



COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DEBATES

58th Session

8th Council

Official Report

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1976

Speaker David H. Searle, O.C.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 February 1976

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	289
Questions and Returns	291
Oral Questions	297
Notices of Motions	298
Tabling of Documents	298
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 4-58, Appropriations Ordinance, 1976-77	298
Report of Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 4-58, Appropriations Ordinance, 1976-77	320
Orders of the Day	320

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1976

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Butters, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Barnaby, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Searle, Mr. Nickerson

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Searle): Item 2, questions and returns. Are there any written questions?

Proposed Visit Of Mrs. Plumtre

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a rather important point of privilege. I was listening to the CBC news at 12:30 p.m. today and I heard an announcement that a certain Mrs. Beryl Plumtre was coming to Yellowknife to address the Council of the Northwest Territories. Sir, Council has not been advised in advance that this was about to happen. This is the first time that I knew it was going to happen and I would have thought it proper that the administration, or whoever else issued this invitation should have advised Council first before releasing this information to the media.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NICKERSON: Also, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that Council has never debated nor discussed amongst themselves whether or not they would like to listen to Mrs. Plumtre or anybody else, for that matter, and I would very much like to know who issued the invitation for her to come without Council's approval. Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, it is a tradition of this house, dating all the way back to June, 1975, and also other Canadian legislative bodies of equivalent political prestige that nobody but the direct representative of Her Majesty The Queen, in the case of this Council this being the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, address the Council or other body in full assembly. Therefore, sir, I would assume that any address that Mrs. Plumtre or other representative of a similar nature is to give to Council will, of course be in private and not when the house is in full assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Parker, have you any knowledge of the proposed visit of Mrs. Beryl Plumtre and any proposal that she is to address this house in session assembled?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for being late, but I was in a meeting with the Minister of Education and we could not get away any quicker than we did.

Committee To Examine Wage And Price Controls

With regard to the question that has been raised, I must say that I was both shaken and amazed to hear on the noon news the information regarding Mrs. Plumtre's visit. If I could be permitted, perhaps I could outline the background to this. In November and December, subsequent to the release by the Prime Minister of the guidelines and the discussion that accompanied it on wage and price controls, the territorial Executive Committee foresaw a need for legislation in this area, at least we foresaw the requirement to place such legislation before this house for its consideration. Consequently, we constituted a committee headed by Mr. Holden, the territorial treasurer to examine the effects of the legislation or, pardon me, the effects of the guidelines issued by the federal government on the territorial government and its operations, and to give us advice as to what steps we should take as an administration.

The report that Mr. Holden and his confreres put together indicated to us that we, that is the territorial government, were actually named in the various releases and therefore the guidelines were going to apply to us. We foresaw, or he foresaw a need for legislation and hence our proposal to place it before this house. So we went ahead to the Legal Advisor to have the legislation drawn up and submitted to the Minister as has been required of us.

Unless we received a message today, we have not heard from our friends in Ottawa, but we assume that we will hear today or tomorrow, and presumably will have the support of the Department of Justice and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to place this ordinance before you for your consideration.

Background Concerning Reasons For Mrs. Plumptre's Visit

While we were discussing in the Executive Committee the matter of placing legislation before Council, it was generally agreed that we should seek some suitable person, preferably one of the two leaders, or persons appointed to head up the wage and price review operation, to come and speak to a committee of Council. We felt that the time was short, there was no opportunity to consult with Council Members as to just who, and when they would like to hear from them and I suppose we took it upon ourselves, realizing that if the subject was to come up, the very best possible witness should be available. Naturally it would have never been our intention that such witness would appear before the Council, but our recommendation to you, Mr. Speaker, for your consideration, was to have been that a senior official, if available, appear before this house while it sat in committee of the whole in order to give information during study of, or preceding study of the bill which we propose to introduce.

I was to have drawn these facts to the attention of the house yesterday or today, but I did not because we had not received confirmation, that is written confirmation of the visit of Mrs. Plumptre. We have confirmation, at least by telephone, but we have not yet received a telex, or a letter of written confirmation.

As I say, I knew nothing of the release to the press. I have no knowledge how this information was released as it was to be placed before you first and foremost for your consideration to hear this senior person in committee of the whole.

If you are agreeable to having Mrs. Plumptre act as a witness to explain the federal position, particularly vis-à-vis the territories, in committee of the whole, then it would be her plan to arrive here late Tuesday afternoon of next week and be available on February 11th, Wednesday, at the pleasure of Council.

Agreed That Mrs. Plumptre Should Act As Witness

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion on the question of privilege? Do I have agreement on Mrs. Plumptre being available for committee of the whole discussion on the date indicated by the Deputy Commissioner? Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Proposed Visit By Minister Of Indian And Northern Affairs

Members of Council, on a similar point I wish to report that yesterday in discussion with the executive assistant to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Northern Development, it was indicated to me and confirmed today that the Minister is hopeful of travelling to Yellowknife on the 13th of February, which is Friday, not next Friday but the Friday following, and it was his desire to address this Council. Although it has certainly been the custom for the Commissioner to address Council, it has as well been the custom of Councils of the past to permit Ministers of the Crown, particularly the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, to convey a message from time to time as he sees fit.

In keeping with that well established custom, I quite naturally indicated tentatively that I saw no objection. I think it is appropriate to raise that matter now and since I found out about it yesterday and had these plans confirmed to me today, do I have the agreement of this house to confirm with the Minister's office that he is welcome to address this house as he plans? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, as you point out, sir, the Minister does come and address the house on occasion and usually on those occasions he meets with Members of Council too. Would this be a part of his visit?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, the plan as I understand it is to meet with the Members for dinner that evening and with only the house.

The commissioner has just delivered to me a letter saying that the Minister will arrive some time on February the 13th and his program would be as follows: One, he would publicly address Council just prior to the Commissioner's prorogation of Council. I suggested 5:00 p.m. because he would normally prorogue at 5:30 p.m. Two, the Minister would then meet with the press and I presume that would be at approximately 5:30 p.m. and following that would attend a small supper composed of Members of Council, no wives; Mr. John Parker; Mr. Arthur Kroeger, the Deputy Minister; Mr. Foulkes, his executive assistant; our old friend, Mr. Ewan Cotterill, the Assistant Deputy Minister and the Commissioner. The Minister would at that supper be prepared to discuss matters of mutual concern.

I think, Mr. Butters, you were going to as well, as caucus chairman, circulate a notice of a luncheon meeting for tomorrow.

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Agreed That Minister Should Address Council

MR. SPEAKER: So we can have an opportunity at lunch tomorrow to formulate subjects we wish to raise with the Minister. That is the plan in total, as I understand it. Is there any discussion on it? Is there agreement to the Minister addressing this Council? Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Item 2, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 2: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Any more written questions? Mr. Butters.

Question W31-58: Minimum Wages For N.W.T. Employees

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, written questions. As it is the intention of the Government of Canada to establish a new federal minimum wage for employees in industries under federal jurisdiction, effective April 1, at \$2.90, up 30 cents from the current minimum wage of \$2.60 for individuals over 17 years of age, is this administration looking at developing revisions to the territories' current minimum wage, and indexing the amount set to our inflationary spiral?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

Return To Question W31-58: Minimum Wages For N.W.T. Employees

THE COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Mr. Speaker, the administration contemplates bringing forward the Labour Standards Ordinance in May at which time we will have a number of amendments, one of them dealing with the minimum wage. We have under consideration at the present time another subject dealing with the minimum wage, and that is whether or not it should be placed in regulations so that it could be changed to accommodate situations outside of Council, or whether or not it would be best to leave it as it is so that Council would have the prerogative. So it is under consideration, sir, and will be here in May for Council's consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions? Mr. Nickerson.

Question W32-58: Taxation Of Pipelines

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a written question concerning the taxation of pipelines. Could the regulations made pursuant to the Taxation Ordinance or any other ordinance governing the taxation of oil and gas pipelines in the Northwest Territories please be made available to Members of Council?

How much revenue was collected by this government from the taxation of oil and gas pipelines in the Northwest Territories during the last fiscal year for which figures are available?

I also have a second question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you wish to reply to that first question, Mr. Commissioner, or take it as notice?

THE COMMISSIONER: Take it as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Nickerson.

Question W33-58: Teaching Of Oil Field Technology Within The N.W.T.

MR. NICKERSON: The second question concerns the teaching of oil field technology within the Northwest Territories. Has the administration any plans for the teaching of oil field technology within the Northwest Territories? Have any of the major oil and gas companies or pipeline consortia been approached to see whether they might be prepared to help support either financially or otherwise such a venture?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner?

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, we will take the question as notice and file a reply later in the session.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Further written questions? Are there any returns, Mr. Parker?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Question W9-58: Retention Of CRTC Tapes

On January 29th, Councillor Lafferty asked Question W9-58 concerning the availability of transcripts of CBC native language news programs aired during this session of Council.

On January 30, 1976, the Commissioner sent a telex to the president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with a copy to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission in Ottawa, relaying to the CBC Councillor Lafferty's request. The following telex was received from Mr. Pierre Desrochers of the CBC, Ottawa, on February 2, 1976:

"THIS IS IN REPLY TO YOUR TELEX TO THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING TRANSCRIPTS ON NATIVE LANGUAGE NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMS DURING THE 58TH SESSION OF COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, WE DO NOT HAVE TRANSLATING FACILITIES IN YELLOWKNIFE NOR IN INUVIK, AND THUS IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE THESE TRANSLATIONS RAPIDLY. I AM ASKING THE NORTHERN SERVICE TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH RECORDINGS OF THE PROGRAMS AIRED IN INUVIK AND YELLOWKNIFE DURING THAT PERIOD. I HOPE THIS WILL MEET WITH YOUR DEMAND."

Return To Question W12-58: Publication Of Decision Of Electoral Boundaries Commission

On January 29th, Councillor Butters asked Question W12-58, concerning release of the report of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission.

I am advised by the secretary to the Electoral Boundaries Commission that it is their intent to have this report tabled in the House of Commons on Monday, February 23, 1976. At that time the report will, of course, be made public as well.

Return To Question W22-58: Cost And Timing Of Road Reconstruction Yellowknife To Edzo

On Friday, January 30th, Councillor Nickerson asked a series of questions concerning the reconstruction of the highway between Yellowknife and Edzo:

One, how much money has been spent to date? The total cost to date is \$3,705,100 including pre-engineering surveys, supervision and the contracts.

Two, how much more money is needed to complete the reconstruction? Approximately \$910,000 in additional funds will be required. This includes the supervision cost and the contract amount.

Three, what percentage is funded by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs? One hundred per cent.

Four, when is the work to be completed? The scheduled completion date is August 31, 1976.

Five, what steps will be taken to ensure a minimum disruption to traffic? (a) It is planned to limit the contractor to a maximum of two miles of open road surface and to operate one lane at a time as practicably as possible. (b) Construction will commence from the west end where ample gravel is available, and consequently, a minimum of difficulty is expected for the gravel trucks during adverse weather.

Return To Question W26-58: Fuel And Gas In Clyde River.

On Friday, January 30, 1976, Councillor Kilabuk asked Question W26-58 regarding fuel distribution in Clyde River, Broughton Island and Pangnirtung. In reply I have the following information on heating fuel and gasoline consumption for the three communities. Mr. Speaker, I will read this out but it will also be placed in the record in the form of a table as I have it here.

Heating Fuel And Gasoline Consumption, Bulk Storage, Clyde River.

Gasoline:	Bulk Storage Capacity	40,000 gallons
	Annual Consumption	40,000 gallons
	Bulk Reserve	nil
	Drum Reserve	5,000 gallons

Heating Fuel:	Bulk Storage Capacity	280,000 gallons
	Annual Consumption	230,000 gallons
	Bulk Reserve	50,000 gallons
	Drum Reserve	50,000 gallons
	Total Reserve	100,000 gallons

1. The community is short on bulk gasoline storage capacity. The additional 5000 gallons shipped to the community during the 1975 resupply will ensure an adequate supply this year, however.
2. The community did experience heating fuel delivery problems in the past. These were corrected when a new delivery vehicle arrived on the 1975 resupply.
3. The fuel delivery and gasoline dispensing contract is handled by the Kiguit Associates Co-op, administered at the community level by the settlement manager, and at the regional level by the regional supply officer.
4. Increased bulk storage capacity for both gasoline and heating fuel is scheduled for 1977-78.

Broughton Island

Gasoline:	Bulk Storage Capacity	73,000 gallons
	Annual Consumption	44,000 gallons
	Bulk Reserve	29,000 gallons
	Drum Reserve	nil

Heating Fuel:	Bulk Storage Capacity	280,000 gallons
	Annual Consumption	200,000 gallons
	Bulk Reserve	80,000 gallons
	Drum Reserve	55,000 gallons
	Total Reserve	135,000 gallons

1. The community has adequate bulk storage capacity for both products to meet their immediate requirements.
2. The heating fuel and gasoline contract is handled by the Tulugak Co-op, administered at the community level by the settlement manager, and at the regional level by the regional supply officer.
3. Increased storage capacity for the community is scheduled for 1978-79.

Pangnirtung

Gasoline:	Bulk Storage Capacity	100,000 gallons
	Annual Consumption	100,000 gallons
	Reserve Bulk	nil
	Reserve Drums	6,000 gallons
Heating Fuel:	Bulk Storage Capacity	680,000 gallons
	Annual Consumption	480,000 gallons
	Reserve Bulk	200,000 gallons
	Reserve Drum	45,000 gallons
	Total Reserve	245,000 gallons

1. The community is short on bulk gasoline storage capacity. The 6000 gallon drum reserve will ensure an adequate supply for 1975-76.
2. Increased storage capacity for heating fuel was provided for in this fiscal year. The project is scheduled for completion in 1976. Additional bulk storage capacity for gasoline is planned.
3. The fuel delivery and gasoline dispensing contract is handled by the Pangnirtung Eskimo Co-op., administered at the community level by the Department of Public Works maintenance supervisor and at the regional level by the regional supply officer.

Return To Question W25-58: Polar Bear Hunting

On Friday, January 30, 1976, Councillor Kilabuk asked Question W25-58, concerning the taking of polar bear during the summer months:

The only conditions under which killing of polar bear between June 1st and October 1st can be permitted are: One, for the purpose of defence of life and/or property. Two, to stave off starvation. In both cases the incident must be reported and the hide forfeited.

The reason for the opening date of October 1st is to ensure a reasonable price for the hide. The fish and wildlife service would not consider increasing the quota in response to the above request. It feels that there are ample food sources available in the summer in the form of char, at least two species of seal, walrus and whale in most places along the Baffin coast. It is only a year ago that the hunters and trappers in Pangnirtung requested a season opening no sooner than January 1st to ensure a better quality hide that would bring higher prices.

Return To Question W29-58: Water And Sanitation Policy

On Monday, February 2, 1976, Councillor Nickerson asked Question W29-58, concerning a report on a water and sanitation policy contained in the 1974 report of the Mackenzie Basin Intergovernmental Liaison Committee.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has representation on the Mackenzie Basin Intergovernmental Liaison Committee through the assistant director of Economic Development, Mr. Joe Bergasse. During 1974, Mr. Bergasse tabled before the committee, for their information, a copy of this government's water and sanitation policy, developed by the Department of Local Government, and approved by the 7th Council. The policy thus referred to in the committee's report is, in fact, the territorial government's policy, and is incorrectly credited to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The policy, of course, applies to the whole of the Northwest Territories, and not merely the communities in the Mackenzie basin.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nickerson, do you have a question of order or privilege?

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, it is a supplementary question concerning the reply to my last question that the Deputy Commissioner just gave.

MR. SPEAKER: I think we have already been through that with Mr. Pearson, have we not, about supplementary questions?

MR. NICKERSON: This is a question of fact about a statement he made.

MR. SPEAKER: You may wish to seek the unanimous consent of this house to let you ask a supplementary question of fact. Agreed?

---Agreed

Representation On Mackenzie Basin Intergovernmental Liaison Committee

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, in the Deputy Commissioner's reply he stated that the territorial government had representation on the Mackenzie Basin Intergovernmental liaison Committee. It was my understanding we had only observer status. Has our status now been transferred to that of full representation?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, no it has not. The reply should have read that we have representation through observer status.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Butters.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 034-58: Old Age Pension Supplement

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in view of the news item at noon, which I believe quoted Mr. Lalonde as saying that the promise of a guaranteed annual income is a long way off, I would draw the house's attention to two motions of 1972 and 1973, which were developed to establish a pension supplement for old age pensioners living in the Northwest Territories. The establishment of a supplement almost occurred, and I recollect that the Department of Information released a news release on this and the Edmonton Journal carried an item on September 25, 1975, saying, "Elderly in the Northwest Territories to receive subsidy", and then you remember, sir, at Inuvik those hopes were dashed. I think that we heard that the reason the subsidy would not be paid was because the federal government in its wisdom was going ahead and developing a guaranteed annual income.

Now, in view of the fact that Mr. Lalonde said today, and he was the architect of this annual guaranteed income, that it is a long way off, I would like to know if we can get back on the track and move ourselves to institute a pension supplement to assist people in the Northwest Territories who are finding it extremely difficult to get by on the old age pensions which they are being given.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, I am not so sure if that really comes within the rules of oral questions, dealing with matters of urgency. Would you not think that your best form of attack would be by way of motion?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes sir, thank you, but I think that hunger is a form of urgency.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, what is?

MR. BUTTERS: Hunger. I say hunger is a form of urgency, and I think that people in the territories are going hungry.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further oral questions? Oral questions dealing with matters of urgency.

Question 035-58: Missing Parka From Cloakroom

MR. PEARSON: Matters of urgency. In light of the incident yesterday of the theft of a very good quality and valuable parka from the cloakroom outside this chamber, I wonder if the administration could make some arrangement to either fortify the cloakroom or put somebody in there to keep their eye on goods? One of the interpreters lost a very valuable parka yesterday, and I have only got one to get me back to the Eastern Arctic. I wonder if we could have some security there, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Any further oral questions? Mr. Commissioner.

Return To Question 035-58: Missing Parka From Cloakroom

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, perhaps we should arrange to have some hangers up here in the corner or something like that, and that is about the best we can do. I know that no one would want Mr. Pearson's parka. (laughter)

MR. PEARSON: Why not? It is a good parka.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further oral questions? Item 4, presenting petitions. Are there any petitions to be presented?

Item 5, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 6, notices of motions. Are there any notices of motions? Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM NO. 6: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion 6-58: Construction Freeze, Fort Rae

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that I intend to bring the following motion on February 4th:

WHEREAS a freeze on construction in Fort Rae was imposed by this Council by adoption of Recommendation to Council 7-38;

AND WHEREAS it is now desirable to authorize the continuing development of this community;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Council request the administration to remove the existing construction freeze at Fort Rae and to permit the residents of this community to construct such residences and other buildings as may, in their view, be necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further notices of motions?

Item 7, motions. There are none in the book. However, I will still call motions because if you had something of urgency you could ask for unanimous consent to permit you to move it today. Are there any motions?

Item 8, tabling of documents. Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM NO. 8: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 15-58, The Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council Annual Report, dated April 1, 1974 to March, 1975.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 16-58, the Report of a Task Force Formed to Study Problems Encountered by Northern Businessmen in Obtaining Federal Contracts.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further documents to be tabled?

Item 9, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters.

ITEM NO. 9: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

I assume the wish is to continue on Bill 4-58, the Appropriations Ordinance, and in particular, the Department of Social Development. Is that so?

---Agreed

Mr. Butters, you were in the chair on that and would you be prepared to continue?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Council will resolve into committee of the whole for continued consideration of Bill 4-58, the Appropriations Ordinance, with Mr. Butters in the chair.

--- Council resolved into Committee of the Whole for consideration of Bill 4-58, Appropriations Ordinance, 1976-77, with Mr. Butters in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 4-58, APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE, 1976-77

Social Development, Activity Memorandum - Activity 4040, Administration

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Committee will come to order and direct its attention to page 9.07, activity 4040, administration, which is broken down into subheadings, directorate and regional, district and area staff, relative to the Department of Social Development. Members had a very extended discussion on this section yesterday, so I trust there will not be too much additional material that is required to be brought up before the vote, but the Chair is open to any comments and suggestions that have not been covered to date.
Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to say that perhaps it would be appropriate for the committee, or for me to explain the guidelines, the procedures which the department follows with respect to items which appear in this, and perhaps, and I am not trying to get away from the heavy questioning which occurred yesterday, but perhaps it would be more appropriate to give you the background with respect to each one of these items as we go along.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): As I understand it then, you wish to have the floor as each new item is introduced, is that correct?

MR. ERNERK: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Is that satisfactory to Members? Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Are there any further questions on activity 4040? We are approving here an item in the amount of \$2,652,300.

MR. PEARSON: On what page?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): On page 9.07. This item we did not complete yesterday evening, but it has been well talked out, I think, as Members will remember. Have you a question, Mr. Pearson?

MR. PEARSON: Well, just to clarify the position we found ourselves in last evening, after a very long and a very worthwhile discussion on alcohol, I gather now that we will agree to meet and discuss, and perhaps come back with some paper on alcohol, and canvass Council; is that correct? Is that what we discussed yesterday? Is that how we left it last night?

Committee To Study Alcohol Abuse

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): I do not recollect that that was the suggestion. I understood that the Deputy Commissioner had agreed to take it to the legislation planning committee of the administration and Mr. Nickerson had welcomed the matter being referred to him, and this is on the Liquor Ordinance now, it being referred to his committee, but I did not know there was an ad hoc committee set up yesterday.

MR. PEARSON: I asked, Mr. Chairman, because I am not clear either, and just so that my thinking is clear and I know exactly what processes are going to take place, so that we can hopefully come to a conclusion on this matter and not just kick it around.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Would you wish to see a committee established, Mr. Pearson?

MR. PEARSON: Not particularly. If the legislation committee is prepared to discuss it I am sure Members can make input into that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Nickerson is also in charge of the committee which establishes committees and I am sure that he would be quite happy to establish an ad hoc committee of Council if that was of any value. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I wish to go back to yesterday with a couple of answers, one to a question by Mr. Nickerson. I wonder if it is appropriate at this time to give my reply to Mr. Nickerson's question of yesterday?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): I would like to get the matter of Mr. Pearson's committee out of the way. If I could come back to you, Mr. Minister... Mr. Nickerson, do you have a comment on the committee suggestion?

MR. NICKERSON: I am afraid at the time he was speaking about this committee I was otherwise engaged and I am sorry but I did not actually hear what it was all about and what you are getting me into.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): I just mentioned that one of your many responsibilities as a Member of this Council is chairman of the committee which establishes committees, and Mr. Pearson had taken away from yesterday's discussion the fact that a committee was to be established to look into this problem of alcohol abuse or use, and that it would make some recommendations.

MR. NICKERSON: I would be very pleased to undertake that on your behalf.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Does that satisfy you, Mr. Pearson?

MR. PEARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Ernerk.

Recoveries For Board And Lodging At Correctional Centres

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, on page 9.11 Mr. Nickerson asked a couple of questions yesterday with respect to recoveries and I have the following information with me. Mr. Nickerson asked why we estimated that our recoveries for board and lodging at correctional centres would be \$90,000. Now, the evidence shows that our actual recovery from 1974-75 was only \$32,969, and the figures given in the estimates agree with those given in the territorial accounts, and in those accounts about \$54,000 in recoveries in respect of board and lodging at correctional centres was classified as sundry revenues. The total recovery for corrections services was in the order of \$86,000 in 1974 and 1975, which is \$4000 less than our estimates for 1976-77.

Again on page 9.11 with respect to recoveries again, board and lodging, corrections includes per diem payments from the Solicitor General of Canada for accommodating persons who would normally serve their sentences in southern penitentiaries, and room and board payments for inmates who are earning wages while on work release.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): I think that those returns, Mr. Minister, now complete and answer all the questions raised by Members to date. I do not believe there were any other questions outstanding.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I understand that there is one on activity 4046, on page 9.20, but perhaps we could leave that until we get to that particular item.

Summary - Activity 4040, Administration Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): This will be fine. Again this activity 4040 that we discussed for an hour and a half yesterday, may we complete this? Do I have agreement by the Members of the committee?

---Agreed

Mr. Lafferty, I have your name on the list.

MR. LAFFERTY: I should have spoken there. Mr. Chairman, with regard to the suggested alcohol committee or legislation, to the chairman of the legislation committees, I feel that before we do any legislating or make any suggestions, I think it would be wise to set up a special committee to study the problem of alcoholism or the abuse or privileges and so on and find out just exactly what is the problem.

I had indicated in my reply to the Commissioner that I would be introducing a Private Member's Bill dealing with that specific problem, but now that I have seen the direction of the Council change, I feel that the problem that we expressed concern about, and we should do something about, should be dealt with by a large body and not just a small group of people because it affects every community.

I do not know what the recommendations will be. I am merely taking the precaution here that we do not get misled again, as we have always done previously. I feel that alcoholism is a health problem, a social problem that affects every citizen in the community, whether that citizen drinks or not. It disturbs many people who do not drink. It disturbs those who drink. It is not only a physical problem, but as well a social and also a moral problem. It is something that we should not deal with just as a small committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Lafferty, maybe I misled you by mentioning the legislation committee, but I did refer to Mr. Nickerson as the chairman of the committee that establishes committees, and I think he understands that you feel it should be broader than just two or three Members.

I then have agreement for activity 4040. May I proceed to activity 4041, corrections services?

Summary - Activity 4041, Corrections

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a prepared speech of not very long duration in connection with corrections and with your permission I would like very much to present it to the Members of the committee.

Mr. Nickerson's Observations On Corrections

Sir, I have two main observations in regard to our system of corrections. The first is that it is extremely expensive. I believe it costs the taxpayer about \$50 per day to keep someone in jail. It would be cheaper to sentence people to stay in the Explorer Hotel, rather than in our institutions.

The second is that the system is just not effective. It is not working. This is shown by the fact that about 80 per cent of the people institutionalized are repeat offenders. Ex-convicts to whom I have spoken tend to treat the whole matter very much as a joke. For these reasons I am pleased to note that the government is seriously considering diversionary sentencing for people guilty of minor offences. I am in full accord with this principle of having offenders sentenced to performing useful community work, rather than going to jail and becoming a financial burden on the taxpayers.

When dealing with more serious offences, I admit that my own sympathies lie more with the victims of the crime, rather than the wrong doers. I think in the past we have concentrated too much on rehabilitation and the easy treatment of criminals, and all to no effect. These people are not being rehabilitated. They are going out and committing the same crimes again and ending up in jail again. The statistics are quite clear.

I would have the emphasis again put back on punishment and the prevention of criminals repeating the crimes for which they were convicted in the first place. In my own estimation, if someone were guilty of a serious offence, three months breaking rocks on dry bread and water would not only be cheaper for the government than six months in our present luxury jails, but also render the convict less likely to want to repeat his offence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Mr. Ernerk, I will give you a chance to provide the introduction to this section.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under activity 4041, the expenditures in this activity provide for the provision of rehabilitative and custodial care for adults who have been sentenced to periods of incarceration. Three correctional centres are operated from this activity including Yellowknife Correctional Centre, South Mackenzie Correctional Centre and Ikajurtauvik, the Baffin Correctional Centre. Female offenders are kept in the women's unit of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. The major costs of the program are related to staffing and the breakdown is as follows: Yellowknife Correctional Centre with 52, South Mackenzie Correctional Centre with 14 and Baffin Island, Baffin Correctional Centre with 14. The total of this whole program is 80 and there were three at headquarters which totals up to 83 staff members within the corrections program.

Major Directions For Corrections Program In Coming Year

Major directions of this division for 1976-77 will be the development of alternatives to fines and incarceration by the implementation of a diversion program. This will provide for community service work as an alternative to traditional sentencing in the courts and the department also plans to study alternatives for the female offenders during the next fiscal year.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you. Before I accept specific questions, we are working from page 9.07. The manpower requirements are outlined on pages 9.12 and 9.13 and the breakdown of the estimates for corrections are found on page 9.16. The regional breakdown is found on 9.16A. Questions? Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, are you entertaining questions of a general nature?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Yes, sir.

MR. PEARSON: My question is directed to the Minister and my concern is the word that he used "rehabilitation". I noted in Mr. Nickerson's comments his question of the rehabilitation program and the obvious fact that the rate of recidivism is extremely high. I have discussed this with both ex-inmates of the institutions that the Northwest Territories runs, particularly the institution in Yellowknife and, of course, this particular institution has been discussed many times at this Council and I am anxious to know what rehabilitation program is currently being done or carried out in that institution right now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Minister, have you an answer for Mr. Pearson?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get some information with respect to what sort of programs are carried out just at the moment, with the one in Yellowknife, and provide Mr. Pearson with an answer before the session is over.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like the answer before the session is over. I would like the answer while we are on the subject in fact, not after it is cold.

Alcohol Induced Offences

I would also like to know from that department the number of prisoners currently inhabiting the institutions, their assessment of the value of the program in Frobisher Bay and the facility in Hay River. How is this beginning to affect the work--how it is affecting the native people, also to discuss with the department now, while the experts are here in the house, through the Minister, if that is the way the Council wishes it, this matter the Commissioner brought up in his Address of taking a thing and treating people at a local level as opposed to whipping them off to Yellowknife and throwing them behind bars. It is obvious to me, and I am sure to many Members, that the populations of the institutions are growing at an alarming rate because of the availability of hooch in most of the communities, as most of the offenders offend because they have been under the "affluence of incohol".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): How do you think it would be best to get a reply to Mr. Pearson's wishes? It seems he requires an expert's view on rehabilitation.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I could perhaps get this information during our coffee break with respect to rehabilitation programs and with respect to the inhabitants of the centres. I would also like to get that during our coffee break and report back on these two particular questions shortly after coffee break.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you, sir, we will accept that. Are there any other questions with regard to corrections, either of a general or specific nature? Mr. Wah-Shee.

Disturbances In Correctional Centres

MR. WAH-SHEE: I would like to ask the Minister of Social Development when was the last time there was a disturbance in a correctional centre, by the inmates, and if this occurred, what were the complaints of the inmates, and I would like to know if these have been resolved.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, the answer to the first question, with respect to a disturbance was in May of 1971 and with respect to the complaints, I would have to go back and look at the specific complaints that were raised by the inmates at that time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Would you wish that material developed, Mr. Wah-Shee?

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I was just basically interested if any complaints had been resolved, that is all.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, the answer is yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you. Mr. Barnaby.

MR. BARNABY: If the inmates have any complaints, where do they bring them? I mean, is having a riot the only way to get their complaints heard?

Handling Of Complaints Made By Inmates

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, the complaints are directed to the superintendent of the correctional centre, but if the inmates feel that their complaints are not being met, there is, in the Corrections Ordinance, the statement that reads that they can get in touch with their Councillor, territorial Councillor.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Members of the committee I might mention from my experience on the previous Council that during a similar debate to this we decided to visit the institution in Yellowknife as a group and I think that all Members who took advantage of that opportunity to visit the institution found that they became much more familiar with some of the problems which existed and became much more familiar with the centre itself and some of the programs found there. I would expect that if the committee wished, we may be able to make a similar visit. Mr. Minister.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I might bring to the attention of the committee that if you so wish, we could set up a dinner or a lunch with the inmates, any time during this particular session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you very much. Mr. Lafferty and then Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, speaking to the latter remarks, I make it a point to visit the centre on my own every time I visit Yellowknife. It is fairly well open to any Councillor. I have visited some of my constituency members there but who, I will not say.

Probation Officers

Going back to corrections, I was trying to catch the attention of the chairman all yesterday afternoon, for one hour, and I was going to speak to the question of the probation officers. I know that in my area the probation officer there is also working in some cases as the social worker and we have a lot of people going in and out of the jails and most of these people are native people and so we have a native probation officer, a woman, who is very proficient in her work as a probation officer.

I will give you a little brief history of Fort Simpson's corrections. I worked for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police myself there for almost five months prior to my election and in that five month time period that I worked, practically every night there were one or two people in jail and in the five months there were only three white people held and two of them were people who were being brought back for some other province for having committed some serious crime. In the course of a month there were quite a few repeaters, and most of these people were already on probation and then there was a large turnover of probation officers in that area and I do not know why, as I can not speak to it factually, but I know that in the brief time I was there, there were two probation officers and one of these probation officers, who was brought in from Vancouver, was also drinking with the people he was supposed to be correcting.

Now, speaking about corrections, and since it affects primarily native people in the Northwest Territories, we should be seriously looking at the character of the person who is in the responsible position to help these people. I do not think that the answer lies with leniency, or money, I think the answer lies -- and I appreciate the direction that the Minister has taken to get these people to work in their homes or in their own villages, settlements and so on. I do not think there would be anything that would be more effective than to have a person working in his own community five days a week, or seven days a week, when he has been convicted. I recall being in the army and when you were five minutes late for parade, or one minute, you went out picking up cigarette butts for a whole week in the camp and that did more than if you were fined \$100, or got sent to the detention barracks. However, if that did not work, straight bread and water sometimes works. We have to decide what the penalties will be and can not leave that to the criminal himself.

Tougher Stand On Criminals

Now, at previous sessions we have placed a lot of emphasis on taking leadership, and I think that each one of us in our constituencies, there we are expected to take leadership and not to rush through everything but to take the time to think things through and decide. I think if we took it a little slower we would find that some of the moneys that are spent are too great for the number of institutions we have. I would go along with Mr. Nickerson's suggestion that we take a tougher stand. I personally have heard fellows sitting in jails, laughing. All they have to do is ask the guard and say, "I want a comic book" and he will get a comic book. If they want a girlie magazine, they will get a girlie magazine and, strange as it seems, some of these people can not afford girlie magazines on the newsstands, but these things are readily had in the correctional institutions.

Now, the question I have in my mind is what are we doing? Are we sending people there as punishment or are we sending them there to get rid of them, to get them off our streets? Are we afraid to see these people in the condition they are in on our streets? Is that why we must hide them in a back room somewhere? If this is the case, and as Mr. Nickerson points out again, it would be cheaper to send them to the Explorer Hotel and provide them with all the girlie magazines and so on. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you. Mr. Lafferty, I apologize for missing you yesterday afternoon. Councillor Evaluarjuk.

Assistance For Relatives Of Inmates

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I wish to ask one question regarding the inmates. I understand they make money while they are serving their sentences in correctional centres and I am wondering now if the inmates who are married are getting help for their relatives or wives. If I was serving a sentence in a correctional centre and I made a ring that cost \$35, would I be helping the correctional officers, or the correctional centre, or my relatives back home? I would like to know if the relatives of the inmates that are serving sentences here in the correctional centres are receiving some kind of assistance for living purposes and that is the question I had in mind.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, in answer to Mr. Evaluarjuk's question, with respect to carvings at the correctional institutions, to answer the first part, my understanding, as it stands at the present time, is that the inmates do some carving and some of the money is sent to the family, wherever the inmates may come from. I also understand that if he wishes, he can open a bank account and some of the money is also placed into the inmate's welfare fund.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you. Mr. Pudluk.

Telephone Calls For Inmates

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I have one question. On the radio I heard news indicating that an inmate, this particular inmate in the past, tried to get a telephone call from his home community and the telephone call was coming from his home community to the correctional centre. At the time that the phone call was received the person who was receiving the telephone call was not made available when the telephone call was received at the correctional centre, and the correctional officer would not tell the person that he was in fact receiving a telephone call from his community. This particular person, who was making this long distance call spent as much as \$90 for long distance calls. I have heard people are not in favour of this type of operation in the correctional institutions. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I am aware of the situation, at least one particular situation, and I presume the Member from the High Arctic is talking about the same situation which was brought up here during the oral questions last week.

As I said, I am fully aware of the situation and I could only say the same thing again which I said last week and that is to outline just a couple of procedures which are followed by the officers of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre.

First of all, the procedure which is followed by the officers is that the inmates may receive a call from clergymen, lawyers or former employees of the centre. With respect to outgoing calls they are made if an inmate has the money, or if it is a collect call, or if the superintendent authorizes a call on an occasional basis. With respect to the particular situation about the \$90 that was spent by the caller, I am not aware of that particular situation.

I do understand on the part of the staff of the centre in Yellowknife that they receive at least ten to 12 or 15 calls every night, or some evenings perhaps. At times it is often difficult to have the inmate to the telephone immediately. However, I have checked the particular situation which I believe we are talking about personally and I have instructed the staff of the department to look into the situation more closely and hopefully this type of situation will not happen again in the future. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Stewart.

Hay River Correctional Facility

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to be any expert in any way, shape or form on the matter of corrections, but I would like to point out my observations to date and ask possibly a few stupid questions relative to the subject. I have no opposition to the type of correctional institute that we have in Hay River at the present time for first offenders. Really this type of set-up is more of an inconvenience than actually a form of punishment inasmuch as after being held for four to seven days the prisoners are allowed day passes and are able to take odd work in the community. If their families are there, they have passes to spend the nights out and have passes to go to movies and take part in sports, different sports programs that are available within the municipality, so basically this type of set-up is more of an inconvenience than a punishment. This is for first offenders. However, in many cases these people are repeaters by nature and although the crimes they have committed are not violent or possibly not serious, the facility is not acting as a deterrent in any way in my opinion.

When we get into a situation such as the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, it appears to be that we have got something here that in many other instances we have frowned upon. We have transplanted a southern type of system into the Northwest Territories. This, basically, is my question: I have often wondered why, when we live in such an area of large expanses,

where really it is a matter of location, whether or not you have to put up a wall or bars or any barricading facilities. Distance by nature in this country will retain people without having to build a wall and put guards in place. There are many places in the Northwest Territories where I could see an area where people could be placed, in fact they would be perfectly safe as far as ever really escaping the area and this might remind people of Hell's Island and a few of these earlier types of areas, but it is not meant to.

Reasonable Balance In Prisoner Accommodation

I have often wondered about log cabins and these types of things where people would have to work to support themselves, that is, there would be no oil furnaces, there would be wood required to be cut to feed air tight heaters. There would be no running water. The water would come by bucket and go into a 45 gallon drum, the same routine as some of us had to go through in earlier times. It would be no worse basically than most of the early mining camps in the Northwest Territories that were prevalent right up to 1955. Why some type of place that would not be quite so pleasant could not be established for repeaters, as far as minor crimes are concerned, where they would have isolation and there would be some form of punishment. I do not believe in the old cat-o'-nine-tails approach or necessarily bread and water, but on the other hand I think we have swung too far in the other direction. I think there has got to be a reasonable balance and certainly the cost to the taxpayer would have to be a lot less if we did not have the type of accommodations that we have in Yellowknife for this purpose. God knows there are thousands of places within the territories within easy air access that could be set up in this manner. So my question is: Has this ever been looked at and if it is not done, is there some reason for not doing something of this nature?

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Minister, at the conclusion of your reply we will recess for coffee. Do you have a reply? Mr. Stewart has just made a statement rather than asking a question.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I take that partly as a question and mostly as a statement, so I would like to provide an answer after coffee.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you. Mr. Steen is first on the list to speak next. We will recess for 15 minutes for coffee which is ready in the anteroom.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Order, please. A quorum being present we will return to our discussion of activity 4041. Before I call on Mr. Steen, I believe the chairman of the committee which constitutes committees has a report for us. Mr. Nickerson.

Ad Hoc Committee For Liquor Problems

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, the following persons have indicated their willingness to serve on the ad hoc committee to look into the liquor problems of the Northwest Territories: Mr. Bryan Pearson, Mr. Bill Lafferty, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk, Mr. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Mark Evaluarjuk, Mr. Peter Ernerk, Mr. George Barnaby, Mr. James Wah-Shee, Mr. John Steen, and Mr. Don Stewart. It is recommended that at the first meeting of this committee the Members appoint, from amongst themselves, a chairman and such other officers as they deem necessary and to come up with terms of reference which they consider desirable and acceptable.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you very much, Mr. Nickerson, for the expeditious way in which you handled the assignment of this committee. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, there are no translators.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Again? A quorum I see consists of eight Members and two interpreters.

MR. McCALLUM: We are all set now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Steen, you have the floor.

MR. STEEN: Thank you. I see we only have the Honourable Minister over there to answer the questions and he does not have any backup people, but anyway the question is: Are there any plans in the future or for the future so that we can begin enlarging the jails in the communities, since all seem to be going in that direction of keeping the lawbreakers in the community?

The second question is: Can anyone provide me with the answer to when does the RCMP contract with the Northwest Territories expire?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Minister, do you wish to answer the question, or do you have a suggestion?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, in answer to those two questions, firstly, my understanding is that the RCMP provides jails in some of the communities in the Northwest Territories. Secondly, my information is that the contract renewal with the RCMP will be on April 1st, 1976.

Suggestion That Mr. Jim Britton Appear As Witness

Mr. Chairman, may I make a suggestion to the committee, that we have with us in the public gallery a man who is well aware of the correctional services, having worked in Frobisher Bay at one point. This is Mr. Jim Britton and I am wondering if the committee would agree to have him appear before the Council even if we have to break the rules like we did yesterday. Perhaps we could get some idea from a man who has worked in this field.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Minister, I do not think it is a question of breaking the rules to invite expert testimony. Do the Members wish that Mr. Britton be invited to join us to consider this matter? I suppose, Mr. Minister, that he could probably answer the questions relative to the philosophy of corrections that were posed by Councillor Pearson.

MR. ERNERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to feel like I am not being helpful or anything, but perhaps this is one area I have not been paying much attention to, although I fully realize it is part of my responsibility. I would in fact like to see him appear before the Council personally, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Are Members agreed?

---Agreed

Mr. Britton, would you join us? Thank you very much. Possibly you could examine the questions that were raised by both Councillors Pearson and Steen or give some introductory remarks, whichever you feel most fitting.

MR. BRITTON: If you agree, the precise phrasing of the question has escaped me at this moment, but I would be happy to make a few remarks on the system and if the Councillors wish to direct questions to me afterwards, I would be prepared to do my best and answer them.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Proceed.

MR. BRITTON: Perhaps I should explain at the beginning that my experience in corrections is probably only five years long. Like my colleague who spoke yesterday about alcohol, I do not pretend to be a final authority in matters of this kind, at all. However, I have had the opportunity to observe corrections and to work in corrections in the Northwest Territories for some two years. Prior to that, I was in a position of becoming reasonably familiar with some elements of operation in the Canadian penitentiary service in the province of British Columbia.

Different Needs Of Offenders

As I see it, there are some fundamental problems in any corrections system. I think in the length of time I have spent in the field that on no occasion have I found any two individuals whose problems were identical. This poses a dilemma in providing a proper and suitable form of treatment or punishment, inasmuch as corrections work out of institutions and we can not have a single institution for any single individual. Therefore, almost by definition no corrections system is perfect and will meet the needs of all offenders. I think that is an impossibility.

I think another major problem which we face in corrections is that we are on the receiving end of a long and difficult chain of events which lead people to fall into our custody. The problems of offenders, as I am sure you all know, do not begin at his 16th or 18th birthday, they begin essentially in early childhood and in some cases, in fact, problems with offenders have come from a generation or two before. The simple fact of the matter is, I guess, that deviance and criminality runs in the family to some extent. Coupled with this is the fact that every aspect of the criminal justice system tends to treat the criminal a little differently and you find the police adopting one point of view in the handling of an offender, the courts often adopt a different tactic. In fact, there is considerable difference between various courts in the Northwest Territories, as I understand it, in the handling of offenders. We find the persons committed to our custody coming in and they bear no relationship as to what we perceive to be an offender's needs. We may think we need six months to accomplish something with an offender and he may be sentenced to a period of two weeks and the reverse is also true, at times we have had people sentenced for two years and more when we feel we could do something for him in a shorter period of time.

Philosophy In Corrections

So these are problems -- not to make excuses -- but they are problems we face in corrections and a large part of the problem is beyond our control. Now, my own philosophy in corrections is that I do not really know what works. I would think, in fact, there is no scientific knowledge anywhere in the world, which proves that one particular school of thought is better than another. What I do know is what does not work, and we have had 300 years of experience in the traditional form of incarceration and a lot of different modifications have been tried, locking people away in absolute silence and so on, and you have all their stories.

One thing that is patently clear to me as a professional working in the field, is that this form of handling offenders has not met with a great deal of success. I think if you look at your own lives, you will see that when you are faced with force, when you are not given any choice as to the type of life you are going to lead and so on, it leads finally only to more

anger and bitterness. Certainly I have not experienced too many people who have changed for the better when faced or placed in a situation of duress. My own belief is that the only agent of change was certainly a major agent of change for an individual in conflict with the law, if he can establish a relationship with an individual who can influence him to change his manner of living. Look what happens in traditional prisons where people are locked away in very unpleasant circumstances. They can not form those kinds of relationships in the form of setting.

Skills Taught In Centres

I think another thing which can be done in corrections, and this was brought up by a Councillor during the earlier discussion, is that we can teach him some of the skills and so forth which he needs for positive identity so he can live successfully. I think this is the approach which is being tried in the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre and in the Baffin Correctional Centre where the predominantly native members, as they are referred to in those centres, are taken out on the land and are taught to be functioning, proud native people to as great an extent as we are able.

Now these programs are too new to be properly evaluated as yet. However, I will say that in spite of the fact that the graduates of these programs are not 100 per cent successful, and I do not think we will ever attain that, I believe there are some promises in this approach and we will find that in five or ten years hence that compared to those people who had been locked up in traditional settings, these people will do better. I will not say anything more about my own attitude toward it but I will entertain any questions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Pearson, were your questions answered in those opening remarks, or do you wish to address them again?

Numbers Of Offenders In Various Correctional Centres

MR. PEARSON: If I could remember them, yes. How many people are currently serving time in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre? That was question number one, I think. I do not know the order.

MR. BRITTON: Would you like me to answer that now?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Please.

MR. BRITTON: As of February 2, 1976, the count for Yellowknife Correctional Centre is 70.

MR. PEARSON: Seven ought?

MR. BRITTON: Seven ought. For Baffin Correctional Centre it is 11 and for the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, 17.

MR. PEARSON: Eleven and 17.

MR. BRITTON: That is correct.

MR. PEARSON: How many, Mr. Chairman, of these 70 in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre are native people?

MR. BRITTON: I could not give a precise figure on that but I would suggest that it is in the area of 75 to 80 per cent.

MR. PEARSON: Eighty per cent?

MR. BRITTON: At least.

MR. PEARSON: Do you have the age breakdown of those prisoners?

MR. BRITTON: We could obtain that but again, as a general principle, I would say that the vast majority of them are under the age of 25.

MR. PEARSON: What would be the youngest?

MR. BRITTON: There would be nobody in any correctional centre in the territories who is younger than 16.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Do you wish a written breakdown of ages, Mr. Pearson?

MR. PEARSON: I think my colleagues might appreciate knowing exactly what is on the menu down there, so to speak.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Minister, could you ask your staff to provide that to Members of Council?

MR. ERNERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe we can if the committee so wishes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): The age is required, the percentage of native people involved and the number of people who are presently serving time in the three institutions. Mr. Pearson.

Rehabilitation Programs

MR. PEARSON: That was one question and the other question was this matter of so-called rehabilitation. Now what rehabilitation programs are taking place, are currently under way in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, under this program I could try and outline some of the rehabilitation programs that are presently carried out and under the kitchen programs ---

MR. PEARSON: Was that "kitchen"?

MR. ERNERK: Kitchen. Training is provided in all aspects of cooking and butchering. Under formal education or formal education programs, are correspondence courses in both junior and senior high schools. Under vocational programs, this is an area that provides mechanical, carpentry, welding, as well as interior decorating. It also provides the inmates with certification for hours spent involved in a specific area, and this is an acceptable aid in fulfilling employment or training.

The remainder of the internal program is related to development of good work habits including dependability and responsibility. Under work relief programs, this helps to stabilize work habits, contributes to family support, assists with relief planning and, in some cases, helps to provide funds for resettlement or re-establishment in a community. In conjunction with work release is the temporary absence program which provides two to three hour passes for a variety of valid reasons, and can provide passes up to 15 days to assist in preparation for release.

Now the recreational programs consist of arts and crafts, physical activities, all of which contribute to behavioral stabilization. Arts and crafts is also a source of income while incarcerated.

Assistance From Outside Agencies

Under outside assistance agencies there are Alcoholics Anonymous, Detoxication Centre programs, Canada Manpower, further education and any agency or department who can assist in individual cases. In some select cases referrals are also made to facilities for alcohol treatment outside the Northwest Territories. Two examples here are Henwood and Poundmaker Lodge. Other professional help is provided at the Forensic Unit, that is the Edmonton hospital, and these services should improve with the expansion of facilities in Yellowknife and with the recent appointment of a psychologist and psychiatrist. Also, the close co-operation and service that is provided by the National Parole Board, which should also improve with the projected opening of an office in the Northwest Territories.

I might say that liaison with field agencies has improved and should continue to improve with the appointment of a corrections social worker who was appointed specifically for that purpose. I would also mention that there is also a close liaison with the legal aid department to help provide representation and advice for any inmate.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you. Were your questions answered correctly, Mr. Pearson?

MR. PEARSON: Some of them. I have more as a result of those answers. I have to compliment the Minister on his ability to answer the questions that are put before him so lucidly and well, but I would like to get some details. There are, he says, 70 people currently serving time there and I gather these sentences would range from 15 minutes to two years less a day?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, there are also some inmates who are serving over two years.

Work Release Programs

MR. PEARSON: I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, how many people are working in the various capacities? For example, how many people are currently incarcerated in that institution on work release programs in the city of Yellowknife at the moment?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I understand there are four at the present time.

MR. PEARSON: Four.

MR. ERNERK: Four.

MR. PEARSON: How many are currently on a carpenter's course so that when they will be released they will be qualified or semi-qualified in a carpentry skill?

MR. ERNERK: There are 12 people working in shops.

MR. PEARSON: Twelve people altogether in shops?

MR. ERNERK: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: So that would include the welding, mechanical and carpentry?

MR. ERNERK: That is right.

MR. PEARSON: So I gather then that there are people in there who are not engaged in any occupation of a rehabilitative type of program?

MR. ERNERK: That is right, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PEARSON: I have always felt, Mr. Chairman, from having gone over this matter many times with Council, that Council has asked for a very strong emphasis to be placed in that area. That shops be provided so that people can actually learn something useful and productive during the time that they are in there so that they can be receiving mechanical, welding and woodworking courses which would enable them to compete on the outside so to speak. So that it is in fact a rehabilitative program and not just a lockup.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Does that conclude your remarks?

Psychiatrist For Yellowknife Inmates.

MR. PEARSON: I would like to know if there is in fact a psychiatrist currently working in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre.

MR. BRITTON: There is no psychiatrist in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre but there is now a psychiatrist with the Department of Health and Welfare who will be available for consultations in Yellowknife.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a very short question. Do the priests go to the correction centre every Sunday to conduct mass or whatever church service? I think that would be good advice to the inmates, if they are sent to the correctional centres on Sundays to give services to the inmates.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, the Roman Catholic Church, Anglican Church and United Church do perform regular services at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Two other questions Mr. Britton answered before you got to the one by Mr. Stewart who asked whether or not space had been contemplated as a method of keeping people busy or occupied. Did you hear the question put by Mr. Stewart about getting a more rustic type of correctional centre? Mr. Steen asked about the future route corrections may take relative to people being able to serve a sentence, if that is what they receive in their own home communities?

MR. BRITTON: I believe the one question raised by Councillor Stewart related to the possibility of having inmates in remote locations in the Northwest Territories. In fact this approach has been adopted, at least in part, by the correctional service. Whereas the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre and the Baffin Correctional Centre in the Eastern Arctic do have buildings in their respective communities, in fact a substantial amount of time is spent by the inmates and the staff of those centres in remote locations where they are allowed to and are encouraged to live off the land and to learn the traditional skills. I think the only observation I would like to make about that is that it is not of primary importance, I guess, how well a person does during his period of incarceration. What is of primary importance to us is how well he does upon his release back to the community. I think one of the limitations of such an approach would see inmates kept for prolonged periods of time in areas remote from their own community so that they in no way would have learned to deal with the situation which caused them to wind up in jail in the first place. For that reason I feel that--I shall not use the word "Alcatraz", but too remote a location may not be particularly useful if that is how a person's entire sentence is spent.

Concerning Short Sentences

The other question on space, I think this was alluded to by Councillor Steen. A certain number of the offenders in the territories presently do spend some proportion or all of their sentence in lockups operated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in various locations across the territories. The main reason for this is that for inmates with extremely short sentences, the cost of transporting them to the more central facilities would be prohibitive and clearly not in the interests of either the inmate or the taxpayer. This does pose some problems for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In all fairness, they have to locate casual staff to man their guardrooms and so on, so I think there are some limitations in this approach as well. I think the capital costs which would be involved for us to set up similar holding centres or mini-correctional centres in each community in the territories would also be prohibitive. I think we are caught in a situation of having to administer a very large area with very few people and to some extent I do not think we will ever be able to resolve that problem.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Steen.

Benefit Of Free Labour.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I feel that it is a mistake of the department when a few years ago they enlarged the recreation facilities in Yellowknife. They should have been looking at larger places at that time, to keep the offenders within the communities. I still would like to know also about how much all this free labour Yellowknife is benefiting from. Some of this free labour should be spent within the communities in the North.

MR. BRITTON: I could not agree more with that observation. Our department has no plans whatsoever to change the make-up or the size of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. In fact, it will be our intention in the long run to examine the possibility of a further decentralized approach. I think that we should address ourselves to examining the option, the diversion option which has been mentioned several times in Council already, that being the method of instead of sentencing prisoners to jail in the first instance, keeping them in the community and putting them to work at programs which gives the promise to assist the community as well as to assist them.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you. Mr. Ernerk and then Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, my words were taken away.

Communication With Families Of Inmates.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask a short question. Thinking of what Mr. Evaluarjuk talked about, about the person who was going to make the phone call, if it was from the family, from the father and mother, how long is it before the families hear about the inmates? I was just going to ask because they do not hear from them very often. Can somebody answer that?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, as I understand the question it is: Does the staff of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre contact the relatives, the families of the inmates to tell the relatives how the inmates are doing with respect to health and related matters. Is that the question that the Honourable Member from Pangnirtung is asking?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Kilabuk would you repeat your question?

MR. KILABUK: The family that the inmates have left behind, how long does it take for the families to hear about the inmates?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, this is usually dependent upon an inmate, whether or not he or she wants to get in touch with his or her relatives. Again, if an inmate has some money, then the procedure is that he or she phones the relatives or friends or families and again if the call is to be a collect call. Is that sufficient reply to Mr. Kilabuk?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): It seems this question is regarding telephone communications and is of great importance. I suppose you have already impressed upon your staff that they had better take another look at this whole matter of telephones and telephone communications to ensure that the people who are left at home do know what is occurring, so that the people in the institution can phone their homes and this seems to be of concern to all the Members from the Arctic communities.

MR. ERNERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Before I recognize the Honourable Member from South Baffin, I would point out that we have a long way to go, and although I do not wish to and will not cut anyone off, I would just remind the Honourable Members of that fact.

Alcohol Induced Offences.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I am fully aware of the urgency that we have to get through this budget, and I appreciate your concern and everyone else's, including my own. I do not want to sit in Yellowknife for weeks on end either. However, in the last couple of days we have discussed issues which are of vital importance to the people we represent. Yesterday we discussed alcohol to a limited degree and we will probably discuss it further in committee. Of course it is also true to say that alcohol is the reason why this correction establishment exists by and large. I am sure you will find that some 80 or 90 per cent of the causes for the offenders in that establishment, or any establishment that we operate, the three of them, are there for alcohol related offences. There are some people in the territories who do not feel that crimes committed under the influence of alcohol are in fact true crimes. After all, liquor in many cases, and in many communities is something which has been imposed upon the people and they are simply the victims of this imposition.

Now, this Council is responsible not only for the distribution and management of the alcohol programs in the territories, it is also responsible for the operation of these prisons -- correction facilities, call them what you will, and it is our responsibility, and nobody else's, to operate them, and it is this Council's responsibility to develop the programs, provide the facilities, and provide the money to operate these facilities. I gather it is also this Council's responsibility to develop the ordinances and the laws controlling the people who live in the Northwest Territories, and become offenders under the ordinances that we establish. So, it is our responsibility to carry out these functions, and it is our responsibility to dictate to the courts, those within our jurisdiction, the kind of penalties that should be imposed upon the people who break our laws. So, it is a package deal in other words, and we can not look at one of these things in isolation, we have to look at the whole thing from a package deal point of view.

Now, the Commissioner came up with a great comment, a very meaningful comment in his Address, and that was that we diversify the approach that we have had, and that we go to the settlements and keep people in the places where they commit these crimes and put them to work or whatever we decide to do. Now, the question is of my colleagues, when are we going to do it, when are we going to tell the Commissioner what to do? When are we going to tell the courts that this is the program or the plan that the Council of the Northwest Territories has devised, because I understand it is our responsibility?

Legislation For Sentencing Diversion

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): I thought our colleague, Mr. Searle, during the summer brought this matter of diversion up and I thought that someone was proceeding to see this brought into law and would that not answer your question on diversion?

MR. PEARSON: From my understanding the Commissioner suggested that such a thing is possible and that such a thing should be done. My question is: When are we going to do it? When will we start?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Before I recognize Mr. Ernerk could I ask the chairman of the legislation committee if there is anything along the lines of diversion legislation or perhaps I misunderstood you in the summer, Mr. Searle. What were you suggesting to this body, that we develop legislation, that is, legislation for diversion?

Flexibility In Probation Orders

MR. SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I just do not recall what was said then, but certainly if you are going to get into the diversion thing there are areas I would think where legislation would be required, but that is not essential at this point. There is a lot of flexibility in what you may order in a probation order, and substantially what you want to do I think could be done under the present law.

What is absent to date is the supervisory aspect of it. If you go out and say "Someone has to go and spend ten hours in the service of either the municipal body or a charity or the victim" you have to have someone who is going to make sure that ten hours of valuable service is in fact given. They must be charged with that responsibility and will report back to the court, presumably that it has either been done or not been done. Now, only after the accused or prisoner has failed to meet the obligation imposed by the court, then does imprisonment become necessary. So obviously you will still need a correctional institution.

I have been staying out of the debate, Mr. Chairman, because I think that there is a difference in having a budget debate which is a reasonable debate of a reasonable length on the one hand and having a seminar on the subject on the other hand and quite frankly if we proceed at this rate it seems to me we will never get the budget done. I have got a lot I would like to say on corrections because I happen to be in the position, as a defence lawyer, of having had a great deal of experience with prisoners. I think I have a lot to contribute, but as interested as I am in the subject it seems to me that surely we must exercise some restraint and get on with the job at hand.

Not The Place For This Discussion

Now, if we really think we should get into an exhausting review of the corrections program, and I know my friend Mr. Pearson is deeply interested in this, and I know some of the people he has defended. He has taken a personal interest in them, in seeing that they get out on parole and seeing that they are supervised on parole. For that he has to be congratulated because there are a lot of us who would not have the time for that. So he is acting and continuing this debate out of a sincere abiding interest in the subject, and that may be the thing to do.

If it is the feeling of the committee that we are going in the wrong direction with corrections, if it is the feeling of the committee that we really have to get into the diversion scheme, then maybe the thing to do is try and think of a method of looking at it outside of this chamber. Perhaps you could have a sub-committee -- I know there is a corrections committee somewhere that this administration has set up. I do not know what it does, I do not know what its composition is, but maybe we should ask the corrections committee to do certain things and produce a report and act on it.

My point, I guess, Mr. Chairman, is that this really is not the place for it. If we have this concern let us either do it as a sub-committee, let us get it out to another group, but let us here today now and for the next week get on and do the budget with a reasonable inquiry as to the adequacy of the expense. Apart from that let us leave the real nitty gritty to other bodies, either of ourselves or of the administration.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Thank you very much, Mr. Searle. It just seems to me that debate should result in some conclusion or some direction. I agree that we have discussed this matter for the second time. I would also suggest that Mr. Pearson's question is correct, what have we done, and as the chairman I would like to see some direction. I do not like to see it wandering around and around. If we wish to improve the situation then possibly a motion to refer it to committee or a motion to establish a probation service, which we do not have, would be the answer, but we have had no motions in this regard and we continue along.

Mr. Pearson, is it your wish to make a motion to recommend that the line you have been following be pursued after this Council session prorogues by another committee, so that maybe some progress can be made in this whole area?

Motion To Refer Sentencing Diversion To The Justice And Corrections Advisory Committee.

MR. PEARSON: Well, yes, if you like to put words in my mouth, sure. Now, Mr. Searle makes a lot of sense, Mr. Chairman, and I agree with him, but I am also very reluctant to skip over it lightly and then just piddle off and come back next year and go over it again and do the same thing. I have been doing it for five years, and I would like to see it come to a head and your suggestion of a committee along those lines makes a lot of sense. I guess I could get some indication from my colleagues by a show of hands on the subject if they go along with that, or if they agree with it. So, I will make the motion that you just so kindly put in my mouth.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): The motion has been made that this matter of sentencing diversion be referred to a justice committee. Was this the committee, Mr. Searle, the justice and corrections advisory committee, to examine the matters that were raised by Members of this Council and to provide us with a report and recommendations at a subsequent session of Council for our examination and for approval or acceptance if it is suitable?

MR. PEARSON: That is a bit of a mouthful, but it was not my mouth.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Is that correct? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, are we referring to the justice and corrections advisory committee or are we referring to a subcommittee of Council?

MR. PEARSON: A committee of Council.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): The Council committee I am informed, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, then my next question would be: What in fact does Mr. Pearson have in mind with respect to the justice and corrections advisory committee, and how close can these two committees work, very closely, making some recommendations to the Commissioner or to the administration as is suggested in the Corrections Ordinance?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Pearson wishes to speak, I believe.

MR. PEARSON: Well, I did not realize that there was such a committee and I gather it is an inter-departmental committee. Is it a committee of this Council?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, if I could briefly move over the justice and corrections advisory committee as it comes up in the ordinance:

"Justice and Corrections Advisory Committee Membership. The Commissioner shall establish a committee to be known as the justice and corrections advisory committee consisting of not less than six members appointed by the Commissioner, one of whom shall be designated by him as the chairman. The membership of the justice and corrections advisory committee shall include:

- (a) one official responsible for law enforcement
- (b) one member of the judiciary
- (c) one official responsible for correctional services and
- (d) three or more residents of the territories.

"The duties of the justice and corrections advisory committee shall be to advise the Commissioner on the effectiveness of any aspect of law enforcement, justice and correctional services and make recommendations for the improvement of such services."

I might add that Mr. Ken Torrance, the Director of the Department of Social Development, is the chairman and the members include Judge Morrow, Chief Superintendent Buttler, Gail Cyr from the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, Bob Overvold from the Metis Association and Mally Carriere from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada.

MR. PEARSON: I guess the committee must be newly formed and, if not, has it ever produced anything that this Council could work on? Has it ever done anything?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): The question is, has the committee met and produced any directions or policies?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, they have had two meetings, but as far as I know, they have not produced any reports as yet.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Mr. Pearson, does that sound like the body that would handle this matter?

MR. PEARSON: Well, in my opinion it would handle some aspects of it, but I think this Council has an obligation too and I think that this Council is the ultimate body that that committee would make any recommendations to.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): Agreed.

Council Should Be Involved

MR. PEARSON: I think we should have some input into it, obviously, and we will have to form a subcommittee of Council, you know. Maybe we can all put our heads together. I do not want to get into technical things. All I wish to find out, Mr. Chairman, is that there is room for improvement. I think that we should be involved in the improving and I think we had better get down to it. We could form it as a committee of Council so it would be a separate committee other than that one there and we could meet with them and discuss with them and hopefully they would come and meet with us.

MR. ERNERK: Then I would add to that to see if we, the Council of the Northwest Territories, could set up a subcommittee of Council and see if we have any solutions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): The motion then is that a subcommittee of Council be formed to examine this matter we have been discussing for the last hour regarding sentencing of alcohol related offences and the diversion practice. Any comments on the motion? Mr. Searle.

MR. SEARLE: Mr. Butters, I would suggest that it be reduced to writing and circulated so Members could consider it and in the meantime, taking tremendous liberties with the official language, I would suggest you report progress.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butters): The Member is in favour of reporting progress. Agreed?

---Agreed

The motion will be written and circulated for further consideration by this committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Council will come to order. Mr. Butters.

Report of the Committee of the Whole of Bill 4-58, Appropriations Ordinance, 1976-77.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the budget item Social Development and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements for tomorrow? Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 10: ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the Day, February 4, 1976, 9:00 o'clock a.m.

1. Prayer

2. Questions and Returns

3. Oral Questions
4. Presenting Petitions
5. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
6. Notices of Motions
7. Motions
8. Tabling of Documents
9. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 4-58, Bill 2-58, Bill 9-58, Bill 12-58 and Report of Task Force on Great Slave Lake Fisheries
10. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Parker, do you have a comment?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, there was a request yesterday, I believe, from yourself that either the Commissioner or I make some brief report to the house on progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: The business remaining, of course, is substantial and as each person knows, we have completed two of the major program departments and have perhaps something approaching half or perhaps a bit less than half of the Social Development estimates to go through, also Economic Development and Education, the other two major departments yet to touch, plus the service departments.

In addition to that, we estimate that perhaps a couple hours will be required on the supplementary estimates which have now cleared the standing committee. There is yet the Auditor General's report to be heard, which is not a statutory requirement, but a request of the Council that the Auditor General's representative be heard.

There are a number of bills. I suppose from the time standpoint perhaps the Rent Control Ordinance stands out as the one that might require the longest time or perhaps the shortest.

Council has asked for a discussion of the Summary of Significant Changes in Proposed RCMP Agreement and a report on the Great Slave Lake Fisheries Task Force. My own candid opinion is that Council is running perhaps a day to two days behind what might be considered as the average schedule and, if I may be so bold, the Commissioner and I have discussed and put forward the suggestion that you might consider sitting all day Thursday.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, are there any committees scheduled to sit Thursday morning? Which committees? The caucus is scheduled apparently to meet Thursday morning. Unless the speed increases, we may have to consider doing away with committee meetings all of next week and sitting full days next week, as well as some evenings. I think the thing to do is we will just have to watch it and be ready to extend the hours of sitting if necessary. It is the only alternative, really. On that happy note, Council stands adjourned until 9:00 o'clock a.m. the 4th day of February, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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