

estimates of expenditures and appropriations. The Committee accompanies the Commissioner to Ottawa annually for discussion with the Minister of territorial estimates and any other major problems of the moment. By its own choice, Council has made membership on the Committee rotational by replacing one member each year.

The Yukon Act also provides for an Administrator to carry out the functions of the Commissioner in his absence. In practice, this responsibility is carried by an Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, a federal public servant. Below the Commissioner's office, the Territorial Public Service is organized into eight conventional administrative departments under the direction of the Commissioner; all are located in Whitehorse. Territorial Government administration is represented in outlying communities by a limited number of Territorial Agents who are concerned mainly with the sale of liquor and licences but most territorial services are administered from Whitehorse. Health facilities are administered mainly by the federal Department of Health and Welfare. Federal involvement in the operation of health services in the Territory stems from its responsibility for Indians and from practical administrative considerations. All schools are under the direction of the Territorial Department of Education with headquarters in Whitehorse. The Territorial Government has well-developed engineering and welfare services. The Territorial Public Service numbers about 800 persons, including some 200 school teachers and vocational school instructors.

Some administrative areas such as natural resources, which are the responsibility of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, are administered by federal public servants reporting through the Commissioner who, in addition to his territorial role, is also the Department's senior federal representative in the Territory. Because the Minister of Justice is the Attorney General of the Territory for purposes of the Criminal Code of Canada, the administration of justice in the Territory is still provided, at direct federal expense, by the Department of Justice and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In 1967, the Territory started a correctional system which is operated along the lines of a provincial penal service.

The Legislature.—The Legislative Council consists of seven members elected for a term of three years. Three of the members represent electoral districts located in or close to Whitehorse where about half of the some 15,000 residents of the Territory live. As in many other matters, a federal agency (Chief Electoral Officer) conducts the territorial elections as a free service to the Territory. Council normally meets in session twice each year. The first session commences in March and has as a major part of its work the voting of the main territorial estimates which have been prepared by the Commissioner and agreed to by its Advisory Committee on Finance and the Minister. The second session is usually called in November and special sessions can be held at any time. Main sessions last from one to two months and the debates are recorded verbatim and published under the title of Votes and Proceedings. The Commissioner calls Council into session and prorogues it; he sits with it only by invitation to explain or defend a proposed expenditure, draft legislation and policy papers which he has placed before Council. All sessions are presided over by a Speaker who is appointed by Council from among its members for the duration of each Council. The Yukon Act contains only a single oblique reference to the position of Speaker and gives him no specific responsibilities or authority. In practice, he conducts Council proceedings under Rules of Council which are an adaptation of Canadian parliamentary procedures. He sometimes represents Council on formal occasions but Council has not sought to increase the stature of this position, the origin of which is probably related to the large American element in the Territory during and following the gold rush period and its predilection for the form of government established in the United States. A Clerk of Council controls the administrative side of its proceedings.

The matters on which Council can legislate are not significantly fewer than those enjoyed by the provinces. The main exceptions concern natural resources. These are a responsibility of the Federal Government which has to provide the heavy investments in