



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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3rd Session

26th Legislature

HANSARD

Monday, May 12, 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

LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Patrick L. Michael
Clerk Assistant (Legislative)	Missy Follwell
Clerk Assistant (Administrative)	Jane Steele
Sergeant-at-Arms	G.I. Cameron
Hansard Administrator	Dave Robertson

01 Whitehorse, Yukon**Monday, May 12, 1986 — 1:30 p.m.**

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

*Prayers***DAILY ROUTINE**

Speaker: We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.
Introduction of Visitors?
Are there any Returns or Documents for Tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Speaker: I have for tabling an addendum for the report of the Chief Electoral Officer on contributions to political parties during 1985.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: I have the Yukon Utilities Board Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1986 and two Legislative Returns for written questions asked May 8 by the Member for Faro.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have for tabling the Yukon Housing Corporation Annual Report dated 1984-85.

02 Speaker: Are there any Reports of Committees?
Petitions?

PETITIONS

Clerk: Mr. Speaker and hon. Members of the Assembly, I have had the honour to review a petition, being Petition No. 3 of the Third Session of the 26th Legislative Assembly, as presented by the hon. Member for Whitehorse Riverdale South, on May 8, 1986. This Petition meets the requirements and conforms to the Standing Order of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 66, Petition No. 3 is deemed to be read and received.

*Introduction of Bills?**Notices of Motion for the Production of Papers?**Notices of Motion?**Statements by Ministers?**This then brings us to the Question Period.***QUESTION PERIOD****Question re: Furniture, locally manufactured**

Mr. Phelps: With respect to the purchase of 20 sets of executive furniture, last Thursday the Minister of Government Services tabled a memorandum on Government Services letterhead that was dated the April 9, 1986, to Sam Cawley, Assistant Deputy Minister of Government Services. At the same time, the Minister had said that he would table any figures or benefit-cost analysis studies that the government had made to show that their decision to purchase locally-made furniture, at more than double the cost of the retail furniture, was cost effective.

Is this one memorandum the only study and information that the Minister has to table in this House with respect to the issue of cost effectiveness?

03 Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: That is the substantial communication from the department to myself, recommending the purchase of the executive furniture. There was no study, per se, in the sense of a research contract and a research report. That is the information containing the recommendation to purchase the locally-manufactured executive furniture.

I would caution the Member opposite that we simply do not accept the statement he is trying to make over and over again in his premises, that the cost is more than double. Considering the quality

of the furniture, one simply cannot make that statement.

Mr. Phelps: The Minister has said time and time again that he was going to personally look at the quality of the low proposal, which is less, by far, than half the price of the locally-manufactured furniture, manufactured with outside materials, one might add.

Can the Minister tell the House whether or not he has examined the other sets of furniture?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Since the previous questions, I have examined pictures of the furniture that is the subject of the so-called low bid. I have not actually examined a set of furniture. I have asked for a further analysis to be done of the quality of those particular sets of furniture, the subject of a bid from the House of Furniture.

04 Mr. Phelps: Would the Minister, on behalf of the government, engage an independent appraiser — an expert — to examine the quality of the low-bid furniture, at less than half the cost, as well as the furniture that was accepted by the Minister — an expert could be appointed on the advice of the Chamber of Commerce — and make the results of that analysis public and table it in the House?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: The concept is an interesting one, but I will not make a blanket commitment. It is absolutely clear to me that, of the samples that were on display here in the foyer before Christmas, there was a clear judgement that was given by the people of the Yukon, essentially, that the quality was second to none. Quality is, in some senses, a subjective criteria. The real tests will be the number of years the furniture lasts and its usefulness over time. It is clear that the assessment of the quality, the usefulness, and the cost-effectiveness will be a continuing thing as the information comes available and the prices fluctuate as they have done significantly in the last year.

05

Question re: Furniture, locally manufactured

Mr. Phelps: The government Minister is not an expert on the quality of furniture. The public saw some furniture, but did not have anything to compare it with, namely the high quality furniture that was offered to the government at \$3,400 as opposed to \$8,400 per set, at a savings of some \$100,000 for this one purchase alone.

Would the government Minister tell the House why he refuses to have an appraisal done by an independent expert appointed by a neutral body such as the Chamber of Commerce?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: What is happening here is not a question and answer process at all. It is a debate into the principles involved around our policy to stimulate local manufacture of furniture. The debate will obviously continue. The premises to the so-called questions are wrong, I say again, in debate in the midst of Question Period. Our bottom line is to stimulate the local economy by stimulating a new industry, albeit a small one.

Mr. Phelps: We are talking about one issue of fact upon which we obviously do not agree. That has to do with the issue as to whether or not the two sets of furniture, one at \$8,450 and one at \$3,400, are of the same quality. That issue of fact is fundamental, it would seem to me, to the government's position. No amount of verbiage is going to get around that.

If the appraiser is not going to be chosen by the Chamber of Commerce, would the Minister consider the appointment of an independent expert to appraise the relative quality, and leave whoever is to appoint such an appraiser up in the air, but some neutral body. Would he agree with that?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: As a general proposition, that proposition has some merit. A qualified cabinet maker would be in an excellent position to look at the quality of the various items and make an assessment of the monetary value. Another possibility is an insurance evaluator. That concept has some value.

This is Question Period, and we are debating a question of policy here. I am not going to, on my feet, make a specific commitment until all of those considerations are clearly looked at.

06 Mr. Phelps: With respect, we are disagreeing as to the relative quality of two sets of furniture. The public has a right to know. I, once again, ask the Minister of Government Services: will he, on the advice of an independent organization, such as the Chamber of Commerce, have an independent assessment made as to the relative quality of the two sets of furniture, and make that independent

assessment public and table the results in the House?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: The assessment of the quality of the furniture is an important question. We will continue to do that assessment and make the assessments public.

Question re: Faro school enrollment

Mr. McLachlan: From calculations that I have been able to complete, it would appear that there will be as many as two dozen or more, hopefully more, students eligible for enrolment in a high school in Faro this fall, if those grades were offered.

In the Minister of Education's eyes, is this not sufficient to proceed with the offering of high school in Faro this September?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: If the figures that the Member offers are accurate, then that would be a level commensurate with what other schools have that are offering grades 10, 11 and 12. I will have to check on those figures that the Member puts forward to establish their validity, in order to make a sound decision.

Mr. McLachlan: That is very encouraging, but will the Minister have the conviction of his intentions and proceed immediately by instructing his department to begin the recruiting and hiring, and searching the marketplace for those qualified high school teachers, in order that they may be available and onstream for Faro in September?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The strength of my conviction is based on the validity of the information that the Member has offered. Once the department has determined whether or not the figures of the Member opposite are firm, we will undertake any recruiting necessary to provide the appropriate grades.

Mr. McLachlan: For the Minister's information, I believe that Curragh Resources is in the process of completing its analysis of the situation today or tomorrow, and those figures should be available to the Minister very shortly. Will he undertake to provide to me and all Members of the Legislature the results of his decision, when he has seen those figures from the mining company?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Question re: Human rights legislation

Mr. Phillips: The Minister of Justice said in this House on Thursday last that the education process of human rights will consist of two parts. The first part was an ad campaign that will last approximately six months, and the second part was a political process concerning the White Paper.

What is the political process that the Minister is referring to with respect to the White Paper? Will this, again, involve public meetings utilizing the Select Committee process?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: The political process that the White Paper will follow should be the subject of negotiations among the various House Leaders here. I expect that it will happen. I will be involved in that negotiation personally at some level, I am sure. What it will be exactly, and when it will be is the subject of negotiation that will occur in the future.

Mr. Phillips: The Minister told us that he would be tabling the White Paper this session. Is the Minister going to table the White Paper this session, or is he backing off again?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: It will be this session.

Question re: Human rights

Mr. Lang: On the same subject, and to the same Minister on the question of human rights: Thursday, he referred to an information campaign, and it has been referred to sporadically by various members of the government over the course of the last three or four months. Could the Minister tell us just exactly how expensive this type of propaganda is going to be?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: This is not, in any way, a propaganda campaign. I will answer those questions in the budget debate where they should properly be put.

Mr. Lang: He stated that the information campaign was going to be independent of the political process. Just exactly who is going to give direction to the individual involved to ensure that the political arm of government is not involved?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Various officials in the Department of Justice obviously.

Mr. Lang: Can the Minister ensure this House that he will not be giving direction to those officials to give direction to the individual involved so that there is no political direction given to the information campaign?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Absolutely. I have given the instruction. I repeat it publicly now. The information program is to be a public information program about the general issues and should not be, and may not be, a propaganda campaign in any way to promote any specific White Paper or any bill. That is the instruction I have given, and I repeat it publicly now.

08

Question re: Human rights legislation

Mr. Lang: While on the subject of human rights, can the Minister give us an indication today if the White Paper on human rights is going to contain the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, similar to what was contained in the *Human Rights Act*?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Obviously, yes, the White Paper will deal with that issue. The specific principles will be in the paper and the Member can read it when it is introduced, which will be fairly soon.

Mr. Lang: Will the introduction of the White Paper be done this week?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: No.

Question re: Northern Canada Power Commission

Mr. McLachlan: I have a question for the Minister for Government Services on the NCPC transfer. Is it anticipated that the Yukon Electrical Company will be given an option to purchase any of the NCPC assets presently the subject of the transfer?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: No.

Mr. McLachlan: Is the Letter of Understanding that is presently signed between the Government of the Yukon and YECL solely a management contract?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: I will answer yes. The definition of a management contract may be the subject of interpretation, discussion or disagreement, but the answer is yes.

Mr. McLachlan: Judging by the answers to the two previous questions, I trust that the Minister does not agree with the position put forward by the Leader of the Official Opposition in a debate in this Assembly on April 16, wherein he said, "The reason is that we would like to see this government having the flexibility to trade off with the private sector, and to have the private sector own and operate, in some cases, the present retail assets." Does he agree with that statement put forward by the Leader of the Official Opposition?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: The position of the government is not as was stated in that speech by the Leader of the Conservative Party. The position of the government is that YECL will be the contract manager of the present NCPC in Yukon.

Response re: Children in care

Hon. Mrs. Joe: I have a response to a question by the Member for Tatchun on May 8, with regard to children in care who are receiving treatment in outside facilities. At present, we have 14 children in the care and custody of the department in out-of-territory placements. Of the 14 children outside, other jurisdictions are currently paying the foster home rates for three of them and the other eleven are in treatment resources or specialized foster homes for which we pay. The price range is from \$103 a day to \$207 a day, or from \$3,222 a month to \$6,417 a month. The present total monthly payment is \$40,000 for these eleven placements. Transportation is on a regularly-scheduled flight; excursion rates are used whenever possible. Children are flown to placements, usually with an escort. Families may be flown to placement for visits or case conferences, and since January 1, 1986 the total transportation costs incurred by these eleven placements has been \$18,000.

09

Question re: Banking services

Mr. Nordling: On April 17, the Government Leader said the Department of Finance plans to issue calls for proposals to all major Canadian bank institutions early in May. That call will be for

uniform proposals with standard features, the details of which Finance is putting the finishing touches on now.

Has this been done? Have the proposals gone out?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is being done. This morning I had occasion to sign some letters on this subject to a number of banking institutions. Whether or not the advertisements that would be a consequence of the decision have actually appeared in the newspapers yet, I do not know.

Mr. Nordling: In his Ministerial Statement on March 25, the Government Leader also stated that the government intended to obtain the services of a consultant to report on the feasibility of developing a government-run banking agency.

On April 17, the Government Leader said that he did not believe that at that time the government had retained a consultant. Can the Government Leader tell us whether or not a consultant has been retained at this time?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: As to whether or not a contract has been signed with a consultant to this date, I am not absolutely sure. So that I can be sure, I will check and come back with an answer.

Mr. Nordling: In March, the Government Leader gave the impression that the lack of banking services in the rural areas was something that could not continue in its present state.

Does the Government Leader no longer see any urgency in providing banking services in the outlying areas, in places such as Faro?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The problem is one of many years' standing. The problem is one that, in the last couple of years, has gotten worse. It is a problem that we addressed in our first few months in office. It is a problem that we are determined to find a solution to.

The three dimensions of the statement I made back in March still stand. We are going to be putting the banking proposal out as I indicated earlier, and as the Member has talked about.

We are also going to be exploring the agency relationship as a second prong in the attack. We are also going to be, in the next few months, pursuing the problem of access to the capital in rural Yukon, which is the third prong of the problem. We will be doing all of these things, and we will be doing them expeditiously.

Question re: Land Claims

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister of Education tell us why the political appointment of the Land Claims Community Liaison person, Wolf Riedl, is being paid for by the Department of Education when the Land Claims Negotiator, Barry Stuart, is being paid for by the Land Claims budget?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I will answer that question. The former Minister continues to argue about political appointments. I certainly hope that when it becomes public, as it no doubt eventually will, when we take former campaign workers of the Member opposite, she will attack these political appointments, as well.

She seems to be incredibly politically bigoted on this question. The person we are talking about was an employee of this government for many years, a fine employee. He was a principal of a school with an incredibly good reputation. The benefit to the territory in the educational field, which is one of the subjects that will be discussed, will be considerable.

Upon examination, the expenses of the person involved will be paid for by the Land Claims Secretariat. The salary of the person seconded from that department will be paid for by the Department of Education. A similar pattern may pertain in other cases where there will be other secondments.

Mrs. Firth: My supplementary is to the Minister of Education, whom I originally asked the question of. The Government Leader can call it what he may. There has been a political appointment made.

This question is in direct relation to the portfolio of the Minister of Education. I would like to know why he agreed, so willingly, that the Department of Education would pay for this position, when the land claims negotiator is being paid out of the land claims funds? Why is this position not being paid out of the land claims funds, too?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The Member opposite can do her political

sniping all she wants, but if she had an ounce of integrity, if she had an ounce of honesty, she would get up in this House and give this government credit for the number of former political appointees of the government, Conservative Party workers, who have been hired by this government on their merits, not on the basis of their being Conservatives, or their not being Conservatives.

Do we hear her get up and do that? No. No, we do not hear that. All we hear is a very prominent, successful educator in this territory, seconded from one department of this government to play a vital role in the land claims discussions, and all of a sudden it is a patronage appointment.

The Member is pathetic. If she wants to play politics, play it with bigger balls than that.

Mrs. Firth: I did not realize that the Government Leader was so defensive about this position. His defensiveness explains the whole story. I think everybody understands that.

I am asking a simple question. There are areas in education where that money could be used for students, for student-related activities. Why is the Minister of Education agreeing to the Education budget supplementing the Land Claims Secretariat budget?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: We are continuing a practice that was continued under the former government where all departments of this government, knowing that the land claims was a government-wide process, are required to do work associated with land claims. All government departments incur expenditures associated with land claims. The Member ought to know. It is possible that, under the former government, the land claims negotiator did not consult with the Department of Education when they were dealing with educational questions. That is not the case here.

I get irritated because the Member does not have the honesty to talk about the record of this government, which is to end the despicable system of patronage that pertained under the previous administration. That is something I get irritated about — a person of some integrity, that I would expect to give credit to this government for the fairness in which it has conducted its hiring policies.

Question re: Territorial agents

Mr. Coles: As the Minister of Government Services knows, many communities and municipalities outside of Whitehorse have problems getting permits and licences that relate to the Government of Yukon. Does the Minister or his department have plans to expand the number of territorial agents in the communities?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Not at the present time. I would be interested to know, either in the supplementary or privately, of the communities that the Member opposite considers it would be cost effective and of justifiable benefit to the territory and the community involved, where the next territorial agents should be appointed, if new ones are appointed in the future.

Mr. Coles: The Village Council in Carmacks has expressed an interest to me in taking on the job itself under some sort of a contract basis, and, as the village already maintains an office and a person half-time, a full-time position could be created to make better use of the office. Would the Minister consider some sort of agreement of that nature?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: Yes, I will consider that.

Mr. Coles: When could the Minister expect to give us a decision?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: When it is fully analyzed. I would expect it would be a month or so from now.

Question re: Regional superintendent

Mrs. Firth: I have a question for the Minister of Education regarding the regional superintendent; I hope he can answer this question. I would like to know if the regional superintendent position, which, it has been announced, will be in Mayo, is the superintendent's position that was originally designated for the community of Carmacks, and, if so, when was the decision made to change it to Mayo?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The position was never originally designated for Carmacks.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister tell me if a job description

request has gone to the Public Service Commission and when they will be advertising for this job?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In order to be perfectly accurate, I will check with the department and get the information for the Member.

Mrs. Firth: Obviously it is a high priority job, but the Minister does not know if anything has been done yet. The Minister mentioned a work plan for the three superintendents to facilitate easier access to the schools and increase travel. Could he table that work plan so that we could have more constructive debate during the O&M budget on Education?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would like to remind the Member that there are approximately 400 positions in one department that are all important positions for this government; every single position is an important position. This new position is equally important. I cannot be expected to know the details of every job in every locale in the territory; that would be absolutely ludicrous.

I will make sure that the debate is informative when we get around to the estimates.

Mrs. Firth: It is in your own riding.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member says that it is in my own riding and, therefore, I should know something about it. It is not because the person is to be located in my riding that I should have any special notice. I treat all ridings equally, including the Member's.

Question re: Mayo group home

Mr. Phelps: I have a question for the Minister of Health and Human Resources with regard to the Mayo group home. I asked some questions of her on April 29 with regard to a resolution that was forwarded to her from the Yukon Indian Band Chiefs in support of the Mayo group home. Can the Minister advise the House as to whether, since April 29 when the question was raised, she or her officials have had any meetings with the Mayo Chief or the Mayo group home society with regard to the contents of the resolution?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: Our department has not met with the officials from the Mayo Group Home with respect to the group home. There was a meeting with the Minister of Education and the Chief of the Mayo Band, and other officials from that Band, with respect to many things. At that time, the subject of the group home was brought up.

With respect to the Band Council Resolution that we received, we are still waiting for response from the Chiefs who signed the Band Council Resolution before we make any kind of decision. If it is their decision that those children taken into care by this department be first referred to the Mayo group home, then we would look at the Resolution as it stands. The response that we are getting back is that those Chiefs would prefer to have their children in their own communities.

Mr. Phelps: On April 29, the Minister said that she had not received clarification with respect to the March 19 resolution. Has she subsequently received the letter that was sent to her clarifying the point that she was confused about?

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

Mr. Phelps: Can the Minister advise the House as to whether or not she takes the position that some of the Band Chiefs no longer support that Resolution?

Hon. Mrs. Joe: That is right. We do have some letters that do clarify that they would prefer to have those children in their own communities, rather than be first referred to the Mayo group home.

Question re: Grizzly bear hunting

Mr. Brewster: Can the Minister of Renewable Resources advise the House if resident hunters can still hunt one grizzly bear each year in zones 7 and 9, and still be allowed to hunt one grizzly bear every five years in the rest of the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Porter: Yes. The Member's information is accurate. We have made no changes to those regulations, as they affect zones 7 and 9.

Mr. Brewster: Is the Minister making any other provisions to reduce the number of grizzlies in game zones 7 and 9 to protect the moose population? If so, what are they?

Hon. Mr. Porter: With respect to the current regulations that

we have on the books affecting the grizzly hunting quota in that area, there are no further moves that we are contemplating right now to more or less liberalize the hunting regulations in zones 7 and 9 with respect to grizzly.

Mr. Brewster: Since the Minister has not made any other provisions, is it the policy of this government that the existing grizzly bear predator control program will continue, and that this program is sufficient to restore the moose population?

Hon. Mr. Porter: With respect to that issue — we have discussed this earlier in the House — the government's position is very clear. We have put the predator removal portion of the program on hold. We have said publicly that we would like the benefit of the Select Committee report prior to making a decision on the question of predator control. With respect to other aspects of the program, we will be going ahead with those this coming season.

13 Response re: Radiation

Hon. Mr. Penikett: On April 21, the Leader of the Official Opposition expressed an interest in the subject of reality therapy workshops, and I have some written information for him on that subject.

I have a brief answer to a question asked by the Member for Faro last week, concerning the air quality as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The information is that the air quality is being monitored at 28 stations across Canada, one of which is at the Whitehorse Airport, continually compiling ground-level air results. Radioactivity levels have been reported as normal, with no unusual isotopes observed to date here. As of May 7, radioactivity has been reported in precipitation collected in the states of Washington and Oregon, and researchers at the Triumph Facility in Vancouver also reporting fission parts in rain. A customs alert is in place to insure all commercial shipments of fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and herbs from Europe are being examined by the Federal Health Protection Branch, and Yukon Emergency Measures Branch are receiving daily briefing information and reports from Emergency Planning Canada.

Speaker: Time for Question Period has now elapsed. We will now proceed with Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Speaker: Government Bills?

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 50: Second Reading

Clerk: Second reading, Bill No. 50, standing in the name of the hon. Mrs. Joe.

Hon. Mrs. Joe: I move that Bill No. 50, the *Vital Statistics Act*, be now read a second time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Human Resources that Bill No. 50, entitled the *Vital Statistics Act*, be now read a second time.

Hon. Mrs. Joe: The purpose of bringing the *Vital Statistics Act* forward is to implement the provisions recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and the Conference of Registrars General and Vital Statistics. Yukon's current act is the previous model act approved by the Uniform Law Conference and the Conference of Registrars General. It has seen very little in the way of amendment, in spite of significant and correlated legislative review in the provinces. Consequently, many provisions are archaic and in conflict with those adopted more recently by the provinces. That conflict is a source of confusion and aggravation to Canadians who move across provincial and territorial boundaries.

Adopting the new model act at this time, suitably admitted to dove-tail with Yukon law and circumstances, ensures the continuance of some uniformity across Canada with respect to naming practices, adoption, records-keeping and statistics gathering. It also enhances compliance of Yukon's legislation with the provisions of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and consolidates consequential

amendments made last session.

Mrs. Firth: We will be looking forward to clause-by-clause debate when we can ask more specific questions.

Motion agreed to

Bill No. 92: Second Reading

Clerk: Second reading, Bill No. 92, standing in the name of the hon. Mr. Kimmerly.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: I move that Bill No. 92, entitled *Small Claims Court Act*, be now read a second time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 92, entitled *Small Claims Court Act*, be now read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: This bill does two major things. It changes the limit of the small claims court, and it established the court in a formal act of its own.

The limit is now actions of \$1,500 or less in general principle. The new limit is raised to \$3,000 if the act is passed in its present form.

The principles around the limit from the government's point of view is as follows: The limit should be as high as is possible to avoid the more costly legal procedures in the Supreme Court. It should be low enough to avoid the court becoming a lawyer's court. If the limit is raised too high, the parties before the court will undoubtedly seek the assistance of legal counsel.

The whole purpose of the small claims court is to avoid the expense and the extra bother of lawyers and the legal red tape in the layperson's view of a civil action in the court. In keeping with inflation and the practices in the courts now, we have arrived at the figure of \$3,000, and we are interested in any discussion in Committee as to the exact monetary figure.

The procedures of the court are presently found in the *Judicature Act* and in the *Territorial Court Act*. This act will serve as a convenient reference point for the lay public to find the law about small claims in one act. It will bring it together and formalize the court as a legislated small claims court.

Mr. Phillips: I think we will be addressing most of our concerns in the line-by-line items, but we should put the Minister on notice that if there are any regulation changes we would like the regulations tabled, if we could at that time, so we can look at those specific changes.

Mr. McLachlan: We look forward to the debate on the Bill in Committee of the Whole. At that time, we will be asking more specific questions related to the mechanics of some of the changes that the Minister wishes to introduce.

Motion agreed to

Speaker: 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?

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

Speaker: So ordered.

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

Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. 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 Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chairman: I now call Committee of the Whole to order. We will now recess for 15 minutes.

Recess

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

We will continue with Department of Economic Development: Mines and Small Business.

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

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I would be happy to continue with the lines. I think we had had quite a long general debate on this department and can continue line-by-line now.

Mr. Lang: We were talking about various industries and how perhaps the government could assist them. Are there any cottage industries or anything of that kind further to the moves made in the area of furniture, in any other areas, where the government is intending to move with respect to assisting the formations of industries here other than forestry and agriculture?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The forestry and agriculture area are the most significant. As the Member knows, from debate over the years, there has been an interest in tannery proposals, and so forth, which would help improve the utilization of furs, and the craft industry. At this point, nobody has actually got to the point of a proposal with those. Various people have talked to us about ideas but I do not think it has gotten further.

The Minister of Renewable Resources says there is one proposal coming, or in the works.

The other thing I mentioned the other day was that someone had suggested that the clays in this area may be suitable, not just for pottery and so forth, but for some of the ceramic types of tiles, which are a common building product and featured in many larger-scaled buildings. No work has been done at all in that area, but it is something we might like to encourage someone in the private sector to pursue. Nothing has been done. We do know if the clay is really suitable or if it is just an idea or if it has any viability.

Mr. Lang: This is just an idea to throw on the floor; perhaps the Minister, in conjunction with the Minister of Tourism could pursue an idea primarily from people in the jewellery business looking at the designation of a Yukon gemstone. I think that does have some validity because it is a reasonably priced type of gemstone and not too rare. It may have merit because it has a selling point for the purpose of a local industry starting out in the territory and making it available to the various jewellery shops in the Yukon, and further, exporting. I would like to stress that we should ensure that it is not too rare, because if it was a rare gemstone then the commercial value would be questionable or whether or not you could get commercial benefits from it. That should be part of the criteria in establishing it, if that is the direction the government wishes to go.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is an interesting idea. The problem with the argillite is that it is rare and is not terribly good material to work with for jewellery. That is something worth thinking about.

We have a couple of ideas that I might mention that have not so much to do with cottage industries, but with more successful marketing of some of the products that we have here. For example, something that we might be able to work with Tourism and Renewable Resources is the whole area of marketing local fish.

We have discovered one thing that other jurisdictions do much more successfully than we do. We have airlines flying in and out of here every day serving chicken. That or pork seems to be the universal meal. It might be worth some effort on the part of government to persuade them, when they are flying out of here, to serve a Yukon fish product, salmon or whatever.

Some governments in some places in the world have good marketing ideas. They give sample menus and recipes to local restaurants. They also put little cards, supplied by the government, into stands on the tables in the restaurants advertising the fish. When people come in, they see the promotion, and they may order that fish off the menu.

We might persuade the airlines to serve it as their meal, as part of a tourist promotion. The promotional item could remind the people where the fish comes from and maybe offer it for sale in cans as

souvenirs.

There are marketing things that we can do in that area that have not been tried before. These might provide a little more impetus, give a little more spinoff, get a few more dollars into the local community and may also help persuade some of the local people to use more of that product for entertaining, et cetera.

There has been a lot of effort, as we know, to sell char in the Northwest Territories. Some of it is successful, some of it is not. There are things that we could do here that we have not even begun to look at very carefully yet.

Mr. McLachlan: I have a question in relation to calling tenders for glulam beams. Unfortunately, a lot of the woods that we have in the Yukon are softwoods. If the wood being used in the beams is not hardwood, that problem can be corrected by making the depths of the beam deeper.

Has this branch of the department any plans to carefully study this problem of using our local softwoods for building materials? What direction has the Minister given the Director of this branch in this area?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: This is really more the Small Business Branch, but it is a way in which we are working with the forestry association on exactly that kind of thing. We do know, for example, in terms of using spruce, as opposed to some of the imported products, in glulam for example, the fact that the Member talks about increasing the dimensions by a factor of 18 percent to get the same kind of tolerances. They do know that, and that has been taken into account in the design and the utilization of spruce from the Watson Lake area.

Mr. McLachlan: Could I anticipate from that that the possible location of a glulam plant then would not naturally be where the forestry material is most available? What does the Minister have in mind for the location of a potential plant?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: That really is up to the private sector. I would assume that it has something to do with where the markets are. If we were talking about large building projects in this area — and Watson Lake is not the only source of timber; it might come from somewhere else in the territory — then whoever was developing it, perhaps in conjunction with a kiln, and so forth, could do it here.

There is a lot to recommend Watson Lake, in terms of historic position in this industry. The actual decision about the location would probably be made by the entrepreneurs.

Mr. Lang: While on the subject of the laminated beam plant, what steps are being taken about marketing for such an industry being established here?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: We have had conversations with the forestry association about their doing some market study work right now. We have talked to the federal government, in terms of their capital needs in the future here, and there is a substantial market in the next few years, in terms of their projects. You understand, of course, that if there is not a plant here, then there might be some attraction to using a steel frame design, as opposed to glulam.

We have not done this in depth yet, but we understand that some of the areas in Alaska that are using glulam have been importing the material from BC and Saskatchewan. A small plant here that can supply those needs might prove economic and may be competitive. We do not really know that yet. We have not done anything in the detail.

Mr. Lang: My knowledge is very limited. I believe that there were seven or nine plants in the mainland that produced laminated beams, and now there are two. One company, I understand, services not only British Columbia, Yukon and Alaska, but also provides the same service as far south as Texas. Therefore, it is a question of how much need there is for laminated beams.

This has to be looked at not only in the light of what building is going to be done by this government, which is a variable, but also outside of the Yukon, because there can only be so many buildings built here in Yukon or Alaska. I want to express the view that it had better been done well, because we could be putting public funds, directly or indirectly, into an industry where there could be no market. We could get into a situation where, for the short term, we encourage an industry, and find, in the end, we have financially

broken a lot of individuals who put money into such a venture.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The Member is raising a very serious concern, and it is one that we are sensitive to. The number of plants that the Member is talking about are quite large in scale. The project that has been discussed here, going back to Mr. Tracey's days in the Ministry, is something on the order of a \$300,000 investment. We are not talking about multi-million dollar plants; some of them are very small; some of them are very small.

I could, at some point in the future, provide the Member with some idea of the payback period on that kind of investment. Certainly, even if a plant were to come into place here, and supply something like the Yukon College, that is quite a significant volume of work. If we could get it done here, it would provide quite a bit of demand.

Clearly, it would not be a friendly act of the government to encourage the development of such a plant and then find there is no market for its product three or four years or more down the road.

Mr. Lang: That is one of our concerns on the furniture side of things, just drawing a parallel that if down the road we decide there are no executive desks needed, and the government is not prepared to pay \$8,500 for a set of furniture, what are these people going to do after they have set up in a business, either directly or indirectly, by government funds? The same principle applies here.

The Minister says that there is a study underway, and an analysis being done in this particular area. Who is doing it?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: There is someone who is looking at the prospect of developing such a facility right now, and is doing that work as a proponent to establish a company. To their satisfaction, there is a market for the material, should they go into this business.

Mr. Lang: Do I take that, to this point, there are no government funds going in that direction for the market analysis?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: We have spent a small amount of money to look at the experience in BC and to look at the market situation, as earlier indicated by the Member.

Mr. Lang: In my preamble at the beginning of this particular topic and discussion, my information is then accurate, as far as the number of plants now working as opposed to what there was 10 years ago, and various things of that nature? I just want to make sure that my information is correct. I do not have the resources of the government at my disposal.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The numbers that the Member talked about at the beginning sound similar to me. We are talking about plants on a different scale. The big difference, even when you are servicing northern BC or in terms of bringing in things from BC, is that transportation cost, which can add 25 percent to the cost of the product, even from lower mainland BC to here. That is one of the margins that potentially makes such a facility attractive here.

On Administration

On Administration

Mrs. Firth: Could we have an explanation about the increase that is here in this line?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It seems to me that in the 1985-86 forecast there were vacancies in the Administration area. I am just trying to break down the difference between the \$203,000 and the \$235,000. If we can proceed with some other questions, I will get the officials here to get that information and answer it in a second.

Mr. Nordling: Can the Government Leader tell us how many person-years are in Administration and identify them?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: In Administration under Economic Policy Planning and Research, there are now two PYs, a director and the clerk-typist. That comes to a total of \$96,000. There has also, under that item, been a research allocation for the Yukon Economic Council of \$41,000, and overload typing, secretarial services of \$24,000.

Mrs. Firth: I would like a breakdown of what the director's salary is. Are there only four person-years in that administration line? I have a director, clerk-typist, researcher for the economic council and secretarial services. I would like to know what all the PYs in there are, and the director's salary.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The person-years here are the director, clerk-typist and the policy position for the Yukon Economic Council, that was previously a casual position and is now a

permanent position.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Government Leader tell us what the director's salary is and what the policy position title is, and what the salary is for the policy position.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The director's position is in the \$60,000 range. For the policy and research position with the Yukon Economic Council that is a \$41,000 position.

Mrs. Firth: So for the line administration there are three person-years, is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Three person-years.

Mrs. Firth: The Director's salary is in the \$60,000 range. Is the Clerk Typist getting \$36,000 a year? There is a total of \$96,000

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The Clerk Typist is getting \$26,000.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Government Leader tell me what the other \$10,000 is for?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is the 12 percent benefits portion for the salaries, which adds up to \$10,000.

Mrs. Firth: Is the research allocation for the council strictly the salary dollars for the researcher? Are there no other funds identified for the Economic Council?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: There is the honoraria for the Council that comes under this line, too. It is included in the rest of the money under this bulk.

Mr. Nordling: Perhaps the Government Leader can give us a breakdown of the rest of the money. I add the Director and Clerk Typist together for \$96,000, the Economic Council for \$41,000, the secretary or overload for \$24,000, which gives a total of \$161,000. What is the rest of the money is allocated for?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is actually \$163,000, I think. The rest of the money is as follows: travel in the territory - \$3,200; travel outside the territory - \$9,500; travel for the Council, separate from staff travel, to attend meetings in various communities, \$5,500; the honoraria for the Yukon Economic Council is \$13,200; contract services for research allocation for the Yukon Economic Council is \$30,000; entertainment - \$1,000; rental - \$1,000; communications - \$5,200; and Other, which includes memberships in the Conference Board of Canada, the OECD, — I cannot remember what those initials stand for — \$3,100 for a total of \$71,700.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell us what the \$30,000 for contract services is for?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: That is down considerably from the previous year. That is for studies that may be commissioned by the Economic Council, independently of the government for one purpose or another. The Council might want to commission some work itself in an area such as free trade, or so forth, that the government is asking it to deliberate on.

Mrs. Firth: Is the Minister saying that the Economic Council has a budget of \$30,000 to contract studies and so on?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is in this department's vote, but it is studies that may be undertaken by or for the Economic Council. The Council requests us to undertake studies at a certain point. It is not under the control of the Council. It is under the control of the Administration of this Deputy Minister. It is an allocation for that purpose.

It is considerably reduced from last year, when the money voted for this purpose was \$61,000 but was not spent.

Mrs. Firth: I am just talking about this year. Is it the Deputy Minister who is going to make the decision about these studies? Can the department commission a study for \$20,000 on something if they want, or is the money under the budget allocation of the Economic Council?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It would be inconsistent with ministerial accountability for us to say that the Economic Council itself could decide how to spend money. We have an allocation. If the Economic Council asks to spend \$10,000 for the purpose of doing the examination of some free trade issues, for example, which they felt had not been adequately done by the department, they could request that the government make this expenditure. There is an allocation for this purpose.

If, however, they came and said to me they wanted to spend \$50,000 on project A, B and C, I would be immediately obliged to tell them that it is not in the budget and they could not do it.

Mr. Phelps: Perhaps we could go back and look at the allotment of Personnel. As a general question, which would apply to all the above line items, why has it gone from \$112,000 for six person-years, up to \$413,000 for seven, since 1984? My calculations would show a breakdown of six with each person getting an average of \$18,670. The next year each is getting an average of \$48,000 and this year, \$59,000. Why that tremendous increase in the allocation?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: In 1985-86, the \$257,000 represents costs for 3.5 permanent staff. They used two casuals to cover vacancies, and there were significant vacancies. The \$413,000 covers personal costs for seven person-years for the fiscal year, plus the cost of the Economic Council researcher. The significant increase results from the vacancies in the positions during 1985-86, plus the increase in the complement by one person who, as I explained previously, was the econometrician.

Mr. Phelps: Does the Government Leader have an explanation for the jump from the previous figures, from \$112,000 to \$257,000, on the same number of person-years?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I could get that information for the Member. All I know so far is that the \$112,000 was allocated for three person-years. That was all that was actually paid for in that year, even though the established staff establishment was for more person-years than that.

Mr. Nordling: How much of that \$413,000 is attributed to the Economic Council. It was my understanding that there was a \$13,200 honorarium. Are there other Economic Council monies included in the personnel figure of \$413,000?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The \$41,000 is the only personnel money attributed to the Economic Council. The other money was in the Other amount, which I detailed a few moments ago for the Member: the honoraria, the travel and the research allocation.

Mr. Nordling: We used two different figures. The Government Leader mentioned \$41,000 included in there. My understanding was that the honoraria is \$13,200. If we subtract that from the \$413,000 for the seven person-years, it is approximately \$400,000, which is an average of almost \$60,000 a person-year. Are my calculations correct?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: No. The \$41,000, which is under the Personnel allotment, is for the researcher associated with the Economic Council. The honoraria is under the Other, which is part of the \$71,000 that I detailed a few minutes ago.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Government Leader give us a breakdown of the Other under the allotments?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I did a few minutes ago. It was \$71,700, and I broke it down in great detail.

Mrs. Firth: I am asking specifically about the change. There has been a remarkable increase from, in 1984-85, \$95,000 to \$70,000 then to \$352,000. I would like to have a breakdown of what the \$352,000 represents.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I just gave the Other under Administration. It may be easiest if we gave the breakdown of the Other as we go through each line, rather than my trying to lump it altogether, if the Member would be happy to get it that way. I have given it for Administration; I will give it for Research when we get to that.

Administration in the amount of \$233,000 agreed to
On Research

Mrs. Firth: Can the Government tell us what this line item is and what is done under it?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Economic research under Economic Policy, Planning and Research is basically what it says: Economic Research. They respond to requests from other branches and departments for assistance in ascertaining the economic implications of contemplated actions, whatever they may. It monitors federal and provincial initiatives to track new programs that may be applicable to the Yukon. The government is provided with current information on economic relations between jurisdictions and analysis of major economic matters. It does economic forecasting and analysis, to monitor and analyze statistical information relating to the economy, and it utilizes the forecast as a tool in fiscal planning and other planning efforts throughout the government.

Mr. Nordling: Can the Minister tell us how many person-years

are included in that figure?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Two.

Mr. Nordling: Can he tell us what they are?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: A general economist and the econometrician who we talked about, which is a new position.

Mr. Nordling: Could the Minister tell us what the salary dollars are for each of those positions.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I guessed the other day and said the econometrician was close to the \$50,000 level and I am advised that one position is \$49,000 and the other one is \$47,000, but you have to add to that the 12 percent benefits package, so the total permanent salary costs for these two people is almost \$108,000.

Mr. Nordling: That leaves approximately \$5,000. Could the Minister tell us what that is for?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Two items — travel and communications — the travel representing \$3,400 and communication representing \$2,100.

Mrs. Firth: Because of the large increase from the previous year, was it because the positions were unfilled that accounts for that?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The reason for the increase in this line is principally because of the econometrician, whom we previously discussed.

*Research in the amount of \$113,000 agreed to
On Economic Planning*

Mrs. Firth: I believe the Minister said that this was the line that the Economic Development Strategy came under and he was going to give us more information about that at this time.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I mentioned that it is \$250,000, and this is the additional monies here. We spent some time discussing the process itself in general debate. I will try to answer any further questions the Member has. I did indicate to the House that it was going to be a very public process involving lots of consultation with groups and there would be lots of meetings, both in Whitehorse and rural areas, and there would be workshops with sector groups and industry groups in the development of this process. There will be at least one major conference where we will attempt to bring the players together to try to compile all the work that has been done in the sector area. Even though it is the responsibility of this department, it will also involve other departments and agencies, both of this government and others, as well as industry groups. There is a significant amount of money here that has been discussed that will involve research work and studies that are the responsibility of this department, in the main — the commercial aspects of some of the renewable resources and parts of the economy for which this department has direct responsibility — mining and energy — and as well those areas in which research is required, because it involves several departments and/or inter-departmental or inter-sectoral studies.

Mrs. Firth: The Minister talks in very general terms. I understand what he is saying. It sounds very good. We are talking about \$250,000. I would like to know if there is a plan, and if I could have an outline of it, or if the Minister just said, "Well, we have this objective in mind, and we should identify some money for it, and we are going to identify \$250,000"?

I would like some specifics answered about what kind of research work they are anticipating, and how many professional studies they think they may be looking at. Do they have a plan of what groups are going to be included, and a time when the conference is going to be held, an outline of how they are going to invite people to the conference, what kind of forum? I would like some specifics about this expenditure.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I would like to give the Member specifics in great detail. Let me try to explain a little bit about my difficulty in being too specific. My original intention was to hold the first major workshop with some of the sectoral groups, those involved in the Economic Council and groups that are not represented on the Council, in May of this year. For obvious reasons, that is now impossible, because I have not had the leisure to turn my time to the numerous details that are involved.

It is now my plan to hold the first significant major workshop, involving the many economic interests in the territory, in June. I am

looking at the third week of June. I am looking at holding the workshop and conference outside of Whitehorse. I have to tell the Member, honestly, I have not made final decisions with respect to the date or the place yet, mainly because I do not know when the session is going to end. Having previously, at least internally, committed myself to a date in May, I have become more — I was going to say more conservative — cautious in making commitments to specific times and dates.

The process will be coordinated by this department. There will be a framework paper at this first conference, which is being developed in the department as of this moment. This paper will have a look at the Yukon economy and will define, in a number of ways, some of the important issues that face us in the next few years. We will try to define some of the problems, and some of the issues, for which we have to have solutions.

Inside the government, the work is being led by Economic Development, but is being coordinated by a subcommittee of officials at two levels. One, there is a committee of Deputy Ministers, which is chaired by the Economic Development Deputy Minister, which includes other departments that have responsibilities in the economic area.

There is also work going on at a lower level between officials of the different departments to achieve the kind of internal coordination that we need for this exercise. As I previously mentioned, the tourism strategy work and the transportation work, just to name two examples that are being commissioned by my colleagues locally, will have to be woven into this whole process.

²⁷ As we proceed, the work plan is going to be somewhat fleshed out as a result of this large workshop. The work will proceed with officials of this and other departments, having smaller workshops and group sessions with people in industries, sectors and in communities around the territory. As we develop the paper, we will talk about the economic information we have on various sectors.

For example, the size of the sector is so many dollars now, it has so many jobs, it has this kind of market, external forces are working on it in the following ways, there are these kinds of problems that are identified with other sectors, and there are these kinds of conflicts that we have identified with other sectors. We will be provoking as much consultation as we can with the people in those sectors to try and develop some kind of consensual plan.

That work will go on. The first workshop that we have will be very much an agenda setting conference in those terms. We will have representatives of the Economic Council as well as those representatives of sectors who are not members of the Economic Council. Some of those are those we had some discussion about the other day. There are also others, such as the Transportation Association, the Agriculture Association and the Forestry Association.

The framework document will be put before them for discussion. We will come out of that with a very clear program, I hope, for where we go from there, in terms of the detailed work to be done inside the department and the work to be done in concert with other groups.

Subsequently, there will be, next spring, a major conference where the results of the work that has been done to date, including the work that has already been done by the departments, will be put before the conference in a number of ways.

It could resemble some of the Northern Resources Conferences that we have had in the past where there will be panels on different sectors. I do not know that kind of detail yet.

It will be a conference to which the public will be invited to participate, invited to take part in and invited to express their views. It will represent the product of the work that has gone on in this past year. It will not be the final result because, obviously, we will have to come out of that conference having to distill and rewrite much of what we are going to do.

Some work is going to be done in other departments on the studies that the Member asks about. That was discussed earlier. A sampling of some of the studies that Economic Development will be responsible for funding are studies that overlap in departmental mandates or that include renewable energy, oil and gas, mining, business, technology and some work in the area of community

development. All of these will be funded by Economic Development.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Government Leader tell me who is on the sub-committee of officials besides the Deputy Minister of Economic Development?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Besides Economic Development, Tourism, Renewable Resources, Community and Transportation Services, ECO and Finance.

Mrs. Firth: Am I to understand that it will be this group, this sub-committee of officials, that will be going around to the communities and having sessions in the communities?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Understand that before the strategy finally gets made public, it will have to come before the Cabinet. Before it goes to Cabinet, it will be reviewed by the Economic Council, that is the umbrella group of sectoral interest. In terms of coordinating the work between the different departments, it will be this Deputy Minister group who will be coordinating the activities. Going around to the communities, meeting with sectoral groups and industry groups will be carried on, in the main, by officials from this department, not always the Deputy Minister, but officials from Economic Policy Planning and Research, but also from time to time it will involve other people in Economic Development.

Mrs. Firth: Are the issues identified in this whole framework and can the Minister tell us what the issues are?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I would hesitate to say all the issues will be identified in the framework document. The framework document will go before this workshop that I am hoping will happen in June. That paper is being developed now. It is not ready, so I cannot table it. It will talk about some of the challenges, problems and opportunities facing the Yukon economy in an effort to outline an agenda through which we can approach these questions and an agenda for consultation. It will invite a wide- and free-ranging response from the various sectoral interests that will be in attendance.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell us who is invited to the conference?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Nobody has been invited yet, except, as I already indicated, the members of the Economic Council and representatives of other sectoral groups previously mentioned who are not members of the Economic Council.

Mrs. Firth: I am unclear about something. The Government Leader is saying he was planning to hold this in May, and he is using us as an excuse for not being able to get on with his conference. Yet the framework paper is not completed. I cannot get an answer as to what the issues are; nobody is getting invited yet, and it is only two weeks to the end of the month. The agenda is now going to Cabinet for approval. There is no final date or place set so far. Perhaps I could ask the Government Leader if the final agenda is going to be made available to the Members of the Legislature as the minutes of the Economic Council.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Let me be fairly tolerant; the Member is being a little bit unfair.

I am not blaming her because I cannot call the conference. I cannot usefully do the reading and writing, because my hand is going into some of the documents, while we are sitting in the House. I am very busy, and I work long hours now, but there are some kinds of work I do not have the days to put to it until the House is out.

²⁹ I have told the Member that the conference will be held in June, if the House is out. If the House is not out, it will be postponed until a later time. It will be held outside of Whitehorse. I am not going to commit myself to a place right now, because the accommodations may not be available at that time of the year, as they were in May.

I have already told her. She says I do not know who we are going to invite. I have said that we will be inviting those bodies that are represented on the Economic Council, plus other groups that have been indicated here today, and in the debates in the last few days, including the Transportation Association, including the Agricultural Association, including the Forestry Association. There are other groups that will be invited.

The Member asks why they have not been invited. You cannot

invite them to a conference for which I do not know the time or the place yet. I do not know how the Member conducts her social life, but if I am going to have a party, I usually tell people where it is going to be and what time it is going to be before I issue the invitations, or at least at the same time.

Mrs. Firth: Maybe the Minister could tell us where he was planning on holding the conference in May?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: My initial indication was to hold it outside Whitehorse. Having looked around at the situation in terms of hotels and so forth, my inclination, had it been in May, would have been to hold it in Faro.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister tell us how many people he was planning on having, and how long it was going to last?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: My plan was that it would be a weekend conference, and it would have involved between 30 and 50 people.

Mrs. Firth: That is very general, and I would like to know if I could have a list of the people who are going to be invited to the conference. The Minister has not answered the question yet about whether the agenda will be made available to Members of the Legislative Assembly so that they can follow the conference, as well, and participate where they see fit.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I have no problem whatsoever in making the agenda available to the Members of the opposition, and the list of participants, when it is available.

Mrs. Firth: I want to get into some details now about exactly what the \$250,000 is for. Could the Government Leader give me a breakdown of that \$250,000?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: We have \$30,000 allocated for communications and public involvement. This will provide for advertising, the cost of holding public meetings and workshops, the production and the public distribution of reports and documents such as agendas and reports coming out of the conferences.

The conferences and workshops we have allocated this year \$50,000. Those costs include the preparation of conference materials, the fees and expenses of any speakers or people we intend to bring into the conferences, delegate expenses, rental of facilities and the production of a report on the conference.

The other \$170,000 is to provide for the professional and research studies, which I previously indicated to the Members are those that are the responsibility of the Department of Economic Development, or for funding those studies that overlap departmental mandates.

Mrs. Firth: Do I understand, then, that because there is \$50,000 identified for preparation of conference material, and fees for speakers and so on, that this work will not be done in-house within the department? Is the Minister saying that he is going to be looking at contracting out most of the work involved with the economic development strategy?

³⁰ **Hon. Mr. Penikett:** No. It is not true that we will be contracting out most of it. By far the large part of it will be done by permanent officials or permanent employees of this government. In terms of arranging conferences involving speakers or people that we may contract for some particular projects, the amount budgeted here is what we have for that purpose. The research monies are also over and above what we will be doing internally.

The people who we have in the department do not do the kind of research that we will be looking for, for example, the kind of studies that I was asked about when this session began on import substitution. We contracted that to a consulting firm. There is a lot of work like that that just cannot be done in-house because of the workload.

Mrs. Firth: If the officials are going to do a fair amount of the conference preparation, why do we need that \$50,000? I can understand the fees for speakers. There is \$170,000 identified for professional services and research. What kind of professional services and research does that involve?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I have already answered that question about five times. The Member is talking but not listening.

The \$50,000 will include such things as the cost of the preparation of conference material. That may involve printing, some design work, some packaging work. If we were to do these things in-house, we would hear loud objections from the Members

opposite.

There may be some costs for delegates. We may want to bring in people from various organizations that are not capable of funding themselves in the same way as for the members of the Education Council who are provided honoraria and expenses, or for any other group.

There will be rental of facilities and the production of reports on the conference. All of these will involve a cost. It is not just for this one conference but also for the workshops that may go on throughout the year — workshops for the agriculture group, the forestry group and such things as those. It is a significant expenditure, but hopefully it is one that will be put to very, very good use during the year.

Mrs. Firth: We have not questioned the use it is going to be put to. I am trying to find out some of the specifics of how the Minister arrived at needing this amount of money.

There is \$170,000 identified for professional and research services. What professional and research services? What are we looking at? \$170,000 is a lot of money in combination with another \$30,000 that is in the department for studies. I would like to know what kind of studies the Minister is anticipating to request that amount of money from the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Once again — and this really is the fifth time — we are going to need professional and research work in the following areas, among others.

We are developing an energy strategy in the territory that will fall into this whole planning process. That is the responsibility of this department.

³¹ We are also going to be looking at the whole dimension of renewable energy, alternatives to the oil situation, which has not been studied in great depth in this government before. That will require some highly-skilled professional help to do.

We are going to be looking at oil and gas. We are looking at the situation in the Beaufort and other prospects in the territory. We are going to be trying to define what kind of role oil and gas will have, what impact it will have on our economy in the next few years, not only its potential as a resource that could be developed here, but also its impact in terms of costs on our economy and the way it affects activity in various sectors.

We will be looking at some of the areas that affect mining, which is in our departmental interests, and some of the technology questions. We will be defining the specific needs in consultation with the sectoral groups, but, also as the result of the first large workshop we have, we will be defining a little more precisely the research needs and program that we shall be undertaking in the current year.

We do have many good people in this government. We do have, compared with 10 years ago, quite a number of people with significant economic expertise and training. They are not the people who can do original research in highly-specialized areas, and we will need those people to be able to answer the questions and provide projections to the people who are going to be participating in these workshops and the conferences so that we can provide them, as they are giving their advice about the way they see the world from the basis of their own experience, with some expert economic assessment. Hopefully, by combining those two, the local wisdom with the professional expertise, we will come to some good commonsense assessments about our future.

Mrs. Firth: That is not the fifth time the Government Leader has said that; it is the first time he has told us exactly what some of his plans were.

Is the Government Leader talking about an outline or plan similar to what was in the Department of Community and Transportation Services, where they were going to do a total outline with a committee of new economic incentives? What safeguards are there so that the government will not be repeating studies that have already been done, and what is happening to a lot of studies that would have impact on some of these areas that are within the department right now?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: This department will not be duplicating work done in other departments. Work that has been done in this department before does not include a lot of original research work.

There is some material on the shelves, some of which is useful, and we will put it to a good use. One of the things we have done as an early part of this project is an inventory of all the planning studies that have been done in the past, so we do not duplicate any of that work, the tourism strategy that is being developed by my colleague here; the conclusions of the Renewable Resources green paper; the work that is going to be done by the Minister of Community and Transportation Services in transportation policy will all be integrated into the final strategic document. Before we get that far, because of the coordination mechanism of the Deputy Ministers Coordinating Committee on this process, we hope to make sure they are not tripping over each other or working at cross purposes or duplicating work, and they will do that by having the Deputy Ministers in close touch with each other as we are commissioning the work and doing the studies and developing the strategies in this area.

Just to state the obvious, it would make no point to make a tourism strategy, which is based on certain transportation assumptions that are directly in contradiction of the direction gone by the Department of Community and Transportation Services. That is one of the things this strategy exercise is hoping to overcome — the need for coordination; the need for us to be pulling together rather than working at cross purposes.

³² **Mrs. Firth:** Is the Minister prepared to make a list of the inventory studies that he has done, and could it be made available to the Members, the ones that are public information?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I do not think that I can recall anything on the inventory that we have done that is not public information. I will be quite happy to table that.

Mr. Nordling: Was \$170,000 an estimate, or does the Minister have a breakdown into a budget for the energy strategy, renewable energy, oil and gas, mining and other specific areas?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is a global estimate at this point. I hope that, following the first major workshop, we will be able to, within this budget allocation, define the work plan much more specifically. I hope the Member will also understand that sometimes when we invite proposals for research in a specific area we can be surprised. We may assume something will cost \$30,000 and we get a good proposal at \$20,000. The contrary can happen, too. We may assume something will cost us \$40,000, and the reasonable proposals come in and project it at \$50,000. It is not possible, at this point, to be more accurate. Hopefully, by the time we come out of this first workshop, we will have a much clearer idea as to how we expect to spend this money in the coming year.

Mr. Nordling: I thank the Minister for that. I understand how difficult it is to make those sorts of projections.

Are there any number of person-years included in this amount?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: No. Under the Economic Planning there are no person-years associated with the \$250,000. The person-years are the two planners, the senior planner and the junior planner, which I previously indicated to the House.

Mr. McLachlan: As a follow-up to the question from the Member for Riverdale South, with respect to the Government Leader's use of the past tense, "my preference would have been Faro for May", do I presume by that that if it is not within the month of May, which is rapidly slipping by, when we get into June it is not Faro? Or, is that still his preference?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I said the one thing about which I am committed: I would like to do it outside Whitehorse. For example, let us say that I have been looking at the third weekend in June, because of the length of the session. If, in checking those dates I discover that the one hotel in Faro does not have any rooms or enough rooms available, or there is not alternate accommodation there, then we would have to look elsewhere.

It could be that if we get into late June all the places in the Yukon Territory that have attractive accommodation — Haines Junction, Dawson City, Watson Lake — will be fully booked, and we would be forced to retreat to Whitehorse. There are some accommodations that I think I can get in Whitehorse in June, which might not involve hotels.

I am hoping, unless we have this thing under canvas, which I do not expect, that I will be able to make some decisions soon and to

nail down some hotel rooms soon.

Mr. McLachlan: That was the intent of my question. The farther away it slips into June, the more I can eliminate the rural ridings, you see. I wanted the Minister to know, as I am sure that all the Members of the Legislative Assembly would like to know, as soon as possible so that we may plan our own personal schedules.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister tell us when the decision is going to be made in Cabinet regarding the agenda? It must be fairly soon.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The agenda decision will not be made in Cabinet. The agenda decision will be made on the recommendation by the department to me. The final decisions about that will be made by the Minister, not by Cabinet.

Mrs. Firth: I am sure the Minister said that Cabinet had not yet made a decision regarding this matter. What decision do they have to make then?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I was explaining that, as the strategic documents are developed, and as the final strategy is developed, it will require Cabinet approval. The Minister does not need approval of Cabinet to set the conference date. What will require Cabinet decision are the policy decisions that arise out of this strategic exercise.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell us if there is anything in Other in this line item that we should be made aware of?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Other than the \$250,000, and other than the salary for the two planners, we are talking about employee travel in the Yukon, \$5,600; a total in travel of \$10,000 and communications at \$4,200.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister just tell us what communications for \$4,200 is for?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Telephone, telex, dex.

Mrs. Firth: The Minister talked about his plan being to have another major conference, possibly, in the spring. Is the money for that conference in this budget, or are we going to be looking at new monies next year?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I hope to be able to do it within this budget.

Economic Planning in the amount of \$366,000 agreed to On Major Projects

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister just tell us what that is for, please, and the number of person-years that are involved?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: This was originally set up under the previous government, and it was to provide a coordination for major industrial projects to provide a one-window contact between project proposal and the government, ensuring that all required departments are consulted and the consistent approach to a project is adopted. This is a liaison function. It is not assuming responsibility for various regulatory or development programs. The interest here is in increasing the benefits to Yukon residents from major projects. Working with other departments, the unit identifies the benefits and methods to maximize the same. This includes mitigative measures to reduce negative impacts of projects.

³⁴ There is basically one person-year associated with this, and the travel and communications associated with this one person.

Mr. Nordling: What are the salary dollars for that person-year out of the \$51,000 that is allocated?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Including benefits, it comes to just over \$40,000.

Mr. Nordling: Again I would like to confirm my math. I added three person-years identified in administration, two in research, two in economic planning, which would be a total of seven. Now there is one more in major projects for a total of eight. Where have I gone wrong?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I think the difference will be the contract or casual researcher for the Economic Council that will be made a permanent position in the future. We have not actually hired this person yet.

Mr. Nordling: There will be eight person-years in this department?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Some months ago we talked about the government being engulfed in an exercise of dealing with contract positions, and deciding whether they would be cancelled or

converted to permanent positions. We have recently decided to convert this to a permanent position rather than cancelling it.

Mr. McLachlan: I am not sure that the person involved in major projects was on staff last year full-time and is on staff this year full-time. We have gone from \$19,000 to \$51,000. Why the significant increase when it is still only one person involved in major projects last year and one for this year?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The position was not recruited until December, and it was filled by a person in the department.

Mr. McLachlan: A large amount of work in Major Projects involved work in the Beaufort Sea. Is that now being de-emphasized or down-sized in any way through this department's work?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: No, this is still being done principally by Mr. Demchuk who is in this position.

Mr. McLachlan: Are there any funds identified under this particular line item for the NCPC transfer?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: No.

Mr. McLachlan: Under what part of Economic Development is the NCPC work being done?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Under administration, principally since this mainly involves the Deputy Minister. It also has the Energy Branch, which we have already cleared, providing some kind of policy expertise in this area.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell us when the decision was made to have this contract position made into a permanent person-year?

³⁵ **Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I was advised that maybe it was about three weeks ago. It is part of the ongoing process of dealing with the contracts and the contract conversions in Management Board.

Mrs. Firth: That raises a concern. Perhaps the Government Leader could tell me if there are other person-years that were agreed to at that Management Board session in other departments. Are there other person-years within this budget that we are not going to be able to see in the permanent person-year establishment because the decisions were made recently?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I do not think there are any others in this department. I cannot recall the detail of that decision and how many there were, but I could come back with an answer.

Mrs. Firth: I would like that answer, particularly with regard to the departments that we have passed. We always have an opportunity to ask about the ones we are coming to, but I would like to know if there were any person-years in the departments we have completed that were contract positions three weeks ago and are now permanent person-years.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I will get that information.

Major Products in the amount of \$51,000 agreed to

Economic Policy Planning and Research in the amount of \$765,000 agreed to

Chairman: At this time, we will take a fifteen minute recess.

Recess

³⁶ **Chairman:** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. Small Business on page 81, any general debate.

On Small Business

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The business of this branch is to provide assistance to individuals who are either starting up or involved in business in the Yukon by providing counselling services, providing assistance in the preparation of applications for funding, preparing optimal financing packages, providing information assistance as required on appropriate assistance programs offered by YTG and providing supporting business training.

The unit deals with a number of assistance programs and has direct responsibility over the following capital programs: Opportunity Identification, Loan Assistance Plan, Special ARDA, and they will, upon conclusion of negotiations with the federal government, Small Business Incentives and the Trade Show Policy.

The branch, as you know, last year opened up the One-Stop Business Shop, the Business Development Office in downtown

Whitehorse. It is now in the process of expanding those operations to Dawson City and Watson Lake. This year, it will also incorporate a common secretariat for all of the programs.

The Member for Riverdale South asked how this secretariat would work. Let me give an example of how this process will work once this secretariat is set up.

³⁷ There will be client inquiries to the Business Development Officers and there will be pre-application consultation with expertise within and without government. There will be assistance by the Business Development Officers in preparing applications and packaging them and acting as a resource in facilitating the evaluation.

The Secretariat will receive the application, provide notification of the application to concerned parties, and filing of the original application in our master files, evaluation of the application through the consultation with the appropriate expertise, technical advisory groups or expertise within or without the federal and Yukon governments.

They will prepare project evaluations and recommendations for the management groups. They will present the evaluations to the management groups and communicate with the client regarding the decision on the application. They will prepare the project authorization forms, and will prepare appropriate contribution agreements. They will receive invoices, verification and preparation of cheque requisitions. They will perform audits on the projects. They will keep records of technical advisory group meetings and recommendations, perform duties as assigned from time to time by the management groups, and ensure that files and records are maintained in the manner directed by the management groups.

They will develop monthly status reports, preparation of annual work plans and provide financial correcting of agreements. It is our thought that the Secretariat be given direction by the management groups to perform duties necessary for the proper and efficient management of the EDA Subsidiary Agreements.

Mrs. Firth: About the management committee and structure that the Minister is talking about, is there one structure for the EDA, or does Economic Development have one structure, and Renewable Resources have one structure?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: There is a different management group for each subagreement. What we will have, though, is a common secretariat. There are decisions to be made about which program people should apply for. There may be some cases where they may be applying under more than one. The Business Development Officers will be able to advise people under which program they should apply. The common Secretariat will provide secretariat resources to the management committees for tourism, mineral, renewable and economic development. There are also potential additional subagreements — Small Business Incentives, Forestry Subagreement — and there is also the possibility of one in science and technology, which we are trying to negotiate.

³⁸ **Mrs. Firth:** Could the Minister table his organizational chart of how the Secretariat is going to relate with the management groups. Under the Renewable Resources EDA subsidiary agreement, I am familiar with policy committees. Is there a policy committee with the Economic Development one?

On the policy committee, there is a federal government, Government of Yukon, CYI representative. There is a Management Committee that has ten members; they approve or reject the proposals. I am aware of the five advisory committees that include the fishery, wildlife, forestry, agriculture and parks, as well as a coordinator.

It would be helpful if we could have an organizational chart to show how the structures are going to work within the total EDA.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I could table one. The Member should understand that there is one policy committee and there is a management committee for each of the subagreements. On the policy committee there are representatives from Canada and the Yukon, and also observers who represent various public and private interests. The same goes for the management groups.

I can simply table for Members an organizational chart that lays all of this out as it is now.

Mrs. Firth: That would be helpful. I seem to have management

committees and advisory committees confused. Are they duplicated or are they two separate committees?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The advisory committees are the technical advisory committees, which are different. These people are supposed to provide, not judgement, but expert advice on the question of an agricultural application, for example. Presumably they say whether or not the application makes any sense in terms of soil and other things. In forestry, there are people who are supposed to tell you whether or not an application is viable from the forestry point of view, and so forth.

³⁹ **Mrs. Firth:** Is there one management committee for each subagreement? Who is on those committees?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: There is one management committee for each subagreement. The easiest way to answer who is on is for me to table these two organizational charts that detail it.

Mrs. Firth: I understood that there was a management committee made up of 10 civil servants, I believe. Does that apply just to the Renewable Resources portion of it?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The management committees are basically all civil servants of Canada and the Yukon, although they also have observers on them. In some cases, they are not government people, but they are not, technically, voting members of the management committees.

If I could find my duplicate of the stuff I have just tabled — the Member will see the information when it comes down. The Council for Yukon Indians is represented on each of the management committees, although I suppose that is a non-government group. On the Mineral Resources Management Committee, the Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Klondike Placer Miners sit as observers on that management committee.

Mrs. Firth: I think we are talking about a fairly complicated structure. It is unfortunate that we did not have it sooner so I could have had a look at it before we entered into debate on it.

I was aware of one committee that was comprised of 10 people. My concern was that they were all male; there are no women on this committee. Is that a committee that is within this area, or is it in Renewable Resources?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I am sorry for not providing this information. I assumed the Member, since this structure was set up by the previous government, was well acquainted with who was on it. I apologize to the Member for that.

The actual appointments to the committees were made before we came into office. Having tabled this information, we can give it to the Members. The fact that there are no women on certain committees, I think, is a serious problem. We have no say over who the federal appointees are, but, in some cases, we have only appropriate Deputy Ministers, who are the Yukon representatives.

I would like, over time, to increase the number of women Deputy Ministers in this government. I am pleased to be able to anticipate the support from the Member for Riverdale South in doing that.

Mrs. Firth: I would not have had this information available, because it was not a designated responsibility of mine. This government has been in office for almost a year now, and I do not think it is unreasonable if I ask if there have been any changes in the structure and the makeup of the committees. I would have thought that the Minister, if he was not satisfied with the structure, would have changed it after a year. I feel I am raising the questions in a legitimate fashion. I am not being unreasonable in looking for some answers as to the total structure and the people and the components of the committees.

Perhaps I will be better informed when the documents that the Government Leader has tabled are made available to all the Members of the Legislature.

⁴⁰ **Mr. Lang:** I want to raise an observation about the Small Business Loan Fund and assume this is the area it should be done in.

It has to do with the applying for a loan. My understanding under the EDA — I refer to the Tourism part of the agreement — is that if one applies for a grant and it is a like or similar-type business, those types of businesses within the community are canvassed to see whether or not there is any resentment or disagreement with money being allocated in that direction and that makes sense. I think more

of that money should go into a loans fund. My understanding is that that principle still carries through to the loan-assistance fund. I do not understand, even though it is a preferred interest rate, that if a business goes for a loan, why the competition would be canvassed as to whether or not it should be eligible for that particular loan, and should they be able to comment on it. The way the present loan fund is set up the proponent must have so much as collateral, the bank must be prepared to put up so much, and then the government would come in as a third party and take care of that shortfall that may be necessary to make the particular project go. Has the Minister come across this particular problem and is he prepared to change that particular guideline that I understand is in effect; that is the requirement that if it is a like business that they will pursue with other similar businesses and see if such assistance is warranted.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I had not heard of a particular case exactly as the Member describes, although I had heard something a little similar. Perhaps I could expedite the matter if the Member, in confidence, would give me the particulars of the case he is talking about. I will take a look at the matter, as we are going to be reviewing these things.

Mr. Lang: I am not going to get into names on the floor, but I did correspond with the Minister of Tourism approximately a month ago and have still had no reply to it. Time is going on and what happens then is that we have lost a year. The Minister would undertake to discuss it with his colleague and then, if necessary, privately get back to me to see if we can resolve the issue. It is not a major issue, but is in some cases affecting one, two or three possible business applications and could mean they do not go ahead. That would be a shame.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I will give that undertaking to discuss it with the Minister of Tourism.

Mr. Lang: Also, I take it, he will get back to me.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: And also get back to him.

Mr. McLachlan: On the mechanics of the Small Business Loan Fund, the maximum government involvement is 25 percent of the capital of the project and that the maximum territorial government involvement would be \$100,000, which effectively sets a cap upon the maximum project that the government would be involved in would be \$400,000. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The Member is correct. That is the way it was established by legislation. That is a subject we are also reviewing.

Mr. McLachlan: The equity is 20 percent on the part of the participating business, 25 percent by government, taking the total up to 45 percent. From where I sit, there are a number of communities that I do not believe a bank will look at twice.

I cannot see banks getting involved in Old Crow, in Elsa or, right now, in Faro. It is hard to get a commercial loan in Carmacks. All that the 25 percent positioned by the Government of Yukon does is wet the lips of the banks to say that maybe they will have a second look. That tends to spread the risk, which I appreciate it is probably designed to do.

What happens if the banks simply, in some questionable situations, say no? The equity is established at 20 percent, the government is committed to 25 percent and you are stuck at 45 percent and you cannot go anywhere.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The question asked by the Member a moment ago is one that we are looking into as part of the problem of the access to capital study. It is exactly this kind of concern that caused us to commission that study in the first place. There is not just that problem. There are many such problems.

There are many people who have skills of a certain kind. I encountered someone recently who is an experienced sawmiller but did not have any bookkeeping experience. Nor did he have any idea of how to package a proposal to put the application together.

They did not have the business development advice, the financial advice or the accounting advice that they needed, nor was there a local bank available to even help them with the process, so they would have to make a whole series of trips to Whitehorse just to get to first base.

That is a problem, and it is that problem that is duplicated dozens of times every time I go out into rural Yukon. That is what we are

hoping to come to some conclusions about as a result of the access to capital study.

Mr. McLachlan: The amount of money provided is only \$357,000 for assistance. To my way of thinking, it will not take very long to go through that amount of money at all. Does the Minister not have any feeling for the fact that the business assistance loan is going to be well over-subscribed for this fiscal year?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: We are obviously going to review our experience with it over a period of time and decide, if it appears to be over-subscribed at a certain point, to come back to the Legislature and ask for approval for more funds.

Mr. McLachlan: You will not arbitrarily cut it off and say to some good business proposals: I am sorry, the fund is broke, we are out of money, and you are out of luck?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: In the normal course of things, if we have some excellent proposals, we appear to be over-subscribed and the program appears to be more active, but we have another agency in the government that is underspending for one reason or another, I can go to Management Board.

There may be some readjustments that may be recommended to me in terms of this department. That is all hypothetical. It depends on the actual experience that we have.

Mr. McLachlan: The number of person-years indicated on page 81 is eight. The schematic passed out by the Minister indicates 10, if I am reading it correctly. Are two of them capital under the ARDA program, or are two of them casuals?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Straight capital.

Mr. McLachlan: If I interpret the answer correctly, then that means to me that they are not paid for at all within this budget, they are in Indian and Northern Affairs' budget?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: They belong in the Capital Budget.

Mr. Lang: Who is the government appointment on the Special ARDA committee?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Pardon me, but could the Member repeat the question?

Mr. Lang: I would like to know who the representative of the government is on the Special ARDA committee. It is not on this organizational chart, but that is a committee that is separate and apart under that particular piece of federal legislation.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Our representatives are Mr. Alan Hunt, the Economic Development: Mines and Small Business person who is director of the Small Business branch, and Mr. Ken Smith, from the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower of YTG. I have a list of all the representatives, if the Member is interested.

Mr. Lang: I think it is important for the running of the government that there be one or two people from the private sector on such a committee. You are awarding grant money. Many times people have borrowed money, sometimes as high as 19 or 20 percent, who could conceivably be going into competition with people who are receiving up to 100 percent capital money for going into the same type of business.

Is it the government's intent to designate one or two people from the private sector, or ask them to sit on such a committee? In our experience, having other perspectives brought forward was invaluable during discussions on various items.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Let me be clear about what the Member is proposing. Right now the committee is composed of government representatives and nominees of the Council for Yukon Indians, or Indian organizations, and the federal government. Is the Member proposing that we appoint non-native small business people?

Mr. Lang: I do not think that I would go so far as to specify whether they be non-native or native. I think the Chamber of Commerce should be asked to recommend names of people who could be on that committee. It does bring another perspective to the deliberations of that important body, because we are dealing within the neighbourhood of \$400,000. If not, at some other time, maybe even higher dollars.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I have not had occasion to think about the representation being made from the Member now. I will take it under advisement.

Mr. Lang: So that the Minister is aware, that was the past

practice of the government for appointments over the years. It is one that should be given serious consideration. I think it gives the necessary balance for the government to make a definitive decision with respect to that particular body.

Mr. McLachlan: Are all of the eight positions presently filled, or have we still some vacancies within the department?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I think, as I told the Members the other day, the two Community Development Officers are being advertised for and we have recently been having competition for the two rural Business Development Officer positions. I believe I indicated that to the House the other day.

Mr. McLachlan: Am I not correct that the Economic Development positions for Whitehorse are presently hired and on staff. The only vacancies that then exist are the rural EDOs?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The two Community Development Officer positions, which are both Whitehorse-based, are vacant and have been advertised. The other two rural positions the Member talks about are for Watson Lake and Dawson. As we know, the competition process has been going on.

Mr. McLachlan: When did the EDO position for Whitehorse become vacant?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: They did not become vacant. These are two positions that were created. The position for Watson Lake and Dawson City are in the process of recruitment now.

Mr. McLachlan: On the organizational chart, under the Director of Small Business, the two employees that work out of the One Stop Shop now, are they not called Economic Development Officer, Whitehorse?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: Yes.

Mr. Lang: I am wondering if the Minister could supply us with the information on the number of loans that have been allocated and the salient information as far as that program is concerned. Perhaps he could give us an idea of this past year and how much had been allocated up to March 31 for the Small Business Loan Fund?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I do not have that information here. Perhaps if we could just deal with another question I will get it.

Mr. McLachlan: In the Throne Speech of March 13, the Minister indicated that he was hoping to make some success with the transfer of this Federal Small Business Loan Fund to the territory. Could the Minister indicate if that is about to happen or if progress is being made on the transfer?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: We are still negotiating it. We have recently had a response from the federal government on our position, but we have not concluded those negotiations yet.

Mr. Nordling: In the program objectives, one is to stimulate business activities that maximizes the utilization of local labour and materials. I wonder if there is any person identified in this department who will analyze the cost-effectiveness of each business activity?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: There is no single person assigned to that task. As I indicated the other day, when we were talking about the research and money that is being allocated on the previous line, that will be something that we will be looking at in terms of the economic analysis on this particular project. When money was provided for egg production under the EDA, or for lettuce production, there is some kind of economic assessment done of whether the substitution of imports in those areas can be done economically. That is done as part of the whole application process.

Let me just answer the Member for Porter Creek East's question. I have a summary sheet here from the Business Loans Program. It shows \$822,682 was put out for a total of 22 applications that were approved.

Mr. Lang: Just so it gives us an idea of comparisons, how many applications were considered by the committee, as far as the operation was concerned?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I can give him up-to-date information on the applications approved and received. The numbers are as of March, and I can give him the up-dates later. Applications received, 112; applications approved, 53; applications rejected, 31; applications withdrawn, 28. That was for preliminary applications.

Detailed applications: applications received, 24; applications approved, 20; applications rejected, 1; and there were three

applications at that point that were current. There were people who were putting in preliminary applications, and then being rejected or turned down or told they would not qualify. In broad numbers, there were 112 received and 53 approved. There is probably more current information, and I can get that for the Member.

Mr. Lang: Is the government contemplating any major changes to this Small Business Loan Fund as it is outlined in the present legislation that was passed here two years ago?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: When we complete the negotiations for the transfer and, as a result of our work on the access to capital study that has just been completed — we have not had a chance to review and analyze it yet — it is quite possible that a number of changes will be contemplated.

The Member for Faro was pursuing a line of inquiry that had to do with the problem of rural access versus the people in Whitehorse. I think it is very likely that we will be looking at that as an area of need to which we will have to respond. It is quite likely that we could find some way of making this particular loan fund more available out in the rural area where it would be useful.

Mr. Lang: Does it look like we are going to get the transfer of that \$5 million loan fund? What was the last time he corresponded with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs? Has he corresponded with the Minister directly, and has he given it a yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: They did initiate the discussions with us. We are negotiating with them. We are trying to get it. The Member asks if it looks like it is going to be happening. It is really difficult for me to answer the question. Do I feel confident that we are going to have it in the next few weeks or the next few months? I am not absolutely confident, no, but we are going to try.

Mrs. Firth: I have a summary activity for \$639,432. The Minister has given one for a couple of hundred thousand dollars more. Is the Minister prepared to table the most recent loans summary activity so that we can compare them?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: The \$822,000 is the most recent one. I will table up-to-date information in the proper written form for the Member.

Mrs. Firth: I would appreciate that. Can the Minister tell us if the Advisory Boards of the Business Loans Program have had any change in makeup? Can he tell us the appointments, and who they are?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: There is a vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Trout. We are hoping to be filling that shortly.

Mrs. Firth: If a client gets some assistance under that business loan program, does that expel him from being able to get assistance in the Renewable Resources sector or the EDA?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: A large part of what the business development officer is interested in doing is helping people package applications. Stacking is not prohibited. In other words, you can apply as long as you are eligible under two programs.

Mrs. Firth: Is it fair to say that one of the functions of the One Stop Business Shop would be to analyze a client's program and find as many areas as possible where the proposal could get government assistance?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is to do a number of things. People may wander in with an idea. Sometimes people may not even have a clear statement of their own financial position.

The officers will help them package an application. They will suggest to them which programs they are qualified for and that they will have to meet certain requirements. If they meet those, they can help expedite the application process.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell us what the policy is regarding government employees? Are they eligible for the Business Loans Program or the EDA Agreement?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I will have to take that under advisement. I am not sure that I have had to deal with any cases like that, but I will check and see what the act and the regulations say.

Mrs. Firth: If the Minister could, I would appreciate that because I have had it brought to my attention that that is happening. I would prefer to deal with it privately instead of raising it in the Legislature, but I would like to know what the government's policy is regarding the civil service using the loans and grant system.

Mr. McLachlan: Is the subsidized portion of the interest on the loan shown under Administration or is it shown under Business Assistance in this department?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: As a matter of fact it is in the capital budget, he should not look for it here anyway.

On General Administration

General Administration in the amount of \$112,000 agreed to

On Business Assistance

Business Assistance in the amount of \$357,000 agreed to

On Resource and Community Development

Mr. McLachlan: Can the Minister explain the rationale for showing an item like the community development here rather than in the Department of Community and Transportation Services? Maybe I do not fully understand what we are trying to get at, but why is it shown here?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: We are dealing with the economic dimension here, not community planning in the sense of roads, streets and sewers. We are talking about development services to business, renewable resources, community and sectoral economic development organizations. We could be talking about, for example, band-owned businesses, local co-ops and small communities that may want to, or may be required to do under the *Municipal Act*, develop economic plans. As the Members know they are required to do it now. They may want to provide assistance support for product and market development, which would be beyond the capacity of the small businesses or even the town itself. It could be providing assistance support to non-profit sectoral business organizations, developing strategies and assisting in the commercial development of renewable resources, promoting Yukon at a variety of trade shows, and so forth.

Resource and Community Development in the amount of \$144,000 agreed to

Small Business in the amount of 613,000 agreed to

Department of Economic Development: Mines and Small Business in the amount of \$4,095,000 agreed to

Department of Education

Chairman: We will proceed now with the Department of Education, general debate?

Mr. Nordling: You went by so quick there I would like to ask a couple of questions. Under contributions there is Beaufort Industry Group '86.

Chairman: First of all I will require unanimous approval of the House to go back.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We have unanimous approval.

Mr. Nordling: On page 82, under contributions there is a line item Beaufort Industry Group '86 with an estimate of \$25,000. I thought that I read somewhere this was cancelled. Is that the case?

Hon. Mr. Penikett: It is true we made a contribution to them. Subsequently, the show was postponed and it is hoped that a lot of the value, in terms of preparatory materials and so forth, for the conference will be recoverable when it is restaged. The organizers decided to abandon it at the point when the downturn in oil prices caused a significant cut-back in exploration activity in the Beaufort. They did not think they could attract, at this time, the kind of participation, particularly by small operators, that they found desirable. A decision was made to postpone the show until a more fortuitous time. Hopefully, the government's contribution made to date will not be totally lost, but will be substantially recovered when the show is restored.

Mrs. Firth: I know I was out of the House for a few minutes, but I did not realize that we had completely gone through all the line items on page 81 and cleared them. I thought we were still in general debate, but my colleague is telling me that we have been through them.

Chairman: I very clearly called General Administration and the other line items, and waited very patiently for the signals and questions. We concluded with the final clearing of \$613,000. Then I asked at page 82 if there were any comments?

Mrs. Firth: You just did it so smoothly, I did not even hear it.

Chairman: Perhaps it is an indication that it may be time for

recess. We will wait for 15 minutes.

Is there anything further on page 82? Last call.

We will continue with the Department of Education, general debate.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In the 1986-87 fiscal year, the Department of Education expects to spend \$38,704,000 through the O&M Budget. This is an increase of six percent over last year's vote. Expenditure Recoveries and Revenue are expected to decrease in the forthcoming fiscal year by \$102,000. The department has dropped one item from Public Schools branch for recoveries on locker fees and other related funds. This recovery has proven to be highly unpredictable in the past, and therefore will no longer be reflected in the main budget.

The budget for Advanced Education and Manpower branch demonstrates the government's commitment to the wellbeing of all Yukoners. Advanced Education and Manpower branch will be receiving a funding increase of 10 percent over expenditures voted for 1985-86. This will total \$9,810,000. Most of this increase is due to enhancements in the budget for Yukon College. This is in keeping with the government's commitment to expansion of educational services to all Yukon communities. One hundred and two thousand dollars has been added to the College for the Old Crow Community Learning Centre, which brings the total number of centres now in operation to 11.

In the fall of 1986, we will be opening one more community learning centre that will service Haines Junction and Burwash. Courses will be offered in both communities.

The 1986-87 budget introduces an additional \$185,000 to expand the Community Academic Upgrading Program. A further \$96,000 has also been allocated for enhancement of the business and management programs offered through Yukon College. Specifically, courses will be provided in the fields of tourism and hospitality management and services and in municipal and band administration.

As part of the government's commitment to assistance in industrial training, additional funds have been allocated for travel for fourth-class engineer trainees who will benefit from gaining expertise by working in different stationary and heating plants throughout the Yukon.

These new initiatives will augment the existing array of academic, technical and vocational industrial programs offered to Yukoners. In addition to new expenditures, the department will be realigning internal funding to provide for a new Apprentice Incentives Marketing Program. This program is designed to assist employers in providing new employment training. For the 1986-87 fiscal year, \$52,000 has been allocated from existing funds to provide opportunities for Yukon apprentices.

A research and planning unit of Advanced Education and Manpower will be devoting resources to two major projects this year. The first is a distance education discussion paper, to which I have alluded in earlier statements to the House. I have also mentioned our intention to develop a plan to bring greater autonomy to Yukon College.

48 I expect I will be able to report on this in the fall session.

Before moving to public schools branch, I would like to draw the attention of Members to an increase in membership on the Post-Secondary Education Advisory Council. The Council presently has 12 members, and invitations have been extended to community learning centres and CYI to provide representatives.

This increase in membership reflects the government's intention to consult with communities on all substantive matters relating to post-secondary education.

Members will note the significant decrease in the Public Schools Branch budget when comparing the 1985-86 and the 1986-87 Estimates. This reflects a transfer of building maintenance, custodial and transportation program elements from public schools to the Finance and Administration Branch. The transfer amounts to \$3,600,000 and 61.7 person-years.

This government is committed to providing adequate levels of service to all communities of the territory. In keeping with this commitment, the Department of Education will be adding a third Regional Superintendent. Another person-year has been found in

the existing budget along with adequate funding. Our intention is to locate the third superintendent outside of Whitehorse so that there will be increased visits to Yukon communities.

For the government to properly attend to educational issues in the territory, it is necessary to first define those issues and then to work towards solutions. To ensure that this approach is taken, the government is committing additional funds to provide for more frequent meetings between the Education Council and myself and with department officials.

Members will notice that the French language program no longer appears as a separate item in the departmental budget. The program has been brought into the public schools budget. The transfer is required to simplify and render more efficient overall departmental administration.

The government continues to support French language programming, which is reflected by an 19 percent increase in the program area. The French immersion program will be extended to grade 6 in September, 1986.

The French First language program, Ecole Emile Tremblay, currently offered for grades 1 to 9 in Whitehorse, will be continued in 1986-87. The costs for this program are fully recoverable from the federal government. This is reflected under the expenditure recoveries section of the budget.

Other cost increases associated with the French language program in Yukon schools include funding for recruitment and relocation costs for French First language and French immersion teachers.

Program delivery and program support are funded at approximately the same levels as in the 1985-86 budget so as to provide good teachers and a full range of courses and support services to Yukon schools. Included among the support programs are the Challenge Program, the Equivalency Education Program and the Special Education Program, all of which are designed for Yukon students with special needs.

In preparation for the increase in population in Faro, the budget for public schools has been revised to reflect the costs of teacher recruitment and relocation. We are looking forward to expanding services in this region of the Yukon once again.

Other minor adjustments have been made in the public schools. The administration arm of the Public Schools Branch has taken over responsibility for student accommodation and boarding allowance expenditures, which used to fall under Program Delivery. Student assessment and some student support programs have also been transferred to Administration from the Program Delivery and the Program Support.

Libraries and Archives Branch does not show a significant increase in budget when compared with estimates for 1985-86. Most of the additional funding represents additional funding for employees as a consequence of the Job Evaluation Study. I wish to note, in passing, that the Archives is providing excellent service to society with an enormous interest to its heritage. The open house held in the Yukon Archives November 28 attracted over 130 people, not only from Whitehorse but from communities throughout the territory.

It speaks well of the living history of which we are all a part. The government also remains committed to providing library services throughout the Yukon and to involving the communities in library development.

The initiative to alternative library collection information is designed to increase the efficiency and accessibility of the collection destined throughout the territory. As a result, library staff will be able to provide more prompt service to the public.

The Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch has had \$28,000 added to its budget. The budget for the 1985-86 fiscal year includes only salary dollars. The responsibilities of the branch in the area of policy development, planning and program evaluation can be met only if sufficient operating funds are provided.

Six thousand and four hundred dollars has been identified for travel in the territory to ensure adequate public input on major policy issues.

To properly address policy issues in the educational field, funding has been provided to undertake research work. For example, the branch is working closely with Advanced Education and Manpower

on the development of a training strategy paper for the Yukon is soon to be completed. Money has also been identified for program evaluation studies.

In conclusion, the expenditures for 1986-87 represent a small increase over the estimates for 1985-86. At the same time, we are moving forward to meet our priorities for delivery of high standards of education throughout the Yukon.

I believe Members requested a listing of student-teacher ratios throughout the territory and I will table that now.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister give me an indication of any particularly new direction or area that the Department of Education is going to be pursuing in the next little while, keeping in mind that education has always been given an extremely high priority by previous governments? I would like to know if there is anything specifically created to enhance the quality of education being delivered to Yukon students?

I have had an opportunity to look through *The Option To Stay, An Education Strategy for the Yukon*, a report by Lionel Orlico, that the Minister referred to as a very avant garde concept that this individual had. I would like to know if he is going to be pursuing any of these directions? The concern I hear expressed most often by parents is how involved the Minister is going to become in education and in consulting with the special structures that are in place, namely the Education Council. I see the Minister has mentioned that he is going to be increasing the numbers of times that he can meet with them.

I did notice his absence, however, at the School Committee Conference. He was there to make a presentation and that is probably all that previous Ministers have done as well.

I suppose the biggest concern is quality of education. Is the quality going to be maintained and where is education on this government's list of priorities?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I believe the efforts the government is making to enhance the delivery of education and training programs throughout the territory are pretty well known in their major part. The public has been made aware over the course of the past eight to 10 months.

There are a number of major initiatives that are being undertaken, but they are long-term initiatives. One thing that any new Minister learns in the Department of Education is that things do not move as quickly as one would hope, largely because there is a requirement for full consultation on matters that affect the future of the education system.

There are some areas on which one can move quickly. The area of capital funding is one of those areas. There are certain things, such as busing, accommodation, et cetera, that can be addressed with some alacrity. Any major changes to the education system, if they were to be contemplated, would have to not only be acceptable to the Yukon public, but would have to be understood by the Yukon public. That is one of the major reasons for the longer timelines in effecting necessary change, the change that everybody expects and is looking forward to. By that I mean the revamping of the *Education Act*, for an example. The writing of a new *Education Act* is a daunting task that will require a great deal of effort and a great deal of consultation. The criticism that may be legitimate is that the timelines put forward so far for consideration, that is, the target date for revamping the *Education Act* for the fall of 1987, are too short. There is a great deal of consultation that is necessary.

I think it is almost universally held that writing a new act ought to be top on the list of priorities. At the same time, there are issues that have to be addressed and addressed quickly.

The government is also moving in the area of training, and I think it has been mentioned on numerous occasions that a training strategy paper is coming forward for consideration in a matter of weeks. There has been the discussion of establishing a commission on Indian education, which has yet to come to fruition. It would be the result of further negotiation with the Council for Yukon Indians and the bands, the Education Council and school committees. Clearly, in terms of overall initiatives, a number of things are being undertaken — significant things at that.

The Member wanted to know exactly what my commitment was to the department. I think it is considerable, given the time and

effort to put into it. The Member mentioned the Orlico Paper, and I think, quite rightly, defined it as a bit of an avante garde approach to education. Certainly, many of the recommendations were received favourably by the Post-secondary Education Advisory Council and by the Education Council, but many were not. Or, some were not at least. Some were considered in need of lots of consultation, shall we say, and some clearly have various significant cost implications. For that reason alone, our spirits may be tempered when looking at enhancing the education system throughout the territory. I believe Members know exactly what is being referred to here.

The Member mentioned that parents were concerned about the extent to which they will be consulted during the course of the various initiatives that are being taken. I can assure the Member, as has been the practice throughout this administration, that parents, through the school committees, will be consulted extensively.

⁵² Our major concern is that they do not feel that they are being over consulted on a variety of issues, but they come to each session with the government with some vim and vigour, some enthusiasm and do not feel drained by the experience.

The Education Council is a body that the government has spent a lot of time consulting with and will continue to spend time consulting with. I have found, in recent months, that it is wise, prudent and advantageous, from a public policy point of view, to be in regular touch with the Council on a variety of matters.

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

Recess

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

Motion to extend sitting hours

Hon. Mr. Porter: I would like to move, pursuant to Section 2(7) of our Rules, the following motion: THAT the Committee of the Whole and the Assembly be empowered to continued to sit beyond 9:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. this evening for the purpose of continuing Committee consideration of Bill No. 5, *Second Appropriation Act, 1986-87*.

Chairman: You have heard the question. Is there any debate?

Mr. Lang: I rise to confirm that we had discussions with the House Leaders with respect to the extension of time. At the request of the government, we negotiated and agreed that we are prepared to sit an extra two hours this evening as well as an extra two hours on Wednesday evening.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Penikett: On a spurious question of privilege, I would like to call your attention to our gallery and two distinguished visitors, members of the Parliamentary Transport Committee, the Member of Parliament for Winnipeg - Birds Hill, Mr. Bill Blaikie, and the Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay - Atikokan, Mr. Iain Angus.

Applause

Chairman: We will continue with Department of Education, general debate.

Mrs. Firth: I, too, would like to welcome our visitors, and they are in for an exciting evening of debate about the Department of Education.

Before we broke for dinner the Minister was talking about the quality of education and how his government was going to continue to deliver the high standard and high quality of education that Yukon parents and children have become used to. In that discussion, he mentioned something about a commission on Indian education. Could he give some details about it and if it is going to be identified in this budget?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No, it is specifically not identified in the budget. If it were to go ahead in the future it would be identified later in the year. It had been my hope originally to establish such a commission. I believe, during supplementaries, I mentioned the fact that a task force had been struck as long ago as September.

⁵² It was appointed by the Government of Yukon and CYI to discuss matters affecting the education of native people in the territory. They had recommended, as long ago as October, that a commission be struck to review native concerns with respect to the education system. It was felt universally that people recognized that there was a problem, but that it was difficult to resolve the problem.

It was felt, too, that should a group of people be asked to investigate the situation, it would have to be done jointly with CYI, or at least the bands. At that time, a task force was struck; it worked up the idea of a commission.

In the interim, the government has discussed with CYI, on an ongoing basis, what would be acceptable for the general terms of reference. We are still working out details.

The extent to which we would be funding such a venture is as yet unknown. There are a number of proposals. We intend to proceed should we find agreement with CYI on matters to resolve the terms of reference issue. Once that is completed, I would hope that we could go ahead.

Mrs. Firth: Perhaps the Minister could elaborate on this. I am not sure what he is talking about when he says, "investigate the situation". What is the situation? Are we looking for something specific? Surely the Minister is not talking about a separate education system for Indian children. What would be the mandate of the commission and what numbers of people is the Minister looking at being on the commission? What kind of dollars would we be looking at with an Indian commission on education?

⁵³ **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** With respect to the latter points first, the terms of reference and the funding attached to those terms of reference have not been established. With respect to the need, let me state that native people have expressed to me that they were, in part, dissatisfied with the way things were proceeding. There is a general recognition in the territory that the education system is good, but could be improved. There is no suggestion, whatsoever, that this commission should investigate a dual education system — one for native people and one for non-native people — but there are problems that have to be resolved.

This year is the first year that anybody is going to graduate from Eliza Van Bibber School at Pelly Crossing. That is a cause of some concern for the people of Pelly Crossing and for the people of this government. How you resolve that situation has yet to be determined. The reason for a joint commission would be that it would be acceptable from both the native people, who would have to accept the recommendations, and for the government, who would be responsible for carrying out any recommendations of the commission that it chose to.

There are a number of issues to resolve. In the native community, at least, there is not a universal acceptance of the way things are proceeding now, and they would like to see improvements. Any solution would have to involve the native people, in order for it to be acceptable. That is the reason for a joint commission. In general terms, that is why we jointly constructed the task force, and we would jointly strike a commission if we were to proceed.

Mrs. Firth: I do not deny that the system can be improved. There is always room for improvement. There are concerns about the numbers of graduates from a school, say, in Carcross, as well. I would imagine that applies to all of the students who attend that school. That is a general concern across the Yukon in rural communities that have very small numbers of students in the higher grades, and possibly fewer opportunities in the community than they would have in Whitehorse, fewer options for studies that they wish to pursue.

⁵⁴ I see that as an overall concern. What does the Minister have in mind when it comes to improvements? Have there been some suggestions made to him that would be considered improvements to the system, specifically for Indian children and the education of Indian children?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Well, there are a number of things that could be done. The question is whether you throw good money after bad ideas. As the Member knows, in her previous incarnation as the Minister of Education, it is not always the easiest thing in the world to secure funding for any program expenditure. The ideal would be to target funds to improve the system and to encourage a greater

confidence in the system by native people by undertaking a joint study on the subject. Clearly there is, around the territory, some sense that the cultural difference that native people experience has caused them to feel, at one time or another, that there should be some sort of concerted action to address the problems that they perceive to exist; that could take a variety of forms.

There are, for example, Bands in the territory that are seeking a dual education system, which is unfortunate. There is the suggestion, through previously negotiated agreements-in-principle, that people are somewhat dissatisfied with the system. There has been a desire expressed to me to renegotiate the 1967 education agreement with a view to greater native control over the education system. Clearly, the constitutional arrangement between the governments, with respect to the delivery of education, would not be the subject for consideration by such a commission. What I am interested in, more than anything else, is trying to resolve problems on the street, so to speak; try to resolve the concerns at the community level. Clearly, in a situation like Pelly Crossing, it might be the easiest thing to simply throw remedial tutors into the community and try to help address the problems, as they perceive them there, that way. There is no guarantee of success. Clearly, if we are going to experiment, we would like to have some sense of direction, so that is the reason, generally speaking. Specifically speaking, that is the reason for the commission and the way it would be structured.

Mrs. Firth: I am trying to look at some specific ideas the Minister may have. I can recall that there were many areas where we tried to encourage input and participation from the Indian population in communities, particularly on school committees and so on, and I see that it is becoming more frequent.

At the school committee conference that I attended, I noticed that there was more representation. There were some representatives from CYI who had an interest in some of the resolutions and activities that were going on.

I would like to look at something specific so that I could grasp it and understand it. I am looking at some of the things we did, as a government, like the native language program, and the alphabet cards that were in the classrooms in communities like Teslin, Ross River and Old Crow. These alphabet cards did not have the traditional white man's symbols on them, but had symbols that Indian children could relate to, like beavers for the letter B, just to state an example.

The school at Burwash had native education. Also, the school was considered a very community-oriented facility. Young children, who were going to be going into Kindergarten, started school one or two years earlier, if they wanted to go to school and get used to the idea of being away from their family and being able to participate in a new environment. They were going to have to learn some new and foreign things. Is that what the commission on Indian education is going to look at? I am not clear on what their mandate is going to be and how much influence they are going to have on the education system and the direction that it takes.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will reiterate: the mandate has not been established conclusively between the parties. There is the stipulation that the mandate would not include the constitutional arrangements between this government and the native community with respect to the delivery of education. That would be a subject for the land claims table to address and not this commission. There are a number of things that would be the subject of discussion: the teacher training, for example; a greater promotion of the language education program; programming itself; curriculum development, many of the things the Member mentions would, of course, be investigated in some detail.

Clearly, the Member, at the school committee conference, has seen some native people participating in the school committees, but the participation is not as predominant as one would expect, given the population distribution in the territory. That is unfortunate. I think everybody has tried to encourage native participation on school committees, but for one reason or another the school committees in many communities have not received the same respect from local bands as one would hope in order for the system to work perfectly smoothly.

Quite often the bands would deal directly with the government

rather than considering moving through the school committee. We do, as a matter of course, try to encourage the school committee to act as a representative of all parents in the communities, but there is a level of dissatisfaction that we have to resolve. We cannot resolve it by insisting that native people participate on school committees. That is not working.

The efforts that have taken place to date, with respect to the Native Language Centre and the alphabet cards the Member mentioned, are certainly things that have encouraged support by the native community for the education system. It is far from being adequate in the terms expressed to me by the Council, chiefs and by individual bands.

If there is that level of dissatisfaction expressed now and something is not done about it, it will show itself at the land claims table. The kinds of concerns expressed by the native people will come to fruition through a land claims agreement. That is something for the land claims table to address. As Minister of Education, I would like to address the problems at a community level right now.

I think we have to recognize that there are cultural differences, which we can trumpet, something to boast about, perhaps, but there are also problems created. There is a level of dissatisfaction that we have to resolve. Part of that level of dissatisfaction means bringing native people into the system, letting them help participate in determining what sort of action they think is warranted to restock the government's credibility for native people.

For that reason, the Commission on Indian Education was proposed to be struck, with the terms of reference yet to be established. There are concerns that are expressed from time to time. They rise and fall, depending upon issues. I would like the system to acquire a sense of equilibrium. I would like the trust by native people in the education system to be ongoing. I think that it is going to require some concerted effort by this government, and it is going to have to be done in cooperation with the native people or it is not going to be done at all or effectively. That is the reason for the commission.

There are a variety of things that we could consider as we address the problems. We have to be sure of our mark in terms of identifying the problems and providing the solution. We will have to do it in cooperation with the community because if that cooperation does not exist, the best efforts will not be good enough. That would be the reason for the commission.

Mrs. Firth: My concern is that, to me, a commission means a body with certain powers and certain authorities. I think that that is an interpretation that is shared by a lot of people. If the public, or the school committees, were told that there was going to be a commission on Indian education, I think they would feel that there were going to be certain authorities granted to that commission, and they would be comparing it to school committees and the authority that school committees have, and the education council, and so on, and what the relationship is between all of those structures.

Who is on the task force, which he says has been set up and has been meeting to discuss the concept of the commission and the formulation of the commission?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Firstly, with respect to the rivalry between a commission or a study group and the school committees, I can assure the Member that any proposal for consultation would include not only native people, as represented by Bands, but also school committees and the Education Council. The Education Council was informed some time ago that this was an initiative that we would like to take. We have discussed it with them, and they have commented on it and provided suggestions on methodology to improve the system.

There is no sense that anyone is interested in circumventing the school committee system. It is simply to have a group of people identify specifically, in a very concerted and coherent way, a specific problem.

The study group, on CYI's side, included Mary Jane Jim and Tom Cove, and on Yukon's side, Helen Weigle and Larry Jones, in its original incarnation. The Department of Education, itself now, is discussing the details with respect to the terms of reference directly with the CYI equivalent of the Department of Education.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister give us some idea of what kind of money we are looking at and the size of the commission? Would it be a three- or five-person commission, and what kind of representation would be on the commission and, because of the mandate, what and the potential costs be?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I am reluctant to do that until such time as the commission is struck. Once the commission is struck there will be plenty of time to discuss the mandate. The proposals have come in from really low figures for an eight-month group, to as high as \$300,000. I am not going to tie my fortunes to any figure until such time as the terms of reference and the details have been etched out and I receive Cabinet approval for one course of action or another.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister anticipate when he may be making the decision regarding the commission and the potential numbers on the commission? Are we looking at a three-person commission, or something larger than that?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Subject to all sorts of approvals, we could possibly be looking at a three-person commission. Let me just say I have given up expecting very fine time lines because of the process of consultation with this commission. Sometimes it is time-consuming and does not run as smoothly as the architects would have it at times. I would hope, if it is going to have a reasonable timeframe, that we could, by the end of this month or early in June, strike something of consequence.

Mrs. Firth: Where would the Minister be finding the funding for that? If it is not within this budget, would it be coming in a supplementary?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: More than likely it will be supplementary. I doubt very much if the department could withstand, through existing funds, the cost situation. More than likely there would be a supplementary in the fall.

Mrs. Firth: I wanted to follow up a bit on a resolution that was presented at the school committee conference about the cross-cultural programs. It was a resolution brought forward by Sharon Jacobs, the Education Coordinator with the CYI, regarding the teachers having to participate in a cross-cultural program of some kind. Is the Minister familiar with the resolution and has he made any decisions regarding that resolution?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Specifically, no, to both questions.

Mrs. Firth: The concept of the program is a very good idea. As a federal employee, as a nurse at the hospital, we attended cross-cultural programs that were relatively new in the territory at the time. We attended along with people from the RCMP and others working within other federal agencies. We found the programs very helpful, and I see a potential for the CYI to provide some advice to the Minister, and some ideas and probably a program, if they need the assistance to do so. I definitely agree with the idea and recommend to the Minister that he follow up on it as soon as he can, because it is very important to them at CYI that we provide something like that for our teachers. I would encourage them to work on producing a program that we could use for our teachers in Yukon schools other than the pamphlet or brochure that we have been currently using.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I think the suggestion is an excellent one as far as short-term measures are concerned. Parachuting teachers from outside the territory into small communities, especially small native communities, has proven to be difficult. Sometimes you often find teachers isolating themselves along with the local RCMP officer and other professional people. It breeds a measure of resentment, albeit a natural occurrence. Clearly, in the long term, it will be preferable to have native people trained into teaching positions. I realize it is an exercise that has not proven to be successful in the past, but there may be other ways of approaching the problem with more success. Certainly climatizing people to not only native culture but also small community life would be an excellent program to undertake.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We would expect that CYI, or the Bands themselves, would be heavily involved, if not in developing the curriculum, perhaps in providing the program delivery.

Mrs. Firth: Not to dwell on the matter, but to give the Minister a little more information. Programs, essentially, were workshops

that lasted for two or three days. What happened was about 20 people would attend the workshop and it would be an intensive three-day session. We, as employees working with Indian people, could immerse ourselves in different stories about their culture, different traditions, lifestyles, and so on, so that we would have a better understanding of what their circumstances were.

I found, when I went to the first workshop, that I was very disappointed because the individual who they had representing the Indian people was not an Indian from the Yukon. We did get some cultural background and history, but it was not similar with what happens here in the Yukon Territory. We have the calibre of individual here, both at CYI and some of the Bands, who could provide that kind of workshop.

I have to disagree with the Minister a bit about Indian people coming into the education system where they are being trained in acquiring a skill level where they can teach. I have always felt that the native language program — I attended quite a few of the sessions where they were having their daily lessons and going around the table — has been a relatively successful program. We are turning out some very well-skilled and well-schooled teachers from that program. We are probably leading many areas in Canada. We get a lot of requests from a lot of areas in Canada about our native language program.

We have made a start in that area, and I recognize that, in the future, we will be having teachers who are native teachers in more of the classrooms. I think that is a goal for all of Yukoners to work towards.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: By stating that the system of teacher training had not been overly successful in the past, I was not specifically referring to the native language program, which is quite successful. The Member unintentionally mistook my remarks to suggest that there was a vote of non-confidence in that program.

That is not the case. The fact of the matter is that I think the teacher training, which will be required to be done in the longer term, will be training not simply for native cultural studies, language education, but would be for the whole curriculum. That is a goal to work towards, in terms of a longer term solution.

The idea of the four-day workshops to encourage non-native teaching personnel to acclimatize themselves to native people and native culture is going to have to be supplemented in the short term and long term, with a greater understanding of the communities in which they teach, and also a more direct contact with local Band administration in terms of understanding the local lore and local life and developing good relationship with the Band. I realize that that would be a little different from the way that things apparently operate, but it will more than likely be one of those necessary steps that will have to be taken.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not think there is a great deal of disagreement between us. If the Member would like to pursue it even further, I would be happy to. We feel a desperate need to involve ourselves with this field of study and to show the resolve it takes to get something done.

Mrs. Firth: It is not my intention to be confrontative. I do not want the Minister to feel that way. I am simply offering some observations I made and some recommendations of what I think might make his job a little easier and more pleasant. I was not interpreting anything intentionally. I was simply making some comments so we could have a good constructive exchange.

I am probably going to move on to another area, but I will wait to see if any other Members would like to pursue this area before we move on.

Mr. Lang: I want to commend the administration and teaching staff of the Department of Education for the work that they have done over the last ten years. I think a lot of strides have been made. One of the steps that was taken approximately two years ago, which will pay dividends in the years to come, was the appointment of an individual with teaching qualifications to work with the dormitory staff and could also work as the dorm parent with the students from out of town.

I think that will pay dividends with a number of students who would not otherwise get grade 12 because they come from a smaller community such as Pelly Crossing, Carcross, or Old Crow. That special attention they will get in the evening is going to reap real

social benefits in the years to come.

I had the opportunity to attend the graduation here the other evening. I was impressed by the number of students who were graduating, but also by the obvious number of children who had some native ancestry. I would say that they were as high as 20 to 25 percent. That speaks well of both the administration and the teaching staff.

It is not to say that that cannot be improved upon, but we, in the Yukon, in a number of areas, are becoming leaders in the education field. That speaks for itself. We should be getting dividends. We are spending a lot of money on the education system.

If you take a look at the budgets that have been presented over the years, I do not think any of us have anything to apologize for in trying to provide necessary resources, revenue, to make our education system as complete as possible.

At the same time, we have to be very careful that we, as government, do not start intruding into the responsibility of the parent. We have a tendency, when things are going fairly well, to look for other problems, to the point that we divest parents of some of their responsibility.

I feel very strongly that one has to look very closely at the programs that are being added to the school system. Over the last ten years not one hour has been added to teacher classroom time.

11 When I hear the Minister talk about the driver education program perhaps being incorporated in the school system, it concerns me. Sure it is only another three hours, but we are still adding and adding. Nobody here is saying that if we are going to add these programs, then we are going to add another eight days to the school curriculum, from 192 days to 200. I put that out as an observation as an MLA and as a parent. It concerns me that we keep adding programs. I think, at times, the teaching staff has a responsibility to stand up and say that that is a parental responsibility, perhaps through the Yukon Teachers' Association, to give some political support to the Minister. We have to analyze the refining of our educational system very carefully, not the guise of goodwill and political spur-of-the-moment. In the long term, we are doing a disservice to the students by taking away from the basics in the education system.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Clearly there is a tendency for politicians to concentrate on the problems rather than the many good things that are taking place. It has been my experience that the Department of Education is populated by a number of good professional people who, for the most part, have been able to deliver a very high quality of education in the territory. They certainly put us in rank with other jurisdictions in the country. It is always difficult to deliver programs in rural schools. It is an expensive proposition. I realize that, given the resources that the department has, even though this is one of the largest departments, it is a tall order they are expected to perform.

At the same time, the initiatives we are taking now do not demonstrate that the government is looking specifically for problems. I think the point the Member mentions that, many times, people think politicians thrive on crises and cannot survive without them. I think, in the current situation, there are some real issues that have to be resolved for the long-term health of the territory's education system. I am pleased with the ability of the department to grasp the initiative and take it on.

The initiatives I have mentioned already have been the subject of discussions during supplementaries, and I am hoping we can move on them with alacrity in the coming year.

Mr. Lang: Further to the concept of an Indian commission on education, could he tell me if the CYI or any particular band has approached him directly to form such a committee?

12 **Hon. Mr. McDonald:** Yes. The Council of Yukon Indians did approach us directly. The Mayo Indian Band has approached us directly. There have been representations from Carcross and Ross River, as well, to me personally. In the initial stages of discussion, it was a desire by Bands to renegotiate the 1967 education agreement. That evolved into a discussion on how we can work together to resolve the problems. At the very early stages, CYI got deeply involved, which leads us to where we are today.

Mr. Lang: When does the Minister expect such a definitive

decision to be made about going ahead with a commission?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would suspect that, if all goes well, it will be this month or early in June.

Mr. Lang: I missed part of the discussion, so please bear with me. Am I led to believe that the cost could be as high as \$300,000?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: As I explained to the Member for Riverdale South, I decided that it would not be appropriate to start identifying the costs associated with the commission, largely because the terms of reference have not been struck, and there were a variety of alternatives that we wanted to pursue. I did not want to be caught defending any particular sum until I had an agreement from my Cabinet colleagues and from CYI, both on the terms of reference and the methodology of undertaking this commission.

This is the danger of speculating, and I should be careful in future, but I mentioned that costs had gone anywhere from very low sums to a high of \$300,000. When the terms of reference are established, and the agreement is reached, and funding approvals have been sought from Cabinet, then I will be prepared to defend any costs associated with the commission.

Mr. Lang: I really appreciate the sincerity and the humility of the Minister coming forward and saying, well, when we decide to spend \$300,000 we will phone you and let you know. I kind of resent it, as a Member of this House, when I am dealing with a budget of how many millions of dollars, and the Minister says, well, within another month we will make a decision on up to another \$300,000.

Is the Minister going to be able to find that \$300,000 in the budget that he has presented here, or is it going to be in the supplementaries?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We are going through the entire line of questioning again. I spent the first half-hour answering these same questions. The funding is not in the budget. What the funding will be I am not sure, because the decisions are not all made at the beginning of the year. When an agreement can be struck on various initiatives throughout the year, I will seek funding. I will seek approval in the Legislature, whether it be in the Main Estimates or in the Supplementary, the Member can be sure of that. It will not be money from my own pocket.

It will be taxpayers' money, and we are very mindful of the expenditures in the taxpayers' interest, as usual. The costs associated with the commission have not been established, because the terms of reference have not been finalized. I have to hesitate to quote any specific sums, because there are no terms of reference to attach a sum to.

13 **Mrs. Firth:** I wanted to move onto some questions about studies, papers, strategy and the *School Act* — all these new things that are going to be done within the Department of Education.

Regarding some of these special studies that were already done within the department, specifically the Rural School Study, the French Study and the Junior High School Survey, can the Minister tell us the status of all of those studies? I know some of them were done as far back as two years ago. Perhaps he could bring us up to date on those studies. Have they been put on a shelf, or has some action been taken?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There has been a desire to act on many of the recommendations in the Rural School Study and the Sharp Report. Some of them are costly, and they cannot all be acted upon immediately. Clearly the report has been the subject of School Committee Conference discussions ever since the first version, and Mr. Sharp is almost a byword in terms of discussion on rural education.

With respect to the French Report, which came out in January of last year, there was the recommendation to expand the core French program, I understand. That has been done on a pilot basis already. There were other recommendations with respect to instructors' qualifications. Clearly that is an ongoing concern of the department and of the public, because there is not a great fund of qualified teachers, fluent in French, in the territory waiting to be hired. I understand, as well, that it is difficult in Western Canada to seek qualified French instructors, so, for that reason, it is always a dicey game to find good people. I think we have been very successful to date, but it is going to require ongoing attention.

There were a variety of other recommendations, and if the Member has any specific inquiries about any of them, I could perhaps comment on them if I am up to date.

I cannot remember the other report the Member talked about. There was the Sharp Report. The Junior High School Survey — I am not overly familiar with the recommendations. I am not even familiar with what action has been taken, but I can certainly secure that information easily.

Mrs. Firth: My concern is that these three reports were to be completed in September to November of 1984. They may not have been finalized, but that was the target date for completion. We do a lot of studies and reports in education. Sometimes it is in response to a concern, or crisis, or complaint, and all this information is compiled, money is spent and the report is put on the shelf and nothing happens with it.

¹⁴ I speak specifically of something like the Rural School Study. I read that and I have just read the Orlico Report. I know if we implemented both of the reports and all of the recommendations, we would surely have a model system here that would be comparable to none because of the quality of the recommendations.

I would not even want to hazard a guess as to what that would cost us. Sometimes these reports end up being a little more elaborate than the practical information that we are really looking for.

I recognize that some direction has been taken as a result of the French Study. What are the plans for French education in the territory? Are we just going to continue on? I thought that one of the purposes of the report was to identify somewhere where we could make adjustments or change our direction. The concern was that we were teaching three or four different French programs in the Yukon. Are we going to continue to do that and bring in late immersion, as well as early immersion, as well as French, and then enhanced French as a second language program?

Sooner or later, decisions have to be made, particularly when a study or report has been done.

The junior high school survey was done to see whether or not parents still agreed with the idea of children being in junior high school or if they want to combine it again with the senior levels of education, and nothing seems to have happened. I am not faulting the Minister for this because it has been spread over the last couple of years by the previous government and now for a year by this government.

The Minister is planning on amending or rewriting the *School Act*. We have just finished a space facility study that some decisions are going to have to be made on. I would anticipate that that would have to happen before the next school year. The training strategy paper is another study on advanced education. What is happening with all of this information that we keep collecting? Are any decisions being made? Are we pursuing any new directions or are we just carrying on?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I suppose the department and administrators are looking for consultants with low cost recommendations and are continually being disappointed that there is no such thing as a low cost recommendation in this field.

The future of French would be properly described as an evolutionary one. There is no desire to dramatically load core French into all of the schools at once through all the grades. There are a number of things that we are up against. There are the cost considerations and the aspirations of the local communities, which often differ from one another. There is the debate going on as to the value of core French as opposed to French immersion.

French immersion is very, very popular. It seems to grow regularly.

¹⁵ It will probably grow on an evolutionary basis. As we see the demand increase, we will respond. On the issue of French as a First Language, or Ecole Emilie Tremblay, the program in Whitehorse is still in the evolutionary stages, at the beginning stages. The birth of the program is still taking place, and whether it is successful in the long term has yet to be determined.

Change in an education system tends to be slow, largely because people have to accept change, given that the consequences of changes are so incredibly important to so many people. Every

parent, every father or mother of a child in the territory, cares deeply about the education of their children and are distrustful of change, which they see as maybe disrupting their child's chances of future development. They are more than happy to participate, but they do not want to sacrifice their child's future in that endeavour.

Change is slow. Almost by definition, it is slow, in this field. Parents have to accept changes as they occur. If you were to go to any school committee meeting in any school in the territory, you would always find parents who would want more for their children, but to deliver on a territory-wide basis can be extremely difficult. This is one of those departments where cost is a very significant factor in determining what can be done.

As the Member mentioned, if we were to implement many of the recommendations of the Sharp Report and the Orlico Report, as it pertains to public school education, we would have an ideal system, but one that I would suspect would be a lot more expensive than the \$38 million we see in front of us today.

For that reason, we have to be very careful. In terms of embarking on new endeavours, we have to be more than sure that they are going to succeed.

There are a number of activities being undertaken. The development of a new schools act is a long-term endeavour. There are many issues to resolve. The target date is the fall of 1987, but I would not be surprised at all if we were pushed past that target date. I am hoping, and we are planning, for that to be the climax of this exercise.

The Whitehorse Facility Study is something that is important, not simply for next year, but for the longer term capital projections for the City of Whitehorse. The whole point of the exercise was to identify population shifts and programming shifts into the future and to try to wrap a capital program around those changes.

All we do know right at the present time is that there is hardly a spare classroom in the city to use. That is creating some tensions in the community, which we would like to resolve. There are some stages and steps that we must follow through, in order to be secure that any action we take, because it will, more than likely, be expensive, is fully supported by the Whitehorse community.

On a training strategy front, the initiative to provide for a training strategy was mentioned and discussed at some length last fall.

¹⁶ I am happy to say that we are close to a finished product. I would hope that it can be delivered to the public in a month or so. It is a very important component of the Economic Development strategy. It is critically important if we are going to take full advantage of the significant economic development initiatives that are taking place in the territory today.

All these initiatives, some of them quite considerable, are important, and they are being timed so that they complement each other rather than simply duplicate activity in the communities. One good idea is that we do not simply have road shows going around the territory, one after another, consulting people first on the education act, or an Indian education commission, then the act and strategy paper, et cetera. The idea is that we do not double up on the consultation that we do undertake, but we keep people's interest heightened in the education system, because we would like to get as dynamic a response from the public as we can.

Clearly these are major initiatives. They are going to require a great deal of time and energy. We want to make sure the initiatives dovetail with each other. I believe they are all important. Some are very long term; some short term and some are medium term. I think that they gel well together, and I hope they produce good results. This is not to downplay, in any way, the reports that have been undertaken in the past. I believe the Sharp Reports, both I and II, were very important initiatives. There are certain recommendations that cannot be fulfilled easily, as with the Orlico Report, such as the provision of a full secondary school system in every community with a primary school. That would be a major undertaking and could be massively expensive.

Given a world of priorities and scarce resources, you have to be able to target the funds in the best manner possible. That is the reason why we are not simply implementing all the recommendations before we move to the next field of endeavour. We are hoping they will dovetail and provide a good basis for future effort.

Mrs. Firth: I want to talk about the Orlico Report and the 12 recommendations. What is the fate of this report? Is it going to be used as a discussion document? Is the Minister going to be taking action on any of the recommendations? Can he enlighten us as to what recommendations he finds acceptable and easily implemented and not too costly and would, of course, be a benefit to the Yukon and the Yukon education system?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I had hoped to be able to table the Training Strategy Paper in time for this debate, because it would make very clear which thrusts expressed in the Orlico Report and other preparatory documents the government had adopted for consideration. I would be preempting myself considerably if I were to comment extensively on the recommendations. The report itself was the subject of lengthy discussion at the Post-Secondary Education Advisory Committee's hearing. They had a special one-day session, I think, to discuss these recommendations and provide comment.

¹⁷ The report was regarded as a valuable document for developing a training strategy paper, although it would be false to suggest that it was the base document for the training strategy paper. It provided some ideas, some of which we have adopted and some of which we have not.

It was a useful discussion paper and did serve as a catalyst for many ideas that had been floating around and that were deserving of further debate.

There was a discussion about trying to resolve the training issue with the new element in the equation, which was the measure of autonomy for Yukon College. The recommendations were essentially a major part, mindful that that initiative that was essentially a fait accompli. Mr. Orlico kept that in mind when writing his paper and providing recommendations.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister tell us when he expects to have the training strategy paper available? If he does not want to preempt that, we really cannot have a lot of discussion on the Orlico Report, other than me going through each recommendation and saying what was and was not accepted. When does he anticipate that we will have an opportunity to see the paper and to participate in some discussion about it?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I stated already once this evening that the paper is very close to complete, and I hope that, within the month, we can have the finished document for public consideration. It took longer than I expected. I was hoping that a good deal of fruitful discussion could take place in the spring prior to the summer solstice.

Unfortunately, there were a number of things to keep in mind that I had not fully anticipated and that has caused a delay. It is very close to seeing the light of day, and the finished product should be coming forward very soon.

Mrs. Firth: I guess I do not have a choice but to wait and debate it later on when we do see the training strategy paper.

Does the Minister have knowledge of, or has he instructed his officials in the department to compile, an inventory of the studies that have been done within the Department of Education over the past five years? Is there such an inventory available?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes. I do not know if all the recommendations are kept at the forefront of discussion from all the reports over the past five years. There are a considerable number. ¹⁸ It is something I have yet to determine. Many of those reports are not lost causes. I would hope that they would not be lost causes, with respect to the base work that is necessary for such a major initiative as the rewriting of the *Schools Act*. Much of the work that has been undertaken in the past is on the department's mind. They do use those recommendations, operationally, as guides at times. I would not say that there is a consensus of understanding of all the reports and all the recommendations, which allow for very focused decision-making, but I know that the department does refer to them on occasion. It has not forgotten about them. There may be some reports that were considered less useful than others, which are gathering dust.

Such reports as the French Report, the Sharp Reports, are very much on people's mind, especially those reports that have been released to the public, and have received some school committee

consideration. Those reports, once released to the public, have retained a life of their own that cannot be buried. There is always somebody in the public who remembers recommendations, who agrees with them or finds some recommendations objectionable. Those reports tend to be more lasting than those that are just the privy of the department.

Mrs. Firth: If the Minister is prepared to, I would think it would be very useful to the Members of the Legislature to have a copy of the inventory of reports and studies that are within the department. I am sure that could be made available to us. I look forward to the Minister's answer.

I would like to ask him about the junior high survey again, particularly in the context of the Whitehorse Space Facility Study that has been done. I believe when the junior high school survey was done, and they were looking at combining junior high with high school, this could have some impact on the Space Facility Study, or vice versa.

Is the Minister entertaining any new creative concept of high school education?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would entertain any new creative concept to improve the high school education, but I have not spent a great deal of time ruminating about it. I already indicated to the Member that I do not have any specific knowledge of the reports she mentions. I undertook, at the same time, that I would secure that information and give an update as to the recommendations. I do not have very specific personal knowledge of the recommendations.

With respect to the future of the Whitehorse Facility Study, and the creative component with respect the delivery of high school programming, there have been a number of suggestions on how it can be improved. I hesitate to speculate, because I generally end up in debate of one sort or another as to what ideas should receive more courtesy than others.

¹⁹ No decision with respect to policy initiatives has been taken.

Mrs. Firth: I gather the Minister has agreed to give us a copy of the inventory of the studies, just so he does not forget.

We should go on with some program evaluation that was done within the department on new programs and new ideas that have been tried. I am speaking specifically about the program evaluation for the enhanced French as a Second Language that was started as a pilot program in four schools. I understand there was an evaluation done. It was discussed at the School Committee Conference, and I have asked the Minister a question about it. He said he would make it available. I would like to follow up now and find out if it is going to be made available. Could we possibly have it for the debates in the next day or so? I would also like to see if the department has done any evaluation of the gifted program and what their plans are in that area, the challenge program, and also the equivalency program.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: First of all, with respect to the inventory of studies, I will make that available.

I have not had time to review the specific details of the program evaluations that the Member mentions. I can tell the Member that equivalency education has received a very strong vote of confidence in every community where it has been tried. There are limiting factors to its effectiveness, which include the availability of private-sector partners to provide on-the-job training, et cetera.

The Challenge Program has not, in any way, to my knowledge, been diminished. In fact, it has proven to be very successful. I have received no complaints from school committees as to the effectiveness. I have received no complaints as to the effectiveness of the Equivalency Education Program. With respect to French as a Second Language, or core French, there have been representations from a variety of circles to expand it and to accelerate its expansion into other grades. Watson Lake has made a request that it be expanded to grades 2, 3, and 4 in one year. That decision is still under review. There are other schools that would like to see it expanded, including schools in Whitehorse.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the program, from a technical point of view, I would have to secure for the Member to the extent that it has been done.

²⁰ In popular belief, there is a mixed opinion as to its effectiveness. I am a product of core French from early grades, but hardly

consider myself bilingual. In any case, if the Member wants a more technical evaluation, I will see what can be done to supply it. I have had no complaints, only requests for expansion of the three programs the Member mentions.

Mrs. Firth: I would like the program evaluation, particularly for the French Second Language. I believe there are four school committees waiting in eager anticipation to have that. It was discussed at the school committee conference. I do not think their expectations are for a 50-page report, or anything. They just want some analysis of the effectiveness of the program and some reassurance that it is going to carry on and is no longer considered a pilot program, and that there is going to be some future and some permanency to it.

The Challenge Program was something that I felt very strongly about a few years ago, and still do. Because of the students who this program helps, it is almost as important to evaluate the program as it is to carry on providing it. If the Minister could provide us with some program evaluation, or some analysis, or some information that has been accumulated, or some data that has been acquired, regarding the Gifted Program or the Challenge Program, I think we would all find that very useful in determining whether the program is effective and whether we are meeting the objectives of the program. That, basically, was to provide the environment and the opportunity for children who wished to pursue particular challenges, that they had the resource and the availability of that program.

I would also like some more information on the Equivalency Program. I have heard, also, that it is very successful and in big demand, and I would like to know if the Minister could provide me with a bit of an evaluation for that. I know the Minister is aware that I am on the Public Accounts Committee, and I find the finer points of program evaluation and performance indicators very significant. If I could have some further information, I would appreciate it and would find it very helpful.

I want to ask the Minister now about some new areas of education that I have heard mentioned over the last year or so. We were told that there was going to be some educational program within the schools regarding young offenders. I would like to know if the Minister could elaborate a bit on that for me. The Minister of Justice is going to be pursuing some human rights education and I want to know if that is going to be done within the school system, and what we are looking at in the area of human rights education for the Yukon children.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will have to take the question about young offenders under advisement. I would like to be as complete in my answer as possible and do not feel all together comfortable in giving a detailed response at this stage.

There has not been any discussion with me on human rights education. There has been no representation that it should be enveloped by the school system other than what takes place as a matter of course, such as civil rights education. No special initiatives have been considered to date.

Mrs. Firth: Is the Minister indicating that he is not too receptive to the idea of education regarding human rights being introduced? I would like to get a better feeling for that. I know in some places in Canada that this is being done. I kind of get the feeling that the Minister is a bit hot and cold about it. Could he be a little more specific?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The idea is intriguing. I recall having undertaken something of a similar nature myself. It was called justice when I was going to school. I found it a valuable course. The idea sounds intriguing. It simply has not been taken up by the department or by the government. It is food for thought, and there may be some undertaking of that in the future. We have not enveloped the idea yet.

Mrs. Firth: I look forward to that discussion when it comes forward.

When the Minister of Education was in opposition, his party at that time was very concerned about the high dropout rate in the schools. We have all just talked about the tremendous graduating class of 1986 and how there were 175 graduates.

What has the Minister done in the last year or two to improve on

the high dropout rate? Can he tell me what the dropout rate is? Has the government identified some specific areas where they can improve that?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: When we get to Public Schools, I will see if I can give the Member a dropout rate. When the opposition task force reviewed the issue of dropout rates, they attempted to identify it more clearly than simply identifying it as a problem.

There were some suggestions as to why the dropout rate might be higher in some areas than in others. The program delivery in some communities would contribute. There could be a lack of counselling. The dropout rate in Pelly Crossing, for example, might be caused for different reasons than in Mayo or Whitehorse.

I would suspect that, clearly, the dropout rate would be different in all those communities. While there is a problem associated with the dropout rate, it is, in part, being addressed by the equivalency program. There are different reasons for its existence. The best way to tackle the problem is to identify the reasons for the dropout rate in a given community and try to tackle it on a more specific basis; identify the problem and resolve it.

There were some recommendations made by the Task Force with respect to counselling, which have not yet been undertaken. I believe if they were, they would prove to be very popular, but it is a question of prioritizing funds. I would like to see, in the future, greater counselling initiatives undertaken by the department. There are some very accomplished and sensitive people in counselling in the department currently. I think it is accepted they are overworked, or their efforts are stretched far too thin. More effort can be put into improving the situation.

Essentially, there is recognition that there is a dropout rate that has to be improved. With the initiatives we have taken to rectify the problem, both in terms of review and direct action, I would be hopeful the problem can be improved. Yet my understanding is that it has been improving in recent years. But, I will check with the Member to determine what the dropout rate has been over the last few years to see whether a significant improvement has taken place.

Mrs. Firth: I would like that information, and we can discuss it further in some of the line items.

There is a report I forgot to ask questions about. It was a terrible oversight on my part. It is the NDP Task Force Report on Education. I wonder if the Minister could tell us generally how many of the recommendations he has implemented from that task force report. I believe the overall thrust of the report was criticism of the government and the department's failure to have some broad long-term policy and philosophy, which was preventing it from making some long-term plans regarding facilities and programs and so on. Maybe the Minister could tell us which recommendations they have implemented, and how they have implemented their philosophies and long-term policies and objectives?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: One thing to consider is that, upon assuming office, I undertook that the recommendations would receive more public scrutiny than in the past, that there be more public discussion before anything was done to implement recommendations. Clearly it was regarded as being no different from any other reports in that respect. There was a desire to ensure that full, proper public consultation had taken place. Certain things had been done in the interim. Transportation policy has been amended. There has been some effort to resolve the accommodations problem. We have received some mixed signals from Indian Affairs that they wanted to remove themselves from student accommodation, and we have been attempting to determine what can be done to resolve the situation.

In those two areas, certainly concerted action has taken place. There was a desire for a training strategy — a coherent, coordinated strategy. I am hoping that the fruits of our labours over the last while, to create such a strategy, will be public soon.

There were a number of issues that would revolve around changes to the *Schools Act*. From a very early point in the administration, it was decided that cosmetic work on the *Schools Act* would not be appropriate, that it would have to be a coherent approach, a coordinated approach, to changing the act. Those things that have legislative implication were, and are intended, to be held off until such time as we have a chance to look at it in total, rather than

piece by piece.

In those terms, action has been undertaken. There has not been any concerted action to ignore the public and go ahead and start implementing recommendations that we had conceived through the task force report. It is definitely the sense that full public consultation will have to take place. That is what we are doing.

Mrs. Firth: As a result of reviewing the NDP Task Force on Education, I found three outstanding criticisms of the government. The first one was the high dropout rate. The next one was the high number of illiterates, and the next one was the graduates leaving the system lacking personal, financial and consumer skills.

In all fairness, after he has been the Minister for a year and had an opportunity to consult and make his position and policies of the party he represents in government known, I would like to hear further what he has done to particularly alleviate those three concerns that they had, and that were so urgent and of a high priority to them.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I just got through telling the Member the sorts of things that we have undertaken. Clearly, in a report that had 75 recommendations, the Member will find, after 11 months in office, that some of those recommendations have not been fulfilled. Some of those recommendations talk about improvements to the education system to resolve problems that will take years to resolve, if ever. There are problems in every education system.

With respect to literacy levels, a very close working relationship has developed between this government and the Yukon Literacy Council, Project Wordpower. There has been some effort to support literacy training. Project Wordpower, for the Members' information, is a group of people who provide volunteer services in terms of providing literacy training to a wide variety of people.

It complements the considerable efforts of Yukon College. That is a concern of this government, and action is being taken to resolve that problem. In identifying dropout rates as being a problem, you have to, at the same time, understand the nature of dropouts in the different communities.

Nothing specifically has been undertaken at the political level with consumer education and life skills. There may be things at the administrative level, by department personnel, to enhance the existing programs. Clearly there are things that are still outstanding; I do not apologize for that. The department has undertaken a very large chunk of issues to resolve. It has a lot on its plate. I am hoping that the results of the initiatives will improve the system.

If the Member wants to dig through the NDP Task Force report, I invite her to do that. I am sure she will find something that does not satisfy someone or other, but our record for moving is considerable. Our aspirations are considerable. The chunk that we have bitten off for ourselves is massive. I cannot believe that anyone would think or suggest that the government is doing nothing.

Mrs. Firth: I will not be rude or abusive or call names, it is not my style, but I am making the point that the number one concern was the high dropout rate. I just asked the Minister what the dropout rate was, and he could not tell me. I do not want to be confrontative. I just want to know what the Minister had done to identify what the problem was. His government had all the answers when they did the task force on education.

I remember going through the same debate and trying to explain why it was very difficult to assess dropout rate figures and to make decisions as to what you were going to do to lower those figures. I found that my answers were often unacceptable. Now the shoe is on the other foot, I guess.

I am raising it in the context that it was a priority with the Minister. I expected some action within a year. I just wanted to know what that action is. Has the problem improved because of the recommendation from the task force and the action that has been taken?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: To keep this discussion on an even keel, clearly the government has undertaken a very clear battle plan with respect to improving the education system in the Yukon territory. There are clearly problems identified, not simply by the NDP Task Force on Education, but by the department, that are recognizable problems, recognized by Bob Sharp and his reports, that have to be tackled.

The question is methodology. The Member suggests that a good performance indicator for the territory would be that we simply identify that the dropout rate is a problem and by next year the dropout rate would be improved dramatically because the government had come down with a special solution to all the problems as they effect the territory. So, the government should have discovered a sudden reason why people in Pelly Crossing, Whitehorse and Watson Lake might drop out, and suddenly, within one year, the dropout rate would be resolved.

It is not that easy. We have to talk about long-term strategies here. The government recognizes that there is a problem and it affects Pelly Crossing, Whitehorse, Watson Lake and any other community in the territory, and is taking the initiatives that I suggested with respect to the Indian Education Commission to help resolve some problems with respect to dropout rates by native people. We will undertake to review many of the issues that could be resolved through discussions and eventually lead to changes in the *Schools Act*.

The Training Strategy Paper and the enhancement of Equivalency education around the territory are some of a variety of ways to tackle the same problem and they all have to be undertaken. We do recognize that the dropout rate is a problem. It is not something you simply identify as being one component of the education system and you just resolve that and have it made. It is an organic whole and you have to be able to show understanding of the whole problem in order to tackle this one problem, which is obvious.

Mrs. Firth: As my colleague says, it is amazing how fast the Minister learns, because I recall saying exactly the same things, but it was not a sufficient enough answer then. I wanted to know what the new answer was. I thought that, as a government, we were meeting and addressing those concerns. It was the previous government that established the equivalency program and looked towards ways of preventing the dropout rate from increasing, even to the point where the industrial arts facility was built in Teslin, and in Ross River, so that the young men in the community could go and learn to repair their machines and build things and learn skills at the school, at hours that were suitable to them, so that we could keep the young people within the education system.

The NDP Task Force criticized the government of the day for not addressing the high dropout rate. I felt that perhaps the Minister had some new creative method of addressing it, and it would show signs of improvement. That is what I am asking for, in a non-confrontative way.

If I find that the Minister is just going to carry on with initiatives that the former government established, that is fine. I agree with that. There are initiatives that, probably in the long run, will be beneficial, and that is why they were started.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not recall the former government talking about a commission on Indian education. I do not recall the government coming forward with a training strategy, which are initiatives exclusive to this government. There are a number of things that are being undertaken. There is a sense that the problem is not simply a public schools problem, but has to be addressed at the adult education level.

There is an effort to decentralize college operations, to ensure that courses could be provided to rural communities with ease to a greater extent than they have been in the past. There is the development of the current carpentry upgrading course, which combines literacy education with trade skills, et cetera. There are things that are ongoing that are going that are going to help resolve the problem.

The problem is not something that you simply identify. Dropout rates are a symptom of problems in the system. The problems can be tackled in a variety of ways. We are attempting to tackle them in a variety of ways.

Mrs. Firth: So were we.

I would like to shift a bit and ask the Minister about his concept of the education system generally, and how it is serving the needs of the communities. Specifically, has he travelled to the communities and visited with school committees? I would really like to know if he has visited all the schools in the territory in his first year in office. Does he see that as important, and has he any intention of

doing something like that?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have been to a great number of schools in the territory in the first year. I have not been to Beaver Creek. I was at Beaver Creek the year before with the Opposition task force. I travelled to every community except for Old Crow. As Minister of Education, I have since had the opportunity to travel to Old Crow as well.

The schools I have been to and meeting with the school committees include Elsa and Mayo, Robert Service School, Del Van Gorder, Watson Lake Elementary and High School, Carcross, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction and a variety of schools in Whitehorse. I had meetings with many of the school committees in Whitehorse.

Mrs. Firth: I gather the Minister has visited approximately nine schools then. Is it his intention to visit all of the schools in the Yukon Territory as the Minister of Education? Does he feel that is important?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Of course it is important to visit all of the schools in the territory. I have been tied up in session all spring. I would love to get out to visit all the schools in the territory. I would like to talk to all the school committees and spend more time with them. I will do that in the coming months.

It is important to develop a good working relationship with all the school committees. I think that that has been done to date, including the school committees in Whitehorse. The relationship that I have with the school committees and with the Education Council is extremely good, in my opinion.

Mrs. Firth: I was not questioning the Minister's relationship with school committees or with the Education Council. I gather he does meet with the Education Council at every meeting that they have, unless he is out of town. Could the Minister tell us whether or not he meets with them? Has he been to school committee meetings?

I know that, as a Minister, I used to wait for an invitation to go. I would just like to know how the Minister is doing his homework. I am doing this in the sense of healthy debate, not to be picky or confrontative.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I realize the point of the Member's questioning, and I realize it is not meant to be confrontative. I would regard the Minister of Education's relationship with school committees as being one of the most basic principles necessary to do a good job. Up until the last couple of Education Council meetings, I have participated, at some length, in those meetings. I do not believe I have been to the last two, due to the circumstances necessitating my presence elsewhere.

The Member is absolutely right. The Minister has to maintain a good working relationship with the Education Council, has to get around to see all the schools, get to know individual school problems, and meet with, listen to, develop a relationship with all the school committees in the territory. I intend to do that.

Mrs. Firth: That sounds very reassuring. I think the Minister should set a goal for himself of when he is going to do it, or he will find that it may never get done. I think it is very important for the Minister to visit the schools. They feel that that is almost a requirement of the Minister of Education. I am inclined to agree with them.

I want to talk a bit about the Futures Committee, and goals, objectives and philosophy of education. I know, a couple of years ago, there was a committee established within the department called the Futures Committee. I have heard nothing of it since. Could the Minister bring us up to date on that?

At that time, the department had put together a discussion paper regarding the education philosophy and some goals and objectives, and it was in the process of being distributed to school committees who had received it and had offered some input, and the Education Council had been discussing it. What is the status of that document? Is anything happening with either one of these endeavours?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is my understanding that the Futures Committee has not met in two years; has not met almost from the beginning. The initiative now is to wrap the future of education around the discussion developing around the new *Schools Act*. Many of the issues and, certainly, the philosophy will be embodied

in the act.

I do not believe that the philosophy, the statement of philosophical principles upon which the education system is based, has received a great deal of discussion since it was first sent out to school committees. I remember sitting in on the discussion at the Elsa School committee, when they received it a couple of years ago. It was regarded as being very general, and could evoke a lot of debate, or very little debate, depending on people's frame of mind.

It was my experience, at least at that meeting, that a discussion of the concrete issues would help facilitate such a discussion. It was not a bad initiative for its time, but it could be augmented by a discussion on the practical principles, which we hope would take place with the development of the new *Schools Act*.

Mrs. Firth: Does that mean that there is not going to be any further discussion regarding philosophy, goals or objectives, or does the department have a philosophy, goals and objectives for the Department of Education?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: To the extent that it always has had one but not defined clearly, there is one to the extent that they have always operated in some way and have managed to maintain fairly coherent direction with respect to the delivery of programming. There has not been a lot of public discussion because it is a fairly difficult thing to discuss in abstract terms, and I think that was largely the reason for the failure of the discussion paper on education philosophy, the document that outlined the philosophy. That is the reason for its failure; it was simply too abstract for people to really glom onto and tackle. People preferred to try to debate the same issues as identified and as made apparent in the philosophy paper. They preferred to identify those issues and discuss them in pragmatic terms, using everyday examples. I would think that that is exactly the type of discussion which will be the underpinning of the development of an education act. Clearly, there has to be some sense of direction which will have to be determined, in part, in developing a new act.

Mrs. Firth: Has the Minister made any decisions or does he have any considerations about deviating from the B.C. curriculum that we now follow? Has he discussed, or have any intentions of, possibly changing to another provincial curriculum?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No. There is always the initiative to try to insert more Yukon content into various government programs, and that will continue. The Member knows that it is obviously a difficult and expensive proposition to take on. We, obviously, do not intend to do that and have not taken any decisions to change from B.C. to any other.

Mrs. Firth: Regarding the curriculum and students it is serving, there were some comments made about percentages of women in the sciences and math fields. Has the Minister's department officials made any identification of that, and are they doing anything to encourage young women to pursue the science and mathematical fields?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The department has made contact with the Women's Bureau, and the Women's Bureau has requested information on the success rate of women, not only in the context that the Member mentions, but also in training initiatives undertaken by the department.

There has been no policy direction at the political level to change anything specific, even though we do recognize a problem there. It is one of many issues that has to be addressed.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell me what percentage or dollar allotment of this total budget is taken up by salaries for teachers and administrative staff?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not have anything more unless the Member wants total salary for teachers and administrative staff. There is a personnel allotment of \$26,692,000 on page 86. I could find out teachers' salaries for her.

Mrs. Firth: It always seems that when it came to the Education budget we looked at the allotment of money for Education like it was a tremendous amount of money until you took advanced education and manpower out of it and treated it as a separate entity. If you took salary dollars for teachers and administrative staff, busing — which was probably over \$1 million in a contract and maintenance — it did not leave a tremendous amount in the budget

for programs and new initiatives.

I would like to know if that is still the case and if the Minister could give me, approximately, the amounts of money that go to salaries for teachers. The other significant number always was the amount in administration and what was left over for programs, which is where the school committees, the Education Council and parents really have an opportunity to bring forward some initiatives and some direction to further the future of education in the territory. Sometimes we are dealing with rather limited dollars.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member has hit the nail right on the head with respect to the amount of leeway that is available to change or to improve the system within the budget, even with an increase such as is identified here.

The salary dollars are a very large component of the budget. The manpower funding and the transportation costs, Student Financial Assistance, et cetera, do eat up a lot of the discretionary funding, shall we say.

There have been some initiatives that we can identify when we get to the line items, specifically, such as the \$125,000 for curriculum development, the publishing of some books embodying Yukon content. There are a variety of smaller projects like that. As a previous Minister, the Member understands that the amount of leeway is limited, even though it is a large department, a big spending department. Most of the money is spent paying teachers to teach the various subjects in a classroom. It is the nature of the beast.

Mrs. Firth: Just out of curiosity, what is the general overall cost of the busing contract now? I would have thought the Minister would have had a general figure for the busing contract.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is just over \$1 million. When we get to the line item, I will seek it out and identify it specifically.

Mrs. Firth: I noticed in the Minister's preliminary comments, which he made at the beginning of debate, that he talked about the maintenance custodial functions going to Finance and the Administration branch. I believe just a while ago we changed that around. Can the Minister tell us why he has put it back again. I may be mistaken, but I thought we had taken it out of the Administrative branch in order that the Administration not look over-powering. I see the Minister has put it back. Could he just tell us why?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The points made seemed to be very salient. Politicians ought to get together to determine the history of these changes and to maybe develop their own club. The points made to me seem to be appropriate.

The function of administering seems to be better put to the unit that had responsibility for administrative matters. It was felt that program delivery and the teaching system itself was better served if it was the responsibility the Deputy Minister. It was felt that it would be a better expenditure of that person's time.

It was felt that the custodial work and the administration work of the busing program could be better administered by people involved in the Finance and Administration unit. That is the reason for the switch. I am sure the department would have more articulate reasons.

Mrs. Firth: I would like to know if the Minister ever gets a complaint that administration in the Department of Education is top heavy. That used to be a familiar complaint. Does the Minister get that complaint? Is the administration top heavy, or does he feel that the administrative complement of the department is adequate to meet the needs.

I notice he has just added another regional superintendent who will have increased the complement. I would just like some general comments about the administration in proportion to the rest of the department.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: If I felt the administrative unit was top-heavy, I would have done something to change the system dramatically. The Members have seen there are no changes here with respect to the delivery of programming. There are various functions that have to be fulfilled by any system. We have a relatively small school population, but still have to provide the same level of service and the same variety of service as any provincial jurisdiction. There are a number of specialists. I believe it was a common occurrence at one time to suggest there were more

superintendents than principals, but it bespoke a misunderstanding of who was a superintendent, who was a director of curriculum and who was a director of special education programs, et cetera. The only superintendents in the system are the three we now have. I have representation from people in the schools that they would like to see their superintendent more often. One complaint, because superintendents have very little time, is that they spend very little time in the school with the school committees, especially in rural Yukon. The addition of superintendents is an attempt to address that problem in part. School committees want more attention, and we will give them more attention.

Mrs. Firth: Has the Student Accommodation Study been completed, and is the Minister prepared to table it?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It has not been completed. There are a number of issues to be resolved. I believe I mentioned that Indian Affairs had initially been eager to divest itself of student accommodation responsibilities. We seem to be receiving a mixed signal on that score in the last couple of months. Clearly, before we take any coherent action on it, we will find out exactly where they stand. It may simply be a communications break and the blame of no one. The report has come through in at least one draft that I have read. I do not believe it is complete, but when it is I will read it to determine what recommendations it makes. If it makes confidential recommendations, I will take that into account when making the decision to release it. As a general rule, I like to release reports to the public because, generally, you get a more sound impression from the public, who not only pay for them, but have to live by the recommendations.

³⁴ As a general rule of thumb, I do like to make reports public; witness the Orlico Report, witness the Whitehorse Facilities Study, et cetera. I generally make the decision on making the reports public after I have read them.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister tell us who is doing the report?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The special education consultant in the department.

Mrs. Firth: We talked, back in March, and last session, too, about computer policy. Does the Minister have a computer policy, and is he prepared to share it with us and table what the policy of this government is regarding computer education?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It was finalized in Supplementaries, because it was adopted in December of 1985, or it may have been January, 1986. It was upon the adoption of that policy that the decision to purchase computers was based. If the Member wants a copy of the policy, I will be more than happy to share it with her.

The policy speaks of training for teachers, it speaks of the computer to student ratio, and a number of other things. I believe it is a fairly sound policy. There was extensive consultation with the school committees on that subject, and it was the bringing together of points made by computer experts in the government, the school committees, Education Council, et cetera, that led to the finalizing of the policy.

Chairman: We will now recess for 20 minutes.

Recess

Chairman: I will call Committee to order. We will continue with general debate on Education.

Mrs. Firth: We were just discussing the computer policy, and the Minister has given us his reassurance that he will table that for us. We will wait to get the computer policy.

Mr. Nordling: I would just like to make an observation and perhaps there is a question in it. The Minister mentioned more Yukon content in the curriculum. When I was in Grade 8 in Dawson the teacher whom we had took it upon himself to teach a full course in Yukon history, something that I do not think any of the other students got or have had since. I remember the course very well and believe it was one of the best courses I took during my elementary and secondary education. Has the Minister considered this as a possibility; that being a full-time credit course in Yukon history?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It will be my hope that, throughout the curriculum throughout the grades, the Yukon content could be enhanced. I would especially like to see the content being enhanced with respect to teaching of the history of the Yukon prior to the goldrush. So often history seems to start, in some people's minds, in 1898. Clearly, that is only one brief episode in the life of this land.

In general terms, yes, the extent to which we can encourage curriculum content where it is something that we will support, clearly there has to be some initiative taken and encouragement given to teachers who wish to get together to develop the curriculum. It cannot be done simply by hiring specialists to put together something in Whitehorse for the territory; there has to be a concerted effort on the part of teachers. We have to provide them with the encouragement to develop components to the curriculum to enhance the curriculum, not simply for history or social studies, but also for science, for example. There is quite a lot that could be added to the curriculum in terms of identifying geological formations that are prevalent in Yukon, flora-fauna trips that are relevant to Yukon, et cetera. We would like to encourage that as much as possible.

It started some time ago with the publishing of some books. I think the Member may have seen the books that identify and explain, in pictures and words, the various communities in the territory. There has to be much more to it than that. It may never be a situation where we can solve it completely; there will always be efforts to enhance local content, but it will have to be tackled in a variety of ways.

The idea of a specific course or a full course simply on Yukon history is an interesting one. There may be efforts to enhance it with other items as well until such time as the historical research can identify more to Yukon's past than has been identified already. I am sure it will be part of it. To put it quite simply, we would like to encourage local curriculum development as much as we possibly can. I would certainly be willing to accept any ideas the Member has on how to enhance it.

Mr. Phillips: Following along that same line, has the Minister done anything just recently with Project WILD? He just talked about trips, the flora and the fauna. Project WILD talks about our natural resources and is a program that is basically laid out. I appreciate that I think it has to be northernized. Is the department looking into northernizing it, so to speak, and is the department looking at adopting a policy such as that? A lot of the groundwork has been laid, and it is a fairly highly rated program in southern Canada and the United States.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have heard the program mentioned a number of times before. I am not familiar with what the department has specifically done with it. I can check on that for the Member. Clearly, anything that can enhance Yukon students' understanding of their own areas is something that we would like to promote. The extent to which students can understand, for example, the nature and the habitat and the history of a particular district would also be helpful. Students in the Kluane district, or in Old Crow, or in Ross River have a different environment that they can explore, and we would like to encourage them to do that and to include that in the curriculum. Quite often, in the past, it has been on an ad hoc basis and sometimes, as Mr. Nordling pointed out, it is the initiative of a

single teacher, and sometimes it dies with that teacher.

We would like to enhance it and to institutionalize it, so to speak, so that these things are not simply dependant upon the vigour of one or two teachers. We would like it to be ongoing and the work to build on itself well into the future. I will check on any specific action that may have been taken by the department to adopt the work that Project WILD embodies. Certainly it is an interesting thing that should be explored.

Mr. Phillips: I would encourage the Minister to do that, because I think the mechanics and basics are there with Project Wild. I think that we could Yukonize it, so to speak, quite simply, and it would not cost us a great deal of money; we are not reinventing the wheel. All the teaching aids are there and the processes by which they would use them are there. I think that we should take advantage of a program such as that, which is now available to us, and I would encourage the Minister to pursue that.

Mrs. Firth: I would like to ask some quick questions about the pupil-teacher ratio and the statistics that the Minister tabled for us. I notice that the teacher staffing ratio of October, 1985 was the last update I received. This one is for March 1, 1986. I have noticed that the only change is the Del Van Gorder School, which had seven pupils in 1985 and now has 30. There have been no dropouts or no decreases in any of the numbers. Is that absolutely correct? There have been no reductions in the school population in that time? They have remained exactly the way they were then?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I am sure the Member can appreciate that this April 1 update was not performed by me. I cannot vouch for the absolute accuracy of the student figures. I am sure that there has been an attempt to be as accurate as possible. If the Member has some specific question, I can get an answer for it. Perhaps, in a few minutes, when we get into public schools I can attempt to respond to her suggestion that the numbers are not perfectly reliable at that time. My understanding is that the update of April 1 is, in fact, as accurate as can be expected.

Mrs. Firth: My concern goes again with population figures and predictions that the government makes based on its population figures, and I was surprised to see that Faro was the only area where there was any growth or any change at all. I would have anticipated that, perhaps, from some of the Whitehorse schools that some of the children would now have gone to Faro and that the general numbers would have remained constant because there would have been an addition in Faro and maybe a decrease in some of the schools in Whitehorse. However, the people who are there may not be from the Yukon, and they may all be new children.

I would like the Minister to verify the figures for me. I have noticed that some of the teacher numbers have fluctuated a bit; nothing significant. There have been some slight increases in some areas and some slight decreases. Has the Minister now established a pupil-teacher ratio and what exactly is it? As well as the pupil-teacher ratio, are the administrative staff, librarians, counsellors and so on separate from the pupil-teacher ratio?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There has been a student-teacher ratio established in the past. It has not exactly been adhered to. As a matter of fact, it has been more the exception to follow the student-teacher ratio than it has been the rule historically. Clearly the student-teacher ratio is outdated and non-functioning in a very real sense and has been for some time.

There are difficulties establishing a student-teacher ratio that is hard and fast. We all know the pressures that people work under in terms of providing programs to various schools and the desire to address specific problems in the specific school and to identify a problem in a specific school. If extra staffing can help resolve it, generally there is a desire to do such a thing without necessarily breaching a hard and fast rule.

The student-teacher ratio is just that; it is a student-teacher ratio. Administrative people, librarians and people working on special programs, et cetera, are not incorporated into it. A student-staff ratio might provide that kind of information for the Member, if she regards it as being important. That could easily be toted up by simply adding the administrative units, librarians and teachers, together along with counsellors to provide that information. But, clearly, it would be a little bit misleading in the sense that, for

example, in highschool counsellors, the counsellors are expected to provide service around the territory, not simply at FH Collins. It would be a little bit unfair to suggest that they should be worked into the FH Collins student-staff ratio.

In general terms, obviously there is some difficulty in establishing a hard and fast rule. Attempts will be made in the future. It is on the list of priorities, things to do. Whether or not we can come to resolve the situation with any degree of permanency is yet to be determined. Clearly, I understand the need for some latitude to address problems. I do not think that there is anything manifestly unfair or grossly unfair about the student-teacher ratio as currently exists. As Members notice, there is, generally speaking, a lower number of students to each teacher in rural schools than there is in the urban schools, largely because the teachers in rural schools teach more than one grade at a time. It is more difficult to deliver programming in those schools.

α No school committee has suggested to me personally that the student-teacher ratio requires a major revamping. I realize that there was a resolution on the books for a school committee conference, but it does not purport to suggest that a rigid system has to be developed; a system that has in its makeup a very rigid rule that has to guide the allocation of staff to students.

Mrs. Firth: What is included in the pupil-teacher ratio?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Pupils and teachers.

Mrs. Firth: Therefore, none of the administration is included in that ratio? We do not have to be concerned now about asking for another librarian for a school or another counsellor because that is going to make the class sizes bigger, is that correct?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is my understanding. If I am absolutely wrong about this, I will let the Member know.

Mrs. Firth: If no other Members wish to ask any questions about public schools, I would like to move on to some general debate on advanced education and manpower.

Mr. McLachlan: I would like to know about the department's feelings about the change of the hours and the schedules for the pilot project that is talked about for Dawson City because of the changes in the school year. I understand that we have 190 school days now. British Columbia, on which we base the curriculum, has 200. If we change, we would go with less than that thereby accentuating that difference. What is the Department of Education proposing to do in that respect?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The *School Act* is fairly specific on that subject. Any requested changes to the times when the school year starts and stops have to be made prior to April 15 or some specific date in the spring. The initiative to encourage different school years around the territory has not come from the department, it has come from at least one school committee recently, the Robert Service School.

The understanding is that the issue will be resolved through discussions on the changes to the *School Act* so that decisions as the length of the school year, the ability to compress the school year into fewer days but longer hours, all that sort of thing, can be addressed in one fell swoop. There has to be an informed discussion on the matter because it is not simply a matter of doubling the hours of the school day in order to make the school season shorter to accommodate students who want to go to work. Clearly, there are educational concerns that students' attention time will not be sufficient to absorb or to last the school day that is longer than so many hours depending on the age of child, et cetera. All those things have to be taken into account.

When you are discussing the length of the school day, you have to take into account things such as the busing schedules and everything else. For the length of the school year, you have to take into account the care for the community. There has to be a discussion as to whether or not it is administratively feasible to allow different schools around the territory to adopt different school years, different start and stop dates, a different length of school days; all those things have to be resolved. It is no easy task. We are going to attempt to address it in the discussions revolving around the revamping of the *School Act*, but the Member has hit on a point that has been of some note by school committees around the territory and, most recently, by the Robert Service School, and we

are attempting to address it.

α **Mr. McLachlan:** I gather, from the Minister's answer, that the department is neither necessarily for it or against it, you are simply studying the issue and will try to do the best to accommodate the school committees in the particular location who asked for that change by passing amending legislation or a whole new act?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is the long and the short of it. I am probably trying to explain in too long-winded a form. Clearly, there are a variety of concerns that have to be taken into account. Like it or not, there are administrative problems in doing that sort of thing. They are not insurmountable by any means, but they have to be addressed. If that can be done, we will develop a system that can do it.

Mr. McLachlan: The Member for Riverdale South asked about parts of the department being top heavy. When the rural regional superintendent is relocated to the outside communities, what is the Minister planning for support staff for that rural superintendent?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not know what specific plans there are for support staff. Depending on where the person is located, if the person is located in a school, then there will be no need for extra staff. There might be some time sharing that could be accommodated if the person was located in another government office where there is already support staff. I do not believe that there is a need for another person to be hired to do specifically secretarial work for a superintendent.

Mrs. Firth: I would like to go on to advanced education and manpower for some general debate and not to get too specific about any of the programs, particularly the student programs or the business programs. I wanted to ask the Minister about the White Paper on training. What is the main focus of that training paper?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Without betraying the content of the paper in any substantive way, I can state that the focus will be less on identifying specific programs well into the future and more on identifying the decision-making process by which the programs will be determined and the methodology of delivery of those programs; how community-based they are, how sensitive they are to rural or regional economic development initiatives, what the relationship is between the regions and the college. That is, generally speaking, the thrust of the paper. It is not meant to identify a whole series of programs upon which there will be various specific costs associated with them.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister enlighten us somewhat on what the government's philosophy is regarding education within the communities and what their expectations are in the public school system and what their objectives are for post-secondary education within the communities? Are we looking at the possibility of having a facility in Faro, say an Institute of Technology or Mining or something to that effect? Or, is it going to be in Elsa, as the Minister had suggested when he was a Member in opposition? Is that the direction this government is heading in?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Again, without being too substantive, because there is machinery rolling here in terms of generating the training strategy paper, it would be foolhardy of me to simply state the contents right now. The initiative I guess, in very general terms, is to encourage, if possible, the decision-making at the community level, to encourage communities to participate in the overall framework in terms of decision-making for the territory, to encourage the use of private sector for training initiatives. If that means a mining institute at Elsa, I would certainly be in favour of that. Clearly, there is a question of a mining institute in Faro, and if we can accommodate two mining institutes, we would consider that as well.

I do not mean to be flippant, Mr. Chairman. Community-based training is the intent and order of the day with respect to the training strategy paper. I do not think that there is any secret necessarily about that, but I am hesitant to be more specific at this stage because the government is coming forward with some ideas. I do want them to be presented in a very coherent form through the strategy form. I do not want to simply leak the whole initiative prior to its receiving full approval from my colleagues in total form and to pre-empt it so to speak.

α **Mrs. Firth:** That is unfortunate. I appreciate the Minister's

position, but it does restrict debate somewhat. We are in a position where the Minister cannot reveal what ideas he has or where his government is coming from because of the strategy paper. Therefore, it makes asking questions about what this government's intentions are very difficult.

Perhaps we could get some idea about Yukon College. The Minister has talked about the independence of the college and a board of governors. Could he tell us what his intentions are in this direction?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would like the Member to understand that it is not because I am attempting to stonewall in any way the debate or the discussion, but I think there are good reasons for reserving comment on the brand-new initiatives, proposals for new direction that the government is going to make prior to the release of the paper itself. Now, there are things that the government is doing. Certainly, it is continuing many of the initiatives that have taken place in the past, plus enhancing those initiatives. As I mentioned in the budget speech, the expansion of community academic upgrading programs, the expansion of the business and management programs, tourism hospitality, et cetera. The Apprentice Incentives Marketing Program is to encourage the private sector to take on apprentices in the territory. These are new initiatives. They are not necessarily tied into a major new training strategy paper, but they are things that the government is doing. The government is not doing nothing in anticipation of the training strategy paper; the government is taking initiatives of various sorts, both at the college and through the manpower branch. Did you ask a question?

Mrs. Firth: About the college and independence.

Laughter

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We are going to do something about the college and the board of governors. We have talked about autonomy. The training strategy paper is going to address the issue, as well how we will attempt to proceed with a measure of autonomy for the Yukon College.

Mrs. Firth: It is a good thing for the Minister that I am paying attention to what he is saying because he is not.

Laughter

Is there money in this budget to pay for the training strategy paper for any of the implementation of it?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: First of all, as I explained, the intent of the training strategy paper was more on the decision-making process. It was more on the way that programs will be determined than it is on identifying programs and attaching a dollar value to those programs. Therefore, there is no major cost associated with the training strategy paper per se. Now, there may be new initiatives that are taken that will require extra funding, but they would have to be identified in future debates depending on what we decided to do over the course of time. There will be a discussion period upon which the principles of the training strategy paper will be debated in public. Following that, if there are proposals for funding that come out of that, they will either come out through reallocation of a department's existing resources or they will be requests for enhancements.

Mrs. Firth: That is my concern: if there are any new initiatives that are going to be coming as a result of the training strategy paper and there is money here, then I feel it is reasonable that we ask the Minister for some specifics. However, we recognize that he is not able to give us that.

We discussed back in March an Apprentice Incentive Marketing Program. Is that the AIM Program that the Minister just made reference to?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Mrs. Firth: Could the Minister just update us on the status of that program?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There is, I believe, \$52,000 allocated for the program. It is meant to encourage, through a small subsidy, employers to take on apprentices to establish an apprentice program. It is simply an effort, with the economy on the upswing, to encourage the private sector to take on apprentices and do their training through the apprenticeship program. As the Member knows, in the in-house apprenticeship program, the government

pays the full cost of those apprenticeships, the wages, the salaries, et cetera. It is felt that if we can slowly encourage the private sector to take on apprentices, we may get, in essence, a bigger bang for the buck because we are only providing a small incentive to encourage them to do that. The success of the program has not been determined because it is brand new.

Mrs. Firth: How many people have made application to the program? How many are participating in it now?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not have that detail in front of me, but I can certainly find out for the Member. Certainly, when we get to line item debate, I will have an official here who may be able to answer that kind of question.

Mrs. Firth: I would like some details. I received a package from the department called "Fact Sheet: Work Yukon". It lists many programs in it: in-house apprentice training program, manpower consultative services, Yukon certification program, Yukon Apprentice Training Program, and so on. There must be 20 or more. I would like to ask some details about the participation of the program and the dollars allotted to them.

In the opening comments the Minister made about advanced education, he talked about a community academic upgrading program and some business management programs. Could the Minister indicate how these are different, particularly the management program for band administration and council training? How are they different to what the municipal advisor is going to be doing in the Department of Community and Transportation Services? I see the potential for some overlap there and some duplication. Perhaps the Minister could clarify the roles for me?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: To the extent to which we can provide training opportunities for municipal managers, I think we should. Clearly, there is, as I mentioned in the Community and Transportation estimates, a lot of room for assistance there. The municipal advisor is a person who is there to help walk municipal managers and councilors through real-life experiences and is meant to troubleshoot in those times where those municipal managers encounter very complex situations that require some attention.

The course to provide training for band administrators and municipal managers is to give Yukon people a more solid general grounding in municipal administration, band administration, to provide the theory behind it, some practical understanding of what it is like, what is necessary to provide services to bands and to municipalities. I would see the municipal advisor as enhancing, in the field, the training that the college can provide.

Mrs. Firth: How is the program going to be delivered then? Is someone going to go to the community and give the program? Do people participate at will? Do they pay? I would just like some more details about it. Then, the Minister has told us that the municipal advisor will then enhance what they have learned. I understood the other night, when we talked about the municipal advisor, that they were, in some way, going to serve the same function as this management program: that would be to advise the council members and band members how they should administer certain things. I am concerned about the overlap and about the communities kind of being bombarded with technical advice and bureaucratese. I would like the Minister to give me some reassurance that that is not what is going to happen.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: That is not the intention of the program. I have some considerable experience dealing with municipal managers and with councils. I have witnessed the evolution of the Village of Mayo from an LID to a Village. I understand perfectly well the kind of assistance that they have requested in the past to help them through the writing of bylaws, understanding the *Municipal Finance Act*, which is a very complex, large, fat document, et cetera, as well as learning to put forward pay sheets, doing accounting, collecting water and sewer charges, and all the myriad of things that the municipal administrations have to do.

When we are talking about municipal administrations, Members have to understand that, in many of these communities, we are talking about one person who is required to do all that work. It is not your Director of Finance and Personnel versus your Director of Programs. The manager in one minute is working on personnel statements, the next minute he is out with the foreman digging up a

sewer line. Two hours later he finds himself back trying to sift through the *Municipal Act* to determine what type of pension system might be appropriate for himself and maybe a part-time secretary at the request of council. At the same time, he has to make representation, on behalf of council, to the Government of Yukon, perhaps on the capital formula funding. There is a whole string of areas that the person has to engage in; one person. The municipal advisor is there to advise at those times when the person gets caught with a task that they cannot perform because they do not have the understanding to perform it.

At the same time, there is general bookkeeping practices, et cetera, which can be learned in a classroom, learning through the college, and that is where the delivery of the program would be primarily. There will still be times when trouble-shooting is necessary, and the municipal advisor, I hope, will be there for communities.

Mrs. Firth: How is the business management program going to be delivered in the communities?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Initially, my understanding is that it would be offered in Whitehorse. If there is a chance to deliver it in the rural communities, it will be done. Perhaps I can detail it when we get to the line item, but certainly, as a matter of principle, if a program can be delivered in a rural community and is requested, and the numbers warrant, and generally speaking quite often they do, then every effort will be made to deliver it in the home community.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister give us a bit more information about the program? Is it a week long? a month long? I recognize some of the information is rather detailed, but in a way it is not, it is general. I am just asking some general points about what kind of program this is. He has talked about a business management program for tourism, band administration and council training. What is it?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: With respect to the actual length and the actual content of the curriculum and that sort of thing, I will attempt to seek it for the Member. I am not absolutely fluently conversant with the details. I will seek the information out and relay it to the Member as soon as I can.

Mrs. Firth: In his opening comments, the Minister also made a couple of points about a distance education discussion paper. Could he elaborate on that for us, please?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It has been a concern that improvements can be made to the delivery of education programs around the territory. I have spoken about this to a certain extent in Estimates debate for Community and Transportation Services to the extent that satellite technology and telecommunications technology can enhance the delivery of rural programs, but there is more to it than that.

Programs to rural areas can be delivered in a variety of methods. They can be videotaping courses and ensuring that the videotape courses are distributed to communities in an efficient way. It could mean the enhancement or the changes made to program materials to make them more relevant or make them more accessible to rural communities. It could be done in a variety of methods. Given the fact that there is a desire that as much delivery of programming should take place in the communities themselves and not specifically at the Yukon College campus in Whitehorse, that improvements could be made, if not to fine-tune certain areas, but also to investigate dramatically new methods of delivering education programs such as telecommunications. That is the purpose of investigating it specifically. We would hope that it will produce the kind of results that will enhance the delivery of programs to rural areas.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister just tell us who has seen the paper and has had some input? Is he prepared to table it for the Members?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would like to read it. When I get around to reading it, which I hope will be very soon, when it is complete, I will undertake to consider delivering it, and I can give the Member the same speech I made about, in general, wanting to make discussion papers public. The understanding, of course, is that when discussion papers are made public they are not necessarily a reflection specifically of government policy; they are

papers for discussion. Quite often these papers are mistaken for government policy, and it is a little dispiriting to have to repeat over and over again that, for example, the Orlico Paper is not an expression of government policy, but a consultant's report, et cetera, et cetera. Once I have read it, I will undertake to make such a paper public.

Mrs. Firth: The Minister has to appreciate that I find it a bit frustrating because I just jotted some quick notes down when he was giving his preliminary comments and, so far, the distance education discussion paper was mentioned and the management program for business and the strategy paper, and I have met with an obstruction because I cannot discuss them now because the Minister has not completed them; they are just things that are in the process. I will wait again, and when the Minister has read it and is making some decisions about it, then we will have to debate it later on. I just find it a bit frustrating because the Minister has made certain announcements of things they are doing, but nothing has been finalized, and there have been no decisions made yet. It is difficult to determine what direction government is heading in in these areas.

The Minister mentioned that the post-secondary advisory council had been increased to 12 members, and that was to give representation to the CYI and the community learning centres. Is that just one member for the CYI and one to represent all of the community learning centres?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: With respect to the initiatives the government is taking, I wish the Member could appreciate that these are estimates for the coming year. It is very difficult for me to state that we are going to fund certain studies and certain initiatives and give her the results of those initiatives before they have been undertaken. I am trying to give the Member, to the fullest extent possible, the direction that we are going in advance of the results of those initiatives because they have not come to fruition. These are estimates for the coming year; these are not estimates for the year that has gone past.

With respect to the post-secondary education advisory council, the initiative is to increase it to as many people as we can while still keeping the body manageable. We had delivered the invitation to the Council for Yukon Indians for persons, suggestions, nominations and have yet to receive word from them over the course of the past four or five months despite a number of attempts to get some nominations. I would like to see probably four or five people from the CYI participating on the council. Traditionally, when the council meets, not everyone shows up so it is possible to have a post-secondary education advisory council with as many as 20 and still have a manageable group of people to discuss the issues.

With respect to the community learning centre advisory councils, it was made fairly obvious that even after we had sought input from all the various major organizations in the territory and essentially had devised a council of approximately a dozen, there were no formal nominations submitted by the advisory committees. We have, subsequently, appointed somebody from one advisory committee and have sought nominations again from the advisory committees. I would like to see a council that is more representative of both the native people and community learning centre advisory committees, not that they are mutually exclusive. If that means establishing a council that has as many as 20, then so be it. So long as the conversation and the discussion can be manageable, as long as enough people show up for the meetings to debate the very important issues ahead of us, then I will be satisfied.

Mrs. Firth: So, the Minister has not given me a specific number of people he expects to be on the post-secondary coordinating committee. Can the Minister tell us if the mandate of that committee has changed at all over the last while?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No. The committee is tailored to discuss post-secondary issues, though there has been a recent initiative, a very wise one, to bring the two major advisory bodies, the education council and the post-secondary education advisory committee, together to discuss issues in common. I think that the message is that there is a heck of a lot in common between the subject matter that both committees peruse. There is the specific matter of program articulation, which they have to address, in common. Generally speaking, there has been no major shift in

orientation for that committee.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell me who is on the post-secondary education advisory council?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: You're testing my memory: it is on the public record. Bill Dunbar, I think; Gary Bower, Peter Steele, Wolf Riedl, Paul Nugent, Linda Macdonald. It is on the public record. There are approximately 12 or so; it could be increased depending on the nominations.

Mrs. Firth: I have a list of who is on the council.

Laughter

Mrs. Firth: Well, I just wanted an update to see if there was anyone who had been changed, if there had been any new appointments made, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could just ask the Minister if Almstrom, Boyland, McEachern, Warner and Sheridan are still on the council? I want to know if I have to correct updated Members. There is nothing so outrageous about that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I apologize. It is getting late.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Mr. Warner and Mr. Sheridan are still on the council. Who is the other? Natalia Boylan, I think she is still on the council.

Mrs. Firth: Margaret Almstrom?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes, I think she is still on the council. They are still on the council.

Mrs. Firth: Thank you, I just wanted an update. I did not think that I was asking a trick question or anything like that.

Could I ask the Minister what the Canada-Yukon interprovincial involvement is in advanced education and manpower now? Are they still involved together in committees and areas in interprovincial involvement? I am speaking specifically of the training agreement and the occupational projection system, and so on. Have we changed any of those committees?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There are still very close contacts between the federal and territorial governments. The Member can see that there are certainly connections made in terms of manpower planning, et cetera, which continue to exist. The Canadian job strategy has its federal initiative. Six points on the Canadian job strategy have led to the human resource development agreement, which has been signed. I think there have been three, if I am not mistaken, sub-agreements, which are meant to pinpoint various sectors in the economy to provide assistance. There are some very tough negotiations that we are undergoing now with respect to provision of institutional training and some worrying trends on that front.

The same is true for the federal sport for apprenticeship training; there are some worrying trends that will have a significant impact on the territory and on the institutional training in the territory. I am hesitant to comment on them at the present time because the negotiations are continuing. From our perspective, there are some worrying trends there. Generally speaking, at the administrative level, certainly the initiative is to maintain as close contact as possible between the governments so that duplication does not occur between programming that is initiated by the jurisdictions. The human resource development agreement was meant specifically to rest that particular issue in part; to encourage joint programming, joint planning provided to governments.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister tell us if we are still participating in the Canadian occupational projection system? Is that still alive and well? If the Minister would prefer to leave it to the line items, fine, we will discuss it then.

I would just like to ask the Minister a couple more questions about some general concepts within advanced education and manpower, specifically to do with the *Students Financial Assistance Act*. I understood that the Minister was going to be bringing some amendments forward in this session, and I wonder if that is still his intention?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes. I intend to table some amendments tomorrow.

Mrs. Firth: I do not want to pre-empt the Minister's amendments, but does it have to do simply with eligible students who are falling through the cracks in the system now, or does it have to do with adults receiving funding as well?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The initiative is to deal, in part, with students who fall through the cracks. There are a couple of other initiatives that are being taken, which I believe will provide relief within the system for students. Any major initiative that requires significant financial implications cannot be undertaken at this time as there is no funding allocated for that purpose.

Mrs. Firth: There was a news release issued today about summer jobs for students approved and a long list of attachments. The press release talked about 180 Yukon students being placed in jobs with the private sector, some with non-profit and some with municipalities. What is the breakdown of the contribution? It says "a joint federal-territorial of over \$800,000". What of that is territorial funding, and what is federal funding?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I will have to find it. One moment.

Mrs. Firth: Maybe we could wait until the line item.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Okay. I have the information here, but it is buried.

Mrs. Firth: We can leave that until the line item, and I will get the specific details of the programs when we come to the advanced education and manpower line items. I have heard some concerns expressed about the mobiles that are going to the communities. We now have three mobile units for education. Is the Minister aware of any difficulties that have arisen regarding keeping inventory and keeping the mobiles in a good organizational manner and whether the schedule was one to facilitate all the communities having an equal share and equal access to the mobiles?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I believe it is true to say that no one has contacted either me or my office with respect to concerns about the fairness and allocation of the mobile units in any given community. Attempts are made to be as fair as possible, to allocate the mobiles to communities where it is most appropriate to send the mobile at a given time. If the Member has any specific complaint that she would like to raise, I would be more than happy to take it under advisement and to address her concerns.

Mrs. Firth: Can the Minister just elaborate somewhat on the usage of the mobile units? Are they being used regularly? Is the demand growing? Is the Minister considering buying any more? Is the program successful, or not?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: In the Capital Estimates, there was a provision for a purchase of another mobile. The experience that I have had with community learning centre advisory committees is that they would like to see the mobiles more often than they have in the past. There is no suggestion that they were not being treated fairly. I think they just expressed the desire to see the mobiles more often.

There were certain programs that they would like to see in the communities. It was generally felt that if, for example, the mobile for basic home repair came to a community one year, they should make a return visit a few years later. It has been expressed that the existing mobiles do serve a purpose, a very useful purpose, and for that reason we undertook to purchase another mobile. It is not the only method by which we deliver programs in rural areas, but it certainly has proven to be useful.

In the design of the college, special attention has been taken to ensure that there is place for the mobiles at the college, for restocking, et cetera, inventory control, and that sort of thing. I have received no major complaints about that system. If the Member has any, I would be pleased to hear them.

Mrs. Firth: When we get into the line items, I may follow through with some specific concerns I have heard, or I can just transmit them to the Minister in writing. How many trades is journeyman certification available to in the Yukon? Is it still 28?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: For a specific number, I will have to check for the Member. I will check on it for the Member.

Mrs. Firth: I would like to ask more detailed questions in advanced education and manpower in the line items. If no other Member have any questions about advanced education and manpower, I would like to move to archives and libraries for a few questions.

Mr. Lang: We have had a motion on the Order Paper to discuss the prospects of bringing the Yukon Pavilion back up to Yukon after the exposition is over. My thoughts go to the question of the

theatre and the prospects of having it in the community college. Has any consideration been given, if the cost of transporting the actual building up here is expensive, to utilizing that particular form with the idea of using the camera equipment, projectors, and audio-visual and maybe putting it in the community college? This could service the tourists when they come up here to give them a perspective of Yukon.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Not specifically. It is an interesting idea. I presume the Member means to suggest that we should be taking equipment out of the facility and putting it into the colleges for providing information to tourists. I will certainly take the idea into account; it is not bad one.

Mr. Lang: If the Minister listens more carefully to this side, he will find that there are lots of good ideas. Further to that, which he could probably get from the Minister of Tourism, I would like to point out that I think we are talking between \$250,000 to \$500,000 of film, projectors, cameras, and all the other technical paraphernalia that is involved with the show, which I have heard nothing but good reports about. It would be very satisfying to see that type of a show here in the Yukon.

Now, that leads me to my next question: when is the government going to take a position with respect to where the theatre should be located? I want to go on the record again that I object to this exercise of looking again at a totally separate area and excluding any possibilities of the cultural theatre being part of the community college. I am speaking as an MLA in Whitehorse, and I am speaking from a taxpayer's point of view as well. I would like to hear what the Minister has to say about that.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The position has been put on the record a couple of times already in the Legislature. The funding that was received was partly from the federal government and partly from the Yukon government I discovered; not by this administration, but the previous one. It has largely been committed to do the study on an arts centre in Whitehorse. The government's plans at the present time are to continue on with the college as designed. If the Arts Canada North people can come forward with justification, and it would have to be very, very good, to change the government's minds with respect to the placement of the theatre, gymnasium, and home for the archives at the new college site, then we will be prepared to consider it. But, there are all kinds of limitations, which the Member is perfectly aware of to make that justification difficult to achieve.

There are O&M questions. There are significant questions with respect to Capital funding, which would have to be addressed. There is the necessity of providing certain kinds of facilities at the college site, in terms of a lecture theatre and a recreation area, which would not be addressed if the whole site was to be moved to the centre of Whitehorse. There is the desire of this government to use the college as much as possible as a community learning centre, which means to increase community participation at the college, and certainly the provision of a theatre, et cetera, does that. If the Arts Canada North people can come up with a better idea, and that is going to be hard to do, then we will be prepared to consider it. But, as it stands right now, the construction for the community wing starts 1988.

Mr. Lang: I am sure there will be significant changes by 1988 in more ways than one. I do not disagree with what the Minister has outlined. What concerns me is that we have this study going on and the Minister says that it is part YTG and part federal, it was 12 or 16 months ago, whatever the case may be. All I can say that, as an MLA, I was not aware that the community college had been excluded as a possible site for the art cultural centre within Whitehorse. Why does he not tell them: look, include the site as a possibility. We are going to miss the boat if we do not, from the perspective of the \$100,000 that has gone into the planning to a separate unit. Yet, at the same time, we have our architects on the other side of the fence planning up the hill there. That is all taxpayers' money.

The other thing is that we may well miss out on the opportunity of enhancing the theatre cultural centre that we could create in the community college because we have some report that says that it is going to be some place else. If the government were prepared to

take a strong stand, I mean even make a decision; take a strong stand and say "no, we are not going to support it", and you have our support. We have made that clear. If you had enough jam to stand up and say "look, we feel it is going to have to go there", and you look in your terms of reference and see how you can enhance what we are doing and look at it seriously, then we might get a better facility, instead of sitting around setting up another committee and waiting for somebody else to make a decision for you.

Is the Minister, as the Minister of Education responsible for that portfolio on behalf of his party and his government, going to say to that organization "Look, you should, and you will, have a serious look at this area here as another alternative and see how we can enhance the theatre cultural centre that we have so far planned"?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I thank the Member for reminding me that I am the Minister of Education.

Mr. Lang: You have to make a decision some time.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I was aware of that fact. The initiative has already been taken. The decision has already been made to proceed with the community wing of the college as designed already at the Yukon College site. Now, I have given a very clear indication that the government is not going to building a community wing until 1988. That is a decision that has been made. If somebody, anybody, comes along with a better idea at any time, we will be prepared to entertain it. We are not going to limit the debate to that extent.

I have mentioned to the Member, I do not know how many times — the Member wants to talk out the clock because we have gone through this before I do not know how many times. I do not know how many times we have gone through this before. The message has been given very clearly to the Arts Canada North people that there are all sorts of things that they are going to have to take into account if they are going to move this government from building the community wing at the community college site. We have told them that they are going to have to address those significant items that I have mentioned already.

Mr. Lang: Why does the Minister not say to that particular body, that particular organization, which we are helping to fund, to look at the alternative of utilizing the community college, and seeing what we can enhance as another alternative to the various alternatives that they are looking at now? What would be wrong with that?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We have done that.

Mr. Lang: You have formally asked them, as the Minister of Education, to look at that as an alternative?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Mr. Lang: And what was the reply to the Minister, please?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The response from the Arts Canada North people is that they are convinced that there are significant benefits to being downtown close to the tourist flow. They have given preliminary consideration to placing it in the college. They have their doubts about placing it at the college. I presume that the consultant will tell them, conclusively, whether or not it is feasible at all. I presume that the terms of reference are going to be able to accommodate a variety of things. We certainly made it clear to them, ourselves, that what we think about the concept of a community college and increasing public access to that community college by developing such things as a community wing.

Mr. Lang: I find it surprising that an organization that is partially funded by the government, in one manner or another, would say no to seriously looking at that as an alternative; at least putting it forward for the politicians of the day to consider, whether it be this government in conjunction with city council, or this government by itself. I would ask that the Minister be a little more forceful in saying that there has been representation made to you on the public record in this forum, again, about concerns about that particular facility playing a major part within the college.

For the record, I am very concerned that if it does not become part of the community college, that a good portion, eventually, of running that facility will fall on the property taxpayers' of Whitehorse. In the area that I represent, that would be a major concern. There are many

people in the area that I represent who are very concerned about the taxes that they pay now, and they are not looking forward to a substantial hike. There is no question in my mind that that kind of a facility would require that if it is a separate building with its own separate identity beyond the community college. That is a major concern for all Members in this House.

I have a further question about the community college, since we are going with the two wings this year with the contract. The call for the laminated beams were made for the purposes of being made in Yukon. Is the possibility within the timing of the contracting to have those beams made here locally for at least the first two contracts? Is it feasible?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The construction schedule for the first two years is going to incorporate the first three wings: academic, centre and vocational. The construction schedule will be over two years, and the government is hopeful that the laminated beam plant will be in place and the drying kiln will be in place to supply lumber timber, finished product, for the college.

The Member's concerns about the ongoing O&M costs are clearly concerns that we are all going to have to be mindful of. The Member is absolutely right that that is a critical consideration. We have had that in mind from the very beginning. I will undertake to honestly, without prejudice, indicate clearly to the Arts Canada North people the Member's feelings on the matter and the concerns expressed by Members of this Legislature so that they will be fully aware of where the people of this territory stand on the question.

Mr. Lang: While we are on the question of the college, has the labour problem there been resolved?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I am not perfectly 100 percent familiar with the issue. It would be preferable to allow the Minister of Government Services to respond to a question such as that. He has a much stronger working knowledge of the matter. I will defer that to him. Perhaps the Minister would be willing to answer it when we get to his estimates?

Mr. Lang: Since it is an immediate problem and we may not be on Government Services in view of the way things are going for perhaps a few more minutes, I would ask the Minister of Government Services: (a) he was here; (b) he was listening; so (c) all we need is an answer. (a) he was listening; (b) he is now listening; perhaps the Minister could tell us if the labour problems that have been enumerated in the newspapers and the media been resolved?

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: No.

Mr. Lang: I guess that was probably one of the most informative comments we have heard all evening.

Mrs. Firth: Does that crisp "no" mean that the Minister is actively working on it? Is he expecting some resolution within the near future? Is he just saying "no" and whatever happens, happens? Could he elaborate on his answer? Just a few words.

Hon. Mr. Kimmerly: I am expecting a resolution, and I am working on it.

Chairman: General debate, Department of Education, continued.

Mrs. Firth: I gather that we are finished with advanced education and manpower. I just wanted to ask one or two small questions about archives and libraries. The library boards, are they all active and functioning and do they have a full membership?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I have a working knowledge of two library boards: Mayo and Elsa. To my knowledge, all the library boards are functioning and active. Whether the participation is full in all of them, I cannot claim specific knowledge. We try to encourage full activity in those library boards. There was a vacancy on Elsa's library board not too long ago. It is very difficult to keep up. There is a very high turnover in many of the rural communities. We try to keep an active interest. Generally speaking, there is an active interest. People enjoy working for libraries.

Mrs. Firth: Do the majority of the library boards still act as volunteers?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Mrs. Firth: I would like to ask a question about the Whitehorse Library. The Minister talked about some expansion if Archives was going to be moved out of this building and the library expanding

into that space. Does the Minister have some information that substantiates the need for a larger library here? Is that a concern of the community?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I believe it is. There is a need for more space for books in the library. It is generally considered crowded. We do not have a consultant's report to justify it. We just have a general sentiment from the community that suggests that it is too small, and they would like to see more room. I am prepared to stand corrected if the Member has a different view of public sentiment. I think, generally speaking, they would like to see a larger library, more room, and greater access to more books.

Mrs. Firth: Has the Minister given any consideration to any new directions with libraries and archives, any new legislation amending any existing legislation, or has he just found everything in good working order?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There has been a discussion about improving the *Freedom of Information Act*. We have not undertaken anything specific, at least at the political level, to improve the act. As a matter of fact, I do not recall any discussion on the matter for approximately ten months or so. The library and services works extremely well within the limited resources that they have. I am happy with their performance. They are very competent people. I am not aware of any major problems associated with the administration of that unit. I think they are doing a good job.

Mrs. Firth: In reference to the *Access to Information Act*, what area is the Minister considering some changes to?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: It is a very dim memory now, but there was some suggestion that improvements could be made to speed up the process by which information could be delivered, to identify more clearly what was a cabinet document and what was an administrative or departmental document. Hopefully we can get around to resolving that kind of question. However, for the present time, it is not on our immediate list of things to do. There are so many other things that we have to do, but it is something that we should get around to.

On Finance and Administration

Chairman: General debate.

Some Member: Clear.

Mrs. Firth: No, no, no. Whoa. Whoa.

Some Member: Big fella.

Laughter

Mrs. Firth: I have been at the farm all weekend, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the Minister could give us a breakdown of what this amount is for? Specifically, I would like the person-years in administration.

Chairman: So, we are on Finance and Administration.

On Administration

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The Member wants the breakdown of the person-years in this department: all 73?

Mrs. Firth: I do not need every clerk and receptionist accounted for. I wanted to know that there was 73. I would like to know what the general administrative staff are? How many general administrative staff are in the upper echelons of administration? I am looking, specifically, for administrative personnel whose salaries are above the \$40,000 range.

Chairman: Excuse me. You have got the Chairman confused here. We are just dealing with Finance and Administration under the line of Administration, \$293,000?

Mrs. Firth: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Just one moment. I do not know if I can find the salary ranges. I would only be guessing as to who was over \$40,000. Certainly, the Deputy Ministers...

Mr. Nordling: They work awful cheap for \$293,000.

Laughter

Mrs. Firth: There are 73.8 in the whole thing. How many in admin.

Chairman: There are 73.8 person-years under Administration in the whole department. We are only dealing with the program Finance and Administration.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: There is the Director of Finance and Administration; I presume that she makes over \$40,000. There is a Manager, Finance and Personnel. I will tell you what, it is just

about time to move progress on the bill. As a matter of fact, it is time to move progress on this bill. I would recommend that we come back and perhaps I could find for the Member what positions in Finance and Administration are paid more than \$40,000 and get back to the Member.

Mrs. Firth: We would like that. As the Member for Faro has expressed too, he is concerned about the top-heavy administration. If we could have a person-year breakdown for Administration, Finance/Personnel and Facilities/Transportation, it would facilitate much more constructive debate.

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I move that you report progress on Bill No. 5.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Penikett: 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: Committee of the Whole considered at 7:35 p.m. and passed the following motion: THAT the Committee of the Whole and the Assembly be empowered to continue to sit beyond 9:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. this evening for the purpose of continuing Committee consideration of Bill No. 5, *Second Appropriation Act, 1986-87*.

Further, Committee considered Bill No. 5, *Second Appropriation Act, 1986-87*, and directed me to report progress on same.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Hon. Mr. Porter: I move that the House do now adjourn.

Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Government House Leader that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

The following Legislative Returns were tabled May 12, 1986:

86-3-8

Role of Yukon Electric re assets of Northern Canada Power Commission subject to transfer (Kimmerly) W.Q. No. 4

86-3-9

Yukon Electric and development of new hydro-electric generating capacity (Kimmerly) W.Q. No. 5

86-3-10

Contract for Reality Therapy Workshops (Penikett) Oral - Hansard p. 378

The following Sessional Papers were tabled May 12, 1986:

86-3-36

Addendum to Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on Contributions to Political Parties During 1985 (Speaker - Johnston)

86-3-37

Yukon Utilities Board Annual Report For the Year Ending March 31, 1986 (Kimmerly)

86-3-38

Yukon Housing Corporation 84-85 Annual Report (McDonald)