



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Members will note that our Yellowknife Boy Scouts are present today and are paging to raise money to go to the Canadian jamboree in Guelph in July. Welcome aboard, boys.

---Applause

Orders of the day for Friday, February the 8th.

Item 2, Members' replies.

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 4-85(1): Transportation Of Inmate For Compassionate Reasons

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to Health and Social Services Minister. I got a call from the correctional centre in Yellowknife. Issak Inukee called me yesterday. One of his relatives died in Cape Dorset. He is at the correctional centre in Yellowknife and I was wondering if he could be sent home to go to his dad's funeral. I would like to find out if Social Services would help him get home to the funeral service. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 4-85(1): Transportation Of Inmate For Compassionate Reasons

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Social Services, in its correction system, does allow for transportation of inmates home for compassionate reasons and when this is done the type of offence that the prisoner is in custody for is taken into consideration. I will look into the individual inmate concerned and find out if they can, in fact, arrange for him to be given transportation home for compassionate reasons and I will get back to the Member immediately this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Then you are taking your question as notice and you will advise Mr. Arlooktoo. Oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 5-85(1): Resource Revenue Sharing

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, Mr. Curley. When the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs was here just recently, he made an announcement of the go-ahead of the Panarctic Bent Horn project. I know that this government had a number of concerns that they wanted the Minister to address before the project went ahead. One of them is resource revenue sharing and I think this House agrees that the key to any future political development in the North is to have some sort of a revenue base. I wonder if the Minister could bring us up to date as to whether or not those concerns have been addressed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Return To Question 5-85(1): Resource Revenue Sharing

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think the press was pretty accurate in reporting the announcement of the Minister. I think on that basis they did pretty good coverage. I would like to indicate to the House though that although at the moment the federal Minister and the government have not come to a final agreement on the issue of resource revenue sharing, Mr. Crombie committed himself to bring the issue of the resource revenue management and sharing proposal before his cabinet. That he is prepared to do. I know that the Executive Council will now be following up that -- in a relatively short time, I would think. And that is one area that my colleagues, as Mr. Nerysoo indicated yesterday, will be prepared to enter into negotiations. The satisfaction that the Executive Council did receive was that he was very committed to pursuing the principle of resource revenue sharing being finalized. I am happy to report that Mr. Crombie has been quite receptive and I know that he will be calling upon this government to see how the negotiations should begin. Thank you.

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

Question 6-85(1): Report Of Task Force On Spousal Assault

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women Secretariat. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Minister could advise us whether we can expect a report this session from the task force on spousal assault.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 6-85(1): Report Of Task Force On Spousal Assault

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his interest in the task force on spousal assault. The goal is to have a report prepared this session but I must observe that the report is now being written. Community visits in all parts of the Territories have only just been completed. So, it means that the report will come later rather than earlier in the session but I know the chairman and status of women advisory council are committed to having the report presented to this House this session. And I fully support that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 7-85(1): Legislation Governing Coroner's Inquests And Workers' Compensation Board

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice and Public Services. The Minister recently received a letter from the president of Local 802 of the United Steelworkers asking that there be a public inquiry into the death last summer of Gordon Davidson, who was an employee of Con Mine, but more generally, asking for a public inquiry into the legislation that governs coroner's inquests and Workers' Compensation Board and so on. And it seems to me that some very important points have been raised in that matter with respect to the make-up of jury, the presentation of evidence, the inability of heirs to sue if they accept compensation and so on. And it seems to me that it is something that should be sorted out. So, can I ask what action the Minister does plan with respect to this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 7-85(1): Legislation Governing Coroner's Inquests And Workers' Compensation Board

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank the honourable Member for giving me notice of this question. The death of Gordon Davidson was indeed tragic. The circumstances leading to the death of Mr. Davidson were investigated and a coroner's inquest was duly held. As the honourable Member is aware, the purpose of a coroner's inquest is to investigate into the cause of death. Where an inquest is held concerning a death caused by an accident, at, in, or in connection with a mine, the coroner is required to send notice to the inspector under the Mining Safety Ordinance to require him to be present and to cross-examine any witnesses at the inquest. A coroner's inquest is akin in many ways to a judicial proceeding. It would therefore be improper for me to comment on the hearing itself. However, I am aware that the jury at this inquest made recommendations regarding the improving of safety conditions in the mine.

The inquest into Mr. Davidson's death has given me cause to examine and revise the Coroners Ordinance. I have directed my officials to review the present Coroners Ordinance with the view of making appropriate recommendations for the revision of the ordinance. I am aware that in many ways the ordinance is inadequate. I will also be discussing with my colleague, the Hon. Gordon Wray, the need to consider the provision barring civil proceedings once compensation has been paid.

As far as the request for a public inquiry is concerned, the Public Inquiries Ordinance provides that the Commissioner may, where he considers it necessary, or in the public interest, cause an inquiry to be made into any matter relating to the conduct of the public business of the Territories or any matter of public concern. Although United Steelworkers of America have publicly called for such an inquiry in a press conference, no request as such, to my knowledge has been made to the Commissioner. On the assumption that such a request is deemed to have been made through the press release, I would have to state that the government has not yet had the opportunity to consider whether such a public inquiry is appropriate in this case, having regard to the fact that a coroner's inquest has already been held and recommendations have been made by the jury at the inquest. Furthermore, I give an undertaking that the Coroners Ordinance will be advanced for revision and that I will review with my colleague, Mr. Wray, the question of amending the Workers' Compensation Ordinance.

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

Question 8-85(1): Vacant Federal Housing Units, Yellowknife

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask this question of the Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Wray. I think everybody is aware of the housing shortage in Yellowknife, but there is one aspect of it that we have not touched on, neither the housing committee nor MLAs, and it is something that I have tried to pursue for the last three or four years. The federal DPW has a number of units they have leased or bought in Yellowknife and they have been sitting empty for many years. It has been impossible for anybody to get the information. Of late I notified the press that I became aware of the situation of an apartment building, the Solar Apartment building in Yellowknife that has 11 apartment units, nine of which have sat empty for two years in the midst of a serious housing crisis in Yellowknife. The owner of the building is trying to break the lease with the federal government. They refuse to do it. I wonder if the Minister can look into this question and if the Minister can get an idea of how many empty units the federal government have within Yellowknife and try to put some pressure on the federal government to allow those units to go back to the public who need them a lot more than would-be federal employees living somewhere in the South.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 8-85(1): Vacant Federal Housing Units, Yellowknife

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I most certainly will pursue the matter. Just for the record, on Monday I had a meeting with the federal Minister for housing, Mr. McKnight, and I indicated to him at that time, although I was not talking about Yellowknife, that we indeed had some serious problems with federal housing in the North. I was referring to the situation at that time in Frobisher Bay where six federal housing units which were constructed at a cost somewhere in excess of a quarter of a million dollars each sat empty for three years from the day of construction and only in the last two or three months have actually been filled. He was very

concerned about it. In fact, he was extremely angry about it and I will be communicating with my federal counterpart, Mr. La Salle, and the federal Minister for housing to express our disgust at the way the federal government wastes money in those areas. But I will undertake to also find out just exactly what the state of federal housing in Yellowknife is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Then I understand you are taking the question basically as notice and will report back to this House. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 9-85(1): Day Care Policy Review

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated last November in a letter to me and also in correspondence to the Yellowknife Day Care Association that his department was currently in the process of examining day care subsidies and his policy with respect to day care providers. I am wondering if the Minister, Mr. Speaker, can indicate what is the status of that policy review.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 9-85(1): Day Care Policy Review

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is still in an ongoing discussion with the providers of day care in the community of Yellowknife and some of the other communities where a fairly formal type of day care is in existence in order to look at the standards. We hope to establish policies and possibly legislation for day care standards. As far as subsidies go, we want to look at the current activity which is going to be caused by the parliamentary task force on child care. They are going to be dealing with issues related to the taxation system which allows for deductions to the child care. Apparently this system is not working properly. There have been a few articles in the papers recently about that as well and we will be taking that into consideration. As for immediate plans to change our financial input into day care, we have no immediate plans to make changes and we will be, as a department, working with the various groups in the Northwest Territories in relation to the parliamentary task force on child care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 10-85(1): Use Of Workers' Compensation Board Funds

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. I am aware, Mr. Minister, that the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce had recommended that you take action which would enable the use of the Workers' Compensation Board funds, so that moneys could be made available for commercial and home mortgages but, also, I have relayed to you concerns of certain union representatives who are very concerned about the security of the workers' compensation fund and do not wish the government to take any hasty or, perhaps, any action that would put the fund in jeopardy. Could I ask the Minister what action has been taken until now in this matter and what he might be planning for the future with respect to it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 10-85(1): Use Of Workers' Compensation Board Funds

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, I am in receipt of the Chamber of Commerce letter. I think I can indicate to you generally speaking, first of all, that I am in favour of workers' compensation money being used in the North and investment in the North but to qualify that, I also have to say that I could never agree to a scheme whereby workers' compensation money would be used in a risk factor. It would have to be in some form of government guarantees, government bonds, whatever, but we could never risk a venture with workers' compensation money.

I intend, in conjunction with my colleagues the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Finance, to be approaching them with the possibility of setting up a small internal senior official committee, along with representatives of the WCB to look at possible avenues whereby some of this money could be channelled into the investment sector in the North. This will be done over a period of time and it will be subject to very careful consideration and, I think, subject to intense discussion by the Workers' Compensation Board itself. So, I can assure the Member that

indeed in this situation we will not proceed with haste but we will carefully assess the situation and see what can be done but at no time will money from the workers' compensation fund be jeopardized in any way and that I give you my absolute guarantee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Supplementary, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 10-85(1): Use Of Workers' Compensation Board Funds

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like a very good approach, Mr. Minister. One concern I would have -- in those kinds of discussions would the Minister assure representatives of workers that at some point they will have adequate input into that process so that their concerns are well known by whoever is addressing this problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Statements and questions are sometimes difficult to decipher. Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question 10-85(1): Use Of Workers' Compensation Board Funds

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to assure the Member that the workers are represented on the Workers' Compensation Board and I will make sure that they are fully aware of any movements in this area.

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

Question 11-85(1): Status Of Proposed Medical Transient Centre, Yellowknife

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. About a year ago I first raised the question of a medical transient centre for the Kitikmeot Region to be located in Yellowknife. I know that the Minister had other contacts on the same subject since then and I wonder if he could bring us up to date on the status of his negotiations and considerations of the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 11-85(1): Status Of Proposed Medical Transient Centre, Yellowknife

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health of the Northwest Territories has been in negotiations with medical services branch in a preliminary fashion in order to determine how they could help us out with this situation. As Members are aware, the situation in Winnipeg, is that we as a government purchased our own building, and the medical services northern branch pays a daily amount for each of the people who use the facility. We are going to have a similar situation in Montreal where we have purchased a facility and Health and Welfare Canada will be helping us with the operation and maintenance. In that situation they are going to cover our operation and maintenance as a yearly total amount.

So far, we found that the Department of Health and Welfare is fairly flexible as to the formula and amount of money which we require to take care of the people who are in a transient situation because of health services, and we feel that we are going to be able to come to a fairly reasonable agreement with them. What I have done, in particular, with the Kitikmeot is that I have been in contact with a few organizations up there who are interested in offering us operation and maintenance service for such a facility and, also, one group so far, anyway, which has made a proposal to our department to put up a building and lease it to us. We, as a government, are in a situation of having to determine whether we have the funds to actually purchase a building. If not, will we lease it ourselves and will we try to get our money back from Health and Welfare Canada, but that is yet to be determined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 12-85(1): Commitment To Proposed Medical Transient Centre, Yellowknife

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, if I could just follow up on that question that was just asked of the Minister of Social Services. I guess you sort of put it in the frame that there were some things that could be done or that might be done. Could I ask the Minister whether there is a commitment on this government to follow up on that and to actually ensure that there is such a facility in Yellowknife for people of the Kitikmeot?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 12-85(1): Commitment To Proposed Medical Transient Centre, Yellowknife

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are committed to doing something in this area but it is contingent on coming to an agreement with northern medical services branch of Health and Welfare Canada for the O and M funding.

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

Question 13-85(1): International Year Of The Youth

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask this question of Mr. McLaughlin, the Minister responsible for Health and, in this capacity, the Minister responsible for the interdepartmental committee on youth. Now, we are one month into the Year of the Youth, all of us are getting older and are one month farther away from our youth and I wonder if...

AN HON. MEMBER: Speak for yourself.

MR. BALLANTYNE: ...if Mr. McLaughlin could give us an update as to what the committee has done, what recommendations have they made and what can we expect this government to be doing in this International Year of the Youth.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 13-85(1): International Year Of The Youth

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully, during the next 11 months the youth of the NWT will become wiser than the Members, as it is going to be their year to be taken care of by this government and hopefully it will not be something that is just done because it is the Year of the Youth and then after that whatever happens dies. Our plan as a government is to establish some programs for youth to be ongoing. To date what has happened is that there was an interdepartmental committee formed and those are the departments that deal with youth, such as Education, and what has been recommended and accepted by the Executive Council is that an interdepartmental committee should remain as the best vehicle for taking care of youth. In other words, there should not be a ministry of youth or an executive secretariat on youth formed. The Executive Council has also agreed that I should remain, as Minister of Social Services, responsible for the lead role in this. In other words, there will not be a Minister responsible, Mr. Speaker, with a capital "R", for youth.

The other thing is that I have discussed with the federal Minister, Andree Champagne, what her role is and I see mine being very similar to hers. She is not funded with a great amount of money to spend on youth programs this year. She has funds to highlight the fact that it is the Year of the Youth and there are plans for a national youth council and there are also plans for youth parliaments in some of the provinces. Her department is working on things like that.

In the Northwest Territories, we want to come up with a plan for the year which will involve youth in a couple of different ways. One is to form some sort of an organization where youth can be involved in advising this government as to what to do and another thing we want to do is have some sort of a territorial meeting of youth where they can formally present these recommendations to our government. My department will be providing some of the person years and other funds necessary to achieve this and once the Executive Council has approved the exact program I will report back to the House with a Minister's statement, hopefully before the end of this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 13-85(1): International Year Of The Youth

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the same question almost two months ago in finance committee and I got essentially the same answer from the Minister. So, I take it then in the two months all that has been decided is that the committee will carry on. I wonder, how many times has the committee met and does the Minister have any specifics as to what form this advisory group of youth will take? I mean have they really done any work of substance on this up to this point in time?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Further Return To Question 13-85(1): International Year Of The Youth

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, when I spoke in the standing committee on finance I told them what the department and the committee was talking about doing and what has happened since then is the Executive Council at their last meeting had that item on the agenda and approved two of the three recommendations I made. Regarding the one recommendation which proposed some sort of forum of organization of youth in the Northwest Territories, I was requested to go back to my department and also to approach yourself, Mr. Speaker, concerning a motion made earlier by this Assembly about a youth parliament, proposed quite a while ago by a previous session. They want to include that in it. So, I have to go back to my department and the other departments to come back to the Executive with a firm proposal on the exact structure that we are going to agree to to involve youth themselves.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 14-85(1): Upgrading Of DEWline Installations

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question. I am not sure as to whom I should direct it and apologize for no prior information to the Ministers. May I direct the question to the Government Leader? In light of the apparent agreement between the federal government and the United States government concerning new work and upgrading of DEWline defence arrangements, it is now my understanding it has become a 50/50 deal with Canada and the United States to the tune of about \$600 million. Can I have some indication from the Government Leader if this government, that is the Government of the Northwest Territories, has been apprised of any federal plans? If so, what are the extent of these discussions? Can we have some information on it and if not what plans does the government have to get some kind of input?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 14-85(1): Upgrading Of DEWline Installations

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, the only information we have received with regard to the agreement has been through the press. The actual details of the arrangements itself we have not been able to see, but certainly we are interested in ensuring there are business opportunities, construction opportunities for residents of the Northwest Territories and certainly we will be raising those particular concerns in the next week or so through a written communication to the Minister of External Affairs and to the Minister of National Defence.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

Question 15-85(1): Career Opportunities At DEWline Sites

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I think this is an example where we and the government can, or should be involved. The creation of employment opportunities is a major policy thrust of this government and training opportunities should be made available to people of the Territories and access to it. I wonder if I may direct a question to the Minister of Education on the same subject. Has there been any development of particular programs relating to career opportunities for work along the DEWline sites?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 15-85(1): Career Opportunities At DEWline Sites

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, not to date, no, but I think the Member's suggestion is worth while, especially if those significant investments will be made and I will undertake to pass this worth-while suggestion on to my department for investigation and to the board of governors of Thebacha College. Thank you.

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

Question 16-85(1): Representation At First Ministers' Conference, Regina

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question directed to the Government Leader, possibly to the Minister of Finance, quite possibly to the Minister of Economic Development. Apparently there is a First Ministers' Conference on economic issues in Regina, Saskatchewan within the next week or so. Given that there seems to be no restrictions as to who is going to be going there, I wonder if the "First Minister" can indicate to us, is this government to be represented on a proper basis or is the government going to be represented by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Economic Development?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 16-85(1): Representation At First Ministers' Conference, Regina

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, certainly with regard to the First Ministers' Conference, I will be representing this government and this Legislature at the First Ministers' Conference on the economy. We have not to date received, what I consider, to be an appropriate place in the process or the discussion that is going to occur in Regina. I had an opportunity to speak to Mr. Pearson in Whitehorse yesterday and basically we seem to be taking the same position and that is, of course, with support from my Executive Council colleagues, that we did not want to be part of the federal delegation, which was a recommendation made by the Prime Minister. That we should be either observers representing the people and appropriately being recognized as representatives of the people of the NWT and Yukon, as well as being allowed to, at some time, make some representation directly to the conference itself. But that at the moment we have not heard back from the Prime Minister's office. That is our recommendation and that is the same recommendation that the Government of the Yukon is making.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan. Sorry, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 16-85(1): Representation At First Ministers' Conference, Regina

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Just as a supplementary. Did the Minister say that he had made representations so that there could be a direct participation by this government in issues dealing with the economics of the NWT? And if not, perhaps he may use the good offices of other premiers in an attempt to get into this particular show. I recognize, Mr. Speaker, how difficult it is to get the other players to allow you in it, but has there been a direct representation made to the Prime Minister to allow a participation in the debate on the economics of the country?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 16-85(1): Representation At First Ministers' Conference, Regina

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, just to indicate to my honourable colleague, we did communicate when there was an indication that there would be a First Ministers' Conference on the economy last fall indicating that we should be recognized as representatives of the people of the NWT. We also communicated that message to the premiers. Recently we received a communication from the Prime Minister suggesting that we should be part of the federal delegation. Now, that is not acceptable to me and not acceptable to my Executive Council colleagues and we have communicated that to the Prime Minister and also communicated that to all premiers in this country. We have not yet received a reply to the suggestion that we have made which is to be observers at the conference with the ability to speak as we did or make a presentation as we were allowed to at the premiers' conference in Charlottetown this summer. And that is the position we have taken.

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

Question 17-85(1): Outpost Camp Assistance, Albert Bonnetrouge

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Last March I wrote a letter to the Minister regarding Albert Bonnetrouge. Around spring the Minister wrote back to me and he indicated that \$25,000 was being given to Albert Bonnetrouge to construct a kitchen and eating area. And lately, in January, I talked to Albert and to this day he has not seen that money. And the kitchen and the eating area that he was to build was never started. I want to ask the Minister when the kitchen and the eating area are going to be constructed.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 17-85(1): Outpost Camp Assistance, Albert Bonnetrouge

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize for the mix-up in regard to Mr. Bonnetrouge and some of the other camps and applications that have been forwarded from that particular area. In regard particularly to Mr. Bonnetrouge, the Special ARDA committee has approved Mr. Bonnetrouge's application and this is for a snow machine and a chain saw, but this assistance has been put forward by the Fort Providence Band and it is part of a total application.

The Department of Renewable Resources did receive a supply of fish nets in Hay River in November 1984 and some of these nets will be given to Mr. Bonnetrouge by the Renewable Resources office on their next trip to the camp. And I would like to assure that we, the Department of Renewable Resources, will continue to assist Mr. Bonnetrouge in obtaining the necessary funds to improve his camp, for the acquisition of a freezer. I would like to say that the reply I gave was in co-operation with the Department of Social Services and there was \$25,000 given to a camp but unfortunately it was not Mr. Bonnetrouge. But we will attempt to assist him as much as possible now that we have got ourselves straightened out. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Question 18-85(1): Assistance From Social Services, Albert Bonnetrouge

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I think I was misinformed. I told Albert Bonnetrouge and it is just like I lied to him. At this time I want to ask the Minister of Social Services -- I wonder if they can get the money for Albert this year for the kitchen and eating area.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 18-85(1): Assistance From Social Services, Albert Bonnetrouge

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The situation is that the department does help out some of these outpost camps especially ones that have programs involving the youth from the community going out in the summers. And we have several applications before us for this type of assistance and we take the advice of the local band and in this case, the \$25,000 which was mentioned in the letter was to be directed toward the band and what they figured to be the appropriate use of those funds. And that is still the situation and I do not think our department would be in a position to do this for two camps serving one community, because we have so far limited ourselves to basically helping one camp around each community but I will look further in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

Question 19-85(1): Grade 10 In Communities

MR. GARGAN: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct my question to the Minister of Education. Yesterday, Mr. Butters spoke on the budget. In the near future they will have grade 10 in the communities. Even so, speaking about the children going to school, what is on their curriculum? The students, they do not have grades 11 and 12 on the curriculum. Students usually go to school from grade four to eight and then they quit. I wonder what the Minister thinks. I wonder why the Minister suggested that they should go only as far as grade 10 in the communities. It seems like that when the schools are in the communities the students seem to quit school -- are more likely to quit school. I wonder what his decision was in that regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return to Question 19-85(1): Grade 10 In Communities

HON DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly be willing to discuss the matter at more length when my estimates come up for the Department of Education but let me say, first of all, there are a number of communities in the Northwest Territories that are very interested in offering higher grades in their communities -- beyond grade nine. One reason is that many parents, I believe, feel that if their students have to leave school at the tender age of 15 or 16 to go to

high school in another community, it is very difficult for some parents to send their children away at that age. Extending grade 10 in certain communities where it is desired was recommended by the Ninth Legislative Assembly in its deliberations on the report of the special committee on education and it would only be done in a community that wished the grade 10 to be offered.

I should also just mention that we are not going to be able to offer grade 10 in a great number of community schools in the coming year. It would be a limited number and, as I say, it would only be available in communities which clearly are prepared to have that level of support. I am also deeply concerned about the drop-out problem but I feel that in some communities it may be ameliorated if students have an opportunity to go a little further in their home community with their education before having to leave home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 20-85(1): Arctic Air Facilities Policy

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Local Government, in regard to the construction of, and also maintenance of new airports. I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether there has been any discussion or agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Ministry of Transport in regard to the new arctic air facilities policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 20-85(1): Arctic Air Facilities Policy

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Thank you. I gave him a reply before Christmas, he wrote them a letter -- he wrote me a letter back and said you were looking at things for the airport and in the near future we will let you know what we have decided to do. That is about all I know at this time. Just lately Richard Nerysoo went to Ottawa and he met that person, maybe Mr. Nerysoo can fill you in on what he had to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 20-85(1): Arctic Air Facilities Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In support of my colleague, I did have the opportunity to raise that particular issue on the policies for B and C airports and he is in the present process of reviewing that. I must say that we have received support from the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs which indicated his support for the Minister of Transport in getting on with trying to implement that particular policy in the North again but we did have an opportunity to speak to him and to raise it as an item of importance to us and he is in the process of reviewing that particular policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 21-85(1): GNWT Matching Donations

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question toward the Government Leader. In the fall there was, in the Eastern Arctic, an outpouring of sympathy and donations for Ethiopia and at that time -- I want to check it because I am not quite sure you read the press any more -- I believe there was a commitment made by this government to match donations made to Ethiopia and I think through Oxfam and perhaps one other legitimate relief organization. I wonder if the Government Leader could explain the mechanism for people who want the government to fulfil that commitment. Do they send receipts to the Government Leader's office? What organizations will be acceptable? Give me a little information on exactly the mechanics of that commitment.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I will take that as notice and reply in the written response.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Mr. Richard.

Question 22-85(1): Additional School Facilities, Yellowknife

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Minister of Education and it concerns the increase in the enrolment figures for schools in Yellowknife. The overcrowding caused by the increased enrolment. In recent months, Mr. Speaker, our own Member of Parliament has encouraged all of us to have more children so this problem is not going to go away.

---Laughter

The Minister, Mr. Speaker, when this was raised at the last session did kindly indicate that he would have his department prepare a report on this situation and subsequently the Minister kindly confirmed to the school boards in Yellowknife that he was having his deputy prepare an assessment of department facilities, the enrolment forecasts and future facility needs and indicated that he hoped to have that report or that assessment sometime in December. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister could advise whether the report is available and whether, if so, it has resulted in the Minister making plans to move up the proposed new facilities to an earlier date?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 22-85(1): Additional School Facilities, Yellowknife

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the work the Member refers to has been done. We have worked with the school boards to develop a proposal which will meet this urgent situation in the near future in this community and I expect to have a decision from my colleagues about precisely how much money can be diverted to these needs in the near future. The matter is now before the Financial Management Board and I expect it to be resolved probably before the end of this session and I will report the resolution as soon as it has been determined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 23-85(1): Wildlife Officer, Snowdrift

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I would like to question the Minister of Renewable Resources. The people in Snowdrift would like to see the Renewable Resources officer there on a more permanent basis. The officer only goes to Snowdrift about four times a year. Would it be possible for the Renewable Resources officer to travel there more often? Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker. In order to be definite, I will take the question on advisement and provide a written response.

Question 24-85(1): NWT Participation In Royal Commission On Sealing

MR. BALLANTYNE: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Renewable Resources concerning the Royal Commission on Sealing. I think in the fall there was some discussion and Ms Cournoyea was going to pursue participation of the Northwest Territories in the process and also the possibility of the commission coming north and I wonder maybe she could give us an update. If she is not prepared now, then sometime during this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 24-85(1): NWT Participation In Royal Commission On Sealing

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, our relationship with the Royal Commission on Sealing is very positive and we are working with the communities' hunters and trappers in the sealing areas to get them to the hearings which will be in Pangnirtung and Holman Island. We were successful in convincing Judge Malouf that there should be two places in the Arctic. I do intend to provide a Minister's statement on the details of what is happening to date.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Oral questions. Mr. Pedersen.

Question 25-85(1): Allocation Of Housing Units

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. During December the Minister indicated to me and to other MLAs that he would be able to provide us with information about the allocation of home-ownership or HAP houses within our respective constituencies. He indicated he would have this for us in approximately two weeks. I have not received it yet. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to me when I and others might receive this information.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 25-85(1): Allocation Of Housing Units

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the Member. I was under the impression that the information had been provided. As far as I know, the information was sent out yesterday to the special committee and to Mr. Pedersen. If he has not received it I will have it by this afternoon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today. Mrs. Lawrence, did you have an oral question? Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 26-85(1): Housing For Snowdrift

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Housing. In Snowdrift they would like a total of 23 houses. When was the last time there was a house built there? I am not talking about their own houses.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question under advisement and provide a written reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

Question 27-85(1): Ferry Contract And Training

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) This coming spring tendering is going to be out for the operation of the Merv Hardie. You are going to be awarding another contract for the operation of the ferry and I wonder if -- you wrote a letter to Michael McLeod last year. He said he would be able to assist anybody who wants to train on the job on the ferry and I would like to ask at this time, with the renewal of the contract this spring, I wonder if they can have local people work on the ferry?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 27-85(1): Ferry Contract And Training

HON. GORDON WRAY: It is not up to me decide who works on the ferry. That is the contractor's decision who works on the ferry. If in fact there are some local people who wish to work and need training and the contractor is willing to provide them with those opportunities, then, yes, I think through myself and the Minister of Education we would be willing to take a look at it. Other than that, all I can say is that until we know who the new contractor is there is really not much we can do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 27-85(1): Ferry Contract And Training

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Can the Minister make a precondition to hire local labourers?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 27-85(1): Ferry Contract And Training

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, no, I cannot. Operation of the ferry and the skills required are governed by coastguard regulations and I cannot make any preconditions. Sorry.

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

Question 28-85(1): User-Pay Policy, Public Housing

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is for the Hon. Gordon Wray, Minister of Housing. I wrote a letter to the Minister on January 21, with regard to the user-pay policy for power paid by tenants in public housing. Is this policy still in existence? Has it been implemented in other communities? If not, which communities are affected by this user-pay policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 28-85(1): User-Pay Policy, Public Housing

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, yes, the policy still is in effect. Many of the communities in the Mackenzie Valley and some in the High Arctic are on the program. The program has been temporarily stopped because of opposition by NCPC to the split billing system and also because of concerns that were raised in this House. However, I will be making a statement on user-pay when I present the Housing Corporation's budget. But for the time being it has been stopped and we are trying to reach negotiations with NCPC on our way to get around their problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request the Minister to provide me with a list of the communities that are affected by this user-pay policy.

Question 29-85(1): Criteria For Housing Allocation

My other question is with regard to the allocation of moneys to the communities for housing. If it is based on a needs base, what are the criteria used to determine who gets which housing in which communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 29-85(1): Criteria For Housing Allocation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Essentially the criteria used for allocation of money to housing associations are based on the number of houses which that community has. The communities with more housing get more money. It is as simple as that. It is not complicated but it is based simply on the number of housing units in each community owned by the Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 29-85(1): Criteria For Housing Allocation

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In other words, what I am hearing from the Minister is that the people who have more houses will get more houses even though they do not need it -- that sort of thing. I do not know whether I am getting it right or not but if that is the criteria then you are saying that where there is more public housing they are going to be getting more. The requirements are going to be more. I would like to ask the Minister again -- a concise description of the guidelines and procedures used to determine the allocation of funds for housing in communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 29-85(1): Criteria For Housing Allocation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try again and maybe the Member can listen this time. Allocation of funds is based on need. Now, I do not know what he is talking about when he says that those with more public housing get more public housing. I do not quite understand and I do not think anybody else does. But very simply, allocation of funds is based on need. It is as simple as that. It is not complicated.

Now, if he is talking of allocation of houses, it is also based on need, based on population. It is based on the condition of the housing in the community. It is based on waiting lists. It is based on a number of factors. But essentially it all boils down to, it is based on need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 30-85(1): Bison Hunting, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I believe at present it is illegal to be hunting bison in the sanctuary near Fort Providence. I would like to ask the Minister if she has any plans in the near future to legalize hunting in the sanctuary.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Renewable Resources, on all the requests they get, have a lot of plans. I would like to take this under advisement and present you with a clear concise answer on where we are going with that program and your request which you brought to my attention some time ago. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Oral questions. It seems like there are several oral questions today. We will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

Order please. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 31-85(1): Community Residential Facility, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. Last spring I presented a petition to this government with regard to the community residential facility being placed in Fort Providence. I would like to ask the Minister what is the progress of it, if any?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 31-85(1): Community Residential Facility, Fort Providence

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The concept of the Department of Social Services constructing and operating a child care facility in any community or all communities would be definitely a new program of the government with new funds which we do not have at the present time. Presently the only funds that our government has available are to subsidize the costs of day care for those people who cannot afford to pay for it, but require the service in order to keep themselves employed. Our department might, if there was a program started in the community, be able to subsidize individual people who use the service to help pay for the cost of it, like we do in Yellowknife, but for us to be involved in the construction or operation of child care facilities in any community is something right now beyond what we have as a program or funding for. The idea that this could be tied in with the Young Offenders Act in a facility in a community is something that may be possible in the future, where we may find that group homes may be necessary in some of the smaller communities in order to accommodate the young offenders situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today.

Item 5, written questions. Item 6, returns. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Further Return To Question 4-85(1): Transportation Of Inmate For Compassionate Reasons

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two returns. Mr. Pudluk is not in the House so I will delay that one momentarily. I would like to get immediately back to Mr. Arlooktoo's question concerning a prisoner being able to go to Cape Dorset for a funeral. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the funeral was held on Wednesday, according to the information I received. I have also been advised by my department that regarding the prisoner in question, the offences which he has committed and the individual personal problems he has himself, the department has advised me and I concur, that in a situation with a prisoner like that we would not want to give him compassionate leave. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns?

MR. PUDLUK: What about me? I am here.

Return To Question 2-85(1): Social Worker For Resolute Bay

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This concerns the question asked by Mr. Pudluk on February 7th, Question 2-85(1) concerning a social worker for Resolute Bay. Mr. Lawrence Holt and family have been in Frobisher Bay since January 19th and he is scheduled to fly to Resolute Bay on Tuesday, February 19th. Mr. Holt is a new employee and is attending staff training sessions and familiarizing himself with the requirements of his new position.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 7-85(1), Workers' Compensation Board Administration and General Expense Budget. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills. Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 14: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 3-85(1): Workers' Compensation Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that Bill 3-85(1), An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Workers' Compensation Act in order to increase the years maximum assessable remuneration from \$26,400 to \$30,400. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

The bill has had second reading. Second reading of bills. That was Bill 3-85(1) has had second reading. Are there any further bills ready for second reading today?

Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 7-85(1), the Appropriation Act, 1985-86, with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 7-85(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985-86

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will now come to order. Mr. Minister, would you like to invite your witnesses before the committee?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to invite my witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses for the record, please?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, my guests are the deputy minister of the Executive and deputy secretary of the Executive, Dick Abernethy.

Department Of The Executive

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We are dealing with the Department of the Executive. I understand we are now dealing with the Commissioner's Office, page 2.3. General comments. Correction, we are on general comments for the whole Department of the Executive. General comments. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just have a general question, I think it bears some relation to the Commissioner's Office, that is on page 2.3. But I have to refer to an ordinance that will be before us this particular session in relation to it. Since the Commissioner has the sole executive authority for the Government of the Northwest Territories subject only to instructions that he is given from time to time by the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development -- DIAND, NIAN and NINA, whatever it is called now -- or the Governor in Council. I just have a question in relation to that and I have to refer to the new Interpretation Act that will be before us. It is my understanding that the Interpretation Ordinance, one of the amendments to it is in reference to the word "Council". The Interpretation Ordinance is amended by indicating that wherever the word "Council", when it is used to mean the Legislative Assembly, appears in any act or regulation, the expression "Legislative Assembly" is substituted for the word "Council".

I think that is very commendable and it is something that I would like to see put in as a grandfather clause for all of those acts that we now have and I would hope that when the Minister, in his responsibility for his other department, that is the Department of Justice and Public Services, brings forth new legislation that the words "Legislative Assembly" will be there. I can agree with the word "Council" being substituted and that may be a long way around to the question I want to pose, Mr. Chairman, but I recall very well having received directions from the federal government some time ago that that term was not to be used in reference to the Council of the Northwest Territories, nor were any of the personnel of the Government of the Northwest Territories to use that term, "Legislative Assembly", nor, in fact, refer to Members of the Executive as Ministers. In point of fact, or as an aside, I still retain a copy of that letter and the direction from the then Minister of the federal cabinet.

So, my question, then, Mr. Chairman, is does the Minister know whether, in fact, that is now the approach of the federal government, that we are indeed to be recognized in law as an Assembly, not as a Council? Does the Minister know whether, in fact, the Commissioner has had any further direction of such by the federal Minister, or from federal Minister via communication, that we, as a government, or you as a government, we as ordinary MLAs, can now refer to ourselves as Members of a Legislative Assembly and that it is to be followed that Legislative Assembly will be in the new pieces of legislation? Can the Minister indicate to me whether the Commissioner has heard anything on that?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: It is too bad that the honourable Member would ask such a specific question related to the Executive Council Secretariat or the Ministers' Offices. I think that would have been a most appropriate place to ask the question...

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege. We are talking about the Executive, the Department of the Executive...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. McCallum, point of order or privilege.

MR. McCALLUM: Privilege.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): What is your point?

MR. McCALLUM: The point is, we are talking about the Department of the Executive of which one part is the Commissioner's Office and in the paragraph dealing with the Commissioner's Office it says that the Commissioner has the sole executive authority, subject to instruction from the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. I ask the question whether the Minister knows whether the Commissioner has heard anything from the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs on the use on the term "Legislative Assembly". I think it is the most appropriate place to ask for it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We are still under general comments and we are dealing with the whole...

MR. McCALLUM: It is a general comment for the Department of the Executive.

Chairman's Ruling

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): ...the total Department of the Executive, so it really is in order to make any comments that Members may wish to make in regard to the total department so Mr. McCallum is correct. Anyway, does the Minister wish to reply to the question that was raised by Mr. McCallum?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I do not challenge your decision but I believe that it is a question primarily associated to the Commissioner's Office in asking whether a specific question has been asked of the Commissioner himself. I guess the question I have to you is probably something that should be clarified: What are general comments with regard to the Executive? The question that was asked was very specific to the Commissioner and the duties of the Commissioner and the responsibilities and the instruction that would be given to the Commissioner, however, I will respond to it but I think it is something you should clarify. There have been no particular instructions that have been given or to my knowledge that have been given...

MR. McCALLUM: That is what I asked, if you knew of any.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Any further general comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Government Leader about the Executive Council. In the finance committee there was some confusion, a little bit of misunderstanding on exactly how the Executive Council functions and maybe just for everybody's education, could the Minister explain the process whereby Ministers come to the Executive Council for approval of a certain policy? What areas do Ministers actually have the line responsibility to make decisions on their own? Just a general description for everybody, just exactly the role of the Executive Council and roles of individual Ministers and where those two functions differ.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I had intended to make some very precise comments with regard to that later on in the session, indicating some of the directions, as I said earlier, that would be taken and also some of the arrangements that have been made by the Executive Council itself in the working relationships that we have with one another.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is fine. I was not aware but I thought it would be a more specific, priorities sort of paper, but if in that discussion there will be the relationships between the Executive Council Ministers, between the central agencies, then I will wait to ask questions at that time.

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

Reporting Relationships Political And Administrative

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Very quickly, I think all we have to do is go to the organizational chart to show that there is a process that is being used; who reports to what area. Now, there is an intention on my part, and I said this yesterday, to restructure in that organizational chart, the way in which reporting relationships are identified in that particular structure. That is what I indicated yesterday. I intend to do that because there are two elements in my opinion.

One, dealing with the administration as an Executive Council. The other, dealing with the political side and political relationships that the Government Leader has to Members of the Legislative Assembly, to his Ministers and, as well, the responsibilities that each Minister has, as have been identified under the Executive -- such things as energy, mines and resources, the Status of Women Secretariat and Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. That would be clarified in an appropriate statement because since the budget document was developed and sent to the printers, we have had an opportunity to work through some of the design and the reporting relationships of people within the Executive Council. I certainly have no problems in coming back to the Legislative Assembly and indicating what that reporting relationship is because I think it is important that Members of the Legislature know what the structure and the reporting relationships will be, so that they know who will be involved in the political side and who will be involved in the administrative side so there is no confusion. So, that is what I intend to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand that we will be getting a look at and I do not know the level of detail in the paper or document that will be put forward by the Leader, but I guess the question I am asking is how does it work right now? That is, what independence of action does a Minister have at this present time? At what point does a Minister have to come to the Executive Council for approval of an action? Does every action of a Minister have to be approved or are there certain initiatives that a Minister can take now, and I agree, will deal with improvements to the system but I think a lot of people are a little bit unclear about how the process works or is supposed to work right now?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I certainly am not unclear about how the process works. Maybe the honourable Member does not have a knowledge of the process, but I do say and I indicate to the honourable Member that that is in fact what I intend to do; to make very clear the relationship of Ministers to the Government Leader, the relationship of Members of the Legislature to the Government Leader and to the Executive Council, what kind of reporting relationships each section in this particular Executive has since we put this budget together. There are structural changes and it is important that I come back to the Legislative Assembly to indicate what those structural changes are, because I think if we clarify the roles, then there will be no confusion. I think that that has been the problem. We have not come back in the past and clarified what that role really was, including our relationship between, as I said, the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne, general comments.

MR. BALLANTYNE: That is an interesting aspect of it. I see the government clarifying their roles and I expect that as far as the relationship or the role of the Legislative Assembly, there would be room for some discussion from Members of the Assembly as to what their role is in consensus government. Because there is a problem as I see it, when one uses a southern model. Because a party system is used in the South, and the role of government and the role of the Legislative Assembly if brought directly from the South, we miss a very fundamental difference between our Assembly and theirs. So, I hope that that will be taken into consideration, the role of Executive and Legislative Assembly in a consensus government. But I have no problem with waiting until this document comes out and we can discuss it in more detail.

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

Establishment Of Lieutenant-Governor In Council

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question of a general nature as a follow-up to Mr. McCallum's question. In the Bill 1-85(1), which we have a copy of, there is a reference to the definition of "act", meaning an ordinance passed pursuant to the NWT Act or by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council or by this Legislative Assembly. And Bill 5-85(1) I presume is going to be a new Legislative Assembly Act but we do not have a copy of that yet and I am not sure if the Lieutenant-Governor in Council is referred to in that proposed bill. But I am wondering, in conjunction with Mr. McCallum's question, if the Government Leader could indicate whether -- I am not sure what the response was to Mr. McCallum's question, whether is there any blessing by the federal Minister, the federal government, that has now been given, that we are to be permitted to call ourselves a Legislative Assembly. More particularly, has the federal Minister or the federal government given its blessing to the establishment of a Lieutenant-Governor in Council? Does that mean that the Office of the Commissioner will in the near future be done away with?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I would have hoped that we would have been given the opportunity to speak on the legislation at the appropriate time but the whole question of the -- I guess if you want to deal with the bill itself and maybe that is what I should deal with, not the Executive budget.

With regard to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, this is to cover the historical aspect when legislation was passed by a lieutenant-governor. If you go back to the late 1800s and the early 1900s, we had in one case an independent lieutenant-governor who was responsible for the NWT and secondly, the lieutenant-governor of Manitoba who had the responsibility to deal with approval of legislation for the NWT. Now, that is to cover that situation. The other thing is, there is no question in my mind, that we all see a time in which there is no Commissioner, that we do have a lieutenant-governor that will in fact be a replacement for the role now carried out by the Commissioner. But at present without an amendment to the NWT Act, we could not make that particular change unless we asked for an amendment to the NWT Act. With regard to the question of "Legislature", no, the federal government has not sanctioned that name and certainly if we waited for the federal government and with that role that probably provinces play, we are going to have to wait a long, long time. I think that is a matter of initiative.

With regard to the word "act", again it is a matter of initiative. We are the only jurisdiction in this country that is not using the two words; neither "Legislative Assembly" nor the word "act". Even the Yukon has amended their legislation to reflect the use of the words Legislative Assembly and also calling bills acts of the Legislative Assembly. It is really an initiative on the part of the Executive Council to proceed to assume that particular designation or title. I guess the matter is, we cannot convince the federal government whether or not they are going to live with it but I believe we can live with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Leader's comments that his government is taking the initiative in these matters and I also thank him for clarifying that the reference to Lieutenant-Governor in Council is historic -- Lieutenant-Governor in Council, not something that is so bold in the next few years. I appreciate that explanation.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I wish we could be so bold as to proceed to that level.

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

Level Of Participation At Conferences

MR. BALLANTYNE: Something that came up in the question period this morning and maybe this is a good time to talk about the role of the NWT government vis-a-vis the provinces. In the upcoming First Ministers' Conference we were making some progress in this area but the Leader was saying there are some problems now. As I understand it, we could be almost back to the days when we were part of the federal delegation and I understand that and concur with the Leader's concern about this. Did the Leader have a chance to talk to Mr. Crombie about that and has he given any sort of positive support for the NWT sitting as their own delegation as observers, rather than being part of the federal delegation?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: We have not had the opportunity to discuss the item specifically with the Minister of Indian Affairs. He has in the past supported the constitutional evolution and certainly from the speech he gave he supported that. I believe that there was strong support in the Government of Canada for our participation. What seems to be the problem was not necessarily the federal government; it is the provinces. In particular, two provinces, Quebec and Ontario. Those are the two provinces that have opposed our participation on the same level or at least at the level of being observers who could make representation to the First Ministers' Conference on the economy. It is not the federal government that has opposed it; it has been two particular provincial governments.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I thank the Leader for clarifying that. If we look five or 10 years down the road -- and we are looking at potential provincial status for Nunavut and a Western Arctic -- does the Leader -- or is it too early to tell -- does the Leader see this opposition at this point in time, two major provinces, as being a potential hindrance five years down the line for the potential of Nunavut and a Western Arctic being provinces? Again, it may be too early to do this, but has any thought been given to starting that process of lobbying the provinces for that support down the line?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, certainly we have looked at the idea of beginning to lobby now. We have had opportunities in the past to participate with the provincial premiers in conferences. We have had an opportunity to meet with a number of Ministers of particular responsibility. I think that the lobby itself should occur at that level as well, the ministerial level. I believe that key to whether or not we will probably become successful is really what happens with regard to the Yukon. It will be interesting to really find out from the Yukon government their historical experience with regard to lobbying the idea of becoming a province and also what might be the obstacles they see. I think that there is no question that we will continue to lobby. I think that, as I indicated earlier, because of the structural change that we are going to propose or at least put forward as the Executive Council, you will see that there is an element that will deal with those types of relations of developing either a lobby with the provincial premiers and also a lobby, I believe, to the general public of Canada. As much as we can seek the approval of the premiers, the success of this, the Northwest Territories, or Nunavut and the western territory and the Yukon becoming provinces, really will stem from the public support across this country. Premiers will be influenced by that public pressure or public support.

So, I think that we have got to do it at a number of levels. When we went to deal with the whole issue of the constitution, we dealt directly with the political leaders but at the same time we raised public support for the position that we were taking. In that sense it is not a matter of only the Executive Council taking that responsibility, it is all Members of the Legislature that have to play a role in gaining that support on either a political or a public level. But we have to be sure that we will address the concerns and recognize those issues and rights that are required to be protected in any kind of constitutional evolution of the Northwest Territories. If that is the case, that the key happens to be whether or not we have the support of the people of the Northwest Territories to proceed further, if you have that support then we go on seeking that support throughout the country, but I think that that is where we begin.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Again, I thank Mr. Nerysoo. I think the approach is the proper one. One suggestion, once we do have a consensus in the Territories about division what I would like to see is the Ministers of this government speaking across the country at gatherings of businessmen and chambers of commerce and making that point across the country because I think you are right, it is key to get the support and sympathy of the Canadian people for whatever we decide we want to do. I wonder if I could go on a follow-up to my question about the upcoming conference. Has there been any decision made as to the status of our government in the April constitutional conference on aboriginal rights? Will we have full status at that one, or is that in doubt at this point in time?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, in response to the honourable Member, I do not believe there is any doubt about our participation as equal to those other premiers and the organizations that have been invited previously. There has been nothing to date that has said we are not and in fact the invitations that I know of certainly indicate that we are going to be considered within the same context. The agenda has been agreed to and nothing has changed. We participated at the last Justice Ministers' conference and Ministers responsible for aboriginal rights at the same level so there was no renegeing on that particular participation.

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

Position Of Item On Agenda

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was distracted a little earlier and I may have missed a comment, perhaps the Minister alluded to it, but just following up on some of the discussion about constitutional change and eventual provincial status, I am aware that this government has as an item on the agenda at the constitutional conference on aboriginal rights, the repeal of sections 42(1)(e) and (f). But I know that when that matter first arose a few years ago, the government was determined to try to take whatever steps possible to have that reversed and just having an item sitting on the agenda and at the bottom of the agenda, I think, is perhaps not sufficient. What I am asking is, has this government an ongoing program of lobbying or whatever, persuasion, development of position papers to try to ensure that at the appropriate time sufficient provinces will see the importance of what we are saying in that regard and be amenable to a change in the constitution.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly we would have hoped that the process that was leading up to the First Ministers' Conference would create that understanding that it was important for us to make the appropriate amendments to the constitution with regard to sections 42(1)(e) and (f). Unfortunately, there seems to be an unwillingness, I guess, to proceed and to seek some kind of solution to even those items that are at the top of the agenda and that makes it somewhat more difficult. The position that we have held with regard to the amendment to the constitution is the position that we took about a year ago. We sought approval of this House to continue the position we had previously and have not withdrawn from that position. We continue to raise the concern at Ministers' conferences. Whenever we have had an opportunity to meet with other leaders, we have raised the issue again but it is very difficult to bring it up as an agenda item, even for discussion -- if you do not even get through the first item -- to say, "Let's discuss the item of importance to us." We cannot get past equality. That is difficult -- it is not difficult for us to deal with but we just find it very, very difficult and everyone seems to be coming with a different agenda item to deal with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Positive Program On Importance Of Amendments

MR. MacQUARRIE: In these matters provincial governments, I guess, ultimately will reflect the opinions of their populations, or they ought to anyway. What I seem to hear you saying is that there is no allocation of resources by this government for a positive program to enlighten people in the South as to the importance of those amendments, for us to have ongoing contact with government officials and MLAs in other jurisdictions and so on, to continually put that position and to make the whole of the population of Canada aware of that. I think that is important but there does not seem to be a program. Could the Minister comment on that?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, under the Executive Council Secretariat, in that particular working group in fact there was; to develop some direction, to provide guidance and research that would be necessary for us to deal with those types of issues: the First Ministers' Conference with regard to aboriginal rights, the whole question of the constitution, the issues that we thought were necessary to raise in southern Canada and, as well, develop strategies as to how we would approach those kinds of...

MR. MacQUARRIE: So that is part of what they will do.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Okay.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong it but I just want to indicate to the Minister -- the Government Leader in this instance, because I think it is something that all Members are concerned with -- that I sensed in a reply to the question that I posed first, a little bit of criticism because we were -- it seemed that we were trying to criticize the move. Well, let me put the Member at ease, I was not attempting to do anything of the sort. What I was attempting to do was to pass an accolade or kudos to him because I acknowledge and approve the initiative of the government in the use of those two terms. I recognize the historical perspective, which is why I said that I do not have any difficulty now in saying that I retain such a document. I think that this is something that occurs. All I was attempting to do, notwithstanding the historical part of it, but going back to the original NWT -- but hoping that from now on that we would be using the term "Legislative Assembly". All I was trying to determine is whether he had heard anything to the contrary, whether he had been directed that they will not -- and to paraphrase the words of another Member of this Assembly who says that you do not just get responsible government passed to you, you seize the opportunity to try to do something, notwithstanding the present constitution.

So, I think it is something that I personally, over the years, would, and I am sure he would recognize, and have been attempting to do as well. I would prefer to see our legislation, as it is being developed by the Executive, comes under the terminology "act" but if we cannot get that, then certainly the use of the term "Legislative Assembly" and our own terminology as "Members of the Legislative Assembly" is a step forward and a bold one. I applaud the initiative of the government in so doing. I think that this is the kind of thing that should occur and it is a concern of every Member of this House, given the kinds of things that the Minister of Indian Affairs indicated to us on Wednesday.

In relation to the business of attendance at First Ministers' Conferences, it is my understanding that it is still within the constitution that the Government of the Northwest Territories will be asked or will participate at First Ministers' Conferences at the Prime Minister's discretion. Now, obviously, in terms of the First Ministers' Conference on economy, it is the Prime Minister's discretion that we do not take part, given what the Minister indicated in response earlier this morning to the question. I hope that is not the way that things will occur in future. That we will only be there at the discretion and I, along with Mr. MacQuarrie, hope that you will continue to make sure that it will change. If there is supposed to be a new a wonderful appreciation by the present federal government of the initiatives of this government and the people of the Northwest Territories as indicated to us by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs on Wednesday, then you should seize on the opportunity to do so and, I think, that is what we are trying to say in this particular corner -- not cast any aspersions on the initiative on the government in so doing.

I am sure, and I do not want to speak for any other Members in this corner or other Members of this Assembly, but it would seem to me that that is the kind of thing that you will get a great deal of support for. I do not understand and you may correct me if I am wrong, but I sense that we talking about something or asking a question of something that you thought we were taking offence at. That is not the case at all. We were trying to applaud the initiative and wanted to know where we stood in relation to the federal Minister since the Commissioner is still, by law, the Chief Executive, the sole executive authority of the Government of the Northwest Territories. That is all we were attempting to do -- or I was.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. McCallum, for the clarification. General comments. Does the Minister want to respond? Mr. Minister.

Legislative Assembly Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, just to express my appreciation to the Members for their whole-hearted support for the initiatives that we have taken and, certainly, it was not my intention to create the impression that there was that opposition. However, I would say that with regard to the Legislative Assembly itself, there will be legislation, an act that is presented to this House after discussion with my Legislative Assembly Members -- with the caucus, as to the approach that we will be taking in presenting that particular bill.

Also with regard to assuring that in future that the words "Legislative Assembly" will be used in all our bills, will be used in all our legislation, clause 12(32) says that there is a preamble that will be used that says "the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly enacts as follows". That will be the preamble that we will use in all legislation which will recognize the existence of this House as a Legislative Assembly and, also, we will be proceeding with a bill that recognizes formally, the existence of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. So, that there is no confusion and certainly, as I indicated, it was not my intent to create the impression that you might have been in opposition but, certainly, there is no question that there is a need to answer the questions and to clarify to the general public of the Northwest Territories exactly which direction we as a government intend to go with the support, no doubt, of the Members of the Legislature. And make the appropriate changes where it is necessary.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Maybe a final word to cut this part and get on to others. When it comes time to look at that bill dealing with clause 12, I would be more than pleased to change the "may" to "shall".

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: We concur with Mr. McCallum, with his comments, but that Mr. McCallum doesn't decide when we are going to cut this short -- everything else we can agree with there.

---Laughter

MR. McCALLUM: You do all the time. You tried it yesterday.

MR. BALLANTYNE: If I could go back to a follow-up question on the constitutional conference on aboriginal rights. The GNWT had a position at the last constitutional conference and, I for one, think that the Leader and Mr. Lal and his staff were quite effective at that conference. Even though not a lot was accomplished, it was not because of us. But will we be going forward with the same basic position at the next conferences as we had at the last conference?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: At the moment we have not changed our position. We believe that that is the position we should continue to proceed with. However, since the conference is not being held until April 2 and 3, I would like to have an opportunity to come back to this Assembly to review again the position that we took to the First Ministers' Conference and to have a discussion in this Legislature as to the approach that we would take to the First Ministers' Conference. Either it may be a short discussion confirming the position that we had taken and supporting the positions we have presented to the First Ministers' Conference on aboriginal rights or that we may in fact recommend a different strategy as to the approach we take. But I would like, no doubt, to come back to the Legislative Assembly to present that position again because I think it is a position that is going to have to be presented to ministerial meetings, officials meetings if they are held and also private meetings with other Ministers in this country so that we might be able to discuss our approach with them.

Understanding Of Jurisdictional Concerns

One of the problems I believe and I indicated this to the Ministers in this country at the last meeting that we held, was that there had never been a meeting of Ministers away from the native organizations to discuss what concepts each jurisdiction had. There had been none. The meetings we held were in the situation where we were not compromising, that we were confronting one another, we were creating differences of opinion because we came with differences of opinion without any understanding at all of certain particular positions. And I think that that in itself has to be dealt with and we raised that particular concern so that we could at some time try to have a ministerial conference or meeting just to address some of the concerns that we had at those types of conferences. Because I think that that has not happened and I think it is important that it does happen.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall correctly, I think that Mr. Nerysoo made a suggestion at the last conference that perhaps the agenda should be more limited and that there are a few key areas, now, that the Ministers' and the aboriginal groups should look at, instead of trying to do everything at one time. Has that concept been brought forward and is there a possibility that that concept will be accepted this time?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Certainly that was a suggestion I made and I believe that that is the only way we can resolve some of the issues, because we have items, in my opinion, which could be very lengthy in resolving. The other thing that I think is necessary to note is that some of the issues that are part of the agenda overlap, in the sense of discussion items. The question of self-government could include lands and resources. It could include the rights of the constitutions of those types of self-governments. It could include equal rights for both men and women. What I am saying is it is a vague issue but when you address them on an individual basis without looking at how they might fit together, there did not seem to be any direction as to the approach that we were taking. Now, I still believe it is necessary to do that; to address one item, deal with it until it is complete and then address the other items. You could fit within the question of self-government the question of lands, the authority over lands.

Those are ideas that I have. It is not necessarily ideas, it has not necessarily received the support of the Executive Council but I think that it is important that we raise and try to bring together some focus because there is no focus at the moment. Like I said, I believe the whole question of equality is a very simple thing to deal with, yet we have made it in the conference a very complicated issue because we have either not done the research or brought forward suggestions as to how we might approach the question of equality. We have not brought forward suggestions as to how sections 42(1)(e) and (f) could be dealt with. That sort of thing I think is something that we have to address.

Confrontation Not Compromise At Conferences

The other thing is that I am not really sure how committed people are in dealing with sections 42(1)(e) and (f) anymore. I am not totally sure of that. We want to deal with it but I am not sure if the native organizations want to deal with it. I am not sure if the Government of Canada wants to deal with it. I am not sure if the provincial premiers want to deal with it. But we certainly are going to press that it be dealt with and those other issues. And we still support the idea that there can be an amendment to the constitution. Even one that deals with the question of equality ought to at some time be addressed. And that is the position that we have held so far. But with the way in which it works, I just say that I am not as optimistic about the idea of change to the constitution, if we continue the direction that we have established and continue the working relationships that we have. Because all it is, is a time to confront one another not to come to any compromise, not to come to any conclusions and I am not interested. I do not think people should be interested in personal conflicts when such important things such as an amendment to the constitution, the question of rights of people are being dealt with.

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

Tripartite Discussions On Aboriginal Self-Government

MR. MACQUARRIE: I believe in December the federal Minister of Justice, Mr. Crosbie, tabled at one of the preliminary meetings -- as I understand it anyway, I am not privy to that information -- but I know on the radio he did indicate a commitment to aboriginal self-government and I believe tabled a paper that outlined a possible process for bringing about tripartite discussions, federal-provincial governments and presumably the territorial governments, if that applied here and aboriginal organizations. Can I ask whether the Executive Council has discussed that and what is its reaction? Is it going to be supportive of that kind of initiative at the conference?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Just to indicate that, strangely enough, if you read our past document that the tripartite arrangement and discussions were in fact one of the recommendations that we made. It has taken some two years for people to finally understand that that might be the way to come to some conclusions, some agreement. The other issue is that is possibly the best way that people can

come to an arrangement that is satisfactory either to the provinces or to the aboriginal people within their jurisdictions and we have not opposed that suggestion. We have not, of course, as an Executive taken a position on it but certainly all we have to do is read our position paper before. We certainly have supported that type of process. It would not be too difficult for us not to review that document in our discussion here with regard to our approach to the First Ministers' Conference, to review that document in conjunction with the position paper that we have, and now are using and we might be able to in fact at least agree to that process and maybe the organizations will be prepared to do that. As I said, I will be prepared to bring them back here and seek some direction from the Members here, as well as my Executive Council colleagues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, a couple of points. I think it is really important, even though the provinces may not be interested in discussing sections 42(1)(e) and (f), that we keep pushing that one as we may never get the constitution changed but to make our point known, so that at some time in the future you do not have a bilateral agreement with the provinces and the federal government when they get fed up with us one day and they all extend their boundaries northwards. So, I think it is important that we maintain this position at all times.

But, the other question is, as we are on the threshold now of potentially major constitutional changes in the Northwest Territories and, as I understand it, our government is supporting native self-government at the constitutional conferences, and also as I understand it, there is a tacit understanding that we may decide not to use that concept here in the North, we are looking at innovative ways of dealing with the situation. I wonder, first of all, are all the provincial governments aware of that, that we are looking at political development differently in the North? Do we have the support of the native groups, that in return for our support for their initiatives they will support initiatives that we may take that are different in the North?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, certainly we have impressed upon the leaders of the native organizations, as well as the premiers and also the provincial Ministers that the process we are now utilizing in the Northwest Territories through the Constitutional Alliance, through the forums that have been established, that we believe that process is the process which best suits the Northwest Territories. We have continued our support for the other jurisdictions so that we find and at least direct and support some solution to the question of aboriginal rights in the provinces, recognizing that the federal government and provincial governments are involved. Clearly, in the constitution, the BNA Act of 1867, clearly there are responsibilities that have been outlined for the Government of Canada and there have been responsibilities outlined for the provinces. We could not see a situation where the provinces could be ignored in that particular process because it would mean any changes with regard to land, resources, revenues, the issue of law-making authority, all would affect those two jurisdictions. It would be very difficult for the aboriginal people of southern Canada to resolve their problems if they did not have the support of either the province or the federal government in those negotiations or those discussions. It would not see, I believe, the conclusion or solution that they really want. Now, we still maintain that the process that we established in the North is in the interests of the North and we want protection for that process. I believe also that in the discussions itself, there were issues -- I must say that maybe in making the presentation that we will show you there were some issues, we believe, that were not constitutional. They could be dealt with outside the constitutional process, which in fact included the question of division of the Northwest Territories. It was a bilateral item that had to occur between the residents of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. It is not something that could be brought into the constitution and have every other province and all the other organizations dealing with that particular question. That is the position we have taken and that is the position the federal government agreed to as well.

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

Keeping Option Of Aboriginal Self-Government Open

MR. MacQUARRIE: In reference to the distinction that my colleague for Yellowknife North raised, I recognize that that distinction has been made about the northern process for constitutional development and the southern process. However, I would say that it is important for our government in those negotiations to keep open the option of whatever means is developed in the South, that is

a tripartite process, say, for bringing about aboriginal self-government, because in the western territory that will come into existence we have a process in place for constitutional development. I think it is a clever process. I think it is promising but also it is obviously a very difficult process and it is just possible that it will not be able to succeed in what it is planning to do. The disparities, the differences in points of view may be so great that we cannot find a reconciliation and I assume then that aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories, if that were the case would want the same option that is available to aboriginal people in the South for some form of aboriginal self-government. So, it seems to me that that option should be kept open in these discussions.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, just to indicate that there is nothing that we have done nor any arrangements or agreements that we have made that closes the door. My only problem, I believe, and probably something that Members here should look at is if we allow so many options and so many processes to be used then we may never come to a conclusion. I think that we have maintained that the forums, the Constitutional Alliance, is the process that we should be using in the North. The circumstance under which the people, the aboriginal people of the North live, is very different than the circumstances under which the provincial aboriginal people live. And the relationships that they have with the provincial governments and with the Government of Canada is very different from the relationship that now exists with aboriginal people in the NWT and the GNWT and also the federal government. I think that we would be extremely foolish if we just allowed a situation of an excuse out for having no solution and no resolution to the constitutional problems and also to protection of aboriginal rights or rights of people with regard to constitutions in the North. I think that we have to be somewhat careful of that particular process as well.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: I appreciate your point, Mr. Minister, that if there are too many options then there may not be any resolution on the part of people to succeed in the principal option that is available. That certainly is a danger, but on the other hand I would have to say too that I think there are compelling reasons for most people in the NWT to make the principal option succeed because I really believe that we can have a much better society in the NWT if we have a single public government with features that protect aboriginal interests. I believe that will be in the interests of non-native people and aboriginal people as well. And I think that a careful examination of that would persuade people that that is so. So, I believe that there will be every sincere attempt to make sure that that initiative succeeds. But I just thought in case it does not, the option would then be important.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. General comments. If there are no further general comments, is the committee agreed to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Commissioner's Office, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The Commissioner's Office, page 2.3. Total O and M, \$320,000. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think that it has been said by many people over the years the fine job Commissioner Parker is doing and I am sure that he will be with us for many years to come as a Commissioner and hopefully as a lieutenant-governor. But at some point in time in the future when Mr. Parker decides that he has had enough of us and he needs a break, I wonder has the Executive Council looked at a potential building to name after Commissioner Parker?

---Laughter

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, this might be an appropriate room. No, we have not looked at naming any buildings to date but I believe that the Commissioner is still with us...

AN HON. MEMBER: Is he leaving?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: We have not heard yet that he is leaving nor do we intend to allow him to leave so easily. Because I think that he has been supportive of the progress that we have made constitutionally and I think that we need that type of support on an ongoing basis even if we are looking at the idea of removing him totally from proceedings of the elected Executive Council, you might say, I believe there is still a need for him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Butters raises the question: Is he leaving? Once we find out what the Executive is planning maybe we would be in a better position to indicate a response to that question if in fact that is part of it, as the Minister has just indicated, to remove the Commissioner from the Executive Council. God knows where it ends from there! Except the Executive Council, they will know. But they are even going to let us know what is going on. That's good.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: The new lieutenant-governor, of course.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I really meant that as a humorous anecdote and seriously we really appreciate the fine work that the Commissioner has done. It is a very difficult job and I think he has handled it very well with the able support of his wife, Helen Parker. So, we appreciate that.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Commissioner's Office, \$320,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Ministers' Offices, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Ministers' Offices, \$1,753,000. Agreed? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, we are on Ministers' Offices, page 2.4. I believe, Mr. Chairman, in this increase there is a provision for additional housing allowances for the Ministers. I do not see it itemized here but it was in the documentation that was provided to the standing committee on finance and I am wondering if, Mr. Chairman, we could have just an explanation of that, although I have received it myself as a Member of the standing committee on finance. If we could have an explanation of that change in the calculation of allowances, if you will.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I do not have the particular details here. I would just like to indicate though that the increase was due to Members here in the Executive Council having responsibility to maintain two housing residences. We have, of course, a housing allowance which all Members here are receiving and I am not -- I guess the question I have to Members is whether or not that is going to be tradition in this House, laying out the specifics including the salaries and honorariums and funds that are received by all Members. And I think that if we are going to go to a public process that all people be scrutinized. I just hope maybe I can ask my staff to respond more specifically to that.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I was not asking to get into dollars and cents. As I understand from the Leader's responses in the standing committee, there is in this budget being put in place an additional housing allowance for the Ministers because they establish a second residence, if you will, in Yellowknife. I would simply like the Leader to say that and the reasons for that, which I concur in, for the record. I am not concerned that the dollars and cents -- that you go into those in detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, just to indicate to the Member that there has been an increase but I do not know the exact figure but there has been an additional housing salary that is taxable and to in fact provide additional assistance to those Ministers who are holding two residences. Now, it varies. The amount to each individual varies. So, while there is that addition already in the budget, the use of it may not occur. In some cases, some Members previously had the additional housing subsidy and since then have moved to a different residence and therefore the subsidy has been reduced or removed. So, it varies depending on -- and in fact it applies only under certain circumstances. I just want to indicate that to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Richard.

Housing Allowances To Be Put Forward In Public

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, the only concern I have in this area, and I say this meaning no offence to the Members of the Executive Council, I believe the explanation was given to us in standing committee justifying the establishment of this additional housing allowance and it is in this budget. This budget commences April 1st. My concern is the current fiscal year, my understanding that it was not in the budget for this current fiscal year. Nor was it in, to date, any supplementaries which were put forward in public. I feel that when we, as politicians, I suppose, serve in public office and are in the position of voting, if you will, on our own remuneration that we should be very, very careful that that process be done in public. As I believe there is, although I have not seen it, an amendment this very session to the remuneration for Members of the Legislative Assembly and that will be in public and debated prior to it being established, if approved, I would simply ask, Mr. Chairman, if the Leader or perhaps any other Member of the Executive would not agree with me that when these additional benefits or housing allowances are being put in place in the middle of a fiscal year that it is better that that be done in public in a forum such as this committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I would never, never argue against the idea of any kind of expenditures with regard to public figures, political leaders as secret. Now, I just hope though that Members here understand the reason as to why those things take place. There are some circumstances under which certain approvals are given that have to respond to needs of the people that are working, are involved in carrying out their responsibility and if the case is that we have to come back and receive approval every time that that is the case, then we would not nor could we make decisions to address some of the problems that some of the Ministers were and are having. Certainly I have no problem with the idea of addressing that particular item, if you want to address the item but, as I said, let us be fair, let us be honest, up-front about all our funds including those funds that are being now received by all Members in this House because as much as we are taxed for this particular benefit, there are Members that work on an honorarium basis, or a per diem basis, that are non-taxable, and I guess one has to wonder about what is the take-home pay of people. I could go back to a situation where people here were, in fact, receiving pay cheques in some instances of \$200 every two weeks. Now, I do not think that that is fair, not when you have a situation where they have to provide food, lodging for their families and have to live under that type of condition. I will tell you now, I have no problem bringing forward whatever commitments or expenditures that we make with regard to the Executive Council. I certainly have no problem debating it, but I think that it should be taken in the context of what effects, what problems exist with regard to Members that serve on the Executive Council. It is not an easy role to play and it makes it somewhat more difficult if Members here are supporting their families in their constituencies, their families are living in the constituencies and do not want to move. That makes it somewhat more difficult. You have no argument from me with regard to releasing that information to the public, as long as it applies to everyone and that we are honest and up-front about it.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to belabour the point, but I do wish to clarify the point I am attempting to make. I, because the explanation was given to me earlier, support the establishment of these additional housing allowances. Had I been asked as a Member of this Assembly in November, I would have supported it. My point, sir, is that the public is a very

critical public and my point is simply that it would have been better to bring the request -- or perhaps information item -- forward prior to implementation and while it is accepted by myself, certainly, in this committee, the public would have accepted it. It would have been I suppose, for appearances' sake if it had been put forward as a proposal prior to implementation in the public forum, as opposed to after the fact. That is simply my point. I think the Minister understands and I understand his comments as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Ministers' Offices, \$1,753,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Executive Council Secretariat, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Executive Council secretariat, \$2,702,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I believe it was yesterday I asked a question about the function and role of the temporary group to lead negotiations in the transfer of federal functions. I note in this, under the salaries and wages there is an increase of \$440,000. In the priorities paper that we have been made aware of from the Government Leader, there is under political development, for a temporary group to lead negotiations on the transfer of federal functions, an amount of \$325,000 and three person years. But in the main estimates I do not see an increase of the person years and the increase is for \$440,000, at least in your book. Could I have some reconciliation of those two figures? From the revised 1984-85 forecast to the main estimates 1985-86, there is an increase of \$440,000. There is only an increase of one continuing person year but in the priorities paper it is \$325,000 and three person years.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: There has been no identification of person years in the document because we are not sure whether or not we will be needing three person years or it could be five person years depending on the nature of the research that is required, the work that is required to get done. As well there may be a situation where we can go to a contract as opposed to identifying particular person years in the document. I think that that was probably an error on our part for identifying three. We certainly received approval for three person years but we are not sure if we need to add it to this years list, until such time as we know whether or not we are going to have permanent employees. The other thing is that we might have permanent employees in the government now that could assume some of the responsibility but no doubt that we could go to term positions. So, while the permanency of three is there, we still want that flexibility to manoeuvre, as opposed to just saying it is three and that is the end of it. But always in mind the \$325,000 is in fact the money that we have been allocated and will be using. Of course, with any additional increases we will no doubt have to come back to the Legislative Assembly on an approval basis. I think that maybe there was some confusion in that and I just want to clarify it right now. I might ask if my advisers also can provide information with the additional finances involved.

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

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, the funding increase is made up by the priority exercise as was mentioned by the Member. One person year in the Highway Transport and Public Utilities Boards. It is a research position, plus the 9.5 per cent across the board increase of the department. That adds up to \$440,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Executive Council secretariat, \$2,702,000. Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I just have a supplementary. The figure 9.5, is that referring to the increase for the 24 man years in salaries and wages? Is the 9.5 an increase in salaries and wages? I know there is an increase in the O and M but is the \$440,000 a 9.5 increase in salaries and wages?

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

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, that is the percentage increase of this particular department. Our department's increase was 9.5 in comparison to the previous year 1984-85. So it is across the board, 9.5 increase in salary of this particular department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Executive Council secretariat. Mr. Ballantyne.

Public Utilities Board

MR. BALLANTYNE: A couple of questions of the Government Leader concerning the Public Utilities Board. There is an increase in other O and M which is a direct result, as I understand, from an increase in the membership of the Public Utilities Board. I wonder, first of all, could the Minister give us the names of people who are on the board and some clarification just for the public? I think the board is increased to five, I am not sure. And secondly, there was as I recall, a motion at one point in time in this House as to the Public Utility Board taking over the regulatory process of utilities in the NWT. That has been modified somewhat but I do not know if it has come back to the House and I understand now that the National Energy Board is making recommendations. I wonder if we could have an update as to the government's feelings about the future role of the PUB. Does the government see a strengthened role for the Public Utilities Board?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, in the agenda of presentations the appropriate Minister will be raising that particular item. Yesterday when I spoke introducing the budget, I said that I could not see the final approval of the budget until the other Ministers had the opportunity to speak on the particular responsibilities they have. I believe Mr. Curley is going to respond to that at the appropriate time. With regard to the Highway Transport Board, Mr. McLaughlin is going to respond. To the question of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development the appropriate Minister will respond and so too for the Energy, Mines and Resources and also Status of Women Secretariats. So, we would not seek final approval of that until that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

Intergovernmental Affairs

MR. BALLANTYNE: That is fine now. I will ask those questions at the appropriate time. I have another question to ask of the Government Leader. And it is something that I brought up in the finance committee. I think hand in hand with the proposed reorganization, the greater emphasis on intergovernmental affairs for the provincial and federal government, the Minister answered this question in finance committee but I would like him to explain it again here. I think right now that in intergovernmental affairs office in Ottawa, Claire Barnabe and her secretary are doing a fine job. But as part of this reorganization that we are looking at and because of a bigger emphasis on lobbying in southern Canada, is the possibility envisioned of giving Ms Barnabe more staff and maybe a broader mandate acting as our representative in Ottawa?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: At present there is no decision to increase the number of staff in the intergovernmental affairs section. But certainly I believe that there is a different role that has to be played. I think that that is one of the areas that we have restructured in its responsibilities and we will be making the appropriate comments to the House here. The other thing is that the Minister, certainly the Government Leader, has to begin to play a more significant role in the area of intergovernmental affairs. As I indicated earlier, not necessarily only speaking to other Ministers or other premiers or other Ministers of intergovernmental affairs but going forward, making the general public of Canada a little more knowledgeable about the circumstances under which we now live and our political relationships as they are and the political relationships that we wish to have in future. As you note we have not really done a lot of that particular work and I think that there is no question also that the Ministers who are responsible for particular departments, will in fact begin to do that. I guess it is a matter again of strategy. Who do you go to to ask what meetings you attend, where you make speeches to create an awareness among the Canadian public, among governments generally across the country. I think that is something that we are in the process of reviewing and improving upon. As much as I could say, "Well, the Executive Council could do it", my impression is that there are some circumstances under which other Members

of Legislature can make presentations on behalf of the Legislative Assembly or on behalf, for that matter, of the GNWT. So we have to be able to develop that relationship. We have to be able to develop that strategy and in my opinion it is something that we are going to have to do a lot of work on. Certainly I have been put in charge of the whole area of intergovernmental affairs previously and it is going to be more and more I believe a responsibility under the political arm of government as opposed to just being a part of the administrative side.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Just for the information of committee Members, the amount indicated under the Executive Council secretariat for the amount of \$2.702 million also includes the activity of Highway Transport and Public Utilities Boards. Now, if the committee wishes to deal with the items individually, then obviously we cannot approve this amount. However, you can ask questions. But that is just a point of clarification. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary question to what Mr. McCallum asked before of Mr. Pilot. The answer I heard was that there was a 9.5 per cent salary increase across the board to reflect the increase in the department's overall budget. I would like to know if this salary increase is the same in all the departments we will be reviewing. And if it is not, what are the criteria used within specific secretariats or departments to grant increases above, if it is above, that which is standard and who authorizes it?

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

Overall Budgetary Increase

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. No, it is not a matter of a 9.5 per cent salary increase. It was an overall budgetary increase in the Department of the Executive which included things like the \$325,000 for the group that would head up the negotiations or transfer and developing that particular strategy. There was also included in that, the increase in O and M of the total department and we took into consideration the issue of salaries in the total 9.5 per cent. It was not only 9.5 per cent for salary increases only. It was a total overall increase to the budget of the Executive.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: So, the salaries within the Executive Council secretariat would not increase by 9.5 per cent.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: No, that is certainly not the case. It was an overall increase.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Well, I just wanted to get it clarified as well, but there are percentage change figures that are indicated in the main estimates book. I do not profess to be any kind of a great mathematician, but it seems to me that if there is a total increase and a total expenditure of the Executive Council secretariat, as I look at the line, from 1984-85 to 1985-86 main estimates, if I look at those two figures, \$2.702 million and \$2.221 million, I get a difference in total of \$481,000. Now, I do not reconcile that figure with 18 per cent of an increase in the department total expenditures. I cannot reconcile the difference between the salaries and wages of being a 28 per cent increase. Now, maybe we are rounding figures off but certainly 18 and 28 are rounded off figures too. Mr. Pedersen asked a question as well, in terms of the 9.5 and I accepted that as a 9.5 increase. It would seem to me we are talking a total expenditure, if you like, of much more than 18 per cent or more than 18 per cent, and certainly \$440,000 is not 28 per cent of \$1.138 million. I just think that in terms of a document that proposes to give us a budget that the figures should jibe a little.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I think that I will defer the final response to my staff but the overall increases, in fact 9.5...

MR. MCCALLUM: For the total department...

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: ...for the total department...

MR. McCALLUM: ...Department of the Executive...

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, in the increase of some \$440,000 you take into consideration the three person years that we looked at, the \$325,000 plus the possibility of one person year for the Public Utilities Board and Highway Transport Board and that was the reason that particular increase took place. It had of course, to address a number of priority items, that we found money in those particular cases, and in the situation of the Public Utilities Board and also the Highway Transport Board analyst or person year, there was a need for that because of the workload that is now being encountered by, particularly the Highway Transport Board, but more and more by the Public Utilities Board as well. So, I think that you are looking at that particular figure but you are not looking at the total change that occurred in the budget. I think that is where the confusion lies when we said it is a 9.5 per cent, it is total budget as opposed to this.

MR. McCALLUM: (Inaudible comment)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just a point of clarification. I think as we go through this budget this problem will come up again. What happens, especially for Members of the finance committee, is that a budget was prepared, which was in our finance committee book, with the normal departmental increases. Subsequent to the book being prepared there was approximately \$10 million in priority funding and \$10 million in budget adjustments which have been put into this main estimates book. Now as we go through this I think we will have to be aware that when it happens that many times it does not quite seem to jibe, it is because we are trying to merge, essentially, three documents into one. I think everybody should be aware of that. We will try to highlight some of those and I am sure the government will as we go through it department by department. We have some comments to make about that process a little bit later on but this could cause us some difficulty. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you for the point of clarification, Mr. Ballantyne. Does the committee wish us to recognize the clock at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. I shall report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 7-85(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985-86

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the departmental details of the 1985-86 main estimates and wishes 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. Wah-Shee. Members have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the MLAs that I was late because one of my family was sick. I will try to be on time but I had to be late because one of my relatives was sick. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Are there any other announcements? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance on Sunday, February 10th at 2:00 p.m. Also, the standing committee on finance will be meeting on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. The standing committee on legislation will meet on Monday morning at 10:30 a.m.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, February 11th at 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: Bill 7-55(1); Bill 3-85(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 11th.

---ADJOURNMENT

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