



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
**DEBATES**

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Pages 387 to 441

Speaker The Honourable David H. Searle, Q.C.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1978

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Fraser, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. David Searle, Mr. Nickerson

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Item 2, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 2: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Are there any returns this afternoon? Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Further Return To Question W2-64: Preliminary Report Of The Royal Commission On Financial Management And Accountability

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, Question W2-64 on Monday, January 23rd, Mr. Nickerson asked if the administration could provide copies to any Members interested, of the preliminary report of the royal commission on Financial Management and Accountability. Copies of this report are now available and any Member wishing to receive one can obtain a copy from the Clerk.

Return To Question W6-64: Causes Of Death/Disablements In Frobisher Bay

Question W6-64, on Tuesday, January 24th, Mr. Lyall asked how many deaths or lifetime disablements have been caused in Frobisher Bay by people drinking something other than liquor since the closure of the liquor store. According to information received from the Baffin regional director of medical services, one man in his 60's has died from consuming methyl hydrate and one man in his 30's has been blinded from consuming methyl hydrate.

Further Return To Question W8-64: Education District, Sir John Franklin High School

Question W8-64, on Thursday, 26th of January, Mr. Nickerson asked whether an education district has been prescribed for the Sir John Franklin high school in Yellowknife and if so, what were the boundaries of such a district. No education district has been established as yet for Sir John Franklin high school and Akaitcho Hall. There is a parent advisor group which advises the principal of the school, the hostel supervisor and the superintendent of education but it has no legal status under the Education Ordinance. Consideration is being given to the establishment of an education authority for Sir John Franklin high school and Akaitcho Hall which would include representation from the regions served by the high school.

Return To Question W14-64: Polar Bear Quota, Hall Beach

Question W14-64, on Thursday, January 26th, Mr. Evaluarjuk asked whether the administration was prepared to increase the polar bear quota for Hall Beach as the community has requested. No increase in the polar bear quota for Hall Beach is recommended at the present time. The Hall Beach polar bear quota was discussed at the regional hunters' and trappers' conference in Igloodik earlier this month. The Hall Beach delegate asked whether or not unfilled quotas from other communities could be given to Hall Beach. It was explained that this would only be possible if studies proved the two communities were hunting the same subpopulation of polar bears and that the community with the unused quota agreed

to give up tags they were not going to use during this open season. It was also explained that the polar bear studies were scheduled to begin in the Igloodik-Hall Beach area during the spring of this year. A biologist will be travelling to these communities in mid-February to explain the details of his proposed work to the people as well as to discuss the basis for change in quotas.

Return To Question W17-64: Forest Fire Suppression Crews

Question W17-64, on Friday, January 27th, Mr. Fraser asked what provision is being made for forest fire suppression crews in Norman Wells for the coming fire season. The forestry service has provided the following information in reply:

- (a) It is intended to hire two five-man fire suppression crews in Norman Wells this coming season and to add emergency firefighters on an "as required" basis.
- (b) The forestry service point out that it is far too early to judge the degree of drought in the Norman Wells area for the coming year and it is thus thought that the two crews will prove adequate at this stage of planning.
- (c) During the last fire season the acreage burned in the protected areas in the Norman Wells region was below normal.
- (d) It is not intended to change the priority zoning.

Return To Question W19-64: Department Of Environment, Plans For N.W.T.

Question W19-64, on Friday, January 27th, Mr. Nickerson asked what plans the Department of Environment have for expansion of their operations in the Northwest Territories. Apart from the administration of the Fisheries Act, the Department of the Environment has very limited statutory responsibility in the North. They act in a research and advisory capacity to the territorial government, the Water Board and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The territorial government has not been advised by the department of any plans to expand their operations in the near future.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any written questions? Mr. Nickerson.

Question W26-64: Education Districts In The N.W.T.

MR. NICKERSON: Really, Mr. Speaker, this is a supplementary question that comes about as a result of one of the replies just made by the Deputy Commissioner. Is the Executive Member responsible for Education aware that he is required by law to establish and publish the education districts for all schools in the Northwest Territories within three months of the coming into force of the Education Ordinance?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice and supply an answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further written questions? Mr. Butters.

Question W27-64: National Parks

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, would the administration please provide soonest, so as to be useful in formulating a motion during this session, details of the national park, or national sanctuaries, proposed by the federal parks service for the north slope of the Yukon and the Mackenzie Delta area?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, certainly we will obtain the information and provide it. If I could just say as an additional answer to that question, the parks people have, I think it is a 12 minute film or visual aid presentation on these proposed park areas and they have advised that they could have an officer make such a presentation to Council if Council so wished. Perhaps Members could consider that and perhaps indicate to me whether or not they might be interested in such a presentation. In the meantime, of course, I will obtain something further in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Question 028-64: Supplementary To Question W27-64

MR. BUTTERS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the administration also ascertain the type and the amount of community consultation that went on prior to the determination of setting up these proposed parks in the Western Arctic communities which the Honourable Member from the Western Arctic and myself represent.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Return To Question 028-64: Supplementary To Question W27-64

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I can answer that question now. The next program which the parks people propose to undertake is a program of very complete and extensive community consultation. Thus far they have identified the areas from a technical standpoint; that is they have, from their knowledge of what constitutes a national park, identified areas that they would recommend to the Minister as parks but the next process is the one that they are going to enter into and that is of full community consultation. That consultation period will take place, of course, before there are any final decisions made.

MR. SPEAKER: I am just wondering, gentlemen, if there is some mechanism whereby we could determine whether the Members would like to take advantage of the audio-visual presentation that Deputy Commissioner Parker mentioned. If I may suggest, possibly the Clerk could circulate to Members a piece of paper asking that question and then Members could indicate their response and if there are a majority of Members who would like to see that, then possibly we could have it set up in the room next door to us here at some appropriate time. Would that meet with Members' approval?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further written questions?

Item 3, oral questions.

Item 4, petitions.

Item 5, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM NO. 5: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of Standing Committee On Indemnities, Allowances And Members' Services

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the following is a report of the standing committee on indemnities, allowances and Members' services to this House. The Members of this committee are myself, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Lyall and Mr. Stewart.

Committee meeting: the committee met once since the adjournment of the 63rd session. Resulting from some claims submitted by Members, the committee considered the imposition of maximums on certain categories of expenditure. After considerable discussion, the committee resolved:

- (a) that the maximum daily allowance for meals be determined at \$25 per day;
- (b) that \$3.50 be determined as the maximum daily allowance for laundry expenses; and
- (c) that Members be required to submit details in respect of amounts claimed for taxis.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I move that this report be adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Stewart. Discussion? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Just on a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if that report is available in writing so that we can give it detailed study before deciding whether or not to adopt it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I had failed to get copies made of this but they will be shortly distributed because I think that they are being interpreted into Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: I take it the nature of your objection though, is that you would not like the motion of adoption of the report voted on until you have had a look at it; is that what you are saying, Mr. Nickerson?

MR. NICKERSON: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, would you have any objection to withholding the moving of your report until say tomorrow or the next day and in that way you could then for instance under tabling of documents, table a copy of your report, even though it would only be in English today and then that would be made available. Then you could move your adoption of your report tomorrow or the next day.

MR. LAFFERTY: No, I have no objection, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, notices of motion.

Item 7, motions for the production of papers.

Item 8, motions.

Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM NO. 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 9-64, Report of the Standing Committee on Indemnities, Allowances, Members' Services to the 64th Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Further tabled documents?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I want to table Tabled Document 10-64, a letter which is addressed to myself or rather to the minister of tourism in the Northwest Territories. It is from Woy Woy, New South Wales in Australia. It is a letter from a lady who was here this past summer as a tourist and she had enjoyed herself so much that she would like to extend a big thank you to all of the people of Yellowknife. I thought it might be an interesting one for members of the press to read and the Members of this Legislature to read. It is a very beautiful letter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a refreshing change to have happy news. Item 10, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters.

ITEM NO. 10: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

I assume from the look of the advisers on hand that the Executive wish us to continue with Bill 11-64, Appropriation Ordinance, with Health and Social Services. Is that correct?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: That is right, Hon. David Searle.

MR. SPEAKER: We are getting to recognize your forces in the backfield. This House will resolve into committee of the whole for continued consideration of Bill 11-64, Appropriation Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 11-64, Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 11-64, APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1978-79

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The committee will come to order. We were dealing with the Department of Health and Social Services by way of general comment. General comments with regard to the Department of Health and Social Services. No further general comments. Are you prepared to go clause by clause? Agreed?

---Agreed



Department Of Health And Social Services

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Clause by clause. I direct your attention to page 10.07, detail of grants and contributions. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I forgot my question. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask that -- I have not forgotten it, during 1975 I talked about Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the administration in the Northwest Territories if the Health and Social Services, if the health is transferred to the Northwest Territories. I heard that. Mr. Nickerson was minister for Social Development at the time. He said that, he said he would transfer the health services to the Northwest Territories. I wanted to know if this is in effect now and I would like to know if the Social Services now that meet in Frobisher Bay have -- we have not heard anything about whether it is going to be better now or not.

What I was talking about was the Social Services people are run too much by the federal government and they are not run too much by the settlement. I know that they should be helped more, the people should be helped more by the settlements. It just seems that the people that do not need help get more help than the people that really need it. I have heard that in some settlements we do not like what the Social Services people are doing in the settlements. I would like to know if they are trying to make some committees concerning social development in the settlements. I would like to know if they are making committees in the settlements to form some social workers' committees in the settlements.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the transfer of social services, of course, from the federal government to this government, as we indicated the other day, we are still working on and still trying to carry out negotiations with the federal government for the transfer of health. We are working it out with National Health and Welfare, trying to arrange for this transfer. We would hope to be able to have this completed fairly soon and I think the Deputy Commissioner mentioned yesterday that negotiations are being carried on now with the Yukon government for the transfer of health services by the federal government to the Government of the Yukon. Once that has been effected, I think then the attention will turn to this government and they will be transferred to this government.

Social Assistance Appeal Committees

As regards social service groups in the communities, there are various appeal committees now in various of the communities. In total there are 20 various communities that have social assistance appeal committees and we would hope that there would be more of them. They have been started in other communities in the East as well as the West. We have the social assistance appeal committees in Arctic Bay, Broughton Island, Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Eskimo Point, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Lake Harbour, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet and Whale Cove in the East.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Just one moment, Mr. Lyall. Mr. Evaluarjuk, do you have anything further? Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to say that we started one in the Central Arctic over a year ago and I think that this type of committee does well in the things that Mr. Evaluarjuk was speaking about, that it is getting better served by the public to help assist local social development workers so that they do not give social assistance to people that really do not need it. The people that are outside of the department generally know that type of person who is a specialized social assistance receiver or whatever you could call him.

So, I think in that respect the committees that were formed in the Central Arctic have been working very well. They meet quite regularly and the next meeting of the one in Central Arctic is going to be some time in the middle of February. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Your attention then to page 10.07, detail of grants and contributions, grants under administration, \$46,000. Agreed? Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: The department has expressed to me a willingness on their part to decentralize and to hand responsibility to the communities, responsibilities that they may determine themselves. I wonder if this has met with any measure of success across the Northwest Territories and do they plan to accelerate their initiative in getting more communities involved in social services, instead of as I have said, roads, garbage dumps and honeybuckets?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Well, Mr. Pearson, you got away with a fast one on me. Your question is out of order. We are on detail of grants and contributions on page 10.07, administration.

MR. PEARSON: I thought we were still on general comments.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): No, we are clause by clause. However, seeing that you were sleeping, I will allow this one question and then we will get back to where we were. Mr. Minister.

#### Various Community Committees

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of various committees that are formed in addition to those that I have indicated. There are various local committees formed for looking into difficulties with juveniles, providing service to the aged, local committees dealing with alcohol and drug abuse and local hospital boards. It is the department's intention to indeed continue to sit down with groups in various communities and to help and assist in the formation of various committees within communities who carry out various aspects of this total department. Where there is a request in terms of the community, the department is very willing to sit down and to discuss the formation of the...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Pearson, I presume now you are going to be on administration.

MR. PEARSON: That was not the question I asked. The question deals now specifically with the function of Health and Social Services and not with ad hoc committees within the community. Is the department willing to turn over the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services to the municipality of Frobisher Bay, for example; all of the welfare services and hand it over to the municipality with necessary funds, of course, the positions, the houses; simply a transfer of responsibility from Yellowknife to the community, not to the region but directly to the community?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think that in some of the smaller communities, maybe not in the larger ones, it has been the experience, it has been suggested by some of the municipalities, the larger ones, that indeed they do not want to get into this actual role. Certainly in some of the smaller communities these are in fact turned over to the settlement community councils. We would certainly be prepared to answer a request by municipalities. The department would sit down with the municipalities and certainly welcome that kind of intent or application, if you like, to carry out the functions of the department in the particular municipality. So I think that I could assure the Member that if in fact there are requests for it, we would be open to those kinds of requests.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Nickerson.

#### Municipalities Taking On Social Service Functions

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think the Honourable Member for South Baffin is up to his usual reprehensible tricks. It is not long ago, Mr. Chairman, that this Legislature saw fit to change the ordinance so that municipalities were able to take on such functions in the realm of social services as they might desire. It is also a fact, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Health and Social Services appeared before Frobisher Bay council and explained to that council, to the people of Frobisher Bay, what the changes were and how the people in Frobisher Bay, should they wish, could take over those functions. It is also a fact, Mr. Chairman, that letters were written to the chairman of the Frobisher Bay village council requesting him to enter into correspondence with the Government of the Northwest Territories and negotiate with the Government of the Northwest Territories, to find out how these things could be delegated to the community. It was expected because Frobisher Bay had on a number of occasions brought this to our attention, that they would be most willing to go ahead with this, that they would want to experiment, that they would be ambitious but what do we get? All the government got back after going through all this effort of sending the Minister to Frobisher Bay, of writing letters, was a letter from the village secretary, the chairman of Frobisher Bay council could not himself be bothered to reply to the letter, Mr. Chairman. This is the type of thing this government is up against.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I knew I should not have allowed you to ask that question, Mr. Pearson. But on a lighter note, I understand that it is Mr. Pudluk's birthday today and I presume that you will be doing the normal thing this evening and entertaining us, Mr. Pudluk.

---Applause

Now we are on page 10.07 and the title is administration and the amount of money is \$46,000 and I will receive no further questions other than on this subject.

MR. PEARSON: I have to be allowed to reply to Mr. Nickerson.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): If I had not let you start this a reply would not have been necessary so the Chair rules you out of order at this time. You will have to get even at another time, Mr. Pearson and I am sure you will find time. Details of grants and contributions, \$46,000. Agreed? Mr. Nickerson.

Northwest Territories Mental Health Association

MR. NICKERSON: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, where the annual grant which we make to the Northwest Territories Mental Health Association is shown. Also, while talking about that particular organization, would the Minister consider it to be a reasonable thing if that particular organization were to come under the umbrella of the Storefront Voluntary Agencies and avail themselves of the secretarial and other services rendered by that organization? Might it not be possible for the Mental Health Association to be just as efficient and do just as much work, but at the same time save the government quite a few dollars?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, in answer to Mr. Nickerson's first question, the grant to the Northwest Territories Mental Health Association is not in the health component of the budget but under the community social services and there is a grant for \$25,000. It will be under the social services component rather than the health. This one that we are discussing, that is page 10.07, deals with grants that have been made to the Storefront. There were seven present members in that Storefront under that umbrella. There are other interested organizations and possible future members of it and we would wholeheartedly like to go along with what the Member suggested, having the mental health come under the umbrella as well. However, I do not think the department tries to force these members to join the Storefront, but I certainly agree with what Mr. Nickerson is saying; it would provide additional services. I think all told, under this total Storefront organization, there are seven. We have seven particular groups now, present members for the Storefront for voluntary agencies and we do in fact make a grant to the Mental Health Association of \$25,000 and it is under the community social services. That would be on page 11.09.

Grants And Contributions - Grants, Administration, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Total grants, \$46,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - Health Services Branch, Administration, Agreed

Page 10.08, detail of capital, health services branch, administration, office furnishings and equipment, \$22,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Northwest Territories share of northern health services in the amount of \$890,000. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like under that particular heading to maybe have some explanation as to why the Baffin region is so much higher than the other regions in the territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, that capital expenditure in Frobisher Bay is for an addition to the hospital at Frobisher Bay and represents the Government of the Northwest Territories share of the total cost of that hospital addition. That share is based on a percentage of population split for which this government is responsible. The federal government at the present time is responsible for an additional or the greater percentage of this expenditure for the addition to this hospital. Last year we spent \$804,000. Our total share for the addition to the Frobisher Bay hospital is \$1.6 million. We spent the same amount in two years, but it is for an addition to the Frobisher Bay hospital.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Lyall.

Boarding Facilities For Natives

MR. LYALL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the idea being expressed by the people of the Central Arctic to build some kind of a boarding home that is going to be run by some native person so that the people that do stay in Yellowknife for any length of time -- I am speaking especially of the women that come up here and stay in boarding homes and have to stay with say white people who are not really giving them the type of food that they do eat. They are too shy to ask for it and they get very very bored staying with people, especially if they do not know how to talk English. This was suggested I think by most of the people from the Central Arctic. I would just like to ask the administration whether or not if this type of thing has come to their minds and are they thinking about doing something like this?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the department is in somewhat of a quandary at the present time, whether to do anything on an interim basis to provide this kind of a facility as opposed to what is being planned in the expansion of the Stanton Yellowknife hospital. We are at the present time trying to put together a proposal, that is the department is trying to put together a proposal for the administration so that we could submit it to Treasury Board. Within that proposal on the addition of the Stanton Yellowknife hospital would be facilities for approximately ten beds to provide that kind of accommodation that the Member is talking about for people who come from Central Arctic while they are here, while others of the family are here so that they can be with them. The quandary that we are in is to whether to now try to do something on an interim basis, or whether to try to incorporate it within the proposal that I mentioned and outlined for the Stanton Yellowknife hospital.

MR. LYALL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would be very happy, and I think the people of the Central Arctic would be very happy if that type of facility was available because of the fact that women who are out, come out to have a baby, have to get out of the community one month before they have to go to the hospital and some even spend as much as six weeks, seven weeks at a time in Yellowknife. I think, looking at those people, that putting the money towards a building as such, would be in the long-term, would be a very ideal thing to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Mr. Nickerson.

Request For General Discussion On Health

MR. NICKERSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have just been reviewing the transcript from yesterday and it appears what we have been doing is to discuss in general the social services part of the budget, this is what we did yesterday afternoon and then this afternoon we went straight on to the detail of health and I was under the assumption, Mr. Chairman, that what we were going to do was to proceed through the social services part of the budget before getting on to health. Well apparently that is not to be the case, so what I would request, Mr. Chairman, is that opportunity is given to us for a general discussion on the health budget at some point in time and also when the general over-all budget was first put before us, I requested at that time and the administration agreed that they would put forward a flow sheet diagram of funds for health expenditures in the Northwest Territories. Before we complete the discussions on the health budget, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if that could be made available?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Well Mr. Nickerson, the Chair, of course, is at the orders of this committee. However, I had thought that when we were dealing with this we were dealing with both as the title indicates at the beginning of this particular section of the estimates, Health and Social Services and I thought we had done both. However, if you feel, if the committee feels that they have not had adequate time, then I am at your disposal to take whatever action that you wish, but I thought both had been done yesterday.

MR. NICKERSON: If you will review the transcript, Mr. Chairman, I think you will find that we were discussing, using as a basis of discussion page 11.01 yesterday afternoon, which is, of course, just social services.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I agree with you. It is a technical point. I had not seen that there had been a division of the two in the book and I had thought that we were discussing both. However, if you feel that there has not been adequate time, certainly. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Honourable Member from Yellowknife North. I feel that for the discussion on the health services aspect we should have before us as a witness, as has been the case in the past, Dr. Covill, to provide detailed replies to some of the questions that Members may have. So, I would agree that we return to the social services aspect which the Deputy Minister of the department can supply us at this time, which is section 11.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Are you suggesting then, gentlemen, that we drop this where it is and go to page 11.01; is that your desire? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: It seems to me that we did finish. I do not know whether we finished the capital but we finished the general discussion. Maybe we should go to the capital, if that has not been completed, of section 11.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Well fine then. Shall we continue and finish capital and then go to general discussion on page 11.01? Is that agreed?

#### Necessity Of Calling A Federal Government Witness

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, am I to take it then that when we are dealing with health, that we are in fact wanting to get Dr. Covill here? You know, really this is our budget. He has an input into some part of health care but the budget is the department's budget. Anything that we deal with in legislation will, of course, be the Government of the Northwest Territories rather than the federal government.

I have no difficulty in dealing with social services before health. It does not really matter. Just in relation to Mr. Nickerson's request that he requested I think on Wednesday last, he himself indicated that it is a very complex subject, putting together a flow sheet type analysis of health care financing, because of the various components involved with it. I think we assured the committee and Mr. Nickerson that we would bring this together but, as I am sure he recognizes, it is not something that we can throw together very quickly because of the complicated aspects of this whole subject of financing for health care. That is not to say that we will not bring something together but it may very well take a little longer than would generally be thought.

But in relation to Dr. Covill and the federal people, you know, the legislation that we have is the Government of the Northwest Territories and I appreciate that the federal government is involved but they indicate in certain instances where they are going to set up some nursing stations. We have taken over in terms of Frobisher, as a semi-budget review of hospitals in Frobisher and Inuvik, for example. In keeping with that kind of thing that has taken over, I wonder about whether it would be necessary to hold the health in terms of waiting for Dr. Covill. I would respectfully suggest not. Mr. Chairman, his response to anything in here would be well, you know, it is your budget. You know, what do you want me to say?

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

#### Health Care Provided By Two Governments.

MR. BUTTERS: It is true that the aspect of the estimates that are being considered is those moneys that are being allocated by the territorial administration but I think we recognize that the provision of health in the territories today is being shared by two governments, one of which the Minister represents and the other which Dr. Covill represents from Edmonton. I think that we recognize also that what is occurring here in this exercise is that the administration of the territories is receiving advice about the capital expenditures, its proposed capital expenditures and its operations and maintenance money. So that takes care of the territorial responsibility and program.

If the Minister feels that Dr. Covill need not be here during that discussion of the budget well that is fine but I think that Dr. Covill should be here because he should hear concerns and recommendations and advice given by Members relative to the programs and services for which his department, and he as regional director, is responsible. In the past I think that this body has been able to influence the spending of the federal government although we have no say as to what and how much will be spent but I think as a result of Dr. Covill and his predecessor Dr. Butler, appearing before this House, changes and differences in allocations did occur as a result of advice received from Members. That is all I am trying to say, is that let us not exclude these guys until all the responsibility and all the financing is on the table before us. Let us have the feds with us.

#### Role Of Co-ordinating Committee

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong the argument or the discussion on this. Dr. Covill, of course, is the chief medical officer of health for the territories. He submits an annual report. We, as well, have a co-ordinating council that meets regularly and which submit various recommendations and suggestions to the federal people and of course would bring to these meetings the tone of various discussions and recommendations that emanate from this House. You know, I am not trying to say we should exclude him but I think when he does make his report the House could make known then their concerns, their recommendations to the federal people. However, that is entirely up to the committee.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I must say, Mr. Chairman, that I would consider Dr. Covill's presence at this time to be completely unnecessary.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Well we had by consent of the Assembly proceeded into the budget and it is my intention at this time to continue with the budget unless by way of motion somebody wishes to change the instructions. Mr. Butters.

Motion To Return To Social Services, Capital, In Bill 11-74

MR. BUTTERS: I move that we return to the section on social services and complete the capital considerations to be followed by the O and M.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Question. All those in favour? One, two, three, four, five, six. Opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Well now so I do not get into any further trouble with this thing, are there any remarks of a general nature on social services? It commences on page 11.01. Are you prepared to go clause by clause starting on page 11.11? Agreed?

---Agreed

Mr. Steen, if you are confused, do not ask me to answer the questions because I am just as badly confused.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask a question under the general comments of the social services or the administration as to what is the administration doing in regard to putting some of these people to work who are on social services to help cut wood for the older people in small communities, or even supply some local fish or meat? These people, especially the old people whom I find in the communities are unable to go out for their own country food so what they are stuck with is buying food from the stores with the little measly old age pensions that they are receiving. I think that we discussed this a few years, for the last few years now, to try to get the welfare recipient to help the older people to upgrade their life a little bit. Are they working towards this, is the administration working towards this?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the department, of course, have been looking at various communities with the idea of setting up some of the work programs, such as STEP, Subsidized Term Employment Program, to bring about some kind of interim employment. In other communities other agencies take on the role of providing certain services. Some band councils and even settlement councils take on some of these. We would hope that there would be in various communities a number of people or organizations or an organization that would feel or assume responsibility in this respect. Where there are organizations who would want to assume the responsibility, we work very closely with them. Further to that, I could not offer much more, I think.



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

Funding For Programs To Help Elderly

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, it seems from what Mr. Lyall from the Central Arctic was saying that there is a need for this kind of thing and that he saw the small social committees taking on this kind of duty. He has said, I believe, if I understood him rightly, to say that in his area there the committee has been successful. But what I am trying to say, I guess, is would these committees be able to obtain some money so that they could provide that kind of service? You said you were willing or the Honourable Minister said he was willing to negotiate but I do not believe he said that funds can be given to these committees to do this kind of thing.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, if I did not, I certainly did not intend that. Certainly there are various communities that make applications for various grants to carry on these particular responsibilities or to assume these responsibilities and if the Member knows of an organization or a group who would want to take on these from his particular area, he would make an application to the department. We would attempt to ensure that funds would be available for this group or organization to carry out the tasks or functions that he has indicated.

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

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the community does not know that this can happen. So, I will bring back the information to them and say just what the Minister has said, if any one community wants to set up a social service committee to carry out such things. Then I will pass this on. I believe he said that.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, when I first spoke of these social assistance committees, it was not in that line but I am happy to say that in the Central Arctic we are also doing that kind of thing that Mr. Steen has suggested. We have people working from the Department of Health and Social Services with old people or people that are bedridden or crippled, so that they can not do things for themselves. We have ladies going into their homes every day to do up their washing and this type of stuff and this has been very successful. Again I say in the Central Arctic I do not know why other communities -- it seems to me that everything that we discussed about Education and about Health and Social Services and with Local Government, it seems to me that the Central Arctic people are leaders in all of this stuff that should have been known to other communities long ago.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Mr. Pearson, for your information, we are back on points of a general nature on page 11.11, social services.

MR. PEARSON: What is the problem, Mr. Chairman, are you losing control or something?

---Laughter

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Between Mr. Nickerson and Mr. Butters, it got fouled up and I was blamed for the foul-up and it was not my fault. I was doing it right but they evidently did not agree with me, but I would not like you to miss your opportunity so go ahead.

Frobisher Bay Proposal On Social Services\_

MR. PEARSON: Thanks, you are very generous. I was pleased to hear the comments from Mr. Nickerson. Can I ask a question particularly to the Minister, so that there could be a re-emphasis of the approach that the department is taking and I support the approach very strongly. As yet we in Frobisher Bay have not been able to resolve the dilemma with the council now that we have a new council, as to what responsibilities they would like to assume, other than the dump and the roads. I hope in the very near future to be able to come to the Minister of Health and Social Services with a proposal to take over some of the major elements of the social services aspect of the community and as long as we get the dollars and all the other bits and pieces that go with it the community of Frobisher Bay will be more than willing to take upon itself some of these responsibilities. So thank you, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. Are we prepared now to go back to detail of grants and contributions on page 11.11? Total contributions, \$1,297,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that there is good progress being made in what one might term programs to combat alcohol abuse and it would appear to me that the drug and alcohol committee is doing very good work and is very much involved in the communities to assist and encourage the communities to tackle this very grievous problem on their own. This is just a feeling I have about it. I wonder if the Minister could provide me with some facts and assure me that this is indeed the direction things are going.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

Alcohol And Drug Committees.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate what the Member has indicated as to the good work that is being done by the community drug and alcohol committees and the co-ordinating committees, as to facts and figures, I would expect that at the spring session, the parent body would be submitting their annual report. I do not have some facts and figures and I would have to go to the body to get them and possibly the Member would hold off, if you like, until that report is made available. I want to assure him and other Members of the committee that indeed it is the point of view of the department and the administration in general to further this particular concept.

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will wait until the May session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, just a comment that I would like to make to the administration is that I hope, although I have not heard of this being done, that the people who work out in the field, the social development people who work out in the field, do not try and talk to settlement councils or associations of any kind in the communities to ban liquor out of the settlements because sometimes banning liquor out of the settlement does more harm to a settlement than good. It is getting so that I do not like to see liquor banned out of communities because of the fact that the other things get worse when taking liquor away. I am referring to, I think, Gjoa Haven for one place which went dry on the 23rd of January of this year and already we have one death by drinking other than alcohol, drinking methyl hydrate, a 24 year old woman with four children. This is the thing that I hope the people out in the field do not try to encourage. Let the people come out on their own and say that they do need help and sometimes as I say, taking alcohol away from a settlement does the opposite of what we are trying to do.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister, any comments?

Role Of The Department

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the role of the department of course is to provide information and assistance to people, not to promote one way or the other. I think that we have to provide, we have a responsibility to provide that kind of information and service to communities and the community co-ordinating councils, drug and alcohol committees, that I hope is their particular role as well. The people of a community have to determine themselves what, in fact, their wishes would be as regards prohibition or curtailment of the sale of alcohol in the community.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I seem to see a lot of money being spent on alcohol and drug prevention. Prevention in my way of thinking is before the fact, not after the fact. I think there are a lot of moneys being spent now on alcohol and drug committees. I mean we provide that kind of funds but there is no thought whatsoever given, I think, to what causes a person to take those measures to go drinking or taking drugs. These days now when there is a committee for this and a committee for that and you are a member of this committee and you are a member of another committee, pretty soon there is nobody left in the community anymore. Do you have to leave your family behind? Really there is nothing for those persons to do, so they tend to feel somewhat lonely while the rest of the family is gone. So, you know, really I think we should be looking at that before people start drinking more than after they have started drinking or taking drugs.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Pearson.

Effect Of Closing Frobisher Bay Liquor Store

MR. PEARSON: I just wanted to comment on Mr. Lyall's comments. Mr. Lyall seems to have the view that curtailing and a reduction in drinking habits within a community are bad for the community. I want to assure Mr. Lyall from personal experience that such is not the case. The community of Frobisher Bay has gone through some pretty rough times over the years and it has been a time of deterioration and the community action brought about the ultimate action of shutting down the liquor store which had a tremendous effect on the lifestyle of that community. There is not as much drinking going on. There is no such thing as prohibition. People can still drink. They can still go to the bar in the Legion and they can still import but the impulse buying from the liquor store is what has been curtailed. That has made an incredible difference in the community in terms of happiness of the children particularly and a tremendous reduction in crimes.

There has been one death due to methyl hydrate and one blinding from methyl hydrate. Our average has been over the years three deaths per year, usually by foul play, murder -- and the murderer killing himself or something of that sort -- accidental deaths, freezing. Since the liquor store opened we had 49 deaths and people that I knew and liked simply drank themselves into the grave. It seems as though there is a great improvement there now and I would urge any community that can curtail the problems that they have, alcohol problems, can reduce the problems in some way, that they are doing the right thing, being responsible.

In Greenland where there have been tremendous difficulties over the years, it is readily available in most places in Greenland except the difficulty there is the cost of the alcohol. But the problems nevertheless exist and are very real in Greenland and they are now taking drastic steps to allow the bars to be open two hours a day in some communities and two hours only certain days of the week and this apparently is having a very worthwhile effect on the community.

### Communities Have Responsibility

So, any community that wants to try to solve its own alcohol problems, this legislative body has given those communities that responsibility. We have given them that right to settle their own problems. We and anybody else that works for this government, any social services people, should assist and encourage organizations within the communities to help curb the abuse of alcohol that is going on across the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Pearson I think has misunderstood what I said. It is a good thing the way it is happening in Frobisher Bay. They do not cut it right out, that is what I mean. I mean, cut it completely out of a settlement. I mean I would not like to see the staff of Health and Social Services do this kind of thing, go around trying to get them to take liquor completely out of there. I understand that the person that started this fight against liquor store closing, or fighting to try and close the liquor store in Inuvik was one of the staff of Health and Social Services. This is the thing I was trying to say, that I believe personally when you deprive people of something, they have got to find something else to take over for whatever they were doing before. I say, do not completely take it out of a settlement, this is what I am talking about. In Frobisher Bay, the bars are still open and the people could still buy liquor from outside of Frobisher and this is not completely stopping liquor going into the settlement. Also personally I do not know about Frobisher Bay; ever since liquor was restricted I see in the papers more and more people going to court for using drugs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

### Sale Of Alcohol Based Products

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Well Mr. Chairman, I think just along with the point of discussion, that is the substitute being used and I think Mr. Lyall referred to it, the Health and Social Services together with the committee and various members and organizations within the town of Fort Smith, such as the RCMP, the band council, the Metis Association, the United Native Families group, the Chamber of Commerce, have talked to the various merchants about the sale of intoxicants, solvents and alcohol based products. What they have done there is to embark upon a program whereby they have reached an agreement with the merchants. The merchants in the community have a particular poster up indicating that the sale of a product in any one of those categories that I mentioned, solvents, alcohol based products like vanilla, Lysol, hair spray, glue, etc., are refused in the stores in Fort Smith. If anybody would really want them, they usually go to the store manager or the store owner and get it. That is the kind of program that is being done now with a group of people within that particular community.

### Government Staff Should Be Administrators

MR. NICKERSON: I think, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Lyall has a very valid concern. His concern is that very frequently the staff of the Department of Health and Social Services in particular but also of many other government departments, consider themselves to be advocates for a particular cause rather than as administrators of government policy. I think that our policy on this subject is clear; we want to give to the discretion of the local people whether or not they wish to impose prohibition or some form of rationing or have it wide open. But frequently in this and other matters, members of government staff, especially in the more remote communities, will see themselves in the leader's role and they are very active in these types of political issues. Maybe it is understandable, especially in the case of liquor because the staff of the Department of Health and Social Services know more fully than many other people, the bad effects of the overconsumption of liquor, so I guess we have to understand the reasons why they do this.

I think that Mr. Lyall is quite right and the Minister and director of the Department of Health and Social Services should insist that the staff of that department see themselves as government administrators, administering the policies laid down by the representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories, rather than seeing themselves in a political role as advocates of one particular policy or another.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to go back a few years and reiterate my comments. Some of the things that are happening in the North I do not like taking issue with, personal problems of people, but I do regard the individual people who are drinking and their problems as becoming a community health problem. As such, I feel that the government should be determining or developing policies through its social work and social development programs for the whole Northwest Territories rather than leaving that policy development to an organization which is partly political.

I have always raised this question and I say this for the following reasons. Number one, when people begin to engage with any group on the excuse of a community health problem and that can be anything from tuberculosis to alcoholism or drug addiction, then people tend to create or take issue with that body and usually controversies result and nothing can really be achieved.

However, we spend all kinds of money, although it is hardly not enough to contend with the growing problems of alcohol and drug abuse in the North. We are not really fulfilling the needs of the people to get themselves away from that environment. Not to dispute or take issue with anyone or any group or anybody for that matter, I think that we are going to have to develop the kind of policies that would direct the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council rather than having those people developing policies supposedly representative of those people who are addicted.

### Alcohol And Drug Problems Need Expertise

That is, in my view, like saying to a person you have cancer. That is like a doctor saying to a patient you have cancer. You tell me how to cure you. Somewhere along the line we must engage the medical profession, the expertise of social work and many other agencies, to deal with that specific problem and that has to be in two parts. One, alcohol. Two, drugs.

As Mr. Lyall pointed out, there are many many people who are turning to drugs and of course they cover for each other. That is like a bootlegger, like Mr. Steen's comments. It is Mr. Steen's I will use. If you shut the liquor off, the bootlegger comes in and the drinker protects the bootlegger because he depends on that resource, if you want to call it that.

We have a very serious problem and many of the people who are engaged at the community level are that type. They have a drinking problem. How are they going to arrive at a policy which is detrimental to their interest? My colleagues, I urge you to give this a lot of thought. The budget is not ample to meet the problems that exist. We know that. However, I am glad that this little bit of money is in that budget to deal with this problem. We should carefully consider what we are doing and perhaps even commit more money to it, to a policy that is developed by the government rather than an Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. I think they have to take direction from the representatives of the people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Alcohol Situation, Baffin Region

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I would also like to make a few comments. I understood very clearly the Member from Central Arctic, when he mentioned that the Central Arctic is running very well and I thank him for this. I would also like to tell you concerning Baffin region about alcohol. In Igloolik we are trying to fix up the problems that we are having about alcohol. We want to run our own affairs about bringing in alcohol to our community and if the government agrees with this, we are going to be using solutions that we are trying to and from this we will be running our own affairs.

I think the government is trying to run the communities too much concerning alcohol. I always have believed that when the people want to do what they are asking for, it would be a lot better. I feel that if the communities do not want alcohol they should not have it. It should be up to them and if communities would like to run their own affairs, it should not have anything to do with the government. It is their community so it should be up to them and this is the best way to run a community. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Comments of a general nature. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: What kind of support is the Yellowknife institution getting for its program which I think is probably one of the most effective in the Northwest Territories, probably the only one in the Northwest Territories? Does the government anticipate supporting any other organizations, such as the Yellowknife Detoxication-Rehabilitation Centre? I remember a motion I think to that effect a few years ago, which I made before the one in Yellowknife opened, that there be such places established across the Northwest Territories and the effect of it has certainly been impressive. I think that the people that it has helped have been quite substantial in numbers and that many of them are native people from the Arctic who happen to have been in Yellowknife and who have been aided considerably by that organization.

Recreation An Alternative To Alcohol

I agree with Mr. Lafferty that there has got to be more money put into that particular area of aid and help to people. I am still of the view that until we start putting some real money into recreation there will be the need for such facilities because it is through boredom, through lack of things to do. When you have a high rate of unemployment as we have, a great number of people who do not really do very much, a very high rate of dropouts from schools, there really is not much for them in the small communities. Very few of them have gymnasiums, very few of them, very few have arenas or any of those sorts of organized activities for kids and people because we are not putting enough money into it.

We should be putting millions into it, millions, not thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of dollars. I still feel that if the profits from alcohol went into it, it would show direct benefits from consumption of alcohol, put directly into recreation and into artistic things and to cultural things and cultural organizations for the native people. Music, get this fantastic band that you have got in Yellowknife, get it travelling around the Northwest Territories promoting that kind of activity. I think in many cases when the communities see such successful enterprises, that they will want to become part of it and take it on for themselves but there just is not the money. You know, this Assembly has that responsibility. We have the responsibility to set priorities for this government and you can talk about drugs and you can talk about alcohol. There are other alternatives and those alternatives are recreation and other pleasant things to do. So what was my -- oh yes, my question was...

---Laughter

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I thought you actually answered it.

MR. PEARSON: Are there any other detoxication centres being built across the Northwest Territories? It sounds to me like they really could use one in Inuvik and do Legislature Members get priority?

---Laughter

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

Detoxication Centres

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the Member will be happy to know that there is indeed a committee working on that very project in Inuvik. The detoxication recovery and rehabilitation program in Yellowknife, of course, is funded by the alcohol and drug program and there were seven or eight other smaller units in various places within the territories as well. The total amount of funding, I do not disagree with the Member, but it is in the vicinity of a million dollars; not for the Yellowknife one alone, but the total.

MR. PEARSON: But is no doubt less than a million dollars. It seems that some of the projects that are funded, I think, should be a little more carefully scrutinized by the department to ensure that they are going to be useful things. I remember the establishment of one such enterprise in Frobisher that was known as the alcohol information centre and I think the majority of the calls they got were from people that sounded something like, what time does the God damn liquor store open? That was about the only information they really had. There has to be a more careful scrutiny of them; that the motives of the people who apply for the grants are substantiated, well-founded and that the program should look to the department as though it were going to do some good. We used to have a man called Mr. Harold Huggins that always appeared at Assembly meetings and sat in the back row and sort of was very interested in the proceedings. Since he left, that aspect of the territorial administration seems to have been reduced a bit. Did somebody ever replace Mr. Huggins?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: Is he still active, whoever he is?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: But we solved our problems in Frobisher, so I guess we do not need him.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Mr. Chairman, you raised the business in Frobisher of the question that is always asked. That is why we shut the liquor store down, so we would not have to answer that question any longer. Seriously, I think that there is a lot to be said for everybody's position on this. A few minutes ago Mr. Nickerson, when he made his comments on it, pointed out that there is a tendency on the part of government to want to act and not only as innovator, administrator, but judge and jury also. I have to concede that he is right.

Allowing Communities To Decide

I remember one time at Pangnirtung he brought me up short on the fact that the decision to prohibit or to decide on the amount of alcohol or the distribution of it at a community was not my responsibility. It was the responsibility of the community, and he is right. There is a tendency for you to get carried away with yourself and I concede at the start of a program it takes some decisive, dramatic, dynamic action to focus attention on what you are doing. But there comes a time when you have to either know by instinct when to pull back or when it is sharply brought to your attention to accept the suggestions or the criticism or the view and indeed step back and right or wrong, allow the community to make the decision. Sometimes it is painful because you do not like the results and you have a tendency to think that you can do better.



Now, that leads me to the second point. You know, the reason government, regardless of who they are, whether it is social development or education or anybody else when they start something to want to hang onto it, is not because necessarily the pride of authorship but it is that they believe that they can do a better job. In many instances there are well-intentioned professionals. It is not only their vocation but it is their commitment to life and if you wish, to civilization itself and that is one of the problems. When government starts anything, they find it difficult to back away from it. That is the one thing that I have learned since I have been in government. You get started on something and maybe because it is convenient, maybe you have better discipline, maybe it is that you have a structure that if such things are not carried out you can then take action, be what it may, it seems that that is the best way of handling it and you can not help yourself. That is what I have found and I have been at times guilty of this myself.

#### Transfer Of Responsibility

So what I say here I do not direct at anybody in particular. Perhaps there might be a little bit of this behind the idea of decentralization, if you can not move the mountain and it will not come to Mohammed then perhaps the idea is to transfer the responsibility to a different mountain, a small mobile one. So there is a lot to be said for a lot of the things that you say but if you do and if you develop these things on a voluntary basis, on a community basis, then you have to accept that all areas are not going to go ahead exactly at the same time and that there may be some sweet notes coming out of one part of the orchestra but some pretty sour ones be coming out of other parts.

After all the human being is not a machine and can only go at a certain speed, that is one of the strange things about life. A polar bear knows he is a polar bear and a dog knows he is a dog and a fish knows he is a fish but the human being, he does not know what he is. He does not know whether he wants to fly or whether he wants to walk or whether he wants to swim under the ocean. He has not figured out yet what he wants to be and it seems to me that the human being is still evolving where all the rest of the creatures on the planet know what they are and are quite satisfied to be what they are but man is not. As a result of this, the world would be a much smaller, pleasanter place to live if there were no human beings. If I was the only one here I would have no trouble at all administering it.

---Laughter

But it does not work that way, so frankly a lot of what you have all said is right and I am not sure whether -- we certainly have not done everything and we should not as an administration sit back and say, boy, we have got a handle on it because we have not. But I think we are on the right track but what you have to always watch as a Council and I agree, set your priorities by all means and then it will be much easier for the Executive to relate to those priorities. But in setting those priorities you have always got to be watching the administration because of that tendency once they have started, to hang onto it and not to give it up because it is either more convenient or perhaps a self-inflicting disease that we feel we can do it better, that we can get results that we can get back or report to you or something of that kind. But somewhere in there, I think we are on the right track. We have a committee now set up. As I have said I was reminded a year ago that it is not my job to go around and declare this place dry and that one wet or things of that kind.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Hon. David Searle.

#### Overpromotion Of Recreation

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I have heard my colleague Mr. Pearson talk before about the need for recreation, particularly recreation facilities and I think it bears repeating that, at least in my view, the recreation facilities

are very much overpromoted. I think we have to always bear in mind that the cost of facilities in the North is just staggering, as we have seen from the cost of schools in Coral Harbour to the construction of correctional facilities here in Yellowknife or whatever. There is just a tremendous amount that can be done with virtually no facilities if people have the desire to do it.

Now, I appreciate that it is difficult to compare Yellowknife with any other community in the North because of the population that we have here but certainly in Yellowknife there is not a lack of things to do. I would suggest that there is an organization formed, alive and well for just about any endeavour that you can possibly think of. The problem that I find living here is that there never is enough time to do all the things that there are going and your big problem, particularly if you have a family, is to reduce the number of things that they get involved in. Just by way of an example, we have got curling, softball, volleyball, badminton, hockey, judo, a citizens' band radio club, scouts and guides, a drama association, a swim club, music bands, whether they be high school, junior high school or the city band, skills of crafts with pottery and weaving, cross-country skiing, skidoo clubs, movies, a gun club, a single parents' association, mental health, consumer's association, ratepayers, St. John, homecrafters, Alcoholics Anonymous. All of these things for the most part are voluntary and for the most part require minimal facilities.

#### Volunteer Organizations

What they are; they are organizations formed by volunteers who realize that there is a need and that other people wish to engage in that activity, so they get together and they form a club and they work away at it and they do their recreational thing, whatever it happens to be. So, I share the views expressed by the Commissioner and the views expressed by Mr. Nickerson that I am not so sure it is for us to be going around promoting all these things. If there is a need, if there is a will, people will get together and form these volunteer organizations and see that things are done.

If someone on the other hand prefers to sit before the television set with a case of beer or bottle of whisky in his hand night after night, then I guess that is his business. I just feel sorry for him that he would choose to do that, rather than get out and engage in some form of athletics or some form of community work or some activity that involves working with young people. It is tragic the people would waste their hours, which after all is their life, in that way. If that is what someone chooses to do, then I am not going to wax eloquently over it. That is his business. So with due respect to my friend, I think that there is recreational opportunity, proven interest in certain areas. If people do not choose to form these organizations and do these things, then I just feel sorry for them, but I feel no personal responsibility to go around beating the underbrush, dragging people out and handing them cross-country skis or volleyballs or skates or hockey sticks. You know, it is all there. The great outdoors is all there; the hunting, the fishing, the swimming, the boating, the skiing in the winter, whatever. If they do not care to make use of it, then it is a tragedy. They will miss a lot in life.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I do agree with all the comments that I hear. Hon. David Searle is quite right that the facilities are there and the great outdoors are there. However I am not particularly expressing or addressing myself to the general public, but rather to the problem of alcohol and drug abuse, which seemingly affects the total population. Not that everybody is a drunk but there are very small groups of people who are affected and they in turn affect the general community.

#### Follow-up Programs For Rehabilitation

In that sense, when I think of the alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs and the money involved, then I feel there is not enough money, not for the expansion of recreational and educational facilities, but I can understand Mr. Pearson. His comments I agree with entirely; that there should be follow-up programs with activities; that is recreational and educational. I would agree with that view. I know that the facilities are in place. I believe that Mr. Pearson is quite right by saying that we need to engage people in this kind of activity.

Why? For many times in the history of the country here, the history of the people, we say and it is getting so bad that the native peoples of the North are being labelled as being lazy, their work habits are inconsistent and many other things and we know these things are true but never do we look at the real root of the problem. Is it because native people are lazy, or is it because native people are stupid, or is it because the opportunities are not there? No, it is because they have a problem of either drug or alcohol addiction and although they may be small in numbers, for those that are addicted they do affect their family life.

If this is the case, the families in turn then make up our communities and it affects the whole community. In that sense, it is the root of our economic problem in the Northwest Territories. It is the root of our problem that affects our labour force in the Northwest Territories that we depend on for our proposed economic reforms, you know from a food gathering society to a wage economy. These things are true, you may laugh at it, you may think it is a bunch of crap. It is a fact, it is an issue with which we are confronted and we must talk to it. We must understand it and deal with it and if we are to understand and I say my God, let us take advantage of the existing facilities and expand it, then to do that it is going to cost more money. One way or another it is going to cost us money.

On the one hand if we continue to let this disease grow, it is going to affect our labour force and our businesses. On the other hand, if we are going to cure the ills of this problem it is still going to cost money but in the long run it is going to be cheaper to start the ball rolling today than it will be five years down the line. And in that sense, I would agree with Hon. David Searle that we do have the facilities, we have the outdoors, we have everything available to us. It is a matter of co-ordinating and determining priorities and that is going to take the community, it is going to take the government, it is going to take total involvement if we are to do that. All I am saying this is going to cost a little bit more money and I appreciate the figure here but I believe that it should be twice that amount, so that people out there in the field and the communities will have a chance to put forth their ideas that they can develop and identify the problems in their individual communities and that is going to cost money. That is all I am saying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. In view of the hour, we will recess for one half hour for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls this committee back to order for continued discussion on the Department of Health and Social Services vote. Still on comments of a general nature. Mr. Pudluk.

#### Recreation In The High Arctic

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, in Inuktitut, my English is getting worse all the time. Mr. Chairman, I will remark on what you have been discussing earlier. It is obvious that different communities have different problems and what have been discussed earlier about recreation and it is indeed wonderful to have recreation in communities. However, in small communities it is impossible to get some kinds of recreation especially the outdoor recreation where we have 24 hours of darkness in High Arctic unless you are going to play on the street and using the street lights. When you are going to play outdoors, you are going to have to use the street lights. You have to keep looking out for vehicles that might be coming on the road, while you are playing there. And when you get away from the street lights, it is too dark to play away from the streets when there are no street lights.

There is no community hall in our area, some do have some community halls or gymnasiums. It would indeed be best if you get the support in getting recreation. Up until now you have been discussing nothing but alcohol situations. I have seen some incidents, yes. I believe you are all telling the truth when you are discussing the alcohol. Also, I believe that it is impossible to tell anybody to stop from drinking. We do tell them to stop drinking. You would be saying absolutely nothing that is worth saying, if you try to tell other people to stop drinking. It is also obvious that each individual is different from the others. He must go according to his own conscience. If people tell them to stop, then they might go on to extremes where they do not want to bother stopping and carry on if they are told to stop by the others.

I think it would be much better if they are given chance to prove themselves. I have seen in one of the Yellowknife newspapers where it states that the column Street Talk -- I have seen that particular section of that paper and they also have said that -- that paper has indicated that these things, that they think they should have more recreation. Also, there is a problem too in High Arctic where if they do get a gymnasium, it is quite impossible to keep up with the payments, where they have to pay for their light and oil and keep the community hall going. Also, there was a statement where it indicated that we will be able to get help towards getting community halls. I up to now have not seen anybody being supported in running their community hall.

#### Stamping System For Ordering Alcohol

These statements were things that I wanted to say. Now I shall go on to another item concerning stamps. Those communities are trying somewhat to make use of this stamp for ordering alcoholic beverages, whereas in the High Arctic this stamping system creates more problems in the High Arctic. I think we must find a better solution other than this stamping system; the way it is now is that anyone who orders for a month, a supply for a month, he has to order six bottles maybe or two cases of beer or he sends his order out and the plane does not get to the communities for quite a length of time. Possibly if he had ordered a month earlier, if the order does not come in one month he would order another quantity for the coming month and when his two orders arrive at the same time, this creates a problem and this system is used, that is the way the stamping system works.

I think we need a different system of stamping. Each community should find their own system. I am sure this would be useful to some communities. I have observed that this stamping system does not work in some communities. You have indicated that communities will have more control within their communities and I am sure that they will be able to get their own system within their community. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have any comments with regard to -- Mr. Kilabuk.

Other Means Of Intoxicants

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Chairman, I have a short statement to make. I was indeed in agreement with the statements that were made earlier. I do have something to say towards the alcohol situation. In some communities where there is liquor available it is a possibility that where there is alcohol, plenty of alcohol in the communities that they might turn into some others. I have heard one time when the liquor store at Frobisher Bay was about to be closed, some of them will be getting into other things like drugs and things like that and I stated a while ago that there is an incident where I heard a little while ago that somebody has died in Frobisher Bay, also in my community, Pangnirtung, when they indicated that there was going to be no more alcohol being transported to Pangnirtung. I have also observed and heard that they will be turning to other things like inhaling gas or other sorts of intoxicants.

In the past four months there has been absolutely no alcohol into Pangnirtung. I have up to now not heard of people using other means of intoxicants so far up to now anyway. A lot of small communities are concerned about this particular situation, the possibility of using other means of intoxicants rather than alcoholic beverages. This is a concern for all small communities and we in our community, when we held a plebiscite, we had been going according to the plebiscite where it states that there was going to be no alcohol transported into Pangnirtung. Up to now I do not really know how it is going to be, whether it is good or whether it is going to be bad. It has been such a short time it has been closed. I do realize now that those who have been drinking a lot in the past are much happier in my community.

I have heard, when somebody made a statement earlier and I fully support it and fully believe it, that there should be more recreation activities in each community. However, it is also a known fact that recreation situations will not develop immediately. It will take time for people to make full use of it; it will take time. I personally think that recreation should be the one to be considered first and I am in full support of that. Once again, that recreation should be the first thing to be considered and I also have something in mind that each community's position be agreed to and that the position that the community makes should be put into practice. If that particular practice does not hold with the community, we will try to find some other means of solution to that particular problem. Now, my last statement, I would like to tell all of you that if you ever considered going to Pangnirtung, please do not carry any intoxicants. You might go to court.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thanks for the warning. Mr. Pearson, prior to coffee break, you had indicated that you wished to speak.

### Building Of Arenas

MR. PEARSON: Well, I just wanted to -- Hon. David Searle is not in the House at the moment, but I could not let the statements that he made go unchallenged. I think it must be wonderful living in Yellowknife. They seem to have everything that you have ever dreamed of -- Utopia. I can not imagine why the mayor of Yellowknife would want to even bother building another recreation centre when they have got all the wonderful inventory that Hon. David Searle just gave us a list of. I think the people of Yellowknife are to be congratulated for the initiative they show in entertaining themselves and there is no question about it. I am aware of the recreation facilities that exist here and the things that people get involved in, but that is Yellowknife. That is not the other parts of the Northwest Territories. That is not Pangnirtung and the constituency of Mr. Kilabuk. That is not the High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk's constituency and very few other Members have those kinds of facilities.

I do not think that the government should be running around building enormous arenas to entertain people. I think that the initiative should be taken by the community. In some cases it is being done but it is difficult for people who have come from a food gathering economy to suddenly take on the responsibility and the problems of community living, which are great as it is for the people, into large communities and the evolution and development of local government and all of those other strange foreign things. There are very few people in these communities who are capable, who have the time to sit down and try to organize community activities. Occasionally you will see an attempt at the scouts or the cubs or the brownies, that kind of thing but nothing of any lasting significance and of course we do not really have a program at all to train young native people to become community recreation leaders or community recreation directors.

### Direction Needed For Recreation

The recreation division of the Northwest Territories government is one of the very smallest divisions, one of the smaller funded divisions and the few dedicated people that work for the territorial government have a hell of a time travelling across the Northwest Territories because that is what they have to do. They have got over 50-odd communities, 60-odd communities to try to help organize something. They have a very small budget and I think the need is very real. As the Hon. Peter Ernerk mentioned the other day, the sealskins are not selling, the sculpture market is getting a bit top-heavy, there are a lot of people with a lot of time on their hands, a tremendous number of dropouts from the schools, both elementary and perhaps even kindergarten, who knows but I think that there has to be an awakening, an awareness by this Assembly. We are the ones who make the decisions. We are the ones who direct the government to spend the money.

I think we started off this discussion on alcohol and its education program but again we have an alcohol education department or an alcohol control, whatever they call it, department which has two people; a budget of about \$800,000 and the entire Northwest Territories and practically every community in the Northwest Territories has got alcohol problems of some sort. Now how the hell can two men or two people really cater to the -- and it is not only alcohol, it is drugs, it is the whole thing, alcohol and drug abuse. Two people, I mean they do have the resources of the rest of the department, yes and that is pretty substantial but you know it is not very much, is it?

Again, we have got to take a closer look at it and see if we can come up with something a little more imaginative and perhaps when we get round to the discussion which I am sure will come about on recreation over the next few days, we can deal with it then, we can give it some thought and see if we can not come up with some ideas for them and some direction for them. It is our responsibility. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. I wonder if the Chair might be privileged to ask a question. I think a good point has been raised inasmuch as there is the comparison of the alcohol problem relating to those communities that have a great many recreational devices at hand. Do you have any figures that you might be able to compare; settlements without recreation facilities as compared to a place such as Yellowknife on a per capita basis or anything of that nature? Are there any figures of that nature available to try and indicate whether or not recreation does have a marked effect on the dropping of alcohol problems?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, for my part no, we have not right now. I do not know whether we could determine them or not.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): It might be worthwhile looking into. Mr. Fraser.  
Dry Communities.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment. There is the community of Fort Franklin that voted to go dry and from all reports that I get from Fort Franklin it has done the settlement a lot of good. The younger guys are taking more to trapping, everybody has got a new skidoo and I think it has done that town a lot of good. Of course, there are some die-hards that are not going to quit anyway regardless, so what they were doing was going over to Fort Norman and the outcome of that was Fort Norman decided to go dry too, because a lot of the guys from Fort Franklin were coming over there. Now that that has gone dry, I do not know what the die-hards are going to do. They still have Fort Good Hope to fall back on but that is quite far away. Fort Good Hope did not even go in for rationing. That community is still in effect getting liquor.

Recreation In Mackenzie Great Bear.

However, I would just like to make a comment that from all reports coming out of Fort Franklin, it did the town a lot of good and the people are happier. Now, taking Hon. David Searle's comments in, and I did not think too much of them, talking about cross-country skiing and curling and hockey and this. It is strictly Yellowknife again. We do not have those facilities in the smaller settlements. So, whatever the recreation is, it is either going out on the skidoo or going hunting or trapping. Once the skidoo period is over, Fort Franklin is sort of one of the better settlements I guess you could say, because they can go out on the boat, just go across the bay and catch fish. A lot of them do.

Fort Good Hope has a small fishing place just down the river that they utilize in the summer months. They take their families down and stay down there for the summer. There are two or three fish camps. I guess you could call it outside recreation. They live in tents to get away from the town. Fort Norman is the closest settlement to Norman Wells. It is only 44 air miles and possibly about 50 by the river. I think you will find that a lot of the people from Fort Norman will attempt to get employment in Norman Wells.



Norman Wells is a settlement that does not have any welfare. I do not think there is anybody on welfare in Norman Wells. Am I right, Mr. Minister? There might be one or two but that is not because there is a shortage of work. They are probably in need of welfare. At one time we were short of housing in Norman Wells but not any more. So, I think you will find that mostly the guys that have nothing to do will probably be coming into Norman Wells. What I would like to see for recreation, is not recreation actually, it is employment and it will probably come up in one of our other meetings with Hon. C.M. Drury, an all-weather road into Fort Franklin and an all-weather road into Norman Wells. Now this is not really a form of recreation but it is still something for them to do. Once the trapping season is over I do not think there is much these guys can do and if they do not turn to some type of recreation or some type of employment we are going to be right back where we started. So, those are my comments, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: I forgot what I was going to say.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Is that disease catching on that side of the table today? Comments of a general nature or are we prepared to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Yes, Mr. Pearson, I knew that would jog your memory.

---Laughter

A Report Needed On What Recreation Facilities Do Exist

MR. PEARSON: Okay, I remember what it was. We have heard from Members here and I think it is fairly well expressed by everybody except Hon. David Searle...

---Laughter

...and there is hope for him yet that there is a very -- no the roast has not started yet -- that there is a great need across the Northwest Territories for recreation, there has to be and I would like to suggest that there be an examination. You asked the question yourself, what facilities do exist, what are they, how many communities have what? I think it would be a very enlightening endeavour for the administration to take stock of what exists in the Northwest Territories and perhaps in May to come back to this House with a report, a review of all the facilities that exist. By looking at that, we can see the areas that need attention, that need an injection of money, that need some assistance.

You see, by providing recreation facilities, and I use that word in its broadest possible sense, people will be able to help themselves. It will take a great burden off the government once provisions are made for them and once a real help program is made for them, once the division of recreation is expanded to be able to deal with the people in the Northwest Territories. When it is such a small division they can not possibly cope with the whole thing. So I would put it in the form of a motion. I move that the administration examine the recreation facilities across the Northwest Territories and report back to this House at the next session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Pearson, would not that motion be more properly made when we are dealing with the budget on recreation?

---Laughter

MR. PEARSON: All right, if you decide. Will you vote for it then?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. David Searle.

Recreation Facilities Are Available

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I am just not going to let my friend misinterpret my comments so blatantly. I did not disagree that there was need for recreation. What I said was that there was tremendous opportunity in the Northwest Territories for recreation and that I played down the need for a lot of great big facilities. I pointed out that in Yellowknife where we do not have a lot of facilities and notwithstanding that have a tremendous number of organizations of a volunteer nature that provide recreational opportunity in just about every possible activity that you can think of. And though some of them may indeed not be suited for Fort Norman or Fort Franklin, they are activities that are engaged in here with a minimum of facilities, often a classroom that they just meet in and you can not tell me that you can not do cross-country skiing at Fort Franklin. Now, maybe the people do not do cross-country skiing but that is an outdoor activity that can be done anywhere in the Northwest Territories and there are some places where downhill skiing can be done, not in Yellowknife really but I do not care what you do or whether you do anything at all.

The point is that these are things that can be done, they are available to people with a minimum of facilities and whether you care to do them or not is up to you but they can be done here and they are being done here in the Northwest Territories. You can make all the distinctions you want with Yellowknife, but the fact is with a population of 20 per cent of this territory, it is underfacilitated, if you are following the debate that goes on in city hall with what they would love to build. Now, that is putting the thing in its proper perspective. I am a great supporter of recreation but I do not think you need to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Any other comments of a general nature? Mr. Fraser.

Alcohol And Drug Co-ordinating Council

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, just a couple more comments. Mr. Pearson mentioned a budget of \$800,000 for alcohol and drug and that there are only two guys running the whole show maybe I could just set him straight on it. It has been always the beef that there are too many government employees and now there are not enough. However, we have a committee, I think an Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council of 15, who travel to different communities and they meet every three months, I think it is and applications go into the alcohol and drug program. Maybe there are only two guys in the office here but they still do not have the final say until it comes in front of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council which is made up of different people from all over the territories, different organizations and I do not think there is anybody that is left out. You could even join, I think, Mr. Pearson. Maybe I could just set you straight on that.

Another comment I would like to follow up on Hon. David Searle; he is contradicting himself I think a little bit because he mentioned the first time that there were a lot of facilities in Yellowknife. Now he said there are facilities all over the North. The facilities are not there. The activities are. I would say the activities are definitely there if they want them, but then the facilities are not what we have in the big communities. I am telling you this again and I know it, that the facilities are not there, the activity is. Cross-country skiing you can do anywhere where there is snow and they do it, but I think that once a year they send the kids out to different communities to compete with other settlements and the ones that come up on top maybe get to the Arctic Winter Games or whatever. But I still disagree; we do not have the facilities for recreation in the small communities that we have in the big communities.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Any other comments of a general nature? Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Do you think, Mr. Chairman, that we stand the slightest possibility of returning to clause by clause study of this bill, leaving the further subject of recreation until we get to it? I would like to suggest we move to clause by clause study of this bill.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I think Hon. David Searle is getting ahead of himself. He is the one that started this debate on recreation. Now he wants to get rid of it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Well, I will stop it right now. I have tried my best to keep this thing on track but the more I tried the worse we wandered. It is a subject that really is very difficult to contain inasmuch as there is so much involved relative to this section. I suppose recreation in part plays a predominant role as far as alcoholism and certain of these problems go but if you are ready to go clause by clause, I certainly am. I have been for some time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Grants And Contributions - Total Contributions, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): We are on page 11.11, detail of grants and contributions, total contributions, \$1,297,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - Total Administration, Agreed

On page 11.12, detail of capital, administration, total administration \$89,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - Total Corrections, Agreed

Corrections, total corrections on page 11.13, \$1,680,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Hon. Arnold McCallum, please.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, under the next section, child welfare, receiving and group homes in the Fort Smith region, the addition to the receiving home is not in Yellowknife, it is in Hay River. Could you make that change?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Correction, a correction then under child welfare, addition to receiving home should read Hay River instead of Yellowknife. Child welfare. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Can I ask the administration are there any moneys going to be provided to Spence Bay for that new building that the Commissioner turned over to them this fall, to help them furnish it and keep it going?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure just what building the Member is talking about nor the purpose for which it was turned over. I do not know the purpose behind it nor do I know what building he is referring to.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Lyall, could you possibly get together with the Minister later and check this over with him?

MR. LYALL: I beg your pardon?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The Minister does not know the building that you are referring to and would need more details. Can you get together with him privately and iron that out?

MR. LYALL: Okay, very good, I will, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Child welfare, total on page 11.14 of \$312,000. Mr. Nickerson.

Receiving Home In Hay River

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I notice that any sums of money to be voted for the receiving home in Hay River are conspicuous by their absence. I trust the chairman will not object to me talking about Hay River because he is unable to do so being in the chair. I wonder if we could be advised whether or not the planned completion of construction at Hay River, a matter which we voted for in the affirmative last year has taken place and if not, what exactly are the plans for the receiving home in Hay River?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think that just prior to Mr. Nickerson coming in, I indicated that under receiving and group homes, the addition to the receiving home, it says Yellowknife. I made a correction to that and it should be Hay River.

MR. NICKERSON: I am sorry that I did not catch that, Mr. Chairman but I wonder if we could be given any kind of assurance because in the last three years we have voted for the completion of the Hay River receiving home and it has not taken place. I wonder whether we could be given any assurance that actually the funds that we vote for this particular purpose will be used for the completion of that construction program.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yes, definitely.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I have noted the reply, Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I knew very well that you would.

Capital - Total Child Welfare, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Child welfare, total \$312,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - Total Medical Social Services, Agreed

Medical social services, total medical social services, \$7000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - Total Community Social Services, Agreed

Community social services, total \$35,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Recoveries, Agreed

On page 11.15, recoveries, total recoveries \$300,000. Agreed?

---Agreed ..

Total Transfer Payments, Agreed

Transfer payments, \$6,545,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Operating Income, Agreed

Total operating income then will be \$6,845,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Administration, Agreed

I presume now that you are prepared to go ahead with the operations and maintenance budget of the Department of Health and Social Services; is that correct? In your black book if you will turn to page 11.02, you will have a breakdown -- pardon me, page 11.01 is the beginning of it. You will have a breakdown. Dealing with page 11.02, total 0 and M, \$3,560,000. Agreed? I only have one agreed, gentlemen. Two. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Corrections, Agreed

Page 11.03, operations and maintenance, under corrections, \$2,503,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Vocational Rehabilitation Of Disabled Persons, Agreed

On page 11.04, vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons, total 0 and M, \$50,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

On page 11.05, child welfare, 0 and M, \$3,072,000. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I wonder if we could be given any of the results or partial results of the survey which we were advised is being undertaken with respect to child welfare facilities in the Northwest Territories. I wonder if any recommendations have so far come about as a result of that study.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the department has carried on discussions with the primary researcher and it is our understanding that he will be submitting a summary report very soon. We do not have it at this point.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Child welfare, total \$3,072,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Am I correct in believing that we have already completed the capital?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): That is correct, Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Holy smoke, where was I? All the capital?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): All the capital of the Department of Health and Social Services, yes.

MR. BUTTERS: All the detail of capital on pages 12, 13, 14. All that capital?

O And M - Child Welfare, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): It is marvellous our capabilities, Mr. Butters, when you are not here. Page 11.05, total O and M, child welfare, \$3,072,000. Agreed? Are we agreed, gentlemen?

---Agreed

Page 11.06, medical social services and special care, O and M, \$1,398,000. Mr. Butters.

Responsibility For Old Folks' Residences

MR. BUTTERS: I look particularly at the statement regarding provision of services to meet the special needs of the aged, ill and handicapped adults. In my constituency and I think a similar situation has occurred in the Mackenzie Liard riding, old age pensioners, the aged or persons suffering an infirmity who are housed in, for want of a better word, old folks' homes, are administered to in terms of their housing requirements through the local housing associations. This arrangement has created difficulties in my particular constituency, difficulties which I have communicated to the Deputy Commissioner on a number of occasions and difficulties which I have also communicated to the Commissioner on a number of occasions. The desire of the people that reside in the old folks' home in Inuvik, in my understanding is that they wish to have the responsibility for their accommodation removed from the local housing authority, to come within and under the Department of Health and Social Services.

Let me give you an example of the situation that can occur in what may be called an old folks' home. A few days before Christmas, I had occasion to visit an elderly constituent and I went into the building and found that the building at that time was being heated by ovens. The heat exchange in the building was not working and everybody had their oven door open and that is how the building was being heated, two or three days before Christmas. That method of heating had been carried on for -- this was about the third or fourth day.

Now this is a pretty shocking state of affairs. You know, the need has been communicated to the organization but apparently no action could be done. Following my discussion I went over to the territorial Department of Public Works and found them very very willing to correct the matter, to step in but they are not required to do so. The doctor had just been called down a few hours earlier because the elderly people were much more than inconvenienced, with possibly their medical condition being threatened by these untoward circumstances. So there was a situation where this massive bureaucracy that we have was unable to act to assist these people. I have made it plain to the Deputy Commissioner one method by which this situation could be corrected, and it is that the Department of Health and Social Services take over the responsibility of administering to the total needs of the people in these dwellings, including their housing requirements.

Currently there are frequent visits made by social workers because in effect many of these people are almost in care situations. If it were not for the existence of these buildings in the community they would be patients in hospitals. The elderly people, some of them in their 80's and in their 90's do not wish to be dependent. They wish to maintain themselves as long as they possibly can and they do an excellent job of it. It is just that I feel that their needs would be much better served -- and not only I feel, they feel, they feel their needs would be much better served under the aegis of the Minister's department than the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the Deputy Commissioner has never been able to convince me any differently.

Motion To Return Responsibility For Old Age Homes To Health And Social Services.

I now make a motion that the over-all management of old folks' residences or homes be returned to the responsibility of the territorial Department of Health and Social Services.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): To the motion. Mr. Deputy Commissioner.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I know a good deal about this situation that Mr. Butters raises. There is no question that he has raised this concern with us and there is, further, no question that we have not looked at it very carefully because we have. This is a classic case of some kind of a flip flop. You know, we have, as a government, made many many attempts on the direction of this House to place things under local control, to put the activities in the hands of local people. The operations of these senior citizens' homes which were built with territorial and to some extent municipal and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation money, have been placed for the reasons of their funding under the direction of housing associations or housing authorities.

Unfortunately there are communities in which the housing authorities and the housing associations have not really proved adequate to the task. In the case of Inuvik it was not a case, as has been suggested of a failure on behalf of the massive bureaucracy. It was in fact the massive bureaucracy that was appealed to to correct the situation which had been turned over to a local group. I think there is some need for Council direction here. I have sympathy for the situation. Maybe local associations are not really ready or prepared to handle this kind of an operation. I would hope they could. I think they are doing it in quite a number of places. Maybe we would have to be selective. In at least two places, Yellowknife and Fort Simpson, the Minister's department has supplied funds and made arrangements with the local housing authority to give them some assistance so they can provide a higher level of care. Now, that is the kind of co-operation and co-ordination that I think we should look forward to.

Authority Of The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

In the case of other associations and authorities, they do in fact answer to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, but if the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation moves in on these authorities and associations too often, if they take back again their powers, very soon the housing association will fold or throw in the towel and say well, if the government wants to run it or if the corporation wants to run it, fine. It is a very thin line that we are walking in trying to get local people to take care of local concerns. I have gone around it a couple of times.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we would prefer to see no mass or over-all transfer of senior citizens' homes from housing authorities' and housing associations' control back to being placed directly under a government agency, such as the Department of Health and Social Services. But if in individual instances the situation is not working properly, then I think we would be more than pleased to accept and should accept the responsibility for making local arrangements to help out. I think the arrangement was made there where our Department of Public Works did step in. Perhaps there is a need to make certain that the housing associations realize that they can call on other people's forces, on our own government forces, to help them in times of need.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Commissioner. The motion as I have it, that the over-all management of old age homes be returned to the control of the Department of Health and Social Services. Is this correct, Mr. Butters?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): That is fine then. I have other speakers before I will recognize you. Mr. Fraser, you indicated you wanted to speak.

MR. FRASER: I was not going to speak to the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I will get back to you. Mr. Fraser, go ahead.

MR. FRASER: This comment is not to the motion. It is to do with the activity...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Oh, no I am just to the motion, I am sorry. Mr. Nickerson to the motion.

#### Problems With Mixing Responsibilities And Financing

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that I will have to vote against this motion. It appears to me that maybe the Honourable Member has not really given this matter enough thought. I have lived with that particular problem for some time and I would like to support fully what the Deputy Commissioner just said about it.

I think on the one hand it would be improper of us to encourage devolution, to encourage local responsibility and then as soon as the local organization has a little bit of difficulty dealing with a serious problem, immediately take back all the authority that has devolved upon them. I think that that would be an error on our part. We know that sometimes local organizations like that might take some time to deal with a problem and when the living conditions of elderly persons who can not really look after themselves are at stake, sometimes we would like to move in and put things to right as quickly as possible. It is a very difficult decision to make at times.

We must remember, as the Deputy Commissioner said, that in the final analysis, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Commissioner, does retain the right to take things over and put matters to right if that is absolutely necessary. So I do not think we would countenance an old person starving to death, say, if such a case ever arose. We would move in before that actually happened.

In all practical circumstances, I think the staff of the Department of Health and Social Services have acted wisely and well and through their powers of persuasion, using those rather than authority, they have managed to deal with most if not all of the problems. Sometimes perhaps not as quickly as people would have liked but they eventually have come to a solution which was a practical solution and did not take back from the local authorities, or the local people, those powers which this House have said belonged at the community level. There is also the problem of mixed financing, which the Deputy Commissioner referred to, but I do not want to go into in any detail again. Those, Mr. Chairman, are my reasons for opposing this motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): To the motion. Are there any other speakers before I recognize Mr. Butters? Mr. Steen.

#### Difficulties In Finding Responsible People

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I think listening to what Mr. Nickerson has just said is that the problem in Inuvik is a little bit more serious than that. I think the problem really is that local associations are not always easy -- the members are not that easy to find. They have got jobs to hold and where we find the difficulty I guess is that; who do you see? Are these local associations working directly with Northwest Territories Housing Corporation? Most of the time they are not, especially the board members of the association, and in the Inuvik region there is a great difficulty in trying to find responsible people to administer housing problems there.



So where I think the real problem is is that you know, as far as what the Deputy Commissioner has just said, that we do not want to take anything away from the existing associations but I think it becomes really more serious than that. We have to really be more efficient and to be more efficient, we have to have responsible people paid by the welfare services or the Department of Public Works, or whoever has the expertise in fixing furnaces and so forth. I think that the local associations are not quite capable of handling everything. They can handle some of it but not entirely to the liking of myself and Mr. Butters.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Steen.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): There is a motion on the floor and the motion reads that the over-all management of the old age homes be returned to the control of the Department of Health and Social Services. We are debating the motion right now. Mr. Stewart.

Old People Should Be A Community Responsibility

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hay River fortunately has a very good organization, the local housing committee, and as a matter of fact, they have the only real conveyance in Hay River to look after the buildings inasmuch as they have a service man. They are the only people in Hay River that do have such a department and this man is available on 24 hours notice and he looks after all of our buildings very well. We do not have a Department of Public Works such as Inuvik may have because we are not a regional office. Now, we have been trying here to get the authority back to the communities. We have the authority here. Now we are going to turn around and give it back to the government. Now surely to goodness, if we can not look after our old people ourselves within a community, what kind of a community have you got.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STEWART: If we can not do that, then surely we should fold up our tent and go away. I can in no way support this motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, listening to the motion, I do know that it is drafted with good intentions, but the fact remains that in Fort Simpson we have had much problem with our services to the old age people and we still do. Over the last year we have copied much of Hay River's approach as to the requirements of the old people. We have similarly established a local housing association which is now responsible for the keep of the old people in relation with the Health and Social Services people. It seems to have improved the situation in which the old people have existed in the past. I would like to see the expansion of this type of activity at the local level and again as Mr. Stewart said, that we have always expressed a view that there should be local control and local developments and this type of thing. I think that in view of that, I would be not against Mr. Pearson, but rather I can not accept that motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Pearson. To the motion.

Senior Citizens In Frobisher Bay

MR. PEARSON: To the motion. I have not listened to all the debate but the basic principle is one that I do not particularly like. I think that Mr. Stewart hit the nail on the head. We have discussed earlier today the view that some of the social services should be handed over to the communities so that they would become more directly involved in running their affairs and with that in mind, I would vote against the motion. Hopefully in the near

future there will be a senior citizens home built in Frobisher Bay and I would expect at that time it would be maintained by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, but maintained or rather operated by the municipality, as I hope ultimately all social services in the community will be handled by the municipality. So, thanks, but no thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I hear question. All in favour? Mr. Butters, sorry about that.

MR. BUTTERS: I have a few comments before closing. The Deputy Commissioner as usual is very consistent in his response and what he provided the House is what he provided me over the past six or seven months. I appreciate that the former minister for Health and Social Services may have seen in my remarks a criticism of his staff, his personnel and this certainly was not intended. I think their efficiency is the reason that the old people in Inuvik desire to have a closer association with them than they obviously have now. However, I would agree with him though that possibly had we not moved so quickly through capital, I would have worded the motion a little bit more carefully and recognizing that each case should be judged on its own merits. The motion as it reads now, it is a blanket return of the management of all old people's residences back to Health and Social Services. I can appreciate the resistance of Members to this wording.

The point I am making is that in this case -- we heard the Commissioner talk today about things always not ending up four-square. Noting that in the application it gets bent a little, it is pushed around a little and that is the way the administration has gone. Mr. Evaluarjuk pointed out too that people that are in the communities should be able to make their own decisions in matters that affect their life. We have heard a great argument by both the Deputy Commissioner and by Mr. Nickerson relative to the devolution of responsibility but really what they are saying is that the elderly are pawns of this devolution and they seem to be suggesting that that is too bad about the elderly people. It is too bad that these people had to heat their dwellings with their ovens for days, that is tough, that is the price we are paying for devolution says Mr. Nickerson.

#### Elderly People Are Pawns Of The Policy Of Devolution

I do not agree with that, I do not accept that. I think the elderly people require care to a greater degree than those who live in public houses. You know, the Deputy Commissioner talks about decentralizing this management responsibility; how many elderly people sit on the housing associations; how many elderly people run for housing associations. I mean those people over 65. The elderly have no voice in housing associations. The elderly people are pawns of this government's policy of devolution, it would appear. I can accept the arguments made by Members, I can accept the decision made by Members to reject this motion but I think that a lot of the blame lies on me for wording my motion a little too quickly. But I have a point, my friends. I have a point and when you reject this, remember the point that you reject and when you reject this, remember that the administration is in the final analysis, responsible for the care and keeping of old people and although you may decide and dispose, the final result will be determined by what the Commissioner thinks is right.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Anybody else? Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I have to vote for the motion regardless of what has been said over the last couple of years about devolution. I know this House has been calling for devolution in every aspect of the word. Now I think that if you can only devolute or pass that on to the local people, I think that when we really say we want devolution in the community, we should also remember that we can not forget them, we can not forget the people that you give responsibility to. We have to help them along and here we are finding a problem in the Inuvik region where there are not that many people responsible enough to handle that particular department. For areas where there are not that many people interested in governmental work. There are people who are working in the community who are responsible but they have their own responsibilities to take care of.

Somewhere along the line, someone has to help these old people. We just can not forget them and usually they are the people that do not make any noise. I surely will have to support the motion because there is no other way, unless the Department of Health and Social Services is willing to give responsibility to settlement councils to handle these social problems in the community but right now there is not any. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Question being called. Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Monitoring The Situation More Closely

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be most regrettable if this motion or the discussion came down to us drawing up sides as to whether we were in favour or against support for our senior citizens because you know that just simply is not the case. For myself, I have no desire that they be used as pawns in any local struggles and I am rather confident that Mr. Nickerson would share that view. What I think must happen is that we could give an instruction or give advice to our field offices that they monitor the operation of homes for the aged, senior citizen homes; that they monitor them rather carefully so that if there are mechanical troubles or operational troubles developing that they are nipped in the bud and that they are corrected and that help is offered to the association.

I think that that could be done in such a way as to not usurp the authority of the associations. I think it could be done in such a way that the associations and the housing authorities would not be weakened. You know, there is a good way to offer help and there is a bad way and I think if it is done right, then the older people whom we are all concerned about will not suffer. I am confident that between Hon. Arnold McCallum and I, we could make such an arrangement with our officer to monitor the operation of homes for the aged more carefully than perhaps they would other elements of public housing. It is true that other people in public housing have perhaps a bigger voice and maybe we have to monitor the situation more, but I think we could do that as an alternative to transferring the authority.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Kilabuk and Mr. Pudluk and Mr. Evaluarjuk made the point today that each community should have the right to make their own decisions. Now really what is happening here by way of this motion is that indeed Inuvik or the Inuvik representative is imposing upon all communities in the territories a way of operating their particular housing problems with regard to the aged and I do not believe that this proper in any respect. I have no objection whatsoever if indeed Inuvik wants to remove their old age home and put it under some other department. That is their privilege, but I do not want them to tell every one of us how we must do it and that in effect is what this motion says and that is really why I oppose the motion. I just can not agree with it at all.

It would be a terrible backward step of this Assembly to approve such a motion because we spend all of our time saying just exactly the opposite thing. We do not want to be told by Inuvik. We do not want to be told by Yellowknife. We do not want to be told by the administration. We want to run our own things in our own community and here is a motion on the floor just to do the opposite. Now, surely this motion has got to be defeated, and it should be defeated unanimously because it really is a complete opposition of what we have been talking about here for a week.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Lyall.

Local Control Wanted

MR. LYALL: My light does not work I think up there once in awhile, so that is why you have had to call me a couple of times. Mr. Chairman, the thing is I was not going to speak to this motion at all but I pointed out this afternoon earlier, I think Mr. Butters was out of the House when I did that, with your health and welfare committees in settlements, that they do have people looking after the aged and they are there every day in the homes of these aged people or disabled or whatever. I think because I have said that earlier and I am agreeing exactly with what Mr. Stewart is talking about, that we want local control, I will be voting against this motion also.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Mr. Butters.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, could you...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Pudluk, go ahead.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, could you repeat that motion?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The motion reads that the over-all management of old age homes be returned to the control of the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Butters.

Definition Of Monitoring

MR. BUTTERS: I listened to the remarks of the Deputy Commissioner with much interest. I think that what he puts forward carries a great deal of wisdom. I wonder if he might be more specific in defining the word "monitor".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Deputy Commissioner.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: To monitor, to watch over, to oversee, to keep an eye on. I do not really mean to joke with the Member but I think that most of our communities are relatively small communities. There is a government person of some nature in every community. Whoever is the senior person in the government establishment in the community could be given a special responsibility which he might assign to someone, to make an occasional visit to our senior citizen homes and to just ensure that things are going along nicely without intruding himself particularly. If there were signs of trouble -- and as I say in small communities, pretty well everyone knows what is happening -- then try and get the parties together to straighten it out before it develops or make a very firm and strong offer of help if it is of a physical nature, if it is of a mechanical nature.

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

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, before the debate closes I would like to say that neither the motion nor any of the remarks that I have made in any way depreciates the work that is done by housing associations. In no way am I attempting to say that housing associations are not serving a very very important place in our communities.

Motion To Return Responsibility For Old Age Homes To Health And Social Services, Withdrawn

The main point is that there may be some area of their responsibility which is ignored or which is being overlooked and I feel that this is one of those areas and having said that and having listened to the Deputy Commissioner's remarks, I withdraw the motion.

---Applause

O And M - Medical Social Services And Special Care, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Comments of a general nature, we are on page 11.06, medical social services and special care in the amount of \$1,398,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

I direct your attention to page 11.07, alcohol and drugs, in the amount of \$800,000. Agreed? Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Well somebody suggested that when we got to this we could ask some questions about it and the question I would like to clarify is, what is the total number of staff involved in that program? How many bodies?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, there were two people at the headquarters level involved with the program. In the field, of course, we have field personnel. I think that pretty well all people in the field are involved with the department to some extent. There is a provision for a 21 member co-ordinating committee involving a great number of people. These people were from all over the territories and they were involved with it as well.

MR. PEARSON: How much effort is being made by the group, by the two, the pair, the Yellowknife pair, to develop drug information, anti-drug information, drug abuse information and getting it out to the schools? The glue, the drugs, the Lysol spray, hair spray, after shave lotion and all those other delicacies?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the headquarters people are working with or are in conjunction with the Department of Education to prepare materials for use in the schools. As well they are trying to construct material in forms of posters and pamphlets with the Department of Education for use, not only in the schools but in the adult community as well.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does that answer your question, Mr. Pearson?

Help From The RCMP.

MR. PEARSON: Yes. I mean, how vigorous is the program? Are they using the RCMP as part of the resource? You know, do they sort of recruit the services of the RCMP to do the work in the communities? I mean, two people can not cover all the schools in the Northwest Territories. In most communities there are police and what have you, whom I am sure would be willing to participate in an education program of that sort, talking to kids on a community level about the dangers of abuse in this particular area. A poster up on the wall is all very well and good, but...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Your question then is, Mr. Pearson, that you want the administration to give you more detail as to what they are doing for the control of drugs?

MR. PEARSON: Yes, I would like that. That is sort of what I am asking. I am trying to determine the vigorousness of the program. I am trying to determine if they feel the two people are adequate to do the job, to try to counteract what has become and will become an even greater menace to life in the North than we have now. I put a lot of emphasis on it. I am very concerned about it because I think it is a growing problem and I just wonder if two people at the headquarters level can really expect the people in the regions to devote that much time to it. You know, can the regional superintendent of welfare in the Baffin region, for example, go to the schools or send his staff to the schools throughout the Baffin region talking about these problems? I think not.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister, do you want to answer that, or do you want to come back with a report on it?

Involvement From All Walks Of Life.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, my evaluation of the vitality of the program would be that it is being vigorously done. We certainly do involve or are involved in this kind of a program with the RCMP and other particular people throughout the territories. Quite obviously two people can not do the program. That is why there were more than just those two people involved. I would be very happy to go back to, let us say, the Executive meetings with the demand to get more people on staff, but we certainly do utilize many different people involved with it from many different walks of life; the clergy, the RCMP, the people in education. Many different people are involved with it. So, it is not just two people that are involved with it and again an evaluation in my estimation that it is being vigorously pursued.

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

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I have difficulty believing my ears. Just a few minutes ago the Honourable Member from South Baffin was talking about the great advantages of devolving this responsibility to the community and community organizations and now he is building up the bureaucracy. I think that the answer of the Minister is a very fine answer. He has indicated that the present staff is doing the job and are involving the communities wherever the communities will function and I must congratulate Mr. Anderson and his colleague for the very fine job they are doing. I have nothing but praise for the manner in which they are carrying out their responsibilities.

I always feel that if one is leaner, one runs faster and a department with too much fat does not go anywhere at all. Certainly this organization is doing something now. Any money that is left over should be put into the communities, just as I was told a few minutes ago.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Comments of a general nature, alcohol and drugs. Mr. Pearson.

#### Setting Up Of A Major Program

MR. PEARSON: Well, I am glad to see that some of the messages are getting through to Mr. Butters. I think that my question was a reasonable question and that because in my capacity as the mayor of Frobisher Bay in the past two years, I have not been approached by the headquarters here in Yellowknife with an expressed wish on their part to have council resolve the particular problem in this area and to have a visitation by one of these two people to discuss drug abuse in the community and to try to set up, in conjunction with the municipality, some kind of major program. I mean there are groups within the community who are involved in the alcohol education program, but I just wonder if we are pushing it strongly enough and I wonder if they have the resources to do this. I think that is a fairly reasonable question. Mr. Butters is obviously satisfied. I guess there are no problems in Inuvik. The abuse is going on with these young kids in the schools and those that do not bother going to school, because of whatever, hangovers probably, I do not know, you can get a hangover from glue I guess just as well as you can from anything else. Newspaper articles, programs on television, the radio. Hon. Arnold McCallum is satisfied, Mr. Butters is satisfied so I guess everything is wonderful.

0 And M - Alcohol And Drugs, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Total 0 and M budget, \$800,000. Alcohol and drugs, agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Social Assistance

Page 11.08, social assistance in the amount of \$4,842,000. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if there is any hope of possibly reviewing the present policy with regard to paying for travel for persons requiring medical attention outside of the Northwest Territories. I understand the present policy is that a person must be responsible for two return trip fares for every 12 consecutive months, the cost being computed on an Edmonton-Yellowknife fare base and which amounts to quite a few dollars if you have a person that is going to require continued medical attention over several years.

We have an instance of a young lad in Hay River who was born with a hair lip and cleft palate that is going to require medical attention probably for ten years. Now under situations such as this, this young couple is faced with two return airplane fares every year for ten years which amounts to a considerable amount of money. Now is there no way that we can look at this from a position of these long-term cases where there are going to be repeat requirements so that there might be some relief given in special cases? This is awfully burdensome to a young family to have to look forward to this type of costs over a long period.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, we recognize that there are difficulties within the present policy that has been set down and I have a proposal to make to the administration on Thursday to change the present policy. We realize that there are situations that are peculiar and individual but there are difficulties with the present policy. We are trying to correct them and as I say, the department will be putting forth a proposal for a new policy at the next Executive meeting which will be on Thursday morning.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your remarks sound very encouraging. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Any hope, Mr. Minister, of making this retroactive in my particular case?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Social assistance, in the amount of \$4,842,000. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: This I gather, reflects the increments that were made by the House in the last session and is the reason there was a surplus was there not, in the previous years budget as a result of there not being as many people receiving social assistance at that time?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is correct.

O And M - Social Assistance, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Social assistance, \$4,842,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M - Community Social Services

Page 11.09, community social services in the amount of \$497,000. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: The community social services, Mr. Chairman, I have a question on this item. I would like to ask the Minister if this service is also applicable to alcohol or drug oriented programs.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Did you get the question, Mr. Minister? I did not.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, these grants if you like are given to a number of groups to provide services to various peoples within the various communities. Of the \$497,000 we have identified seven particular organizations to \$468,500 approximately. That leaves about \$28,500. We would expect that there would be other projects that would arise and be identified in various communities.



We would hopefully be able to make some contribution to some of these requests. Because we have identified such a great percentage of this total amount, it does not give us much flexibility to respond to other small groups who may wish to undertake certain or more extensive projects, but the kinds of projects that are involved here would be, of course, to provide the funds for community groups dealing with social and preventive services. With regard to alcohol and drugs there are grants made to various committees and various communities for that purpose. We have identified that as being a separate situation, although it well may be in some of these. Primarily we are talking about personal care services, I guess. YWCA in Yellowknife, the Fort Simpson Senior Citizens Oversight Program, the Native Women's Foster Home Recruitment Program, which the standing committee on finance of this House approved. Those are some of the kinds of things that are involved here.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I should say the Northwest Territories Mental Health Association as well.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nickerson.

Contributions For The Operation Of Day Care Centres

MR. NICKERSON: There would appear, Mr. Chairman, to be something the matter with this budget in that the \$497,000 is made up of the contributions listed on page 11.11, and there it says the \$25,000 to the Mental Health Association. The rest comprises contributions in the amount of \$ 472,000 which is listed as being contributions for the operation of day care centres. Are we to believe now, Mr. Chairman, from the Minister's previous remark that in fact that is not the case and these contributions are to be made in respect of a number of other operations other than day care centres?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is correct.

MR. NICKERSON: So we should scrub that out of our books and put something else in.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Some of the organizations that I have indicated are getting that \$468,000. Mr. Nickerson is referring to the details of granting contributions where it is indicated that community social services, the contributions for the operation of day care centres and -- these are not for day care centres. What is written there I think that Mr. Nickerson has pointed out is an error and it should not -- that particular phrase that is there or sentence that is there should be changed. The amount of \$497,000 is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The \$497,000 is correct. Could we get that again just for the record. The \$497,000 is correct?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes, the total that is under community social services is correct, the \$497,000. It is made up of the \$472,000 and \$25,000 as part of the contribution to the Mental Health Association. There is a remainder of \$472,000 and I indicated to you that approximately \$443,000 of that money has been allocated to other associations.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Are you satisfied with that, Mr. Nickerson?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think the only thing that requires any change as Mr. Nickerson points out is that sentence on page 11.11, "contributions for the operation of day care centres". The phrase "day care centres" should be scratched and it should be "contributions for the operations of community social services".

O And M - Community Social Services, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay. The amount of \$497,000, total O and M, community social services. Agreed?

---Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 11.10, supplementary benefits to the elderly, in the amount of \$300,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, when this matter was discussed yesterday, there was some material that was requested by Members of the committee. I wonder if that material is available or has it been distributed?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the material I think was requested of the administration to determine a comparable amount on the tax on alcohol and I think Hon. David Searle included cigarettes on it as well. This particular amount of course in here, this part of the budget summary, \$300,000 would have reflected the amounts of money that we would have received from the accommodation tax. Obviously the accommodation tax has been defeated, therefore for this particular benefit, we can not count on that particular money from that respect. I think the Deputy Commissioner may have some information on the request that was made yesterday, I guess it was for a comparable amount on alcohol and cigarettes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Deputy Commissioner.

Money Profit To Be Gained From Increasing Price Of Liquor And Tobacco

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I was just in the process of writing this out in proper form to show the Minister and then have it circulated but if you would like to have the information now, I can tell you the answer very easily.

If we were to raise \$300,000 from liquor sales, liquor profits, it would be necessary for us to increase the price of liquor by an average of 11 per cent across the board. Now that is operating on the gross margin in order to produce a net increase in profit of \$300,000. Frankly, the picture is a little brighter on the tobacco side. If we were to increase the rate on cigarettes and cigars and pipe tobacco, we would need to go on cigarettes from a present tax of \$3.20 per thousand cigarettes to \$5.60 per thousand cigarettes. At the rate of \$5.60 per thousand cigarettes, we would be applying a rate of taxation higher than the rate that is charged in Alberta and New Brunswick and British Columbia, but it would be lower than the rate that is charged in the Yukon, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Newfoundland. Newfoundland wins the bundle by a tax of \$12 per thousand cigarettes and the lowest one is Alberta which is the same as our present tax of \$3.20 per thousand cigarettes. The Yukon, for instance is \$6 per thousand cigarettes. The figure that I gave you just to say it again is \$5.60 per thousand cigarettes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Deputy Commissioner. I wonder if they are just rough figures. Would that mean an increase of about six cents per package?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I have not worked that out but I can easily do that. Just a minute.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Pearson while he is looking it up.

MR. PEARSON: I was going to say that while we are doing all this with the cigarettes and the alcohol, how about wild wild women?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Have you got any in Frobisher? Mr. Stewart.

Taxing Soft Drinks

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, another possible avenue to have a look at would be soft drinks. Alberta and indeed many of the provinces now have a tax of 40 cents a case on canned pop. Actually it is the return of the can type of thing to cut down on the pollution of our great country, so that there is a return value to them. Actually at the present time we can land soft drinks in the territories cheaper than you can buy them in Alberta because of the 40 cents differential that we do not have to pay. That may be another avenue and certainly that is another product that is not necessary to the well-being of the children or anybody else in the territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the rate by my calculation would have to go up five cents on 25 cigarettes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would certainly be prepared to pay an extra five cents on a package of cigarettes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Supplementary benefits to the elderly for \$300,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Just by way of procedure, I assume that we are going to be approving this allocation, obviously whether or not the administration is taking certain action or decides to take certain action with this legislation. This, of course, does not prevent us from approving this very worthwhile supplementary benefit to the elderly. Is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Deputy Commissioner? Did you get the question?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I guess we are in the rather strange position of having anticipated the passage of the Accommodation Tax Ordinance and therefore this program was left in here. Through an oversight we did not include under revenue, the revenue that we proposed to gain from the Accommodation Tax Ordinance, but that was an oversight obviously. Without going into the history of the whole thing whereby we were asked to bring forward both the program and the revenue item by this House, I think that it would be a matter for the Executive Committee to discuss and make a recommendation to the Commissioner as to whether or not the supplementary benefits program should proceed. Clearly the current view of the administration is that it could only proceed provided that there is revenue raised of an equal amount. If this House agrees or this committee agrees with the expenditure of the \$300,000 then at least that side of the matter is cleared.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Pearson.

Motion To Increase Tax On Tobacco

MR. PEARSON: Well, in light of the foregoing, I would like to move a motion in line with the Deputy Commissioner's comments that the tax on cigarettes be raised, on tobacco, be raised to provide sufficient funds for the benefits to the elderly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We have a motion on the floor. Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: It seems to me, Mr. Fraser, it would have to be in the form of a recommendation, would it not, at this point in time, because the legislation if the Executive adopted it would come back in that way?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. David Searle. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Okay, then the motion would read that it is recommended.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): This motion would be a recommendation then?

Motion Reworded

MR. PEARSON: Yes. I move that we recommend the administration that an increase be made in the tobacco tax to cover the benefits to the elderly. I mean the percentages that were thrown around, I can not recall what they were and I do not think they are important.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: I support the principle. Certainly we have got to raise the money and the cause is definitely the proper cause and the proper procedure to follow so I will support the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is there a recommendation, Mr. Stewart? Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular question I have I guess is related to everything here but is not directly to the motion but it is related. I would like to ask a question of the administration pertaining to this before a vote. Can I ask the administration how did they come to the figure of \$300,000? What would that be based on? Did they just throw the figure in there or did they base it on -- what is roughly the figure of the individual recipient?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the figure of \$300,000 was a figure developed by the administration if we were to put a percentage increase on a bed occupancy. The individual amount that would be given to a recipient, if in fact we were to raise \$300,000 and it would be paid to people who are in receipt of the full guaranteed income supplement or social assistance payment, the individual recipient would receive approximately \$25 per month. As of December 1977 there are 765 people in receipt of the full guaranteed income supplement or spouse allowance payment. There are 967 people, senior citizens in total, 202 senior citizens are in receipt of a partial guaranteed income supplement or spouse allowance payment. But the \$300,000 was a figure that was estimated we could derive from a tax on the accommodation with the number of people involved on the means test, it would have meant approximately \$25 to each recipient.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nickerson.

#### Another Welfare Scheme

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I was very very disappointed to hear the Minister just say that it was the intention when they introduced the old age pension supplement ordinance, if and when they do, that it is going to have a means test attached, that it is going to be a welfare scheme. Time and time again, this committee, this House has said that if we are to engage in any supplementary benefit scheme for the old age pensioners, it has to be by way of a pension. It is not to be another welfare scheme.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NICKERSON: This was the recommendation of Mr. Lyall's committee that it be a pension and not a welfare scheme and quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, there is no way that I am going to vote in favour of an increase in tobacco tax, liquor tax, any other kind of tax, to implement another welfare scheme in the Northwest Territories. We have quite enough of them as it is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NICKERSON: So Mr. Chairman, what I would like to see is computations done to find out how much it would cost us to give the same benefits to all the old age pensioners in the Northwest Territories, regardless of their income; how much it would cost us to implement a pension scheme, not a welfare scheme.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Any more comments? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, if I had caught your eye a little sooner, I would have made that very statement. Thank you.

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

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the position that has been advanced by the Member from Yellowknife North and I would hope that the mover of the motion gives the remarks that he made very great consideration. I think the object of every Member in this House is to see that elderly people of the territories receive a supplementary benefit and the remarks we have heard indicate that the motion that has been placed may not receive that unanimous support because it attacks the very basis of concerns held by a number of us; attacks the very basis of the recommendations made by a subcommittee of this House and I think that the Member making the motion realizes that we all support the intent and the objective which he has identified to us.

#### Reason For Raising Tax

One other point that I wish to make is that on a very general basis, I dislike the situation that I find myself in, of raising a tax and identifying its usage. I hope that this does not become a precedent. I recognize that the reason that this is being done, as I understand it, it is the only way that the administration can ensure that the moneys allocated in the budget will be used for this purpose. I understand that the administration is doing this because the transfer of money, the transfer moneys now being paid by the federal government might not be paid for this purpose and the Department of Health and Welfare may not approve us developing a supplementary pension for old age Northwest Territories residents. I could be wrong on this, but I hope that this is the reason that we are raising a tax and also identifying the recipients of those moneys.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Could we get some response please from the Minister or his staff to the comments well voiced by Mr. Nickerson and Mr. Butters, and as far as I am concerned, the intent is to bring forth a motion, I think it was, moved by Mr. Butters a long time ago in this House that there be a supplement for the pension scheme and there not be a means test, a motion that Mr. Butters made quite a few years ago. It has taken a long time to come about.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Deputy Commissioner.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should speak to this on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Commissioner because the Minister has been involved with the Department of Health and Social Services for a relatively short time. Before that, of course, Mr. Wickerson was the torch bearer. First of all, a very brief review of the history of this particular issue. It was recognized in October that if there were to be additional money spent on benefits to the elderly, that as a responsible body, this House should authorize and support additional taxation.

Now correct me if I am wrong, but I believe that that was a decision taken in October and the administration was directed to bring in a program of benefits to the elderly and to bring in a proposal by means of accommodation tax for raising the necessary funds. Okay so far. The accommodation tax proposal was not found to be in favour with the House and it was defeated.

There has been serious discussion about alternative means for raising that money and I must compliment you for looking at that seriously. We have no instructions from Ottawa or direction from the Minister that we may not spend more dollars here or more dollars there on a new program but there is a very clear and perhaps subtle understanding that our revenues can not continue to increase slowly, while our expenditures continue to increase rapidly and still have us claim that we are looking for more political strength and more political maturity. I must compliment the Members of the House for recognizing that fact, that there is a tie between political development and fiscal responsibility.

Supplementary Benefit For The Aged Not Tied To A Means Test

Okay, then that brings us back to the nature of the benefit that we have been requested to provide. There is no question but what Council has asked, begged, instructed and told us since the session that we held in Inuvik several years ago, that we were to bring in a supplementary benefit to the aged and it was not to be tied to a means test. We admit that 100 per cent. Now the other side of the coin is that that is not the pattern anywhere else in Canada and since the federal government, through the Department of National Health and Welfare plays the major role in pensions and benefits to the aged, to some extent they hold the whip hand. Most certainly they set the pattern and they have not set a pattern of benefits without a means test or permitted that under their agreement, so far as I know in other jurisdictions.

We thought for a while that the Yukon was paying a benefit without a means test but that is not the case. Theirs is tied to a means test. This subject was debated in the Executive Committee very closely, and we recognize that our chances of success, that is our chances of bringing in a benefit to the elderly, even if we raised the additional amount of money necessary, were very very slight because if it was not outright refused and I do not think that we have anywhere in writing where this approach was outright refused, but if we proceeded with it, we had a clear feeling, an indication that it would be and that our whole financial structure would tend to be thrown into question.

So, the Executive made a very painful decision or rather came to a very painful conclusion that we had to put forward to you a benefit for the elderly which was controlled by a means test. Now, we felt that the means test, the method that we proposed, was as gentle a one as could possibly be used and that is to pay these benefits to anyone who claimed guaranteed income supplement. In other words, to anyone who declared that they needed one extra step of assistance over the ordinary old age pension.

I may not be saying this exactly right, but I think that is the sense of it. So that is the background of it. We are placed in a real dilemma. We think that if we were to proceed with a benefit which is universally paid to all people over the age of 65, that if it was not simply disallowed through one means or another that we would end up suffering some kind of a financial penalty in other programs and that is why after very careful consideration we felt that we had to propose a program that has a means test, even though it may be, as I say, a rather gentle means test.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Commissioner. Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, having heard with great interest what Deputy Commissioner Parker said, it seems to me that we should take this matter one step at a time. I would like to propose that we deal with Mr. Pearson's motion, that the matter temporarily is left at that and that the Executive obviously would have to then come up with a bill similar to the room tax bill, but would be presumably an amendment to the Tobacco Tax Ordinance to increase that and then we would get into the bill with respect to this particular pension when this discussion would be more relevant.

I think at that time, having thought of what has been said, we could then either go along with the means test or amend that bill appropriately and not going along with it, as we see fit. Maybe in the meantime the Executive could go back to the federal Department of Health and Welfare authorities since it does not seem to me that we have this means test business firmly in writing but there seems to be an understanding and maybe we can get some firmer definition of what their attitude would be if we enacted the pension bill without the means test. In other words, rather than flying blind between now and getting to that point, we might be able to get some response from them. I think that way we would be taking it a step at a time and not doing anything at this point in time that would prejudice us later.

So, if I just may step back up again, taking it a step at a time, let us just deal with the motion that Mr. Pearson has put on the understanding that we will deal with the other steps along the way as those bits and pieces of legislation come forward.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. David Searle. Just one more comment from the Minister and then we will deal with the recommendation.

The Executive Is Not Against A Supplementary Benefit

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Chairman, at the risk of being repetitive about it, I was going to suggest what Hon. David Searle has indicated but I would want to make one further comment. I hope that Members do not go from here with the idea that the administration or indeed the elected people on the Executive Committee are against this kind of thing. As the Deputy Commissioner has indicated, we are on the horns of a dilemma. We would want to make sure that the essence of what this House has indicated would come about, providing the supplementary benefit to elderly people. I think that if we go back to a year

or so ago, that you will find that everybody agreed with it, even though it was a recommendation to the administration. It was one of the few times, I think, that the Members of the Executive would vote on a recommendation to the administration, which sounds rather ridiculous but nevertheless it was there.

I do not want Members to indicate that or to think that I, as acting in the capacity that I have now and as an Executive Member responsible for Health and Social Services or the Minister of Health and Social Services, am against the universality of the application of a supplementary benefit. I, you, as well as the former minister of this department know so well the difficulties involved with it but whether you are sorry to hear or take exception to what you hear in terms of what we have to do, do not go away with the idea that this is something that I or in fact as I said the administration are against. We are not against that in any way, shape or form. We are there to try to pursue what this House has indicated we should do. I think the suggestion of Hon. David Searle's to take it a step at a time is a very sound one.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. If we could deal with the motion, it was moved by Mr. Pearson that it be recommended to the administration that the tax on tobacco be raised to provide sufficient funding to finance the program for a supplementary benefit to the elderly. Mr. Butters.

#### Motion Needs Rewording

MR. BUTTERS: I understand, Mr. Chairman, it is almost 6:00 o'clock. Let us recognize the clock. The reason being that I would like to think more about this motion, to recognize the clock and defer it is that the motion indicates that the pensions be paid but it does not indicate the universality which Members have indicated to Mr. Pearson. In speaking to the motion later he said he has agreed with this that there should be no means test and yet the motion as it presently exists, has been criticized by Members suggesting that it lacks this important component. I would like to have -- what is the motion, sir? What is the motion?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The motion reads that it be recommended to the administration that the tax on tobacco be raised to provide sufficient funding to finance the program for a supplementary benefit to the elderly.

MR. BUTTERS: I wonder if the mover would indicate whether that supplementary benefit to the elderly is with or without a means test.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, without a means test. I mean I said that, I expressed that view that there should not be a means test. Hon. David Searle made a view that made sense, that we deal with it one at a time and that with the approval of the motion, the administration will then come back to this House with the procedure with which the supplements can be made. The motion is perfectly innocent. There are no hidden ambiguities about it, just to increase -- to get the ball rolling.



THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it the wish then that we recognize the clock as being 6:00 o'clock?

MR. PEARSON: That can not be debated, Mr. Chairman, once somebody moves to recognize the clock, it can not be debated, can it?

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, we have already carried on a debate. I suggest that in view of the clarification that has been provided by the Member, that the motion is understandable to me and I will hear somebody call the question quite gladly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question is being called. I will read the motion again. That it be recommended to the administration that the tax on tobacco be raised to provide sufficient funding to finance a program for a supplementary benefit to the elderly. I will dream about that one all night. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion To Increase Tax On Tobacco, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question has been called. All in favour. Contrary? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I wish to recognize the clock and call progress. Is it the wish of this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 11-64, Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 11-64, and at this time we wish to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it probably appropriate, Mr. Fraser, to report out that motion at this time in formal session, because that would enable the Executive to start action on it.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, it was moved by Mr. Pearson that it be recommended to the administration that the tax on tobacco be raised to provide sufficient funds to finance the program for supplementary benefits to the elderly.

Standing Committee Meetings

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Announcements, gentlemen. There will be a caucus meeting at 9:30 a.m., tomorrow morning in the Executive boardroom, Arthur Laing building. Everybody is asked to be on time. Further announcements? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, Members will notice that I have altered the time and place for the elections committee or the constituency committee to Friday, in the Executive boardroom in the Laing building at 9:00 o'clock. The reason is that more Members than the committee wish to attend, and this arrangement will accommodate them all, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Further announcements? Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, the committee on legislation met very briefly today, and I would like to say to you that we ran out of a quorum about 11:30 o'clock a.m., which makes it very inconvenient for us. Mr. Fraser and I have been very faithfully coming into town, working on all these pieces of legislation

any time that the Clerk of the Council has asked us to come. We will be attempting again to meet on Thursday morning at 10:00 o'clock, in room 303. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall, we will announce that again tomorrow night and make sure that we impress it on everyone. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, in relation to the standing committee on legislation, as I understand it there are about three members to that committee. On Thursday morning if Hon. Peter Ernerk and I are to attend at 10:00 o'clock, we are going to have a very difficult time, and we are only ex officio members of that committee and we have an Executive meeting at 9:00 o'clock. I know it will not be over at 10:00 o'clock. You know, to count on either Hon. Peter Ernerk or I to make that quorum, even though we have no vote on the particular, would be very difficult.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, gentlemen, in that we do have a caucus meeting tomorrow, the membership of standing committees is quite appropriately a topic for discussion at caucus and you may wish to increase the membership of your committee after we have discussed it then. If there is nothing further, gentlemen, we will have the Clerk of the House do the orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 11: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, February 1, 1978, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Questions and Returns
3. Oral Questions
4. Petitions
5. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
6. Notices of Motion
7. Motions for the Production of Papers
8. Motions
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bills 8-64, 7-64, 17-64 and 11-64, Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Price Support Mechanisms for Sealskin, Petro Canada Operations in the Northwest Territories
11. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 1, 1978, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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