be better than a tramline.

But, as the Member for Mayo knows, the use of a tramline is for specialized loads under specialized conditions. I advise the House to the consideration of the fact these loads are going downhill and that gravity-powered generation of power usually only exists when the buckets are returning empty. Once the buckets are loaded and you are attempting to bring them back up the hill, it often requires the use of auxiliary power to do that. A line loss of over 14 or 16 miles with a gravity-powered tramline is too great to bring buckets back uphill without auxiliary sources of power.

²⁸ The motion clearly states as an alternative to the freight from Skagway to the summit. I have some concerns that the loading of products, such products as are required at the mine at Faro — lime, sodash ash, rods and balls for the rod mills and ball mills and liquid petroleum products that are required — simply will not work. There is a case for having to bring liquid petroleum products back up the road, the same as the situation we now see when the pipeline is broken.

Part of the whole game plan in revitalizing the mine at Faro was to cut the costs of transportation in moving the concentrates from the mine to tidewater. Will this do it? At the moment, I cannot see how. The Minister of Transportation and Community Services has asked who will build it. Does this government have that kind of money?

A conservative estimate would place the costs at a minimum of

\$500,000 a mile. I hardly believe that private enterprise is in any position to spend that kind of money, especially not Curragh Resources, after already laying out \$5 million to \$7 million of capital for a truck and a transportation fleet to move the loads to within only 14 miles to their final destination.

The Minister of Community and Transportation Services referred to the tramline in Elsa, which ceased in 1972. At that time, similar concerns were voiced over how the trucks could possibly get back down the road from Calumet to Elsa. Similar concerns were voiced that they would be all over the road. Tramlines are not without their problems. It gets to be lots of fun when a runaway occurs or when the towers fall over. That has happened at the Cassiar asbestos operation in northern BC.

The volume and capability capacities of a tramline to handle large volumes are limited. I believe that, although we recognize the intent of the motion, I cannot see the use of a tramline being a benefit for a large hauling operation such as the one that Curragh Resources will be moving from Faro to Skagway.

Because of our concerns as to how it relates specifically to the situation concerning Faro, we have some definite reservations about supporting the motion as it is now.

Speaker: The hon. Member will close debate as he speaks now. Does any other Member wish to be heard?

Mr. Phelps: I would like to thank the Member for Mayo-Elsa for his remarks. I agree with the points that he made in his speech.

²⁹ There are many technical considerations that have to be looked into and financial considerations that would have to be taken into account. The most serious of all would be the political considerations, given that, as has been mentioned, most, if not all, of the line would be in Alaska.

However, he has given this some thoughtful consideration and mentioned a cost of up to \$20,000 would give us a preliminary idea but would not be within plus or minus 10 percent, in terms of a feasibility and cost study. That would be fine, because we are really just looking at a rough comparison of this as an alternative.

I have some problems with the comments of the Member for Faro. It was not the intention to use this motion, or the idea itself, as something that would be any kind of hindrance to the trucking operation commencing on June 2. It was a forward-looking motion, and remains that; one that looks at the potential problems of the corridor that is being established, and looks at the very real choke point, the bottleneck, for the last 14 miles of road, undoubtedly somewhat less along a tramline.

On another of the issues mentioned by the Member for Faro — the line loss — we all know that there is a line loss in tramlines. What we are really talking about, in terms of bringing some freight back, is a much lighter load than would be going down. That is the essence of the physics involved in a tramline where you have these heavy quantities uphill from a destination.

As to who would pay, and so on, we are not making any suggestions at this time. It is not our intention, at all, to impose any kind of financial burden on any existing mine or future mine in the Yukon. If more mines come onstream and there is a bottleneck, this is one alternative that we have to be able to discuss logically with the businessmen. It may be, for new mines and existing mines involved, that with appropriate pricing and cost-sharing mechanisms this would be an economic boom to such companies.

In the case of a severe bottleneck and choke point, it could make it possible for more mines to open and more freight to be carried over the corridor.

With those few words, I urge all Members to support this motion.

Motion No. 39 agreed to

Motion No. 30

Clerk: Item No. 4, standing in the name of Mrs. Firth.

Speaker: Is the hon. Member prepared to proceed with Item number 4?

Mrs. Firth: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Member for Riverdale South: THAT it is the opinion of this House that the Minister of

Education should discuss the Space Facility Study with the Education Council, all the school committees, the Yukon Teachers Association and the Principals and Vice-Principals Association before any of the recommendations are implemented.

30

Mrs. Firth: This is a non-controversial motion simply asking the Minister to follow through with his study and his commitment to consult and to seek some input before he makes any final decisions regarding the reallocation of space or the realigning of any of the classrooms or schools.

I have already talked to several of the school committees and found they are having meetings among themselves. I have recommended that they have meetings with the parents in the area and the interested people, the taxpayers, regarding the Space Facility Study.

I have some concerns about the timeframe if the Minister wants to implement some of the recommended changes before the next school year starts. I think he is going to be very busy over the summer and will require a fair amount of input at a time when people are not necessarily available to give adequate input and representation on what some of the concerns may be.

I would like the Minister to take into consideration the timeframe and what his goals are as far as implementing the recommendations. I am quite sure that the Minister has every intention of following through with the consultation process that he and his government talk about so regularly. I do not think I have left anyone out. These various groups give a good representation of all those involved in the educational system. I do feel it is incumbent on the school committees to consult with the people in their areas so the Minister does not have to have open public meetings about the space facility study, however he may wish to pursue that. I am simply asking that a process of consultation be established before any of the recommendations are implemented and look forward to the Minister's comments regarding the issue.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The government has no trouble supporting the motion. Copies of the study were already sent to the Education Council, the School Committees, the Teachers Association, the Whitehorse School Principals, the Bishop, Mayor Don Branigan, Whitehorse Transit, Diversified Transport and to the Member who just spoke and the Member for Tatchun.

We will continue the consultative approach and will try to ensure consultation takes place with due regard for time and vacations and that sort of thing. We hope we will be able to make sound decisions on programming and on the facilities themselves with the full knowledge of, and hopefully a consensus of, the people from the Whitehorse district.

31 *Motion No. 30 agreed to*

Motion No. 24 — adjourned debate

Clerk: Item No. 1, standing in the name of Mr. Coles, adjourned debate, the hon. Mr. Kimmerly.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: I have considered, at some length, the representations made in this motion by the Leader of the Liberal Party. I have asked for specific research to be done concerning the legal implications and the legal position of section 1(68) especially of our *Public Service Commission Act* with reference to the *Canadian Charter*.

I have spoken to the Leader of the Liberal Party, and I have given him the benefit of the research I have had done. I would volunteer that research to the Public Service Union as well, were they interested. It is abundantly clear that the common law would serve in this area to impose some duties on employees, and those duties are consistent with the provisions in section 1(68) of our present act. The best legal opinions available to us indicate that there is no problem with either the common law or the provisions of section 1(68) with the *Canadian Charter*.

The Charter may well have, and probably will have, implications to the federal legislation, which governs federal civil servants; however, our legislation is substantially more progressive than the

federal legislation. It is interesting that, in considering this whole area, that it is my perception that it is not commonly understood among civil servants that there are substantial differences between the federal rules and the territorial rules. It is clearly well understood among some individuals, but it is not commonly well understood.

32 We perceive that there is a duty of the government to make its rules well known to civil servants, and I have been guided by the message of the Leader of the Liberal Party because he has raised what is not really a legal issue, but what is a practical issue; that is, that when civil servants are instructed as to their rights, it is frequently in the nature of telling them what they cannot do. It appears to be raising fears, or apprehensions, among civil servants. It is more appropriate for governments in this modern age to be instructing civil servants in the nature of what they can do. That has been missed in the past and that point, as it was generally stated, is well taken.

For the record, and for people reading these debates, I would mention a consideration of the *Public Service Commission Act* of the oaths of allegiance and the oaths of office and secrecy. Concerning labour arbitration cases, which are relevant, the Ministry of Attorney General Corrections Branch and the BC Government Employees Union, in 1981, mentioned the judgement of the Supreme Court of Canada, December 10, 1985, and the case is: Niel Fraser and the Public Service Staff Relations Board. I would mention re McKay and the Crown in right of Ontario, January, 1981, concerning the general employment law again.

The policy of the government here should obviously be that we should monitor the developments in constitutional law that are rapidly proceeding in this country. There are two extremely important cases concerning the rights of federal civil servants presently in the courts, and the final decision of the appellate courts are not determined to consider any constitutional arguments that come forward.

33 It is clear that the duty of the government is to inform civil servants, not only about what they cannot do, but about what they can do. It is absolutely crucial that politicians, and especially Ministers, pay particular attention to the question of intimidation as was raised by the mover of the motion. There have been problems in the past and we will do our best to constantly improve the situation as the law progresses.

In view of the information that I have obtained and spoken about, I will now move an amendment to the motion.

Amendment proposed

I move that Motion No. 24 be amended by deleting all words following "Government" and substituting them for the following: "to monitor closely legal actions concerning political rights of civil servants and to ensure that all government employees are fully informed of the extent of their political rights".

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Motion No. 24 be amended by deleting all words following "Government" by substituting them for the following: "to monitor closely legal actions concerning political rights of civil servants and to ensure that all government employees are fully informed of the extent of their political rights".

Mr. Coles: As the major problem, as we see it, is as the Minister of Justice stated, "more practical than legal", the amendment to the motion is quite acceptable to me and to the Member for Faro.

The one major problem that we do see within the scope of services is the problem with casuals with regard to political freedoms. They have no protection by a union of any type. It is a well known fact for more than a year that many casual employees have been afraid to get involved in political activity of any kind for fear of not getting a job the following spring.

I have had occasion to experience that myself after the 1982 election. After putting five seasons in with the territorial government with the Department of Transportation, I was not able to get a job after that election.

34 I would hope that the work the Government Leader is doing in regard to casuals, under the guise of the Yukon Government Employees Union, in providing them with some protection, will help alleviate that problem. We will be supporting the amendment.

Amendment agreed to

Speaker: Is there any further debate on the main motion?

Motion No. 24 agreed to as amended

Motion No. 31

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

Speaker: Is the hon. Member prepared to deal with Item No. 5?

Mr. Brewster: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Member for Kluane: THAT it is the opinion of this House that the Minister of Tourism should establish a tourism kiosk at Haines Junction and consider establishing additional kiosks at campgrounds that are close to Yukon communities.

Mr. Brewster: I am rather disappointed that the Minister of Tourism is not here. I had a pretty good track record with him; I do not seem to have it with the rest of them.

It is a very simple motion. It should have little trouble receiving the support of this Legislature. It has, however, a very important impact on the people who are in the various areas where campgrounds are located. The main theme of this motion is that the government has spent thousands of dollars putting in very well constructed and neat campgrounds. This work is done with taxpayers' money. It, therefore, should flow that where the taxpayers and businesses can benefit from these campgrounds without hindering the people who use them, and not cluttering up the area should be able to benefit.

Simply put, at the entrance to each campground close to a community, a kiosk should be placed so that businesses are able to put their brochures there and advertise their services.

We think people putting their brochures in these places would hold people in the Yukon longer, and tourists would be attracted to the many services available, such as hiking, boating, fishing, laundromats, gas, rooms, cars, stores, et cetera. This may cause tourists to find additional attractions that may hold them an extra day. Even if it does not, it will attract more business to the surrounding areas.

I urge this Legislature to support this motion. It is not only another convenience to tourists and visitors, but it helps the business people in the immediate areas, and not at a great cost compared to a great many other programs.

In closing, I would like to point out that I very seldom bring motions before this House, and when I bring them, I bring them for a specific reason. I have to admit, in cases like this, for a small amount of people, but these people are tourist people who are very important to the economy of the Yukon. Tourism is very important to the Yukon. If it was not for these type of people up and down the highway, servicing the lodges, taking people out hiking and fishing, the Yukon economy would be in a very sorry position right now.

35 **Hon. Mr. Porter:** A very rare occurrence happened in the Legislature today, the Member for Kluane lost a motion by a slight margin of one vote. I think he lost it more on a technicality than anything else. With respect to the maintenance of his good batting order, I think he will be happy to hear we will be supporting his motion and he will be back up to 500.

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly take a look at some of the policy that relates to this particular question for the information of the Members of the House.

I would like to point out that policy regarding construction and installation of highway information kiosks was approved and design specifications approved in early 1985, and cooperative funding is available under the point-of-interest signs program. An amendment to the original design guideline stated that communities did not have to follow a specific design, but that they were free to create a unique design for their own community. The policy has been distributed to the communities, including Haines Junction, who indicated their interest in erecting such a kiosk in time for the 1986 tourist season.

Specifically, on that question, on April 3, 1986, the Department of Tourism received a letter from the town manager of the village of Haines Junction stating the community tourism plan was essentially completed and requested information on the community information kiosk program. On April 10, representatives of the department contacted the town manager and advised him to refer to the guidelines for the program that had been delivered to his office previously. The position is that once the village determines what it intends to do under the program, the department will make the necessary contribution.

On the specific question of kiosks at campgrounds, the Department of Renewable Resources presently maintains information kiosks at each of the campgrounds. Under the present *Parks Act* the kiosks are available solely to display information relevant to the specific campground and the territorial network.

With those brief remarks I am happy to report that the government will be supporting the motion brought forward by the Member for Kluane.

Mr. McLachlan: I have a few comments for the Minister of Tourism and the Member for Kluane. We think this motion is a very good one. We have experienced a very similar problem in Faro when we wished to build a tourist kiosk in 1981 or 1982. I commend the Minister for the points he has brought forward and would like to suggest to the Member for Kluane that he make use of the funds provided by the Minister and go for it on their own design. We did a similar project in Faro and, surprisingly enough at that time, had very little problems getting funds from the Member for Porter Creek when he had that portfolio, one of the very few times in history when he has come forward and supported Faro. In closing, I would like to say to the Member for Kluane, go for it, you have our support.

Speaker: The hon. Member will close debate.

Mr. Brewster: I am very glad everyone supports this motion. I would, however, point out that the Minister brings up Haines Junction. I have mentioned everybody in all the campgrounds. There are very few places that are actually villages. For example, Destruction Bay is not qualified as a village but have a big campground there. Why should they not be able to put their ads in there. At Lake Creek Campground there are five lodges around there, but they are now allowed to put anything there to show they are within three, four or five miles and I do not want this just to be a motion for the big communities. Here we go again forgetting the little lodges scattered all over the place. In some cases these campgrounds are four, five or even ten miles away. If there was a brochure there saying these lodges are that close and have these things, these people may stay there that day, take their clothes up to the laundromat, they might see someone there who has hiking trips and might stay in that campground. The government gains another day in that campground, plus the lodge gains, and I do not want this to become another thing where the communities get into it.

36 I do not think that it is very fair to expect that these little individual lodges to have to start matching the Department of Renewable Resources to look after us. I think that all these campgrounds should have, within a certain area — I do not mean for people in Whitehorse to put one up in Dawson — should be able to put their brochures out so people know what they have there. It is an attraction for the tourists, on top of everything. It makes our campgrounds, which are probably the nicest, as far as I am concerned, in western Canada. I do not know that much about the east, because I have not been there to know. This would improve these; it certainly will not hurt them. It is just a simple thing to be able to put their brochures and advertisements up.

Motion No. 31 agreed to

Motion No. 38

Clerk: Item No. 8, standing in the name of Mr. Phelps.

Speaker: Is the hon. Member prepared to proceed with item eight?

Mr. Phelps: Yes, I am.

Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition: THAT it is the opinion of this House that the Yukon territorial government should develop a local hire policy that will include provision that all contractors working on government projects hire only through offices established in Yukon.

Mr. Phelps: This motion arises because of a long-standing problem that has become, once again, very topical in recent days; the issue of local hire and the complaint that Yukon workers watch southern contractors bring their own workforce with them from outside the territory when they have been involved in constructing major government projects. It is an issue that will not go away. It is a problem that has several facets to it, as I am sure, and I know, Members opposite are aware.

With those problems in mind, we put forward this motion hoping that it will, at least, point to a partial solution to the outstanding grievance of so many Yukon workers.

We have had some experience in Yukon with regard to the issue of where workers ought to be hired — the location of the hiring point. It was an issue that was very thoroughly canvassed during the hearings of the Alaska Highway Pipeline panel of which I was part. Of course, we heard about these very major issues throughout Yukon. At that time, one of the major concerns had to do with the in-migration of all kinds of people looking for work and the effect of that in-migration on the socio-economic climate of the Yukon. There was an awful lot of evidence about what happened in terms of the Alaskan experience, and so on. At that time, it was very quickly recognized by the proponent of the pipeline, the contractors who were going to build the pipeline, and by virtually every expert from virtually every walk of life, that one of the major controls that could be used in that circumstance, albeit slightly different from circumstances here, was the insistence upon the point at which people would be hired for that huge project.

³⁷ In that case, it was going to be a rule that all Yukoners be hired only here, and anybody with a residence outside of the Yukon be hired only at certain points in Edmonton and Vancouver. Other mechanisms were going to be brought into play to reduce the actual problems that would be associated with huge in-migration of people looking for work.

In this situation, it is felt that part of the problem facing Yukon workers would be solved if the government would examine and develop a policy that would include the provision that for government contracts for the construction of buildings and large projects the contractors be faced with a condition that they only hire people at established offices in the Yukon.

That would give, in our opinion, a definite edge to Yukon resident tradesmen and workers over people from other parts of Canada. It would be a method that would more than likely be looked on with some favour should there be a constitutional challenge under the *Charter of Rights*.

The word used is to hire through "offices", not "hiring halls". The reason for that is pretty self-evident to Members across the way. I noted with some interest the comments of the Member for Whitehorse South Centre on that issue, the obvious issue as to whether or not the government should be imposing conditions that would force unionization or take any position on that issue.

We felt that by using that word it would go a long way to resolving the problem without the government getting involved in this, or the motion even contemplating a position being taken on whether or not contractors should be union or not union. That is a very important issue.

It is felt that there is a partial step that could be taken immediately, that in large part the grievance of the people who were picketing the office building. The grievance that one hears from so many Yukon tradesmen and workers has validity. We feel that this motion would go at least part of the way in helping resolve the issue.

Therefore, I would ask for the support of all Members.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: I will be fairly brief because the position of the government is that we have absolutely no problem with this motion. In fact, we give our strong unqualified support to the

motion.

There are some minor technicalities, I would suggest, about the definition of resident. However, I will leave those, as the intent of the principle on the side opposite is exactly the same as the principle that is followed by the government in a practical sense. That includes the things in legal language in the tenders and contracts. It is probably a prudent step and if it does not generate lawsuits under the Charter, it is a good idea.

³⁸ As I am the Minister responsible for Public Works, I will give, briefly, the experience concerning local hire that this government has been able to achieve in our term of office over the eleven months or so.

The major construction project last summer, and over the winter, was the Philipsen Law Centre, of course. I have statistics about the actual employees on site and the percentage of them who are local, by week and by month. In fact, since May, 1985 to the end of April, 1986, 92 percent of the people employed were local people.

I will mention a few other projects. I mention a subsidiary issue: that is community hire as opposed to Yukon hire. By that, I mean, as an example, on the Elsa School, how many employees or workers were from that area. The principle of the local hiring point is an interesting one, whether it should be Elsa in that case, or at any point in the Yukon. The motion does not specifically mention that. I will not encumber the motion by an amendment as the intent of both sides is absolutely clear.

On the project of the Klondike Camp, with total local person-days of 250, we attained 50 percent community hire and exactly 50 percent of other Yukon hire, for 100 percent local hire.

On the Robert Service School in Dawson, with 3,400 person-days of employment, we attained 60 percent community hire and 35 percent other Yukon hire, for 95 percent local hire.

³⁹ At Pelly House at Pelly Crossing, 20 percent community hire and 80 percent Yukon hire, for a total of 100 percent local hire. On the Elsa School at Elsa, for 800 person-days, 38 percent community hire, 62 other Yukon hire, for 100 percent local hire. On the Yukon College Access Road, 180 person-days of employment, 89 percent Whitehorse hire, 11 percent community hire, for a total of 100 percent local hire. On the Yukon College Servicing, 60 person-days of employment, 100 percent local hire. On house retrofits in Haines Junction, for 250 person-days of employment, 100 percent community hire. For house retrofits in Dawson City, for 300 person-days, 100 percent community hire. For retrofits in Pelly Crossing, for 200 person-days of employment, 30 percent community hire, 70 percent other Yukon hire, for 100 percent local hire. On building 277 in Whitehorse, 325 days of employment, 100 percent local hire.

It is absolutely clear that all parties in the Legislature, and all Members, are interested in local hire. We are interested in the best ways to achieve that. This motion is directed at another method of achieving it, and we support the principle wholeheartedly. The government's record, I am able to say, is excellent, and we will keep up the good work.

Mr. Coles: I will be a little more brief. We will support the motion wholeheartedly.

Speaker: The hon. Member will close debate if he speaks now. Does any other Member wish to be heard?

Mr. Phelps: I could not possibly let this momentous occasion go by without a few words, as I am sure that everyone in the House and a lot of people in the Yukon will jot down that this is one time that myself and the Member for Whitehorse South Centre are actually agreed on something.

I hope that, as that Member learns and listens, this will happen more and more often. I am a little saddened by the fact that he could not let the opportunity go by without trying to make some political points. Of course, local hire is just great. The record of the government has always remained rather constant over the years, and we certainly believe that the side opposite is committed to the principle as well as ourselves.

⁴⁰ So I am very pleased to anticipate unanimous support.

Motion No. 38 agreed to

Motion No. 37 — adjourned debate

Clerk: Item No. 7, standing in the name of Mr. Coles, an amendment moved by Mr. Porter, adjourned debate by the hon. Mr. Kimmerly.

Speaker's Ruling

Speaker: Order please. When this item was under discussion on April 30, a point of order was raised on the wording of an amendment moved by the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have reviewed the point of order raised by the Leader of the Official Opposition and the contributions made by the Government Leader, Minister of Renewable Resources. I cannot find that there is a point of order. The amendment is procedurally correct and has properly been placed before the House. If any Members have a problem with the wording of the amendment the remedy would be to place as subamendment before the House.

The hon. Minister of Justice may now resume debate on the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: It is my position that the government should continue to be vigilant about fish.

Sub-amendment proposed

Mr. Phelps: On behalf of all fish in the Yukon, I would like to propose an amendment to the amendment that reads as follows: THAT the amendment to Motion No. 37 be amended by adding after the word "fulfilling" the word "certain".

Speaker: It has been moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition THAT the amendment to Motion No. 37 be amended by adding after the word "fulfilling", the word "certain".

Mr. Phelps: Very briefly, I raised this issue during the point of order that was not a point of order. I put this amendment to the amendment forward, because I feel that it gives our complaint more certainty. We are not really making the accusation that the United States is not fulfilling all joint applications, but certain ones, and that is the purpose.

Hon. Mr. Porter: I rise at this point to give the government's endorsement of the sub-amendment moved to the amendment to the motion that was moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition, and I will support all three.

Sub-amendment agreed to

Amendment agreed to

Motion No. 37 agreed to as amended

Motion No. 29

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

Speaker: Is the hon. Member prepared to proceed with Item No. 3?

Mr. Nordling: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West: THAT it is the opinion of this House that the Government of Yukon should take immediate steps to promote the establishment of an independent Native Courtworkers Society to provide courtworker services to both Whitehorse and the rural communities.

Mr. Nordling: I am pleased to present this motion for debate today. It is on a topic that is of interest to many Members of this House, including myself. In fact, the Native Courtworker Service was discussed in this House in July of 1985, in October of 1985 and in April, 1986 during Question Period.

I bring this motion today, because over nine months have passed since the Minister of Justice announced the suspension of funding to the Yukon Native Courtworker Society, which was in existence at that time and provided courtworker services under contract with the government. Nine months ago, the Minister of Justice said, and I am quoting from *Hansard*, July 17, 1985, "It was totally unacceptable to this government that all of the funding that the board had in the last two years was devoted to service in Whitehorse. It is our policy that the delivery of the program must occur in rural Yukon as well as in Whitehorse, and that will occur."

The Justice Minister also said, in referring to the timing of his

decision to suspend funding, "I decided, because I did not want to wait another three months, as the program, and especially the delivery of the program, should occur in the communities as early as this fall. I hope it will. I cannot promise that, but I hope so. It will certainly be in place as soon as the government can act, as the ultimate goal is one of the priorities of the Department of Justice."

⁴² In July, it was a priority. To this day the matter has not been settled, and courtworker services are not being provided to the rural communities.

On July 2, in a news release, the Minister of Justice said "Consultation has already begun with the Council for Yukon Indians".

In April, 1986, in answer to a question in Question Period, the Minister of Justice said he was waiting to meet with Indian chiefs, and that the matter was, in effect, in their hands.

It is time that something was done. I have suggested an independent society for three reasons. Firstly, the service should be delivered by a body that is not simply an arm of government. Secondly, because in the Yukon Courtworker Services Report, 50 percent of those who replied to the questionnaire were in favour of a society-type structure. Only four percent wanted Skookum Jim Friendship Centre to continue delivering the service.

Thirdly, Indian people throughout the Yukon can be represented on an independent board. Indian people could control the board and make decisions with respect to providing this valuable service to their people.

I would like to go over some of the events that led to this motion in order to put things into perspective. The Courtworkers Society, which operated until September 2, 1985, had provided courtworker services for approximately 10 years. On July 2, 1985, when the Minister announced that the funding would be suspended as of July 1, 1985, he said in a news release, "The society has not been active in working with Yukon Indian communities, and the Board of the society has failed to reflect the concerns of the communities that the service was designed to meet."

In order to inform this House as to the identity of the board members of which the Minister spoke, I would like to read a letter that was published in the *Whitehorse Star* on Friday, July 26, 1985. It appeared under the heading "What Is He Saying".

On July 10, Roger Kimmerly, the Minister of Justice responded to a *Star* editorial by saying, "The decision to suspend funding to the Yukon Native Courtworkers Society is one of accountability. Those who will be most impacted by my decision support it, the native community and those involved in the justice system. Records of board members are accessible to the public; however, these names have not appeared in any of the articles relating to this matter. Is Mr. Kimmerly saying that these board members are not accountable, and if they are not, who then can we deem as accountable?"

"The Board members of the Yukon Native Courtworkers Society, (a few have recently resigned because they are moving) are David Cosco, a senior criminal lawyer; Barry Stuart, Chief Judge, Territorial Court; Patrick Hodgson, supervising Crown Attorney; Vern Kolenosky, Sergeant in the RCMP; Robert Kilpatrick, lawyer; Jane McIntyre, counsellor, Yukon College; Louise Profeit LeBlanc, Mental Health Coordinator; Debra Holloway, Publication Manager, CYI; Josephine Holloway, a respected member of the native community; Ida Low, a respected member of the native community; Jackie Shorty, secretary, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Leslie Kerr-Wedge, a biologist; Beth Malloy, a theatre director; Jeffery Choy-Hee, executive director, Native Courtworkers; Frank Lacosse, native programmer, Crossroads Treatment Centre.

⁴³ "These people are active within the justice system and native community." The letter is signed by Frank Lacosse of Whitehorse.

Apparently, Mr. Kimmerly met with some of these people on June 27, 1985. On October 16, Mr. Kimmerly explained this meeting to the House, and I quote from *Hansard*, October 16, 1985, at page 159: "What happened is the government formed an intention to have a newly organized system, or program delivery, that was substantially different from the old program. It formed the intention to terminate the agreement. I, then, as a matter of

courtesy, asked for a meeting with the Board, and I informed them of that verbally, as a matter of courtesy, so that they did not receive it coldly in a letter, or read it in the paper. It was not a comfortable meeting, but I did it primarily because I believed then, and still believe, that there were members on that Board who were good citizens who have much to contribute to courtworkers and to justice generally, and I hope and, actually, I am confident, that some of those individuals will be involved in the delivery of these programs in the future. Indeed, I hope they are, however, under a different organization.

"The Society asked me if there was any hope, if I would change my mind or if the government's position would change. We had a subsequent meeting, which has been improperly characterized in the letter tabled in Question Period."

The Minister denied making any stipulations, and said in July, 1985, "I made no requirements on the Board or the Society", but later admitted to telling the Board, "that the executive director of the existing Society did not have the confidence of the government and the chiefs."

The impression that the Native Courtworkers Society got from the meeting was obviously different to what Mr. Kimmerly had intended. I have a copy of the letter I believed was tabled in the House. It was addressed to Mr. Kimmerly as the Minister of Justice, from Louise Prophet LeBlanc, the Vice Chairman of the Yukon Native Courtworkers Society, and stated, "In response to the stipulations which you made to the Board's representative yesterday afternoon, I have been asked by the Board of Directors for the Yukon Native Courtworkers to share with you the results of its deliberations."

"The Board was sympathetic toward the question of open membership of the Society, and has already begun making the necessary constitutional changes. As reflected in the minutes of this year's Annual General Meeting, and the Extraordinary General Meeting, the Board has increased its native participation and eight native people have been appointed to the Board."

"This year we shall add more emphasis to this issue, and we have received supportive response from the non-native Board members, who have expressed their wholehearted willingness to give their places on the Board to native people."

"The board is in complete accord with your point about the need for a courtworker service in rural communities. The board is determined to fill this need, even at the expense of cutting down its staff in Whitehorse even though this is likely to leave its Whitehorse operation rather handicapped."

"We feel sure that you are aware of the financial struggles of the courtworkers over the past few years and the efforts which the society has made to receive adequate funding to provide a full service to rural communities. You will be pleased to know that the board has decided on immediate contact with the chiefs in order to determine the most effective delivery of service to their communities."

"With regard to finding a replacement for the Board of Directors Executive Director, the Board of Directors expressed (by secret ballot) its full confidence in its present executive director, Mr. Jeffery Choy-Hee. Indeed it was felt that in order to carry out these directives we would need the assistance of the present executive director who is already very familiar with our program needs. We wish to thank you for giving us the opportunity to consult with you on this matter and look forward to an ever-increasing collaboration with yourself and trust that our joint endeavours will enrich the quality of the native courtworker program."

It was signed, "yours sincerely" by Louise Profeit LeBlanc, Vice Chairman.

At that time, even the Liberals were unsure of what was happening. In a press release July 4, 1985, "Roger Coles said today that the Justice Minister Roger Kimmerly's decision to cut off funding of Yukon Native Courtworkers was far too abrupt and leaves those for whom it was intended to serve the most with no service whatsoever while he considers some new direction. Neither the CYI, nor the communities effected were fully consulted prior to his announcement. At the very least he could have extended the common courtesy to all interested parties, especially the communi-

ties, the opportunity to debate and consider the merits of his intended action more fully."

Despite the confusion in other people's minds, it appeared that the Minister of Justice had everything under control. In response to a July 3, 1985, editorial in the *Whitehorse Star*, the Justice Minister wrote a letter stating, "Your suggestion that there should be further study and more time devoted to assessing the problems and the current society's ability to improve the situation is naive. The problems with the operations are clear and have continued, without remedy, for some time."

The government formed the opinion that the existing service — this was in June of 1985 — was inadequate and that a new program was needed. The concern was so great that the Minister, shortly after the government made its decision, consulted with the Board of Directors and attempted to cut-off funding without giving the required 60 days notice, and apparently it would not listen to the pleas of the existing board to attempt reform.

At that time it was very serious.

"In April, 1986, during Question Period, the Minister stated, "The service provided now is, in nature, the same as the service that was terminated last September."

The service was unacceptable then and resulted in drastic action. In July, 1985, the Minister appeared to have all the answers, and now he has left the solution in the hands of the chiefs. I believe the government should take the lead role in promoting the establishment of an independent society with an invitation to all chiefs to be represented on the Board.

There is a 222-page report that would be available to an independent society to aid them in providing the service. The report, I understand, was completed in January, 1986 — and it is now May, 1986 — and I would urge all Members to support this motion in order to encourage the Minister to establish some ground rules whereby a very valuable and necessary service can be provided to Indians throughout the Yukon.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: I will be as brief as it is possible to be. Let me correct what may have been a wrong implication made in the previous speech. At no time was there no service being delivered. The service that the old society delivered for some years continued to September 1, 1985, and the service that is delivered by the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre started then and continues to this day. The number of staff in Whitehorse is the same, considering the staff actually delivering the services.

The solution that is spoken about is an independent society with all Chiefs represented on the Board, or giving an invitation to all the Chiefs to sit on the Board. There is already such an organization in existence. It is called the Council for Yukon Indians, and all the Chiefs sit on the board. I am aware of the time pressures on Chiefs, and the expense of bringing rural people all together for a meeting, from time to time. It would appear that if the direction is to be from all the Chiefs, then the logical vehicle to deliver the program is probably the Council for Yukon Indians.

"It was suggested that I was leaving the solution in the hands of the chiefs. That is not, strictly speaking, accurate. I had stated to the chiefs that I will consult with them. It was they who asked for the Kane Report. On May 2, last Friday, I attended a meeting of the CYI Board of Directors with attendance by nearly all of the chiefs. We had discussed the services that the chiefs were most supportive of."

We discussed the recommendation in the Kane Report and the direction that we should go. It is not a question of putting it in the hands of the chiefs, but it is only obvious that this is a program designed for native people. Surely, the views of the chiefs are extremely important in considering what should be done.

The chiefs discussed a general proposal with me. They gave me a commitment that they would formalize a proposal to the government and submit it for the government's consideration. I am expecting that proposal shortly. I would like to give a date, but I cannot. They did not give me one; however, I am expecting that it will be in the month of May, probably next week. If it is not in the month of May, I will diligently follow it up.

The intention of the government is to deliver a service in the rural

Yukon as soon as we practically can. I wish I could do it now, but the consideration of the chiefs is not something that I can dictate especially as to the timing, and I do not want to.

The interests of rural Yukon for courtworker services were neglected in the past, and we will solve that problem in full consultation with all of the chiefs, especially the rural ones.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Consequently, I move that Motion No. 29 be amended by deleting all words after the expression "Government of Yukon" and substituting them for the following: "should promote courtworker services to both Whitehorse and the rural communities and should consider the views of the Council for Yukon Indians before funding a permanent new program."

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Motion No. 29 be amended by the deletion of all words after the expression "Government of Yukon" and substituting for them the following: "should promote courtworker services to both Whitehorse and the rural communities and should consider the views of Council for Yukon Indians before funding a permanent new program."

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Very briefly, the wording of the motion, as it now stands, supports a particular principle. That principle is under discussion with the chiefs, and it is the intention of the government to consider the proposal of the chiefs on this issue. For that reason, the amendment is put forward.

Mr. McLachlan: I wish to draw to the attention to the Member for Porter Creek West a technicality that exists in the way the main motion has been worded and that appears to be corrected in the amendment. If an independant native courtworker society is to provide improved courtworker services to Whitehorse and rural communities, we would have a problem in Faro in that in that element the native courtworker society does not enter into that community. If it is found, as a result of the justice review, which I sincerely hope happens, that courtworker services to all rural communities are improved, then we would be behind the motions. But, as it is worded in the body of the main motion, we could not support it because we would be left out of this picture.

Consequently, we will be supporting the amendment because of the provision of courtworker services to Whitehorse and to rural communities with the removal of the term "native". It does not apply in our community. To vote for the main motion would have been voting against our situation.

Mr. Nordling: At the outset, I would like to correct a couple of things that the Minister of Justice mentioned in his speech. I would like to say that I, at no time, suggested that at some point there was no service being provided.

I read a press release that was issued by the Liberals on July 4, 1985. This press release stated that at sometime there would be no service. It was not me who suggested that at all. I apologize to the Minister for not being a little more precise in suggesting that the chiefs should be represented in the society. My suggestion was meant to be that the chiefs would receive the invitation to be represented on this society, and if they desired input, then a representative of theirs could sit on the board of the society.

Speaker: With respect to the amendment, I cannot support it because in my motion I am suggesting that the vehicle for providing courtworker services be an independent society. I agree with the statement that is being made by the Minister of Justice, but it does not reflect the intent of my motion.

What I would like to see is the government taking the initiative and promote, immediately, an independent society. Once the society is set up, then I would expect that the government would consult with the Council for Yukon Indians and the Chiefs for representation on the new society that is formed.

My impression is that this has gone on for nine months and it may go on for another nine months. In the interests of the native people, and the fact that the government is funding this, they should take the initiative now.

Amendment agreed to

Motion No. 29 agreed to as amended

Clerk: Item number 6, standing in the name of Mr. Lang.
Speaker: Is the hon. Member prepared to proceed with item number 6?

Mr. Lang: Next sitting day, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: So ordered.

Speaker: Are there any Motions respecting Committee Reports?

MOTIONS RESPECTING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clerk: Item number 1, standing in the name of Mr. Coles.

Speaker: Is the hon. Member prepared to proceed with item number 1?

Hon. Mr. Porter: Today, I introduced a statement to the House of clarification on that motion. I informed the House that we would be dealing with that motion on Monday as Government Business.

Speaker: Are there any Government Bills?

Hon. Mr. Porter: I move that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Speaker: It has been moved by the honourable Government House Leader that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chairman: I will call Committee of the Whole to order. We will take a 10 minute break.

Recess

Bill No. 5 — Second Appropriation Act, 1986-87 — continued

Chairman: I now call Committee of the Whole to order.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: I had promised to get information at the close of the Committee yesterday, about Yukon Housing tendering practices. The Member for Porter Creek East was confused about exactly what was happening. There is good reason for his confusion. What occurred was extremely confusing.

What happened, is the government called for tenders, and clearly marked on the tenders is the word "proposal". It was marked as a proposal, or maintenance proposals; however, the content of them is that they are tenders. Specifically, they are invitational tenders, asking for unit prices, that is, a cost per hour and a percentage markup on materials.

The questions that were asked are specifically answered, as the government called for tenders, not proposals, although they were called proposals.

I will go on before the Member for Porter Creek East re-enters the debate. The reason for the change occurred on January 31, 1986. Previously, the Yukon Housing Corporation, the Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Workers' Compensation Board were excluded from the *Financial Administration Act*, because they were Crown corporations.

Speaker: Contract regulations did not apply to them. The contract directives that were introduced in January, and specifically Section 4(6) of the directives, includes these incorporations. So it is necessary to tender in accordance with the contract directives.

Mr. Lang: I will take what the Minister has given me in a light-hearted context. What you are effectively saying to the House is all the houses that were contracted out in the last 10 years, prior to you seeing the light concerning contract directives versus regulations, there were no legal authority for authorizing those tenders and the procedures thereto. I would challenge the Minister on that statement. Of course one would have to go to court to find that out. To make the statement that the regulations did not apply when it is very clear in the old regulations - all contracts. It is clear.

That is an inane statement. I do not accept it, and I want to go on the record saying I resent this idea that the directives, which I

believe are meant for political purposes, subverted as much as they might be and underhanded as much as they might be, are for the purpose of doing things so we do not have to tell the public. In Government Services contracting, we are getting more into the area of invitational, we are getting more into the area of service contracts and proposals, which leaves it more and more to the political judgment of an individual as opposed to perhaps the merits of the contract in question.

That concerns me, and it concerns the public that we are all elected to serve. I asked a specific question and did not get an answer. How come they were called proposals if they were supposed to be tenders. The answer you have given me, as I understand the context of it, is proposal tenders. We will make up our mind when it is all finished. That is one question.

The second question is: why were they not publicly advertised, at least within the communities, as opposed to this invitational? How did you determine your invitational list?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: They were tenders, not proposals. The answer to the question, "How come?" is: we made a mistake. It was a clerical error, albeit of some importance.

I do not have the information on the question of the lists of the invitational tenders specifically to each community. The normal practice is to invite every source of supply in the community, but, specifically, I do not know.

Mr. Lang: I appreciate the fact that the Minister has said that he has made a mistake. For the further levity of the floor, I see the Member to my far left behind me wearing sunglasses. In view of what was said this afternoon, it would not be out order, I do not think, if a gag was put there as well.

The people do change in these communities, to some degree. In order to search out the trades people, I understand you have a nucleus. I appreciate that the government is continuing past practices of the previous government. Would the Minister be prepared to check into the prospects of the tenders being advertised throughout the community, by radio as well? Radio is accessible to all these communities. This will ensure that everybody gets a crack at getting a bid in, and we get value for our dollar.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Yes.

Mr. Lang: I asked a number of questions the last time we met. The Minister will feel I was remiss if I did not remind him of the things he committed himself to do. The Member for Community and Transportation Services presented a number on houses to the House. I think there were 12 units added and 10 units sold this year. I asked the Minister if that took into account the buy-back scheme. Does he have an answer now?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No, it does not include buy-back units under the Government Employees Housing Plan Fund.

While I am on my feet, I could answer a few more questions that were put to me yesterday. The Member, Mr. Lang, asked if DPW was cutting back capital works this year, in light of federal budget cuts. Our information is that the capital program is still going through a review process, but that the rumors that I mentioned were fueled by some of the details in terms of the Nielsen Task Force Report, which talked about cuts.

The Member also asked for a copy of the Housing Needs Analysis Study, which was commissioned for the Yukon Housing Corporation. The information that I have now is that last Friday the consultant doing the work advised us that the report is being finalized and we should receive it this week. Once the report has been received and read and, technically, is subject to approval by the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors, only then would it be considered possible to make anything available publicly.

There was a suggestion that the \$50,000 for the squatter policy implementation was for a consultant. The \$50,000 that was mentioned the other day was not for a consultant, per se, but included the inquiry service, which Members know about, the analysis of the input that we receive from the public, and also the cost of the two land use officers, who we would hope to have in place to inspect sites throughout the territory for the legitimate issue process.

The Member asked for the costs of reconstruction on the

Dempster Highway. The total program for 1986-87 is \$4,344,000. Reconstruction covering kilometres 41 to 67, over two years, is \$3.1 million, of which \$2.3 million will be spent this year. That is financed by DIAND under the Engineering Services Agreement.

Mr. Lang: I appreciate the information the Minister has brought back. Does he have any idea what the federal program is going to be for capital works, in conjunction with the Dempster Highway, which we are seeing \$2.3 million spent on this year? What about the Alaska Highway? How much is programmed for that particular area? Does he have those figures? If he does not, I have no problem if he takes time to go and get them for me.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I am not certain. I believe it is in the neighbourhood of \$7.5 million. I think it would include this. I will have to check for the Member.

Chairman: Perhaps I was remiss in reminding Members that we are on the Yukon Housing Corporation, general debate.

Mr. Lang: Could the Minister also provide me with just exactly how much has been committed for outside travel in total for the department? I asked for that a couple of days ago, I believe.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have been adding it up as we go. That will be the last item when we get to Community Services.

Mr. Brewster: I am usually confused so I guess there is nothing strange about this. I went down the list of accommodations for Destruction Bay. The number is eight. I do not think there are 10 people who live there. It dawned on me that this is probably the houses that the Canadian Army brought in 1950 and were condemned about five years ago. Surely to God we are not saying that they are still on record. They have been condemned by the Health department.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not have personal knowledge of the state of the eight units in Destruction Bay. If they have been condemned by the Health authorities, I am sure it is a serious situation that the Corporation would like to look into. I will have to check on the facts of the situation for the Member. I will determine what the situation is.

Mr. Brewster: I might inform the Minister that the doors and walls have been kicked out. I tried four years ago to get these because I thought I could help the band at Burwash. The Yukon Housing Corporation held on to them and would not give them to us. Since then, they have been torn apart. I think they should come off that list. I do not think they are worth \$10.

Mr. Lang: Does this budget incorporate the salary of a General Manager? With the changes that took place, one individual was in charge of Land and Housing. Now the Minister seems to be moving back to the former organization. Does this include the money for that position?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will find the salary for the General Manager.

Mr. Lang: I was curious as to whether or not the budget included that salary because in 1985-86, we spent \$1,049,000 on Administration. Here we are spending \$1,016,000. Could the Minister explain the reason for the decrease in view of the fact that he has already added one more person-year than there was previously?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yesterday I talked about breaking out seven percent reduction of \$108,000. There was a projected increase in Revenues and Recoveries because there are more rental units available.

⁵⁷ That increase in revenue was \$368,000. There was also a projected increase in expenditures for the upgrading of units. There will be more increase in this particular activity, that is a cost of \$185,000, and the social housing policy, which I mentioned yesterday, was \$75,000. That netted out to \$108,000 and that was the reason for the reduction.

Mr. Lang: It is difficult to follow what has happened within the Housing Corporation from the information we have on costs. With the increase in the union-negotiated rates for employees, is the cost, other than the social policy, which is separate and apart, of running the Housing Corporation going to be the same as it was last year?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The employees are under the same system as the government employees and would be entitled to the same benefits.

Mr. Lang: I recognize that and prefaced my question with that. Is the Housing Corporation going to consist of the same number of personnel for the 1986-87 year as it did last year, or have we included an increase in staff in here?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The permanent person-years are listed on page 56 at 17.8. It is projected at 17.8 for next year as well.

Mr. Lang: Could he tell me what is an Extraordinary Rep. Rec. under Recoveries in the amount of \$208,000 on page 58. I am assuming, since this is the Housing Corporation, we can move back and forth between the information, as limited as it might be.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It appears that the \$208,000 is for recoveries from CMHC for capital and O&M upgrading that were not previously budgeted for.

Mr. Lang: It is a significant amount of money. What do you mean, "... we had not budgeted for"? Obviously, it is a new expenditure over the course of the year. I would have thought that the Minister would have probably announced to the House that we had done certain things. That is one of my problems; I am having to chew for information here. Could he explain exactly what the money was spent for?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In past years, the recoveries listed on page 58, from CMHC, were not broken out the way you see them before you today. It is for that reason, because they are shown specifically, that you can identify them more clearly. There were some recoveries in this area in the past.

Mr. Lang: What did he spend the \$208,000 on?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: This is a recovery. It is not an expenditure.

Mr. Lang: I recognize that it is a recovery, but we must have done certain things in order to recover that money. What did we do to collect \$208,000?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: This was for capital upgrading in communities, in Dawson, for retrofits, et cetera, and in other communities.

Mr. Lang: How much money of this is capital and how much is O&M?

How much did we actually spend on housing, doing something worthwhile, as opposed to the O&M costs?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: This is considered an O&M recoverable under our cost-sharing agreement with CMHC.

Mr. Lang: Could I have an undertaking by the Minister to supply, for the House and myself in particular, a list of where that \$208,000 was spent?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Okay, if the Member really wants the information, and is really going to find it useful, we can provide it, recognizing that it is going to require time to put the information together.

Mr. Lang: Somebody put the budget together. Somebody estimated a recovery. It is just a question of running off what you have. I want to know what we did to recover \$208,000.

In 1985-86, why did we not recover any money from the Department of Indian Affairs, and in 1986-87 we recovered \$90,000, and in 1984-85, \$78,000?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Firstly, there are a number of items in this budget that show other costs, general items. Quite often it does require a certain amount of time to pull it together to provide it for the Members opposite. I am perfectly happy to do that if the Members truly do want the information and they are going to put it to good purpose.

As I said before, in 1985-86, the estimates show a block sum of \$780,000. It was not broken out in the past. Now, it is broken out. If the Member wants to know, in order to compare, we might be able to dig out from the \$780,000 how much of it came from DIAND, but there are no new recoveries that suddenly appeared between last year and this.

Mr. Lang: About a year and a half ago, there was a program instituted for the purpose of selling the washers and the dryers that we had in the Corporation on hand. It caused a little bit of a controversy, but I think it was a good decision. Have we pretty well sold all our washers and dryers and got out of the laundry business? I see an item here, Laundry \$19,000.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is correct, except for coin laundries

in the apartments. Those still exist.

Mr. Lang: Does that mean, now that we are out of the laundry business, that we recover \$19,000 for the apartments? Are we out of the washer and dryer business in individual units?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The \$22,200 for 1985-86 was accurate. The \$19,999 was a projection under the old system. With the Housing Corporation getting out of the laundry business, the recoveries from the coin operated units would be closer to \$3,000. That would change the total Recoveries by \$16,000.

Mr. Lang: Are we looking at a net loss of \$1,491,725 plus \$16,000?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is fair.

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

Recess

Chairman: I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. We will continue with the Yukon Housing Corporation, general debate.

Mr. Lang: Maybe I should enter the debate. Perhaps the Minister has some comments to make about the area that I raised at 5:30, as far as the recoveries were concerned: the \$208,000. Has he had the ability to give us a general outline of what those recoveries are comprised of?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The recoveries, as I mentioned to the Member before 5:30, were for expenditures on retrofits around the territory. The people who work for the government require sustenance to stay alive and require dinner, and for that reason were allowed the latitude to have a meal between 5:30 and 7:30. The kind of detail the Member requested could not be put together before this time.

Mr. Lang: It actually was not a facetious question. I thought that, in the 15 minutes after 5:30, he might have been apprised of the situation and he might have had the information. It is not totally uncalled for. People have been known to give information past 5:30, prior to eating.

I guess we will see about getting that information. Could the Minister give us a breakdown of what the implications are, the way the government sees it, as far as the initiatives taken from the federal government, as far as the Housing Corporation is concerned? What I would like is a broad overview of the financial implications of how the government sees what is taking place in the area of housing, and the initiatives of the government to try to go toward private ownership as opposed to social ownership.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I cannot imagine a broader question, under the circumstances. The initiative in this coming year will largely be to rationalize the relationship between the Government of Yukon and the Corporation. I think it is no secret to anyone in this Legislature that the relationship, as it would appear, that should be the case under the parent act, is not being adhered to to the letter, by any means. For that reason, the initiative to be taken in the first year is to get the house in order, so to speak.

With respect to social housing and private ownership, et cetera, there will be efforts made this coming year, and the years to follow, to encourage private ownership wherever possible, but to provide an adequate level of social housing and staff housing around the territory to meet the needs of the territory.

⁰² There are a number of communities that have serious housing problems. We would like to address those if we can. That is what I can offer.

Mr. Lang: My question was more to the point of what was going to happen with the Government of Canada in conjunction with what you are doing. I understand the sorting out of the Housing Corporation. I think that the Minister is correct in part.

He has been to a number of provincial conferences. What policies are the federal government putting forward? What position is the Government of Yukon taking?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: At the last Housing Minister's Conference, the item on the agenda that was of greatest concern was the cost-sharing arrangement on the programs under the federal act. There was a desire by the federal government that was shared by the provinces and territories to target funding better.

It was also their desire to increase the cost-sharing relationship, to bring it closer to 50/50, rather than 75/25. Their desire is, in part, to withdraw somewhat and to encourage the provinces to take up the slack.

Subsequently, the Government of Yukon and the provinces have encouraged the federal government that that is not the proper course of action at the present time. As a result, housing agreements are being negotiated around the country that show not only the unit allocation by the federal government, but also now maintains the 75/25 cost-sharing programs, essentially maintaining the status quo. That is good news, I believe, for the territory.

Mr. Lang: Is that a firm commitment by the federal government to the territorial government for global funding; that we are going to get the same as last year?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In general terms, yes. I just finished signing a global funding agreement and I expect the federal Minister to sign very soon if he has not done so already.

Mr. Lang: Could he provide me with a copy of that global agreement?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: When the agreement is signed by the federal government I will be more than happy to provide a copy. It is a general document and does not specify any specific housing program. It is supposed to be the underpinning for the various programs that would be cost-shared.

Mr. Lang: We are running a net loss directed to the taxpayer, for being a landlord, for roughly \$1.5 million. Is it the broad policy aim of the government to reduce that amount of money to try to get the housing corporation more self-sufficient and raising more funds within their own means, as opposed to coming to the House for that difference?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I think the first order of business for this government is going to be to bring the Corporation to its feet, so to speak, and to determine what its relationship is going to be like with this government. That is the primary objective. It depends on the extent to which the government engages in social housing in the future, depending on needs, the objective for which will be partly determined by the housing needs analysis, which is almost complete. Whether or not, in absolute dollar terms, the Members can expect to see a reduction, even further, of the \$1.5 million, I cannot say. A lot will depend on a number of things.

Mr. Lang: Does any agreement that the government is presently contemplating have any implications on the housing arrangements in Faro, specifically, as far as CMHC is concerned?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Is the Member referring to the trailer units? Perhaps the Member would explain.

Mr. Lang: My understanding is that we bought the trailers outright for \$1.6 million, along with the bunkhouses. My question was: is CMHC going to become involved in the \$3.4 million second mortgage that was a matter of discussion in the House, or has a firm decision been taken regarding that particular element of the arrangement?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I am not aware at all of CMHC being involved in the second mortgage.

Mr. Lang: Is this agreement that we are referring to the one that was tentatively scheduled but did not get signed when Mr. McKnight was up here?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The global housing agreement was the agreement Mr. McKnight wanted to sign while he was in town speaking to the Conservative convention. The agreement had not yet gone to the Yukon Cabinet. My office told Mr. McKnight's office that it was to hit our Cabinet agenda the following week. I could not commit myself to signing the agreement until such time as Cabinet approved it.

Mr. Lang: Is this a one-year agreement, or is it longer?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I believe it is longer. I will check the actual time. The details have escaped me.

Mrs. Firth: Regarding the agreement that was to be signed when Mr. McKnight was here, was his office contacted, since he was coming anyway, and a request put forward that, should he have the time available, this government was prepared to sign the agreement?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: If the Member wants the details, Mr.

McKnight's office phoned my office and insisted on having a meeting with me. It was suggested that it would take approximately half-an-hour to discuss housing issues in the territory.

I indicated to my officials to put the meeting off, because I thought it would be more appropriate to meet with Mr. McKnight upon which time I would hope to have had the global housing agreement agreed to by my Cabinet colleagues. That was the message that was sent to Mr. McKnight's office. Mr. McKnight's office insisted that we should get together and discuss housing issues. On Thursday evening, I agreed that we could get together to discuss housing issues, even though the global housing agreement was not quite ready. The following morning Mr. McKnight's office phoned my office to say that he could not fit me into his schedule. That is where it stood.

Mr. Lang: I will be looking forward to that global agreement. Does the global agreement guarantee all the money under the present *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Act*?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It determines the cost-sharing relationship for all sorts of subagreements that we might engage in, whether it be any kind of low-rental housing, senior citizen housing, the construction, et cetera. If the Member wants to see the actual agreement itself, as soon as I get word that Mr. McKnight has signed it, it is coming.

Mr. Lang: I notice an increase in the contribution from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Does that mean that we are having more clients from the Department of Indian Affairs, or is that just an increase in inflationary costs?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In the past, it was not broken out. I will find it, if I can, on the recoveries side. I do not have it broken out for the 1985-86, so I cannot tell the Member whether or not there has been an increase in DIAND's share of costs for status Indians.

Now that it is broken out, it shows \$90,000. I can check for the Member to see what variance may have occurred between 1985-86 and what is projected for 1986-87.

Mr. Lang: I notice that we are going to build another residence in the community of Pelly Crossing. What is going to happen with the present housing that is there?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member is talking about staff housing units, I presume. There will be a total of three units by September. I am not sure what will happen to the trailer units. They may be earmarked for something else in the community, or for removal or for surplus. I will check on that detail for the Member.

Mr. Lang: Are there any plans for the camp and homes in Swift River? Is the government taking any steps towards either upgrading or changing the method of maintenance?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The figures seem to hold firm for Swift River. I presume that no changing activity is anticipated. If there is something in the long-term capital plan, I will check into it to see whether or not something is earmarked for that community later.

Mr. Lang: Did we not buy the bunkhouses in the purchase of the \$1.6 million in the federal arrangements at Faro? Is the responsibility for Chateau Jomini going to be the Housing Corporation's?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The responsibility has been transferred to Government Services, which will be leasing the bunkhouse to Curragh.

Mr. Lang: Is not the present plan to close down both the bunkhouses and the cafeteria by August?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I am not aware of a plan to close down any bunkhouses.

Mr. Lang: I will put the Minister of Government Services on notice, and we can pursue it in the budget then.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: There is no specific date such as August that I am aware of. The building is owned by the government. I am not aware of the exact status of the lease; it is to Altus Construction, I believe. It will eventually be closed down, but the date is not specifically August, I do not think. It may be, but that is not established as a firm date, as I understand it.

Mr. Lang: When the purchase of that bunkhouse was made, was it known that within six months to a year that the bunkhouse would no longer be leased by Curragh?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Yes.

Mr. Lang: Perhaps I could pursue this a little further, since we now have a bunkhouse that we acknowledge is going to be empty. What does the government intend to do with that particular dwelling? How much did we pay for that particular facility?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: There was no breakdown of the specific buildings. It was a global figure for the total buildings. That is my information.

Mr. Lang: I have information that the trailers were appraised at a certain value, and a certain price tag attached thereto. Did the government not appraise the bunkhouse to see the value, or try to put some value on the bunkhouse? Is it only one bunkhouse that we are talking about?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: There were appraisals done. I will come back with that information, as I am not specifically aware.

Mr. Lang: Since the government knew that the bunkhouse was going to be empty within six months or a year after the purchase, what was the government's intention in purchasing the bunkhouse? What are they going to do with it after it is empty?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: The situation with the bunkhouse is substantially similar to the situation with all of the trailers. The government's plans are not specifically formulated about the use or disposal of those items in their totality.

Mr. Lang: There has been no commitment to put a vocational school, or anything like that, in the community to utilize those facilities, has there?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: As Minister of Education, there has been no specific plan to put a vocational school in Faro, yet.

Mr. Lang: If you just allow me some more latitude, I will revert to the topic. Does the government have a commitment or a general plan to move in that direction?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There has been no specific commitment. There has been no commitment to move in that direction. There have been discussions that, in the future, the idea could be investigated, but no commitments have been made.

Mr. McLachlan: A number of the Yukon Housing units are, as the Minister well knows, not in the best shape in various locations in Yukon communities, for reasons that are not always attributable to the government, of course.

Has there ever been any thought on the part of the government to use the SEAL program to improve and update a number of these housing units? It would have a benefit to at least three Cabinet Ministers here: the Minister responsible for housing, because he would get a better delivered package; the Minister responsible for Economic Development, because he would have a good uptake on his program; and, the Minister for Government Services, who would be able to justify a number of locally-created jobs.

I ask the question because a number of the YHC units were purchased prior to 1973-74, before fuel oil prices took off. I do not know about the acceptability of government trying to use its own programs.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The SEAL program is primarily intended for private individuals and businesses. It is true, however, that the government is beginning to develop some plans for retrofitting public buildings, and that will require a long-range plan. Two departments are currently involved: Government Services and the energy branch of Economic Development. The plans are in no way complete. As Members will know, we are not only trying to achieve new energy efficiencies in new projects, but we are also interested in looking at the public buildings the government already owns.

I cannot preview the results of the plan, but I think it is almost certain that we would be looking at major energy losses first, in other words we would perhaps look at bigger buildings before we look at smaller ones. Our eventual objective is to come up with a long-range plan to retrofit, where appropriate, the property of the government, but that would not be SEAL.

Mr. McLachlan: The information statistics on page 57 indicate 10 YHC units only for Faro. Do I take it from that that no decision has been made as to whether or not the six units bought in the new subdivision, as part of the purchase, will go into YHC stock in Faro?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I understand that there is some discussion as to the projected needs for the community, which would

include such things as teacher housing needs. I believe there is a plan to have YHC purchase houses from Community and Transportation Services, for supplying staff housing. I cannot recall the number of units. If the Member wishes the information, I could secure it.

Mr. McLachlan: I would like to suggest to the Minister that as soon as he hires those grades ten, eleven and twelve teachers for Faro, he will need those six for YHC.

I would also like to ask the Minister of Government Services, when he comes back with his estimates, to bring us the rental figure that Altus is paying for the Chateau Jomini, during their six-months of usage? It would be interesting to justify the cost of that, because whatever the criticism may be of the government for that move, I personally know that each one of those buildings cost a million dollars to build, four million dollars new. The \$1.6 million that was paid for that plus a number of others, the value is still technically there in replacement cost. What are we receiving in rent?

Mrs. Firth: I would like to ask some questions about the borrowings of the Housing Corporation. It was a concern that the Public Accounts Committee raised. Specifically, the Committee recognized that the borrowings of the Housing Corporation were guaranteed by the government according to the *Housing Act*, but we had a concern about the government not monitoring any such borrowings. Is the Minister familiar with the concern that the Public Accounts Committee raised?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Let me answer in part, because it is partly a Finance matter. The problem with the *Corporation Act* is that it requires the territorial government to automatically pick up the deficit of the Housing Corporation, but it does not provide any financial control over the Corporation. As the Minister has already said, that Corporation is going to be restructured and re-formed over the next period. There are a number of options before us, but if we are going to have the situation remain, where, because of a meshing with federal acts, we will have to have some kind of obligation to the deficit of the Housing Corporation, it is almost certain we will want a senior financial officer of the government on the board of the Housing Corporation for some protection for the people of the Yukon Territory, not just to pick up the liabilities.

The other alternative is that, and no conclusion has been reached on this, the Legislature literally votes a finite amount of money to the Corporation, and when that money is expended they have the same obligation as any other department would that exceeds its allocation.

Mrs. Firth: That was our concern because it was not unusual for the Finance Department not to be aware of the borrowings that they had guaranteed. It was unclear to the Committee who was responsible for monitoring them. We came to the conclusion that it was probably Finance that should be monitoring them. When does the Government Leader expect to make a decision about the options for change that he has presented this evening?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: They are not my decisions, they are decisions to be made by this department, which is responsible for instructing the Housing Corporation. But at some point the final decisions about how they proceed will of course come, through the normal course of things, to Management Board and Cabinet, because it will almost certainly need legislative amendments in order to correct the situation, because there is a legally doubtful situation right now.

At that point, the normal consultation with other departments, including Finance, will go on. I am not sure if it is necessary that Finance Department be represented on the Board. I think it will be necessary for a financial officer, not necessarily from the department, or someone with considerable accountability and financial authority under the authorities rules to represent the government's interest and the treasury.

Mrs. Firth: In the proposed changes then, would it be the intention to have the Department of Finance do the monitoring or the Housing Corporation?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I just said, it may be the Department of Finance, it may not be. It could, conceivably, be the Deputy Minister of Community and Transportation Services, for example, who has certain kinds of lines of accountability and certain

specified financial authority in this government. But there will be someone whose job it will be to make sure that the territory's money, or financial interest, is protected.

Mrs. Firth: Perhaps this is the final question I could ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. If that issue is high on his list of priorities, could we anticipate something for the next legislative program?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes. It is very high on my priority list of things to do. Clearly, there is not only the problem for the government to face with respect to financial accountability, there is also the problems that the users in the housing associations face with respect to internal accountability within the corporation itself. There is perceived, at least, to be a concern expressed by the housing associations across the territory, and the users, that the mandate of what was the Yukon Housing Corporation is essentially now being provided by three entities: the corporation, the Department of Community and Transportation Services, and the Department of Government Services. There has to be some rationalization there. We realize that it has to be a top priority. I am hoping that, within the course of this fiscal year, it can be resolved.

Mr. Lang: For the information of the House — I am sure that the MLA for Klondike would be interested in this — we just received some word that there are some major problems in the Klondike River up in Dawson. Perhaps some of your officials could phone the proper authorities in Dawson to, at least, monitor the information. I understand that there is a dike being built by the Klondike River, and perhaps something should be done to alert EMO, more than anything else. I just wanted to bring it to your attention, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We just received news of this, and help is on the way.

Mr. Brewster: I am very concerned about the army bunkhouses that were built in 1940 that are still used for staff accommodation, which is ridiculous. This really means that there are only 84 staff accommodations. I sure hope they are not going to start refitting them after all these years and after all the damage that has been done to them. There is no way to live in them. I would like the Member, at some time, to get back to me on this issue.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I certainly will.

Mr. Lang: Could the Minister break down the travel for us, as well?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: All I have presently is: travel, \$76,000. That would be travel for the Board of Directors and anyone associated with the corporation. It is not necessarily for external travel. It is down from \$84,000 in 1985-86.

The travel estimate within the territory for 1986-87 is \$30,000; outside of territory travel is projected at \$5,400; Board meetings are projected at \$40,600, for a total of \$76,000.

Mr. Phelps: I note that under the housing units for the senior citizen's program there are four units in Dawson City, four in Mayo, four in Watson Lake and 66 in Whitehorse. Are there any plans to change the policy so that other communities might have senior citizen housing under that program?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We hope that the needs analysis that is being conducted by the Housing Corporation, CMHC and CYI will establish conclusively what the needs will be. Presently, the method of determining housing needs is done by totalling the people on the waiting list.

It is not always the most accurate projection of need. I would think that the housing needs for senior citizen units around the territory in communities that do not currently have them would be identified through that process.

Mr. Phelps: I take it the units are somewhat different from the other units that are provided by the Housing Corporation in the other communities. I know that senior citizens use low cost housing. Could the Minister explain the difference, if there is any?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Corporation has required several types of senior citizens' housing, which have been constructed. All of these units have rents according to income. There is also what is called the low-end market option, which allows senior citizens to pay rent at a minimum market level rather than a rent geared to income, if their income is sufficiently high that they would not

qualify, or would find it unacceptable, to pay a rent based on income.

That is the type of senior citizens' accommodation that is offered in the territory. The construction of the units has been noted in the House already. It will show that, in Whitehorse, we expect 20 units to be built this coming year, and in Teslin there are four.

Yukon Housing Corporation in the amount of \$1,492,000 agreed to

On Community Services

Mr. Lang: Just to start it off, I notice we have an increase of one person-year in this area. Perhaps the Minister has some comments.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There will be the addition of one more municipal advisor in the Community Services section. It has been felt frequently in the past that the communities need more in the way of technical advice to assist them in managing their own affairs. Not only that, but there has been a desire to have municipal advisors more available, more accessible, for the training of municipal staff around the territory. In support of those municipal governments, this government is attempting to increase the availability of advice and support that would be made available to communities, so that communities could receive that technical advice, putting the books together, writing bylaws, and all the sorts of things that they do. They could have that advice more accessible to them.

In that vein, we propose to add one more municipal advisor.

Mr. Lang: How many municipal advisors does that make?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There are currently two municipal advisors. There is one director of Community Services, who acts in that role on occasion, as well, when he is not doing other things like managing the Department of Community Services. It would bring the municipal advisors to a total of three.

Mr. Lang: I have to voice my concerns about this. I assume it is another expenditure of around \$50,000. I know it will fall on deaf ears, but one of the principles behind the *Municipal Act* was to give more authority to the communities. In conjunction with that, there was an increase in funding so that the people could hire their own city or town managers, whatever the case may be, and conduct their business with some monitoring by the Government of Yukon.

We have seen another step taken by the government in funding the Association of Yukon Communities in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 where there is expertise available. That is supposed to be available to the communities.

We also had another step taken here where there is another \$50,000 to put another member of the bureaucracy into place on behalf of the communities. I do not think it is the proper way to go. I know we have two full time municipal advisors; we have a Director who can take a good part of the responsibility.

I feel that it is a misuse of taxpayer's money. I think that if that kind of money is available, it is better to help the communities a little more to get real things done. One can argue to which community the money should go. Instead of having to build another office, provide another car and all the financial things that are required to go with such responsibility, that alternative is there. I do not think it was well thought out by the government.

How much is this new position going to cost in total, counting vehicles and other necessities?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The justification for having a Municipal Advisor is to provide education and training for municipal councils and staff around the territory. The turnover in municipal councils is great. There is not a lot of expertise among the councils around the territory.

The staff managing the communities is always seeking advice and assistance from the very good Municipal Advisors that we do have on staff right now. They are worked beyond belief in that effort. It is considered appropriate, given the fact that communities will be given more control over their own financing through the capital formula grant, that they should get advice upon request from this government and as much support as possible to run their own affairs.

It is not to direct their affairs that this initiative is being taken. It is to help them run their own affairs and to provide the education

and training to support that initiative.

We did support the Association of Yukon Communities to encourage them to provide more self-help to their own operations. This is another initiative to do the same thing from the government side.

It has been made very clear to me that two advisors are worked beyond capacity. They are very good at their work, yet they are still required to provide a full range of services, in view of the responsibilities that the communities will be accepting, at their own request.

¹³ That is the reason why this initiative has been undertaken. I think it is a good one. The government stands behind it, and I acknowledge the fact that there is a difference of opinion here, that the Member does not support the initiative. We feel strongly that in order to give adequate support to the communities in the initiative to have them take on more responsibility, more decision-making on their own, that they need to have advice made available to them, upon request. That is the reason for the municipal advisor's position being added.

Mr. Lang: Is it not true that one of the reasons the money was advanced to the AYC was that their society would take the responsibility for training staff, in good part, as well as working with the various municipal bodies, in view of the inexperience that is sometimes of concern to the organization?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is one of the reasons why funding was advanced to the AYC. It was felt that the Association could provide to its membership some things that the government could not. At the same time, the government felt that it was advisable, given the increase in the amount of responsibility, given the high turnover rate, given the experience of many of the town managers, that it was necessary to provide even further expertise in this vein.

Further to that, the Department of Education has undertaken to put on a course, or a series of courses, on municipal administration, to assist communities in terms of learning administrative techniques, learning what is necessary to put a budget together, to write bylaws, and all the rudimentary things.

Mr. Lang: I am not doubting that the present advisors might be a little bit behind. I am not arguing that. I know that the people who work within that area do work long hours and are dedicated to their jobs. They get paid. If they are not getting paid well enough, we should pay them more. I am not going to argue that.

My concern is that we have an increase in bureaucracy. I asked him why we hired another municipal advisor. The Minister is sometimes thinking on his feet. There is no question that the AYC wants to take responsibility for working with the municipal bodies and doing the training. I know this.

The reason there has been increased funding over the years was to provide, in the community, an individual who would have the background and the ability to draw up bylaws and all this kind of thing for presentation to a newly-elected council. It is laudable that the government is going ahead with a program at Yukon College for managers and that kind of thing for further refinement of skills in these areas. I think it is important for financial consistency in each community, so that one individual within the department can read it, go through it and see what the balance situation of one community is.

I do not think there has been enough thought given to it. It looks to me that if you perceive a problem, you throw money at it.

¹⁴ **Mr. Brewster:** I have little bit of a problem with this, number one. You say this person is going to go around and educate the counsellors. Is this not correct? Is not part of this to help these counsellors and such people here? Well, okay. This is another one of these things where government people do not understand people in communities. Number one, let me point out a few facts. In a small community we are already running this in Haines Junction. They run a three-year to a two-year period and get absolutely no money, to speak of. They spend hours and hours away from their business. They make decisions that are good for the town and then they create enemies, which hurts their business. Therefore, you find most of them go through one or two terms and then they retire and get out of it because they are losing business. You can educate them all you want. This is not going to solve this problem. As long as

you have small communities, the same people are not going to go back in, because you only have to be there two years and, believe me, I know. In our present community clubs, or anything else, once you make a decision that somebody does not like, you have lost business. This is why, in Haines Junction, and I am willing to bet anything that all the other communities are the same way, the managers they hire, and I can speak for instance out of Haines Junction that they have a manager who understands all of this; they pay him good wages, and he runs and handles the town. He will go through councilor after councilor after councilor because you have to have business people on there, because you get these freebee people who come in and do not put anything into the community on these things, then you have a wreck. These business people just cannot continue to keep on going back into these things because it hurts their business. They lose hours and hours. They have to go to these things. I have seen them right in the middle of meetings have to get up and go because their wrecker has been called and their garageman has to take off. You can get all the educators you want, that is not going to help that situation.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The initiative itself is not specifically to make life easier for politicians as politicians in small communities. I recognize the problem. Obviously, decisions have to be made and they are not going to be popular. I can understand exactly the sorts of the things that the Member is saying. When you either raise taxes or zone an area, even a quarter lot in the middle of town, you are bound to make enemies. When you do that in a small community, it can mean real trouble. I think that one thing the municipal advisors do do, while they are not meant to resolve that problem forever, or really at all, is provide the kind of technical expertise when it is necessary and sort of an understanding of what is happening in other communities to make people feel more comfortable with a situation and they are not all on their own. Many people, as the Member knows, when they join municipal council in Yukon — sometimes they do it for the first time, it is a new experience — they tend to think that the problems they are facing are unique to the territory and the weight of the world is on their shoulders. Sometimes it is necessary to have a cool hand to come in to provide them with a new perspective on things, and show them that the situation does exist elsewhere and sort of help them along, psychologically.

The other thing that the municipal advisors are scheduled to do is to provide assistance to the unorganized communities, the community clubs and those communities such as Pelly Crossing, and develop a closer relationship with communities like Pelly Crossing, Burwash Landing and Old Crow to encourage them to understand what is happening with the government. In some cases, it is the only contact that those communities have with the government. When it comes to providing better services, this is the contact person that the community club has, or the local Indian band has. ¹⁵ It is necessary to have those people develop a new relationship with those organizations or to seek advice on improvements to the services.

Just for Members' information, since 6:00 p.m. this evening, there has been an ice jam by the bridge on the Klondike River. It appears that water is over the road upstream of Dawson on the Klondike River. Some water has been flowing into Dawson at the south end. The City Manager has equipment working on the site. To my knowledge, no local emergency has been declared. We will follow up in about a half-an-hour.

Mr. Brewster: I know I am not going to win this one so I am not going to carry it on. Number one, that is what the communities hire managers for. The managers get good money. In most cases, the managers I have seen are very smart. They are much closer to the situation. They live there. They get banged on their door every day. They are much closer than the individuals who run around travelling with a black and orange car, which immediately strikes fear into a lot of people and they just walk off.

I would suggest that the money could have been put to a lot better places than to put another man on here.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I suppose we simply disagree on this particular matter. A municipal advisor is meant to advise, and not to dictate to anyone. Some Members have a different view. We

disagree.

Mr. Lang: We can agree to disagree. God bless you. I asked a question quite some time ago: what is the total estimated cost of this particular new position, along with travel, office and everything else?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The permanent salary has risen from \$143,400 to \$221,700. Allowances, fringe benefits, et cetera, have brought the total for 1985-86 from \$164,700 — this includes the entire municipal administration — to \$254,000.

¹⁶ The salary and benefits is in the neighbourhood of \$54,000.

Mr. Lang: What was that last figure for?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is for the Municipal Advisor.

The employee travel within the Yukon has risen from \$13,500 to \$18,900. Employee travel outside of the Yukon has risen from \$1,500 to \$2,800. There is other travel in Yukon for \$2,000. That is the same as last year. Honoraria is \$1,500. Entertainment is \$2,000. Rental expenses are \$2,000. Supplies are \$800. Advertising is \$5,700. Program materials is \$4,000. Telephone is \$5,700. The grants are \$4,447,900. This gives a total under Municipal Administration of \$4,747,300.

Mrs. Firth: Was the Municipal Advisor position a request that was made by someone? Did the Association of Yukon Communities ask for that position? Where did the idea come from for this?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It came from the government. I do not know whether or not the Association of Yukon Communities requested it. The idea came from the government in response to the incredible demand that was put on the time of the two existing Municipal Advisors. For that reason, the position was added.

Mrs. Firth: Is that consistent with the second objective that the Minister has in Community Services? Could he tell me what that objective means? What are the democratic structures and local government instruments?

¹⁷ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** It is to assist local governments in establishing themselves — we are speaking specifically of democratic local governments — and to operate like a municipal government. That is the use for government instruments, to act like a government at the municipal level.

Mrs. Firth: Will the municipal advisor be doing that? Will he be fulfilling that objective? I would like to know exactly what he or she is going to do.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The municipal advisor will be doing essentially the same sort of work as the existing municipal advisors do. Does the Member want an understanding of what the existing municipal advisors do?

Mrs. Firth: If we have democratic processes for municipal governments, and people are chosen and elected by the community, and they require advice, I can see them initiating a request for some advice. But if we now have three municipal advisors, and the communities did not really come and request this, or the AYC, pretty soon you are going to have a municipal advisor going around and maybe giving advice when it is not necessarily wanted. Pretty soon the municipal advisor starts running, in a small way, the little democratic governments. That is my concern.

I am sure that was not the Minister's intention, but that is a concern that I have when you start expanding the bureaucracy in the advisory capacity. What happens if the municipal councils, all of a sudden, have a large number of individuals who have a lot of expertise and do not need advice? This person still has a job to fulfill and a job to do. Therefore, they have to go out and go around looking for things to do.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I can assure the Member that, even if we were to have five municipal advisors, there would be more than enough work for them to do to prevent them from travelling around the communities making trouble. The intention is that they not do that. The workload, itself, was what caused this decision to be made. The workload has these people run off their feet, currently, and it is considered appropriate that they should give advice, not when it is not wanted but when it is wanted, and also to give advice on a variety of areas.

If the Member wants to take a look at the size and the complexity of the *Municipal Act*, the Member will understand some of the things that a brand new council or manager faces. Members have to

understand that when a brand new manager comes on the scene there is no support around. That person stands on his own in that community. They do seek advice, regularly, from the department.

The entire front bench, as it is newly constituted now, as of 8:35 this evening, has decided that they would like to oppose this addition to the staff.

¹⁸

Chairman: We will now recess for 15 minutes.

Recess

¹⁹ **Chairman:** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. Any further general debate on Community Services?

Mr. Lang: There are other methods and means to get a point across, as far as the municipal advisor is concerned. Are there any other new brainwaves or new initiatives that the Minister has had within the confines of this particular vote that he would like to share with us this evening?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Is the Member leaving that up to me?

Besides the staffing of a new municipal advisor, there will be the funding in the amount of \$50,000, which will be provided to the AYC. There will be the redirection of approximately \$68,000 in funding to enhance the grants for community recreation associations to assist in hiring recreation directors.

Without very much financial impact, there was the relocation of the community recreation consultant to Dawson City. Those are the initiatives that are being undertaken, of note.

Mr. Lang: I am going to get into the *Municipal Finance Act* again. There are probably other methods to do that as well.

I just want to register our concerns from a number of points of view, of the *Municipal Finance Act*, and the amendments thereto. I wrote a letter to him in good faith. I did not make big political waves in February to point out that there were deficiencies. I felt that Whitehorse did not justify a \$150,000 increase and other communities, at the same time, experienced decreases. No matter what he says, I did not feel that it was fair, and I am an MLA from Whitehorse. From the political point of view, I am probably better off keeping my mouth shut, since I represent a Whitehorse riding.

I am very concerned that the Minister took my point of view and cast it aside as if it was irrelevant to the situation, because he did not have a brainwave from his administration, nor a resolution from the AYC.

²⁰ I did not like the inference put today in Question Period that it was strictly political cheap shots. There was adequate notice given to the Minister and adequate political assurances given to the Minister that if certain steps were taken to rectify the situation, at least even part way, he would have had full cooperation from this side of the floor. I see the Minister yawning, quite bored, and I am saying this for the record. I find it frustrating that when we give constructive opinions and recommendations they are totally ignored.

I would also like to go on record with the present Minister, I am getting sick and tired of being told as a Member of this Legislature that if I want an answer on municipal affairs I should go to the Association for Yukon Communities. I personally want to say to the Minister I think he is divesting his responsibilities, that he is only prepared to act if he gets a resolution from AYC on certain matters, yet at the same time if we ask about the municipal advisor, and that is the government initiative, I suppose that is different. I can tell you that if you said to the AYC here is \$50,000 they would not have recommended you hire another bureaucrat to run around the countryside.

From our perspective on the *Municipal Finance Act*, we believe the government has been guilty of negligence and has put a number of councils, the main one being the Watson Lake council, in difficult positions. I think it is safe to say that we recognize that there are going to have to be some increases on the new incorporated area either this year or next year, but if certain steps had been taken, it could have been phased in and it would have been a lot easier for the people involved and the taxpayers in view of the fact they also experienced a major increase in their assessment last year.

The EMO measures that were brought in during the flood in Dawson, that hopefully will not take place again, did an excellent job. There was no loss of life and a situation where the various levels of government worked very closely together and, since I was directly involved at that time, in my judgment the administration did an excellent job in meeting the severe demands put on them in the space of 48 hours.

21 They addressed the situation quickly and adequately. The credit has to go to the people who are living in the communities. There was good coordination out of Whitehorse, but it was largely the people in the community that did it. I have no reason to believe that the EMO is not operating any other way.

Do we still have a contractual relationship with one individual for the EMO? Why are we seeing a \$22,000 increase in this area?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The temptation to spend the next one-half hour discussing municipal finances is extremely strong. The position of this government has been put on the record with respect to its relationship with the Association of Yukon Communities.

I would be willing at any time, in any community, to discuss this government's actions and plans, with the Member for Porter Creek's presence. I will hardly be threatened by that Member. I will be willing at any time and at any place.

We have explained the situation very clearly as it affects Watson Lake and Dawson City. I think we have put our position on the record a number of times during the last session.

The Member asked a question about the EMO. He commented on the alacrity with which the government and community organizations have, in the past, responded to a flood and the good relationship that has developed between the various levels of government.

I would like to think that that relationship, in disastrous situations, will continue. The department foreman in Dawson is now cooperating with the city. They have built a dike from Rock Bluff at the entrance to Dawson.

22 There is no water in Dawson, per se, even though some buildings outside the community have been flooded. Apparently three or four families have had their homes flooded. There has been some damage to property, but the people are safe.

In any case, it is our hope that the relationship between the community governments and the Emergency Measures coordinator, whoever that will be after the incumbent retires, will be good. Members will know that an act was recently passed by this government to allow community governments to declare emergencies, because it was felt that they would be in the best position to do that in the short term. Whether they do that in Dawson in the next few hours is something yet to be seen.

There is a desire, of course, to ensure that this particular operation is fully funded and the activity is fully supported by the government. To that extent, we have tried to ensure that the activity will be undertaken on perhaps more of a fulltime basis. Essentially, there will be no change in function, but more attention will be paid to person-hours than was paid in the past.

Mr. Lang: The Minister must have had a reason for the \$22,000 increase. Is this another asphalt plant and another municipal advisor that were thrown into the budget by the civil service. There must be a reason for such a major increase in there. You have not given me a reason why we have a \$22,000 increase over what we had before.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member says he is just asking; he is asking the question at the top of his voice. Sometimes it can elicit an irritating response from this side. I will attempt to control the situation, despite the activity of the Member opposite.

The increase in this activity is attributed to the enhancement of the activity to include a fulltime position, which would include fire inspection responsibilities. Some federal legislation is anticipated in 1986 that would have an impact on the role the person would be playing. In any case, there will be an EMO officer and a fire inspector joint position under this function.

Mr. Lang: I thought fire inspection was under protective services. My understanding is that the work required is about the same as it has been in past years. We are not seeing major increases

in building requiring inspections. We are seeing some, but no major increases. Could the Minister explain why we need more people for fire inspections?

23 **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** Essentially, what has happened is that the new federal legislation, for its part, is going to increase responsibility for emergency measures for provinces and territories and, for that reason, in part, the emergency measures function will hopefully be expanded to include more than simply community planning and disasters of the sort people are used to. I understand there is something in the works to discuss emergency air rescue operations as well, and there will be some function there to be resolved.

There has been a desire to combine the emergency measures officer with the fire inspection function as well. That is the justification.

Mr. Lang: For fire inspections we have gone, according to statistics, from 350 to 375. What I am told is that this will justify another \$25,000 increase for us to go and inspect further in the area for fire inspections.

Did it ever occur to the Minister to tell the Government of Canada that we do not want to take on that responsibility? What federal initiatives are coming in? Did the Minister consider telling the government we were not prepared to get into that area?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member asked whether or not the territorial government would be prepared to decline the initiative to devolve some control to the territory with respect to civil emergencies. The answer is no. We would like to have as much control in that area as possible for a variety of reasons, to at least coordinate the activities that happen in the territory. We would like to control this area in the fullest extent possible.

Perhaps the Member would like to pontificate some more.

Mr. Lang: I can see we have a budget that has been written by someone in the department with everything thrown in and everything agreed to. Are we going to get any recoveries for the emergency measures officers, and has there been a formal agreement signed between this government and the Government of Canada? If there has, can you table it, and then somebody will read it.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The activities under this function are recoverable at this moment, as is the training, as I believe I mentioned once before. Whether or not there has been a formal agreement signed in the past over this function, obviously the Member has not read it, and therefore would like to see a copy. It was not signed during my tenure. It was presumably signed during his tenure. If he has not read it, I will see what can be done to procure it for him.

24 **Mr. Lang:** I believe there is an agreement. Is the amount allocated for the emergency measures that he has enunciated fully recoverable? Is the whole \$7,000 recoverable?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: My understanding is yes.

Mr. Lang: Why is \$57,000 identified in the Emergency Measures expenditure recoveries, not \$70,000?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is my understanding that fire inspection services would not be recoverable under the Emergency Measures Organization, nor would we expect it to be.

Mr. Lang: Has the decision already been made to go from the part-time, contractual relationship that had been entered into prior to the government assuming office, to a fulltime position?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The decision was made to combine the functions of EMO and fire inspector early this spring. I am not entirely sure when the existing contract employee will be retiring. I can check on that for the Member.

The Member is shaking his head and looking disgusted, but this is the information I have. The Member is obviously not satisfied; that is too bad.

Mr. Lang: He is lucky he has his Deputy Minister with him, or there would not be any information coming forward.

What areas is this fire inspector going to inspect? Is he just going to be working with Protective Services? Or are we getting into forest fires?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No. He would be working with Protective Services.

Mr. Lang: Does the \$70,000 take into account the office and everything? Or is the office for this new position hidden in Protective Services?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Is the Member considering the rental of an office? I am not sure. There is no initial support staff involved here.

Mr. Lang: We are talking \$70,000. If that is just for one individual's salary, there are a bunch of guys on this side who will apply for it tomorrow. That is a lot of money. Where is he spending the \$70,000? Is it one individual? Is that what it is going to cost for light, heat and office, or is \$70,000 just for salary plus fringe benefits? Is this another whiz kid we are bringing in?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The person's salary will be \$39,200. There will be something called travel in this function. Travel in the territory is \$7,200. Travel out of the territory is \$4,700. Contract services is \$4,900; repairs and maintenance, \$3,450; supplies, \$4,200; telephone, \$4,500; other, \$1,050. Other costs in this function amounts to approximately \$30,000, for a total of \$69,700.

Mrs. Firth: The Minister mentioned something about air rescue operations and legislation. Could he elaborate on that? Is the government going to be getting into that?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There has been the initiative for federal legislation. The Department of National Defence has also taken the initiative to coordinate its activities through Edmonton. Our personnel can play a role in developing plans and communicating problems as they occur. They can also help to provide a coordinating function for air rescue.

Mrs. Firth: I am not exactly sure what the Minister is planning to get involved in. I attended an earthquake seminar where they talked about planning for rescue operations. They also talked about air rescue and communications. It is a very expensive and burdensome endeavour. How sophisticated is the Yukon government expected to become?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The legislation in the House of Commons has not been passed. The amount of responsibility we can expect to take will be determined by what the legislation says. We will perform a function and assist in such things as air rescue to the extent that we can.

We feel that it is a natural for a government to play. If a person has established contacts in the territory that would assist in this function, it makes imminent sense to us that this person should be more involved in this kind of activity.

Mrs. Firth: I just want to express my concern. The territory has always assisted in any kind of rescue with whatever expertise and human resources we have.

How elaborate will the federal legislation expect us to become? If we are expected to take on a fair amount of responsibility, does the Minister anticipate that we would get funding from the federal government for that? Does the Minister have any idea of just how sophisticated we are going to have to be, or does he have to wait for the legislation before finding that out?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The legislation will give us an indication of how sophisticated they would like us to become, along with the other territory. We will look for funding if the function is increased. As a matter of course, we would like to assume that function more fully than we have in the past, because we feel that disasters and emergencies that occur within our jurisdictions are critically important to us. We think that it is something that should naturally devolve to the territory.

Chairman: Any further general debate?

On Administration

Administration in the amount of \$4,747,000 agreed to

On Protective Services

Protective Services in the amount of \$1,480,000 agreed to

On Emergency Measures

Emergency Measures in the amount of \$70,000 agreed to

On Sport, Art and Recreation

Mrs. Firth: On page 63 of the Community Services statistics we talk about the number of elite athletes and the athletes in the top international and national competitions. Did the Minister issue press releases about who all these athletes were so I could check back? I do not imagine he has a list with him.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: A press release was just issued with respect to the Missions Staff for the games. I do not recall recently, at least, issuing anything on the names of athletes.

Mrs. Firth: I would like the Minister to provide to me the names because I do not recall seeing any releases or announcements on who the successful athletes were. I also wanted to ask him about the funding and the dollars provided for administration, training and competition for the TEST Program. Has the Minister had any change? Has the funding allotment changed at all and has the Minister had any change in the possibility or supporting the TEST Program?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will get the information on the TEST Program back to the Member. The grant this year is \$15,000. Whether that is an increase or decrease from last year, I will let the Member know.

Mrs. Firth: That is the same grant that has been there for a considerable amount of years. I am more interested in the Minister's support of the program and whether there are plans to continue supporting the program. Is the Minister prepared to give his full support to the program? Does he think it is a good program or is he familiar with it at all? I would like some reassurance for the constituents I represent who are very active and involved in the program.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have had two or three meetings with people who came to me to discuss the TEST program. Further to that, I believe parents whose children had travelled to Europe this past year have sent letters recommending that the program continue well into the future.

I think it is a fine program. The proponents are keen on having it continue. The government supports this program in a number of ways, besides this sort of grant. There is also the leave of absence that is given to a teacher for six weeks per year, over the last two or three years, at least, to act as a chaperone for students going overseas.

The trip overseas is a fine experience. It is unfortunate that more of that could not be done. That is an eye-opener for students. We intend to continue supporting the program. I am convinced that it serves a very useful purpose.

Mr. McLachlan: The Minister identified a figure of \$60,000 for the hiring of recreation directors in outlying communities. Is it restricted only to outlying communities? Is there a cap on the amount of money that could be paid to the recreation directors? The \$60,000 would only pay about two.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is not meant to pay the actual salary costs of recreation directors in total. It is meant to cost-share some of the salaries of communities with recreation directors, to a total of \$13,000 for full-time recreation directors and \$8,000 for part-time recreation directors.

Sport, Art and Recreation in the amount of \$1,102,000 agreed to
Community Services in the amount of \$7,399,000 agreed to

On Municipal Engineering

Chairman: Page 66, Municipal Engineering. Any general debate?

Mr. Lang: I want to make an observation about this area. I think the people involved, the very small staff you have, do an excellent job with the resources they have. I do not want to give the Minister any idea I want to hire more people for this area. I know at one time there was some thought of amalgamating that particular area of responsibility with the engineering department within highways. I really believe that that would be a serious mistake because the two responsibilities are entirely different between road building and the very major, political problems in part, that you see in municipalities, i.e. water and sewer as in Dawson City. There are real problems out there and it would be a real shame if we got that particular unit hidden within a wider, deeper bureaucracy. I make that observation to the Minister and hope he can confirm that it is not the intention of the government.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It has been my experience that there is a very close relationship between Community Services and Municipal Engineering. There may be some similarities between Municipal Engineers and highway engineers, but it is remote at best. I would anticipate that in the future, certainly if there is any amalgamation

function — which is not anticipated, but if there is — there will be amalgamation between Community Services and Municipal Engineering.

On Administration

Administration in the amount of \$235,000 agreed to

On Unincorporated Communities

Unincorporated Communities in the amount of \$344,000 agreed to

On Special Programs

Mr. Lang: I am wondering why we are recovering less money on the insect-control program. I am assuming it comes under this area.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member mentioned that we were recovering less money under the insect control. Is the Member referring to some fact sheet?

Mr. Lang: In the budget, under expenditures and recoveries, on page 68.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The \$23,000 listed in my book ought to be \$27,000. There is no change anticipated. The same number of communities, as anticipated, will participate in the program. There ought not to be a change.

Mr. Lang: I guess we will just add that. I do not think we want to go through the whole exercise of correcting the whole budget.

I see a confrere of mine motioning to me, and I just want to see if I remember what the motion is. I move that we report progress on Bill No. 5.

Motion agreed to

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order. May we have a report from the Chairman of Committee of the Whole?

Mr. Webster: The Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 5, *Second Appropriation Act, 1986-87*, and directed me to report progress on same.

Speaker: You have heard the report of the Chairman of Committee of the Whole. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Mr. Phillips: I move that the House do now adjourn.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Member for Whitehorse Riverdale North that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 9:30 p.m.