



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

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pages 322 to 374

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.
Igloolik, N.W.T. X0A 0L0
(Foxe 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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1979

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lyall, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Whitford, 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. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to Item 2.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address. Mr. Lyall.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Lyall's Reply

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see our friend Mr. Pearson here with us this session. My reply to the Commissioner's opening Address to this Assembly will be as usual, short, and cover most of the main areas that concern us.

First I am glad to see that for a change the federal government is using its usual good sense as exhibited by the appointment of Deputy Commissioner Parker as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. I believe that Deputy Commissioner Parker will assist us, this Assembly, in the direction that we not only want to but should go. I feel that I can safely speak for all Members of this Legislature and I do feel that there was and there is a sincerely felt loss at hearing that Commissioner Hodgson would be leaving the North only some 80 days from now.

It is very difficult for me to address myself to the next question after speaking about Deputy Commissioner Parker and Commissioner Hodgson, and that question is the continuing dispute about the boundaries of the land claims agreement in principle. I feel that boundaries have got to be set that are agreeable to all parties directly affected by this agreement. Coppermine, in my constituency, and Holman Island are prime examples of what is wrong with the manner in which the agreement in principle was arrived at. Despite this question, I at this time would like to congratulate Mr. John Amagoalik, one of Mr. Bryan Pearson's constituents, on the progress that was made in discussions between the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and the federal government.

In closing I would like to mention two things: first for future Members of this Legislature, and that is that we must all remember that nice-sounding slogans are not solutions to anything and any one problem. Lastly I would like to express my true feelings on what the past four years have done for me. This has not only been a great learning experience but also a gratifying one. I have really enjoyed working with all of you and hope to continue doing so in future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, are there any further replies?

Item 3, questions and returns. Are there any returns? Deputy Commissioner Parker.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Return To Question W31-67: Unemployment Statistics For UIC Purposes

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, Question W31-67 was asked by Mr. Nickerson on January 29, 1979, concerning unemployment statistics for Unemployment Insurance Commission purposes.

For unemployment insurance purposes, the unemployment rate in the Northwest Territories is deemed to be 25 per cent. According to Statistics Canada, this figure is set by UIC to ensure maximum benefits for Northwest Territories residents. Statistics Canada's monthly labour force survey from which regional rates of unemployment are calculated is not carried out in the Northwest Territories or in the Yukon, so Statistics Canada does not compute an unemployment rate for either territory.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns? Written questions? Mr. Nickerson.

Question W35-67: Northeast Mackenzie Transportation Study

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, in his address to this House at the sixty-fourth session the Hon. Hugh Faulkner, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, made reference to a northeast Mackenzie transportation study to be undertaken by his department. In his reply to Question W9-65 at the sixty-fifth session the Deputy Commissioner stated that phase one of the study would be completed by June 30, 1978. In his reply to Question W16-66 at the sixty-sixth session, the Deputy Commissioner stated that this had not taken place and that phase one was now expected to be completed by October 31, 1978, after which it would go to a steering committee for their review and recommendation as to how to proceed with phase two. The question, after that little preamble, Mr. Speaker, is has phase one now been completed? If so, could it be made available to this House? What has happened to the balance of the study? Is the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development actively pursuing the study or are they attempting to let the matter die?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I will seek an update on this project and report to the House.

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

Question W36-67: Status Of Reindeer Herd, Belcher Islands

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I have asked this question before of the administration and would like an answer. I would like to know the status of the reindeer herd that was transplanted to the Belcher Islands last year.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Return To Question W36-67: Status Of Reindeer Herd, Belcher Islands

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I spoke to the chairman of the hamlet council of Sanikiluaq two days ago and my understanding is that they are doing very well, they are multiplying very quickly. They have not seen any reindeer dying as a result of cold weather or anything like that. In terms of costs, two years ago I believe the Executive Committee approved something like \$75,000 to transfer, and I forget in terms of numbers, but something like 75, to be transferred over to Sanikiluaq from Tuktoyaktuk. So, I am very satisfied so far with the results that I hear from the people of Sanikiluaq themselves.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further written questions? Mr. Lyall.

Question W37-67: Funding For Fort Resolution Caribou Hunt.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, about four days ago CBC reported that the hunters of Fort Resolution had to this date brought in \$450,000 worth of fur. Also on the same radio broadcast the people of Fort Resolution stated that they would be asking for further funding to have an organized caribou hunt. Is the administration still going to fund that hunt after them stating that they have brought in \$450,000 worth of fur to this date?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question under advisement and provide a reply at a later date.

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

Question W38-67: Pipe For Water Reservoir, Clyde River.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Speaker, I have something I will want to bring up again this session. I think I got my answer but I was asked to make another request from the people of Clyde River. The water truck's faulty pipe is leaking oil into the reservoir. When will this be repaired? When can this be answered?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum, did you understand the question?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Not very well but I will take the question under advisement; take it as notice and file a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further written questions? Mr. Pearson.

Question W39-67: Nanisivik Mine, Total Investment By Government.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the administration. What is the total investment that this government has made to date in the operation of Nanisivik mine?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, we will assemble the information requested and file a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Question W40-67: Nordair Aircraft Into Northern Communities.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question. Last October, at the sixty-sixth session, we asked for the Nordair administrators to come to the Northwest Territories to talk about the inconveniences of the Nordair service in the Baffin area. We want to know when they will be coming.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Return To Question W40-67: Nordair Aircraft Into Northern Communities.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, we forwarded the request that was made at the last session in the form of a motion to the president of Nordair and received a reply a short while before this session advising us that they did not care to appear before this Assembly. Their reasoning was, as I recall it, that they were regulated by the Air Transport Committee and they felt that it would not be proper for them to discuss matters which were under this form of regulation.

I am not certain if that reply has been placed as an information item before you or not, and I will check, but that certainly was our intention to make it available to Members as an information item.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Question W41-67: Supplementary To Question W40-67.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to that question. Is that also the answer from Northward Airlines and Pacific Western Airlines?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Partial Return To Question W41-67: Supplementary To Question W40-67.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, the officials of Northward advised us that they would be satisfied to attend this session and as yet we have not established a time, but this is something that we must do. In the case of Pacific Western Airlines the motion as I recall it said that we wished to hear from the Government of Alberta as the owners of the airline. I believe the request was not to hear from PWA officials themselves. The response we have received in that regard is that the province of Alberta takes no decisions on matters of service, rate structures or any of those sort of things with regard to Pacific Western Airlines even though they hold a majority interest in the company. I will have to check our records to see if a further step was then taken to invite PWA officials and therefore that part of the question I must ask for an opportunity to report back to this House on.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions?

Item 4, oral questions.

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Fraser.

Notice Of Motion 11-67: Big Game Outfitters.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of motion on February 1st, 1979, I will introduce a motion concerning the big game outfitters in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Further notices of motion?

Item 8, motions for the production of papers.

Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Motion 10-67, Mr. Pudluk.

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

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, Motion 10-67:

WHEREAS on January 26, a proposed hamlet ordinance developed by the Baffin Regional Council was tabled in this House;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this document be referred to committee of the whole for discussion at this session at a time to be determined by the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by Mr. Pudluk. Is there a seconder? Mr. Stewart. Discussion? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I was just going to say that the correspondence we received from the Baffin Regional Council was addressed to myself, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pearson and Hon. Peter Ernerk. I will read it first.

"At the recent session of the Baffin Regional Council, held in Frobisher Bay, Northwest Territories, March 18 to 23, the proposed hamlet ordinance was presented for discussion. After study of the proposed ordinance and discussion of the changes made from the present Municipal Ordinance, the members approved the draft ordinance, by the following motion: Motion 2-15. I move that the Baffin Regional Council approve the proposed hamlet ordinance, as amended, and that the Baffin Regional Council request the Legislative Assembly Members to introduce the proposed hamlet ordinance to the Legislative Assembly when it next meets.

"The committee to draft the hamlet ordinance was formed as a subcommittee of Baffin Regional Council, in response to a need expressed, at the founding meeting of the council, for an ordinance applying specifically to hamlets, rather than to municipalities in general.

"The committee met three times during the period from March 1977 to January 1978. It was composed of the secretary-managers of the hamlets in the Baffin region, plus representatives of the communities expected to become hamlets within the next year. Mr. Paul Nind, executive director of the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities, attended the last session as a resource person.

"In passing motion 2-15 unanimously, the Baffin Regional Council has signified that the committee has produced a draft ordinance which adequately addresses the needs of hamlets.

"The council requests that you, as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and ex officio member of the Baffin Regional Council, introduce this proposed legislation to the Legislative Assembly at its next session in May.

"As the attached distribution list shows, the proposed ordinance is also being distributed to all hamlets outside the Baffin region." That is all I have, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Agreement With Proposal

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the administration has known of the request of the Baffin Regional Council to propose a hamlet ordinance and the administration has been in communication with the chairman of the Baffin Regional Council regarding a hamlet ordinance. I recall when this was first talked about,

Mr. Speaker, that I had asked -- I have to go back to the Debates of last spring. I think it was at that time that I indicated that we would have hoped to be able to put together a hamlet ordinance. At that time Mr. Pudluk's paper died on the order paper as I recall, so it was not brought forward but I had felt it would have been ideal. I am sure the Assembly at that time agreed with the suggestion that the hamlet ordinance would have been, because we wanted it to reflect the views of the Baffin and the East; that it would have been in Inuktitut and not in English and that it would have been debated in that language, translated and it would be more clear because one of the requests for a hamlet ordinance from that area was that it would more truly reflect the views of those Baffin communities. I think at the time I did not expect the department would be able to put something together in that short a time. We felt the proposal that would be coming forward should bear a little more or reflect more on the other communities.

It is my understanding that the Baffin Regional Council did distribute the proposal to other hamlets but my information is that it has not received any replies to that distribution. I have been through the proposed document as well as other members of the department and, of course, I find that basically there is very little change to what is already in the Municipal Ordinance. In fact it does not reflect anything new. It comes basically as an extraction from various sections of the present ordinance and it is my concern that this ordinance does not then meet the needs of other hamlets that had been expressed in other areas.

Proposal Does Not Reflect Directions For The 1980's

One of the papers I had indicated that the government through the department wants to table and it is now being translated is, of course, the department's Directions for the 1980's. The proposal put forth by the Baffin Regional Council of course does not reflect any of those movements, any of the particular directions. Any major recommendations that this Assembly will make as a result of a study in committee of the whole of directions for Local Government will, of course, have to be incorporated within the hamlet ordinance. The ordinance itself, of course, is basically from the Baffin Regional Council and I believe the communities should have particular input into what is developed. I would suggest, sir, to the Assembly, to the Members, subject to reaction from committee of the whole in their study of the directions for Local Government that we begin immediately the work then on preparing the incorporated communities ordinance for incorporated communities and hamlets and, of course, changes that would then result to the Municipal Ordinance.

Valuable Input To Draft Ordinance

We would hope to be able to make further consultation with people in communities throughout the North. The draft ordinance that the Baffin Regional Council have put forward can be used as a valuable first input into what would come about. We would not discard any of the material that they bring forward and their work, of course, as far as possible would be incorporated within what would be the ensuing document. The incorporated communities ordinance that we see as a department and a government will provide for a series of options for communities. If then the Baffin community wants the exact authority and responsibility as outlined in the Baffin regional hamlet ordinance, that option would be available to them.

I would suggest then, Mr. Speaker, that rather than to go into committee of the whole to debate the Baffin regional hamlet ordinance as developed by the Baffin Regional Council, that it would be premature before we as an Assembly looked at the Directions for the 1980's of the government as it concerns the Department of Local Government and what comes from that particular debate, the recommendations would then have to be incorporated within the total document that would come up as we would hope, an incorporated settlements ordinance that deals with hamlets as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion? Mr. Lyall.

Committee On Legislation Has Not Seen Proposed Ordinance

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, just to be on the record that I will not be supporting this motion because of the fact that it was not sent to me personally. It was not sent to the legislation committee. Also from what I heard from the Minister, from what he has said I will not support this motion. Also I feel that at this time this Assembly has too much work to do and by looking at this piece of legislation -- and I do not even know if it has gone to the legal people yet -- it is going to be a long-winded work for us to do. I feel that the legislation committee should have a chance to look at it and that the legal people should have a chance to see if it is legal in what it is trying to do in its context. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I could not understand the letter that someone had written him when he read it out. I thought perhaps if we are going to support the motion that, if we are going to study it in committee of the whole, we should have a copy of the letter because it is impossible for me to understand what has been said in that letter. I generally am curious about the hamlet proposal, the new hamlet proposal he has but I have not seen it either. Those are my general comments, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Support For Committee Study Of Proposal

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I stand to support this motion inasmuch as it is not a piece of legislation, it is a study that a group of people put together, a proposed ordinance and I feel it is the duty of this House to have a look at it to see what may be of value to us. Certainly if it were legislation that would be a different matter and as indicated by Mr. Lyall it had not been looked at by the legal people and so on but this is just a document of suggestions that may be incorporated or may be approved at a later time, but this particular motion, all it does is put us into committee of the whole to study what has been recommended, that is all.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, this motion, I will not be against it, the one from the Baffin region. I would like to help my people with their proposal, the Baffin Regional Council people. I do not understand why the government, the government people, why they can not encourage people to follow their wishes. How come they have made a proposal and they do not seem to want to agree with it too much?

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. EVALUARJUK: I do not like this too much. They say they have not seen the proposal and I know they have seen it. There are not very many different proposals and I feel that this should be supported by the House. I can not understand why during the Baffin Regional Council meeting they had a government speaker employed. Maybe if the speaker was hired by the Baffin Regional Council they would support it but now they have a member of the Baffin Regional Council as the chairman and they do not seem to be supporting the motion. Now, the Baffin region is not the same as the Central Arctic, they have a different way of running their hamlet and maybe that could be understood in that light.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson.

Proposed Legislation Badly Needed

MR. PEARSON: I would like to echo the views of Mr. Steen and Mr. Evaluarjuk and also express my disappointment at Mr. Lyall's attitude towards a simple request by Members of this Assembly, Members who have worked very hard at this matter, Members representing areas of the Arctic who feel there is a great need for this kind of thing. The proposed legislation has been developed in the Eastern Arctic after a tremendous amount of work by Inuit, and people from the Department of Local Government who have helped them, who have encouraged them to come up with some ideas for a new hamlet ordinance, something which is badly needed in areas of the North. I think Mr. Lyall is being irresponsible, as chairman of the legislation committee to not allow this kind of thing to get on the floor and to be at least considered by this Assembly. I urge Mr. Stewart's words that it is simply a proposal to let people have a look at.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Speaker, this proposal, I rise in support of it. For two years now it has been worked on in the Baffin region and now they are just waiting to hear from the Legislative Assembly, or from the Department of Local Government concerning that, their proposal. Here, the body of the Legislative Assembly should be supporting it. Some of the proposals, the proposal for the Municipal Ordinance, does not change the Municipal Ordinance drastically; only the requests of the people from the communities have been put in the proposal. They always say that the people in the communities should have more authority in their affairs. I am in support of the motion as in 1979 the Baffin Regional Council people will be meeting again. It will be discussed again by them and during the meeting of the Baffin Regional Council it was discussed and debated on. I am in support of the motion because they are just waiting for the Legislative Assembly. We know that this has not been seen by all residents of the Northwest Territories as yet; even if we live in a place where we are most comfortable, we should always try to change things to suit our way of life and support our way of life. I am much in support of this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I did not suppose there would have been a great deal of debate on this particular motion, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me pretty simple and straightforward and all it is doing is requesting committee of the whole discussion on this important document. I fail to see why anyone should be opposed to that. I most certainly support Mr. Pudluk's motion.

Request For Summary Of Document

I have a request to make, Mr. Speaker, and that is, because I am sure this motion will be successful, but when this matter does come before the committee of the whole I would very much like to have a brief summary of what is said in the proposed new hamlet ordinance. The document itself is rather voluminous, it is difficult to read because it is not in proper legal language and it is hard to find out in some cases what it really means. So, if we could have a one or two page summary of where this differs in concept from the existing ordinance respecting hamlets, or the existing hamlet legislation, I would be most pleased to have that and I think it would help us in our deliberations.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion, gentlemen?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk, do you want to wind up debate?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I am ready for the vote.

Motion 10-67, Carried

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

---Carried

Item 10, tabling of documents. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, maybe the document we were just talking about could be tabled if it is not already tabled. I would like to see it.

MR. SPEAKER: My understanding is that it was tabled. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of privilege, to express my dissatisfaction with the news coverage of a recent date made by CBC, a report made by the CBC reporter here that states that the view expressed in this House yesterday was that the mouties are not doing a good job. That was repeated on the radio many times and nowhere in the Debates do I find that I made that statement yesterday. I am a little upset about it because I think I tried in my comments to show that they are doing a good job and that they have certainly been co-operative with the community in which I live, but that another form of policeman is required in the communities. I think that is what I said. However, it is stated boldly and in the headlines as it were that the mouties are not doing a good job and I would like CBC to retract that and I want it to get as much coverage as the first statement got saying the mouties are not doing a good job. Thank you.

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

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

Item 12, introduction of bills for first reading.

ITEM NO. 12: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS FOR FIRST READING

Bill 6-67. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

First Reading Of Bill 6-67

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I 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. Is there a seconder? Mr. Fraser.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour? Down. Contrary? First reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 13-67. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

First Reading Of Bill 13-67

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

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour? Down. Contrary? First reading is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clerk tells me you gave notice of first reading of a Private Member's Bill although it is not on the order paper and would you care to move first reading?

First Reading Of Private Member's Bill, Bill PM 1-67: Area Development Ordinance

MR. NICKERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill PM 1-67, An Ordinance to Amend the Area Development Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Whitford. The question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour? Down. Contrary? First reading is carried.

---Carried

Item 13, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters.

ITEM NO. 13: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

Do you wish to proceed with Bill 7-67, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will resolve into committee of the whole for continued consideration of Bill 7-67, Appropriation Ordinance, 1979-80, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Committee will come to order. Would the administration like to bring their witnesses in; Mr. Irving and I forget the other name? We are still on comments of a general nature on the Department of Public Services. Comments of a general nature. Mr. Pearson.

MR. STEWART: What page are we on?

Department Of Public Services, Directorate, Total 0 And M

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Page 5.02. Directorate, total 0 and M, \$286,000. Mr. Nickerson:

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, yesterday while discussing this particular activity I asked a question pertaining to the Northwest Territories mental review board. I wonder if the witnesses have now got the answer to the questions I asked at that time? ..

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Speaker, yes, I have an answer if I may proceed. In answer to Mr. Nickerson's question there is a board of review that has been established in the Northwest Territories. Basically this is the Alberta board of review which is appointed by the Commissioner and when sitting in the Northwest Territories there is a lay member from the territories who sits with that particular board. There have been no cases before that particular board in recent times. However, there are presently two people who are being held under the Commissioner's warrant of committal. One of these people is presently detained in the jurisdiction of the Alberta hospital in Edmonton and the Alberta board of review handled that particular case. This was during the past year. A second person is presently being detained in the province of Ontario and we have a similar system where the Ontario advisory review board, which was appointed to act as a board of review for the Northwest Territories by the Commissioner, reviewed this particular case.

Recommendations To Commissioner From Board

In both cases recommendations from both the Alberta board and the Ontario board were forwarded to the Commissioner who in both cases adopted the board's recommendations. I might add that under section 547 of the Criminal Code this section provides that where people, this is in respect to the two persons mentioned who are detained under the authority of a warrant held by the Commissioner as provided by the Criminal Code, that the advisory review board having jurisdiction, and this is either Alberta or Ontario, reviews these particular cases every 12 months and may make further recommendations to the Commissioner.

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

MR. NICKERSON: Just one further comment on this subject, Mr. Chairman. It would appear from the statement just made by the witness that our lay member will only sit with the board when that board meets in the Northwest Territories. We have no facilities in the Northwest Territories for the maintenance of criminally insane people. Therefore, it would appear that it is extremely unlikely that the board would ever meet in the Northwest Territories. Therefore, what is the point of appointing a lay person from the territories to the board? Surely what should happen is that when the Alberta board, for instance, meets in Alberta to review one of the people held under Commissioner's warrant, when the Alberta board is then sitting as our board rather than as an Alberta board, then our lay person should be down there at the same time. I wonder if the witnesses would agree with that because it seems that the alternative is not to have a lay member from the territories anyway. It is just a waste of time appointing somebody if they are not actually going to do anything.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nickerson is quite correct. However, there is an additional matter I should mention. The duly appointed lay person, the territorial resident, is also considered an alternate to the Alberta review board and could sit and probably should. I think in the last review case the lay person could have sat but was not available to sit. I agree with Mr. Nickerson that that person should sit with the board and possibly we should take a look at this to ensure that there is representation on that Alberta board.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson, would you like to pursue that?

MR. NICKERSON: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Irving. Comments of a general nature? Mr. Pearson. Have you had your hand up?

Native Justices Of The Peace

MR. PEARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This department is responsible for justices of the peace. I wonder if Mr. Irving can tell us how many of the justices of the peace in the territories are native people and what efforts is his department making to recruit and encourage native people to participate in the process and become justices of the peace?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you very much. Mr. Irving.

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, there are currently 99 justices of the peace under appointment in the Northwest Territories. More than 50 per cent are native persons. This has been increased from the past year and the policy of our department through the inspector of legal offices is to encourage new appointments to be native people. We have had some difficulty in this aspect, particularly in the very small type of settlements. One encouraging factor has come up where we found it has been easier of late to appoint female native justices of the peace. They seem to be more encouraged to take over the responsibilities of that particular function and there have been more female native justices of the peace appointed in the last year and a half than ever before.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Irving. Mr. Pearson, would you like to pursue that? Any comments of a general nature? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Correspondence Not Translated

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, the people who are involved in courts, I would like to make some statements about the procedures that are used in justice of the peace courts which are not translated into Inuktitut. We do have the justices of the peace writing correspondence which is written in English and it is quite difficult for people who do not speak English to understand. Perhaps you could get a native worker who would translate the correspondence that is being sent to the native justices of the peace in communities.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. I did not get the translation. Did you, Mr. Irving?

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Member and I would like to say that we certainly are attempting to provide these additional support services to the justice of the peace courts. It is difficult in some areas to get proper translators, particularly in the justice of the peace courts. The Member mentioned the additional facilities that might be available in the area of native court workers and this is presently under review. The legal aid and the native court workers' program are being increased in some areas and hopefully we will be able to provide those services in all the justice of the peace courts.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Irving. I just wondered about what Mr. Pearson said about the native justices of the peace. Out of 12 in the Central Arctic I think there is only one non-native justice of the peace. Comments of a general nature. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, when we were discussing the Department of Local Government they brought to our attention this report which is Directions for the 1980's. Mention was made of a similar document I believe when we were discussing the Department of Social Services although they were not as kind as the Department of Local Government in that they would not provide us with their particular direction for the 1980s. I wonder if such a thing exists for the Department of Public Services?

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, if I understand the question correctly, you are asking for a projection as to where our department is going in the 1980s, is that correct?

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

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, in the Commissioner's speech Friday, a little over a week ago, he made reference to the fact that each department in the government was supposed to have put together a paper outlining what they would do for the next ten years. The Commissioner in his opening Address summarized some of these papers. I just wondered if that had only been the case with the departments such as Local Government and Social Services and Health or whether the same exercise had been gone through with Public Services, Finance and Personnel?

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

Document From Public Services

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, the Commissioner's Address did not relate to the Department of Public Services. I might say the same for Finance and Personnel.

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

MR. NICKERSON: That is what I wanted to know, Mr. Chairman. The so-called service departments have they not gone through the same exercise, for instance, as the Department of Local Government? You have no document like this within your department which is your plan for the 1980s?

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

MR. IRVING: I have a document. I did one for my department. It was not used in the same manner, but I do have one.

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

MR. NICKERSON: Is there any reason, Mr. Chairman, why we should not be able to see this document? I am requesting that it be made public.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I do not see any reason why this Assembly should not see that particular document. It would be of some interest I would expect. We spent some time putting it together and it was an in-house type of paper but it indicates to us anyway what we should be doing in the future.

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

MR. NICKERSON: Will this be made public? Maybe I should ask this of the Deputy Commissioner rather than the witnesses, Mr. Chairman. The question is addressed to the Deputy Commissioner or the government. Will they make this paper public?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker, did you get the question?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: One moment, please.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker, did you get the question?

Program Projections For All Departments To Be Tabled

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I understand that Mr. Nickerson is asking about the tabling or making available to Members the projection of program and thrusts for the department under review. This matter was discussed just Friday last in the Executive Committee meeting. In anticipation of this kind of interest in that material, much of which was placed before you by the Commissioner in his Address, but not the details of course. In anticipation of that request we are having the material summarized because we think that Members will want to have a summary available to them and that work should be finished within a matter of a very few days. We would propose to table with Members or make available to them in whatever form seems suitable the thrusts and the program notes that we have been considering for all of the departments.

If it is then necessary to go back to the working papers we would have to give further consideration as to whether it would be helpful or not to make the details available, but certainly the summaries we propose to make available will cover the subject we think rather well.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Deputy Commissioner Parker. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I would like to thank the Deputy Commissioner very much for those encouraging words. In my opinion the summaries such as those we already have for the Department of Local Government would be most satisfactory. I do not think we would want to go into matters in any more detail than this. I take it then I do not have to ask the same question for each department as the government will undertake to table or make available this type of document for every department.

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature? Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, there is one thing that I would like to get clarified. This is with respect to Mr. Evaluarjuk's earlier question to Mr. Irving. I do not think that Mr. Evaluarjuk was asking so much in terms of support services in terms of translation or anything like that, but his question was this, as I understand it. The correspondence from Yellowknife to perhaps a place like Igloolik, to native justices of the peace should be translated because justices of the peace who do not speak English often find it difficult to read what is said in the correspondence. For instance, if there is a change in the regulations where the native justices of peace must be notified of such, when all of the correspondence is sent to the native justices of the peace, it is all in English and they do not understand them at all. So, from what I understand from his comments he was merely asking your department to have much of the correspondence to be translated when they are sent to the native justices of the peace throughout the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I agree and that matter will be taken under advisement with our inspector of legal offices who is responsible for the administration of the justices of the peace.

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you. Comments of a general nature? Under directorate, page 5.02, \$286,000, total O and M. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Directorate, Total Capital, Agreed

Total capital, \$67,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Directorate, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Total expenditures, \$353,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Court Services, Total O And M

I direct your attention to page 5.03, court services, total O and M, the sum of \$1,450,000. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: My question deals with fines paid to coroners, Mr. Chairman. I recently had occasion to deal with a matter relating to a fine levied by a coroner and it was a very funny system -- I should not say "funny" but different from the system used with respect to fines levied by the territorial judge for instance, in that the person who was fined was given an envelope and told to place the money, the cash in the envelope and return it to the RCMP station. I wonder if the witnesses could tell us whether or not in their opinion that is a proper way in which fines should be paid or whether they would suggest a better way such as paying it to the clerk of the court as is the case with other fines. Maybe they can tell us what happens to that envelope after it is handed into the RCMP station.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, that is a rather disturbing incident as related by Mr. Nickerson. Firstly I am not aware that coroners are imposing fines. They are not a court. They conduct investigations into sudden deaths and hold inquests. I would like some time to investigate that particular matter and I would also like to state that we are concerned about fines; it has not been the policy for the police to collect fines. I know they do not like to do that sort of thing, for obvious reasons, and I would certainly like to look into that matter if I could have the complete particulars as to when and where it happened and advise on that.

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

Coroners Levying Fines

MR. NICKERSON: With respect to the authority of coroners to levy fines, this Legislature, not this one, a previous one, under the Coroners Ordinance gave the authority to coroners to levy fines in certain circumstances. The circumstances are when a witness refuses to testify or refuses to turn up at coroner's court, a coroner's inquiry. So, I do not think there is any argument about

whether or not the coroner has or has not the authority to levy fines. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, because I do not want to mention all kinds of names and times, if the witnesses wanted or if they want me to, I could give them the details of the case with which I am familiar. Maybe, Mr. Chairman, you would care to set this particular activity aside. I am not really worried about one particular incident, I am just worried about the fact the RCMP are collecting the fines and it is my understanding that normally a different procedure is used.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, that is correct, it is not the policy for the police to collect fines. I would be agreeable with Mr. Nickerson if he wishes to pursue the matter at a later date; I could investigate and find out what exactly happened, but again I would wish to state that I am not aware of any case where the coroner in the last year or the last three years has levied fines for any reason.

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

MR. NICKERSON: Could we possibly set page 5.03 aside and come back to it later?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it the wish of the House to set this aside or would you like to keep to comments of a general nature on this page and then we can come back to it when that particular item is put before us? Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder how long it would take the witness to get this information. It might take him a couple of days. I think we should carry on with the budget and he can get back at a later date. I do not think the Honourable Member is too concerned, he just wants to know if it is a practice. We could perhaps continue with the budget.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson, would you like to keep on going with the budget like Mr. Fraser suggests and you will get your information within a couple of days or whatever time it takes? All right, let us go on with comments of a general nature on page 5.03, court services. All right, I guess we can leave it. Mr. Pearson.

Justice In The Eastern Arctic

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I recently penned an article in the Frobisher Bay newspaper on the subject of justice in the Eastern Arctic, and particularly the recruitment of a full time magistrate for Frobisher Bay because of the number of offences that are committed there, the number of times that the magistrates or judges are flown over from Yellowknife at tremendous expense, dispensing their justice as they go along, and I sometimes feel not that effectively because they are not aware of the community, they are not aware of the area, they are not aware of the background of these people. They fly in, check into the hotel, go down to the courtroom, deal with the cases, back to the airport and are gone. I do not think that this is an effective way of dealing with matters.

Each of these magistrates have their own approach to life, have their own view as to how offenders should be dealt with; some of them are more harsh than others, some are lenient and the result is that there is general dissatisfaction and a lack of continuity, to say the least, with the kind of justice that they dish out. I think that one way of resolving this, or I think the only way of resolving this of course, is to have a judge or magistrate appointed to serve in that area and to have some consistency in the approach so that this would be more effective and have a long-range benefit to the community. I think at the same time it would reduce some of the offences because when a magistrate comes into a community and says, "Put that guy on probation," or "Do so and so," whatever his recommendations are, it is unlikely that he will be back within a few months to check and see if those things have been carried out. In many cases, or in some cases, they are not, the times and rules which the magistrate sets are not met and consequently the punishment, if that is the term, becomes meaningless.

So, in order to deal effectively with offenders I think there has got to be continuity. Can Mr. Irving give me some idea of when we may see a full time magistrate in the Eastern Arctic?

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I have to be very sympathetic to Mr. Pearson's request. At some point in the future we do have plans for a territorial judge for the Eastern Arctic to be based in Frobisher Bay. We do not have either the finances or the man years to accomplish that this year. I would say that there would be an insufficient number of court cases right now to support a territorial judge and a support staff which has to include a court clerk, a court reporter. As a matter of fact we have the same problem for Inuvik. We find that it is still more economical to fly in territorial judges from Yellowknife.

Juvenile Court Judge In Frobisher Bay

I would also like to mention that we have appointed in Frobisher Bay a juvenile court judge who is only one of four in the territories and the majority of cases in Frobisher are of a minor nature and which are handled by the local justice of the peace court. However, we are aware that there are serious cases that come up and in conclusion I can only relate to Mr. Pearson, Mr. Chairman, that as soon as we are able we would very much like to put a full time court in at Frobisher Bay.

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

MR. PEARSON: Just to add that if I think the department were to add up the dollars and cents that it requires for the magistrate, the court workers, the amount of money that would be required could be well invested by establishing a court in Frobisher Bay, in fact you would save money. If there was an effort made now to train a court clerk, to train those people and have them there ready or have them there now, using them, there are lots of unemployed people in town. I think that the costs again, as I say, of shipping all these people over from Yellowknife, chartered and the regular air fares are astronomical.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I just wondered if the Honourable Member across the table from me is saying that the magistrates are not doing their work. Mr. Chairman, I know in certain communities in the North they have what they call court workers. There is one in Frobisher Bay. I know the magistrates and court workers are going around and have a pretty tight schedule because there are quite a few communities they have to go to. I guess maybe they did not have time to stop and have a cup of tea or look around Mr. Pearson's store. Maybe that is what he is concerned about.

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

Problems Of Sentencing

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I want to say about the court system that with respect certainly to the three magistrates that we have as well as the one superior court judge, in my humble opinion, having had a great deal of experience with the system, we are very, very well served. We have in those four individuals people who spend a great deal of time away from home travelling, something which is no pleasure to do month after month after month.

I think that they are engaged for the most part in a very difficult task and that is one in criminal matters of determining the appropriate sentence to fit the particular crime and bearing in mind the peculiar circumstances of the individual appearing before them on a case by case basis.

I disagree 100 per cent, as the law does, with the suggestion that uniformity in sentences must be obtained at all costs. Each person should be sentenced for a particular crime based on the circumstances of the crime and the circumstances of the person which means that though some people will receive a suspended sentence for manslaughter, others may receive 12 years imprisonment. I suggest to Mr. Pearson that there is nothing wrong with that. I suggest there is nothing wrong with different judges delivering different sentences. There is nothing worse than being in a one judge situation where the one judge either consistently gives sentences that are too light or consistently gives sentences that are too serious, too heavy.

There is a great deal of advantage to having different judges who all have northern experience and understand the North who may look at things slightly differently. As I have said, the big problem is to determine the appropriate sentence in criminal matters. It is relatively easy to determine guilt or innocence, but what is the appropriate punishment is very tough, particularly when you appreciate that you have in this jurisdiction essentially the choice to send someone to jail and, if so, for how long, which everybody including judges realize is the greatest waste of human resource and talent and the greatest cost to the state.

Follow-up Of Community Service Sentencing

Where we fall down as a government and on a community basis is that the courts are not getting the options. What happened to the discussion we had with Mr. Torrance in this chamber some years ago when we got talking about sentences that would involve people in doing good works in the communities? Mr. Pearson is right. If a judge gets innovative and sentences someone to two weeks of shovelling snow off the library steps, there is no one who follows that up necessarily. But you can not expect judges to follow it up because if there is a breach of a condition they have to decide whether in fact it was or was not a breach so they can not be the enforcement agency following up to make sure that the terms and conditions are met. Some other agency like the police who are again reluctant to get involved in that or probation officers must follow up with the individual offender to see that he keeps the terms and conditions of this parole and make that judgmental assessment as to whether or not the work that was ordered to be done was in fact done; if this man or group of men in erecting a playground for children in Hay River put in their eight hours a day and all the other problems that are associated with it. If you order someone to do work, again we get into the age old questions. Who buys the tools? Who pays for the materials? What about workers' compensation? All of that we have discussed time and time again. I do not think there is any dispute that the better form of punishment for offenders, much better than incarceration and idleness in an institution is an order that returns people to the community and directs them to do some useful work either at the community level, territorial level or for the individual whose property they may have damaged or destroyed.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

Directive System Needed From Administration

HON. DAVID SEARLE: As I see it, although we have sat around here and all said how tremendously good this is, there does not to my mind seem to be very much being done to bring about that effective type of punishment. A court must know for that kind of punishment the resources of the community, what needs to be done, who is prepared to supervise it and unless that is put together and presented, how is the court to know? Without that we just fall back on three months in jail, two weeks in jail. Do not think for one moment that they do not get sick and tired of seeing the same people back before them time and time again and feel the frustration of having to say "Oh, yes, this is your fifteenth time, is it? Last week was your fourteenth time. Two more weeks in jail."

We as legislators and you as administrators have to design a system which will put forward the alternatives squarely before the court and make these people productive and proud of what they are doing in jail so that they come away feeling that they really have atoned for their crimes, that they have left something useful behind in the community. As I say, some children's playground, some campsite. The question I have and I know it falls between departments -- you have got Social Services involved, you have the corrections system involved, the probation officers, you have got Public Services involved, but where is the co-ordinating -- you have the local community involved. Each community has a different set of projects; a different set of requirements, but who in this administration is doing something to put together a co-ordinated package? That is my question. Who in this administration is putting together a sort of package, co-ordinating not only the different departments but the different levels of government? Who?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you very much, Hon. David Searle, for that well presented judgment in this case. We will recess until 2:55 p.m. and I will recognize Mr. Irving as soon as we get back in here.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The Chair recognizes a quorum and I call the committee back to order. Mr. Irving.

Justice And Corrections Advisory Committee

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the Hon. David Searle's submission I would like to state that the Department of Public Services certainly recognizes the problem and I would like to state that there is the committee called the justice and corrections advisory committee which is provided for by the Corrections Ordinance. This particular committee for a number of reasons I suppose has been dormant for the past year. It is my information that the Department of Social Services is reactivating this committee and will be making certain recommendations to the Executive of our government concerning a future role which would include a number of the issues that were raised by Hon. David Searle. This particular committee would have a membership appointed by the Commissioner which would encompass all those areas related by Hon. David Searle, to wit, the RCMP, the judiciary, corrections and the various court support staff. So the matter is under review and hopefully this particular committee will be able to accomplish some of the problems outlined by Hon. David Searle.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, except for setting up the most general of circumstances where work in the community might be a good thing, in other words, by setting up classic examples, I can not see other than that how could a centralized justice and corrections advisory committee be of much use in the specifics of each case. It seems to me that you have got to get down at the lowest level, that is, at the community level and there has to be a concerted effort by community leaders to inventory the projects, municipal projects, useful make-work -- I do not like to use "make-work" but useful work projects. Put these together in a manner so that when the court is sitting in that community the court can have that sort of thing before it which says what might be accomplished in that community, says who would provide the materials, who would provide the tools and who would provide the supervision. That obviously would be very different in each community and would change in each community year by year and indeed month by month as projects were being accomplished by local Lions, Rotary or whomever.

So, I think that we have to get down into the communities, at that level, and start putting this together there and then co-ordinating it with the courts. I am meaning no disrespect of whoever is on the justice and corrections advisory committee, as I understand it it is a very centralized group with a judge and a policeman and that sort of person on it here in Yellowknife, I think my advice would be to get down at the lower level.

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

Traditional Role Of Police Work

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I completely agree with Hon. David Searle. I would like to make one further observation which might be of interest to Hon. David Searle. As I mentioned, this particular committee that has been inactive, we see it being more than just a central body. In one instance what my department is certainly interested in is the role of the police and by having senior members of the police on that committee then we could see a further role in the very small communities where the police go back to the traditional role of police work in the North and take a more active role in the kind of problems that have been discussed. This is something I do not think in some areas is taking place now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lya11): Thank you, Mr. Irving. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe Hon. David Searle has asked a question and I wanted to ask the same thing earlier and that is what happened to our discussion during one of our sittings last year where this committee had requested the administration to begin to look at finding, or ways and means of taking care of the individuals who have been breaking the law in the communities? I am not going to say very much, although I think that perhaps the other day Mr. Pearson was looking for a rock crusher and I think perhaps you could use some hammers over in Frobisher Bay. I think that that would serve the purpose. However, I would like to say with all due respect, I believe that we should not be sending people who have been breaking the law, we should not be sending them on long trips on Pacific Western Airlines to Hay River and places like that, we should be looking at ways to save money and keeping the offenders in the community rather than spending large amounts of money giving them long free rides to Hay River, Yellowknife and so forth. Many of us can not even get a free ride unless we break the law. So, that is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lya11): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Pearson.

Diversiory Court Sentences

MR. PEARSON: I just wanted to catch a couple of points of Hon. David Searle's. I think he started off on one aspect and went to a totally different matter. He went on to defend the magistrate court system from my criticism, but bearing in mind that the department is in the process of establishing a permanent magistrate in the Eastern Arctic, I think Mr. Irving suggests that maybe next year that should occur, unless of course the rate of crime drops significantly and we do not need them. That would be kind of nice but I suspect rather doubtful. What Hon. David Searle did point out, which I think is a very valid argument, is the argument of diversion and this government has been talking about it the same as this government has been talking about devolution and decentralization but does very little about it; it talks about it but does not do much about it.

In order to provide diversory court sentences, which I think is very sensible, a wise and probably more effective means than any other method, it requires facilities, it requires people on the ground to handle the case, to follow it through and to be able to put the individual to work. The courts have sentenced young people in the village to work but it means the village staff must go and get him out of bed; they demand to get paid for their efforts. The question of workers' compensation is a real threat, if there is an accident, what will happen. None of it has ever been carefully thought out or planned, it is just talk and just words.

I think what this department must do is work out a process, a scheme, have it funded, educate communities that these options are available and give them the opportunity first, before they sentence people to work in the community, ask the community first if they want it and then if they are willing to set up some kind of system within the community to cater to these people. However, I think somebody has to get themselves in gear and do this, and maybe it is the job of the justices of the peace, or it needs a group of people or Social Services or whatever, but it needs to be done and I think it needs to be done quickly and I think so because it can save a lot of money and do a more effective job of dealing with offenders.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. Comments of a general nature? Court services, page 5.03, \$1,450,000. Mr. Nickerson.

Collection Of Coroner's Fines.

MR. NICKERSON: Before we deal with this maybe we could clear up this issue of the collection of coroner's fines. All I am looking for, Mr. Chairman, is some kind of undertaking by the department that they will indeed look into this matter and find out whether the existing system of handing the money over to an RCMP officer in their opinion is suitable or whether they can use or adopt a system similar to that used normally for the collection of fines. I wonder if we could have some assurance on that, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I have done some research into Mr. Nickerson's problem, or our problem, and the answer is yes, there will be a new procedure followed. I might explain briefly that this is the first time where a coroner levied a fine in a contempt type of incident and for the need of giving the fine to somebody, the police apparently took possession. It is not the policy for the police to accept fines for obvious reasons and the policy that will be used is that the individual will be requested to submit the fine directly to the court where there is the procedure to accept an account or fines in the proper manner.

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

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the witnesses could tell us whether there is any progress being made in an attempt to have the crown prosecutors come under the territorial court services system?

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I believe that this is a continuing type of problem, if you wish to call it that. I think it would suit the purposes of this government and our department if that were the case but unfortunately the prosecutors are employed by the Department of Justice in Ottawa. There is a local office and we are making some inroads, and I might mention that during the past year the senior legal staff of our Department of Public Services have been appointed as agents for the attorney general for the purpose of prosecuting territorial ordinances, but I rather believe that until the Northwest Territories becomes, or attains some form of provincial status that the attorney general's function will remain with the Minister of Justice who is the Attorney General of the Northwest Territories. I do not see this coming in the very near future, but certainly it would probably assist in the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories where you would consolidate all offices of justice under one roof.

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

No Crown Prosecutor In Hay River.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I think probably I should illustrate what has happened at Hay River. A courthouse was built, I presume at the request of the Department of Justice or somebody, a magistrate was put in place, a crown prosecutor was put in place and offices opened. Last year the crown prosecutor was withdrawn to Yellowknife with the alibi by the crown prosecutor's office that they could not get a lawyer who would stay in Hay River. So, we now have court facilities with no crown prosecutor. Surely the clear economics of this situation does not make much sense. We know that this group

does not only serve Hay River they also travel to other places and this means dual charters in a lot of instances. If the weather is bad in Yellowknife and the crown prosecutor can not join the rest of the court then the court can not proceed and it creates very many difficulties. I was just wondering whether it might not be in order at this point to make a motion that this House goes on record as requesting that the Department of Justice turn over the crown prosecutor functions to the operation of the territorial government because it seems ridiculous the way it is.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I have to agree with the Member, with Mr. Stewart, and I have to say that our department was not in favour of the Department of Justice removing the prosecutor's office from Hay River. I would also have to say that we would favour that particular motion that at some future date the prosecutor's office should come under the territorial government.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Stewart, are you prepared to make that motion?

MR. STEWART: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if you would give me a few minutes and we can go on to something else and I will come back to this and make my motion. Could we leave this for a moment while I put this motion together so it is correct?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Yes, Mr. Stewart. Any further comments of a general nature on court services? We will just wait for the motion to be drafted. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, could we just to keep things moving, go on to safety? In response to a question I asked yesterday, did Mr. Irving bring with him the registration papers necessary for a vehicle with all the sticky tags? Perhaps Mr. Irving is not aware of how much work is involved in that business. Deputy Commissioner Parker is not and was surprised when I explained to him what the procedure was.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it the wish of this Assembly we go on to safety?

---Agreed

Safety, Total 0 And M

Safety, Department of Public Services, total operations and maintenance, \$684,000. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Will the fire marshal be joining us, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it the wish of this Assembly to get the fire marshal?

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MR. PEARSON: If that is the case ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Could we go on to something else while we are waiting for the fire marshal?

MR. PEARSON: Could we go on to registries on the next page?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it the wish of this Assembly to go on to registries then?

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THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. Comments of a general nature? Court services, page 5.03, \$1,450,000. Mr. Nickerson.

Collection Of Coroner's Fines

MR. NICKERSON: Before we deal with this maybe we could clear up this issue of the collection of coroner's fines. All I am looking for, Mr. Chairman, is some kind of undertaking by the department that they will indeed look into this matter and find out whether the existing system of handing the money over to an RCMP officer in their opinion is suitable or whether they can use or adopt a system similar to that used normally for the collection of fines. I wonder if we could have some assurance on that, Mr. Chairman.

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THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it the wish of this Assembly to go on to registries then?

---Agreed

Registries, Total O And M.

Maybe we will have to get somebody from registries too. We will go on to registries on page 5.05. Mr. Irving, do you have an answer for Mr. Pearson?

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, the previous question was in regard to the amount of paper work involved when obtaining a licence. I have looked at the documents and I am aware that there is a good deal involved in obtaining a registration. Some of this has increased. I have to state that what we have been attempting to do in regard to the reclassification of drivers' licences and to update the whole matter or registrations is to go on par with what the other provinces are doing.

The problem has been that the other jurisdictions in the provinces have been registering some concern in the area of licensing and our driver testing. What we have done by updating our procedures is to have some balance. I am happy to state that within the past few months the other jurisdictions have been surprised as to how far we have gone and are willing to accept our standard of licensing on a par with their own. The problem was up until last year that drivers' licences issued in the Northwest Territories were not going to be accepted in the rest of Canada. Our examinations, our licensing system were not on par with the other jurisdictions. Unfortunately, a certain amount of extra paper work is involved. The medical examinations are a little more extensive and apply to more classes of drivers, but I suppose that is the price you pay for having a better system. But I would like to mention to Mr. Pearson, Mr. Chairman, that as a result of his inquiry a review is currently under way in our motor vehicles offices to see whether we might be able to eliminate some of the red tape and this is being done.

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

The Bureaucratic Process.

MR. PEARSON: I was not concerned so much with the red tape as Mr. Irving puts it, but the actual physical process of making out this registration paper because it is necessary for the steno to type out the whole thing and then to remove the sticky tags from one of the sheets and attach it to a copy of the thing and type some more and take another one and go through this seven times. The amount of work is just incredible. The red tape and necessity for registration I am not questioning. It is just the ease and speed at which that is done or the lack of it.

The other thing I am concerned about, Mr. Chairman, is the local motor vehicle operators' examination and the bureaucracy, the bureaucratic processes that are going to have to be undertaken with that. I have here one such application. It is one of the biggest I have ever seen. It is called "A motor vehicle operator's medical examination report". It is in five or six copies and deals with the most incredible subjects I have ever seen in my life. It requires to know whether one's ears are functioning or how well they function, one's nose, throat, heart, blood pressure, locomotor, lungs, about hernia, rectum and anus. I can not for the life of me see what that has to do with the ability to drive a car. I wonder how much of this bureaucracy is going to rear its ugly head in the next couple of years when one goes to apply for a driver's licence, what will you have to go through when you go to get married? My God!

You know, is there to be no end to this bureaucratic malarky or do we just go on printing forms and having people typing them out and having filing cabinets as big as this hotel to keep all this paper work in? I do not see anywhere on it that one has to have a social insurance number -- yes, a social insurance number is required. There it is right there. We are getting buried in our own paper work. I just point this out not only for amusement's sake, nor to cheer up these dreary meetings, but to point out I think some serious problems that we are running into in this administration of bureaucratic cancer.

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

A Standard Motor Vehicle Medical Form

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I have to answer the observations of the Member. First of all, that is a standard motor vehicle medical form similar in every respect to the one utilized in the province of Alberta. It is true it has a number of items which may appear to be insignificant. In fact it is a check list for the benefit of the medical examiner, that is, the doctor doing it. He does not have to complete the whole part of that form. He may only want to use a very small part. In his judgment he signs it, that the person being examined is fit to drive a certain type of vehicle and not a car. That particular document is required by school bus operators, commercial buses, taxi drivers. It is for the protection of the public. I think the aim here was the type of form that could be a check list type that would be of benefit to the medical examiner and although it appears to be cumbersome, the doctor can dispatch with some speed the completion of that form.

One last item, Mr. Chairman. Although there is a provision for a social insurance number on that form, that does not have to be completed. It is merely there I suppose for another form of identification, but you may be assured, Mr. Chairman, with the controversy involving the social insurance numbers we would rather people not fill it out if they do not want to. Perhaps it should not even be on there. It was only I suppose a formality in that sense.

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

Forms Concerning Personal Details

MR. PEARSON: Just one final comment. What I am concerned with is that when those kinds of forms contain the details, very personal details on the condition of somebody's rectum, for God's sake, sitting in territorial government offices in filing cabinets there comes a question of confidentiality and how do we cope with that? Can we cope with that? Is the place secure? Are people's personal and mental abilities and all kinds of very personal things floating around the medical records, medical records for people floating around the motor vehicle licensing office? I mean I would hope that those kinds of things are protected and secured so they are not available to anybody but highly qualified and secure people in the offices of those to whom these things are entrusted. It is major stuff.

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

Confidential Documents

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the Honourable Member that those are confidential documents. They are secure inasmuch as they are kept in locked filing cabinets and we have security personnel who guard our particular premises. I would like to also mention that there is a medical examiner who completes that form and in regard to strictly personal confidential information, I would rather doubt that he would enter those particular things that he felt might be a detriment to the person being examined on the form. The main point of that form is the signature at the bottom, in the doctor's opinion that the operator applying for a particular licence that requires an examination, that the doctor either says he is qualified or not qualified. He does not have to go on record and state all the possible confidential reasons why the operator should not have a licence. That form is for his assistance only.

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

MR. PEARSON: Again, Mr. Chairman, it is very detailed and it says any questions with "yes" answers should be explained below with details of medication, date of last seizure, psychiatric diseases, addictions, other diseases, blackouts, fainting spells, anaemia and it goes on and on and on. I would think surely if the reason for this medical examination to be attached as part of the form is not attached to the part opposite that it would be known and it would have to be filled in. Otherwise the examiner of the individual applying for the licence is going to say "I am sorry, but we do not know if you have got a hernia. It is not pointed out or your metabolic diseases are not shown."

He might say, "Please provide the details or you can not have a licence", I would think. If it is a matter of you phoning up the doctor and saying, "How is this guy, George, is he okay?" and he says, "Yes" and you put a tick on the form, why bother having the form?

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

MR. NICKERSON: If you insist that I talk on this particular subject, Mr. Chairman, I guess I will. I really did not want to.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I have your name on the list. When I first called out registries, you put up your hand so I put your name down.

MR. NICKERSON: My intention at that time was to talk on a different subject which would come under the general registries activity. I do have something to say later on with respect to drivers' licences.

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

Restrictions On Minibikes

MR. STEEN: My main concern, Mr. Chairman, is the requirement that children under the age of 19 can not drive a minibike. You know, they must have a registration in order to use a minibike. They must have the minibike registered, they must be over the age of 18 before they can ride on the road on such a bike. My point I guess is that there is not too much recreation in the local communities and we should allow these children over the age of 12 to be able to ride a minibike, or maybe 14 or so, to allow them to ride a minibike without having to be required to attain the age of 19. There are so many three-wheeled vehicles also in the North now and I see them a lot in Rankin Inlet and all the other places surrounding Rankin Inlet and also in the West. There are quite a few minibikes that the kids would like to use but they can not use them because there are so many restrictions. They would like to be able to do other things rather than just play games in the community hall. They feel that perhaps riding around on the land or in the community would keep them out of trouble and it would serve the purpose of keeping them out of mischief.

Now, I think perhaps, and I do not know, maybe this should come under another category, under the ordinance perhaps. I would like to hear some comments from the witnesses on that, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, we recognize the problem as identified by the Member and I would like to state that there will be amendments which will be put to this Assembly to the Vehicles Ordinance when the All-terrain Vehicles Ordinance is introduced. It covers the very thing that Mr. Steen has mentioned and perhaps the matter can be dealt with at that time.

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

MR. STEEN: I am very pleased to hear that the witness is in agreement with my thinking and I will be looking forward to it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Comments of a general nature under registries. Mr. Nickerson.

Applicant's Copy Of Medical Examination Report

MR. NICKERSON: With respect to this motor vehicle medical examination report, will the applicant get a copy of this, one of the several sheets which make up this form? Will one of them be given to the applicant for his possession?

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

MR. IRVING: As I understand it, yes. The medical examiner gives him a copy.

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

MR. NICKERSON: Why would it not be possible instead of having this long complicated form that contains all manner of very personal questions which will have a fairly wide distribution, and copies will end up in Yellowknife on file here, and on file in Ottawa -- there is no way in the day of the Xerox machine you can keep these things confidential, confidential documents went out when the Xerox machine came in so why is it not possible to have a very simple form that a medical practitioner can fill in and say, "I find this individual of a suitable medical condition that he should get a licence", something very, very simple without these references to his mental stability and the condition of his rectum and everything else?

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, that is entirely possible. I think that probably if this Assembly so instructs that could be done, but what we have done here is to adopt the medical form that is used in another bigger jurisdiction, the province of Alberta. I will just mention the fact again that when you are licensing a driver of a school bus, if you want our department to issue that licence on the strength of a piece of paper with a doctor's name on it that says that the man is okay, so be it.

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

MR. NICKERSON: I will defer to Mr. Pearson.

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

Authority Of The Doctor

MR. PEARSON: If a doctor says this man is okay who is there in your department to challenge to say, "You have not checked his rectum"? Surely if the doctor says he is okay you can soon check to see if the doctor is qualified or bona fide. It is not necessary to challenge the doctor, some bureaucrat to challenge the doctor and say, "But his haemoglobin count is above normal and his who-jars have got thingumabobs".

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, nobody in this department is going to challenge the doctor. The form is merely a check-off for the doctor's consideration and to assist him. The signature at the bottom says that he is either capable or incapable and he does not have to complete the entire document; that is up to the doctor, he is the professional. The form sets out for what reason the licence is needed and, in the doctor's opinion, he says that he is or is not and nobody in motor vehicles is going to question that doctor's authority or decision and could care less whether he fills in the entire form or not, including a rectal examination and for the grace of God I do not know why that particular item is there, but maybe the doctor does.

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

Motion That Motor Vehicle Operator's Medical Examination Be Rescinded And Replaced

MR. NICKERSON: I wish to move a motion, Mr. Chairman, and the motion reads as follows: I move that this committee recommend that the motor vehicle operator's medical examination report be rescinded and be replaced with a form which makes no reference to the applicant's social insurance number or medical information which should be of a private or confidential nature.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): To the motion. Does everyone understand the motion? Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I apologize if I have missed some of the debate but my concern is what kind of a medical examination can one be required to take and not be in the area of confidentiality? I guess it occurs to me that if they find that I have a heart murmur or apoplexy, surely that is private and confidential but absolutely critical as well, with respect to whether or not I should have a chauffeur's licence and I should be wheeling down the highway in some huge semitrailer van carrying propane and crashing into a park, as recently occurred in I think, Spain where 250 people were killed or injured. When you get into the area of medical examinations generally they tend to be pretty thorough, whether they are for insurance or any other purpose and any information that bears on your ability physically to be trusted with that type of piece of equipment, I think, could easily be as well regarded as private and confidential.

Maybe I am missing a point here and maybe my friend Mr. Nickerson can tell me how you can have a medical examination and yet the findings go to someone and not be private and confidential. I agree if you say that for instance you have a venereal disease I do not think that particularly bears on whether you should have a chauffeur's licence or not unless it is something that deteriorates the brain.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, I have to agree with Hon. David Searle entirely.

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

Many Unnecessary Questions.

MR. NICKERSON: I think, Mr. Chairman, if Hon. David Searle had been listening to the earlier discussion he would have heard the witness say that it is their intention to take the word of the doctor whether or not someone is in a proper medical condition to be able to have a licence or not. Now, with the present system we have, it makes reference to certain diseases and conditions which would disallow a person at this present time from having a licence, diseases such as epilepsy and other types of disabling conditions. Presumably the doctor would be aware of all these conditions under which circumstances he would not be able to give his medical certificate.

Now, it seems to me that it is completely unnecessary for a lot of the questions contained on that report, they are not necessary to ask at all. I just can not understand why the witnesses said they would want to give this very long, complicated form out to be filled in by the doctor and then not insist that things be filled out. You have room on there for a social insurance number, there is a little block set aside for it and the first thing that will happen is the doctor's secretary or nurse is going to start asking all the information, "Social insurance number, please," and there are not that many people who would have it in their mind that this is not something they have to give. Most people would assume that since there is a place blocked out for that information on the form that it is something they are obliged to give.

I would not at all mind a simple form that the doctor filled in, and I would insist that one copy of the report be made to the applicant. On this form there would be no reference to social insurance number and there would be two kinds of sections to be filled in. One would be, "I find this person in a suitable condition so that they should be given a licence", and the other one would be, "I do not find them in that condition because of..." and then there might be a space, where he might put in because of epilepsy or because of improper vision or something like that but it must be something really simple. Surely we do not need all the voluminous information contained on this report.

If my motion is worded in such a way that it would prevent such a simple type of report, then I certainly do not mean that to be the case. Perhaps the Hon. David Searle could assist me because apparently there is no Legal Advisor here right now for amending the motion to allow that to take place. But I would be utterly opposed to having something like this in existence which in my opinion is completely unnecessary.

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

MR. STEWART: Following up on what Mr. Nickerson said, what would the necessity be if the doctor was not going to give his authorization? Would there be any necessity to fill out any form of any kind saying "I refuse because of whatever"? Either have a certificate saying you can have a driver's licence or surely you do not need the other document. You either get it or you do not get it. I think the confidentiality is worse than what you are stating. If it is written out why you are not getting it, it is really the other situation you are trying to get out of.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. David Searle, to the motion.

The Sole Issue Of Fitness To Drive

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, I agree very substantially with not having a bunch of questions on a form that would appear irrelevant to whether or not you should be getting a chauffeur's licence. But it seems to me that all of those sorts of questions can easily be deleted from the form and yet leave there a requirement, if we, in our wisdom I suppose, think there should be, for a medical examination which would simply then provide a certificate by a doctor that this person was fit, in other words, a safe risk to be wheeling some great monstrous piece of equipment down the road with explosive material on the back of it. That is essentially what we are concerned with.

It seems to me then just a matter of being judgmental in separating the senseless questions which do not bear on that issue without requiring that the whole procedure be discontinued. It is more a question of cutting it back to a sensible, relevant question of fitness to drive a vehicle than it is of dumping out the whole form. If that is so, why do we not just simply suggest that the document go back to the administration and they would return at some appropriate time with something that is restricted instead, to the bare essentials bearing on the issue of fitness to drive solely and deleting all the other unnecessary material from it.

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

MR. PEARSON: I think Hon. David Searle is right. That is the approach. You can grade people like you can grade eggs, grade A large means trucks over whatever size; medium, cracked eggs, bicycles only or whatever.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: What about scrambled?

MR. PEARSON: That would all take place within the confidentiality of the doctor's office and he marks whatever, "A large" and that is it.

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

Bypass The Motor Vehicles Branch

MR. STEWART: I think probably the answer to this is just to have a form sent out by the licensing commission that the doctor must fill and keep in confidentiality in his files, the doctor's files and give a certificate saying the man has passed the examination pursuant to section such and such of the Vehicles Ordinance and that is it. He signs it and the form stays with the doctor. It should not come back here. It should not come to the motor vehicles branch. I think the form has got to be made up because you have to have a list of questions you are requesting to be asked by the doctor but it should stay with the doctor, just a certificate saying the man has met the requirements.

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

MR. NICKERSON: I think that that which was said by both Hon. David Searle and Mr. Stewart makes a lot of sense, Mr. Chairman. If there can be an undertaking by the Department of Public Services that they will take this form back and at a later time during this session bring another one before us which makes a little bit more sense, then I would be very pleased to withdraw my motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Shall I read out the motion? Mr. Nickerson.

Motion That Motor Vehicle Operator's Medical Examination Be Rescinded And Replaced, Withdrawn

MR. NICKERSON: I rather suspect that after having listened to the discussion and the general agreement that exists within this committee that the department or the government will give that undertaking and then of course, it would be unnecessary to proceed any further with the motion.

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

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, yes, I would agree and we will undertake that proposal.

Registries, Total 0 And M, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Irving. Registries, total 0 and M, \$1,740,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

MR. NICKERSON: According to the preamble here, registries is the department that deals with legal aid. I have a number of questions on legal aid but it was my understanding that a legal aid ordinance was to be introduced at this session. If this is the case, I can bring up the comments I have when that document is being discussed. Is this indeed the case that such a bill will be introduced, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think it is the administration's intention to bring this forward and the piece of legislation has to go to the standing committee prior but we have an intention to bring forth that piece of legislation.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): We shall recess for coffee for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The Chair recognizes a quorum. Comments of a general nature, Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I should really wait until the other Members come back into the room but these coffee breaks are getting a bit ridiculous. Every day this week now we have had to sit here waiting and waiting for a quorum. Surely we can impress on our colleagues that they should take 15 minutes and be back in 15 minutes and not half an hour as it now is.

MR. FRASER: Not six months.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: That reminds me of the minister who in his sermon criticizes the lack of attendance at his church. Regrettably the people he is speaking to are the few who are there.

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

MR. PEARSON: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, you could remind these people when they all eventually get back today or sometime this week that it is a 15 minute coffee break and let us try and keep it at that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): This is the first time I did not say to come back at a specific hour. That is why everybody is late I guess. Although I know some Members who never even attend these sessions sometimes.

MR. PEARSON: It saves them \$50 a day not to turn up.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Those are the Rules of the Assembly.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, while we are waiting for more people to attend, could I have information regarding the estimates for the Workers' Compensation Board? Will they be dealt with under this department or will they be presented separately to the Legislature?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, they would come in separately.

Registries, Total Expenditures, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Can I direct your attention to page 5.05, total expenditures, \$1,740,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Is it the wish of this House to go back to safety?

---Agreed

Safety, Total O And M

Mr. Adrian is coming to the witness stand. Comments of a general nature under the Department of Public Services under safety, total O and M, \$684,000. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Before we start on that particular activity, Mr. Chairman, I understand that Mr. Mike Hewitt who works for the safety division of the Department of Public Services was recently given an award of honour by the Hon. Monique Begin for his services in the field of health in the Northwest Territories. I think that I can speak for all Members of this committee to say that we were very pleased that he got such an award and I am sure that it was very well deserved.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): We all agree. Comments of a general nature under safety. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: I am glad to see that Mr. Adrian is here. He has occupied the post for many years. I just wonder how he views his department, how happy he is with the way things are going in the territories with the fire departments, the question of safety. Are we getting ahead with the fires or are they gaining on us? The one in Inuvik, the unfortunate loss of life. A serious one in Frobisher at Christmas. Could you perhaps just give us an encapsulated review?

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

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking now as the chief of the safety division. I have two hats, as chief of the safety division and also fire marshal, but you can not separate the two. Our fire situation is much better, has been much better in the last year than ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Adrian, could you slow down for the sake of the interpreters, please?

Fire Statistics For 1978

MR. ADRIAN: I am sorry. I have the statistics here for 1978, up to approximately the first week in December. There are still some fire statistics that are arriving in our office.

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

MR. ADRIAN: I would like to inform the Assembly that last year we had the lowest residential fire loss that we have had in the last ten years. This must be taken in the proper perspective, in that there are approximately 300 to 400 residences added to the total each year in the Northwest Territories. Our fire loss statistics show that until December 5, 1978, it was under a quarter of a million dollars compared to five years ago when we had a loss of \$1,250,000. So, I believe that says something for the program. We can not take all the credit because there is better housing maintenance provided, both by the territorial government and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. The electrical inspections are also bearing fruit. I believe that in relation to the total statistics this is an area which shows that the program is working.

We had a very serious loss to record, the arson fires in Rankin Inlet which amounted to a five million dollar loss. Arson has increased in the Northwest Territories in the last couple of years but also the investigation procedures are improving. More arsonists have been caught and I believe one of the reasons is that there are now smoke detectors in almost 90 per cent of the buildings in the Northwest Territories and a smoke detector will detect a fire very quickly. In several cases the individual who set the fire was unable to get away before he was detected since the smoke detector picked up the fire and sent out an audible alarm. So, apart from the arson program, the over-all fire prevention program is working.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Adrian. Comments of a general nature? Mr. Fraser.

Type Of Smoke Detectors Used

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the witness the type of smoke detectors they are using, are they electric or battery operated?

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

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THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Adrian. Comments of a general nature? Mr. Fraser.

Type Of Smoke Detectors Used

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the witness the type of smoke detectors they are using, are they electric or battery operated?

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

MR. ADRIAN: We use both. We stipulate that they must be ULC approved which is the Underwriter's Laboratories of Canada.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I have heard of instances where the electric smoke detectors were used and the power went off when everybody was sleeping and the television caught fire. But what happens when the power goes off if you are using electrical smoke detectors? There are also a lot of cases where appliances if they are plugged in will catch fire. I wonder if the witness could tell us which is more effective, the electric or the battery operated smoke detectors?

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

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of choice because if you do not maintain the battery operated smoke detectors they become useless and the electric ones are more positive in nature in that you do not have to replace the battery every year. So, really it is a toss-up between the two. The government has chosen to use the electric ones because there is less maintenance and probably it would give better results in the over-all program.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Adrian. Are there any more questions of a general nature? Mr. Nickerson.

A Territorial Building Code

MR. NICKERSON: My question deals with the building code. It has been suggested to me by people associated with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation that were we to have our own building code it would make it a lot easier for that organization to operate. They seem to think that some of the building restrictions placed upon us by the Canadian building code, I guess that is the one we have used or adopted, do not really apply to the Northwest Territories with respect to such things as kiln-dried lumber and other technical details with which I am not particularly familiar. I wonder if the witnesses would agree with that and whether there is anything afoot for us in the Northwest Territories to adopt, a territorial building code or somehow modifying the building code which we have adopted at the present time.

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

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, the building code that we are currently using and which is law in the Northwest Territories is the 1977 national building code. The fire marshal's office enforces this code, but there is a provision made for the authority having jurisdiction to alter that code. If there is a submission to the fire marshal's office to have this altered then it is thoroughly researched and at times permission is given. So, it is a matter of whether or not we want to deviate, or how far we want to deviate.

Recently, I had some inquiries from the National Research Council and from the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation asking me how I felt about having a building code that would address itself to conditions in the North, not only the Northwest Territories but the Yukon and the northern parts of the provinces. I have agreed to study this and let them know as to what our feelings are.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Adrian. Comments of a general nature? Mr. Pudluk.

Location Of Smoke Detectors In Homes

MR. PUDLUK: In Inuktitut. Mr. Chairman, this is about smoke detectors. In the present housing, they have smoke detectors. The smoke detectors are on the ceiling and in the springtime when the snow is melting between the ceiling and

the roof there is a problem there and sometimes these fire detectors go off because of the moisture. I think it would be appropriate to have smoke detectors on the walls instead of the ceiling. This has happened more than once when the moisture gets into the smoke detectors, they go off and sometimes the smoke detectors do not stop and sometimes people do not know how to turn them off. It would be better if smoke detectors could be put where the moisture will not get into them. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Adrian, did you get the drift of what Mr. Pudluk was saying?

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the problem he is concerned with is two-fold. One concern is that the smoke detectors are very sensitive and will pick up any smoke; for example if someone is frying something in a frying pan, or if the dryer is on or sometimes a back-draft from the furnace will set off the smoke detectors. Unfortunately in some areas the smoke detector has been located in the wrong area in the house and where we become aware of this we ask them to relocate the smoke detector. It should be within ten feet, maximum, of the bedroom doors.

Secondly, smoke detectors have been installed in such a manner that they can not be turned off because the purpose of the smoke detector is to warn and it is only as you turn the breaker off that you can turn off the smoke detector. So, if we become aware of a mislocation in the house of these smoke detectors we will ensure that the proper authorities are contacted and have them relocated towards the bedrooms where they are supposed to be.

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

Transfer Of Responsibility For Mining Safety Ordinance

MR. NICKERSON: We were given to understand some time ago, Mr. Chairman, that the responsibility for the administration of the Mining Safety Ordinance, territorial legislation, would be transferred to this government and I think the date mentioned was the first of April, 1978 and that does not seem to have taken place. I wonder if we have any information as to when the Government of the Northwest Territories might assume that responsibility.

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we are still seeking the objective of the transfer of that function and without being able to name any dates I sincerely believe we are getting close to it. There seems to have been some opposition in some quarters and I think that that opposition is largely melting away.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Will the responsibility of mine rescue go with that?

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I just want to comment that having been around when the responsibility for education and other such things were transferred, it seems to me that those things went much easier and much more naturally with the hundreds of people involved with those than the single responsibility of mine safety, including mine rescue which would not have more than half a dozen people involved. The other incredible thing of course, is that the mine safety people have been busily policing so to speak our own legislation for so long that it has been an incredible contradiction that has been in existence for so long, where here we have a federal group of people enforcing territorial legislation, and for us to have taken so long to get this responsibility. I suppose the counterbalance argument is, "Yes, but it has to do with resources, it has to do with mines".

The Feds Have Stopped Transferring Responsibilities

However, it is the one thing that is evidence of the entrenchment that has really gone on in the last several years and the one thing that has proven more than anything else that the feds really have stopped transferring responsibilities to this government because when you have to work so hard for so little and for so long for so little it really does go a long way to prove the intentions which I have stated earlier, Mr. Chairman, in my reply to the Commissioner's Address, that we are not going forward as we should have. This is the one example raised by Mr. Nickerson to prove that, beyond any doubt at all. This is a difficulty we have had in getting this simple, small, little group of people transferred from the federal to the territorial civil service which is and always has been enforcing our legislation. It is incredible, just incredible.

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I do not mean to debate the timing of transfer with Hon. David Searle but he did fasten in on the element of the argument that certainly pertained a few years ago and that is that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs had other functions very closely related to this function. I suppose it has taken some time for us to have the function of mine safety recognized for what it is, that is to say a function that can be carried out separately from the administration of other resource functions.

I would also like to remind you that the Minister has established a good working relationship with the industry and in recent months has established a working group of which a number of industry people are members and the operating officer is a mining engineer who has been appointed to the Minister's staff for the very purpose of providing some of the answers that he is looking for in the mining industry.

The Minister gave a commitment to the mining industry that this group would do its work and then he would examine the recommendations and make appropriate changes at that time. That is really the last matter that is holding up any transfer. I should not really use the words "holding up" because the subject is being addressed very carefully by this group. As a matter of fact, this group is meeting with the Minister and with other cabinet ministers in the middle of March and I believe that that will be a most productive meeting and probably as a result of that we will be in a position to move ahead more rapidly in the transfer of this function.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Deputy Commissioner Parker. Mr. Steen.

Building Inspectors

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask a question here of the witnesses, the administration. How fast can they get their building inspectors into the communities? As you know, the Northwest Territories is very large and it has

happened in the past that long waits have had to be experienced by people who build buildings before you can get the inspectors in there to finally complete the building. My question is: How fast can you get them in there and also how many inspectors do you have in the administration, building inspectors?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Adrian.

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, all our inspectors are called officers because they perform a number of inspection services. We have electrical inspectors, mechanical inspectors, fire safety officers who inspect buildings, safety officers and an occupational health officer. In total, we have 11 inspectors including myself because I am also registered as an inspector. As you have said, the area is large, but we do get in touch with the people who are building and if there is a holdup we generally like to accommodate them as soon as possible. Sometimes the electrical inspector can not get in to do the inspections prior to hookup and what we have done is go in after the fact, examine the wiring, look at the way the electrical work has been performed and then have allowed hookups prior to the final inspection, which is not uncommon in the provinces or the territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Adrian. Mr. Steen.

Number Of Buildings To Inspect

MR. STEEN: One other question. If there is only one building in a particular community, for instance, if there is only one building in a community the pressure to have the inspectors come in is less than if there are two buildings that need inspection. Do you make a special effort or do you consider one building adequate to go into a community in order to carry out an inspection?

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

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, we have 48 fire chiefs in the Northwest Territories. All of them are local assistants to the fire marshal and if there is a particular requirement we get in touch with our fire chief and we instruct him as to what we are looking for. He then relays back what he has found and based on what he reports we will allow occupancy. Apart from that, the fire chief also has the authority to allow occupancy of any building within the community.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Adrian. Any more comments of a general nature? Mr. Pudluk.

Placement Of Smoke Detectors

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, this is going to be the same question as I was asking before because I do not think it was interpreted correctly. In new housing which has smoke detectors on the ceiling, in the wintertime, between the ceiling and the roof the snow builds up, so in the springtime when the snow starts to melt, that smoke detector gets wet, the fire alarm goes off. It will not stop until it is dry. Could we set up a main switch for the whole house? Is it possible to put the smoke detector on the side wall instead of the ceiling because if the alarms go off in the night nobody can go to sleep until it is dry? That was my question. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Adrian.

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, the reason the smoke detector is activated is because of the moisture. An electrical circuit has been created or an electrical short and it is not enough to cause any problems but it is enough to activate the smoke detector.

Re your second question, yes, it is allowable to mount the smoke detectors on the side wall, provided that they are not more than a maximum of 12 inches from

the ceiling. We generally recommend approximately six inches from the ceiling if they are mounted on the side wall.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Adrian. Comments of a general nature? Mr. Nickerson.

Occupational Health And Safety

MR. NICKERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to precipitate some discussion on the matter of occupational health and safety. I understand that we now have in effect an occupational health and safety unit within the public service of the Northwest Territories. This, of course, is an important matter. There seems to be a growing public awareness about these types of problems and I would be most pleased if we could be given an explanation as to how this unit is operating, how many people make up the unit and what do you see as its goal and function?

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

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, at the present time we have the occupational health section which consists of one member, Mr. Mike Hewitt. We have the safety section, which consists of Mr. John Whyte and a trainee. They have a secretary and that is the entire unit at the present time. We see this particular unit growing to some extent after the program has been initiated. We are still assessing the needs and the requirements of industry in this particular field. How much it will grow will depend of course upon the administration and upon the requirements of the program.

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

Location Of The Occupational Health And Safety Unit

MR. NICKERSON: I believe, Mr. Chairman, there was some discussion when the matter of setting up such a unit was first looked into, as to where this unit should be located within the public service. It is obviously something that deals with safety, with health and even with labour matters. It is very difficult to locate it because you need so many different areas of expertise. I think the government was giving some thought to whether it should go, for instance, within the Department of Public Services, Department of Health or some other department. Am I correct in thinking that this unit has now been permanently located within the Department of Public Services or is it still a matter of discussion?

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

MR. ADRIAN: Mr. Chairman, as far as I know it is true that it will remain in the safety division. In many of the provinces occupational health and safety are combined. They are following the same format as we are presently following in the Northwest Territories.

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

Relationship With The Workers' Compensation Board

MR. NICKERSON: I have a question which deals with the relationship between the occupational health and safety unit and the Workers' Compensation Board. It would seem that there has to be close liaison between the two separate authorities. I think that in British Columbia, for instance, the occupational health and safety function is to a large extent carried on by the Workers' Compensation Board, so I wonder in the case of the Northwest Territories what are we doing to ensure that there is close liaison between the Workers' Compensation Board and the occupational health and safety unit and how are the two working together?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think if we want to get into a discussion on that it may be best if Assistant Commissioner Mullins could provide some light on that particular topic. This particular form of the discussion, because the Workers' Compensation Board will come in separately, as such does not fall under the jurisdiction if you like, of the director of Public Services. If the Member would like to pursue this, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we ask Assistant Commissioner Mullins to appear as a witness.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is that agreed by this committee?

---Agreed

Assistant Commissioner Mullins, could you come inside the ropes please on the left hand corner? Assistant Commissioner Mullins, have you got the question?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that Mr. Nickerson asked was addressed by the administration at the time that the Workers' Compensation Ordinance was being drafted for consideration by this Legislature two years ago and we at that time, took a look at the pattern in the provinces. Some of the provincial administrations had the safety function for the province carried out by the Workers' Compensation Board and other provinces had a separate unit not directly related to the Workers' Compensation Board.

Reasons For Separating The Two Functions

The trend across Canada had been in the early 1960s to move the safety divisions into the Workers' Compensation Boards and then the reverse pattern was found in the 1970s. Our government chose a system of separating the two functions for two distinct reasons: First, we felt that the Northwest Territories government should avoid, if at all possible, any duplication of services in this area. We felt that with the relatively small number of industries in a very large territory that there would be costly duplication in travel and other administrative overheads if there were to be two separate units. Given that situation, and having taken the decision that there should only be one, we then asked ourselves the question, should it be in the Workers' Compensation Board or should it remain in the Department of Public Services? We chose the Department of Public Services for two reasons; one, the challenges facing the Workers' Compensation Board in getting into a whole new business of a self-administered fund gave us a workload which would be immense in its first several years of operation and we felt that safety would not receive the attention it might otherwise deserve.

Second, and more importantly, we felt that it is desirable to separate the two functions, those who are responsible for administering an insurance program and those who are responsible for supervising in a controlling manner, safety.

We felt there would be a conflict of interest involved if the Workers' Compensation Board was to try and act as an independent decision maker when claims were brought forward by industrial workers, that challenged the quality of safety supervision. In other words, in some industrial claims the quality of safety supervision by government is an issue and it would be unfair to the Workers' Compensation Board members to have to make a decision about a claim which would involve funds from an accident fund which they administered and a challenge to employees who were the direct responsibility of the Workers' Compensation Board. So, for administrative efficiency and the appropriate separation of responsibility and to avoid conflict of interest our government maintained and still maintains that there should be a separation between the board and the administration of the safety function.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Assistant Commissioner Mullins. Mr. Nickerson.

Liaison Still Needed

MR. NICKERSON: That was an excellent summary, Mr. Chairman. I would imagine though there still is a need for a certain amount of liaison and is that in fact the case and if so how is that accomplished?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Assistant Commissioner Mullins.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Mr. Chairman, there is a fair amount of direct liaison between the Workers' Compensation Board staff, including the chairman, and Mr. Adrian and his staff. As well the Workers' Compensation Board chairman and I meet about every three months to review matters between the government and the Workers' Compensation Board directly. Because of my responsibility as well for the Department of Public Services, issues of this nature, issues of concern to the Workers' Compensation Board relating to safety are brought to my attention and resolved in that manner.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Assistant Commissioner Mullins. Comments of a general nature?

Safety, Total O And M, Agreed

Under safety, the Department of Public Services, total O and M, \$684,000. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Safety, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Total expenditures, \$684,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Is it the wish of this House then to go back to page 5.03, court services?

---Agreed

We will deal with the motion to be made by Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Not just at the moment. I think it is being copied and it has not come back down yet.

Legal Services, Total O And M, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I direct your attention to page 5.06, legal services, total O and M, \$461,000. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: When I first became a Member of this Legislature some four years ago I am afraid that the quality of legal draftsmanship was not very good. We frequently had presented to us legislation that was not in its proper form and I am very pleased, Mr. Chairman, that over the course of four years the quality of legislative drafting within the Department of Public Services has improved immensely. I think that that is a compliment to the director and particularly those members of his staff whose job it is to do the legislative drafting for this government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Any comments? Total O and M, \$461,000. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Legal Services, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Total expenditures, \$461,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Police Services Agreement, Total O And M, Agreed

Now, I would direct your attention to page 5.07, Police Services Agreement, total O and M, \$6,100,000. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Police Services Agreement, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Total expenditures, \$6,100,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Court Services, Total O And M

Are we now prepared, Mr. Stewart, to go to page 5.03, court services?

Motion To Transfer Position Of Crown Attorney

MR. STEWART: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee request the administration to convey the following recommendations to the federal Department of Justice with the request that they be implemented within one year; (a) that the vacant position of crown attorney in Hay River be refilled, and; (b) that the function of the crown attorney for the Northwest Territories be transferred from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories. I would so move, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Does everyone agree with the motion the way it is written? Are there any comments on the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The question being called. All in favour of the motion? Ten. Against? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Court Services, Total O And M, Agreed

Now, let us go back to court services on page 5.03, total O and M, for \$1,450,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Court Services, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Total expenditures, \$1,450,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

Now, page 5.01. Total O and M, \$10,721,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

Total capital, \$67,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Revenues, Agreed

Total revenues, \$2,092,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

What is the wish of the administration? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I had one question on the matter of revenues, Mr. Chairman, and I know I have missed my chance and might I beg your indulgence to return to that subject?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Agreed?

---Agreed

MR. NICKERSON: What percentage of those revenues would be court fines?

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

Fines And Court Fees

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, on the indicated page 5.01, under revenues the fines and court fees are listed as \$150,000.

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

MR. NICKERSON: Perhaps in the interest of increasing the revenues of this government we could persuade various judges and justices of the peace to double fines.

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

MR. IRVING: I have no comment on Mr. Nickerson's suggestion, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to make a point. The majority of those fines, or the

majority of the fines that are imposed by the courts, and it is not this amount, that is the majority of the fines under the Criminal Code, for example impaired driving, they do not come to our government because they are prosecuted by the federal government, and the Department of Justice receives those fines. If we prosecuted those fines, somewhere in the vicinity of \$300,000 would then come to the territorial government.

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

MR. NICKERSON: I really have no comment to make on that. I guess that falls in with what the Honourable Member from Hay River was saying and we have already given support to his motion so that is an added benefit that if his motion was to be acted upon by the Minister of Justice then there is a side benefit of another \$300,000.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Now, is it the wish of this House to go on to another one of the programs?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, that is correct but I might say that the present Minister of Justice was the Minister of Health and Mr. Nickerson knows how quickly he moves.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Shall we report progress?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: No, we would go on to Health.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Yes.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes, what?

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

---Laughter

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Down, boy, down!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Shall we report progress?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I suggest we go on to the next department, Health. I was not looking for anything else.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I direct your attention to page 10.02, under administration, the Department of Health. Is it the wish of this House that we have witnesses come to the witness table?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yes. It is my wish that we do and I hope the others do wish the same thing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I think we should report progress myself. Who are we going to call, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would request that you call Mr. McDermit.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Yes, I will call Mr. McDermit.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Together? Do we call them together?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Okay, one, two, three -- go.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. McDermit.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I can just imagine how this is going to be after the third week.

Department Of Health, Administration, Total O And M

Page 10.02, Department of Health, administration. Is it agreed? Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: I would like to make a few comments or ask a few questions of the Department of Health of a general nature, Mr. Chairman. I gather that the territorial government is now responsible for the whole Department of Health, all aspects of it and perhaps Hon. Arnold McCallum then who disagrees with that statement could give me a rough outline of what they are responsible for.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): They are not accountable to hold count, I know that anyway.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: That is the only comment I was going to make. We are in the process now of trying to obtain the authority to take over the total health services of the Northwest Territories.

MR. PEARSON: So then what aspects of health are we now responsible for?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health administers a supplementary health program, a medicare program, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services and the funds for the Northwest Territories share of the cost of services provided in the territories by medical services, Health and Welfare Canada.

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

Transfer Of Another Federal Responsibility

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, it seems that once again we are talking about the transfer of another federal responsibility like mine safety that we have been chipping away at ever since I can remember. I guess what I would like to hear is a very definitive response as to exactly where we are at with respect to transferring the northern health, nursing stations and personnel and persons running these federally operated hospitals, where we are exactly in that process and when, if ever, can we expect those responsibilities and those people to become territorial as opposed to federal?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, we are now in active discussion, communication with the transfer from Edmonton of the regional office of medical services to the Northwest Territories. It seems at the present time that such a move will undoubtedly take place in steps, in phases. I think it is safe to say today that at the present time the federal Department of Health and Welfare are prepared to look at a partial transfer of services now and phase in other parts of it in order to avoid some serious problems that are relative to such a move.

We have within our department expertise and personnel relative to the operation of hospitals and physician services. I think it is possible very soon, within a period of weeks to a month, to move ahead with the transfer of hospitals, for example, Inuvik, Frobisher Bay, Rae-Edzo, Fort Simpson and the physicians' services to this government. That would leave the transfer of public health services until a later date. There is, of course, some difficulty with the transfer of individuals within the regional office personnel. A partial transfer would, of course, indicate that we are making progress and obviously I think our government is capable of taking on that required responsibility and of course the man years involved with it.

Difficulties Encountered In Terms Of Accommodation Space.

I am not sure what the regional office is doing about space. That is their particular problem because I think the best way to go would be to do it in phases. There may well be difficulties encountered by the federal department in terms of this and in terms of office space, in terms of accommodation space, etc. However, we think that we can encourage the federal department to embark upon this kind of a program, to do it in phases. There are obviously some difficulties that they will have as regards personnel and the movement within, if you like, a school year. It may very well be that they will have difficulty in getting people to move from the regional office into the territories because they will by and large until we assume total responsibility, be federal employees. So where are we now at this time? Close to taking over the operation of the federal hospitals and the physicians' services and a little farther away in terms of the actual move of the personnel involved there. If there is a difficulty with personnel wanting to move from the regional office to the Northwest Territories, then obviously there will be some difficulty in acquiring that kind of expertise in dealing with other parts of the medical services provided by our regional office in Edmonton.

When can we expect the actual transfer? The actual total move I would hope could occur within the year. The actual transfer from the federal government in totality may take a little longer than that. I can not give you any indication as to what that time will be but we will again continually pursue it. We have been meeting at the federal level and, of course, the territorial and the regional office level in an attempt to get these things moving. We have a planning committee for the total transfer. We have the beginnings of a task force in order to get the total transfer from the federal to the territorial government.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I think that I wish the Minister well and hope that the matter concludes within the term of his natural life. I do not mean political life either.

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

Cutback On Drugs And Effect On Old Age Pensioners.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, could I be advised what drugs are made available at the present time to old age pensioners?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Member will indicate to me under what program. I am not sure what he is referring to in terms of this. If he could be a little bit more explicit, I might have an answer.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Stewart, could you be more explicit so you can get an answer?

MR. STEWART: I am sure that the Honourable Minister knows what I am getting at. It is the matter of the 60 drugs that were previously made available to everybody and the list has since been cut down. Does this cutback also affect drugs to be received by old age pensioners for chronic illness?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think it was yesterday the question was asked by another Member about the so-called list of 67 drugs, chronic drug list. I thought at the time I corrected the impression that these drugs were under this government's supplementary health program. I said at that time they are not. I indicated about the confusion between the list of drugs that was developed by National Health and Welfare or the medical services branch, the regional office, and how the confusion arose between that list and the list of drugs for which this government, the Government of the Northwest Territories pays the cost of medication.

Under the Government of the Northwest Territories supplementary health program there are 11 drugs. I can try to list them and I only say try to because I can not pronounce most of the names. There were 11 drugs and those are the drugs for which this government pays the cost. The other list and the confusion resulting from it was misused and I indicated yesterday as well I think that that list was a list of medical conditions for which -- that was drawn up to obtain statistical information as those medical conditions became known or were reported by doctors, nurses and other people in that particular field. Once we found out about the abuse, then we had to go back to the original rationale for developing our supplementary health programs.

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

Motion To Supply Free Drugs To Old Age Pensioners.

MR. STEWART: In view of the confusion, I would like to make the following motion: I move that the Northwest Territories government be requested to supply free of charge all drugs required for chronic ailments of all old age pensioners not otherwise covered for this service. I would like to speak to the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Go ahead, Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: I think we all understand that in many, many cases the old age pensioners are in difficult financial conditions and their drug bills are a large part of their quandary in this day and age with the cost of drugs in the Northwest Territories. This Assembly last session taxed tobacco to give old age pensioners a supplement.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Shame!

MR. STEWART: It is my contention that if we could pass this motion and if the government could provide this service, that we would be getting into the hands of every old pensioner in the Northwest Territories a bit of financial relief. This tax on tobacco, as we all appreciate, has amounted to quite a bit more money than we had realized. I know it was not meant just to cover the old age

supplement, but there still is something left in the neighbourhood of \$400,000 to \$500,000 surplus under the tobacco tax and I would certainly like to see this money be applied directly through the supplying of drugs and medicines to the old age pensioners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

User Fee Concept

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I would just like to indicate to the committee that in answering, I think it was yesterday, a question from Mr. Lafferty about this problem I indicated at that time that not only was I having the possibility of having our supplementary health program reviewed with a view of changing, adding or deleting from that list whereby we provide medication costs, but at the same time I was pursuing the idea of a user fee concept, and the possibility of relieving senior citizens of such a fee. I said that at the present time prescription fees for medications, the cost is three dollars and seventy-five cents for each prescription and I was trying to explore the possibility of getting into a user fee concept whereby individuals requiring medication costs would pay a certain portion of that fee because I have heard it said within this particular House on many occasions that we should be developing that kind of a concept. I said as well that I would hope that this user fee would be applicable to all residents of the Northwest Territories with the exception possibly of senior citizens since senior citizens are on fixed incomes. It may be possible then to exclude these residents from the user fee.

I indicated as well that the department officials are examining those people who are involved, senior citizens who are involved in paying for particular medication costs. If we were to go into an all physician prescribed program, where all drugs are covered with no user fee, and this would be simply for those medical conditions that are presently on that list, on our supplementary health program and for those people of 65 years and over, that it would require an additional funding of approximately \$120,000. It would include of course some in-house extension of man years, etc., and therefore the total cost would obviously be much more than the \$120,000.

I think that what we are attempting to do is look into this, the concept of a user fee, and having it applicable to everybody and to explore the possibility of having these senior citizens away from there, with that we may be able to do something. I am concerned whether in fact the Member in his motion is talking about this government's supplementary health program or in fact if he is talking about drugs for all of that list of 65 drugs that has been confused with our supplementary health program. I think I have indicated, as I said, or I attempted to indicate this yesterday and I would hope that I have again reassured Members that this is in fact what we are wanting to do.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Hon. Arnold McCallum. To the motion. Mr. Nickerson.

A Scheme For Everyone

MR. NICKERSON: I might not have been quite as attentive as I should have been, Mr. Chairman, but was I to understand the Hon. Arnold McCallum to say that the government was considering a scheme for everybody, everybody in the Northwest Territories whereby once a certain payment had been made, drugs after that would be free and they were thinking of waiving this user fee in the case of old age pensioners? Is that what he said, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I said that we were investigating the possibility or pursuing the idea that we would institute a nominal user fee

to pay for, or to have a person who requires medication for the supplementary health program, the 11 particular medical conditions that are now on our list, to pay part of that cost and that they would pursue the idea of relieving senior citizens within that program.

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

MR. NICKERSON: No, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. PEARSON: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The motion reads as follows: I move that the Northwest Territories government be required to supply free of charge all drugs which are required for chronic ailments for all old age pensioners not otherwise covered.

MR. STEWART: The word I believe is "requested" not "required".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I move that the Northwest Territories government be requested to supply free of charge all drugs required for chronic ailments of all old age pensioners not otherwise covered for this service. Mr. Nickerson.

Raising The Necessary Revenue

MR. NICKERSON: Just a suggestion, Mr. Chairman, that when we have dealt with this type of thing before I think the recommendations have always carried a lot more weight if they were coupled with the recommendation as to how the necessary revenue might be raised. Now, we can pass all kinds of motherhood motions in support of "free this, free that" and "free the other" but I do not know if they really carry that much weight. I am sure that were this to be coupled with a proposal to raise the necessary revenue then the government would certainly give it much more attention.

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

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated previously this House passed a specific increase on tobacco tax to do a certain thing, to assist the old age pensioners and this tax has raised a lot more money than was anticipated. There is \$400,000 to \$500,000 more in the pot than we require for a supplement and I think that that money should come from that area, the tax was put in place specifically for the old age pensioners and I think it is raising enough money to do both jobs, to give the supplement as well as to provide the funding for medicines. So, that is the position I am taking on where the money is coming from.

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

MR. NICKERSON: Could we ask the government whether or not they are of the same opinion, Mr. Chairman, in that there is sufficient revenue generated by the tobacco tax to enable this to be done?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I guess all I could indicate to the Member and to the committee is that I would look into that possibility to see if in fact there is that kind of funding for a pharmacare plan for senior citizens which in effect is what we are asking for, or what the motion asks for.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Hon. Arnold McCallum. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I am going to support this motion because I have seen my own father having to go to the nursing station every day to take a pill and every time he takes a pill he must spend one dollar and fifty cents and must go to the nursing station because he does not know how to handle it properly, to take the pills and so I am going to support this motion.

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

Amendment To The Budget Necessary

HON. DAVID SEARLE: To demonstrate that not only are we within the law to make the recommendation assuming this motion passes because that is the only way you can properly do it, to recommend, but to demonstrate further that you are serious about this matter I suggest that if this motion passes then Members may wish to stand down the item until we see if the Executive can bring back an appropriate amendment to the budget showing clearly that the money is in there. So, I propose to support the motion but I would suggest that following its voting we then find out where the money would and should appear and then simply stand the item down until it does appear. To just pass the motion and not have that follow through is rather ineffective.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Honourable Minister to say he would see where the money would come from and if he would look under page (iii), revenues, he would see it there, the money from the tobacco tax.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I have the despairing feeling as if I am coming across as the bad guy and that I am against this. I am telling you that yesterday or the day when I answered the question for the Member and I told you again today that that is exactly what we are going to do. For God's sake, do not turn it around. I must get elected as well as everybody else. I am not against giving the senior citizens that kind of thing, I thought I had beat -- that is a good suggestion, open it and we will have problems -- I thought I would beat everyone to the gun by saying we are going to get this and now it comes across as though I am against it and I am not. I am for the thing and that is why I said we wanted to come in with this kind of program. So, just in case anybody is under any misapprehension when it comes to the vote, I will vote for it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hurray! Thank you, Hon. Arnold McCallum. The question being called. Mr. Nickerson.

Application Of Tobacco Tax Revenue

MR. NICKERSON: Just one comment. I would suspect that the administration is of the view, and they have certainly made this known before, that a certain proportion of the increase in tobacco tax revenue was to be applied to general purposes and it was just an inflationary type of thing. Now, if they are still of the same opinion they might for instance find that it might cost \$200,000 to do as the Honourable Member from Hay River has suggested or even \$300,000. They might feel for instance that parts of the tobacco tax revenues to the extent of say \$150,000 could be applied to this new purpose but they would still have to find an additional \$150,000. If at the same time they come back they could perhaps have some suggestions as to how this additional revenue might be raised and maybe by another increase in the tobacco tax ...

MR. PEARSON: Shame!

MR. NICKERSON: Maybe by something else. We would have to take that proposal into consideration seriously because if Mr. Stewart is serious about his motion and I believe he is, then he should be prepared to vote at least to a certain extent towards the raising of additional revenue to finance it. So, that would be my suggestion to the administration.

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

MR. STEWART: In reply to Mr. Nickerson I am deadly serious with regard to this motion because I feel we owe it to our senior citizens to look after them when they are in some financial trouble. I have never shirked my duty on the increasing of taxes. There are two places I do not care how high they go. One is liquor and the other is tobacco and I use both of them. I am not afraid to admit it. On the other hand I have never opposed an increase in either of these fields. I oppose an increase in fuel oil and necessities of life but not in non-essential fields.

Motion To Supply Free Drugs To Old Age Pensioners, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Question being called. All in favour of the motion? Eleven. Against? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Just for the record, the Hon. Arnold McCallum did vote for that too.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: It had damned well better be.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Department of Health, administration, total 0 and M. Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I suggest we stand administration aside until we see the result of that vote.

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

Health Education Programs Needed

MR. PEARSON: I just wanted to discuss health in general terms and express some of my views and fears that I have for the health of the people in the Northwest Territories. It is my view, Mr. Chairman, that the Department of Health I mean in the broadest sense, both this one and the federal one are not doing their job and I will repeat that. I do not think they are doing their job. I think the area of neglect is preventive medicine and education, health education, in teaching people how to care for themselves, about their diet, etc. -- young people receiving education through the school to learn about health. When I think considering the amount of money and the kinds of facilities that we are now in the process of building, a monstrous new addition to the hospital in Frobisher Bay, the majority of which is administration facilities with very little in the way of facilities for doctors to perform their duties. This is not the territorial government's fault entirely, but nevertheless it has been taking place in the Northwest Territories and this government will assume the responsibility for that facility I am sure in the very near future.

What I am concerned about, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that we still see a great number of skin problems, various forms of skin diseases. We see obesity becoming a very prevalent disease in the Eastern Arctic amongst people who have kept themselves fit for dozens of centuries. Diets have changed to a very high carbohydrate diet and we are really not getting any help in this regard from the Department of Health. I think that what has to happen is that there has to be an education program, be it through radio or television, be it through schools or whatever method people choose to use to instruct, to help educate people in the business of keeping themselves healthy.

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

MR. FRASER: Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member here yesterday said the police were not doing the work and today the magistrates were not doing their work and now the doctors are not doing their work. I think we are going to have to come to a happy medium someplace.

MR. PEARSON: Perhaps if Mr. Fraser was doing his work, then he would be concerned about the same things as I am concerned about.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): May I have one question before we recognize the clock?

---Agreed

1978 Eclipse Of The Sun

What, if anything, is the Department of Health doing about educating the people of the Northwest Territories not to watch the eclipse of the sun on February third and fourth because I hear on the radio it is going to be dangerous to your eyesight? I asked a question.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would hope, that if you know about it, other people would know about it via the radio or anything else. I think it is the 26th of February.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): It is the 26th of February but not all communities have radio and television. You have got to remember that. They have all got the sun too. Hon. David Searle.

Motion To Defer Discussion On Administration, Department Of Health, Carried

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we set this matter of administration, page 10.02 aside until we hear back with respect to the motion that was just made.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Agreed?

---Carried

Shall we report progress then?

---Agreed

We did not make any progress.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: We came a long way.

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 studying Bill 7-67 and would now like to report progress with two motions that were both passed. The first motion made by Mr. Stewart.

I move that the committee request the administration to convey the following recommendations to the federal Department of Justice with a request that they be implemented within one year; (a) that the vacant position of crown attorney in Hay River be refilled, and; (b) that the function of crown attorney for the Northwest Territories be transferred from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories. That was carried.

Also Mr. Stewart made the last motion: I move that the Northwest Territories government be requested to supply free of charge all drugs required for chronic ailments of all old age pensioners not otherwise covered for that service.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Announcements? Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have consent of the House to go back to Item 10, tabling of documents?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Any nays? Proceed, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

ITEM NO. 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document:

Tabled Document 13-67: Local Government, Direction for the 1980's Summary.

MR. SPEAKER: Further documents to table? Gentlemen, with respect to announcements there is a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. in Katimavik A. Further announcements? Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, January 31, 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. Second Reading of Bills: Bills 6-67, 13-67 and 14-67
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, Establishment of Wilderness Parks in the Northwest Territories, Tabled Document 10-67
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., January 31, 1979, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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