



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

67th. Session

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Official Report

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pages 270 to 321

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Honourable David H. Searle, O.C., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 939,
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0
(Yellowknife South)
(Speaker)

The Honourable Arnold McCallum, M.L.A.
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0
(Slave River)
(Minister of Health and Local
Government)

The Honourable Peter Ernerk, M.L.A.
Box 834
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0
(Keewatin)
(Minister of Natural and Cultural Affairs and
Government House Leader)

Mr. Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.
Box 310
Hay River, N.W.T. X0E 0R0
(Hay River)
(Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
Committees)

The Honourable Thomas Butters, M.L.A.
Box 1069
Inuvik, N.W.T. X0E 0T0
(Inuvik)
(Minister of Social Services and
Economic Development and Tourism)

Mr. Dave Nickerson, M.L.A.
Box 1778
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0
(Yellowknife North)

Mr. Peter Fraser, M.L.A.
Box 23
Norman Wells, N.W.T. X0E 0V0
(Mackenzie Great Bear)
(Deputy Chairman of Committees)

Mr. Ludy Pudluk, M.L.A.
Box 22
Resolute Bay, N.W.T. X0A 0V0
(High Arctic)

Mr. Bryan Pearson, M.L.A.
c/o Arctic Ventures
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T. X0A 0H0
(South Baffin)

Mr. Mark Evaluarjuk, M.L.A.
Igloodik, N.W.T. X0A 0L0
(Foxye Basin)

Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk, M.L.A.
Pangnirtung, N.W.T. X0A 0R0
(Central Baffin)

Mr. William Lafferty, M.L.A.
Box 149
Fort Simpson, N.W.T. X0E 0N0
(Mackenzie Liard)

Mr. John Steen, M.L.A.
Box 60
Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T. X0E 1C0
(Western Arctic)

Mr. William Lyall, M.L.A.
Box 24
Cambridge Bay, N.W.T. X0E 0C0
(Central Arctic)

Mr. Richard Whitford, M.L.A.
6 Bromley Drive
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2X8
(Great Slave Lake)

OFFICERS

Clerk
Mr. W.H. Remnant
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

Clerk Assistant
Mr. Pieter de Vos
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

Sergeant-at-Arms
Captain F.A. MacKay C.D. (Ret'd)
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2K6

Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Major D.A. Sproule C.D. (SL)
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

LEGAL ADVISOR

Ms. P. Flieger
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1979

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Hon. Tom Butters, 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, replies to Commissioner's Address.

Item 3, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Are there any returns? Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have the following replies to four questions.

Return To Question W1-67: Arrest Of Tuberculosis Victims

Question W1-67, the subject, the arrest of tuberculosis victims. Investigation into this matter indicates that no tuberculosis victims at Rae were arrested due to tuberculosis. It is true that one individual who was arrested for assault causing bodily harm and breach of probation, was allowed to be on active treatment for tuberculosis due to the fact that he had tuberculosis at the time of his arrest. It is also true that the RCMP assisted in locating an individual with active tuberculosis. There was no intention of a charge or arrest. The assistance was just in locating the individual and indicating that the nurse wanted to see him. The individual responded and went on active treatment for tuberculosis. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the statement which was said to appear in the Toronto Globe and Mail is false. Specific replies to Mr. Nickerson's question are as follows: (a) No one has been arrested due to the fact they had tuberculosis; (b) No instructions for arrest were given; (c) If it should ever be necessary to arrest anyone who has a communicable disease, for the safety of others, it would have to be done either under section 176 of the Canadian Criminal Code or under section 3 of the Public Health Ordinance; (d) No one was arrested due to tuberculosis; and (e) No one is to be brought to court due to the fact that they have tuberculosis.

Return To Question W5-67: Sewer And Water Truck, Hall Beach

On the subject of Question W5-67, a sewer and water truck for Hall Beach, a new sewer truck was delivered to Hall Beach on this years sealift. A replacement water truck is included in Local Government estimates for 1979-80 for

Hall Beach. It is unlikely that this unit would be available for delivery prior to sealift. However if it happened to be ready earlier and if an airlift operation was proposed to Hall Beach or a neighbouring community we would review the costs, the time factor and the need of the community at that time to determine if this unit should be included in such an airlift. We have requested the technical officer for Local Government in Frobisher Bay to investigate this matter with the hamlet of Hall Beach to see what interim steps can be taken to ensure the delivery of water is not unduly interrupted between now and the time the new vehicle arrives.

Further Return To Question W6-67: Laundromat And Bathhouse, Repulse Bay

Question W6-67, Mr. Speaker, the laundromat and bathhouse for Repulse Bay. In general, the need for laundromat/bathhouse facilities in most communities has decreased substantially in the last few years due to major house upgrading programs and the fact that the majority of new houses are equipped with running water. The Keewatin regional office has provided the following information: 16 of the public housing units in Repulse Bay have running water. Five of the 33 low rental units will be rehabilitated this year with the inclusion of running water. Additional units will be rehabilitated in subsequent years. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has determined that a privately operated laundry/bathhouse would not be viable. Finally, the regional office will review the need for a laundry/bathhouse in Repulse Bay and will forward their findings before the conclusion of this Assembly session.

Return To Question W7-67: Fire Truck, Repulse Bay

Return for Question W7-67, a fire truck for Repulse Bay. A fire truck for Repulse Bay has been included in the Department of Local Government's 1979-80 estimates. It will arrive on this years sealift. The idea of moving the older tracked unit from Baker Lake was investigated but the costs amounted to more than the vehicle was worth.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns? Mr. Lafferty, returns or questions, written questions? Are there any further returns? Written questions?
Mr. Lafferty.

Question W24-67: Chronic Care Assistance

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, there are many people in the North who need medical care assistance since they can not afford to pay any of these costs. Could the administration tell me if chronic care assistance is being cut off?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Return To Question W24-67: Chronic Care Assistance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, there has been some confusion about a list of chronic care drugs that has been in existence for a number of years. The confusion arises because of the distinction between what National Health and Welfare through the medical services, its northern branch in Edmonton will pay, and what this government has regarding its supplementary health program. A list that the federal Health and Welfare department drew up of 67 diseases, which they felt to be of a chronic nature, was developed a number of years back. This list was sent to doctors and nurses for the express purpose of developing statistics to be used in the follow-up as these diseases were reported by nurses and doctors. The letter that contained this list of 67 various chronic diseases also referred to a number of medication costs that this government would bear for medical conditions under its supplementary health program.

The interpretation of course then that was given to this letter suggested that the Government of the Northwest Territories had a supplementary health program that covered all 67 of what were termed chronic diseases. This was not the case, nor was it the rationale underlying the development of the Government of the Northwest Territories supplementary health program. The Government of the Northwest Territories has not and is not contemplating a pharmacare program. We discovered the error in the interpretation when we received claims from National Health and Welfare that far surpassed our budget allocations and, in fact, on a three month cost it was more than double what we had in the budget. As a result we are trying to correct a problem and have so informed National Health and Welfare that we will enforce the guidelines of our supplementary health program. I can appreciate the concern as well as understand the questioning from a number of people as to what diseases are within our supplementary health program. I have asked my officials to investigate and discuss with National Health and Welfare's officials the possibility of including and/or altering the lists and within this week I will be making a public statement to have those people who are now bearing the cost for medication for the medical condition of diabetes to hold their particular receipts, with the express purpose of trying to do something to include that particular medical condition within our list.

I would as well hope to be able to indicate to this House that there may be something that can be done with beginning a user fee for prescriptions. At the present time, prescription costs are three dollars and seventy-five cents per medication. I think in keeping with what this particular Assembly over the years has said about user fees and people attempting to pay their way, I would attempt to bring something forward to the House during the discussion on the debate for the Department of Health. At the same time I would hope that we would be able to announce something as regards senior citizens and the cost of this user fee. It may be that we can exclude senior citizens from this kind of cost. I would hope to have documentation at the time of the debate on Health as to the number of people, senior citizens, who are now paying for the cost of medication for what is termed chronic diseases. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that answers the Member's question.

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions? Mr. Lyall.

Question W25-67: Telephone Problem, Spence Bay

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, every time I am down here in Yellowknife I somehow have to ask this question always. I would like to ask the administration whether they are aware of the problem that the people of Spence Bay are having regarding telephone service. They have not been able to phone out of the settlement for the past two weeks and also, when this happens, and that is quite often, they are still charged the monthly rate for rental. Will the administration look into this very inconvenient problem that is being encountered in Spence Bay?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Partial Return To Question W25-67: Telephone Problem, Spence Bay

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, we will contact CNT immediately to determine what action they propose to take and inquire and put pressure on with regard to the charges that have been made.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further written questions? Mr. Nickerson.

Question W26-67: Public Utilities Income Tax Transfer Act

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, it is understood that Bill C-26, An Act to Amend Laws Relating to Fiscal Transfers to the Provinces, which is presently before the parliament of Canada would, if passed into law, amend the Public Utilities Income Tax Transfer Act so as to reduce the rebate to the provinces of federal corporation tax on income derived from privately owned utility companies from the present 95 per cent to a figure of 50 per cent. To what extent would such a move affect moneys paid out by the territorial treasurer under the Public Utilities Income Tax Rebates Ordinance? As examples, could the government estimate what effect passage of Bill C-26 would have on the bill of residential consumers in Yellowknife and Hay River who use 1500 kilowatt hours in a month?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: We will take the question as notice and file a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kilabuk.

Question W27-67: Vehicle For Nursing Station, Pangnirtung, N.W.T.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Speaker, this is a question from my constituents in Pangnirtung. The nursing station in Pangnirtung has no ambulance or any vehicle to transport emergency cases or sick persons except for the local business owned vehicles or skidoos. If assisted in this matter the health committee is willing to pay up to \$1500 for a vehicle. What can the administration do about this? It would be a big help if they could get a vehicle to transport patients. Will somebody be able to answer this question?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker, and file a return later.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions. Mr. Lafferty.

Question W28-67: Prescription Drugs, Treaty Indians

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, because many treaty Indians are asking why they must pay for prescription drugs could the Minister responsible tell this House why this is so?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I do not have an answer for the Member if he is talking about those Indians who come under the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I am not responsible for that particular department, nor for the federal Department of Health. I will attempt to take the question as notice and see if I can get some information on it though.

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

Question W29-67: Musk-ox Hunt, Grise Fiord

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, this is a question from Grise Fiord about the musk-ox quota in the North. The present musk-ox season is October 21 to March 31. The timing of this season is a problem for Grise Fiord residents because of the short daylight hours in winter. This is especially so in December when it is too dark to use a rifle even in daytime. The Grise Fiord residents are requesting that December be removed from the season and April substituted in its place.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question under advisement and file a reply later in the session.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Question W30-67: School Bus, Cape Dorset

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I am again asking for a school bus for the residents of Cape Dorset. I was asked by my constituents to repeat my request this session. I would like an answer from Deputy Commissioner Parker.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I thought I could find the answer right away but I must take the question as notice and supply an answer.

Question W31-67: Unemployment Statistics For UIC Purposes

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, since under the amended Unemployment Insurance Act qualifying requirements and benefit entitlements are tied to local rates of unemployment as determined by Statistics Canada, could this Assembly be advised what the unemployment rate in the Northwest Territories is deemed to be for UIC purposes and how has this been computed?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, we will seek an answer to the Member's question and file a reply.

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

Question W32-67: Nursing Station Vehicle, Cambridge Bay

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, the vehicle that the nursing station in Cambridge Bay received last August is not adequate for that settlement because you can not put a stretcher in it. I wonder if the administration is willing to ship that vehicle to Spence Bay and get one adequate for Cambridge Bay. The people of Spence Bay have now lately asked for a vehicle because of the fact that the airport is some three miles away from the settlement.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and file a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions?

Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 033-67: Late Arrival Of Sessional Material

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, last Friday a document on single industry communities was supposedly tabled. I have not yet received a copy of this document. On other occasions this session, bills have been given first reading, and indeed second reading, when they were not in existence. Is this practice to continue, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nickerson, the difficulty I have with that question is that as I understand it questions under Items 3 and 4 are to be directed to the administration and I do not know whether that question is a question for the administration or for the Clerk or for whom. There is obviously no one from the Executive side who is prepared to answer it. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Return To Question 033-67: Late Arrival Of Sessional Material

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, just to say that I filed that particular paper with the Clerk's office. From there I do not know. To answer the second part, on behalf of the administration, no.

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

Question 034-67: English Version, Auditor General's Report

MR. NICKERSON: Probably I would again be out of order, Mr. Speaker, but maybe I could bring this up as a matter of privilege instead. Tabled Document 1-67, Auditor General's Report on Territorial Accounts for the Year Ended March 31, 1978, is only available in a foreign language. There appear to be no English copies around and no Inuktitut copies around. The only copy that I have, Mr. Speaker, is in French. I wish it would be possible if this important document were to be made available in languages which people could understand.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Return To Question 034-67: English Version, Auditor General's Report

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I regret that an English version was not provided to the Member. That will be done. With regard to translation into Inuktitut, we have never given a guarantee that this could be done with financial documents of this nature. We can only say that we will try from time to time, but they are documents which are difficult to translate.

MR. SPEAKER: Further oral questions? Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report I have is in English.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall, you seem to be one of the lucky ones. Would you like to have Mr. Nickerson's French copy?

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 10-67: Discussion Of Hamlet Ordinance, Sixty-seventh Session

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice that I will move a motion on January 30th, 1979, regarding the hamlet ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: Further notices of motion.

Item 8, motions for the production of papers.

Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Motion 9-67, Mr. Nickerson.

Motion 9-67: Insurance Ordinance

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker:

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the Government of the Northwest Territories be requested to prepare a recommendation to the Legislature to be presented at the 68th session on the subject of amending the Insurance Ordinance with a view to restricting the unilateral midterm cancellation of automobile and residential insurance policies.

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

MR. NICKERSON: This problem, Mr. Speaker, of the cancellation of certain types of insurance policies in midterm has been one with which we have had a lot of trouble in the Northwest Territories. After looking into this matter, I find that they have experienced similar trouble in the South too. It is awfully frustrating to get a letter in the mail and I know this has happened to a number of people, to get this letter that tells you that your insurance policy is cancelled. There is no reason given for it. The immediate response of those people is to go and see the agent from whom they purchased the policy and very often the agent is not aware of what happened. The agents dislike this type of thing as much as their clients do. People get awfully mad at the local insurance agents when in fact it is not their fault at all; it is the fault of the large southern based insurance companies. I think people will realize this is an important problem which may cause a lot of trouble to people who are affected by this midterm cancellation.

When you look into the reasons why the insurance companies sometimes do this, you will find there is no real need for them to carte blanche cancel all of certain types of policies they have outstanding in a certain area. There is no reason why they should do this. If they wish not to underwrite any more of that particular type of insurance, they could certainly wait until the policies which are presently in effect expire. The reason why they do this is their actuaries will probably tell them that within a certain area which could be the Mackenzie district or the Arctic areas they are not making any money on a particular type of insurance policy. Given that advice, they will frequently decide to cancel all of that type of policy that they have outstanding in that area.

Superintendents Of Insurance Cognizant Of Problem

This problem was brought up at the last annual conference of the provincial superintendents of insurance held in Winnipeg in September of last year. They have been cognizant of this problem for some time and they have drawn up model legislation. I do not know whether at this time this legislation has been adopted in either its original form or as modified slightly to meet local circumstances by any of the provinces, but I know that draft model legislation has been drawn up by people acting on behalf of the organization of provincial superintendents of insurance. It would seem to me that we are certainly imposing no hardships, real hardships, on the insurance company by having this matter

looked into and it would certainly do a lot of good for just about all the people in the territories who at one time or another enter into the types of insurance policies that I have referred to.

Of course, you still would have to allow the insurance companies the option of cancelling policies in midterm if there were certain legitimate reasons why they should be cancelled. Obvious legitimate reasons would be the failure to pay the premium on the part of the policyholder, or it could be a case of misrepresentation or the omission of substantial facts or the wrong assessment of the risks involved. Of course, if there is a material change in risk then the insurance company should of course be allowed to cancel the policy.

In this motion, Mr. Chairman, what I am doing is requesting that the administration look into this matter. I do not propose myself to introduce any legislation, any amendments to the Insurance Ordinance. I think it is largely a technical matter and the administration could do very well to have their people, our superintendent of insurance and his staff look into the matter and then come back with a recommendation to the Legislature at the next session. This I think, Mr. Speaker, is a fairly simple matter and I would see no reason why people would want to vote against this one. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

Motion 9-67, Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Down. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 10, tabling of documents.

Item 11, notices of motion for the introduction of bills.

ITEM NO. 11: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 6-67, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Bill 6-67: Student Grants And Bursaries Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on January 30, 1979, I shall move that Bill 6-67, An Ordinance to Provide Grants and Bursaries for Certain Post-secondary School Students, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion for the introduction of bills. Hon. Peter Ernerk, Bill 13-67.

Bill 13-67: Western Canada Lottery Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on January 30, 1979, I shall move that Bill 13-67, An Ordinance to Authorize Participation in the Western Canada Lottery, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 12, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters.

ITEM NO. 12: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

Is it your wish that we continue with Bill 7-67, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, yes, the Appropriation Ordinance, 1979-80.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart, are you prepared to take the chair? Mr. Lyall, are you prepared to take the chair?

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, when we finished with this on Friday evening I had a few questions to ask the administration so I would much prefer that someone else take the chair.

MR. SPEAKER: I see Mr. Fraser is not in the House. Are you prepared, Mr. Stewart? I can get someone else if you wish.

MR. STEWART: Whichever you wish, please. I will take it if you can not find someone. I have just come off a cold, that is all.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson, would you be prepared to act as committee chairman?

MR. PEARSON: On a temporary basis, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will therefore resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 7-67, with Mr. Pearson in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 7-67, Appropriation Ordinance, 1979-80, with Mr. Pearson in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 7-67, APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1979-80

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pearson): The committee will come to order for consideration of items under Social Services, page 11.05 and I will assume this role until Mr. Lyall is finished or Mr. Fraser comes back. Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, welcome to the fray. I wonder if I might be permitted to invite Mr. Stangier to return again to the chamber and join us for this part of the discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pearson): Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Mr. Stangier, do you want to come through the ropes, please? Hon. Tom Butters.

Department Of Social Services, Services To The Aged And Handicapped

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, when the discussion was recessed on Friday there were two outstanding questions, one from Mr. Nickerson and one from Mr. Lyall. I would like to do as I was about to do at that time and provide background to the matter Mr. Lyall had raised regarding accommodation for returning transients at Cambridge Bay.

Medical Transient Centre, Cambridge Bay

For many years the department has operated a medical transient centre and the centre provided meals and accommodation for people from Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay who were passing through Cambridge Bay on their way to and from medical treatment in Yellowknife or Edmonton. In addition a few people stayed at the centre while receiving medical treatment in Cambridge Bay. From a review of the file on this matter it would appear that the service had always been reasonably satisfactory but it would seem that there has been difficulty with regard to the building itself.

On November 21, 1973, the department was advised by the health officer that unless certain conditions were rectified the building would be closed. Apparently the major problems were not solved for on May 8, 1975, the health officer again advised us of severe deficiencies and indicated in his role that the building was not acceptable for the use to which it was being put. Estimates of the task of rectifying the problems identified were obtained. While it may have been possible to again clear up the most serious problems associated with the structure, the building was deemed to be in such poor shape that the renovative investment was not warranted.

On or about the same time, that is in September of 1975, the co-op was about to open a hotel in Cambridge Bay. Arrangements were tentatively made for people in transit to stay at the hotel. The people concerned objected to this proposal and accordingly arrangements were made for people in transit to receive board and room in private homes. This practice of private home boarding is also used in Frobisher Bay and in Yellowknife.

Also at about the same time on September 25, 1975, there were at least some indications that an enlarged health facility would be built in Cambridge Bay and that the new facility would provide accommodations and meals for outpatients and for persons in transit. Further there were indications that airline schedules would be improved and thus there would be less demand for services. Throughout this period funds had been requested in our initial capital forecast to construct a new transient centre building.

Current Situation In Cambridge Bay

The current situation is, in the department's 1979-80 capital forecast there was requested \$200,000 to build a transient centre at Cambridge Bay. The estimate was that it would serve approximately four people per day in the centre. The operating costs of the centre were estimated to be some \$85,000 and the per diem cost per person per day on the basis of four persons requiring accommodation was estimated to be at \$58.

At present the department pays, for boarding homes, a rate of \$20 per day. If meals only are provided to persons awaiting connecting flights then it is ten dollars per day. There is a possibility in future too that the medical centre proposed for Cambridge Bay, and I am not quite sure just what the status for the planning of this structure is at the present time, but it would appear that construction could be going ahead in 1981-82 with completion of the structure in 1982-83 and, if that were so the facilities for transients would probably be most effectively and efficiently provided in that structure, or in that hospital.

I do not know if that satisfies the Honourable Member from the Central Arctic but that is the background on what the department is currently examining as a solution to the problem he raised.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pearson): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Lyall.

Temporary Solution Proposed By Using Hostel

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, although the administration, and it is just for the record I would like to say this, although the administration could not find adequate funding to renovate that building, that building has now been renovated by the Department of Social Services and made into offices for the whole Department of Social Services for the Central Arctic. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the administration is willing to fix up the hostel which is presently not being used but heated year-round, whether they would consider temporarily using this as a transient centre with proper people running it so that we could at least recover the cost of fuel and heating while that building is standing there doing nothing, only having money being provided to heat it and fuel it all this time.

Also, I think that the \$20 a day allocated to board these people out is not adequate because of the fact that we have to realize the cost of food is sometimes twice as much or three times as much in Cambridge Bay as it is in the southern part of the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister whether they would be willing to temporarily put that building I talked about into more or less a hostel-type living for those people who are travelling between Cambridge Bay and Pelly, Gjoa and Spence. Mr. Chairman, I think that really the airlines have tried to accommodate the people by putting flights through twice a week, where you could go straight through to the other settlements, but unfortunately again we can not control the weather in the other settlements and people, during the wintertime, generally at least once a week, are weather-bound in Cambridge Bay for two or three days. Again I would like to ask if the Minister is willing to see that they could use the hostel for temporary housing of these people who are in transit.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I will try and deal with the questions as the Member raised them. The first one was why the building which was unsatisfactory for housing transient patients could be renovated and could become an office for regional Social Services staff? The answer I believe is that the type of building required to house people for eight hours a day in an office situation can be a lot less hospitable than if it were a building that is required to look after potentially sick people or persons recuperating who would be travelling to or from hospital and requiring 24 hour care.

To respond to the second question, yes, the department would be willing to consider all the alternatives that would exist to improve the current situation in Cambridge Bay including looking at the hostel arrangement which the Member mentioned.

Per Diem Rate For Home Care

The third item was regarding the per diem being paid to persons providing home care being too low. Yes, the department will re-examine that per diem and determine whether or not it is sufficient to permit a person to provide adequate board and accommodation to a transient patient. This, of course, is being considered as an interim facility or would be an interim measure until the proposed hospital unit is in place and the transient facility could be provided adjacent or attached to that unit.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Social Services on page 11.05. Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I have a second answer to a question that was raised by Mr. Nickerson on Friday relative to rents charged senior citizens. The reply is quite full, but my understanding is that it applies more to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and possibly I could have permission to send the answer to Mr. Nickerson by way of a Page and he could examine it and see whether there are any pertinent questions he wishes to direct to the Department of Social Services.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I must make an admission, Mr. Fraser. After having the request of a number of inmates or residents of the old folks' home in Yellowknife I have made a study of this problem so that I am familiar, if not with the exact figures, at least with the concept involved in the way that rents are computed at that particular institution. I think what I wanted to get from the Honourable Minister was just this kind of concept. I think it would be better if it were to come from him rather than from me because people might tend to believe him more than me. I have a point to make on this particular subject, so if it is possible maybe it would be advisable before I get into what I want to talk about, if the Minister were able just to give the concept of how these rates are arrived at.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Hon. Tom Butters.

Concept Of Computing Rents In Senior Citizens' Homes.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If the committee will bear with me as I go over the detail in reply to the question.

Rents in senior citizens' homes operated by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation are determined in the same way as are rents for all other housing units, that is, rents vary according to the individual's income to a maximum for the type of unit occupied. Senior citizens resident in the Mary Murphy home in Yellowknife whose only source of income is the old age security or the guaranteed income supplement and the Northwest Territories supplement would pay approximately \$57.50 calculated as follows; total old age security would be \$165; guaranteed income supplement, \$135; Northwest Territories supplement, \$50; for a total of \$350, less basic functioning allowance of \$120 which would leave \$230. Twenty-five per cent thereof would be calculated as rent and that is how the figure of \$57.50 is arrived at. Persons with additional income would be expected to contribute 25 per cent of that income up to a maximum rent of \$290. In addition to basic accommodation some residents of the home in Yellowknife receive a hot meal each day through the meals on wheels program. Meals cost one dollar each. The Department of Social Services has contracted for a couple to provide a protective oversight service. The purpose of the service is mainly to ensure that everything is all right on a day-to-day basis and to provide a minimal amount of services or to rectify anything that is wrong, for example, to call the doctor or some other professional.

Aklavik Senior Citizens' Home_

In Aklavik the recently completed senior citizens' home provides for two types of accommodation. First there are seven self-contained units. Residents of these units receive service which is similar to that available in Yellowknife and pay a rent which is determined by the same calculation as already given above. In addition, there are eight personal care units for residents who require help with the functions of normal living, for example, meals, house-keeping, personal cleanliness, etc. These people pay a rent to the Housing Corporation as indicated. In addition they are charged for the full cost of other services provided. These services cost approximately \$50 per day. As a consequence all residents become eligible for social assistance and are therefore eligible to receive the clothing and personal care and incidental allowances. The net effect is that after meals and accommodation residents have up to \$100 per month available to them.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Nickerson.

Motion That A Single Uniform Rent Be Established At Yellowknife Senior Citizens' Home

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to put a motion before this committee. The motion reads, I move this committee recommends to the Government of the Northwest Territories that should such a plan meet with the wishes of the residents, a single uniform rent be established at the Yellowknife senior citizens' home.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: By way of clarification I am wondering if when my friend on my left speaks first to the motion as he is determined to do, whether he would indicate what he means when he says in his motion "should such a plan meet with the wishes of the residents ..." Residents of what, of the senior citizens' home? In other words, I have a question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nickerson, to the motion.

MR. NICKERSON: I must apologize if the drafting is not up to the high legal standards to which my colleague is accustomed.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: High engineering standards.

MR. NICKERSON: The word "residents" of course is meant to refer to the people who reside at the senior citizens' home. Mr. Chairman, on several occasions I have met with residents of that institution and every one to whom I spoke dislikes the present system. I do not purport to have carried out a systematic survey. I have spoken to maybe half a dozen or so of the people who live there. So before any action was taken along these lines it would, of course, be necessary to fully determine in the best way possible what the wishes of the people there are, but I would strongly suspect and have reason to believe that you would find on asking them that they strongly would favour a system of uniform rents.

Rents Based Solely On Income Not Net Worth

The present system is difficult to understand. It is based solely on income and not net worth of the individual concerned so it is possible for people to have a lot of assets, have accumulated a fair amount of wealth, but because their income is low they are getting away with minimum rents. There seems to be a feeling there that those people who want to go out and earn a little bit of money extra by way of a part time job, as a number of the people wish to do, should not be penalized for doing this. Whenever I have spoken to the people there I certainly get the strong feeling that they would like to see just one uniform rate. The difficulty comes about because of funding that presumably came from CMHC, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and all the real difficult regulations that surround the giving of these funds. We seem to have tied ourselves up in knots.

It would seem to me that the Yellowknife Housing Authority which is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the home would very much themselves like to see a simple uniform rate. They, of course, are unable to make their voice felt but I am sure that if all the financial wizardry at the disposal of the Government of the Northwest Territories tried to find some way around through the regulations that wrap up the CMHC and similar funding institutions, I am sure that a way could be found so that this could be put into effect, not without some difficulty but I am sure it can be done if people take this wish on behalf of the residents of the old folks' home seriously. That is all I have at this time, Mr. Chairman.

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

Motion Amended To Include All Senior Citizens' Homes

MR. STEWART: The problem I find with this particular motion is that it is restricted to Yellowknife, and inasmuch as the motion itself is permissive in that it says, "... should such a plan meet with the wishes of the residents ..." then I think possibly the scope should be widened to include all senior citizens in the Northwest Territories and not single out Yellowknife.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Do you want to change that motion of Mr. Nickerson's to include all senior citizens' homes?

MR. NICKERSON: I would have no objection at all. In bringing this motion before the committee I did not want to presume to talk on behalf of Hay River or Fort Smith or Aklavik but if an amendment to that effect is moved I would be very pleased to support such an amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Any objection from the Members if we change that motion to include all senior citizens' homes in the Northwest Territories? Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I do not really agree with the amendment to include all senior citizens' homes in the Northwest Territories basically because if you look at the other communities in the Eastern Arctic, for instance Eskimo Point, I think this government is planning to build, or were planning to build a senior citizens' home for the people of Eskimo Point. The difference here, the difference between Yellowknife and Eskimo Point is that the older people in that part of the country often find it very difficult to pay their rents. What should happen, as I see it in this government, is that we should have some kind of guideline in terms of setting up rents for each community, for instance, in the Eastern Arctic. What is offered in Yellowknife, in terms of some job opportunities may not be offered in say Eskimo Point, for instance. Sure, they might make a little bit of money from arts and crafts work, things of that nature, but I must disagree with establishing rents, or a uniform renting system, which would basically be the same for all of the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. I think the motion reads, if you read the motion, it will not change, I can not see it changing that much, it says "The Government of the Northwest Territories ..." and then it says, "...if it should meet with the wishes of the residents ..." and if it does not meet with the wishes of the residents in a particular settlement I do not think it would force it. Hon. David Searle.

Rent Should Be Tied To Facilities Provided

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, this matter of different rents determined by different income in my opinion is all wrong. It is wrong I think because everybody is enjoying the same facility and if I understand the position, and I have been through the senior citizens' residence here, virtually everyone has the same sized room, they have the same type of cooking facilities, the same sleeping arrangement, they have the same access to a common living area, a huge living room. It seems to me that the rent should be tied, like in any rental deal, to what you are being provided with, not with what your income is. To do it any other way has the result directly, in my opinion, of penalizing that man or woman who was productive in their early years, who saved money in their early years and who put a little something aside to look after themselves as surely they should be encouraged to do. What the present system awards is the person who has not been diligent, who has not done anything probably for anyone else or himself or herself throughout their life, and because of that he is awarded handsomely for not doing anything.

Now, it seems to me therefore that although people who have nothing should certainly be able to get assistance, if they are crippled or if they can not cook, that sort of thing, but as to the matter of rent, purely rent, it should bear a direct relationship to what you are getting in terms of size of accommodation and have nothing to do with what anybody else's financial situation is, or your own. I just hope for instance that if this motion were adopted in principle I could see, on that basis, senior citizens, depending upon the size of the facility, the size of the common areas, the size of their private bachelor suites, I could see the rents being very different say in Yellowknife as opposed to somewhere else. It would depend upon the facility and the wishes of the people there.

Comparison With Old Age Supplementary Pension

So, in the end I very much support what Mr. Nickerson says. Reward the bum and kick the guy in the teeth who has been a productive individual. So many of our policies in this government do exactly that. It is tragic. It is just like the old age supplementary pension, it is not a pension, it is a welfare scheme. Let us go back over that.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Let us not.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: It is the same thing, the same principle and it is wrong, entirely wrong, but this government is on that track and will continue on it and the drunks, derelicts and bums will be rewarded and the guy who worked reasonably hard and reasonably diligently, he will pay the full shot. So, in time maybe we will have a society of bums and derelicts because why work, gentlemen, why bother, you get the big biscuit in the end.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. David Searle. I am a bit confused and I think I have an amendment on the floor to include senior citizens' homes in the Northwest Territories and I do not know if anybody moved that amendment. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman I did move an amendment and I am trying to get the format proper so there is no mistake in what we are saying here, we can not do it with just deleting the words "the Yellowknife" out of it, it has to be reworded and I would like a little time to get this done and possibly a little assistance and then I will come forth with the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Hon. Tom Butters.

More Than Territorial Government Involved In Rental Rates

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, just to say that I think the argument of most Members is not with any program put out by Social Services but lies with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation under whose budget this motion and amendment should ordinarily fall. I think we recognize that housing and the manner in which rents are determined are set up by national bodies and the National Housing Act and while it is all very well to tilt at windmills on your white charger I think we have to be realistic and realize that many of these formulae were established at the national level. Certainly if the motion passes the administration will do what it can to implement and fulfil the intent of the motion but I warn Members that there is much more than just this chamber involved.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, since there is a motion on the floor as indicated by the Honourable Member from Hay River, in planning to draft an amendment to it, I can not speak to the amendment but the motion in principle, Mr. Chairman, I would agree with the motion in principle dealing with Yellowknife entirely because no doubt Yellowknife in its senior citizens' residence, they are people of common background. I have not visited the place, I am not sure or I have no information regarding the type of people living in the senior citizens' home in Yellowknife but I do know the nature of Yellowknife is such that you could have perhaps a standardized rate. However, in listening to the Hon. Peter Ernerk, saying that he can not agree with this amendment or proposed amendment of application in general to the Northwest Territories of such standardized rates, and listening closely to the Member for Yellowknife South, Hon. David Searle, speaking on behalf of those who have been foresighted enough to put away some money for the years of their retirement, there is one basic thing about northern life we are forgetting here. We are here dealing with all people of the Northwest Territories who by and large are native people and who are in most instances, culturally and socially different from the people who have taken residence in the Northwest Territories over the last 30 years.

Native Residents In Senior Citizens' Homes

I do know that in the Mackenzie Valley and up in the Arctic most residents in senior citizens' homes are native people who, by and large because of their custom and tradition and because of the nature of their economics, which is a food gathering type of society, have never been able to preserve any food, or to put any money away for their future because the trapping economy is such that it is largely a gamble. Subsequently, these people have hardly any savings and I think I could take this and apply the same thing to the Inuit people. Of course today over the last 30 years we have a little bit of wage employment and some people are fortunate enough to have taken steady jobs and have gained some kind of an income, a retirement income, but again these are very few. So, at the present time I think I would have to agree with Hon. Peter Ernerk in view of the type of people we are dealing with on the over-all.

I would agree with Mr. Nickerson's intention in his motion, but to apply it clean across the Northwest Territories, I do not think it would work because we do have many people who have absolutely no savings, who are strictly dependent on their old age security pensions and who are in no position to take any jobs because there are no jobs to be found, and they are too old to go out trapping because that is a young man's game. In the communities as they are, people have moved into the communities and it is the younger people who take advantage of the modern things, snowmobiles, and they can get out and walk to the places where the senior citizens may be able to trap, to have an extra income. So, looking at the conditions in the North, the social conditions, then I must think twice before I would vote on such a broad or territorial wide standardized senior citizens' rent scheme. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Effect On Housing Corporation Programs

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could be permitted a word on this motion since, as has been pointed out, it affects a program of the Housing Corporation more than it affects a program of this department. I think what Members must bear in mind is that the program of providing senior citizens' accommodation is similar to that program for providing public housing which is a National Housing Act program. Of the occupants of these premises, none of them pay economic rent, so it is not a case of setting a rent that is even close to economic. None of them are in a position to pay economic rent and, therefore, throughout it is a subsidized program. To me that makes a difference

in the approach that must be taken. If we were to take money and provide a program that was substantially richer in the North than is provided in the rest of Canada, then CMHC through the National Housing Act would have a perfect right to say that they would not take part in any deficit in the program.

Although I have great sympathy for the work ethic and perhaps for financial success, at the same time I just wonder if financial standing and financial success is the only measure of a person's worth as he achieves retirement age. Clearly there are abuses and I suggest that those abuses will always be with us and we must seek ways and means of cutting them back. I believe that the mover of the motion sees this as a means of stopping that kind of abuse. I do not interpret his motion as seeking a means necessarily of raising more money, but of averaging it out and cutting out the abuses that he sees. But I submit to you that it would be difficult to do because there are those persons who have worked very hard all their lives and who were not able to put themselves in a better financial situation and, therefore, require in their declining years a fairly high level of support. I am confident those are not the kind of people we are trying to harm, but rather, the kind of people we are trying to help. I am not sure that if this motion were to be carried out that would be achieved.

Present System Of Rental Rates Is Imperfect

Clearly the present system is imperfect, but equally clearly I do not think that average rents necessarily will be the solution. The situation should be reviewed. There is no question about that. In fact I know that the same kind of review -- I had better say I am confident the same kind of review will be asked for when the Housing Corporation is under examination and the whole matter of rents in the communities under public housing will come into question.

The problem in the North is that it is so visible because such a high proportion of the people are living in public housing and a high proportion of the elderly people who are accommodated away from their own homes are also living in subsidized accommodation. I do not profess to know what the answers are. We must continue to seek some means of making the system more perfect but I do not think that this motion would achieve that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Deputy Commissioner Parker. I do not think we have a motion yet. We are still dealing with the amendment. Mr. Stewart.

Amendment Withdrawn

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, in view of the comments made, although I agree with the basic principle put forth by Mr. Nickerson, I have no intention at this time to make any amendment to his motion.

Secondly, for two reasons I have decided not to support it. One is that it is a CMHC guideline, the people who are putting up the money to build the senior citizens' homes. Secondly we are interfering in part I think with the business of the local housing authorities that have been set up to look after the housing in various communities and with the welfare of the local people at heart, I do not think we should necessarily be interfering with the business of an organization such as this that has been put in place. I, number one, do not want to amend the motion and number two, I will not support the present motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. I recognize the clock as being 2:30 p.m. We will take 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum and I call the committee to order. We have a motion on the floor. Mr. Nickerson, do you want to speak last to that motion? Everybody else has spoken.

MR. NICKERSON: I will sum up the arguments, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to do that. In that it would appear that the extension of this motion would cause some difficulties in other parts of the Northwest Territories other than Yellowknife, I am not disappointed that Mr. Stewart has withdrawn his amendment. It would appear that in some areas the local housing association which has the responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the senior citizens' homes favour the existing system of computing rents. In Yellowknife this would not appear to be the case. It would appear in Yellowknife that the local administrators, the housing association would favour this simplified system.

Wish Of Residents Themselves

The difference in rents in the Yellowknife senior citizens' home is not really that great. They probably range, and I am guessing now, but they probably range from about \$40 a month to \$70 a month, but most people would fall within a range of \$15 a month, so that if you did equalize it in Yellowknife there would be very few people whose rent would be decreased by a great amount and very few people whose rent would be increased by a great amount. In dollars and cents it is a matter of maybe only five or ten dollars a month but there is an important point of principle involved. I have every assurance that that is what the people in the Yellowknife senior citizens' home really want themselves. Some of the people who are assessed at say five dollars less than somebody else have a feeling that they are being looked down upon for some reason or other. They certainly would not have an objection to paying, say, three dollars a month extra.

Deputy Commissioner Parker raised some good administrative points, but we are not really here to discuss the finer points of administration. We are here to set policy direction and there is no way that I want to start arguing with the technocrats in the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation organization, but I am sure that if people really really wanted to do as the residents wish, to establish this equal rate, I am sure that means could be found so that it could be done. It is a matter of technicalities. On many occasions people within the employ of the Government of the Northwest Territories have found ways of dealing with this multitude of federal regulations which we have to deal. They have found ways of making that sensible for the Northwest Territories. There is no doubt in my mind that if they really wanted to do so they could do so in this case. That concludes my argument, Mr. Chairman, on this subject.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. The motion reads: I move this committee recommends to the Government of the Northwest Territories that should such a plan meet with the wishes of the residents, a single uniform rent be established at the Yellowknife senior citizens' home.

Motion That A Single Uniform Rent Be Established At Yellowknife Senior Citizens' Home, Defeated

Are you ready for the question? Question being called. All in favour? Contrary? I counted three for and three against. Is that right, Mr. Clerk? Did I count three for and three against? Four against. Let us try that again. To the motion. All in favour? Three. Contrary? Five. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Services To The Aged And Handicapped, Total 0 And M

Let us get down to business on page 11.05, services to the aged and handicapped, operations and maintenance, \$960,000, agreed? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I want to bring to the attention of the committee, Mr. Chairman, a matter that is important both to Yellowknife and I have every reason to believe Hay River also unless, of course, the Honourable Member from Hay River changes his mind again. I will give the example of Yellowknife because that is the one I am more familiar with. There a number of elderly people have resided in the home for a length of time. When they first went there they were in a physical state whereby they could properly live there. However, after a number of years their degree of health has declined somewhat and now they are not really able to look after themselves in the way that residents of the old folks' home are supposed to do.

It seems that there is a need for a different type of facility for those people who are not able to look after themselves or look after themselves with a minimum amount of assistance. There are people residing in the Yellowknife home whose condition is similar to those, to some of the people who live in the home in Aklavik, where really 24 hour assistance should be made available to them. The fact that these people are still at the Mary Murphy home in Yellowknife gives rise to two problems. One is that they themselves are not getting the attention that they require. I understand there are residents in there who have not left their room for three years. That certainly is not fair to them. Surely we could do better for them than that.

The second point is that because of these people in very poor physical condition there, gives rise to a lot of difficulties with the other people. Some of these people, for instance, are incontinent and unless they are looked after regularly the conditions of their rooms deteriorate very much and it causes a lot of discomfort for other residents. So the question is this, Mr. Chairman. What are we doing in Yellowknife to help these people who are in such poor physical shape that they are incapable of further looking after themselves at all and who require more or less continual supervision? Is there any plan to build what the department, I understand, calls an old folks' home as distinct from a senior citizens' home? What are we doing for these people?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Hon. Tom Butters.

Lack Of Nursing Home Services

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member has reidentified the area of growing concern that was first put before this committee on Friday by the Honourable Member from Hay River. The situation which Mr. Nickerson described today and Mr. Stewart described on Friday does exist; that is, we are seeing an increased number of elderly requiring care, we are seeing an increasing number of elderly who may be requiring what you would call nursing home care, or chronic care. Members will recognize that such responsibility devolves upon two departments, Social Services and Hon. Arnold McCallum's Department of Health.

So, at the present time the Department of Social Services recognizes a lack, such as identified by Members and a co-operative approach is being made with the Department of Health to provide services in this whole area. As I mentioned on Friday the groups in Hay River are aware and concerned about this problem of a growing number of such elderly and are identifying them on a personal basis so that the department can plan, or the government can plan for providing the care that has been identified by Members.

With regard to Yellowknife, I would assume that similar organizations within this community could make an approach to the government, having in hand the personal needs identified and categorized. At present, the aged in such homes do receive benefits from both the oversight program which is funded and implemented by the Department of Social Services and also the Co-ordinated Homecare program which ensures that regular nursing visits are made to elderly persons requiring such care. However, the Member is correct, there is a need here, it is being identified and I am hopeful that it will be resolved or the situation will be improved in a reasonably short period of time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Does that answer your question, Mr. Nickerson?

MR. NICKERSON: That is a general statement of the position of the government, Mr. Chairman, and the statement is that they are doing everything in their power to see that this matter is rectified and that they are aware of it. I was hoping, Mr. Chairman, they could be a bit more specific. The Honourable Minister has stated that he would like organizations who concern themselves with these matters to make representation to the government. I wonder if any such organizations, for instance the Yellowknife Housing Authority have indeed approached the Government of the Northwest Territories with suggestions as to how this problem might be rectified in Yellowknife.

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

No Representations To Government.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the answer to date is no, no Yellowknife organizations have made an approach to government. As the Member rightly determined the approach and the responsibility probably falls most within the purview of the local housing authority or the Yellowknife Housing Authority. By way of footnote I might mention that regarding the availability of chronic care facilities, there are some 30 beds in the Stanton Yellowknife hospital so identified for this extreme type of care.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Nickerson.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I beg your pardon, sir, that should be, in the proposed hospital.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I did not get that.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I was incorrect in my reference to the existing Stanton Yellowknife hospital, the 30 beds are being planned for the new or proposed Stanton Yellowknife hospital.

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

MR. NICKERSON: I might be completely wrong, Mr. Chairman, but in talking to people who do involve themselves with these problems I was of the understanding that a particular property had been identified in Yellowknife and that organizations had, maybe not formally but perhaps informally, approached the government with more or less specific suggestions about leasing or purchasing

a particular property with fairly specific figures worked out as to how much this would cost to operate and what would be required.

Now, I do not know if I want to pass judgment on any one particular scheme over another scheme, but I wondered if there was any official recognition on the part of the government that this had taken place and, you know, are they themselves looking at specific buildings that they might want to acquire for the purpose to build, or where do we stand on this matter? Surely we have identified the problem, we have known about the problem for some time but how far along the road to actually establishing something have we come?

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

No Nursing Homes Provided

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I am informed that neither the officials of the Department of Health nor the Department of Social Services have been approached for a facility of the type identified by the Honourable Member. The two items of capital shown in the section before Members today refer specifically to group homes, one of which would be used for the returning of psychiatric patients and the other of mentally handicapped or mentally retarded. Both of these homes are proposed for provision in Yellowknife, and I do not know if it may be either one of these two which the Honourable Member may be referring to, but as far as the nursing home type of care is concerned apparently there has been no approach made to date.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Stewart, did you wish to speak to this?

MR. STEWART: Yes, and I can assure Mr. Nickerson I have not changed my mind on this particular matter. There is certainly a need and I think the government has recognized it and are taking the proper steps at this time to try and rectify the situation. I was wondering though, I am looking for a place to make a motion relative to the continuance of the supply, the full supply of drugs to old age pensioners and we were previously supplied with a list of 67. Would it come under this section, Mr. Minister?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I can not give you a specific answer at the moment. Could you allow me to study the section before us and determine whether it should be in one of these sections or under the Department of Health? I notice that it was the Minister of Health who answered this morning with regard to that particular problem but I will try and answer more specifically with regard to the sections that still remain open under this budget allotment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Do you want to ask a supplementary question?

Funding For Drugs For Old Age Pensioners

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as this House placed a tobacco tax on for an increase of supplement to old age pensions and inasmuch as the amount of tax collected was considerably more than we had contemplated, it would appear to me that there should be funding available in this to pay for the drugs for the old age pensioners; that is, for the full list of 67 which is now in question. So, I will hold my motion until the proper place to make it but I want to be advised of what section it should go under and inasmuch as this particular section is so broad it could include just about anything.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I appreciate the matter raised by the Member and I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if you could leave this section open, as he says it is very broad, until I can get a specific answer and possibly assure him that the proper place to raise the motion would be under the estimates of the Department of Health. If we could leave it we could come back to it once we have gone through the various figures on this page.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to add that surely this does not come as a surprise to the government. They must be aware that there are old people in the Northwest Territories who require this kind of service, people who have spent their entire lives in the North. This committee has discussed this subject many times in the past and I would hope that they are able to identify, in fact fairly accurately, the number of people who will require this kind of service, not so much the chronic, but certainly old age care, in the communities and to forecast the kind of budget that will be required; whether it is practicable to have old age homes in all the communities. Or will it be necessary to move some of the older people from the settlements into the larger communities? I think now that surely we can identify and work out a ten or 20 year policy or projection of the kind of services that they should be providing or anticipate providing in that time.

Capital Planning For Care For The Aged

I was fortunate to be invited to the opening of the facility in Fort Smith where it provides both types of service, a very worth-while community project, with the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the housing corporation. I am sure that there must be needs across the North for facilities such as this sort. So, I would ask the Minister if he could provide and work out a timetable of the kinds of communities that will require these type of services in the next ten years and set money aside for the planning and developing of a worth-while program.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, yes, I think in co-operation with the various housing authorities and the Department of Health we can present to Members a plan of capital development for such type of services in the years ahead, but if the Member is expecting it today or tomorrow I do not think this is possible at this time.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The Member shakes his head and therefore I think the suggestion and recommendation is an excellent one and can be pursued by the officials of this department. I would just like to possibly add to the reply I gave to Mr. Nickerson. Apparently there was an approach made to the Department of Health approximately a year ago to provide -- or rather suggesting the type of service along the line he has suggested. The facility being offered is now being considered for another use and the purpose that was identified at that time, was felt could be met with the construction of the Stanton Yellowknife hospital. Whether that is satisfactory to the Member or not I do not know.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: I do expect the department would work on it. It seems as though we can predict exactly the number of classrooms we will need in a community in a given number of years and the kinds of kids we expect to have, but we seem to

neglect this very important group in the community, the older people. I would caution Members, the Honourable Member from Hay River, he may be in conflict of interest when he talks about old age pensioners' homes.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The point is well made and it is being noted by the officials of this department, sir.

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

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, would I be correct in assuming that the question raised by the Honourable Member from Hay River would come under financial assistance services? Is that where he could make his motion? I notice that on this page of benefits to the elderly that ...

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, that is correct, providing that the medical services are being provided for those persons classified as indigent.

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

Intent Of Motion Stated

MR. STEWART: That is not the intent of my motion. My motion is basically to maintain the same system that they have now relative to the old age pensioners. I think there are 67 drugs for chronic situations that have been given free and that is what I want to maintain for the old age pensioners. That is the intent of my motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Is that a motion that you made?

MR. STEWART: No. I am just looking for the proper place to make the motion. That is all.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Minister, could you give us the proper place?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Department of Health, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Stewart, we probably may have to wait for the Minister of Health. He just went out for a moment. Mr. Stewart, I understand your motion can be made under the Department of Health when it comes up.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am prepared to proceed with page 11.05 and pursue it later.

Services To The Aged And Handicapped, Total 0 And M, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Total operations and maintenance, \$960,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Services To The Aged And Handicapped, Total Capital, Agreed
Capital, total capital, \$572,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Services To The Aged And Handicapped, Total Expenditures, Agreed
Total expenditures of \$1,532,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Financial Assistance Services, Total O And M

Shall we go to page 11.06, financial assistance services? Operations and maintenance, \$7,543,000. Nobody wants to talk? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I have a question here since this item that we are dealing with here is financial assistance services. I have a question for the Minister. I wonder if he could tell me if this is the area where financial assistance for travel, for instance, a person in a community who is sponsored by a local association to take alcohol treatment we will say in Edmonton because he must receive medical attention as well -- is this the division of the department where the assistance comes in? Is it the one who finances this kind of thing?

MR. STEWART: That is page 11.07, the next page.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, that aspect of services is also covered under alcohol and drugs, when it requires a referral by a doctor.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Does that answer your question, Mr. Lafferty?

MR. LAFFERTY: A supplementary question, Mr. Chairman. I would gather then by the answer that this activity is designed to help a person get back into active public life, or a life of production, whatever you want to call it.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, if I could just provide for the Member the breakdown of the \$7,543,000 that is shown under total O and M. The largest portion is social assistance moneys amounting to some \$6,050,000. There has been a marked increase here over the \$4,842,000 requested last year for three reasons. The increase has resulted because the department underbudgeted last year and there will be a supplementary estimate coming before the Assembly in the social assistance area. There was an increase in people applying for and requiring social assistance of between 12 and 14 per cent. There was a bit of difficulty in estimating because of the increases that had been made in this area in past years. The item also provides supplementary benefits to the elderly and this is our pension assistance program. It also provides assistance for returning patients in the amount of \$471,000. It provides for the subsidized medical travel program approved and developed by this Assembly in the amount of some \$50,000. It includes health services for indigents and this is what I referred to earlier where the provision of drugs, dental, optical and prosthetic devices are required for persons unable to purchase them themselves which amounts to \$82,000. There is also an item of \$265,000 for the operation of the Akudlik transient centre over in Churchill and an item of \$50,000 for vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons. That is a breakdown, Mr. Chairman, of the \$7,543,000 required under the O and M portion of this total.

Financial Assistance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lafferty, there is a breakdown book there, if you want to look at that. Page 11.06, operations and maintenance, \$7,543,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Financial Assistance Services, Total Capital, Agreed

Total capital, \$5000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Financial Assistance Services, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Total expenditures, \$7,548,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Mr. Lafferty, are you satisfied with that breakdown?

MR. LAFFERTY: Yes.

Alcohol And Drugs, Grants And Contributions

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 11.07, Department of Social Services, alcohol and drugs, grants and contributions. Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the alcohol and drugs section, the O and M amount of \$800,000 is a contribution item only. What is not included in this section are the salaries for currently, I think, two people presently employed in this program and in the administration section there is a projection for one more staff worker in the drugs and alcohol program. This amounts to some \$90,000; \$80,000 to \$90,000. This item is found in the administration section. So the \$800,000 that is shown here is a contribution item.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister, I wonder if I could at this time ask the Members if I could get Mr. Lyall to sit in the chair for a few minutes because I am the chairman of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. I think if you agree to let him take the chair maybe I can speak.

---Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I unfortunately was unable to attend the Assembly session last year where the recommendations of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council were passed on to the Assembly and I gather were not acted upon by this body. I would like to know if and when this Legislature plans to deal with those recommendations which are vitally important to the welfare and happiness of a lot of people in the Northwest Territories.

More Funding Needed To Support Council

I would also comment on the paltry sum which I think this is, \$800,000. Is it a sum to attempt to come to grips with the worst disease problem that the North faces, the abuse of alcohol? One has only to walk around the streets of Yellowknife on a Saturday night to see that. I note with some alarm that in our folder of tabled documents in the report by the Northwest Territories Liquor Control System that liquor sales have increased from \$3,981,842 in 1969 to, in 1978, \$12,150,944. There has been a price increase, of course,

in that time, but nevertheless the amount of money is incredible and it seems to me that this Legislative Assembly certainly has not taken the matter as seriously as I think it should.

We have a council, the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. The problems are increasing. Everybody is familiar with the problems in Frobisher Bay. What is needed is money, people, facilities to combat the scourge of the North and unless a more worth-while approach is taken to it, I feel the situation will get worse and that there will be more suicides, more accidental deaths and more alcohol abuse until we really come to grips with this problem. That can not be done with miniscule amounts of money and it can not be done without this Assembly giving absolute full and total support to the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. I think this House did deal with the recommendations set out by the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. We partly went through it and most of the ones we did go through we did not agree with, and I personally do not know when the House will be looking at them again. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, those recommendations that came before the House were brought to the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council's attention at its December meeting, and the council did not accept them. Now, as to whether they come before the House again, we wanted to get more input from the communities before we brought it to the House here.

Program In Settlements Receiving Grants

I would perhaps like to say just a few things, and I have no figures in front of me but there are some. At one of the meetings we had there were 21 proposals of which 13 were approved. Some of these programs are working quite well and others need a little tuning up maybe. We have a couple of programs going in the valley which seem to be working but the three communities involved have all agreed to go dry; three settlements where you can not have liquor. I do not know if the House would like to have some figures as to how many settlements are getting these grants. I am sure I could get the figures for you and maybe table it for you tomorrow if you are interested at all. I can find out how many communities are receiving these grants and maybe just a little bit on how they are doing and how much further they will go. However, if the Members wish I can get this information for you and have it tabled tomorrow.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it agreed by this House? Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The information referred to by the Member is available and I understand it can be circulated at this moment so Members can see it now. I did not understand, Mr. Chairman, whether or not the recommendations of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council were to be studied again during this session. Is it the intent of the committee to look at them again this session, because we would have to get copies of those as well?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Pearson just asked if we were going to deal with them again and we have no answer for that yet. Page 11.07, total 0 and M, \$800,000. Is it agreed? Mr. Lafferty.

Budget Is Too Limited

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to talk to the principle of alcoholism in the Northwest Territories which is reflected here. We are dealing with a budget which is directed at preventing alcoholism in the North and I believe very strongly that this is a very serious problem that is affecting not only the native people but the communities at large. Here we have a budget before us that is only paying for the book work. I believe very sincerely and strongly that saving ten people in the course of a year, or even in the course of say five years is worth all the money that we could probably put into this activity. We have many people in the North who have needlessly died over the last year, people committing suicide, people going to jails, people who are appearing in our courts day after day, and the only people who are really benefiting from this \$800,000 are the civil servants, the lawyers, the landlords who are not here.

However, the actual person to whom this is directed does not benefit from it and that is the drunk who is on the street. I think that we should look seriously at the matter of alcohol abuse. Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated, and again let me remind you of some time ago of my reply to the Commissioner's Address, I said that we could swim in the stuff but we do not have to drink it. If this is the case it is a matter of education, we should engage in educating northern people as to the use of alcohol and its dangers and its results. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the administration if this is all the money that we have going towards one of our greatest instruments of social breakdown in the Northwest Territories, or are there other areas, or other types of funding found elsewhere?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as the Member suggested the \$800,000 before you is the only amount I know detailing contributions made to community organizations. I mentioned there was a figure of about \$90,000 in administration which covers the salaries of employees who are operating in this area, but as the Member states the money being put forward this year is the same as in the previous year and there will obviously be a reduction in the program areas. It is expected that the money that is before you today, if approved, would allow sufficient funds to maintain existing projects at the same level of funding as being received during the current year.

No Funding Allowed For New Projects

There is in the \$800,000 a very limited capability to fund any new projects from communities where alcohol and drug projects are not now operating. There is no available funding for regional alcohol and drug education workshops or for alcohol education programs, I would expect. There is no funding for other non-continuing projects such as surveys of community alcohol seed money to fund community projects and plans, etc., so yes, the amount of money requested is less in its operational ability than we asked for last year and it will result in a slightly reduced program over what is being implemented this year.

Obviously, too, part of the problem is that it reflects the restraint program imposed upon this government by the federal government, especially in the area of contributions. I imagine there is some hope that the number of communities in which legal restrictions have been placed on the use of alcohol will work towards reducing the problem and the result of such a problem in those communities, but the Member is absolutely correct, it is a lesser amount in effect than that of last year.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I will point out the little things that I see in the budget, I imagine to the guy on the street they are very important. We have heard through CBC radio, local radio and from the written media, and the media are writing about the northern people who are drunks, primarily the Eskimo and Indian. We have just approved a six million dollar welfare budget and we treat the cause of that budget to the tune of \$800,000 in total. Let me point out, Mr. Chairman, the problem we all know and we have all read, or should have, the report tabled here previously by the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. People have said in the North and people have written about us in the North, and these we know, that if a person -- the biggest problem that we have experienced in the North is drinking. I know in the case of Fort Simpson we have almost 70 per cent employment, but we do not benefit from the high wages people are making from Hire North in the community because they are spending that money elsewhere boozing. At the same time for the per capita income of Fort Simpson, which is fairly even with the other parts of the country, we have a substantial welfare payment and there is absolutely no need for that.

Viewpoint Of Common People

This tells me that I certainly do not go along with this budget, or this item of activity before us because it does not make sense, it is not practical. Maybe I make no headway here because I represent largely common people who look at things from simple day-to-day living and I have to present that view here. This is what they say and this is a fact. The problem of the communities is that of alcohol abuse. You will never stop it by putting restrictions because they will drink something else. They do not even know the effect of alcohol, the damage it does to them, the sickness that comes from it, the death that comes from it, the inconsistency of work. Everything I have mentioned is a result of alcohol abuse. If this is so, then, Mr. Chairman, I ask this House to look very closely at what we are doing to our people. On the one hand we are giving them welfare, we are paying them not to work and they do not know why. They will certainly never come out of the woodwork and say, "This is my problem," because there is a stigma to being an alcoholic. It is a shame, the guilt these people feel. That is the responsibility with which the Department of Social Services is charged. They must get the information out to the people.

If we are going to do that, Mr. Minister, I would expect the administration to put more money into educating the people of the North as to the dangers of alcohol use. The other side of the coin is that everybody has a right to drink, and yes, everyone does have a right to drink, it is a matter of choice that we have. On the other hand there is a public obligation to make sure that our citizens are aware of the dangers in an organized society. That is what the native people do not know, they have never lived an organized life. This tells me that I can not go along with this \$800,000 and I will not vote for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

People Realize The Problems

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, so much for that little speech. I think everyone here is aware of the problem, the alcohol problems in the Northwest Territories without a big, long spiel like that. I realize \$800,000 is a drop in the bucket but the federal government put in \$200,000 each year for different programs that are going on. However, like I said the people in the communities realize their problems, the people sitting around these tables realize their problems and I think we should get on with the budget and never mind listening to speeches.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Page 11.07, Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the pages that Mr. Fraser referred to are now being circulated so maybe we could wait until they are passed around. There may be a couple of questions arising from them.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Agreed, Hon. Tom Butters. Briefing notes on contributions funding, 1979-80, alcohol and drug program. Any comments of a general nature? Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Just a quick look at this indicates to me that some of these little tiny communities have as much money to spend on this problem as a large community such as Frobisher Bay and I wonder if there is a formula at all or is it just whoever gets in there first gets the most? Apart from Yellowknife and Inuvik -- I am happy to see they have something going in Inuvik in the form of residential treatment, but in these places like Fort McPherson, \$64,478 with a population I believe of about 600 or 700. Frobisher Bay with 2500 gets \$60,000. Fort Smith with a very large population again with only \$6751. Is there any formula as to the way these are worked out or is it just get your order in first and you might make it?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. I think whatever you apply for you get. I guess Frobisher Bay only applied for \$60,000 and that is what they got.

Applications For Funding

MR. FRASER: Maybe I could answer Mr. Pearson's question. The applications come in for projects, they come into the co-ordinating council. There are 20 odd members on the co-ordinating council made up of different groups and community members. If a proposal comes in for Spence Bay for \$36,600, it is looked at by the administration, Mr. Anderson looks at it and he comes up with his recommendations. It is brought before the co-ordinating council. Not all programs have been approved. Some have been sent back for further clarification, but it depends on how much you apply for, that is probably what you would get. If Frobisher Bay applied for something and could prove they needed that money for a rehabilitation centre or whatever, then the co-ordinating council would look at it. There are not too many that have been turned down completely. Some have been sent back for more clarification and more specific reasons, but it is not first come first served. I think the Inuvik rehabilitation centre is working now really well giving residential treatment. This includes rental of a building and bringing people in and drying them out. The Northern Addiction Services residential treatment in Yellowknife, I think is run by the Tree of Peace and it seems to be working all right. It is not necessarily the big centres. It depends what you apply for and if you can justify it, you get the grant.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. By the way, for the information of this Assembly, Mr. Fraser is chairman of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Just to say, Mr. Chairman, that we are in the process of approving, with the exception of Mr. Lafferty and myself, \$800,000 for the alcohol and drug program with this very minute segment of the northern community covered by this list of 13 communities, a total of \$982,985. I suppose they are already \$182,985 in the red and if any community were to apply for a grant or any assistance of any sort, they would be out of luck right now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Tom Butters.

Some Programs Carry Over To Next Year

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, just to correct the statement of the Honourable Member from Frobisher Bay. He said that we were overspent by \$182,985 which the sheets just circulated would suggest. But what the Member must realize is the co-ordinating council meets four times a year and some of the programs it approves carry over into the next fiscal year. So what this shows is that these programs are in some cases carryover programs and the \$182,985 will be coming from the next fiscal years allotment. If you wish to go into explicit terms, the budget was underspent in this area this year by about \$5500 that is about the projection, \$5500 in the current year.

MR. PEARSON: I do not follow what Hon. Tom Butters is talking about but I guess it makes sense. The other thing that I question is the validity and the usefulness of some of these programs. I have seen attempts at programs in Frobisher Bay at the alcohol information centre and it was simply a telephone number to ask them what time the liquor store opened. Do they check out some of these so-called centres? Are they under close scrutiny? Are they mindful that a lot of people will join anything to get a job once they have been cut off from unemployment insurance or whatever or if they do not qualify for it? I have had incidents in my store of cashing cheques for people on one of these committees from an unnamed community and found it was the individual himself who was chiselling the books and having a great time and spent most his time under the affluence of incohol and had a great time squandering these funds. The question I would like to ask is whether they do get scrutinized with an intense scrute occasionally?

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

Communities Are Visited Re Programs

MR. FRASER: Maybe just a couple of things I could get clear on this. Mr. Pearson is talking about people breaking into his store and everything. In all these cases where these programs are approved they have their own president, they have their own secretary and they are supposed to be looking after the programs. Every once in a while Mr. Anderson makes a trip out and visits the communities that have these programs and they send in quarterly reports on all activities going on for that program.

The \$982,985 you are looking at here, I just said a while ago the federal government funds \$200,000 which is not shown on here. All that is shown here is the \$800,000. The federal government funding is for, I could name the places here like Spence Bay, Fort Resolution, Resolute Bay would come under that, and Rankin Inlet, Snowdrift, Fort Smith would come under a different program. That would be under a territorial program. Frobisher Bay would be under the Native Alcohol Program. Cambridge Bay, Fort McPherson, would come under the territorial government. So these funds are split up by the federal government and the territorial government and each of these proposals, these programs are run by the people themselves in the community, so if there is any scrutiny going on it is up to the committee or the community to pick it up.

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

MR. PEARSON: Just to clarify what I meant, really it was the effectiveness of the program. Is it checked to ensure that it is working, to ensure it is a worth-while or a sensible approach to dealing with alcohol abuse and you know it is not just a waste of time so that the money is used to its maximum benefit and people in the communities are getting some benefit from it? That was the point I am trying to make. I realize it is difficult to do when you live so far away from Yellowknife or wherever. It is kind of hard to cover everywhere but I question the effectiveness of some of these programs. They sound good in theory but in practice they are a waste of money, some of them.

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

Funding On A Quarterly Basis

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I just told the Honourable Member that we have a man in Yellowknife who goes around to the different programs and he has a full report on how the programs are working. If they are not working, he comes back to the co-ordinating council at the next session -- we hold four a year -- it is reviewed by the co-ordinating council. If it is not working, we do not fund it any more. We only fund them quarterly and we have to get a quarterly report before we fund it again. Does that answer your question?

MR. PEARSON: Thank you.

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

Building For Information Centre In Baffin Region

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, regarding the Baffin region, in Baffin Island there is an information centre which needs a building. For a different reason they would like to purchase a house. I have written material here with me but I do not have it translated into English. The chairman of that committee, that information centre, is a minister. I would like to ask if he is aware of what we are discussing now, these programs? The building that they requested is going to be used by 13 communities. I would like to know if you ever heard about this before?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the official who has provided this service for the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council program is unavailable to the Assembly today. He is out of town. The departmental officials here have not heard of this request. Mr. Anderson may have done so. However, we would be very happy to receive Mr. Pudluk's representation, have it translated and refer it to the director of the Department of Social Services for action and reply.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you very much, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Fraser, have you any information on that building they are asking for?

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I think the building in question came up before the co-ordinating council at our December meeting and the program was sent back for more clarification. I think, although I am not quite sure, but I think it had been approved in principle. I am not too sure and I could check it out. Maybe Hon. Tom Butters could check it out too, but I am sure that is the building in question. The proposal was sent back for more information, but I do not think it was dead right there, I think it has been funded since but I will check it out, Mr. Pudluk.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, when I read the front page of the News of the North this afternoon it referred to the word "Katavik", and in this information which we received from the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council the Frobisher Bay recreation committee project also reads the same thing, Katavik, which

simply translates to a place to fall down. For history's sake I hope that the word is not meant to be the word Katavik and they meant Kativik, a place to meet.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is there any answer to that, Hon. Tom Butters?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to say that we will take the suggestion of the Honourable Member and make corrections if corrections are required or suggest corrections if corrections are required.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Maybe that is what it means in Frobisher Bay, to fall down. I realize we are running a little late on this but the House will recess until 4:25 p.m., for coffee.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---SHORT RECESS

Alcohol And Drugs, Total 0 And M, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The Chair recognizes a quorum. Comments of a general nature? Total 0 and M. Is it agreed on the \$800,000?

---Agreed

Alcohol And Drugs, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Total expenditures, \$800,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Community Social Services, Total 0 And M, Agreed

Now, we will turn to page 11.08, community social services. Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to indicate, Mr. Chairman, what these funds, the programs they are allocated to. The activity has been well used during this fiscal year and while some applications for funds have been rejected because the funds approved by the House were totally committed, the projects are very wide ranging and they respond to the identification of community needs. These are in the areas of homemaker service, oversight service for the elderly, camp programs for children and day care for children. The agencies currently receiving the moneys are: Yellowknife Co-ordinated Homecare program, \$55,000; Yellowknife Day Care Centre, \$120,000; Fort Smith Day Care Centre, \$60,000; Mental Health in Yellowknife, \$30,000; Mary Murphy senior citizens in Yellowknife, \$12,000; Association for the Mentally Retarded in Yellowknife, \$20,000; Fort Simpson Senior Citizens' Home, \$4000; Northwest Territories Native Women's Association, \$63,000; health committee in Gjoa Haven, \$12,000; Juvenile court committee in the Baffin, \$2000; Youth Opportunities, juvenile court committee in Fort Smith, \$4000; Inuvik Day Care, \$15,000; Arctic House in Yellowknife, \$25,000.

Some of the projects I have indicated to Members will be requiring further funding, ongoing funding and such applications are expected to be received as required in the fiscal year.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you. Page 11.08, total 0 and M, \$497,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Community Social Services, Total Capital, Agreed

Total capital, \$10,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Community Social Services, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Total expenditures, \$507,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total 0 And M, Agreed

I will direct you to page 11.01, total 0 and M, \$20,690,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

Total capital, \$2,171,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Revenues, Agreed

Total revenues, \$8,763,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

I would like to ask the administration what they would like to go on to next.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, Public Services.

MR. PEARSON: Page?

Department Of Public Services

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I would direct you to page 5.01, and is it the wish of the administration to bring in a witness?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I would like to have the committee's approval to bring in two witnesses, the director and the administrative officer.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Irving and Mr. Borgford, would you please come to the witness stand? I would like to direct your attention to page 5.02, directorate. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: What I would like to propose is that maybe I could read into the record some general comments about the department and then if there are questions of the department would it be possible then to ask the director, Mr. Irving to respond, if that would meet with the approval of the committee?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Responsibilities Of The Department

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: The Department of Public Services is responsible for providing legal services to the government, maintaining land titles, vital statistics and motor vehicle registries, enforcing labour and safety ordinances, administering the Police Services Agreement and the legal aid program, providing administrative support for the court system, Highway, Transport and Public Utilities Boards. The initiation of an occupational health program has resulted in the addition of a new unit to the safety division. The motor vehicle branch developed a program by which it would assume driver testing duties on the Mackenzie highway system. Agreements with the federal government were concluded covering an expanded legal aid program and the establishment of a gun control officer. In the coming year, 1979-80, emphasis will be placed on the publication of a territorial Gazette and implementing the increased scope of the legal aid program. Negotiations are continuing with the federal government to transfer the responsibility for the administration of the Mining Safety Ordinance.

The directorate provides for liaison between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the RCMP through the administration of the Police Services Agreement and in participation with the RCMP in the planning of policing services within the Northwest Territories. In relation to court services the activity is responsible for providing administrative and financial support for the supreme, territorial and juvenile courts in the territories. A coroner's program, justices of the peace, sheriff and bailiff services are provided.

The court library has been expanded and now includes two full time employees. The safety division of the department encompasses the regulatory and administrative responsibilities of the government for fire, mechanical, electrical, industrial, occupational health and safety and the administration of the Labour Standards and the Fair Practices Ordinances.

Legal Aid Programs

As regards registries, the legal aid program, the Native Court Workers Association and the Maliiganik, that is close or better, and this next one will be a dandy, Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services Centre on a cost sharing ...

MR. PEARSON: Not bad!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: ... basis with the federal Department of Justice, registering and licensing motor vehicles and drivers and provides support to the Highway Transport Board and the Public Utilities Board. Vital statistics, that section registers all births, deaths, marriages and on a contract basis with the federal government, maintains the Indian band membership list, registering legal documents and professional people, licensing and regulation of the insurance industry and issuance of the business licences. The legal services activity includes the provision of a legal advisor to the Legislature, a wide range of legal services to the departments and Executive Committee and drafts all ordinances, regulations and Commissioner's orders; the public trustee function and preparation of material for the Northwest Territories Gazette as well.

In 1979 a major consolidation of the regulations will be published. The Police Services Agreement provides for policing services and is comparable to agreements in force with the Yukon Territory and all provinces except Ontario and Quebec. This activity provides for the Government of the Northwest Territories costs of the Police Services Agreement with the RCMP under the 1979 agreement and the government's share of the cost in 1979-80 will be 55 per cent. I think, Mr. Chairman, that that is the responsibility of various divisions within the department and some idea of the direction in which the department is attempting to move in the coming year. If there are particular questions, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the director be responsible for the answering of them.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature? I direct your attention to page 5.02, directorate. Hon. David Searle.

Northwest Territories Gazette

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I first of all want to say how much I support the publication of a Northwest Territories Gazette because I think that in the absence of publishing some of the regulations, orders and other documents that bring the things into legal force and effect, we may well have had a bit of a loophole here that has not to date been challenged fortunately in the courts. Because of my concern I am wondering if, Mr. Chairman, I could have explained to me exactly what the government has in mind with respect to a Northwest Territories Gazette. Is it to be along the traditional lines of gazettes published by the Queen's printers elsewhere or is there something unique and different that we are going to experiment with?

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, basically we do not have a Northwest Territories Gazette at this time. These items that are published in the newspaper, that are indicated as Gazette material, it is my information that these items are not suitable for court purposes in that it is difficult to file a newspaper in a court library and use that particular document in court. What we plan to do is publish a Gazette that would be suitable for court purposes along the lines that the other provinces currently have.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I take it then that regulations and orders of the Commissioner and other such documents would be published and the publications could be purchased by lawyers and others who require them for evidentiary purposes. When are we going to have the Northwest Territories Gazette first published entirely?

MR. IRVING: I would hope some time this summer, possibly four to five months.

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

Police Services

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Could I just then leave that point for a moment? The other thing that has always interested me about this particular department has been the Police Services Agreement which, speaking in general terms over the last dozen years or so, has been a series of escalating costs on the one hand and reducing service on the other hand. In other words, the police regard themselves more and more as a highly trained and no doubt extremely expensive service where they virtually in terms of manpower and the type of equipment that they will use, they do what they think and we pay a share of that service, but ever increasingly the police are specifying in the agreements those things that they will not do.

We all know, of course, how all-encompassing police services once were in the North from registering births and deaths to issuing just about everything that had to be issued in terms of permits but now more and more the RCMP are insisting on doing strictly those matters of a law enforcement nature. I am just wondering if there are any changes, therefore, in the Police Services Agreement that we should be made aware of as generally speaking we have insisted on seeing the document and hearing from the RCMP directly as witnesses as well. Hoping not to have to go through that procedure, are there any additional exclusions of things that they are not prepared to do that we should be made aware of, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Hon. David Searle. Mr. Irving.

Non-police Duties

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, there are additional negotiations that have been carried out this year between the Government of the Northwest Territories represented by our office and the RCMP in regard to a further Police Services Agreement which comes into effect in 1980-81. Hon. David Searle is absolutely correct. From our information the police are attempting to get out of what they consider non-police duties. These involve enforcement of bylaws and what is known in the North as those traditional things that the RCMP have carried out. Our present agreement has a special clause which is subsection 8(3) which provides that those non-police duties that have traditionally been carried out in the North will be continued in those areas where it has been traditional. That particular section also provides that where alternative ways are evident for somebody else to do them, then the police in effect can get out of them. I used the example of the Yellowknife/Hay River area, the larger areas where there are bylaw officers. I would think our policy would be that we would hold the RCMP to the letter on the agreement and ensure that particularly in the smaller settlements, the Eastern and High Arctic and the Arctic coast, that they continue to be employed and enforce these non-police duties.

I might add in respect to one point put by Hon. David Searle, Mr. Chairman, that we had asked that the RCMP senior personnel be present in case you might have some questions for them. Their answer to us was that if you want them here, you have to ask them to come up, but I would think that there may be questions that you might want to put to Chief Superintendent Buttler. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Irving. Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Irving, for refreshing my memory on that particular subsection 8(3). I do indeed recall seeing it. The problem I have with interpreting it, however, is this, that is who decides what is traditional and what is not traditional in the communities? Do you just get into a debate as between the RCMP and this administration or does that clause specify who makes that decision in the final analysis if there is disagreement?

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

Traditional And Non-traditional Duties

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I might relate a specific incident that recently happened that may provide an answer. In the Eastern Arctic a small detachment had a new NCO, non-commissioned officer, transferred in from Alberta who was not familiar with that particular section and proceeded to enforce the police duties as he did in southern Canada. We were made aware through the government representatives in the Eastern Arctic that this particular NCO was refusing to enforce the Snowmobile Ordinance, curfew bylaw and what he thought were other non-police duties. The matter was taken up with the division headquarters here and the operational chief, the CIB, criminal investigation branch, officer who looked into the matter and instructed the NCO of that particular detachment to do what he was supposed to do and that is enforce the provisions of that section, all the non-police duties. I think it is in summary a matter that is dealt with by our government through our department with the RCMP headquarters here in Yellowknife. So far it has been resolved in our favour.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: If I may be permitted to say so, certainly Mr. Irving is the man to deal with, having been one of them at one time. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if I could have the figures for the cost of police services to us last year as opposed to what they are going to be next year?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Irving. May I just direct the attention of this Assembly to page 5.07.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, in answering my own question and looking at that page, it looks like about a \$600,000 increase.

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

Anticipation Of The Pipeline

MR. IRVING: I am sorry for the delay. Basically we are trying to hold the line on police costs. With the escalation and inflation that is a little difficult to do. One of the areas, however, that gave us some leeway was the fact that in anticipation of the pipeline the RCMP had I think inflated their establishment, particularly in the areas along the Mackenzie, the larger centres. We have been negotiating with them for the past ten months to reduce their manpower in some areas where they have a surplus of staff. They have indicated that since last April first they have cut some 16 man years from their over-all budget. However, one area that hit us and that we were not prepared for was the increase in allowances that the federal civil service received which was retroactive 18 months and which amounted to close to one-half million dollars. What we are looking at for the basic cost for 1978-79 is \$5.8 million. That is our share which is 55 per cent of the total Police Services Agreement.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Irving. While we are on that subject can I ask you how much effect that would have on all the little detachments or outlying stations that they have to put in places like Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Holman Island? Are there other places such as those where they have to put extra buildings? How much would that affect that cost?

MR. IRVING: I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, whether I understand that question. Is it that the cost is being affected or the problem of putting manpower into those particular small places which would be affected?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Irving, the reason I asked is that they are putting in satellite stations where they come in once in a while to visit in communities which had no buildings in before.

MR. IRVING: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Those particular plans will not be affected. What was affected were positions like additional telecommunications positions at Inuvik, Hay River and Yellowknife, extra detectives and a police supervisor here in Yellowknife, some extra traffic positions, mainly supernumerary type of jobs that would have been needed if the pipeline had come in. Also there were two ident numbers, the fingerprint, scenes-of-crime people. These small detachments are not being affected, not being cut.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Just one last question and it really goes back to I think one of my first questions. Do I understand that the RCMP agreement for the coming year then does not differ in wording from the previous agreement?

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. It does not differ. We are still operating under the same Police Services Agreement. This will change, I take it -- it could change if we agree to have it changed in 1980-81. Those negotiations start commencing later this spring with the Solicitor General's department.

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

Costs Of Government Operating In The North

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I guess these are comments of a general nature. Mr. Chairman, my main concern with public services in the Northwest Territories is that I am looking at ways and means of trying to reduce costs of the government operating in the North. I believe my main concern is that it is not only for the government but it is also for the small persons, the individual and the

community and that is vehicle insurance. I know the government is paying a tremendous amount of vehicle insurance in the Northwest Territories. I can not understand to my way of thinking why must a small community with only one mile of road pay the same insurance as another community in the Northwest Territories which is connected by the highway?

I believe that this government is paying too much. You talk about inflation, and there is no need for paying the same insurance you pay for a community which is connected to a highway. I believe we should have a different policy in the North where a community is isolated from a highway, they should have a different policy to fall under. I am prepared, Mr. Chairman, to make a motion to that effect whenever you are ready.

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

Insurance Rates

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I have some sympathy for Mr. Steen's problem. The Department of Public Services really has no control over insurance rates. We have found out, however, and possibly our consumer affairs section might be interested in this, and perhaps this is something we should be looking at and so far we have not been involved but maybe we should be. Certainly we have found one thing, and this will come up later before the Assembly when the All-terrain Vehicles Ordinance is examined, that ordinance, where the insurance rates leave a little bit to be desired. We found that liability insurance for some, for skidoos and some of these vehicles, we know that possibly some of the northern people are being ripped off. Of course you can always go to another insurance company and perhaps one of the problems is that there is not enough competition amongst insurance companies, but we recognize the problem as outlined by Mr. Steen and perhaps this is something we could have our consumer affairs section look into.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Perhaps, Mr. Steen, you would like to make your motion now?

Motion To Have Administration Introduce A New Structure Of Insurance Policies And Rates

MR. STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to compliment the gentlemen, the witnesses, especially Mr. Irving for the way he put it, that the public is being ripped off, the government is being ripped off, they are taking the people for every dollar they are worth. To shorten what I want to do, Mr. Chairman, I think I should move the motion for this administration to set up a new policy and perhaps I may not have the right words here but it runs like this: I move that this administration introduce a new policy for vehicles in communities which are not connected to the highways. I believe that means, Mr. Chairman, as far as moneys collected for insurance...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Could I have your motion over here and I will see if I can put it in better words with our Legal Advisor? Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, perhaps whilst that is being done we could carry on with other speakers.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is that agreed, or, Mr. Steen, would you like to discuss your motion?

MR. STEEN: You mean they want to reword the motion, Mr. Chairman?
Mr. Chairman, it could be that what I am getting at is insurance, the insurance policy, that the amount of coverage ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The motion: I move that this administration introduce a structure of insurance policies and rates to accommodate vehicles in communities that are not connected to the highways.

MR. STEEN: I believe that is the purpose of the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Discussion on the motion. Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Could you read it again, please?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I move that this administration introduce a new structure of insurance policies and rates to accommodate vehicles in communities that are not connected to the highways. Mr. Stewart.

Not A Matter Of Government Policy

MR. STEWART: Certainly I do not disagree with the motion but inasmuch as the government is not in the insurance business I wonder, even if that wording is correct whether it should not be reworded to ask them to see the insurance companies because we are not in the insurance business. The way the thing reads it is a matter of negotiation with the insurance companies, it is not a matter of policy of the government.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: If the word "introduce" was substituted by the word "investigate" I think the motion might make more sense, to have the government investigate rather than introduce new policies and rates because as Mr. Stewart has said the government is not in the insurance business and if we wanted in the insurance business we would have to put some money in the estimates. In other words I do not think you want what they have in British Columbia, Mr. Steen, at least not yet. What do they call it, ICBC, Insurance Corporation of British Columbia?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Would you then move an amendment to that motion?

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Was the motion accepted? If Mr. Steen would like to incorporate that change we do not need to go through that but if he resists it then I guess I would move an amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Steen, are you satisfied with what Hon. David Searle has suggested here? I move that this administration investigate a new structure of insurance policies and rates to accommodate vehicles in communities that are not connected to the highways.

MR. STEEN: I appreciate what Hon. David Searle has suggested but I am not entirely in agreement with the amendment. What I believe is that if you investigate something then you look into something but I see the public being ripped off, ripped off of moneys that they will not get in the end anyway. When you have one mile of road there is less likelihood of crashing against another vehicle than if you have 100 miles of road. I think what I am trying to say I guess is that let us do it, let us not investigate it, let us do it. Even though we are not in the insurance business, who pays, the public pays. To hell with the insurance companies, they make money anyway.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, if what Mr. Steen has just said is what he intends then obviously he is opposed to my amendment and indeed I should think what he really wants is a motion requesting that we enter into the automobile insurance business as a government and that a fund be established, etc. With respect to his comment that you do not have the same number of accidents with one mile of road I recall back in approximately 1946, 1947 or 1948, somewhere around there, where we in Yellowknife were in the very same position as most communities. The only road that existed was one that went from the airport to the Con mine and then down the old School Draw to the town. We only had two cars in Yellowknife then, the doctor had one, Dr. Stanton and there was a taxi, I think, and they did have a head-on collision. For a period of time we did not have any cars in Yellowknife until they were repaired. That is a historical fact.

Motion On Insurance Policies And Rates, Amended.

I think the only way to resolve the different views is for me to move a motion that the word in Mr. Steen's motion of "introduce" be replaced by the word "investigate".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): On the amendment to the motion that instead of reading, I move that this administration introduce a new policy and so on, it will now read, I move that this administration investigate a new structure of insurance policies and rates to accommodate vehicles in communities that are not connected to the highways. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Well, that amendment of Hon. David Searle's makes sense and I agree in principle with Mr. Steen absolutely. I think that Hon. David Searle has the correct approach, if I may say so, and I would support the idea of the motion with the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature to the motion. Mr. Fraser, to the amendment.

MR. FRASER: I did not hear the amendment, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Fraser, the first motion by Mr. Steen reads as follows: I move that this administration introduce a new policy to accommodate vehicles in communities that are not connected to the highways. The amendment reads that you take out the word "introduce" and you put in the word "investigate" so now the new motion reads: I move that this administration investigate a new structure of insurance policies and rates to accommodate vehicles in communities that are not connected to the highways. Any comments of a general nature to the amendment? Mr. Fraser?

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I can not see ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Could you get closer to your mike so everyone can hear what you are saying?

Vehicle Insurance In Smaller Communities.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I can not see how even with all the investigating you can do I can not see an insurance company going in and cutting down on insurance rates where you are not connected to the highway because we have no connection to the highway at Norman Wells but there may be 100 vehicles in that settlement and it is not connected to the highway. So, if you are going to restrict it to small settlements what about a place like Norman Wells where there is 100 vehicles, who will now insure you if you are not connected to the highways if they will not drop your insurance any?

I guess further to Hon. David Searle mentioning two vehicles in Yellowknife, that happened at Fort Liard and the same guy owned both vehicles and they ran together head-on. I can not see any insurance company insuring -- I agree with Mr. Steen fully, where you are not connected to the highway, you do not have the proper roads and they do not keep the roads up like they do in the communities that are connected to the highway but you could do all the investigating you want and I do not think you would find an insurance company that would go in and insure you for a cut rate where you are not connected to the highway.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think in speaking to the amendment, I am not suggesting that any investigation in itself would bring the desired results but at least if the administration looks into the problem they may be able to come up with a solution and a recommendation to solve it. They may for instance be able to find an insurer who would be prepared to offer more reasonable rates. I do not know for instance whether it has ever been put up to insurers that the risk is different in smaller off the Mackenzie highway communities than it is in communities that have a highway. I do not know that that argument has ever been presented to them. I do not know for instance whether the risk is different. After all, a contract of insurance is an insurance of the risk, and if you can demonstrate by way of argument to an insurer that the risk is less for some reason or other then it seems to me you may be able to lower premiums because the premiums are supposed to reflect the risk.

An Alternative Suggestion

If you can not demonstrate that or if you believe it and they do not, then presumably the administration may be able to come back with alternate suggestions. I do not know what they may be, except to get into the business as an administration of insuring vehicles in small settlements which I do not know whether at this point in time I would go for. I think there was a third alternative at one point in time if my memory serves me correct. I think what we did years ago was to -- in the legislation just exempt, did we not, Deputy Commissioner Parker, exempt vehicles off the highway from having to have insurance altogether? I recall opposing that pretty heavily then because I guess it is all right if you are the guy who is paying the premium but what about the guy who gets run over? Those are all the alternatives and my amendment, Mr. Fraser, with respect, simply asks that the government investigate them and come back with a recommendation as to which, if any, of those we can pursue without restricting their course of investigation. But presumably a report will come back as a result of that amendment if it passes that says "Here are all our alternatives, gentlemen. Which ones do you want to accept?"

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Hon. David Searle. To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Amendment Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyaal): Question being called. All those in favour of the amendment? Seven. All opposed? One. The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Motion Carried As Amended

To the motion now as amended. All in favour? I am sorry about that. Nine. All against? The motion is carried as amended.

---Carried

Now back to work. I direct your attention to page 5.02, directorate, Department of Public Services. Mr. Pearson.

A Greater Need For Police Services

MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct some questions to Mr. Irving with regard to the Police Services Agreement, something which has concerned me for some time, in fact for many years. It seems that the consumer is getting shafted every time he turns around whether you are consuming soft goods or food or police services. In the changing North -- and the North is changing with the evolution, development of municipalities and hamlets, etc. -- the need for police services is becoming greater than it has ever been. For example, the municipality of Frobisher Bay has some 70 or 80 bylaws in the bylaw book but practically all of them are unenforceable because there is no one to enforce them. It seems that the next course of action is to establish a Frobisher Bay police force, a municipal police force. God forbid that that should come to happen. It has happened in Yellowknife and I am sure it is going to happen in other communities. I believe in Fort Smith they have a bylaw enforcement officer. That is what we are after. That is what happens. These bylaws have to be enforced. The RCMP are unwilling to do it and have been for many years.

It seems to me that the most logical step is the establishment of a territorial police force if you wish, a northern constabulary using native people wherever, in their homes, the Eastern Arctic, in the Central Arctic would be Inuit and Indians here in the Mackenzie first to provide a more meaningful approach to police work, to provide jobs for native people, to provide a more sensible approach, if you like. People in the community understand the community, speak the language, have lived there all their lives, not young men who are recruited from southern Canada who come to the North, to that great challenge to live with the dog teams and go live in an igloo. I mean all of that romantic stuff is just not practical any more. One sees in so many cases young men, policemen who arrive in the North for the first time totally lost, unable to manage without the aid and skills of the specials who serve them, special policemen of course who will never ever attain the rank of commissioner unless they have a special commissioner or a special sergeant. I mean there is just very little opportunity for them in their capacity to attain any worth-while rank because, according to the RCMP rules and regulations, their size does not allow it unless they happen to be over the minimum height and of course have the necessary education, the grade 12.

Change In The Role Of A Mountie

We have seen so many men of the North over the years who have served as specials, skillful, competent, knowledgeable about the community, able to do a very good job, retain the respect of the people in which community they live and very much on the same basis as the English bobby or the village policeman that one still sees perhaps in Canada. I do not know but certainly in northern Scotland, in Wales and Great Britain you will see the village bobby who is a member of the community, not someone who is moved because it is not right to have a

policeman living in the same town in which he is born. They become a useful and important part of the community.

Today we see a change in the role of the mountie. When I first came north the community policeman was very much like the English bobby but the role has changed. The kind of work has changed. They do not have the same rapport with the people in the community, so I propose that we should seriously consider the idea of forming a northern constabulary, whatever you want to call it. There are areas in Canada now where attempts are being made, in the Indian communities I understand, of giving native people the opportunity to work in their own reservations carrying out the police work.

I suggest that as these communities gain hamlet status the need for police services is growing, for the snowmobile bylaws and traffic bylaws. The village of Frobisher Bay has traffic bylaws. None of the fines ever go to the village of Frobisher Bay because they do not prosecute under the village bylaws. They prosecute under territorial law so there is no benefit to the community from that point of view. I must say, as the mayor of Frobisher Bay, that the mounties are very co-operative. They are always willing, particularly in the case of the dog issue, they are more than willing to come out and shoot a few.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Pearson.

Motion To Establish Northern Police Force

MR. PEARSON: I have not finished. He is getting worried. So I would like to suggest that, to cut a long story short, I would like to move a motion in fact that the government investigate the possibility of establishing a northern police force.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. To the motion. I think we should have dealt with this under Local Government, but seeing as you made the motion I guess we have got to deal with it now. Anyway I would like to direct your attention again to page 5.02. We were supposedly under the directorate and if you want to talk about the Police Services Agreement it is on page 5.07. To the motion. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Member who made the motion would tell us what a bobby is?

MR. PEARSON: Sorry?

MR. FRASER: What is a bobby?

MR. PEARSON: A bobby, Mr. Chairman, is the affectionate term used for an English policeman.

MR. FRASER: I thought they called them dicks.

MR. PEARSON: Called them what?

MR. FRASER: Dicks.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): To the motion, Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I would like to support Mr. Pearson in his motion. This is an old issue. We have talked about it on many occasions before. Some ten years ago when Mr. Pearson originally brought this to the attention of the Assembly he was looked upon as being a great deal odd and peculiar. Times have changed and now he is looked upon as being just a little odd and peculiar. But I think Mr. Pearson has a very good point. We have seen and this has been discussed in detail by Hon. David Searle the fact that the costs of the real professional expertise that we have in the RCMP are increasing continuously and at the same time they are getting out of the things which they have traditionally done and which we would like to see continue to be done. If we are not very careful, the RCMP is just going to end up enforcing the Criminal Code and maybe the Narcotics Act and a few other federal statutes.

We see in a number of communities in the North where the kind of house-on-the-hill syndrome is developing with the RCMP. They rarely have cause to communicate with the people within the settlement or community unless one of them is suspected of being guilty of a serious offence. The RCMP officer does not really integrate with the people that he is there to serve. I think this is an excellent suggestion. There is no reason why we could not have a northern constabulary, northern police force, people trained in general police work, generally located in the community where they normally reside and not having this idea of moving them around every two years so that they can not get to mix with the people they serve.

There Will Always Be A Need For The RCMP

At the same time I do not think we should get rid of the RCMP from the North. There is always going to be a need for this level of expertise and level of training that they have. As I would see it the RCMP would still operate out of communities such as Hay River and Yellowknife and Inuvik. But apart from their expert police work that they do all the time in these larger communities their role would be one of back-up in the smaller areas.

If there was a serious crime, a murder, or something like that, then the local constable would of course be able to call in the RCMP officers. Similarly, if there was some kind of technical crime, fraud, commercial fraud or if there was a lot of drug smuggling coming in and out of say Frobisher Bay, you would want the RCMP involved in that. However, a lot of normal police duties or what some years ago were considered to be normal police duties I am sure could be carried out quite adequately and competently and well by members of a northern constabulary.

The motion that Mr. Pearson introduced does not ask that such a body be set up at the present time, and of course there is no money in the budget for it, but it would be a difficult job to set it up, you obviously would have to train people initially, you would probably start off with a small force in certain communities and expand it. So, what we are asking by way of this motion is just that the government take a close look into this and see if it is feasible or not, to see whether it might even be possible to save money for the Government of the Northwest Territories by adopting such a practice. Therefore I am very pleased to support Mr. Pearson's motion, Mr. Chairman.

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

Bylaw Officers In Municipalities

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the information of Mr. Fraser, a bobby is also a Scottish word meaning baby; it depends upon which part of the little island you come from I guess, relative as to how the pronunciations come out. I think that probably we have been trying for the last 15 years to

get the RCMP to train specials or people who could be used in municipalities to do the bylaw work. We spent considerable time trying to get this organized but it has never come to pass, and as far as I know it is a dead issue at the present time.

The town of Hay River has for the past year been trying to hire a bylaw officer and the closest one we could find was from Nova Scotia and there just is no one trained to do this type of work locally. I would support the theory that we should have some type of school in the territories that could provide the training that is required and also possibly a nucleus of a force. A great many municipalities do not require a full time policeman but if they could have one they could bring over if they were having an epidemic of dog trouble or something, someone could come in and look after the situation it would be of great assistance.

Relatively speaking you have got two essential crimes in the territories, one is dogs and the other is garbage. To have a full time job to look after these two things could get to be a little expensive. However the RCMP at the same time will not give us any assistance at all in the larger communities with regard to these problems. As far as I am concerned I would support a motion to set up something that would relieve the municipalities of a heavy financial burden to try and keep a man in position at all times when they really do not require that. Secondly, when you are dealing with dogs and irate ratepayers after you have shot their dog or something of this nature sometimes it is convenient to move a bylaw officer back very quickly from whence he came. So, there is a dual purpose in having some mobility here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Number Of Native Special Constables

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I will go along with the motion and I am not against the motion but I would maybe like to ask the witnesses if they could give us an answer as to how many natives they have on the force now. I thought they had this program going for some time and maybe they could just tell us how many natives or Eskimos they have on the staff right now.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, of the 215 policemen presently stationed in the Northwest Territories there are 26 native special constables. I might add in addition there are also another 44 public servants and civilian members. Some of these are also native but I do not have those particular figures. For the most part they are permanent residents in the North.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Irving, does that mean that out of the 215 you have 145 regular members and the other 70 are northerners?

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, not quite. Maybe looking at it another way, the RCMP employs 259 people in the North. There are 215 of those employed on police duties of which, of those 215, 26 are native special constables. The remaining people in that 259 total are civilian members, either public servants or civilian members who for the most part are permanent residents in the territories.

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

Training For Special Constables And Other Ranks

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask another question of the witness pertaining to this motion. Have they got any kind of a training program going on now to train northerners?

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I do not entirely understand the question. I am aware that "G" Division headquarters here in Yellowknife has in-service training classes from time to time for special constables and other ranks. They have one for junior NCOs, non-commissioned officers, and one for senior NCOs. Does that answer your question?

MR. FRASER: Thank you.

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

MR. STEEN: I just listened with interest to everything that was said but here is another motion under "investigate". I think this Assembly is beginning to be a "looky" Assembly, not a "doey" Assembly. I feel that in some communities maybe a police force would work but in others it will not because people do not like to take on such an awful job as policing. Some people do not like it and in some communities maybe they would like to do that in Frobisher Bay but not in Tuktoyaktuk. However, I think that perhaps it would only work in time with the police forces, and I think that police forces should accommodate more and more people, native people, northern people into their work force and then maybe we will be able to evolve into the system, but I can not see us just taking over or slowly taking over unless we evolve. I will support the motion because I believe that this country should take care of itself, this Northwest Territories.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. STEEN: The more we do, the closer we will get to self-determination and the rest. So, I will support the motion on that basis.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Steen. We are dealing with the motion that Mr. Pearson made: I move that the government investigate the possibility of establishing a northern police force.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

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

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask a question of the witness. I wonder in the figures -- I am sorry, but I am in favour of the motion. I thought I was the last sole supporter of that motion when it was introduced here about four years ago or three years ago when Hon. David Searle, or Mr. Pearson talked about this northern constabulary. I thought it was a very good idea then and I will support that position.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The question being called. Mr. Pearson.

Should Be Opportunity For Advancement

MR. PEARSON: Just to make a couple of comments on the specials, for example, that Mr. Fraser was asking about. As long as men are specials then they will

always remain specials and will never have the opportunity to advance to any other rank. I do not think that native people who are willing to serve in a police force and to do a police job and to walk around toting a gun as they do, and to arrest and fight and brawl with drunks and every other duty that they have to perform, they should be given the opportunity to advance and to become captains or whatever they want to be. The basic approach of a native person to police work is much different than the approach of a southern Canadian policeman, and in some cases the southern Canadian, or rather in all cases, the southern Canadian police, or I guess it is the Canadian way of doing things, is that they may not enter into a situation until a crime has actually been committed whereas the native people, at least those I am familiar with in the Eastern Arctic, prefer to deal with something before it happens in a preventive way. I think this is a far more effective way of dealing with problems and I have every confidence that the native people, the Inuit and the Indians are quite capable, more than capable of dealing with the ordinary, everyday problems a policeman is confronted with in their community.

Promotion Through Merit And Hard Work

As Mr. Nickerson points out so well, when you have a major problem, a serious crime of this sort that requires investigation, then the mounties should be there, available in central areas, perhaps two in the East, two in the central and in various capacities over here, where it is a slightly different situation, but available for technical advice and for investigation of major crimes. They do not happen that often really in the Northwest Territories. So, I again, and I do not want to repeat myself, but I believe that there are people more than willing to serve, people who would enjoy an opportunity to do a job, a worthwhile job and to feel that there was some hope of advancement in it. There are ambitious people who could go on and earn a stripe if you want to do it on a military basis or earn promotion through merit and hard work. I think if we can offer this kind of career to northerners then we will begin to become a more mature country, a more mature territory and taking care of our own problems and not importing southern Canadians which is the same thing to do our dirty work. So, I am encouraged by the support for this motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Pearson, and I am glad to see that two opposite Members are finally agreeing with each other today. Perhaps this is an historical occasion. Perhaps if the native people in the communities do not like to see policemen toting around guns we could import some bobbies to show them how to use billy clubs. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

Motion To Establish Northern Police Force, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The question being called. The motion reads, moved by Mr. Pearson: I move that the government investigate the possibility of establishing a northern police force. To the motion. All in favour? Eight. Against?

MR. PEARSON: Could the record show it was unanimous?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): It was not unanimous. There were some people who did not vote. The motion is carried.

---Carried

I would like to direct your attention to page 5.02 under directorate, Department of Public Services. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume I still have the floor after my historic occasion or your historic occasion. At the last Assembly meeting I attended a few weeks ago -- anyway, on that occasion, whenever it was, we heard from the gentleman, Mr. Irving, that his department was to introduce these new and exciting measures to protect the drivers or pedestrians on the road from the abuses of ill-equipped and incompetent motor drivers. The new system of licensing, a sophisticated method of having people certified as drivers of vehicles. I am a little concerned about it because I think that ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lya11): Mr. Pearson, I directed your attention to ...

MR. PEARSON: It is a general comment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lya11): We are under the directorate on page 5.02 and the question you are asking I think would come under registries.

Philosophical Aspect Of Motor Vehicle Licensing

MR. PEARSON: I am actually dealing with the philosophical aspect of it, Mr. Chairman. The philosophical aspect of motor vehicle licensing and about the tremendous burden this department wants to put on the shoulders of municipalities in the issuing of licences, for example, of vehicle plates. The business of issuing a new set of plates is the most complicated bureaucratic hodgepodge I have ever seen in my life. It requires a tremendous amount of detail and the premise for this is to save the government money. It saves the government money but costs the municipality a bloody fortune.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lya11): Mr. Pearson, would you watch your language, please?

MR. PEARSON: It costs the municipality a fortune in going through the silly business that they insist has to be gone through in order to save themselves from buying a motor vehicle operator a new set of plates each year. They give them a little sticky card that he puts on it and it sounds good in theory until you have to go through the process of finding the sticky tag and typing out the sticky tag and all the paper work that goes with that one little sticky tag because there is first of all a stack of sticky tags and each of the sticky tags has to be sticking onto the corresponding form. It is the most incredible -- perhaps Mr. Irving could be asked to bring a sample of the various forms that are necessary to register a motor vehicle and with the sticky tags they must cost a fortune to produce and print. They cost a fortune to type out, I can tell you that. The amount of paper work and instead of just pulling out a set of plates, handing them over, signing for them, you know, fill out the registration paper. No, it is not that simple.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lya11): Mr. Pearson, would you proceed with your question about the sticky business so we can get an answer?

Stickers Instead Of New Licence Plates

MR. PEARSON: Just to ask this department if they intend to pursue this silly system, the silly sticky system or whether they plan to go back to a new set of plates each year?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lya11): Mr. Irving.

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, our present policy is to use the sticky tag. The current licence plate will be around for three years, maybe longer, but we find it is far more economical to print sticky tags than to print metal plates.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Irving. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Is Mr. Irving aware of the amount of work thrust upon the lady who has to unstick the sticky tags to stick them on the plates?

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

MR. PEARSON: Have they ever given that any thought? Somebody out there in the field has to do that work and apart from being sticky, it takes a long time.

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, most of the issuing offices for licence plates are done under contract to our office. I am not aware there are that many municipal offices which are issuing plates. Frobisher Bay would be an exception. Possibly we could look into some way of maybe providing different types of flavours for those sticky tags, but I think the issuing of licences is currently under review. We have problems in some areas where we have had long line-ups for drivers' licences and plates and our staff is currently reviewing all our procedures.

MR. PEARSON: Good.

MR. IRVING: Possibly we could streamline some things. I would like to assure Mr. Pearson that I will personally take a look at all those forms forthwith.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you very much, Mr. Irving. I guess we have ended the comments of a general nature.

Mental Review Board.

MR. NICKERSON: This is not a general comment. It is a rather specific one. I wanted to know where I could ask some questions dealing with the mental review board. Perhaps you could direct me, Mr. Chairman, as to which would be the correct time to bring this up?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Under Health probably. Mr. Nickerson, I am told that you could have done that under Social Services or corrections. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that the mental review board is appointed by the Commissioner acting under the authority of the Criminal Code. It would appear to me that it has more to do with the Department of Public Services than it does with Health or Social Services. Its function, Mr. Chairman, is report upon insane people who have committed criminal offences but are not guilty because of their insanity. It is much more of a legal nature than it is a board dealing with strictly matters of Social Services or Health.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson, perhaps you could ask your question and then we could see if the Department of Public Services could answer it for you.

MR. NICKERSON: My question is simply this. It is my understanding that a mental review board was established pursuant to the Criminal Code some time ago. I think that we adopted the Alberta mental review board with the exception that the Commissioner appointed a lay member from the Northwest Territories to serve on this board also, so that fundamentally it would be the Alberta mental board and when it sits as the Northwest Territories mental review board it would sit with this one additional person. I would like to know what is happening with respect to this. How many times has this mental review board met to consider people from the Northwest Territories who are presently in mental institutions because of crimes they have committed but were found not guilty of? What has been the experience with this mental review board? Who has it reported to? Are there reports? Presumably they are confidential but I would like to know, has it made reports to the Commissioner or not?

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take that question by Mr. Nickerson under review and one of our legal staff, Ms. Lesley Lane, who is familiar with the subject, will be able to provide us with an answer and I will have an answer back to this committee.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I would now like to ask this committee whether you would like me to report progress at this time? Agreed?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 7-67, Appropriation Ordinance, 1979-80

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been reviewing Bill 7-67 and would now like to report progress with two motions being carried that have been passed by this committee. The first motion was made by Mr. Steen, amended by Hon. David Searle and the last motion was made by Mr. Pearson and that motion was also carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall, possibly for the record you could just read the motions in that were passed.

MR. LYALL: I beg your pardon?

MR. SPEAKER: Could you read the motions in that were passed by the committee?

MR. LYALL: The first motion that was passed was made by Mr. Steen. It was amended: I move that this administration investigate a new structure of insurance policies and rates to accommodate vehicles in communities that are not connected to the highways.

The second motion made by Mr. Pearson which was carried: I move that the government investigate the possibility of establishing a northern police force.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements for tomorrow? Any committee meetings or other meetings scheduled for Tuesday morning, gentlemen? No. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, maybe I could be directed by the Clerk of the Assembly whether there was a meeting of the standing committee on legislation tomorrow.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): No.

MR. LYALL: I am told it is on Wednesday.

MR. SPEAKER: It can not be Wednesday because we caucus Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. onwards. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 13: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Orders of the day, January 30, 1979, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Address
3. Questions and Returns
4. Oral Questions
5. Petitions
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions for the Production of Papers
9. Motions
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Notices of Motion for the Introduction of Bills
12. Introduction of Bills for First Reading: Bills 6-67 and 13-67
13. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bills 1-67, 9-67, 11-67, 5-67 and 7-67, Proposed Amendments to the Federal Indian Act
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., January 30, 1979, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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