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The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 6

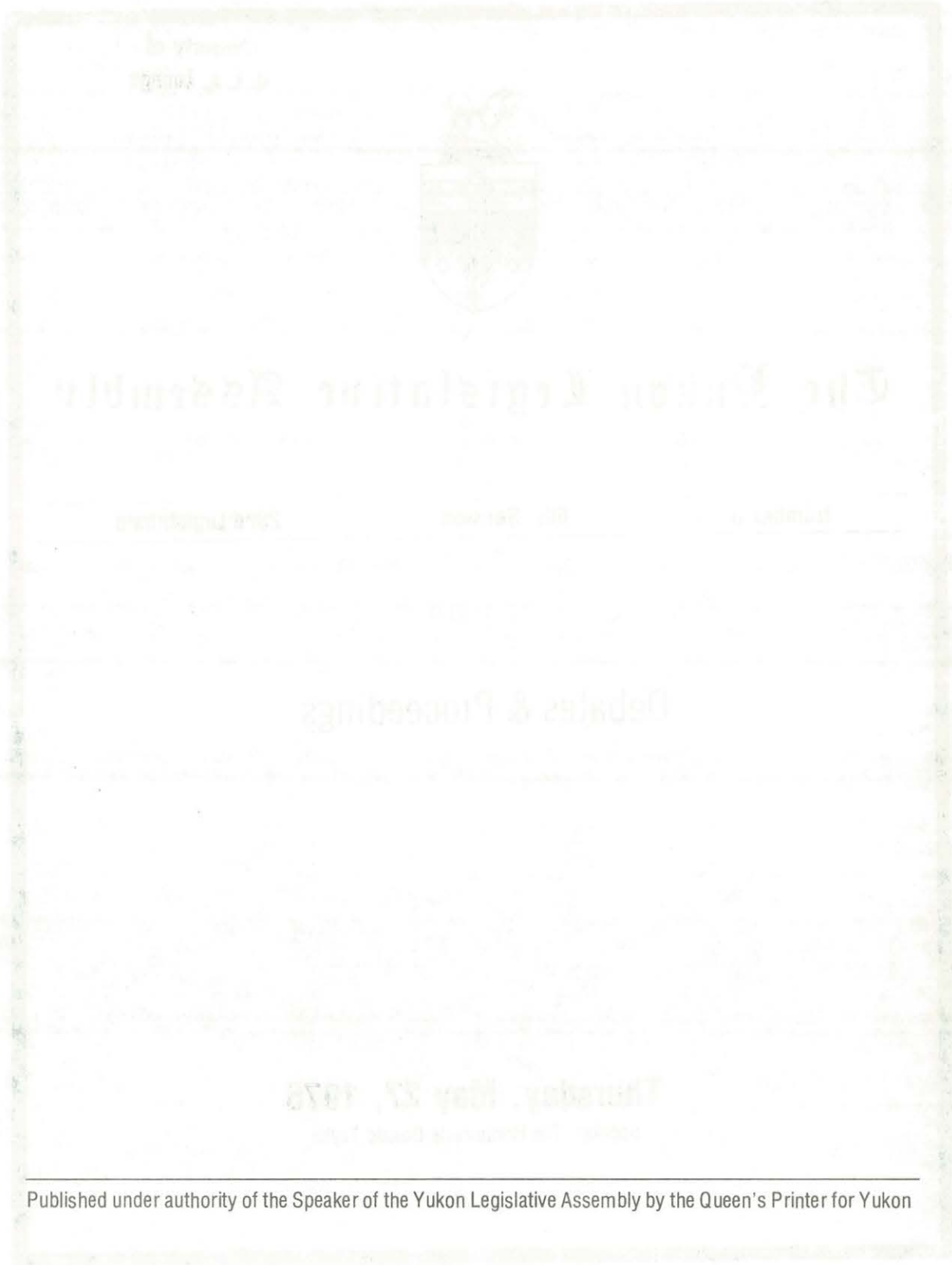
6th. Session

23rd Legislature

Debates & Proceedings

Thursday, May 27, 1976

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor



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(MR. SPEAKER READS DAILY PRAYER)

Mr. Speaker: Madam Clerk, is there a quorum present?

Madam Clerk: There is, Mr. Speaker.

*ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS
DAILY ROUTINE*

Mr. Speaker: I will now call the House to order. We will proceed with the Order Paper. Are there any documents or correspondence for tabling this morning? The Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling today Legislative Return number 12.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further documents or correspondence for tabling? Are there any reports of Committees? Introduction of Bills? Are there any Notices of Motion or Resolution? The Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give Notice of Motion, seconded by the Honourable Member from Watson Lake that the Yukon Legislative Assembly conveys to the National Energy Board of Canada and the United States Federal Power Commission the desire of this House that full consideration be given to an Alaska Highway route for the transmission of natural gas from Alaska to British Columbia and that because of the social, economic and political advantages inherent in the Alaska Highway route, that it be considered as a viable alternative to the coastal or MacKenzie Valley proposals. And the Yukon Legislative Assembly formally requests the Honourable Judd Buchanan, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development lend his support to this House to ensure that in fact due consideration is given to this proposal.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Notices of Motion or Resolution? The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I beg leave to give Notice of Motion, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North that this House recommend to the Minister of Indian Affairs and National Resources the renewed appointment of Bert Boyd as Chairman of the Yukon Water Board.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further Notices of Motion or Resolution? Are there any Notices of Motion for the production of Papers? We will then proceed under orders of the day to the question period. Mr. Commissioner?

*ORDERS OF THE DAY
QUESTION PERIOD*

Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I have an answer to a question that was asked a few days ago. This was asked on May 18th. Mr. Fleming, in conjunction with Mr. McKinnon, enquired as to the Personnel Department's policy re: the hiring and the proper treatment of Yukon people and the public service of the Yukon Territory. The answer, Mr. Speaker, all applications for positions in the public service are acknowledged in writing unless the applications are delivered by hand to the central personnel office. Secondly, all applicants are notified in writing when the competition is finalized and thirdly, if there are unusual delays in the competition, applicants are informed in writing of the delay.

Mr. Speaker: Have you any questions this morning? The Honourable Member from Klondike?

QUESTION RE: REPORT ON ASBESTOS HEALTH HAZARD

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Health and Welfare. The Federal Health Minister, Marc Lalonde just recently released a report on the health hazard with asbestos and I was wondering if you could possibly make this report available to this House?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to do so if I had a copy.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions this morning?

The Honourable Member from Klondike?

Question re: Labour Relations in Germany

Mr. Berger: Yes, a further question to Mr. Commissioner.

The Federal Ministry of Labour endorsed a 102 page report by Charles Conaghan, the Vice-President of U.B.C. on Labour Relations in Germany, and I wonder if this report could also be made available to this House?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Commissioner?

Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, I am personally not aware of it, but we will certainly make inquiries, and if it's a public document, why we would be very happy to get copies and make them available.

Mr. Speaker: There being no further questions, we will proceed to Motion Number 09.

MOTIONS

Motion Number 9

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Pelly River, seconded by the Honourable Member from Klondike, "Whereas other legislative assemblies have access to independent legal advice for the purpose of determining ramifications or proposed legislation and assisting them in determining procedural points and other related matters, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of the Yukon Territory investigate methods whereby independent legal advice on business of the House can be made available to Members of this Legislative Assembly, and further that this information be tabled at the next session".

The Honourable Member from Pelly River?

Mr. McCall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is a fully explanatory Motion in itself. The concept behind it is to assist some of the members, I for one, who has had some difficulty with some of the legislation that has been presented to us in the past, and it would give an opportunity to some of the members, more so in the outlying regions, to call upon independent advisors, and allow the individual advisor to assist us in formulating new legislation, or any other information that may be needed.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further debate? Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the Motion as carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask Mr. Speaker to seek the unanimous consent of the House so that Motions that were given of this morning of could be proceeded with?

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Any Contrary?

Would the Honourable Member proceed?

I will read the Motion from the Chair.

It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre, seconded by the Honourable Member from Watson Lake, that the Yukon Legislative Assembly conveys to the National Energy Board of Canada, and the United States Federal Power Commission, the desire of this House that fall consideration be given to an Alaska Highway route for the transmission of natural gas from Alaska to British Columbia, and that because of the social, economic and political advantages inherent in the Alaska Highway route, that it be considered as a viable alternative to the coastal or Mackenzie Valley proposals.

And the Yukon Legislative Assembly formally requests that the Honourable Judd Buchanan, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, lend his support to this House to ensure that in fact due consideration is given to this proposal.

The Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, of course this comes as a result, this motion, of a visit from the Premier of British Columbia, the Honourable Bill Bennett, and in conjunction with the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, have both lent their support, Mr. Speaker, to the concept of full consideration being given to an alternative to the coastal-Mackenzie Valley proposal, namely the route down the Alaska Highway.

Mr. Speaker, I feel somewhat like between two prophets in our own time, as I stand here this morning as the Honourable Member to my right, who was once the editor of a local newspaper, was saying many years ago, that this is an alternate route that should be examined, and at that time, Mr. Commissioner lent his support to that proposal also. It seems that what they said many, many years ago is now coming to pass as support is coming belatedly from all quarters to look in and consider fully the possibility of the Alaska Highway corridor as a viable alternative.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it's important to notice in this

Motion that consideration is the key word that is mentioned at least three times in the Motion. All this House is asking is that as the Premier of B.C. has asked, and as the Commissioner has asked, that full consideration be given to the viability and full study be given to the proposal that perhaps there is an alternative to the Mackenzie Valley and to the coastal method of shipping oil, and certainly that one of the alternatives must be the Alaska Highway corridor.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the Assembly is doing no less than lending their support that full consideration be given to this route as a viable alternative to the routes already mentioned.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale?

Mr. Lengerke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly welcome this Motion. As you know, I also asked a question in this House not too long ago, what Yukon was doing with respect to the Alcan line and why in fact it was not promoting it on its own, and seeking out ways, certainly, to promote it.

I can well appreciate the Honourable Minister's comments, and certainly the Minister of Health and Welfare, their background in this, because they've been around for a good number of years and, certainly, pushing that. I as a newcomer have maybe just recognized some of the advantages.

I really think that the Fairbanks corridor is really an attractive alternate to the Mackenzie line, because its development has already occurred in the part of, in the southern part of the Yukon Territory. There is really easy access to all construction locations along the proposed pipeline corridor, the infrastructure for the pipeline development is really already in place. It's available, right in the Whitehorse area. Environment along the southern part of the Yukon Territory has already been subject to development, and has proved, I think adaptable to this kind of development, and I think the political environment of the Yukon is favourable for such a diversification of the economy.

So therefore I really support this type of a Motion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I there any further debate? The Honourable Member from Hootalinqua?

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have to rise in support of the Motion, although in some ways I do have my misgivings and I would like to voice them now so that at a later date I may be able to say well, I think that's -- I thought that was what was going to happen.

I have been through some of the booms in the years I've been in Canada, and I've seen such things as pipelines boom through, and the actual value after that's over, is more or less down the drain. So I would say that we would be sure we get something for the use of that pipeline as it goes through this country, and make sure it's plenty, because it isn't us really that are

in need of a pipeline at this moment. It's somebody else, and that's the reason they're here looking for a way to go through here possibly.

I have to agree, myself, that there's no way that a pipeline would go up the Mackenzie Valley if it could go through here, due to the environmental problems and so forth and so on. But we have also other people in the Territory, other than the 12 of us in this legislature. I think we should think of all of those people when we are passing something like this, because I've found so many times that we forgot there is other little people that have a voice too, and something coming forward just like this, boom and we go forth hammer and tongs, and it always seems to be that the people are not included in what we are doing, but we are looking for the money. Always looking for the money angle somewhere, or the political value always.

I would like to say this, that I don't think, if the pipeline does go through, the Yukon will never be just exactly as the Yukon was before, because it will change.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have to rise in support of this Motion. I think it is very important that the Government of the Yukon Territory look in other areas in order to help our economy, which at the present time I think everybody knows is very fragile and the reliance that we have presently on the mining industry.

For the Votes and Proceedings, I would like to read the excerpts from the presentation made by the Commissioner to the Berger Inquiry as well as to the press release last night.

It expresses the stand of the Government of Yukon Territories very, very well and it states, "If pipelines are to be built across our Territory, we must reap our fair share of the profits. Any development in the Yukon must encompass the political and economic aspirations of Yukoners to ensure that they will reap the benefits of any projects such as a pipeline. We are no longer prepared to act as a resource storehouse for the rest of Canada. Yukon is an economic and political reality and must be treated as such."

As far as the pipeline is concerned, I think that the Honourable Member from Hootalinqua has a certain amount of validity. At the same time, I think that if we go about the initiation of a pipeline in a proper manner and learn from the Alaskans of what they did wrong, I think that there would be many, many positive spin-offs from the pipeline, more than negative aspects which the Honourable Member from Hootalinqua expressed.

So as far as myself is concerned, and I know from my constituents, the majority of my constituents, I can honestly say that they would welcome another part of the economy being bolstered by such a project as this.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further debate? The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Motion 11 Water

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, if there is time for a few words from the oldest living resident -- despite the fact that a number of us have felt for many years that this was the most preferable, the most viable route for any pipeline from the north, I think we have to take into consideration the remarks of the Honourable Member from Hootalinqua. I would like to point out to the Honourable Member, Mr. Speaker, that it is because of our concern for the people of the Yukon that we are asking the National Energy Board to give some consideration to this proposal.

I would like to also stress the fact that we are not getting a pipeline tomorrow with this Motion. We are simply asking a Board to consider the possible applications for such a route and you are looking at two to three years while people examine every factor involved in such a development project.

My two main reasons for supporting such a route are that, first of all, the people in this country would be guaranteed access to low cost heating fuel for their homes and their business places.

The second main reason, Mr. Speaker, is that the native people of this country have already endorsed this route and it is gratifying to me to see that there is something that we can agree on and work together on for the further of this country and its residents.

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared for the -- the Honourable Member from Klondike?

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise -- I support the Motion in principle, the consideration aspect of it, but I have to whole heartedly support the Member from Hootalinqua in his caution. I also have to question the wisdom in people stating that we are going to get, indeed, low cost heating fuel in this territory, because I don't believe in it. We are not talking about our own gas going through this pipeline. It's foreign gas. They are just using this part of Canada as a transportation route.

I could see possible -- we can talk now about our own gas coming from the Mackenzie or anything like this. We are not talking about this right now. We are only talking about the Alaska, Prudhoe Bay discovery and nothing else. But I am very, very concerned. I have been out in oil booms in Alberta where there is thousands of people been working one day and the next day there was nothing.

This is what I am concerned with, that a lot of people think, oh, there is a fast buck to be made. But there is a lot of people who are going to be sorry afterwards because they had to over-invest in business in order to compete with outside business, and after three years -- and this is most likely going to take to build the pipeline, there is absolutely nothing anymore. This is what I think this House should be made aware of and the public as a whole in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further debate? The Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, to close the debate

on a motion. I too share the concerns that the Honourable Member from Klondike and Hootalinqua have brought forward to this House. However, I think that this debate will take place at another time, because certainly the motion is worded so that, I hope, that all members can support the motion as it now stands. What we are asking for is that consideration now be given to examine the alternative of the pipeline along the Alaska Highway and if that alternative proves viable, then, of course, the data and the studies and the research will have to be collected to find out whether this House at some future date will support an alternative, if it is indeed proven viable after the consideration that we have asked by this motion is given.

So, I don't think, Mr. Speaker, there should be any trouble as far as members making sure that the homework is done so that we have the data that we can make an intelligent decision on at some later date.

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare that the Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)
Motion Number 11

Mr. Speaker: We have this morning Motion Number 11. Would the House agree to suspend standing orders in order that this Motion may be processed at this time?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any contrary?

I will correct the Motion. I believe it was just a typographical error. The words -- this is moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, and seconded by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse North Centre.

"That this House recommend to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the renewed appointment of Bert Boyd as Chairman of the Yukon Water Board".

The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker, it's been brought to my attention recently that during the summer interim when council is not in session, there will be expiration of an appointment which was recommended by this Assembly earlier, and that is that the Chairman of the Yukon Water Board will no longer be acting in that capacity because his appointment will have expired. If it is the opinion of this House that this recommendation should provide for renewed appointment of Mr. Boyd, we should be making that recommendation now rather

than waiting until the fall session, and that is why I have asked to bring it before you this morning, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Any debate? Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare that the Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed to Public Bills.

PUBLIC BILLS

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Bill No. 2, Third Reading

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that Bill Number 2 be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that Bill Number 2 be now read a third time. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the Motion as carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt the title to the Bill?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that Bill Number 2 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that Bill Number 2 be now passed, and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The Motion is carried, and Bill Number 2 has passed this House.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Bill No. 3, Third Reading

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that Bill Number 3 be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that Bill Number 3 be now read a third time.

Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the Motion carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt the title to the Bill?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that Bill Number 3 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member for Whitehorse West, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that Bill Number 3 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the Motion as carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: Bill Number 3 has passed this House. The Honourable Member for Whitehorse North Centre?

Bill No. 4, Third Reading

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill Number 4 be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: I has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill Number 4 be now read a third time.
Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the Motion carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt the title to the Bill?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West that Bill Number 4 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: I has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill Number 4 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.
Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare that the Motion has carried, and that Bill Number 4 has passed this House.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Bill No. 5, Third Reading

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill Number 5 be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that

Bill Number 5 be now read a third time.
Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Disagreed.

Mr. Speaker: Division has been called. Madam Clerk, would you poll the House, please?

Madam Clerk: The Member from Whitehorse South Centre?

Mr. Hibberd: Yes.

Madam Clerk: The Member from Mayo?

Mr. McIntyre: Agreed.

Madam Clerk: The Member from Klondike?

Mr. Berger: Agreed.

Madam Clerk: The Member from Hootalinqua?

Mr. Fleming: Disagreed.

Madam Clerk: The Member from Ogilvie?

Ms. Millard: Disagreed.

Madam Clerk: The member from Whitehorse Riverdale?

Mr. Lengkerke: Agreed.

Madam Clerk: The Member from Pelly River?

Mr. McCall: Agreed.

Madam Clerk: The Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Agreed.

Madam Clerk: The Member from Whitehorse West?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Agreed.

Madam Clerk: The Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Agreed.

Madam Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the vote is 8 yea, 2 nay.

Mr. Speaker: The Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt the title to the Bill?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill Number 5 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West that Bill number 5 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare that the Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure at this time. The Honourable Member from Pelly River?

Mr. McCall: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I now move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, the House resolve in the Committee of the Whole for the Purpose of considering Bills, Sessional Papers and Motions.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Pelly River, seconded by the Honourable Member from Klondike that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, the House resolve in the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering Bills, Sessional Papers and Motions. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

MR. SPEAKER LEAVES CHAIR

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. Chairman: I now call this Committee to Order and declare a recess.

RECESS

Mr. Chairman: I will now call this Committee to Order.

We have for consideration this morning Sessional Paper number 1 regarding the Legal Aid Ordinance and to assist us, we have with us Mr. Peter Gillespie. Mr. Gillespie, could you explain this for us?

Mr. Gillespie: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This Sessional Paper does not in any way advocate whether or not the Legal Aid Ordinance should be brought into force. It simply explains something that was -- some information that was not available to us at the time that the Legal Aid Ordinance was being debated in this House, nor at the time that the funds were being voted at the last session of this House.

At that time, at both of those times, I told this House that the Federal Government had indicated that they were prepared to cost share this program with no upper limit. The basis for saying that was an undertaking in a letter, in two letters from the then Minister, Otto Lang, that he was going to take this proposal to the Cabinet, that there be no upper limit on the cost shared expenditures.

The last of those letters was on July 8, 1974. Since that time, the financial circumstances of the country have changed and we have now received a letter from the Honourable Ron Basford indicating that he was not prepared to carry on with the earlier commitment of Mr. Otto Lang and that Mr. Basford was only prepared to go as far as to say that they would cost share up to \$100,000.00 but not that there would be no upper limit on what they would be prepared to cost share.

So, that changes the circumstances for this government, because if the expenditures do rise beyond the \$100,000.00 to the extent that that happens, the cost would be fully borne by the Territorial Government. It's no secret to any of us here that there is no way of telling exactly how much this kind of program is going to cost. We cannot precisely determine the demand and therefore, we felt it incumbent upon us to come and explain just these changes in circumstances and seek an expression of view from the House as to whether or not we should bring this Ordinance into force.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Taylor?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It would seem, from the Sessional Paper and the comments made by Mr. Gillespie this morning, that the only, I think, reasonable course that we could follow would be to defer any involvement or implementation of this program for at least a year until perhaps we can get more information on the subject and come to some firm sort of agreement with Ottawa rather than embarking on another cost share program that is going to put us deeper and deeper into financial debt.

While a lot of these programs are, of course, desirable, I think we must be guided largely by the amount of monies that we have in our treasury and perhaps there are other programs which are much more essential at this time. That would be my initial thoughts and reac-

tion to the statement as made by Mr. Gillespie and the information contained in Sessional Paper number 1. I really think we should defer this for a year until we can get further information and know exactly where we stand before we embark on the program.

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Millard?

Ms. Millard: Mr. Chairman, I rise in consternation at the member opposite. We are already in this program, we are sharing it and it has been passed by the budget. No -- I can't understand any reasoning in stopping legal aid which has been started and is a very necessary program.

I take this opportunity to support legal aid which has been questioned in this House so many times and has never been really defended. It is a very necessary program. It's in force in all jurisdictions. I think it would be a retrograde step at this point to say that legal aid should be deferred for a year. I don't know how you can defer justice. My question to the witness is whether or not this involves both civil and criminal legal aid, or is it just the new civil legal aid?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Gillespie?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Chairman, if this Ordinance is not brought into force, criminal legal aid will continue, but the costs for that criminal legal aid will be fully borne, 100 percent, by the Territorial Government. If this Ordinance is brought into force, then we will have both criminal and civil legal aid, but half the costs will be borne by the Federal Government, in that event. Up to a ceiling of a hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lang?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, my concern is the ramifications of the program in regards to the mechanism that is set up within the court system. If this were to be implemented, and you correct me if I am wrong, Mr. Gillespie, my understanding is that in the very near future we would have to hire one more employee within the court system to get the program on, once it started going.

Now, you would probably be looking in the area of 15 to \$20,000.00 for that employee in wages, and that would not be coming out of this program. That would be just straight from the general revenues, is that not correct?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Chairman --

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Gillespie?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. We had not planned to hire an additional person on our staff this year to carry out this program, but it's reasonable to expect that in the next year or two that the additional work arising from having civil legal aid would add sufficient work loads onto our legal staff that we would have to look at hiring an additional person. We don't

know for sure at this point in time, but I think it's a reasonable expectation that we would.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lang?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The only reason I mentioned this, Mr. Chairman, is I was speaking to some of the people in the Legal Department, and there was definitely an indication that in the very near future, if the program was to come into effect, they would have to hire another individual to begin right off the bat.

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, could I ask Mr. Gillespie, is that expense not included in your forecasts of costs of implementing the program? Surely it should have been.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Chairman, I would have to examine the agreement to determine precisely what the cost shareable items are. I don't have it with me here, but I'm sorry, I don't know the answer, but I can find out.

Mr. Chairman --

Mr. Gillespie: Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I got in a discussion with some members of the same branch, and actually, they brought to me, a plea for expedition of this program because they are daily faced with people who require legal aid, and their hands are tied at this point.

I cannot sit here in this House, and it's a free country, Mr. Chairman, I'm speaking for myself; I cannot sit here in this House and see the members pass a Motion this morning asking that they be given a special legal advisor for their own legislative purposes, and then turn down legal aid for everybody else in the country.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Gillespie?

Mr. Gillespie: If I may, there's one thing I would like to say about this Sessional Paper, and that is there has not come to our attention any strong lobby force for legal aid. I think there's a reason for that, and that is that the people who most need it, are the people with family problems of one sort or another, and because the nature of their problems is a very private one, they're not really in a position to mount a lobby and come out publicly saying that I need legal aid, because I'm having trouble with my children or with my husband, or whatever it is.

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Just one further comment. This paper says to us that the expenditures that we looked at are still going to be applied, that our officials expect to stay below the limit in this coming year, '78 and '9, '79 and '9, so are we screaming "panic" today?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lengerke?

Mr. Lengerke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask Mr. Gillespie if he could refresh my memory as what was the cost of the criminal legal aid last year?

Mr. Gillespie: The figure in the budget was \$35,000 I believe last year, and it's the same for this year, for criminal legal aid, and what we have in the budget for both sorts of legal aid in the coming year is again \$35,000.00.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lengerke?

Mr. Lengerke: It's okay, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Fleming?

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Chairman. One of my questions was just answered, as to the cost. However, I find myself in the same position again, in a quandry as to what really we do do sometimes.

As a member that did stand up here, I think last -- when the Ordinance came in and said we should know more about it and where we are going to get the money and so forth and so on, to pay for it, I find now I'm in the position of where should I go? Which one costs the most, I wonder, because if I go say no, I am going to kill the poor people; and if I say yes, it may kill all of us, because of the money we have to pay out for it.

I find that we have done this so many times and we are back in here worrying about the same problem. I'm only unhappy this morning that our other member from Kluane isn't here, because I think we could have a good debate again. I'm not much -- I won't belabour this problem. I know that the poor people do need legal aid. I'm all for that, a hundred percent for that part, but I say again, you know, we seem to have a problem in knowing what we are doing in the first place, and ending up with something like this that we have to go along with now.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lang?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I am very concerned about this because we have gone through the exercise of a budget, that is a budget of constraint. We are looking, in the forthcoming year, of a budget of economically where you are going to be more hamstrung than what we were this year. I think it was fairly well expressed yesterday.

I have a question for the Legal Advisor. We have here a ceiling of \$100,000.00. Now, my understanding is that if we launch into the program, we would quite conceivably be hiring at least one more individual in the court circuit. Now, does that money come out of this program or does it come out of the general revenue?

Mr. Legal Advisor: Mr. Chairman, any costs attributed to this program would be cost shared by the Federal Government. So, it would be to some extent a matter for the Department of Legal Affairs to satisfy the

Federal authorities that it was a fair expenditure under the Legal Aid.

There will be no extra staff this year. It is conceivable, that for administrative purposes to administer the program, we may have to ask for a clerk or some person in that level next year. But if it is debited to that purpose and I think the Federal people are reasonable to deal with in this matter. At least the department with which I happen to have the honour to deal, that they would debit it to the Legal Aid Program and pay half the cost, up to a maximum of \$100,000.00.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lang?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, this is my point. On this program, on the cost sharing program, you get to \$100,000.00, which is fifty cent dollars to the Territory. Anything over and above that, we have to pick up. So, of the program costs \$150,000.00, with the implications that we will have in our court system, we are looking at a bill to the Yukon Territorial Government of \$100,000.00 and the Feds picking up \$50,000.00 and that is subject to change in the two years in negotiations and we have seen the various -- when negotiations come up for various agreements, we have a tendency not to come out looking very good at times.

This is my concern, if the political philosophy of the Federal Government changes, the program, once you have it instituted, it could be a real burden financially on the Territorial tax payer if they change the rules which they are quite capable of doing in two years from now.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lengerke?

Mr. Lengerke: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Again I wish the member from Kluane was here, because, as you recall when we were debating this, certainly she expressed a lot of concern, as well as I did myself, with respect to the Civil Legal Aid situation. There was just no way of controlling the costs and nobody could predict the costs with respect to Civil Legal Aid. We had agreed finally that when we saw that there was financial assistance available that we went along with that idea but now with this new situation before us, as I say, I don't know if I would -- in fact, I would not support this.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Taylor?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In light of some of the comments that have been made, I just would reiterate that this is certainly a desirable program than it was when we first brought the Bill before the House and approved it. But based on this information, we are writing a blank cheque and the people of the Yukon Territory have just been subjected to tax increases in conjunction with the reassessments which have forced a lot of people right out of the Territory. They just can't afford any more taxes and if we embark upon programs as desirable as perhaps Civil Legal Aid, Mr. Chairman, writing a blank cheque, it may be necessary for the Government to come back to this House in

the spring and say we are going to have to increase your taxes again.

I think we should bear that in mind. I don't think that the people in the Yukon can stand any additional taxation for quite some time. Either that or we just won't have people in the Yukon because they won't be able to afford to live here. Now, it is for this reason that I strongly feel that we should wait until consideration of the '77-'78 estimates and see, if by that time, the administration have been able to make any further ground with the Federal Government in terms of cost sharing this program.

If this thing gets away and we have to pay the limit over our \$100,000.00 commitment, we are in trouble.

The other thing is, if we embark on Civil Legal Aid, we have got to look after every applicant that comes along. You can't just say, well, our money has run out and tell somebody I am sorry, from now on you can't participate in the program. This can't be done either.

So, I would like to move, Mr. Chairman, that implementation of a Civil Legal Aid Program be deferred pending consideration of the 1977-'78 estimates, if I could find a seconder.

Mr. Chairman: Seconder? Mr. Lang. Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I am appalled by the approach taken today by the Honourable Member from Watson Lake, who for the last fifteen years, to my personal knowledge, has been standing here standing the battle of the little guy. Today he has abandoned him. Mr. Chairman, you know, if this is the philosophy that members around this table are going to apply to every program that comes before them, I quit.

They would have today chopped all the health programs that we have in this country because nobody here today can tell you how much money we are going to get back this year from the Federal Government for evacuation of medical cases or for hospitalization or for public health. Is that your philosophy that you are going to turn down a program because you don't have the exact number of dollars and cents in front of you for the end of the year?

Mr. Chairman, this is a very important principle I am stating. This is not just something you decide you will do in March and decide you won't do in May. The reason why we approved this program was because it is necessary and it is a good program and the people need it. I am still not convinced Mr. Chairman, that there is anything in this paper that tells us it is going to cost us more than we have already committed. I don't know that there is any member around this table who can stand up and prove that to me.

I think in all fairness, you have to give this program a chance to work. You can always chop it next spring, if you are feeling inclined. I would suggest if the Honourable Members are so concerned about where the money is coming from, they might have approved my introduction of a hotel room tax in the territory and raise \$300,000.00 out of other people's pockets.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let's get down to business here.

Are you going to abandon the people who need this service, because of some phony reason, and I think it's phony; or are you going to come up with the right answer to this paper?

You know, you are twisting the information in this paper, Mr. Chairman, with due respect.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lang?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, I think what the Honourable Member has just said, there is some validity to what she has said, but at the same time, I have been talking to people from outside that have been involved in the initiation of a program such as this, and I have been told that you can double, within the next year to two years, your court costs, and this has not been explained in this paper, Mr. Chairman. This is one very, very important area that has not been explained. I feel that right now, and with what the Honourable Member from Watson Lake has said, I have nothing against the program, but the fact that we are in an era of economic constraint, that we should look at this program very hesitantly and next budget session, pull the paper back out and have a look at it.

At the present time, the provincial governments, if you read the newspaper, all the provincial governments are attempting to extricate themselves from the program as has been presented in the provincial jurisdictions. Surely we can sit back for a year and just watch what's happening in the provinces, so we can learn from their mistakes, and then institute a program which we can control.

At the present time, as the Honourable Member from Watson Lake has said, you'll have no control over that. Once it's been instituted, somebody comes for legal aid, you've gone over that hundred thousand dollars, there's no way. You've got to make that program available to him, and I think that it's a very dangerous precedent to go through with this at the present time.

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Millard?

Ms. Millard: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister of Health and Welfare has said far, far better than I, exactly what my qualms are about this. I see no information in this paper that says that they can't handle it for the next two years the way it is. I don't know where these experts come from around here, but the experts in the Department of Legal Affairs, or whatever, has told us that we can do it within this limit.

Not only that but it says it's going to be reviewed after two years. It is a program that we approved this spring, the principle of it was passed with some problem, but it was passed. And anyway, how are we supposed to know what is happening in this program until we launch into it and then we have some statistics to go by. We are just pulling things out of the air and pretending that we are trying to save the taxpayers' money, when in actuality, the costs to humanity, the costs to human life in the Yukon is far, far greater than even the financial costs is greater than we ever expect when you don't have proper

justice.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Taylor?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to state that perhaps we are losing sight of the fact that when we are talking about the little guy, which the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West threw at me, that's exactly who I am talking about, all over the Territory. He's the one that has to dig in his pocket if anything goes wrong with this program, and he's the guy that has to pay that little 10 mill increase along with everybody else.

If you would note that, especially recently, all across Canada, Provincial-Federal cost shared programs are in trouble. The Federal Government, at will, are backing out of this and backing out of that, and changing this program, and changing that program, and as we become tied to these programs, we are left with a deficit on every occasion.

Now that money, unless the government have proposals of setting up their own mint and printing their own money, which I haven't seen before this Assembly yet in any budget that I've seen, the only thing we can do to help protect the little guy is to ensure that when we make, on behalf of the people of the Yukon Territory, agreements with Canada, that we know what we are getting into and that they be as iron-clad as they can possibly be, so that we always know where we stand. Because the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek stated quite properly, once you start a program, it's pretty hard to dump it.

Now we have, in Legal Aid, we have embarked upon a criminal legal aid program, and this is good. This is doing a lot of good, and this we must be able to afford. The civil legal aid program, I agree with the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, is desirable. I still feel it's desirable, but the facts of the matter are we just do not have the money and we ought not to embark upon programs that are not as iron-clad as we would expect, in order to protect the little guy.

So, for those reasons, I would suggest we have a delay of one year on this, and when we consider the estimates, when we consider the financial position of the Territory, as presented to us by the government next spring, then that would be a time to say shall we implement the Bill or shall we not implement the Bill? The Bill is still there.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Gillespie, do you have a comment?

Mr. Gillespie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There's just one thing I would like to draw to the members' attention, and that is that in the provinces, none of the provincial schemes are as simple and as straightforward as this one. The Province of British Columbia, for example, I think has instituted things like storefront lawyers, 24 hour services and all this kind of thing, and it is these frills that in large measure, are the reason for the cost escalations they have experienced.

Now, I can give no iron-clad commitment that we

won't find -- experience cost escalations of the same sort. What the provinces are trying to do basically, is to come back to the kind of legal aid program that we have in the Ordinance as written now. In other words, take away the frills, have a straightforward program that we can control in terms of its management and of its costs.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Berger?

Mr. Berger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought you forgot about me.

I have to rise against the Motion that is on the floor, and I wholeheartedly agree with the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West.

I would also like to plead with this Assembly here, or this Committee here, to endorse this Bill because I can no longer afford backing up cheques to the bank for somebody who needs to hire a lawyer, and the lawyer refuses him because he has no money.

I think to me personally, I think civil legal aid is more important than criminal legal aid. There's all sorts of things in civil legal aid where people have no money to hire lawyers or retain a lawyer to go to him and ask for legal advice, and maybe solve the problems, instead they have to live with the problems.

If somebody has a criminal offence, he maybe deserves the thing, I don't know, I'm no judge in this matter, but I think civil legal aid to me is more important. Unless we go into the program, how can we ever say how much it is going to cost us? I mean, the members around here say we can't afford it. We don't know how much we are going to have to put out.

Some Honourable Members this morning said we always look at the money aspect and not the human aspect, and this is exactly what this Bill is. It's a human aspect of the people, not a money aspect. The whole thing if it's cut out is \$50,000.00, and surely we should be able to afford \$50,000.00.

Yesterday, some Honourable Member made a statement that we are a "have" country up here. All of a sudden, lots of members in this House were very proud to be in this "have" country, and all of a sudden they say we haven't got anything. I say let's go on with this Bill.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Fleming?

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have to rise when I hear the remarks from the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, when she says that members are opposing this is not thinking of the little people. We are here to help the little people, and somehow or other, the same thing again, the shoe is on the other foot.

Any tax bills that have been passed in this House, I will say, and I think I can prove by saying it is the Minimum Tax Act that's gone into effect here, where a man can have 10,000 acres and pay a hundred dollars; another man can have 25 and pay it, that's the little people are going to pay.

I can also say the Homeowner's Grant might be almost the same situation where people that have a shack get nothing, and the people who have lots of money and a

big home get \$250.00. And I think that's where the little people are hurt.

Now, I am not against the legal aid situation, but I would like to know before voting for Bills, as to what they are going to cost us and what they are not going to cost us, and the government don't seem to be able to answer that. We do need the legal aid, just show me the proof that we aren't going to get stuck with it, or somebody answer that question, and I would be quite agreeable.

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr Chairman, I'm only going to make a few brief comments, but I can't let it pass this way.

I thought we had examined the whole situation of legal aid when we considered this matter earlier this year. But apparently a number of members are under misapprehensions which should be cleared up, and I don't know whether the Legal Advisor wishes to assist in this or not, but I would like to draw to their attention the fact that this is not a free ride.

First of all, your application for legal aid has to be examined by the people in charge of the program, and whether or not you get it is up to them. Secondly, if you do receive legal aid and you are successful in your court case, you are expected to repay the costs.

Now you know, it's not entirely just a free hand-out on a silver platter. We are talking about the people that I deal with in my department all the time in Health and Welfare and Rehabilitation, and they are the people who are in need of legal assistance, and they are in need of health care, and they are in need of welfare, and they are in need of rehabilitation, and I haven't seen the members around this table turning them down before, and I haven't seen the members saying it's going to cost more for health costs, so don't get sick. You know, it's not something that we have control over, whether or not they are going to need legal aid in their family problems and crises.

There's just one other statement I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, and that is that the argument that because the Federal Government has reversed its stand on this policy we should follow suit, does not wash with me, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to be tarred with the same brush as the Federal Department, and I think that when this Legislative Assembly approves a program, they should stick to their word.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lang?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the witness. In a statement a little earlier, he said that this is a program that we can control. This is our concern, I know the Honourable Member from Watson Lake, as well as the Member from Hootalinqua. Can you control it?

I personally in good conscience, do not think that you can control it. Once you have it instituted, it has to be made available for anyone, and the Yukon Territorial

taxpayer is going to pick up the difference, whether you like it or not. Here we are, the next budget coming up, I know that I am going to be running a budget of constraint in the Department of Education, attempting to keep the same level of education for the children of the Yukon, and we're going into another program.

I've heard members say well, we've already passed in principle the concept of legal aid. Sure, we looked at it, but right now we have got -- we have in front of us, the Federal Government is already changing the rules. We haven't even initiated the program.

I'll ask the Legal Advisor this: Can you insure me that the court costs to operate the court will not double in the next two years?

I have talked to people who have seen this program implemented down south, and the court costs have doubled, and the taxpayer, the little guy on the street is picking it up, the taxpayer of the Yukon, or B.C., or whatever that program is being instituted.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Legal Advisor?

Mr. Legal Advisor: We bring no guarantees with this.

Hon. Mr. Lang: That's right.

Mr. Legal Advisor: All we can do --

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Legal Advisor: -- is give the same as any other Department of the Government. We have made an estimate that our costs, this year, if this program is accepted, would be \$70,000.00, of which \$35,000.00 would be paid by the Federal Government.

Our estimates for next year are that it will be approximately 80, I think or 85,000, and of that again, half would be paid, and the third year we think we would be within the \$100,000.00, but at that point in time, it would be renegotiated with the Federal Government. This year it will cost in Yukon tax dollars, it will cost nothing; it will cost nothing to Yukon tax dollars the second year; it may cost perhaps three or four thousand dollars the third year; and about \$15,000.00 the fourth year.

If this paper is not accepted, we will still run our criminal legal aid. It will cost this government \$35,000.00, but there will be no civil legal aid, so the cost to the government is a very, very small amount within the next three or four years.

Now, true with the increase in crime, with the increase in population or something, there may be other increases, but certainly in the next two years, I cannot see any increases in staff costs of any consequence that would cost this government anything. But I don't want to press this scheme.

The first time this scheme was mentioned in this House, my hair was dark.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lang?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have to rise

and in good conscience -- I have to vote with the Honourable Member from Watson Lake. I would like to think that the House would be responsible enough to defer the initiation of this program until our next budget session.

You know, I come from the world of private enterprise and when you go to do something, you are pretty sure of what is going to happen. I have never heard so many thinks, maybe's, perhaps in my life. I guess maybe because we are dealing with the taxpayer's dollars but in good conscience, I have to vote with the Honourable Member from Watson lake.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McCall?

Mr. McCall: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I find it rather amusing to listen to the Honourable Member who has a portfolio for education. I believe education means a lot of things. It does not mean childishness. I am quite surprised at some of the remarks he has made along with the Honourable Member from Watson Lake. What is the purse? What are we talking about in dollars and cents?

I think it is a very important thing to consider Legal Aid. Maybe one day the Honourable Member may be in a position where he is going to need it himself.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Is that a threat?

Mr. McCall: No, Mr. Chairman that is not a threat.

I find it rather amusing for a member of this House to make statements that are being made. We have passed legislation covering this particular project or program. All I can say is, let's not just slam on the binders, shape up or ship out.

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, just one final word. A number of members here this morning have regretted the absence of the Honourable member from Kluane and I would just like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I have -- my own convictions are that if she were present today, she would be arguing for this Bill on behalf of all the taxpayers who are going to sue the government.

(LAUGHTER)

Mr. Commissioner: It doesn't meet the criteria, Mrs. Whyard.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Taylor?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Notwithstanding what is being said, I think you still have to go back to the fact that the upper limit of \$100,000.00 spans two years. That's the first consideration.

It's spelled out in the Sessional Paper. I regret that I must inform the House that the Honourable Ron Basford, who succeeded Mr. Lang's portfolio early this year wrote me in February last informing me that in view of

the present economic situation and the restrictions which have been imposed on government departments, he had come to the conclusion with regret that it would not be appropriate now to place before Cabinet, Mr. Lang's proposal that the total expenditures without limit should be borne equally by the Territory and the Federal Government. Now, if we let this matter rest for a year, perhaps within that period of time, the Minister may -- the Federal Minister may feel disposed to lay these proposals before the Cabinet and perhaps we may be able to come to some agreement between Canada and the Government of the Yukon Territory in this matter.

As I say, I am still not prepared to commit the Yukon Territory to any additional taxation particularly next spring when people come in and say, well, really you know, this legal aid thing is costing us too much money and we are just going to have to ask you people for more money.

So, I see no problem with putting this program. We are not killing the program by setting it back a year and I think that's quite reasonable.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further discussion? Are you ready for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Chairman: I has been moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Lang that implementation of a Civil Legal Aid Program be deferred pending consideration of the 1977-'78 estimates. Are you ready for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Chairman: Those in favor?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: With hands please. I am sorry. There seems to be some confusion. I will repeat the motion. That implimentation of a Civil Legal Aid Program be deferred pending consideration of the 1977-'78 estimates. All those in favor? Contrary? The motion is defeated.

(MOTION DEFEATED)

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre that the Legal Aid Ordinance be activated.

Mr. Chairman: Who is your seconder? Is there any further discussion?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Chairman, I just have one word on this matter. I have been silent all morning on a very interesting debate. I just want to say, like the Legal Advisor, I did not have one gray hair on my head when I

first started discussing and pushing for the concept of Civil Legal Aid at this Legislature. I have been a proponent of it in the four terms that I have sat at this table and getting it so close at this time and then see it not go into effect, I think would be a sad state of affairs for all of us who have worked for a good program about civil and criminal legal aid in the Yukon for so many years. I would hate to see it deferred at this time when we are so close to getting it into action.

Mr. Chairman: It has been moved by Mrs. Whyard, seconded by Mr. McKinnon, that the Legal Aid Ordinance be activated. All those in favour?

Contrary? The Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Chairman: The witness is excused.

Motion Number 1

We will proceed with Motion Number 1. Motion Number 1, moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kluane, that the regulations relating to Yukon government contracts and in particular those dealing with local employment programs, as set out in Commissioner's Order 1973-75, be more strictly enforced where possible under present circumstances.

Further, that the administration be instructed to review and to bring about amendments by the next Legislative Session, that will ensure a more desirable level of enforcement or governing of the regulations as pertaining to local hiring policies.

Mr. Lengerke?

Mr. Lengerke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In speaking in support of the Motion, of course, it's not a new situation that we have here as a result. There's always one that's going to be a problem in developing areas in regions like the north, and the resolution really is to make people and contractors and employees more aware of the regulations that in fact that we already have in place, and also ways to seek -- or seek ways to strengthen those regulations.

Certainly the regulations that are in place now, Mr. Chairman, under Commissioner's Order 1975-71, and the regulations that are annexed to that particular thing, Part 8, Local Employment Programme, it defines local resident, northern resident, Canadian resident and local employment agents and, as I say, we do have, I would think, fairly well defined regulations at this point. I think it's just a problem of letting contractors, letting employees know, that these rules do exist and that in fact they should be adhered to.

We do have a local employment agent, and a Territorial local employment -- he's a liaison officer, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, an employment liaison officer, and possibly there seems to be a communication breakdown between himself and the Manpower, Canada Manpower Office, because in talking to Canada Manpower they

have indicated to me that there just has not been possibly the satisfactory level of communication with respect to this.

So I would just suggest, as the Motion simply says, that the administration review and bring about amendments if amendments are required, to give us a little more desirable level of enforcement of these regulations.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further discussion? Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, this subject has come up before this Assembly almost annually, twice annually, thank you, Mr. Commissioner, and on investigation we find that the impassioned appeals do not always find themselves based on fact. It is very difficult to administrate anything in this area, and this Assembly has very little impact really on how the unions go about their business, and they have made it very clear.

I am not taking any stand in this situation at all. I know that labour generally in this area has had problems when confronted by hiring practices of various organizations, and anything that this Assembly can do to support this stand, fine. I'm not entirely sure of how much action will be a result of this Motion.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Fleming?

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I rise in support of the Motion, because some of the problems have come to my attention in the employment mainly, I think, in this case mainly in the casual employment area. I do realize that that is a problem at any time, and the government has a problem. In this Motion, the seconder of course is not here, but I'm sure her concern was the same as mine, that we do come up with some sort of a policy, no matter how hard it is, but make up our mind as to just which way we will go. Either we will hire by just the agencies hiring whoever they wish, in the coming years, or we will say it goes to competition and will be hired by merit. But somewhere along the line we must find the answer, one way or the other way, so that we don't have this conflict every year and every spring, when the new hiring comes up, especially in the casual area.

That's my reason for supporting the Motion.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McKinnon?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Chairman, this has been a constant complaint of mine at this table, and unfortunately most of the complaints that come to Honourable Members' attention, at least to my attention, are federal contracted jobs. Because the facts are that the big jobs in the Yukon, the biggest jobs, are under federal contract.

We've gone as far as we can on this by Motions in the House. We have gone directly to the Minister and we've just been told it's federal tax dollars, it's tax dollars that

are put in by all the people of Canada. There will be no Yukon preference because it's going to be given on an equal bidding, up to this time at least, to any company or any individual from Canada who wants to bid or work.

That has been the stance of the Federal Government up to this time. There may be a change in policy with the announcement of the Minister after the report of the Northern Businessmen's Meeting with the Minister.

On local employment programmes by the Government of the Yukon Territory, the policy cannot be clear, as laid down in the Commissioner's regulation. There is also a policy concerning student hiring, which can't be clear either, and that it is local residents, and that it is northern residents second, and Canadian residents third, and it's local students, northern students and Canadian students third, who are hired in preference by the Government of the Yukon Territory.

In almost every instance that I have taken to personnel considering the hiring on Territorial contracts, I believe that it's the duty of each and every member when he does receive these complaints to bring them to the attention of personnel immediately, and you'll find when these complaints do come about, and when you're given the answer, that there is generally a lot more than meets the surface that you've been told by the individual in question.

So, I am saying I am satisfied, not with the Federal hiring policy, which are the largest contracts that are let in the Yukon. On just about every instance where I have brought it to the attention that preference was not given to local personnel on a Yukon contract that there has been other circumstances that have been involved in it. I think that when you have specific instances that you should bring them to the attention of the Government of the Yukon Territory, because I know it is a common complaint and it's one you hear often. Every instance should be dealt with and I think that it is the member's duty to bring those complaints to government. I can promise you from, at least the department that I represent, that each one will be acted on and you will get an answer and reasons as to why certain policy or certain procedures were followed. That is the result that I have had from personnel in bringing these complaints to their knowledge in every instance.

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member has covered some aspects of the situation but there are others and I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if this Committee would care to extend the courtesy of an opportunity to expand on this to the Commissioner. It's his last kick at the can. It's one of his favourite topics, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairman, this looks to be a very simplistic situation. You know, you place in a piece of paper a directive that is to apply to the expenditure of government money and how that money is to be expended with regard to the labour side of the contract or the labour side of the expenditure.

But, immediately it is forgotten about, that there are a whole series of other laws and rules of both the Federal Government and the Territorial Government that apply, that are necessary to be applied before your directive or your wishes can be instituted.

Now, the vast majority of the jobs that come under contract, in which the hiring practices that we are talking about here, become subject to public scrutiny, are generally being done by firms that have, in the first instance, agreement with trade unions. Now, these agreements are legal and binding agreements. They are not just scraps of paper that can be torn up and discarded at the whim and fancy of the particular employer.

The first thing that has to be done, in his hiring practices, is he has to apply those hiring practices as part of the agreement that he has with the Trade Union people, that he has the agreement with. Now, the jurisdiction of that particular union may be just Yukon. It may be the Yukon and British Columbia. It may be a segment of Western Canada. It may include a jurisdiction that is the totality of the Yukon and a portion of the Province of British Columbia.

The hiring centre for that union may be located in Prince Rupert, Prince George, Dawson Creek, Whitehorse, Edmonton, Vancouver. It can be in any of these jurisdictions. You can pass all the resolutions around this table that you want to and I can sign all the Commissioner's Orders that you want me to sign.

That legal and binding document that that employer has has got to be -- is what dictates; what his hiring practices are. Now, that is the first problem that we have in this thing. The second situation is that most of the hiring that is done in connection with these contractual obligations is done all at one time of the year. Every contract that is being let and we are under pressures, both at the Federal and Territorial level, to let contracts early enough in the year that the job may be proceeded with immediately, weather conditions permitting.

So that, as a consequence, you have a whole period of the year in which unemployment is accumulating -- we'll suggest up to and including possibly the end of April. All of a sudden, you have all the employers in the market at one time for what is, in effect, a very limited labour force and in relation to the numbers that are unemployed they start to take on fairly substantial numbers but when you start to segregate out from this trades people, skills, et cetera, you get down to a very, very limited labour force.

It isn't as if you could let these contracts and pass out these directives so that they are scheduled or spread out over the period of a full year. Generally these hiring problems are concentrated in a matter of about four months. Now, this is the second major problem that is involved here. A contractor is under the time constraints in the contract. There is nobody that shouts and hollers any louder than the Territorial Councillors do when we have a contract that is not completed on time and within budget so that we can move in to stop incurring expenditures in other areas that are applicable to the particular facility or the particular road or what-

ever it is that we are trying to get done.

So, right at that point, you have two major things that mitigate against the proper application of what you are talking about. Now, there are other difficulties that become involved, not the least of which is the ability of employers to participate on an ongoing basis in this country here in trades training programmes, apprenticeship type programmes, due to the seasonal nature of the employment conditions.

As a consequence, instead of having a nucleus of trained people in the local labour force or a constant inflow of trained people in the local labour force through apprenticeship programmes that we do have available, the facts of the matter are that seasonal type -- or the seasonal nature of our employment here mitigates considerably against that means of accruing an inventory of skilled people.

The list goes on and on and on, Mr. Chairman, and all I can tell you is that we will continue to apply these regulations as carefully and as reasonably as we can within the capabilities of our Inspection Service, our labour employment officer, to do so. But I don't want any misunderstandings or misapprehensions to prevail around the table, Mr. Chairman, that it is indeed possible to apply them in a one hundred percent manner.

There are many, many other circumstances that arise. However, there is something that I want to say in connection with the comments that were made by the Honourable Member on my right about complaints.

The vast majority of the complaints on this situation that come to my office that I ask to be placed in writing, I never hear from them again. It is impossible to be investigating complaints that are based on verbal statements from people when it comes to this kind of a situation. Effectively, a charge is being laid against an employer. We're quite prepared to investigate these charges, and I'm talking about employers other than the Territorial Government. Verbal complaints against our own employment practices, we investigate them fully. But ones that are against another employer, we have to have them in writing, and if you have constituents who are laying these complaints or have these kind of complaints, please ask them to put the situation in writing so that we have at least someone's signature on there that when the thing is investigated we have at least a documentary complaint in our hands that permits us to proceed with an investigation without us being accused, in the process of conducting that investigation, of dreaming up these things to give the employer a bad time.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I could go on for hours on this particular subject. There's no end to it, it just carries on ad infinitum, but I hope that with this opportunity that you have given me to speak on the subject, that Members understand that there is an awful lot more to it than just a simplistic requirement of compliance with the Commissioner's Order.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.
Mr. Berger?

Mr. Berger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm in full sympathy with the mover of this Motion, but I have one major thing which I have real trouble with, and Mr. Commissioner didn't touch on it, and the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre didn't touch on it.

When is one a local and when is one not a local? I think this is a real question that bothers a lot of people.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Commissioner?

Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Chairman, would the Honourable Member allow the definition to be given by the Honourable Member on my right on the basis as we interpret it, but I would also caution, Mr. Chairman, that this is not necessarily the interpretation given by the labour union whose contract is under interpretation at the time that hire is to take place.

Now, there's two different definitions entirely. In this part, a local resident for the purposes of employment will be any person living in the Territory prior to March 31st of any given contract year. A northern resident, "Any person living in either the Yukon Territory or the Northwest Territories prior to March 31st of any contract year". And then a Canadian resident, and then a local employment agent, for the purpose of implementation of this programme is the Yukon Territorial Government employment liaison officer. So is that satisfactory, Mr. Berger?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Berger?

Mr. Berger: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Commissioner for the answer. I'm not really concerned with this thing because I think there's a lot of other concerns slip into this thing. I mean, I'm not speaking on the union side or anything. I'm -- it's strictly a personal matter now, and I'm not even talking about contracts. I'm talking of the small community outside of Whitehorse where this type of complaint is always raised.

I'm local, I did not get the job, somebody else got the job, even an outsider. I personally believe, as soon as this person comes into a community or into the Territory, he has a postal address and a place of residence where he lives - he should be local, because I'm putting myself in his position or her position. If I go to Toronto and am applying for a job, I'm not going to give them the Yukon address; I'm going to give them my residential address, which may be in a hotel room or maybe could be a boarding house or whatever it is, and I should be considered a local.

When is one becoming a local? This is what I'm trying to ask, you see. This is in the contract, I realize this, but I think this implication should go much further because otherwise none of us could ever have started in this Territory, many just would have been started out as strict as it sounds like.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Lengerke?

Mr. Lengerke: Hopefully, a final word, Mr. Chair-

man. Certainly I can appreciate the comments of the Commissioner and I just want to ensure this Assembly that, you know, as the mover and certainly the seconder, we didn't feel that this motion was any cinderella motion or any magic wand motion with respect to all the problems of employment in the Yukon. It is a very simple one. All it said was that we recognize the fact that we do have regulations, some very good regulations and we were just suggesting that we probably address ourselves to those in more of a definite manner.

I well know that this is not a new situation and it never you know, it is going to be recurring year after year after year. Ten times probably every year. So, really it is just -- again, we are suggesting that in fact we do have the tools in place and the Commissioner has said, on one of his remarks, he said that he would certainly insure that the Government would do their very best to make sure that these rules are adhered to. Then that's all we can ask and it's just to reaffirm that position.

Mr. Chairman: Are you ready for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Chairman: Moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kluane that the regulations relating to Yukon Government contracts and in particular those dealing with local employment programs as set out in the Commissioner's order 1973-'75 be more strictly enforced where possible under present circumstances.

Further that the administration be instructed to review and to bring about amendments by the next Legislative Session that will ensure a more desirable level of enforcement for governing of the regulations as pertaining to local hiring practices. All those in favor?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: Contrary? The Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Motion Number 8

Mr. Chairman: I would now deal with Motion number 8. Mrs. Whyard?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: As seconder of the motion, I would like to bring in an amendment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: The original motion would then be revised to read, "Moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, whereas, competitive intercoastal shipping is an important factor in maintaining a well-balanced and economic transportation system, and whereas it is the opinion of this Legislative Assembly that Bill C-61 will eliminate intercoastal

shipping as an effective competitive alternate to other modes of transportation. And further, if implemented, will cause a major disruption of the tourist industry of the Yukon through curtailment of use of cruise ships of the west coast to the Port of Skagway. Therefore, be it resolved that Bill C-61 be amended to allow the use of foreign registered ships to compete for cargo and passenger shipping where it can be shown that Canadian registered ships are unavailable or unsuitable, and the Yukon Legislative Assembly urges the Minister of Transport to ensure that Bill C-61 is not passed in its present form and request that any further discussion of Bill C-61 between Canada and provincial authorities include the Government of the Yukon Territory which has not been consulted to date.

Mr. Chairman: Is there a seconder?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: I was seconder of the original motion. That is an amendment I am proposing.

Mr. Chairman: You still have to have a seconder to your amendment.

Mr. McIntyre: I will second that.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further discussion on the amendment? Mr. Lengerke?

Mr. Lengerke: I welcome the amendment, Mr. Chairman, because I see the amendment requests that further discussion of Bill C-61 between Canada and provincial authorities would include the Government of the Yukon Territory, which I am glad to see that addition, and I think other than that, it's primarily the same as the motion as originally put.

I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman, I welcome the discussion that we had with Premier Bennett and his colleagues while they were here with respect to this Bill as well and I hope it clarified in some minds of the members or the member's minds that the importance of this resolution. If there is any further clarification required, Mr. Chairman, I would be glad to supply that.

Mr. Chairman: I would ask the Committee if we could consider this as one motion as amended so that we only have one vote on it. Mr. Taylor?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am not so sure that that is possible, Mr. Chairman. Has the motion been read from the Chair, the original motion?

Mr. Chairman: The Committee has the ability to make their own decisions regarding this. We just have to go through two votes and I have to read the thing through twice. It seems rather unnecessary.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If the Chair, Mr. Chairman, has not yet read the motion, it is not a motion and perhaps it could be done that way. I can't recall if the Chair has read the motion, motion number 8. Then it would have to

be amended and two votes would have to be called.

Mr. Chairman, I was of course in error, because the Motion had been presented in the House and two Motions would be necessary.

Mr. Chairman: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, seconded by the Honourable Member from Mayo, whereas competitive inter-coastal shipping is an important factor in maintaining a well balanced economic and transportation system, and whereas it is the opinion of this Legislative Assembly that Bill C-61 will eliminate inter-coastal shipping as an effective competitive alternate to other modes of transportation, and further if implemented will cause a major disruption of the tourist industry of the Yukon, through curtailment of use of cruise ships on the West Coast to the Port of Skaway; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bill C-61 be amended to allow the use of foreign registered ships to compete for cargo and passenger shipping where it can be shown that Canadian registered ships are unavailable or unsuitable, and the Yukon Legislative Assembly urges the Minister of Transport to ensure that Bill C-61 is not passed in its present form, and request that any further discussion of Bill C-61 between Canadian and provincial authorities, include the Government of the Yukon Territory, which has not been consulted to date.

All those in favour of the amendment? Contrary? The amendment is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Question on the motion.

Mr. Chairman: Can we now have the question on the Motion without rereading the Motion?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour?

Some Members: Aye.

Mr. Chairman: Contrary? The Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Chairman: That completes the business of Committee.

I have a message from the Clerk's office regarding our move to the new building. The move is being made on June the 19th or 20th, and 20th. If we could empty desks and files today, and turn keys in, there are boxes available in Room 320, if you wish to use them to deposit your material in. I might add that it's payday, and you don't get paid unless you clear your desk first.

Mr. McCall?

Mr. McCall: I now move that Mr. Speaker resume the Chair.

Mr. Chairman: Secunder?

Mr. Berger: I second the Motion.

Mr. Chairman: It has been moved by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Berger, that Mr. Speaker do now resume the Chair. Are you ready for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Chairman: In favour?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: Contrary?
The Motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

(MR. SPEAKER RESUMES CHAIR)

Mr. Speaker: I now call the House to order.

May we have a report from the Chairman of Committees?

Mr. Hibberd: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Committee convened at 10:30 a.m. to discuss Motions and Sessional Papers. Mr. Peter Gillespie was present as a witness and consideration of Sessional Paper Number 1, Legal Aid Ordinance. It was moved by Mrs. Whyard, seconded by Mr. McKinnon, that the Legal Aid Ordinance be activated and this Motion was carried.

The witness was then excused. There was discussion on Motion Number 1 and this Motion was carried.

Motion Number 8 was discussed. Amendments moved by Mrs. Whyard and seconded by Mr. McIntyre were carried. Motion Number 8 as amended was carried.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report that Committee as a Whole has completed all the business assigned to it.

It was then moved by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Berger, that Mr. Speaker do now resume the Chair and this Motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: You have heard the Report of the Chairman of Committees. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I believe then that, with the work of the Committee of the Whole having concluded, that this would be an appropriate time if anyone wished to make a reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Madam Clerk, I believe prorogation is at hand. Could you advise the -- Mr. Commissioner, that we are now prepared for prorogation of the House?

Madam Clerk: Mr. Speaker, this has been done.

MR. COMMISSIONER ENTERS CHAMBER, LED BY THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

The Sergeant at Arms: Order. James Smith, the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Commissioner, the House has at its present sittings thereof, passed a number of Bills, to which in the name and on behalf of the said House I respectfully request your assent.

Madam Clerk: Bill Number 1, Public Service Commission Ordinance; Bill 2, An Ordinance to Amend the Motor Vehicles Ordinance; Bill 3, Young Offenders' Welfare Agreement Ordinance; Bill 4, Land Acquisition Fund Ordinance; Bill 5, An Ordinance to Amend the Taxation Ordinance.

Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, the Bills as enumerated by the Clerk I am pleased to give my assent to at this time. If I may, Mr. Speaker, as this is the last time, subject to any emergency, that I will have the opportunity of rising in this House to conduct the duties that are required of the Commissioner, I would like to express my personal gratification to the present sitting Members and all those who have sat in this House during the 28 sessions that have occurred in the years since I became the Commissioner of the Yukon, and to thank Members for the provision of the seat around this table that they make available to the Commissioner.

I think that Members are aware that there is nothing in the Yukon Act that says that the Commissioner is entitled to a seat around this table. It is by the courtesy of the House that he is permitted to be here.

I have appreciated this opportunity and I trust that, as a consequence of it, that during these years, Mr. Speaker, that the operations of the Legislative arm of the Government and the Administrative arm of the Government have learned to work in a lot closer harmony than what the situation was prior to my taking on this post.

To yourself and to each and every one of the Members of the House, I sincerely trust that you will see fit to provide to my successor the courtesies that you have seen fit to extend to me. I wish for each and every one of you, individually, in your endeavours as legislators and representatives of the constituencies that you have here in the Yukon Territory, and collectively as the Legislature, that you will continue to exercise the good judgment and will take an ever greater part in being the leaders of governmental activity that are very obviously a most important part of the daily lives and upon whose actions the prosperity and the continued progress of the Territory continues to depend. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Commissioner, all Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly join me in extending best wishes for your future years of service to the Territory in your new capacity as Chairman of the Northern Canada Power Commission, and at this time wish to

express appreciation for a decade of service to the people of the Yukon as their Commissioner.

As Members, we have each benefitted from your wise counsel and mature judgment in matters which affected the course of development in this Legislature and the future of the Territory. If we have neglected to voice that appreciation in the past, we do so sincerely, now. You have been the watchdog of Yukon's constitutional development and in many ways which will emerge in the pages of our history.

As a token of our acknowledgment of that contribution, we have commissioned a carving of a miniature mace, the symbol of the power of the people which you have so zealously guarded on our behalf. We ask you to accept this small token of our genuine esteem and affection when it is completed by a native carver of the Yukon and hope it will be a constant reminder in your new daily round of duties of the high regard in which you are held by men and women in every part of this Territory.

APPLAUSE

Madam Clerk: It is the Commissioner's will and pleasure that this House do now prorogue and this House is accordingly prorogued.

Mr. Commissioner: The least and most I can say, Mr. Speaker; thank you very, very much.

PROROGUED.

LEGISLATIVE RETURN NO. 12
1976 Second Session

May 26, 1976

Mr. Speaker
Members of Council

On May 20, 1976, Councillor Millard asked the following question:

How many complaints have been received by the Administration concerning rent controls, to date, and what plans do they have in regard to rent controls in the Yukon?

The answer to the above question is as follows:

Since November, 1975, the Territorial Secretary has received a total of twelve rental complaints. Of this total, ten referred to the specific accommodation in which the complainant resided; one referred to YTG accommodations; and one referred to the rental situation throughout the Yukon. Each complaint concerned a different establishment with one exception, where four tenants filed complaints concerning the same apartment building.

The situation is being monitored carefully to establish whether or not there is a need for rent controls. The volume of complaints received to date do not justify further action at this time, but legislation will be introduced if landlords do not operate within the spirit of anti-inflation guidelines.

Peter J. Gillespie
Member,
Executive Committee.

