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Speaker: The Honourable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1984

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitaurug, Mr. Appaqag, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): I have had a request from several Members to recess for the Speech from the Throne. This House will now stand recessed and will be recalled on the bells as soon as the speech from the throne has been completed.

---SHORT RECESS

I have just been informed of the death of a very long-term employee of the territorial court and resident of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Xavier Mercredi. I was wondering if Mr. Richard, as MLA of the constituency of the residency of Mr. Mercredi would like to say a few words.

Tribute To The Late Mr. Xavier Mercredi

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise to advise this Assembly that a long-time northern resident passed away earlier today, Xavier Mercredi, known to all as "X". Mr. Mercredi has lived and worked in the Northwest Territories for a long, long time, Mr. Speaker, and spent his most recent years in Yellowknife. "X" was a friend to all he met; his personality and particularly his cheerfulness will be missed by his family, his many children and grandchildren, and by his many, many friends. I would ask that this Assembly, through the Speaker, convey condolences to Mr. Mercredi's family.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. I understand, Mr. Butters, that you too have known Mr. Mercredi.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague in expressing to Xavier Mercredi's family and friends, regrets and sympathy felt by the Government of the Northwest Territories and by the many employees who knew and worked with him during his term of service. In view of Mr. Mercredi's long service to the territorial court, it is fitting that Mr. Richard, a member of the Northwest Territories Bar Association would bring the sad news of Mr. Mercredi's death to this House. In closing I would note that Mr. Mercredi was the first employee of the Government of the Northwest Territories to serve 25 years continuous service with the Northwest Territories public service.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, your remarks have been noted. The work shall be done as directed. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I should say too that I had the privilege of working with "X" Mercredi when I was practising law and it is indeed a great loss to the Northwest Territories. He was a very fine human being.

Mr. Speaker, I do have a few comments to make in reply to the Commissioner's Address today. I know that Ministers have a lot of opportunities to make speeches, perhaps too many, but I do feel that this is a special opportunity for a Minister to talk about his constituency concerns and perhaps some personal views that otherwise would not be heard.

I would just like to thank my new colleagues to the Executive Council of the 10th Assembly and my old colleagues for the attention that has been paid my constituency since they took office. Mr. Butters has been there to make a presentation to the Canadian Transport Commission on behalf of the government. Mr. Curley has been there on several occasions. Ms Cournoyea has been there and, I know, plans an extensive tour in the new year. Also Mr. Sibbeston has made an extensive tour of the Baffin Region and a visit to my constituency. Unfortunately, when he was in Iqaluit I was in Tungsten, which is in his constituency. But I do want to say that I appreciate very much the attention that is paid. As well, Commissioner Parker has been there and will be coming again soon, which is appreciated.

I would also like to give a few words of tribute to Lynda Sorensen, the former MLA for Yellowknife South, with whom I rarely agreed on anything. I particularly never could appreciate her efforts to introduce what I considered to be an unnecessary partisan element into this Assembly. I guess that attitude proved to be her undoing. But she was a very hard-working Member who served this House well, through her committee work in particular, and I would like to bid her fond farewell at this time.

Welcome To Mr. Ted Richard

I also welcome a fellow Dalhousie Law School graduate, Mr. Ted Richard, who has joined us in Assembly and is, I believe, another distinguished Prince Edward Islander who sits in this House. I welcome Mr. Richard. I know he is a reasonable person and I know he is willing to work with all Members of this House to accomplish changes. Sometimes I think that his worthy predecessor tended a bit to think of Yellowknife as the centre of the universe.

---Laughter

I know Mr. Richard has a broader outlook. I think there are a few people in Yellowknife, who perhaps because they have not had the opportunity to travel in the rest of the Northwest Territories, have an unnecessary parochial view.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: They have bad eyesight.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Only a few. I was quite disappointed, for example, when some prominent people and organizations in this city actually had the gall to complain when the ferry had to be moved from Fort Providence to Simpson for seven days or so and replaced by a smaller one. I thought that was a bit selfish. I was also a bit disappointed to see letters of complaint written when a federal task force on day care, which was trying hard to understand northern day care problems, had the nerve to visit Frobisher Bay on its one hearing possible in the Northwest Territories.

MR. MacQUARRIE: There were no complaints from...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, there were complaints from your constituents about that. They came to Frobisher Bay where there is a virtual absence of day care, instead of to Yellowknife. Now I do understand Yellowknife has many needs. I know there is going to be a need for enlarged educational facilities in this city. But I find it a little difficult when I hear calls here for public funds to replace both a swimming pool and a curling rink -- to replace ones already here. There are many communities that would love to have arenas and community halls. I think of the curling rink in Frobisher Bay which was made by volunteer labour from the ruins of the fire which consumed the last

curling rink. It is in an uninsulated, cold Butler building, which loses siding when there is a good storm. Our arena is unheated and in disrepair. The community hall in Apex is in derelict condition due to its age. We do not have a community hall in Frobisher Bay.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Sounds like the MLA there hasn't been at work.

---Laughter

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am confident that the Minister of Local Government is doing his best to try to meet these tremendous needs. Maybe in Frobisher Bay we do not yell loud enough. Maybe we do not have the same access to decision-makers that MLAs from Yellowknife have, but we are willing to be patient and wait our turn and set our priorities. In that regard I would like to thank the Minister of Local Government for making funds available for a recreation study in Frobisher Bay which will allow priorities to be set, based on wide input.

Survey Of Anchorages And Docking Facilities

I would just like, Mr. Speaker, to mention a few other concerns in my constituency. I met this summer with the Frobisher Bay Hunters and Trappers Association. As I have already told this House when we were sitting in Fort Smith, they feel strongly about needs for improved anchorages and docking facilities for large and small boats. The HTA held a public meeting and gave me some very sound advice on what is the minimum needed: a breakwater to protect the natural anchorage already in use in Iqaluit; annual trenching and removal of rocks at access points for canoes. I reported the results of this meeting to the Minister of Public Works and asked if his officials might assist in evaluating what the HTA proposes from an engineering point of view and I was therefore very happy to learn just before I left for this session, Mr. Speaker, that one of DPW's engineers was about to meet with representatives of the Frobisher Bay HTA to look at the beach with them and see exactly what they propose. I know that the Department of Public Works is doing a survey of these kinds of needs in all communities in the Northwest Territories, which I think we all can welcome.

More Opportunities For Economic Development

Mr. Speaker, amazing things are happening in my constituency. There are promising signs of more opportunities for jobs and self-sufficiency. I am very grateful these new prospects are being encouraged by the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Iqaluit is developing its reputation in the arts as a centre for carving, film making and as a good movie-making location. In fact, I have already told this House my constituency is the movie capital of the Northwest Territories. I am delighted the Minister of Economic Development -- if we need to shoot comedies we will go to your constituency.

---Laughter

I am delighted the Minister of Economic Development has sponsored a conference of all the key actors in the arts business which I believe is a \$14 million business in the Northwest Territories. It employs hundreds of people, mostly in their homes, and the conference brought together gallery owners from Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, artists from the North, art experts, representatives of co-operatives and government people. That conference recommended ways in which the art industry, if I may call it an industry, can be revived. The Minister has my full support in these efforts since this is a source of economic development which is very real in my constituency.

Tourism is also coming alive in Baffin, Mr. Speaker. Some of my constituents have started successful outfitting and wilderness travel companies. A Frobisher Bay man was just given a contract to deliver some 90 trained dogs for an Antarctic expedition next year. Spectacular, unexplored kayaking and canoeing rivers are being discovered for the first time. Adventurous tourists can be the first people in these wilderness areas and can see abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery. The Peterhead owners in Frobisher Bay are becoming aware of the appeal of travel for tourists in our spectacular fiords. An encouraging sign was that an organizer of sport hunting, who has operated successfully from the South in previous years, has just established an office in Frobisher Bay. And you should see the shrimp that is caught in Frobisher Bay! They are huge, Mr. Speaker. You have never seen shrimp this size before. Cod, arctic char, intersettlement trade in seal and caribou -- we have a great potential and I know Mr. Curley is already working hard on the char fishery and developing a commercial caribou quota and sport hunting which he will have my support on.

We just have to look next door to Greenland, Mr. Speaker, to see where we might still go in economic development in this area. I would like very much to see our relations with our huge northern neighbour to the East improved. I think we have fairly good communications with the Yukon and with Alaska but what about Greenland? Several years ago, I had the honour of bringing greetings from this Assembly and this government, along with Mr. Joe Arlooktoo and Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk, and our MP from Nunatsiak, at the opening of the Landsting, the home rule government's legislative assembly in Nuuk. I would like to suggest to this Assembly that we should invite Premier Motzfeldt and members of his cabinet to visit the Northwest Territories and this Assembly so as to improve understanding and relations among circumpolar neighbours.

Construction Boom In Frobisher Bay

I said there were amazing things happening in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. One of the amazing things is physical growth. We are growing at a dazzling rate. The ugly and faded Butler buildings, our inheritance from Frobisher Bay's days as a base, are being rapidly torn down with help from this government and some of them are being resurrected for commercial use. In addition to public funds being spent on the new airport terminal and the replacement for Ikajurtauvik, many people, including significant numbers of public servants are building their own homes. I reported last year that there were 35 new private residential building permits in Frobisher Bay. This year the number has jumped to 50 -- 50 new ratepayers. Something good is happening in that regard. People in my constituency are building their own homes because they like their community and they have confidence in its future. I think an example of this new face that Frobisher is putting on is the decision of the town council to hold a plebiscite in connection with the municipal election this December to change the name of the community back to Iqaluit, its traditional name, which I support, and I am pleased that the council has taken this initiative. It shows our community is alive and well, I believe, and proud of itself.

Mr. Speaker, I have just discovered the astonishing fact that Frobisher Bay has 624 vehicles, and I do not include bicycles, motorcycles, trailers...

AN HON. MEMBER: That's not very many.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Not for a Yellowknifer, Yellowknife is the RV capital of North America, we know that -- including 42 taxis and 450 trucks. Now, I mention this because we have 23 kilometres of road, including one three mile highway to Apex, and only six kilometres is paved. Extensive use is still made of water and sewer trucks, and taxis for transportation. I am told by the town that maintenance costs on the water and sewer and garbage trucks, which are a very high proportion of their operating costs, would be significantly reduced if main roads were paved or surfaced, not to mention the dust problem. I spoke about this at the last session and I was therefore very pleased Mr. Wray has commenced a study of these needs in communities such as my constituency in the Northwest Territories.

Discrepancies In Air Travel Costs

Mr. Speaker, I am still very concerned about the tremendous cost of living in my constituency and I was pleased to have made a presentation to the Air Transport Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission when it toured my constituency this summer. At that hearing I pointed out my great concern about the discrepancies between northern and southern costs and even in comparable carriers in the North, the discrepancies between Nordair's charges and the cost of other northern carriers. I would just like to cite a few examples that I mentioned at that hearing. Nordair charges an economy fare of \$136 to fly on its route between Sault Ste. Marie and Dryden, a distance of 777 kilometres; yet between Frobisher Bay and Hall Beach, a distance of 793 kilometres, Nordair charges passengers \$206. If you choose to fly Nordair from Toronto to Dryden, you would pay \$185 for the 1278 kilometre flight, yet to fly from Frobisher Bay to Nanisivik, a comparable distance, you would have to pay Nordair \$336. This is especially alarming, Mr. Speaker, when we know that in the North, stage lengths of flights are significantly longer and therefore there are economies that are available to the air lines because of those longer stage lengths.

Even compared with PWA which I know not everyone is satisfied with in this part of the world, Nordair charges a lot more than PWA per mile. A few examples, if I may. It is 676 miles between Yellowknife and Inuvik. PWA passengers pay 29 cents per mile. Nordair passengers flying the 774 miles between Frobisher Bay and Nanisivik pay 43.4 cents per mile. That is a difference of 50 per cent. The examples also compare with Frobisher to Resolute, Yellowknife to Resolute, Edmonton, Inuvik and Nordair between Montreal and Frobisher.

Nordair says that it is only its operating costs in the North that cause its northern prices to be higher. Yet it does not compare very favourably at all with a company like Pacific Western Airlines which operates in the North. And also I pointed out at the hearing, Mr. Speaker, that it is hard to believe Nordair's claims that its northern costs are such a terrible burden because Nordair, like Pacific Western Airlines, is really a southern-based air line. Northern fuel is expensive, yes, but Nordair buys much of its fuel in Montreal. Nordair does have ticket agents and cargo handlers based in the North, but it does not have maintenance men, engineers and air crews based in the North. It does not store its airplanes in the North. It does not have hangar facilities in the North. It does not carry out maintenance in the North and does not need to carry inventories of parts in the North. And they do not even pay their locally hired employees northern benefits.

So, I have asked the CTC, Mr. Speaker, to consider loosening the monopolies a little bit and I have suggested that in my area it would be worth while if First Air were given some limited chance, at least, to compete with Nordair on the Ottawa-Frobisher Bay run. This has been supported by the Baffin Regional Council, the town council of Frobisher Bay and many other organizations. I am hopeful that when their report comes out early in the new year that this kind of recommendation will be approved, which will hopefully through the vehicle of competition provide some significant savings to northern consumers. I am pleased to see that NWT Air has also made a similar application to compete with Pacific Western on the Edmonton run. I think this Assembly should support those kinds of initiatives.

Housing Concerns In Frobisher Bay

Mr. Speaker, we certainly have our problems in Frobisher Bay. The situation of our huge numbers of youth troubles me very deeply. But Frobisher Bay is doing some things which the people of the Northwest Territories could learn from, such as stimulating private home-ownership. I would like to invite this Assembly to plan a visit to my constituency during its life to meet my constituents and see what we are doing to make a better community. As I told our special committee on housing when they visited my constituency, there is still a great need for public housing because of our high birth rate and because there will always be some people who need help from our government to survive in a harsh climate. But I am convinced a big part of the answer to relieving crowding in public housing is incentives for people who have the means to build their own homes, especially government employees who are living in public housing. I am convinced that my constituents are just as anxious to own their own homes as people anywhere else in the NWT. However, because we do not have trees or other natural building materials, extra efforts are needed to promote home-ownership. I am looking forward very much to the report of the special committee on housing, because I am sure they will address that issue as it arises in the Eastern Arctic.

I hope also that we will be looking at co-op housing. I was very pleased to recently attend the opening of the Hillside Housing Co-op in my constituency. It has 20 first-class new units in a subdivision with a spectacular view of Frobisher Bay. However, Mr. Speaker, one thing that really distresses me about all this construction going on in Iqaluit is the absence of local people in the work forces. There does not seem to be anything we can do about companies working on federal contracts or federal DPW. The horror stories still abound, incompetence, mistakes, waste and no concern whatsoever for northern content in projects. The half dozen or so federal houses for which materials were flown up over two years ago, still are incomplete, standing idle in the midst of housing shortages facing federal institutions such as the hospital and CBC. But what bothers me even more is that in projects in which territorial funds are being expended, contractors are not employing local people and not being made to employ local people. These projects have done a lot for unemployment in Quebec and Alberta while northern people collect welfare or vegetate.

When this Assembly visited Frobisher Bay in 1980, a tour was arranged of the Iqaluit project, a significant public housing project of the NWT Housing Corporation which featured a training component which employed and trained 21 northerners, mostly native people. The same thing happened in Pangnirtung and Clyde River. But where are we now? What has happened to those trainees? Are they being employed? Are southern contractors even aware of their experience?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that training falls within my responsibility as Minister of Education and these matters I have raised also dwell in the area of Public Works and Economic Development. I cannot be too critical of myself -- that is a job for others to do. But I just want to say I believe this is an area where there is much room for improvement. Our revised northern preference policy -- I believe it is to be called the business incentive policy -- developed with input from northern businessmen, can only improve opportunities for northern employees and businesses. I think much more can and should be done to require opportunities for training and northern content

when our government's funds are being spent on construction or service contracts. Now, I do recognize that training components mean greater costs but we must balance that against the drain of our money to the South. I am confident that these changes will come about.

Electoral Boundaries Not A Major Issue

Mr. Speaker, turning to broader issues. I must say I was quite concerned that our newest Member wants to reopen the question of electoral boundaries. We will be talking about all 24 seats if we do, not just the seats in Yellowknife.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I still vividly recall that debate as the most divisive, emotional session in the Ninth Assembly. That debate was agonizing for all of us who were there and that includes the majority of Members in this House. It revealed and fanned prejudices, divisions and conflicts I would not like to see surface again.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The views of all the people across the Northwest Territories were heard at a significant cost. All the arguments were made very eloquently for Yellowknife by the dissenting report of Mr. Justice Potts, by Messrs. MacQuarrie, Braden, Wah-Shee and Mrs. Sorensen. In fact, Mr. MacQuarrie and I used the same statistics and came up with completely different conclusions. He was wrong, I was right.

---Laughter

I proved in my submission to the Electoral District Boundaries Commission, which I hope the new Member for Yellowknife South will take the trouble to read, that Yellowknife was treated no differently than many other capitals in this country, including Winnipeg and Whitehorse, when one compares the balance between rural and urban seats. Overall, we now have a pretty well-balanced House. One might think that Western Members are a little more numerous but that is offset by the Speaker's position. Even at the Executive Council, a former mayor and long-time resident of Yellowknife is a member. All of the Ministers maintain residences here and the Leader is here most of the time. And I will tell you that even though I have tried to disguise myself with a beard from time to time, Yellowknifers and Yellowknife groups know who I am and they are very effective in letting me and my colleagues know what they need. In my first six months in office this year, I spent over half my time in Yellowknife. I think before the question is asked, whether Yellowknife needs an extra seat in this Assembly, the question should be asked whether Yellowknife is being treated fairly by this Assembly and by this government.

Mr. Speaker, I still think the major political issue facing this Assembly is settling the division question. When that is done, and I believe the work can and will be done within the life of this 10th Assembly -- with good will and hard work, well before 1987, then more seats can be created in the West, in Yellowknife, without disturbing the present delicate balance in this House.

Responsibilities Of Regional Councils

Mr. Speaker, as promised, I would just like to say a few things about the Baffin Regional Council and regional councils in general. At their last meeting in Pond Inlet, the BRC heard some suggestions from the Frobisher Bay representative, Saali Peter, that perhaps BRC could be made more accountable to the people of Baffin if the speaker were elected in a region-wide vote. I believe that as a result of that discussion and other comments made, that the BRC executive will be looking at ways of making BRC more accountable and representative to the people of the Baffin Region.

Mr. Peter also raised, on behalf of Frobisher Bay, the question of whether the regional council was to become another level of government or advisory to government. This is the very question the Government of Canada asked the people of the NWT to resolve as one of the four preconditions to division. Based on the recent workshop in Cambridge Bay, sponsored by the Nunavut Constitutional Forum and attended by regional councils from Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot, as well as experts on WARM from COPE, I think the answer from regional councils was very clear. Except for the WARM proposal, which proposes certain law-making powers, regional councils do not see themselves as taking on legislative powers -- at least not regional councils in Nunavut. That is for the Nunavut

legislative assembly, they acknowledged. It must have primary law-making responsibility and power, it was agreed. This is not to say that programs and even management responsibilities cannot and should not be delegated to regions.

The Baffin Regional Hospital board of management is a very good example of this. They are doing a very good job, in my view. I believe they are the only regional hospital board in the NWT. Members of other boards of management in the West are largely from one community. Since taking office, they have run the hospital so well that there was a budget surplus last year and they have successfully negotiated the opening of a properly-run, new, patient transient house in Montreal, which will replace the highly unsatisfactory private boarding and tourist home situation which has prevailed while this responsibility was under the federal government. I understand the hospital is running well, in the eyes of the federal government, and we will achieve responsibility for nursing stations in the Baffin next. I know we have Mr. McLaughlin's full support, as we had the support of Mr. McCallum and Mr. Tologanak in the strides toward self-government in the area of health and direction of our own affairs in our regions.

But Mr. Speaker, I think it would be a terrible mistake if the MLAs were to have votes at the BRC. If the function of BRC or any regional council is primarily to advise this Legislative Assembly and this government, beginning with our regional directors, then why should elected Members of this government participate in giving that advice, when they have all the power they need to give advice and represent their constituents in this Assembly? Now I know it is sometimes frustrating not to be able to make motions or vote, but we do have a special status of our own and in my experience, at least with the Baffin Regional Council, MLAs are given unlimited opportunity to speak and influence the proceedings that way.

If the regional councils exist to give advice to our government, then why should we vote on what should be the advice being given to ourselves? I think we should welcome advice from the duly-elected heads of local government in our region and we should listen. If we in this Assembly agree that regional councils should not be another body with legislative powers, another level of government, then we should not ask for voting rights. If, as Mr. Pedersen suggests, regional councils can be a waste of an MLA's time, then perhaps we have some responsibility as MLAs to encourage the regional councils to hold their sessions prior to those of this Assembly and to encourage them to discuss issues of real importance to us as we try to represent constituents in this House; issues such as capital priorities, economic development and housing.

Implementation Of Division Of NWT

Mr. Speaker, I must talk about Nunavut. This is the reason I got involved in politics and this goal underlies all the work that I do in this House and in this government. In my view this is still the fundamental issue that underlies all others. I am all for doing the best we can while the NWT is governed by one government. I am in support of devolution of responsibilities to regional councils, divisional school boards, local governments and of devolution of power from the federal government to the Northwest Territories. But all these things we do must be considered in the context of the inevitable division of the NWT into two jurisdictions.

While we are working toward implementing division, any gains we can make in the constitutional status of the NWT will surely benefit Nunavut and the new western government. But let us not forget the commitment made by the people of the NWT in April of 1982, a commitment being relied upon by my constituents and the people of Nunavut, that the principle of division is supported. That was followed by a commitment in principle by the Government of Canada. People are asking questions about what the new government's attitude will be. Clearly the new federal government is for constitutional development in the North. There is even revived talk of provincial status. And clearly our Minister of Indian Affairs respects the rights of northerners to have more control over their lives.

He also knows, I am sure, that millions of dollars are being wasted in what he has called "jurisdictional overlap" -- moneys we could be using to establish our own responsive, responsible and lean, efficient, new public governments. I believe that a reasonable "down-sizing" -- that is the buzz word -- of the vast divisions of Indian Affairs and other federal departments and agencies which are devoted to northern affairs, could provide most of the manpower and money we need for division to occur. The Hickling-Johnston Report for the special committee on division, reported that some 400 new jobs would be required, but that 200 of those jobs could come from reduced responsibilities for Eastern Arctic affairs in the western capital, Yellowknife. Surely

some of the more than 800 positions in northern affairs in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, many of which are occupied by highly paid researchers and nothing more, could be reallocated to the new northern governments as well.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a few comments about the challenge of arriving at a boundary for division, which we are now grappling with. I read with great interest recently the press releases of the Western Constitutional Forum and heard the comments of their principal spokesman, Mr. Bob MacQuarrie, about how the two latest research papers that they released on resource management boundary problems and an inventory of resources in East and West, point the way clearly to a north/south boundary. I believe the Constitutional Alliance had agreed that we would work out a tentative boundary proposal amongst ourselves...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...and then recommend it to the general public. So the Nunavut Forum are saving our detailed comments on the research done by the WCF for our next meeting in early December. But there are just a few things I would like to say. Firstly research alone will not provide the answer, although the research is valuable and is welcome and will provide a factual basis for discussion of the principles we have already agreed upon. Agreement will still require the political will to compromise and co-operate as well. Also I am still wondering what is meant by the Western Constitutional Forum when they talk about a north/south boundary. We are very much looking forward to seeing the actual boundary proposal.

The last comment I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, is since the research was commissioned by the Western Constitutional Forum on resource management boundary problems, the Constitutional Alliance agreed last summer, meeting in Rankin Inlet, that we would seek to minimize those very transborder, interjurisdictional management problems by co-operation and joint management regimes for wildlife, energy, water resources -- the same as has been done successfully, I believe, with caribou management between up to four or five jurisdictions involved in the management of the Porcupine herd. So, I think that while the Western Constitutional Forum's research on problems is welcome, that since we have agreed on a joint approach and shared jurisdictions and joint management as a strategy to addressing those problems, what we now need is research on joint management solutions and not joint management problems. I would like to look at this issue of boundary in that positive sense and suggest that the important agreements that were made on this subject at our summer meeting have, in many ways, taken the hard edge off these boundary negotiations and pointed the way for co-operation between the two new government jurisdictions that we unfortunately do not see between Canada and our neighbour to the south in the US and between provinces.

Mr. Speaker, it is an enormous challenge to deal with these boundaries issues and the other issues we have been charged with looking at on behalf of this Assembly and on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. But I remain optimistic that with hard work and good will we can solve these problems and that by 1987 we will be seeing elections of two legislative assemblies in the Northwest Territories, the beginning of implementation of two exciting, new jurisdictions in this country and the first steps toward taking our rightful place in Canadian Confederation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 2, Members' replies. Are there any further replies for today?

Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, oral questions.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I had intended to inform this House on Friday last that the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Government Leader and the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin would be absent from the House today, responding to an invitation from the Prime Minister to be present at the opening of the new

Parliament and at the reading of the Speech from the Throne. In the absence of these two Members I will be responding to questions asked of Mr. Nerysoo and Mr. Patterson will be taking questions for Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your announcements. Oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 36-84(3): College Programs, Frobisher Bay

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing this question to the Minister of Education. I am going to be talking about a small school in Frobisher Bay. Would this trade school in Frobisher Bay be open to all the people that want to take housing maintenance and this adult education trade school, could it be attended by anyone who wants to attend trade school for housing maintenance and oil burner service? That is my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 36-84(3): College Programs, Frobisher Bay

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has heard that the Executive has decided to establish a college campus in Frobisher Bay to allow enhanced opportunities for people from the Eastern Arctic to take training closer to home. An assistant director of the college has been hired recently to develop a plan for what programs should be offered at the Frobisher Bay campus. Certainly, at the very minimum, the campus would include the Sinavik program which is already being offered in Frobisher Bay, programs like the oil burner maintenance program and the teacher education program. We will also be carefully looking at other training needs which could be offered at that campus and I will be reporting to this House at the next session on exactly how that plan has come along. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, the intention is to continue to make those training opportunities available that have already been offered and further, to look at other opportunities, other courses that would meet needs in the Baffin and other regions. I think we will in planning the new college, want to as much as possible offer field-based courses and extension courses, recognizing that for many people it is still quite difficult even to get to a location like Frobisher Bay. I hope that answers the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Possibly better than an answer, it was a speech but I think you did answer the essential part of the question that was asked. Oral questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

Question 37-84(3): Price Of Naphtha Gas, Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know who to direct this to but I received a letter regarding the decrease of naphtha in the Baffin Region but they were talking about Sanikiluaq. The letter was talking about decreasing the sale of naphtha at The Bay and at the co-op. In Sanikiluaq there is one contractor who is responsible for the sale of the naphtha in Sanikiluaq. So, my question is, why was Sanikiluaq not included in the decrease of the sale of naphtha here?

MR. SPEAKER: A matter of clarification, a decrease in price or a decrease in the quantity of naphtha -- is it a decrease in price you are inquiring about?

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) They were talking about a decrease in the price of naphtha.

MR. SPEAKER: In your question, you were asking about the decrease in naphtha, is it relative to the quantity or to the price of the product that you are asking? Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is only one contractor dealing with the selling of naphtha. The Hudson Bay and co-op do not have any naphtha available. Would they assist in subsidizing naphtha when they have a contractor selling the naphtha in Sanikiluaq? Thank you.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the question relates to the responsibilities of the Department of Government Services. I will take the question as notice and file a reply possibly tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Paniloo, your second turn around.

Question 38-84(3): Funding For Reservoir And Water Delivery, Clyde River

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing this question to the Minister of Local Government. In Fort Simpson last year, I think Fort Simpson had a great deal moneypwise so what I wanted to ask is could the Minister of Local Government provide some funding for Clyde River? The money would be used for a reservoir and water delivery. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 38-84(3): Funding For Reservoir And Water Delivery, Clyde River

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, Fort Simpson last year under the existing Executive Council did receive a fair amount of money because of the water problems that the village was having. Basically, their water intake was not working and they experienced a great many problems. So the government, I think properly, came to their aid and provided a fair amount of money. I think the same case would apply if a community in the North is having unusual problems with respect to water. Then I think the government would attempt to respond and as to the specific problem of Clyde, I would be very open and pleased to hear what the problem was with the view that we would help if we consider that the problem was of a very necessary and essential nature and the moneys were needed to help the community have good clean water for its use.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Erklloo.

Question 39-84(3): Polar Bear Quota, Hall Beach

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Last winter I had a written Question 137-84(1). I was asked to raise this question from Hall Beach regarding polar bear quotas. I think they were seeking for more polar bear quotas and up to today we have not heard any resoonse regarding the polar bear quotas in Hall Beach. So, I would like an answer during this time of the Legislative Assembly sitting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 39-84(3): Polar Bear Quota, Hall Beach

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the request. Our department has been working on an extensive survey of all the communities that want increases in polar bear quotas. As you know, this responsibility is carried on through an international agreement and with all the requests that are coming in, we are looking at it and we are trying to find a way of dealing with the community concerns.

The increases in polar bear quotas are very difficult to respond to at this time and it is not that the question has not been deliberated upon along with the others. Our department is intending to take a tour through that region and we would like to deal with that with the hunters and trappers associations in the entire region, and how we can accommodate them. But I would like to bring to the attention of this Legislative Assembly and other Members that there are a lot of requests for increases and we are trying to deal with them but we are having a difficult time. But we are not putting aside your requests or your concerns.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. With regard to written questions, however, I would hope that the Ministers would see that Members do get a reply. If you cannot give them a definite reply, there should certainly be some notification to a written question indicating that the matter is still under consideration so that the honourable Members who have asked them will have had at least the courtesy of a note back.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 40-84(3): Ferry Service, Fort Providence

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Public Works. Now that the ferry has been returned to Fort Providence, I understand that it is today out of service. Would the Minister provide me and the Members of this House with the details of the problem with

the ferry and what immediate steps the government is taking to put the ferry back in service immediately, in that there is some urgency to the matter at this time of year before the ice closes in.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 40-84(3): Ferry Service, Fort Providence

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all it is not within DPW's power to put the ferry back into service. The ferry was taken out of service because of heavy ice on the river and for that reason and no other reason. The ice coming down from a small lake just above the crossing is too heavy for the ferry to be able to utilize the crossing at present. The ferry was pulled out of the water yesterday, and we are taking the time to replace an engine. When the ice diminishes, the ferry will go back into service but at present the ice is just too heavy. We could have 80 engines on the ferry and it would not make any difference; we cannot put the ferry in the water. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Question 41-84(3): Applications For Business Funds, Kitikmeot

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is going to be directed to the Minister of Economic Development. This question is coming from the people that I represent who are business minded people. Well, for a long time since the Economic Development has been coming around to their area, since we have a regional office in Cambridge and we get our services for economic purposes from Cambridge Bay, I hear a lot of complaints about the economic development officers or the applications they have filled out. They seem to be going around in circles through the Economic Development office, through EDA and Special ARDA and the Eskimo Loan Fund. And I have recently learned they have been doing that because they could not be eligible for any funds to start up a business or something and they have been going around in circles so that they do not get the true answer why they cannot get any assistance. I wanted to know from the Minister, if it was proper for an economic development officer to do that -- not to give them the true answer of why they are going around in circles. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 41-84(3): Applications For Business Funds, Kitikmeot

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly welcome the comments from the Member for Kitikmeot East and I certainly will look into the situation and the problems involved. I would like to point out though to the Members and to this House that we do recognize that there are problems in that area particularly because we do not have at this time, an area economic development officer. As a result, the department has had to use regional staff to deal with the concerns of the region. I am pleased to report though that we will shortly be providing an area economic development officer there once the competition has been offered and a candidate chosen. I would like to comment to the Member that I do not believe our officers' role is to make judgments on particular applications other than to try and help and give advice to applicants and provide the particular advice so that they can in fact use the government financial services that we do provide but I would like again at this moment to take this question further and report back to him after I have reviewed the specific problems that he raised with me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 42-84(3): Baffin Correctional Centre

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am asking this question to the Government Leader although he is not here. It is regarding the people that have to go to court and the Frobisher Bay correctional centre. I was asking my constituents to see if it was okay for them to go to the Baffin Correctional Centre. Some of the inmates keep going back to the correctional institute and I usually ask them if it was a better place than their homes when they keep going back to it. I think there should be an inquiry, or they should do a study whether the Frobisher Bay correctional institute is better than the home that they have because the parents are very

worried about the people that go to the Baffin corrections because they seem to want to go back to that place all the time. I wonder if the Baffin Correctional Centre is run properly and I want to know if there should be a study done on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The object of the question period is to ask a direct question. Now, you have raised the subject and the question is rather a matter of interpretation by the person who is going to try and answer it. There was really no direct question. Could you give me a direct question on that matter that you wish answered?

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask a direct question this time. The Baffin Correctional Centre is used by my constituents. My constituents feel that this is a good place. I wonder if there could be a study done on the rules and regulations of the Baffin regional corrections. I wonder if you understood this.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, that is better. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Mr. Nerysoo's absence I will take the question as notice and attempt to have a reply filed before the close of this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 43-84(3): Development Of Affirmative Action Policy

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be for the Minister who answers for Personnel. I think that is Mr. Nerysoo who is away and I believe Mr. Butters said that he is taking these questions today. Mr. Minister, I think the majority of Members have wanted to see a clear and effective affirmative action GNWT employment policy, but I think also Members would like to be sure that it is a co-operative kind of approach in the development and it has as widespread support as possible, so my question, Mr. Minister, is who is presently developing that policy and does our Public Service Association have some opportunity for input into the shaping of that policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for notice of the question. When he gave me notice, I approached the department and, I believe in view of the detail required and in the interest that the Members of this Assembly and which the public at large have with regard to that question, I would like to take it as notice and provide a more detailed response tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 43-84(3): Development Of Affirmative Action Policy

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, just in addition to what I asked then, I would also hope that at some point before it becomes official policy that Members might also have the opportunity for comment and I would ask the Minister whether he would consider including the response to that in his answer as well.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Oral questions. I wish to correct an inference I made that one Minister may not have answered a written question. I am advised that the question was answered and let the records indicate that it was properly answered, the written question. Last call for oral questions. Item 5, written questions. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 44-84(3): Recreation Hall At Grise Fiord

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This written question is directed to Local Government. The recreation hall at Grise Fiord has been damaged during a storm. As the use of the hall is continually in demand, especially during the Christmas season, can the Minister come up with a solution as soon as possible by way of reconstruction of the hall or perhaps come up with some funding for a new recreation hall from 1984-85 budget? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions.

Item 6, returns. Are there any returns?

Item 7, petitions. Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. McCallum.

ITEM 8: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of Special Committee On Housing

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present the Interim Report of the Special Committee on Housing. At the February 1984 session of the Legislative Assembly a special committee of the Assembly was formed and charged to review the state of housing in the North, the operations of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and to report to the Assembly in the fall session.

The special committee on housing visited 40 NWT communities at the invitation of community councils and/or housing associations or authorities. In addition to the public hearings, meetings with the housing associations and authorities and other agencies and individuals were held. The special committee's work has received widespread public response and media attention. The special committee has also attended four formal meetings with officials of the NWT Housing Corporation, including the honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, the Hon. Gordon Wray, the chairman and board of directors. Quite apart from community and other hearings, over 20 separate committee meetings have been held.

By far the most important aspect of the special committee's work has been the time spent in the communities. The special committee felt that its primary obligation was to give the people in the communities the opportunity to voice their concerns about the current housing situation. After all, it is the people in the communities and certainly those who work on the local housing associations and authorities, who literally live with the problems day in and day out. That is why this special committee has spent two and one half of the past five months in the communities, listening to the people.

It is the people in the communities who have told us what the problems are. By going first to the people, an important exercise of participatory democracy has taken place. People in the communities have told us that they are not accustomed to being consulted, and they responded in significant numbers when given the opportunity to inform and educate their elected representatives. We owe these people a great deal of gratitude for the time they spent attending meetings and writing down their concerns. We owe them real solutions to these very serious problems.

Methodology

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) One of the first tasks undertaken by the special committee was to inform all NWT communities of the special committee's mandate, as outlined and approved by the Legislative Assembly in the special committee's terms of reference. In March 1984, all municipal councils, band councils, housing associations and authorities in every NWT community received this information in the form of a letter from the special committee's co-chairmen.

Over 50 NWT communities responded, requesting that the special committee visit and hold public hearings to receive the people's concerns about housing. To date, 40 communities have been visited, over 60 formal hearings and many additional informal meetings have been held, and 890 pages of testimony have been transcribed with over 1000 speakers presenting their concerns. In addition, 53 written submissions have been received.

Simultaneous translation was available at all public hearings. The proceedings of the public hearings and many other meetings with housing associations and authorities, NWT Housing Corporation district office staff, municipal councils, etc., were tape-recorded and transcribed. The verbatim transcripts were published and distributed to participating communities, the NWT Housing Corporation and many other interested agencies and individuals. Summaries of the verbatim transcripts were produced and are included in this report.

Major issues identified in a review of the verbatim transcripts and written submissions were researched. Committee staff consulted with numerous NWT Housing Corporation personnel at the headquarters, district and community levels. Staff of other Government of the NWT and federal departments, as well as officials and staff of several housing bodies, political organizations and other agencies were also interviewed.

The special committee's purpose in making interim recommendations is to respond to the most urgent public concerns brought to its attention. Some of these concerns can be addressed immediately; others are more complex and require further investigation.

The final report of the special committee on housing will be a comprehensive analysis of northern housing issues. It is anticipated that the public will respond and comment on the special committee's interim report, so that the process of consultation established to date will continue.

Summary Of Interim Recommendations

MR. McCALLUM: The special committee will request of this Assembly, an extension of its mandate in order to undertake a more formal review of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, to research the more complex issues identified in this report and to develop a final report that will include both further recommendations and a proposed implementation mechanism. At this time, Mr. Speaker, my co-chairman, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, and I will read into the record the recommendations made by the special committee in this report.

1) Priority. That housing be designated as the most urgent priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

2) Capital Funding. That the 1985-86 NWT Housing Corporation budget include capital funding for the construction of at least 200 public housing units, instead of the 62 units currently proposed. And further that capital funding in the 1985-86 NWT Housing Corporation budget for the home-ownership assistance program be doubled to five million dollars, and, furthermore, that 90 per cent of the additional loans thus created be allocated to Western NWT communities.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker.

3) Subsidies. That the NWT Housing Corporation discontinue its present practice of providing housing subsidies to social assistance recipients and Government of the NWT employees living in NWTHC housing, and furthermore, that these subsidies will be provided by the Departments of Social Services and Personnel respectively.

4) Senior Citizens. That all senior citizens living in NWT Housing Corporation rental housing and who are also heads of households be assessed a minimum rent; and that all housing associations and authorities be directed to reassess rents charged to elders accordingly. That NWT Housing Corporation units occupied by senior citizens receive first priority when repair and maintenance funding is allocated to local housing associations and authorities and that the NWT Housing Corporation increase such funding to ensure that all units occupied by elders are brought up to an acceptable standard as soon as possible. That all senior citizen repair programs be consolidated into one delivery agency or organization responsible to assist in planning, carrying out the work and supervising the funding and completion of the work. That senior citizens who live in their own accommodation in communities that are not tax-based municipalities be forgiven territorial property tax where applicable.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker.

5) Home-ownership programs. That the Government of the Northwest Territories establish a program to make available supplemental mortgage financing at reduced interest rates. That the NWT Housing Corporation and CMHC revise the eligibility criteria for the rural and remote program so that higher income families can apply and furthermore that this program be made available in all NWT communities. That the current home-ownership assistance program be made available for prospective home-owners in all communities of the Northwest Territories.

That the NWT Housing Corporation revise the northern rental purchase program to include provision of a "piggyback" repair package in the form of a forgivable loan in order to bring these units up to current health, safety and building codes. That the eligibility criteria for the northern rental purchase program be revised so that clients in arrears can have their outstanding debt included in the purchase price of the unit.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker.

6) Repair programs. That the retrofit program continue to be funded and that this work be completed as soon as possible. That the rehab program be phased out and replaced with a comprehensive repair program that would improve housing conditions and keep the units available for sale to tenants. That local housing associations be given the flexibility to approve on their own authority, any repair and upgrading work scheduled for units under their administration. That the scheduling of retrofit, rehab and construction work in the communities be organized that such work commences in the spring and is completed by the fall.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker.

7) Housing for the disabled. That funding be made available to undertake a study of the housing needs of disabled NWT residents.

8) Private sector investment. That private sector housing development be encouraged and supported through appropriate funding.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker.

9) Rental scale. That since the special committee has found the southern based rent-to-income formula for rent assessment currently utilized by the NWT Housing Corporation to be inappropriate for the North and unacceptable to the public, it recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation develop a simplified method for determining affordable rent so that the rents charged reflect the economic and social realities for the North.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker.

10) Economic development. That since there is a long-term requirement for the construction, maintenance and repair of housing in the Northwest Territories, and since the development of an NWT construction industry could be a major vehicle for economic development at the community level, comprehensive economic development opportunities should be identified and appropriate training programs be developed to meet this requirement.

11) Extension of mandate. That the Legislative Assembly extend the mandate of the special committee on housing in order to allow the special committee to research and analyse the major issues identified in the interim report, to undertake a detailed review of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and to develop recommendations that would be included in a final report to be tabled in the 1985 spring session.

Mr. Speaker, this completes the summary of recommendations made by the special committee on housing in its interim report. Each recommendation is discussed at length in the report. Copies of the report are now available to Members of this House, and, of course, the public.

Motion To Refer Interim Report Of The Special Committee On Housing To Committee Of The Whole,
Carried

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk, that the report of the special committee on housing be referred to the committee of the whole for discussion as the first item of business on Tuesday, November 6th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to the motion, Mr. McCallum?

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have very little to add to this particular motion. If I may, sir, I recognize the next item on the orders of the day is the tabling of documents. If I may be allowed, sir, I would like to call upon my co-chairman, as well as myself, to include in this report the tabling of certain documents. If you would rather, I would be pleased to do it under the next order of business.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, when it is called if you could just do it during that time. As the seconder to the motion, do you have any remarks to make, Mr. Pudluk?

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) I have no further comments.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following document published by the special committee on housing: Tabled Document 8-84(3), Verbatim Transcripts of Community Hearings, Baffin/High Arctic Tour, June 1984, for the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Pangnirtung, Frobisher Bay, Cape Dorset, Lake Harbour, Clyde River.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following document published by the special committee on housing: Tabled Document 9-84(3), Verbatim Transcripts of Community Hearings, Western Arctic Tour, July 1984, for the communities of Norman Wells, Fort Norman, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Good Hope, Fort Franklin, Inuvik, Aklavik.

I would also like to table Tabled Document 10-84(3), Verbatim Transcripts of Community Hearings, Southern Mackenzie Tour, August 1984, for the communities of Fort Simpson, Rae-Edzo, Snowdrift, Fort Providence, Detah/Rainbow Valley, Lac la Martre, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Hay River Reserve, Hay River.

I would also like to table Tabled Document 11-84(3), the Verbatim Transcripts of Public Hearings, Yellowknife/Kitikmeot Tour, September 1984, for the communities of Yellowknife, Holman Island, Sachs Harbour, Coppermine, Cambridge Bay, Spence Bay, Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) I would like to table Tabled Document 12-84(3), Verbatim Transcript of Community Hearings, Keewatin Tour, October 1984, for the communities of Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Tabling of documents. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 13-84(3), Report and Proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee, Volume 1, April 1984, on the matters of the territorial accounts for the fiscal year 1982-83 and the Auditor General's Report on "Any Other Matter".

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document that I know the Minister of Local Government is aware of but I would like to have other Members aware of as well and that is the very serious situation with respect to the sewage system in Yellowknife. Tabled Document 14-84(3) is called "Upgrading and Replacement of Sewer and Water System, City of Yellowknife, Executive Summary" and it is prepared by the GCG Engineering Partnership, in August 1984.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 39 of the Interpretation Ordinance, I wish to report to the House on the orders, rules and regulations made pursuant to the ordinances of the NWT. I am therefore tabling the following document: Tabled Document 15-84(3), Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and Extraordinary Edition of Volume V of Part I of the NWT Gazette; Numbers 1 and 2 of Volume V of Part II of the NWT Gazette; and indices of all regulations, statutory instruments and appointments made pursuant to the ordinances of the NWT for the period from May 1, 1984 to October 31, 1984. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 3-84(3): Appointments To NWT Workers' Compensation Board

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 7, 1984, I shall move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that this House recommend to the Commissioner the appointment of Messrs. John VanBrunt, Willie Adams, Arnold Hope and Mike Zubko to the NWT Workers' Compensation Board, and further that the appointments be for a period of two years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Motion 2-84(3), Language Issue to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 2-84(3): Language Issue To Committee Of The Whole

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Motion 2-84(3), Language Issue to Committee of the Whole.

WHEREAS language is an issue of the highest importance to the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Executive Council plan to establish a language commission or task force;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has stated unequivocally that the aboriginal languages of the Northwest Territories will be recognized on the same basis as English and French;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the matter of language in the Northwest Territories be discussed as an item of business in committee of the whole at this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. GARGAN: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had a big discussion about the aboriginal languages. The Government Leader did not go into much detail about the native languages and on that issue of aboriginal language, what are they planning to do? I am not too sure about this. Also Brian Lewis was appointed and none of the native people here or the Inuit here, seem to know how he got chosen. They do not know how he was picked and it is against this that I wanted to bring this issue of the aboriginal language up in committee of the whole.

Another thing is, what does the government mean by direct appointments and the internal competitions? The government people seem to know. They are the only ones that seem to know how this works. And I want to know how the northern preference works and also about the external competition. And the ones that are not in the government employ -- well, they will know about how to apply for these jobs. And it is for that reason that I wanted to bring it up in the committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have too much to add to what Mr. Gargan has said. I think our main reason for this motion is to have some discussion on this language issue and perhaps come up with some direction for the government on how they plan to establish the terms of reference for the language commission. Perhaps we could come to some agreement among ourselves on who will be on that commission, because some of us have, I think, expressed some concern that perhaps this is not a matter that should be left entirely to the administration. I think we questioned Mr. Nerysoo about this the last couple of days and I think some of his answers have left more questions in our minds than he has answered. So, those are some of the reasons that we brought forward this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I recognize this as a very emotional issue for many Members of this House and since it is such an emotional issue it is extremely important that it is addressed with much thought, care and consideration. The Government Leader when responding to questions of Members on Friday indicated on a number of occasions that he was willing to accept advice from each and every Member in this House with regard to the composition of the task force or commission that is being established. As a result of the debate and discussions in the previous Houses I believe he also indicated at that time he would be willing to discuss the proposed terms of reference with those Members who have a keenly interested concern with regard to the work to be accomplished and the objectives of the commission under process.

The Government Leader at that time indicated, I believe, that there is still work to be done on the terms of reference and that the composition of the commission still has not been concluded and complete and that he could not respond to the questions of Members at this time. In so saying, it suggests to me that a debate and a discussion of the nature that is being asked by the honourable Members is rather premature since the government is not able to respond in these areas.

Amendment To Motion 2-84(3)

That being so, I would suggest two amendments to the motion that is being presented here today, Mr. Speaker. And those amendments would be in the second line of the resolution of the motion, the word "an" be deleted and the words "the first item" be substituted therefore. And the second deletion would be in the third line of the motion, the second to last word, the word "this" be deleted and the words "the next" be placed in the motion as an amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Butters, I did not get the first part and neither did the Clerk. I wonder could you give us a copy. Mr. Clerk, would you get a copy from Mr. Butters, please? The motion is in order. It is a motion of deferral actually and is there a seconder? Mr. Patterson. To the amendment. Mr. Butters, do you wish to speak to the amendment?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Speaker, I believe that my remarks earlier on apply to the amendment and I suggest the debate would be much more productive and profitable as the first item of business in the January session than in this session because we would have had the preparation and also the responses from the Members of this House to ensure that the directions and objectives of this government are indeed truly those objectives and directions of this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Patterson, as seconder. To the amendment.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I look forward to discussing the matter of aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories, this most important subject in detail in this Assembly. My constituents are very concerned about it as well and I agree that it should be the first priority for our committee of the whole business in the new session so that it is not delayed any further. But I do feel quite frankly that we are not going to get that far discussing the subject at this session because the government has not yet got that far in its planning, and when we have a detailed terms of reference for the language commission, when we have the appointments to the language commission finalized, which we have been assured will involve the input from groups and organizations concerned with aboriginal languages, then we will have something concrete to talk about and a detailed discussion will be in order. So, I would support the amendment, not because I want to avoid the topic because I feel that we can discuss it thoroughly and properly, when we are all better prepared, as first item of business in the next session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Amendment To Motion 2-84(3), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Wray. To the amendment. Question being called. All those in favour of the amendment, please hold your hands up. Carried.

---Carried

Motion 2-84(3), Carried As Amended

To the motion, as amended. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Carried.

---Carried

That concludes motions for today.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bills 7-84(3), 8-84(3), 10-84(3), 11-84(3), with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

One moment, on the motion to put this housing into committee of the whole, was there a date on that? First item of business tomorrow. We will now resolve into committee of the whole.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILLS 7-84(3), REGIONAL AND TRIBAL COUNCILS ORDINANCE; 8-84(3), TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE; 10-84(3), CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY ORDINANCE; 11-84(3), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, NO.5, 1983-84

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 7-84(3), Regional And Tribal Councils Ordinance

Under Bill 7-84(3), with regard to the Shihta Regional Council, I believe, Mr. T'Seleie, you wanted something on clause 13. When we left off on Friday, we were dealing with the Shihta Regional Council and I believe, Mr. T'Seleie, you wanted to discuss that a bit.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not write down what my comment was and it just escapes my mind, I think as we go through it clause by clause it might come back to me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. T'Seleie, we are dealing with clause 13, and it is at the bottom of pages 3, 3a, 4, 5 and 6. So, there are about four pages dealing with the one clause. If you want to discuss it now, you should, or else we will go ahead with the clause. Okay, we are on clause 13, does the committee agree to clause 13?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is Bill 7-84(3) recommended for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 8-84(3), Transportation Of Dangerous Goods Ordinance

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We will deal now with Bill 8-84(3). Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This bill has received consideration of the standing committee on legislation and I believe the chairman will be reporting on the detail of the amendments. By way of introduction to the requirement, Mr. Chairman, Members of the House will recall the Mississauga disaster which resulted in all governments taking a much closer look at the controls in place for transporting dangerous and toxic goods. As a result of all the jurisdictions agreeing, transportation of dangerous goods legislation was developed in most Canadian

jurisdictions. The Legislative Assembly also passed the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Ordinance. The present bill before you is to make two minor amendments to that ordinance. The ordinance as originally passed applied to the Government of Canada. The federal Parliament presently has a Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act which covers all federal activity including federal activity in the Territories.

In view of the special constitutional position of the Territories, it was felt inappropriate for territorial legislation to bind Her Majesty in right of Canada. The first clause of the bill, therefore, removes the reference to Her Majesty in right of Canada. As indicated, federal activity is already governed by the federal act. The second clause of the bill, Mr. Chairman, and the third clause provide for an imprisonment sentence for offences committed under the ordinance. Presently, the ordinance provides for a fine only. The imprisonment sentence provision is more in line with the federal and provincial acts and is in keeping with the agreements reached between the various jurisdictions. That concludes my comments, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the bill.

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on legislation reviewed this bill and when it did, Members generally felt stiffer penalties were in order. The penalties that were greater than those that had been provided for in the bill earlier, keeping in mind that these penalties apply to the people who would willfully endanger the lives of the public by not following the law with respect to the transportation of dangerous goods. In examining the penalty provisions it was noted that generally what is appearing in this amendment is in line with the kinds of penalties that are provided for in other legislation. There was one little point with respect to the term of imprisonment. We noticed that in some jurisdictions they say a term less than two years and ours says for a term not exceeding two years and the implication of course is that if the legislation specifically said less than two years that would automatically be served or would very likely be served in a territorial institution. If it is two years or more it can be served in a federal penitentiary and we note that by saying not exceeding two years, that the judge would have the discretion in that matter as to where the incarceration should be served. So, in total, the standing committee on legislation recommends the bill to this committee as it is presented.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Ballantyne, do you wish to speak to this bill?

MR. BALLANTYNE: No, Mr. Chairman, this bill was not reviewed by the standing committee on finance. It was reviewed only by the standing committee on legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. To the bill. General comments. Does the committee agree to go clause by clause, then? Thank you. Okay, we will go to clause 1, application to a province. Does the committee agree to clause 1?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Clause 2, penalty. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3, offence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is Bill 8-84(3) recommended for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Bill 8-84(3) is now recommended for third reading.

Bill 10-84(3), Central Trust Company Ordinance

We will go now to Bill 10-84(3). Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a new ordinance and the legislation arises out of the recent failure of Crown Trust Corporation and the action taken by the Government of Ontario to protect the interest of parties that have entered into business arrangements with Crown Trust. Mr. Chairman, the bill gives statutory recognition to the arrangement whereby the assets and liabilities of Crown Trust were taken over by Central Trust Company. The bill contains various provisions to recognize the transfer between Crown Trust and Central Trust. This statutory recognition will mean that residents in the Territories will know by law that Central Trust has stepped into the shoes of Crown Trust and will therefore be able to take legal action against Central Trust for commitments made to them by Crown Trust. The bill was originally sought to be introduced as a private bill. However, in view of the fact that the bill will not only have repercussions for the two trust companies but could have repercussions for residents of the Northwest Territories, the government deemed it appropriate to introduce it as a government bill. As a government bill, Mr. Chairman, we will also ensure that this bill when it becomes an ordinance is included in the consolidation of ordinances. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that similar bills have been sponsored by governments in other Canadian jurisdictions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the bill. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the record, I wish to declare a conflict of interest regarding this bill and I will not be participating in the discussion or voting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the bill.

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: The standing committee on legislation began the consideration of this bill in August as a private bill. We began the study under the process as outlined under Rule 71 and subsequent rules with respect to the introduction of private bills. Subsequent to that we were informed that the proponent of the bill and the Government of the Northwest Territories had agreed that the government would advance the bill as a public bill rather than as a private bill and the standing committee on legislation was certainly amenable to that. It did point out that our rules provide for the introduction of private bills and that if the proponent had wished to proceed on that basis, the standing committee was ready to proceed with it on that basis. But since both the proponent and the government agreed that it should come in as a government bill, our committee was agreeable to that. In examining the bill the committee was satisfied that it is in the interests of the public of the Northwest Territories and, other than expressing a concern with some technical wording in section 8(2) which has since been rectified, the committee agreed to recommend this bill to the committee of the whole. It recommends it as it stands in the books at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the bill. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just a point of clarification. Since this was originally to come as a private bill, which would I think have been a precedent in the Territories, can the Minister explain again why at the last moment the government decided to take it up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the proponent of the bill did not initially approach the Government of the Northwest Territories inquiring whether or not the government would be willing to sponsor the bill as a public bill. During the examination of the bill by the legislation and house planning committee, it was determined that there was no reason on government's part not to sponsor the bill and being aware that the bill had been sponsored by governments in other jurisdictions, we felt that there was nothing to prevent us from proposing and sponsoring the bill as a government bill. We approached the chairman of the standing committee with regard to this matter and the exchange that he described did occur and the government then put the bill on the order paper as a public bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. General comments. Is the committee agreed we go clause by clause? Mr. McCallum.

Existing Procedure For Private Bills Should Be Maintained

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any difficulty in supporting this bill as it is presented to us but I would just like to make a comment in respect of private bills. I am not talking about private Members' bills, I am talking about private bills because as I understand the procedure under our rules, private bills save the expense -- are dealt with in the same manner as our government bills. I was a Member of the standing committee on legislation when this bill came before us in the beginning and I was then persuaded by certain people of the committee and others that this was a bill that looked after or safeguarded the public. I am just concerned because a procedure that is well laid down by custom, though maybe outdated, nevertheless is a means by which private bills should be able to come to this Assembly and I would not want to see that any group or any individual who would want to seek recourse through legislation would be pre-empted by the government taking on the sponsorship of private bills.

I think that we missed an opportunity to set a precedent, as my colleague to my left has suggested, in getting private bills in front of this House. I would hope in terms of the future if the occasion arises again, that the government, regardless of whether they have been approached or not, would allow the procedure to continue because I think that it is a procedure that can be used by ordinary MLAs in this House to put forth a bill. I would hope that we would not be hit with an eleventh hour sponsorship again of a similar kind of piece of legislation.

Now, that is not to ask for a response on behalf of the government. I simply want to make that comment that I think this is something that should be maintained in this particular House. We are, I guess, the last House in Canada to get into this kind of a procedure and I would like to see us be able to retain this. If there are instances where this Legislature through its standing committee will receive applications to put forth private bills, I would hope that we would not have this eleventh hour intervention, if I may be so bold as to suggest that is the term. Should this occur again, I think it is something that should be safeguarded and as a bona fide Legislature I think it is something that we should retain.

I do not have any difficulty in supporting the bill because I think it does help people within the Territories. We safeguard it. But I think this procedure is something that we should retain and we should make use of at another time. I would agree with the comments of the Member for Yellowknife South that...

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yellowknife North.

MR. McCALLUM: Yellowknife North, sorry. It used to be easy to do it because we had people, Sorensen and Searle, that you could say Yellowknife South with. Now we have somebody with an "R" and it makes it a little difficult trying to ascertain just who is who in this little outlet.

---Laughter

Well, they change every once in a while, Gordon. Nevertheless, I think it is a procedure that we should retain as a Legislature and when we as a Legislature are approached, I would hope that we are not pre-empted by government again to sponsor such a bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. To the bill. General comments. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just a brief comment and I do not wish to debate with the Member but I would assure him that the procedure with regard to private bills has in no way been jeopardized by the action of government in this case. And I have heard the Member's comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. We will go clause by clause. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just to add to that finally. It was made clear in the committee that the committee saw what was being done was without prejudice. What existed already, the committee maintains that the House still has the right to do at some future time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause by clause. Clause 2, interpretation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3, rights of third party. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 5, substituted fiduciary. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, vesting of property held in trust by Crown Trust Company. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 7, legal proceedings not discontinued. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 8, notice. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 9, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is Bill 10-84(3) recommended for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Bill 10-84(3) is now recommended for third reading.

Bill 11-84(3), Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 5, 1983-84

We will go now to Bill 11-84(3). Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the item before you is a requirement for the previous year. It is related to the introduction of accrual accounting to this government. We were not able to bring the requirement before the House earlier because the actual figures related to the accrual were not known to us and therefore it is now here at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I do not propose to steal any thunder, Mr. Chairman, but I think that the standing committee on finance has reviewed the bill and would concur that it should be dealt with at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: We concur as a committee, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. To the bill. General comments? Clause by clause? Okay, we will get into the details of the Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 5, 1983-84, page one.

Department Of Public Works

Accommodation Services, Total O And M, Agreed

Public Works, operation and maintenance, accommodation services, \$40,700. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$40,700. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We will get into the bill clause by clause. Clause 2, interpretation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3, amount granted. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4, purpose and effect of each item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 5, lapsing of appropriations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, coming into force. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Schedule. Total supplementary appropriations, \$40,700. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is Bill 11-84(3) ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill 11-84(3) is now ready for third reading. This concludes the business of the committee of the whole. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS 7-84(3), REGIONAL AND TRIBAL COUNCILS ORDINANCE; 8-84(3), TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE; 10-84(3), CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY ORDINANCE; 11-84(3), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, NO. 5, 1983-84

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 7-84(3), 8-84(3), 10-84(3) and 11-84(3) and wishes to report that Bills 7-84(3), 8-84(3), 10-84(3) and 11-84(3) are recommended for third reading.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Members have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. On the motion I made under orders of the day Item 8, reports of standing and special committees, to move the report of the special committee on housing into committee of the whole, I wonder if I may have unanimous consent to have this included in the committee of the whole today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested to change the wording of his motion basically I suppose, that was made. However, to expedite business, is there anybody that has a nay with regard to putting this into the committee today rather than tomorrow? If there is not, then Mr. Clerk, will you add them to the orders of the day, the reports of the special committee on housing? Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

REVERT TO ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER INTERIM REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with the Interim Report of the Special Committee on Housing. I would like to call on Mr. McCallum to introduce this report to this committee.

Introductory Remarks

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As my co-chairman, Mr. Pudluk, and I said earlier in the reports of committees, we had made certain recommendations to this House about what shall occur as a result of the kinds of requests, the kinds of community visits and what was told to us as a committee, when we visited roughly 70-odd per cent of the communities of the Northwest Territories in regard to housing. This committee was formed, Mr. Chairman, because of a motion back in 1984(1), moved by Mr. Pudluk and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, to take a look at housing. If I may, Mr. Chairman, just briefly refer to what that motion indicated, it said since housing was a high priority with many people of the Territories, and where the needs of communities are not now being met by the corporation, and where it was deemed to be appropriate to review the effectiveness of the Housing Corporation, it was moved that a special committee on housing be established. It dealt with the make-up of that committee and what it should do. I am sure that Members will agree that the basic part of this motion, to set up this committee, was to review the operation of the Housing Corporation. I alluded to that in my opening remarks when we indicated that, not only were we concerned with reviewing the special committee, but going through past years it was felt that one of the things that was necessary was to have the special committee visit those communities who indicated that they wanted the committee to come to the communities, so that we could have public meetings and listen to the concerns of people in the communities. Not only did we listen to comments made and recommendations given to the committee by people, we also talked to housing associations where it was necessary and where they were located we talked to district officers of the corporation as well, municipal or local government or settlement councils and a great number of other people. My co-chairman, Mr. Pudluk, indicated to you how we went about listening and meeting with people and the methodology of conducting this particular inquiry into housing. As a result, Mr. Chairman, we have come up with a number of recommendations.

Procedure Of Discussions

We were set up as a committee of six people, three from the East and three from the West, with alternate Members, two from each of those two areas. There were times when we met as a committee of four people. There was one occasion when we met as a group of eight MLAs, and this was noted by the communities where it occurred, where we had a large number of MLAs. One of the first occasions where people in the communities were able to talk to approximately 35 per cent of the sitting Members of this Assembly. We recognized as a committee that we very well may have built up the expectations of people of the Northwest Territories that something would be done about housing. Regardless of whether we did, and regardless of whether we have heard what has been known to a great number of people in the Northwest Territories in respect of housing, nevertheless we felt that what we embarked upon and what we have finally accomplished was real and that it gave an opportunity to people to basically vent their frustration on a number of Members of the Legislature. We do not propose to answer all the questions that have been put before us. We went to great extremes to indicate to people that we were not part of the government, we were not members of the Housing Corporation, but we were MLAs who were prepared to sit down and meet for a great number of hours to discuss and listen to the concerns of people about housing needs. We provided no answers during our discourse and discussions with people in communities. Nevertheless we have come up with, I believe, unanimity among the Members, whether they were direct Members or whether they were alternate Members of this committee, as to recommendations that we believe can be adopted by the government in a relatively short period of time.

We have not dealt with the corporation as such because we felt that it was necessary to go into greater detail. We have been in existence since the motion -- and it was passed on February 17 -- and during that period of time, as has been indicated by my co-chairman, we met with a great number of people and visited a number of communities. We believe it is necessary, further, to deal with the corporation. We have experienced and appreciate the good will expressed by the corporation through the Minister, the Hon. Gordon Wray, through the chairman and the board of directors and, in fact, with all aspects of the corporation in its district headquarters, that they welcome the idea of meeting with us and we will work together to try to bring about some change that will be in the best interest of all people of the Northwest Territories.

As a result of all the meetings that we have had, Mr. Chairman, we have come up with a number of recommendations and with my co-chairman, Mr. Pudluk, it is our intention now, sir, to deal in the committee of the whole with our recommendations. I am not sure how we should go about this but possibly a means to it, other than dealing with it in general comments, would be for Mr. Pudluk or I to move motions to accept the recommendations as such. I leave it to your wisdom, Mr. Chairman, as to how you would want to do it. I do not want to pre-empt any kind of comments that would be made in a general nature about housing.

I think that if there were 10 people now in the Northwest Territories that are aware and experts on housing, in all due humility, sir, I think that it is the Members of this committee. We have heard anything and everything about housing. We have discussed it to some length with a great number of people and we are prepared as a committee to put forth motions regarding these recommendations if such is the case. That is the intention that we have, Mr. Chairman, to deal with each of the recommendations. When you determine that there has been enough discussion or enough of the comments made on the general purpose of housing, we are prepared then to move the adoption of each of these recommendations in the order that we read into the Assembly earlier today. I will quit on that note, Mr. Chairman, and ask my co-chairman, Mr. Pudluk, if he would like to make some comments of a general nature as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Pudluk.

General Comments From Co-Chairman

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My co-chairman has elaborated clearly on the report. I do not have much comment to make. However I am very happy to have the interim report to you. Also the communities that we missed and the communities that we went to, I think are really expectant as to what we will do with these concerns about the housing because they had so many concerns in the communities. There were a lot of people who attended meetings in the communities and the people who gave us their reports were the young people from 17 years up to 70 years old. These are the kinds of people who gave us reports. They were not hesitant to talk about the problems in their own communities. They showed us their concerns. The special committee

on housing had worked so hard and I would like to give them my appreciation for coming along with us when we were touring the communities. It was really tiring, though. However we had to do it and we knew we had to do it. I would like to thank the people who participated in the meetings when we were touring the communities.

The weather was perfect during our tour in the beginning. However, toward the end the weather was not co-operating with us. First of all, we had to stay in Rankin Inlet for four days but the other communities we visited had good weather. However the special committee on housing was delayed because of the problems of getting some accommodation and interpreters. That is why we seemed to be rushing on our tour, because we were a little bit late and that is the reason why we did not finish our touring because we were really late for touring the communities. I do not have much to comment on now. However, I would like to thank you for listening to us and our report and also the recommendations. Every time we are going to vote on the recommendations, we will have to stand up when we are voting on them. This will be a recorded vote to all these paragraphs of recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it will be up to you as to how you want to deal with these. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Do Members of the committee want to go into general discussion first? General comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to express my appreciation to the Members of the committee for the hard work they underwent in visiting all parts of the Northwest Territories. I think I mentioned when the committee was formed that I was not sure if the Members knew what they were getting into in agreeing to public hearings in all parts of the Northwest Territories. If they did not know then, they do now and I, having done that myself, I appreciate very much the personal sacrifices that are involved with family and leisure time. I am very grateful that the Dene Members appeared in such good numbers to visit Baffin Region and my constituency and see our particular problems. I also know that there was equal representation in the West from the Eastern Arctic when the committee visited there. I believe there have been some 40 public meetings and I know if the one at Frobisher Bay was any illustration, they were long public meetings and very exhausting. It is expensive and very time-consuming to get public input on matters in the Northwest Territories with our widely scattered communities but I believe it is worth while if the Members have the energy and determination. I would like to say, again, thank you to the Members of the special committee for their efforts and I am quite confident that out of all this will come long-term improvements in this important area in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. General comments? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I actually comment specifically about the report I would like to say for myself as a new MLA, the opportunity to visit so many communities was a tremendous learning experience for me. I think for all MLAs to have that opportunity to visit communities other than their own does more than give them knowledge about housing. I think it gives them a much better understanding of the problems and the realities that are found in each of these communities. I think all of us that did this travel will be better able to make decisions that affect each other's communities than we were before. One thing with this Assembly, from myself following it over the years and being a Member of it for the last year, is there are many things that tend to divide this Assembly. There are East and West issues. There are issues between the large and the small municipalities. I think something that we all learned is that in every community in the North, whether it is large or small, East or West, there is a very, very serious problem with housing. I think that knowledge tended to bring us together and to bridge some of those barriers that formerly might have divided us. I think it was a very worth-while experience for all of us.

Adequate Housing A Need Of Everybody

I guess when you look at housing, housing is such a fundamental concept. We can talk about priorities, and we will get into that with the specific recommendations, but in the North with the very harsh climatic conditions, people have a right to expect adequate housing. I think something

that came home to us in all the meetings we had, is that this Legislative Assembly in the past, I think, has made tremendous progress in the areas of constitutional development and many of the more esoteric areas that are important, but I think housing is something that everybody understands. Housing is something that everybody needs. If this Assembly can make a major contribution to improving the housing situation in the Northwest Territories, I think it will gain great credibility in the communities and throughout the North. So I, for one, and I am sure my colleagues on the committee really hope that you take these recommendations seriously.

Obviously we did not have time to deal in depth with a lot of the very complex issues that are before us. What we attempted to do is to come up with some recommendations to help the Minister and the Executive Council deal with the immediate problem. We are asking for more time and more consultation with the Minister, with the board of directors of the Housing Corporation and with the Housing Corporation itself to see if we together can come up with some long-term policies that will hopefully really improve this very serious situation. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. General comments, Mr. Appaqaq?

Concern For Communities Not Visited

MR. APPAQAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I will be asking a question regarding some of the communities that you were not able to visit. What are you going to do about them? Are you going to be looking into visiting them in the future, or are they going to be getting recommendations from the communities that they did not yet visit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Could either Mr. McCallum or Mr. Pudluk reply to that?

MR. PUDLUK: I am sorry, we were not able to make it to Sanikiluaq because of the weather conditions. In one of our recommendations we were requesting to finish our work maybe in the spring. If that is going to be so, I think we will be looking into visiting the other communities that the special committee on housing has not gone to already. Also, we have not really fully dealt with the Housing Corporation guidelines or regulations. We will be concentrating on the Housing Corporation guidelines and we will be trying to visit the communities we have not already visited.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say this as a comment. There was a motion earlier about going into the communities or touring the communities in the Northwest Territories. All of us, I believe, were very happy to hear this motion, but it seems like we do not really represent some part of the NWT because there are so many changes that are going on in the Legislative Assembly. I am very happy to see the recommendations that the special committee on housing came up with but I think some of the communities had other recommendations that they might want to put forth, so I hope they are not going to be forgotten. So I will be supporting the deferral of the work of the special committee on housing. I do not think we have to rush this and I think housing is always going to be a major priority in the NWT because it is widely used by everybody in the NWT. I am sure some of the communities that did not have the special committee on housing visit their community, I am sure they would have wanted to be part of this because they have heard earlier that the special committee on housing was going to be touring the NWT. I think they wanted to be part of it. That is about the only thing I have to talk about, but another thing I wanted to say was I think we have to include the other communities too.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to clarify this with the Member regarding the recommendations we will be putting forth. These nine recommendations will be from the concerns that we got from the tour. These recommendations are mainly the ones that came up most of the time when we went to the communities, but in the spring if we come up with more recommendations I think you will be seeing these recommendations in the spring. But the recommendations that we are going to be talking about now are regarding all of the concerns of the NWT. It is not just coming from one community. It is even talking about the problems of the other communities we did not go to. These are the nine recommendations we will be talking about. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. General comments, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The transcripts that we have received of meetings in communities across the Northwest Territories are very revealing and they do show that there is a great problem with respect to housing in every corner of the Territories. I would say that certainly we Members from Yellowknife recognize that a serious problem does exist in all parts of the North. When we are dealing with the housing recommendations I would just ask Members from other parts of the North to recognize that there is a serious problem in Yellowknife as well, with respect to housing.

---Applause

Thank you very much, Mr. Patterson. First of all I could say that it is not so apparent in Yellowknife, perhaps, because if you travel the main streets and the most commonly travelled areas, you do not necessarily see the extent of the problem. It would only be when you go to neighbourhoods or apartments and so on and get more into the life of the town that you begin to see the extent of what is a very severe problem.

Accommodation For Seniors Inadequate In Yellowknife

I think there are two critical areas, at least from my point of view, with respect to housing and one of them is the matter of adequate accommodation for seniors in Yellowknife. There are a great many seniors living here, some of whom can manage with independent accommodation and do not have adequate independent accommodation and others who need some personal care facility because they need a bit of help in their lives. We just do not have adequate facilities for all of those elderly people in Yellowknife and a lot of them, I must say, are not only from Yellowknife. Some of them come here. Their families from other parts of the North may come here because they have jobs and the elderly people want to be close to them. They come here and they simply cannot find accommodation. A lot of them, quite a number of them actually, are elderly men who came to the North in the 1920s, whether it was prospecting or trapping or whatever and they have no families here at all and they need some help and support. It is a critical area and I hope that Members, if there are specific initiatives done, will be sensitive to that.

Critical Shortage Of Rental Accommodation

The other area, generally, is that of rental accommodation. We have a critical shortage of rental accommodation in Yellowknife. The recent apartment surveys show that there just is not a vacancy rate at all and some Yellowknifers have taken initiatives. We did have a co-operative housing project which I think was largely independent of this government, although I think there was some assistance from this government, but largely it was the initiative of a group of people who decided to try to get some adequate accommodation and 50 units were put up. The Borealis housing unit it is called. That hardly -- well, it did not make a dent in the problem. In other words, we thought that we would see some relief as a result of that and yet there has not been any. Of course, co-operative housing is in short supply. I know that Frobisher Bay and Fort Smith have taken advantage of it. We cannot turn to that again immediately in Yellowknife to try to relieve the problem. The problem is such that we have people -- I suppose they are out of them now, and I do not know where they are living -- but certainly who were living in tents during the summertime. We have people who live in shacks without adequate sanitation facilities or other facilities to make it halfway comfortable and there is a great deal of overcrowding.

Again, it is not just southerners coming here that are causing the housing shortage. For example, recently I know the Dene Nation hired an interpreter, a family man, middle-aged, who came from elsewhere in the Northwest Territories to Yellowknife last January to work for the Dene Nation, was not able to get any accommodation until October and had to live in with other people during that time. That is a very common thing in this town. It is a very serious problem. So, I would just ask other Members -- as I said, I am certainly sensitive to the fact that the problem exists everywhere -- I would just ask Members to be sensitive to the fact that it really does exist here as well. Hopefully there will be more direct action in respect of this down the line a little, although there are some items in the interim report that may help to relieve the situation, but where there are more direct measures I ask Members to recognize the problem and be supportive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. General comments. Is the committee prepared to deal with the interim recommendations at this time? Mr. Gordon Wray.

Substantial Changes Anticipated

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of general comments to make. First of all, I would like to extend my thanks to the committee for the effort and time that they put in. Having spent six days with them in Rankin Inlet in the fog, I can appreciate the trouble they went to. Also, going through the transcripts, I am sure that after about the 10th meeting, hearing the same thing time after time after time for 40 meetings at times it must have been pretty hard to sit through, so I think it is a credit to them that they made it to that many communities. I, for one, have been looking forward to the recommendations because they give me some beef to look at and to start moving on, on changes to housing delivery and housing systems. While I appreciate the interim report, I am very much looking forward to the major report in the winter session and I would urge the gentlemen to speed it along as much as possible because the sooner we can get started working on this the better it is going to be for everyone. So, I just wanted to extend my appreciation to the committee Members for the work that they have undertaken. I am sure that in the months and years ahead substantial changes will occur and I think we will be able to extend our congratulations to the special committee when it is all said and done. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further general comments? Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I, too, would like to commend the committee on the work that they have accomplished over the last few months and the expeditious manner that they have dealt with it. Certainly, the topic of housing in the Northwest Territories is not a new one. Although I see that the interim report has a number of recommendations, by and large I take them as interim recommendations. This topic that we are dealing with is a fundamental one that definitely reaches every individual in the community and I, for one, over a number of years have been a critic of how the housing program has been advanced in the Northwest Territories, when perhaps a more simple, direct approach to accommodating people could have been taken to take in the regional differences and the possibilities that different approaches to different regions rather than one uniform approach that is thought to be good for everyone. I hope that in the further recommendations that are coming forward there will be more detail in dealing with the opportunities that different regions could offer toward special construction and designation of pilot projects in these areas as well.

Certainly, for the recommendations, I feel that most of them are good. Some of them leave some questions in my own mind on how you deal with the recommendations but by and large the recommendations are good -- and certainly are timely. I feel that the most advantageous thing to this government, about the housing committee, was that many people did have the opportunity to travel and to see communities that they would not have otherwise seen and meet people who come from all parts of the Northwest Territories. If we are to move into a priority area really addressing the housing situation, I believe the work has just begun. We can build 200 houses but there are a lot of other ways and issues that come in the development of homes for people living in the Arctic communities and different areas. How they are placed and where they are placed and what kind of facilities they are going to have are important to the design, structure and healthy living conditions in the community.

I realize that we will never have the total objective to be reached where we have adequate facilities like sewage and water for each house; not having to worry that the tank is going dry or the sewage tank has not been pumped out or honeybuckets are not picked up in the proper time. But I really do believe that if everyone in this Legislative Assembly is aware of the varying conditions across the Northwest Territories, the decisions that we will be making in the next two or three years will be good ones for all the people -- and that maybe we can be more adventurous.

Funding Through GNWT

However, in the end, I really feel strongly that this NWT government should be receiving all the funds to determine what kind of policies and what kind of programs we have, rather than continually trying to match up federal government programs, which I believe has been the problem in the Arctic up to this time. I realize all of you have probably heard that same comment from many people across the Arctic and probably have come to that conclusion yourselves, even before you began to travel. So, I look forward to working with every Member, whether it is on the Executive Council, Legislative Assembly Members or people who are really concerned, because this is a fundamental part of our life that affects us daily. I know we can do more as individuals in the community if we are given a chance and I do not believe that we always have to be under the thumb of some government

program. I believe if we are able in the Northwest Territories to determine the funding in the first instance, then we can better serve the people whether it is a regional difference approach to housing or as a territorial-wide one or one that is more applicable to a certain community rather than another.

But I do not agree that the people should be strapped to a social service type of housing that has determined the lives of people and I know that all of us together probably could come up with a solution. Certainly on the Executive, we hope that as we evolve and with your support, we will be able to convince the federal government that this is the government that should be handling the funding in the first instance to determine those programs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that I as a Member of the committee, travelled to the Baffin, into my own region, into the Delta and into some parts of the southern Mackenzie region. I missed out on the communities around Fort Simpson and I missed out on the communities of the Central Arctic, as well as the Keewatin. I found the most interesting part of the travelling was into the Baffin Region. We did that in the early spring. It was my first time in the Eastern Arctic and one of the things I realized is, you know, how large this country is and how many differences there are all across the Northwest Territories. It is a country that is bigger than probably 70 per cent of the countries of the world. So in terms of my own education about the government of the North, that was a big part of it.

On the whole question of housing I know that it has been a big concern, at least with me. When we toured or did meetings in my constituency, I think out of three communities we received requests for up to 80 houses. People said they had waiting lists for people that needed that many houses. I guess we do not expect to get all of that in one year. The other thing I want to say about the recommendations is that I would really like to see the last recommendation passed. The one having to do with extending the mandate of the committee so that we can do more detail on some of these recommendations. So, those are all the remarks I have, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a short comment. As a Member of the committee, it was quite an experience for me to go into the High Arctic and into the Baffin Region. I am quite aware of the problems with housing but it was sure an eye opener to see some of the conditions that these houses were in. As I have mentioned I am just going to make a short comment. I would just like to say thank you to the Members that were so co-operative with us in these areas. If we should have an extension, I would be very happy to go into the Member's constituency in Sanikiluaq. We were sorry that we were unable to go but I was unable to go on that Keewatin trip as well. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mahsi cho. General comments. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a short comment also. I think I was with the special committee when they toured the communities most of the time. I have learned a great deal in different communities. That some of the communities are not as helped as some of the others was one of the things that I found out. And when we toured the Baffin Region, we did not have very much time to go to Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset because both of our chairmen had to leave. I had to act as a chairman in my constituency and I could not even voice my concerns for my constituents because I was the chairman.

I have also learned that during our tour in the Keewatin the weather was always bad so we tried to use the Inuktitut way and I tried to make the weather better but it did not help much.

As I said I just have a short comment. I am one of the Members of the special committee on housing and I will be in support of the recommendations that we have produced. I have agreed to all the recommendations. I would like to extend my appreciation to the interpreters during our tour, especially in the western part of the NWT and around Yellowknife. Thank you very much for having interpreters. I do not have very much left to say but I would like to say thank you to my fellow Members and I would like to be able to visit the communities that we have not already gone to. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Paniloo, general comments.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the special committee toured my constituency, I was able to go with them and to inform them on the concerns of my constituents. We were not able to meet with the Broughton Island residents, although they really wanted the special committee to visit their community. But I have their concerns written on paper and I am going to be giving it to the special committee.

I will be in support of their recommendations because the Baffin concerns are a lot similar, although some of them are a little bit different from other recommendations. I will be in support of their recommendations. I am anxious to deal with the recommendations because the people in the communities would like to hear the concerns that they expressed acted upon. We always hear from the communities that have not been visited and we can express their concerns within the House. I would just like to say that I am in support of the recommendations of the special committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments, Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to make a short comment that I was a standby for the special committee on housing even though I could not travel with them most of the time since I was busy, and I was very thankful that they came to visit me in my home community. I am supporting these recommendations. I do not think we would go anywhere if we did not support their recommendations on housing since there is a need for housing in the NWT, especially in northern communities. I am in support of getting new housing in our area. As we say in the communities, we do not like the federal government's housing. However I think it would be better for the Assembly to fix these houses. If we make a mistake we will always be able to make a change to this. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments, Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to add my voice to what has been said already. I think one of the very great benefits to all of us has been to be able to go to the other constituencies in other communities and see different things. Even though I have spent many, many years up on the Arctic coast, both East and West, it was the first time I had the opportunity to see communities relatively close even to my home community, such as Aklavik, Sachs Harbour, Colville Lake, and many of the other communities down the river. It was really also the first time that I had an opportunity to see other types of housing, such as log housing. I had, of course, heard about them for years but to actually see them and be in them, and see the different construction methods of them, and talk to the people who live in them, I think you get a far greater appreciation for the problems and much more sympathy for the suggestion when people from the treed part of the Northwest Territories suggested we should be building from logs. I think I made a comment one time in one of the communities that if you really wanted to make any log house look good, put it between two northern rental houses and it will look like a palace.

I think, as our report points out somewhere, we should not fail to recognize the tremendous strides that we have had in housing over the years. I came to Coppermine where I now again live, over 31 years ago, and I have seen us go through the transition from skin tents, to snow houses, through the various types of so-called matchbox houses, the various northern rental houses and up to public housing units; from, in many cases, very pitiful and unhealthy accommodations to certainly something that is far better. That does not mean that we should of course be satisfied and rest there because it is not that good. I think it is very necessary for us to come up with suggestions between now and the final report to try and get better value for our housing dollars, both in the quality of house that we produce for the dollars, as well as in the social and economic impact within the communities that the production and maintenance of these houses can have.

I want to assure Mr. MacQuarrie that the committee most certainly has become far more aware of the housing problems in Yellowknife. He is absolutely correct. When you go down main street you think that there are no problems here. After we had the public meeting in Yellowknife I have had a vehicle available to me and I have used it rather extensively to travel through the older and perhaps not so commonly visited places, and talked to people and there is indeed a great housing problem in Yellowknife. If nothing else, the committee's tours around have certainly served to make me and the other Members of the committee aware of these problems. Ms Cournoyea mentioned the regional differences and I certainly can agree with that and the difficulty in trying to put

uniform policies into effect, particularly the federal policies. I too, am concerned about the immediate benefits of tying into federal housing programs for the expediency of getting their dollars.

Regional Differences

In many cases, looking back, I think we have bought ourselves a lot of problems for the future. I think we have to look into that as a very small illustration of the regional differences and how it does not agree with policies on the rental policy, which basically we have to accept from CMHC, the 25 per cent of gross income leaving you with the residual and all this. As an example on a \$1000 a month income, you would be paying \$223 rent per month on a public housing unit and that leaves you with a residual income of \$777 or whatever the amount is, and the futility of trying to make sense of that when you measure it in dollars really comes out, if you put it in other terms. If you live in such a unit in Yellowknife, with that same dollar residual income, you can go to the store here and buy yourself 700 litres of milk with what you have left over. If you live in Spence Bay you can buy yourself a 100 litres. My colleague across the way, Mr. Ballantyne, made the mistake when we were in Spence Bay, of getting thirsty. He went to the store and bought himself a litre of milk with a price tag of \$6.95 on it. I think it made all of us a bit quiet when we saw that.

So we certainly have regional differences, not only in pricing but of course in many other fields too. We have the extreme snow conditions in the Keewatin, Baker Lake in particular, the extreme wind conditions in Baffin, probably Pangnirtung in particular, and we must address all of these. I know that there is certainly a will on the part of the Members of the committee to do so and I know it is on the part of every other Member and on the Executive. It is certainly not a new thing we have discovered that there is a housing problem. I know it was a plank in everybody's platform at the last election and there are many Members who have spent almost all their adult life concerned with housing problems, Members such as Ms Cournoyea and John T'Seleie and many others. So, I would just like to echo the sentiment of other Members of the committee that have spoken. After we have gone over the committee report, I hope we will get unanimous approval from the House to proceed with our work leading up to the final committee report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Any more general comments? Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have got a very short, little one, which is no secret. All has been said that I wanted to say but there is one little thing I would just like to add to what the others have said. When this special committee on housing was to be formed, it was voted upon and I was in favour of it. I would not change my mind as I am still in support of it. As we went to the places where we were going and hearing the people -- I did not go to very many of them but I went to some of them and after that I could not be there in the other places -- I kept thinking to myself I hope this special committee on housing gives a good report and something is done. All that time they were travelling I said to myself, there are a lot of times when people speak through other voices -- I mean through MLAs or government employees -- and there are many times that their words are not taken seriously or even believed by the ones that are listening. I was always hoping that there would be a good report that comes out of the special committee on housing and I do not think I have any more to say on that. I cannot say too much, I just want progress. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Thank you. Any more general comments? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I just have a short anecdote that the Members may find interesting. When we talked about Inuit Members travelling to the West and Dene Members travelling to the East, we had an interesting experience in Resolute Bay where, when we had some spare time, Ludy Pudluk took us all out seal hunting. We had the situation where Joe Arlooktoo was driving a skidoo and we had our three Dene Members, three Dene tourists, I might add in this case, Eliza, Sam and John, were sitting in the komatik at the back. We have a great picture of that and caption in that picture would be something like this, I think, "Nunavut is trying to pull Denendeh further to the East".

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments on behalf of Mr. Pudluk and myself, opening comments on what we have attempted to do. I think it has been good to hear the comments raised by Members. If Members want to get a good idea of what we have done, that is, the places we visited

and houses that we have seen, Mr. Pedersen is our resident statistician and photographer. He can tell you how far we travelled, how long we were in the air and how long we waited in airports, plus the fact that he has got quite a combination, if you like, of pictures of houses and other things around. At this time, if there are no further comments, I would like to move progress, other than Mr. Butters wanting to say something before we get started. I will go along with Mr. Butters before I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Butters. Can you use your mike, please?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I thought it was on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it is the intention of the co-chairmen to move into recommendations first thing tomorrow, so I would like to make a few general comments now before we rise. I, too, would compliment the Members of the standing committee on housing. Their time has been extremely well spent and I am particularly taken by their interim report. I, as probably many other Members of this House, have been subjected to all kinds of reports but I have never seen one that is as concise and to the point as this one and I would compliment the co-chairmen for putting together an excellent document. The recommendations, while I have not read all the substance yet supporting those recommendations, seem to be well supported with a minimal amount of words and, most interesting is the inclusion at the end of the report of a summary of housing concerns in each of the regions visited. Each of these concerns as itemized here, are recommendations in themselves and very succinctly put together. I would say it is a very, very excellent report and the two chairmen and their Members should be complimented for producing this document. I think I have some background in this area as I served as the chairman of the task force on housing that was put together by the Assembly in 1972. We were not as fortunate that time as the current committee in that we did not have as much influence over the government as this House does. We did not travel and our budget was very, very minimal. We had to squeeze funds out of a reluctant, I think, and resistant territorial government. I think that the committee Members of this committee will agree that the Executive has provided all the funds that they have needed to travel and accomplish the hearings that they sought and produced the interim report that we now see before us. I think it is good that the recommendations on housing and of that previous committee can be re-examined. Basically, in those days, we pushed for two major things. First of all, home-ownership and secondly, assistance to pay for the operation and maintenance of the homes which people lived in. We were very frustrated as Members of Council in those days because the programs in the main were federal programs. We had little or no input into them and we wanted to see more control, more involvement, more consultation with the people in the North, very similar to the words that Mr. Erkloo stated a few moments ago.

I did not mention the other recommendation which was the creation of the Housing Corporation because while we created that vehicle, I do not know that we are that pleased with all of the things that the Corporation has been able to do or is doing. The corporation was established and set up to utilize federal moneys and federal programs and in so saying, I guess we did not receive the independence for our own programs and the control that we would have hoped. So, I am going to be extremely interested in the comments of the committee with regard to the Housing Corporation and its function and operation. Too, I would agree with Mr. Pedersen that there have been major accomplishments and improvements in the housing that exists in the Territories in a very short space of time.

I remember some 26 years ago on the NRC lot hammering up the first rigid frame dwelling which was put into a great many of the Eastern Arctic and Arctic communities because at that time there was just no housing at all in the Arctic communities, as Mr. Pedersen pointed out. People lived in igloos in the winter and tents in the summer and in between a combination of an igloo with a tent over the top. The packing boxes that went into the North were extremely highly valued because a lot of homes were built out of packing boxes and the tar paper that went inside them. That was not so very long ago. The rigid frame was not much of an improvement but it did provide much better accommodation than many people were living in at that time. Housing is a problem today. It was a problem yesterday. It was a problem 25 years ago. I note that when Mr. McCallum was speaking to us and Mr. Pudluk, in a small way they indicated the feeling and the emotion and the concerns that occurred at the meetings which they convened.

In fact, I guess they have in a very real way communicated what is a cry of pain from the communities, from the people of the North who are today inadequately housed and who require decent housing, adequate housing, healthy housing for their families. I noticed that in their opening statement they say, "We owe them real solutions." I regret that the task force of 12 or 14 years ago, maybe approached the problem, but I do not know that we did develop the real solutions that

were required at that time. We solved and resolved some of the problems but there still awaits us out there the real solutions to the housing problems of the North. I for one am pleased to work with the special committee on housing and other Members of this House to achieve that goal and achieve that objective.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I really do not have that much to add to what all the Members have said. The only thing I want to say at this time is that I am really happy for the Eastern Members coming into our area and ourselves into their area, but I guess I have to also say that I am quite happy for Ludy Pudluk, because I believe he found some of his relatives in Fort Rae.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I really have a few items that I would like to respond to. I would also like to congratulate all the Members for travelling and getting to know the other parts of the North other than Yellowknife and this part of the North, and I think it is always useful that we do get to know each other. That is the biggest challenge we normally face, as Members who are given the responsibility to deal with the public in the Territories. In view of the hour, Mr. Chairman, I would like to be given permission to continue on tomorrow because I do have five points that I would like to raise which are generally related to the report which I hope will be dealt with during the final report and so on. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): All those in favour?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

REVERT TO ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF INTERIM REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering the Interim Report of the Special Committee on Housing and we wish to report progress.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Members have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I wonder if there is a change. It says on the announcements that Mr. Hamilton was going to read out that the standing committee on finance meets tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. It is at 6:30 p.m. That is a correction.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Are there any further announcements? Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, although the proper announcement shall be made by the Clerk tomorrow on the department's plan to brief the caucus on Wednesday night during the dinner, the briefing on Expo '86, I would like to continue to remind Members that this is very important and that if at all possible you should not make travel plans and whatnot. I think it will be very important to have all the Members on Wednesday night, thank you. A free meal.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, November the 6th, 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Report of the Special Committee on Housing
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Third Reading of Bills
18. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 6th, at 1:00 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT

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