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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Item 2, orders of the day for Monday, February the 18th. Members' replies. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: No, Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of privilege, please.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Point Of Privilege

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I want to ensure that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation does not continue to give a false impression in respect of the justices of the peace program. I indicated to the honourable Members during consideration of the budget of the Department of Justice and Public Services that I had issued instructions to my staff not to recommend appointments of public servants as justices of the peace. This was to minimize any risk of the independence of the justices being attacked in a court of law. I also indicated that we were reviewing the Justices of the Peace Ordinance and would be coming forth with appropriate recommendations to preserve that independence, keeping in view the recent decision of the supreme court of the Northwest Territories. Whenever the bill is introduced, Members will have the opportunity to discuss the appointment procedures and the tenure appointments of justices of the peace. According to the supreme court decision, the present appointments will continue in office until, of course, the new legislation is introduced. Mr. Speaker, I have no intentions of abolishing the justices of the peace program which is established by legislation from this Assembly. The CBC news report was, therefore, misleading in stating that the program was to be abolished.

---Applause

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

Point Of Privilege

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on another point of privilege. The News/North, on Friday, February 15th, carried a story alleging that the Executive Council was seeking control of constitutional development away from the Northwest Territories Constitutional Alliance. This allegation is further endorsed by an editorial which carries a headline "Council threatens new constitution."

Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. I want to make it abundantly clear, in public, that the Executive Council has no such designs. As honourable Members are aware, the Constitutional Alliance is to make a report before this House later in this session. I presume that a debate will follow and the Executive Council will accept any direction that it receives from the Legislative Assembly on this issue. The Executive Council has not taken any position on what role, if any, it will play in the constitutional progress now being made by the alliance. To give News/North the benefit of the doubt, it may be that the newspaper is deducing this from the proposed internal streamlining of functions within the Executive Council Office. I want to assure Members that those changes are to equip the government to enhance its intergovernmental functions and to provide for an appropriate mechanism to deal with matters of mutual government concerns such as our participation in national conferences, devolution of government programs and other such functions.

Mr. Speaker, the headlines pertaining to the Executive Council in last Friday's News/North and the contents of those articles are misleading and false. The News/North does no service to the residents of the Territories by printing erroneous information of this type.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: We are at a critical juncture of our constitutional development and the last thing we need is journalism that may fuel any divisive tendencies and thereby retard our constitutional aspirations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Item 2, Members' replies.

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 90-85(1): Report On First Ministers' Conference

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Government Leader. As we are all aware the Government Leader was recently at a First Ministers' Conference in Regina and I wonder if the Government Leader intends to give a brief report to this House at some time about the basic position put forward by the government even though most of us listened to the address on television. Will he give any response formally or informally to the federal government to that approach just to bring us up to date on what happened at the conference?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 90-85(1): Report On First Ministers' Conference

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had asked for the documents that we had submitted to the premiers and the Prime Minister be made available to Members of this House. I will see whether or not that has been done. If it has not then I certainly am not opposed to the idea of tabling that particular document in this House. With regard to the presentation I must say that I only read two pages of the actual presentation itself and then I dealt with the other parts of the presentation from a verbal position as opposed to reading it from a document. I will also make available in future the Hansard material that will be produced from that particular conference.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That satisfies me as to that request. I'll be looking forward with interest to the actual documents referred to by Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 91-85(1): Taxation Of Northern Benefits

My next question is to the Minister of Finance and it is to do with taxation of northern benefits. As I understand it every indication to us is that in the next budget brought down by the federal government, the whole issue of taxation of northern benefits will be dealt with. I wonder if Mr. Butters can bring this House up to date as to the government's position. I understood at one time

it was the support of the Bird Report. Is that still the government's position? Is there any indication that that report will be accepted and that the recommendations made in that report will be brought down by the federal government in the budget speech or in the next federal government budget?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 91-85(1): Taxation Of Northern Benefits

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for giving me notice of his question some 30 minutes ago. So, what I have to respond is on just the information that is available to me. When the Hon. Michael Wilson was named Finance Minister, I communicated with him and indicated that a major initiative of this government was the resolution of the matter of the taxation of northern benefits. He has also recognized this and there have been communications exchanged between this government and the federal government with regard to sitting down and beginning to resolve that problem. To date no such discussions have occurred and I have not heard, although the Member may be better informed than I am on this question, but I have not heard the northern allowance issues are going to be an element of the budget to be brought down in April or May. However, I believe what the federal Finance Minister has told us is that we will be involved and we will be able to have an opportunity to discuss the position that this government has put forward in the past and continues to put forward, which is based on the Bird Report and the establishing of taxation areas in the North. I also spoke with the Secretary of State for Finance, Barbara McDougall, when I was in Ottawa and she at that time indicated as well that she was aware of this government's interest in resolving that problem but it was one of a number of problems which the federal government would be addressing and have to address in the next few months.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 91-85(1): Taxation Of Northern Benefits

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to my question. I understand that one of the major concerns in the North was that there are certain individuals receiving a benefit under the present taxation regime and there was a desire in this government, as presented through the Bird Report, to try to equalize those benefits across the Territories. My concern is now that unless this government keeps up the pressure, what might be imposed on us is an equal system which brings everybody down to the lowest denominator instead of attempting to bring those who do not have benefits up to the level of benefits received by government employees and mining employees, for example. I wonder if the Minister could undertake to pursue this question so something unacceptable will not be imposed on us in the upcoming budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 91-85(1): Taxation Of Northern Benefits

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, I can do that.

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

Question 92-85(1): Deferral Of Motion 4-85(1)

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is either for the Minister of Renewable Resources or the Minister of Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, on the orders of the day is a motion by Mr. Curley regarding the appointment of Ms Cournoyea to the Constitutional Alliance from this Assembly. We have been advised, Mr. Speaker, that later in this session we are going to receive the report, the interim report of the Constitutional Alliance and that we will be discussing that in committee of the whole at some length and I would anticipate, Mr. Speaker, that part of that discussion would include the ongoing role of the alliance, the ratification process of any tentative agreements reached by the alliance members, the role of representatives of this Assembly on that alliance, on each of the forums, the role of the territorial government, or the Executive Council as the Government Leader has indicated earlier this afternoon. Given that that discussion will take place in committee of the whole this session, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister, or either Minister, indicate whether they will be in agreement with deferring this motion until that discussion takes place in committee of the whole?

Question 92-85(1): Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER: The question is basically out of order in that there is presumption and it is also the matter is on the order paper for discussion, so the question is out of order, Mr. Richard. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 93-85(1): Invitation To Parliament Of Greenland

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to our Leader, Mr. Nerysoo. When we met last fall I made a motion in regard to inviting the Greenland premier and his cabinet members from Greenland and I have not up to this date received any word. Maybe you would like to give us a statement as to what has happened to the motion that I made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 93-85(1): Invitation To Parliament Of Greenland

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to indicate to the honourable Member that I believe that the motion was for an invitation to the members of the parliament of Greenland. We have approached them and we have in fact communicated with them and at the moment they are not available for a visit. We had agreed that we would be paying for the cost of those people to come over to Canada, since that was an arrangement we had previously. However, they are not available. I believe they cannot hear the translation, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you turn your receiver down, please? Maybe the people on either side of you, are their receivers down?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Maybe it is yours.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mine is down, I assure you Mr. Curley. Would you like to try it again?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to reiterate to the honourable Member, we have forwarded an invitation to and communicated with the members of the Greenland parliament, the home rule government, and the indication from them was that they were not available to travel to Canada and to the Northwest Territories, or to be present during the session here in Yellowknife. However, we also agreed in our communication, or discussion, that we would look at this government paying the expenses of a group that would be invited to the session here in Yellowknife. We tried to get them here during the spring session and we were unable to. They were busy at that time and we are now looking at alternative dates to invite the Greenland parliament to the Northwest Territories. To date, we cannot get our schedule working together.

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

Question 94-85(1): Tourist Cabins In Outpost Camps

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Renewable Resources Minister. This is in regard to the remote communities. For the outpost camps, I understand that they are allowed one cabin for tourists even though the outpost camp may be busy with tourists. They are usually given one cabin and that one building is never enough for tourists. I am just wondering if, for the future, you have made any decisions to increase such cabins for outpost camps or, maybe, in fact, if you would be able to give a bigger building so that more tourists could reside in these lodges. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Minister.

Return To Question 94-85(1): Tourist Cabins In Outpost Camps

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the outpost program that the Department of Renewable Resources supports, these outpost camps are for the benefit of families going out on the land for their own purposes. Certainly, I am very pleased to hear that some of these smaller camps are interested in moving into the development of tourism and, also, to do some other economic

approach to the resources that are on the land. I certainly would like you to perhaps sit down with the Department of Economic Development because providing facilities for tourism relies on that department, not the Department of Renewable Resources.

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

Question 95-85(1): Pay For Part-Time Liquor Inspectors

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Finance and Government Services in relation to a reply that he made on Friday, February 15th regarding liquor inspectors. He indicated in his reply there were three part-time inspectors, one in Fort Smith, Inuvik and one in Hay River. My questions to the Minister are, are these three part-time liquor inspectors government employees? If they are, do they get leave with or without pay in performing their duties as liquor inspectors or just what is the role or just how are they paid? Are they being paid twice by this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the Member did advise me of those questions on Friday. I did not pursue them beyond determining that the Members are not paid twice and I have recommended to the department that Mr. Nerysoo would be providing a reply when that information is in hand. So I am taking the question as notice and referring it to Mr. Nerysoo for response.

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

Question 96-85(1): Wildlife Officer For Hall Beach

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Renewable Resources Minister. At Hall Beach, they want clarification. They do not have a wildlife officer and there are presently two over at Igloolik. One is a local person and one is non-native. I realize that you may not be able to make one available to my constituents of Hall Beach but we would like to have one available even just if this person could be an assistant. I would like to get your response on my request.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, because there are so many requests for wildlife officers in various communities, I would like to take that question under advisement and see where we fit that community in the overall objectives of the department.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You are taking the question as notice. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Gargan.

Question 97-85(1): Future Visit By Pope

MR. GARGAN: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Local Government. This morning on the radio we heard that the Pope would be visiting the North again and they do not know whether he is going to go to Fort Simpson or not. It just said Canada. At the moment we do not know whether he is going to visit Fort Simpson or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 97-85(1): Future Visit By Pope

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Thank you for asking me this question. The Pope is going to be coming back to Canada. I also heard this on the radio. What you heard on the radio, I have not heard anything further on it myself. Steve Kakfwi went to visit the Pope in Rome and after his return we will know for sure which community the Pope is going to visit. We are aware that he is coming back to Canada and we would like him to go to Fort Simpson. So if the decision is made we will know about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 98-85(1): Responsibility For Policy On Appointment Of JPs

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, on Friday, Mr. Butters gave a return to a question I posed on Thursday, regarding a policy of the government in relation to the reappointment or appointment of JPs. The Minister at that time asked me to be patient until Monday when Mr. Nerysoo would make a return. Now, I have a question before that return to the Minister of Justice and Public Services regarding the appointment or reappointment of JPs. I ask the Minister, is his issuing of instructions to his department a policy of his department, therefore himself, or is it a policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories that there are to be no present JPs reappointed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Questions 81-85(1) And 98-85(1): Responsibility For Policy On Appointment Of JPs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, just to the honourable Member, to indicate that it was a direction that I received from the Executive Council upon my introduction of that particular item. We have a very serious concern, as I also indicated to the honourable Member during discussion of the Department of Justice and Public Services budget. Hopefully, we will return to that again that we see some very serious constitutional legal problems arising from the appointment of government employees.

Now, it has been my instruction that we do not reappoint government employees as justices of the peace but there will be circumstances under which those appointments may be given in order to maintain some of the expertise that has been developed over a long period of time so that we can educate people in the communities who are first-time justices of the peace. But I say to you that, again, there are problems. We see them arising and our supreme court of the Northwest Territories ruled on that and so did the court of appeal of Ontario rule on that. I think it is in the interests of Members in this House and also as a government to ensure that we do not have some very serious legal problems arising from the appointments of justices of the peace.

I do say that I took in the Member's comments during the discussion and we are looking at the particular situation so that any decision of ours would not leave a vacuum and a problem that might be caused by such appointments or non-appointments of members of the public service. But, let me tell you that we do have justices of the peace in communities that have served previously that we could use that are not employees of government. We have a serious problem right now and I think that we can deal with it on an individual-by-individual basis and the circumstances under which these appointments may or may not occur. But it is a policy that we do not newly appoint any more government employees. That has been the decision that we have made and the decision includes reappointments. Of course, again, taking into consideration the fact that we have, and can maintain a certain level of expertise in that particular field, so, we are trying everything possible to alleviate some of the problems that might arise for no appointments at all.

As I indicated I have taken note of your comments and certainly as we implement the policy directive we will note some of the concerns that you raised and some of the concerns that other Members raised because they are not concerns that you alone have. As Minister of Justice I have to ensure that the service is available and service that has had a certain amount of expertise and consistency and so that is the basis of the direction in which we are going.

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

Supplementary To Question 98-85(1): Responsibility For Policy On Appointment Of JPs

MR. McCALLUM: A supplementary question to the Minister. I take it now it is a policy of the government not to reappoint existing government personnel. I quote from what he just said, that was his direction, it was the direction from the Executive Council, it is now a "policy" not to appoint present people. He may use the people in a community who have had previous experience who may or may not be government employees. My question is to him now, in light of that, is it possible that this House may be apprized of what the policy actually states?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 98-85(1): Responsibility For Policy On Appointment Of JPs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to indicate to the honourable Member that it is not a policy, it is a directive and that directive suggests that it will be implementing the direction that we not reappoint government employees because it will cause us some very serious constitutional legal problems. The honourable Member suggests that we should await that constitutional problem, then he should say so. But according to the direction that I have received and have given to my colleagues, we do not want to see that situation happen with the justices of the peace that now exist and will be appointed in the future.

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

Supplementary To Question 98-85(1): Responsibility For Policy On Appointment Of JPs

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I just used the terms that the Minister used. He said that he had direction from his Executive Council and at the end of his first comments to me he said it was now a "policy". If it is not a policy, all I am trying to get straightened out in this, is it a directive from the Minister of Justice to personnel within his department to not reappoint government employees, or is it a policy of the government? Now, I recognize all the other things that he has said, a court case that went before Mr. Justice de Weerd, and what the applicant asked for and his rationale for putting that and I read exactly what Mr. Justice de Weerd put down. It has nothing to do with whether I feel they should be reappointed or whatever and I have something else. I simply ask the question, is it a directive of the Minister of Justice to his own people in the department, that is to the individual who appoints or selects JPs, and my understanding it was the individual to whom this court case was addressed, the applicant in the case against Mr. Sheldon Hebb, who does the actual appointing. All I am trying to determine, Mr. Speaker, is this a directive of the Minister of Justice and Public Services, or is it a policy of the government? And, if it is the latter, can we be apprized of what that policy says? The rest is immaterial. That is what I want to know.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 98-85(1): Responsibility For Policy On Appointment Of JPs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, a directive.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today.

Item 5, written questions. There do not appear to be any written questions for today. Item 6, returns. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 82-85(1): Status Of Lake Harbour Airstrip

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a return to question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on February 14th, regarding Lake Harbour airstrip.

Lake Harbour is presently serviced by Twin Otter service on an unlicensed airstrip. The community has, in the past, petitioned to have the airstrip relocated to a site which would permit licensing, night operations, and service by larger aircraft. The Baffin regional office of my department has been providing assistance to Transport Canada officials in obtaining information on the site proposed by the community for a new airstrip. Transport Canada engineers plan to conduct detailed testing on a proposed site this coming summer. This will involve soil testing and then determining the detailed costs of airstrip construction. Transport Canada will then, hopefully, consider proposing the new airstrip at Lake Harbour for their capital plan. In the meantime, in response to requests from the public and from Bradley Air Services, Transport Canada has agreed to permit the present airstrip to be used for night operations, but under very strict conditions than would be necessary for a larger airstrip. Transport Canada also plans to improve the lighting of the present airstrip for these restricted night operations.

I share Mr. Arlooktoo's concern about the blown aircraft tire when a plane landed at Lake Harbour on February 13th, 1985. We have been advised by Bradley Air Services that the plane was on a training run between Frobisher Bay and Lake Harbour and apparently the tire blew either on taking off from Frobisher Bay or midair and the tire blowout did not occur on landing at Lake Harbour.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns. I would like to recognize, in the gallery, Mr. J.W.T. Spinks, former president of the University of Saskatchewan, and Mr. Angus Bruneau, former vice-president of Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland. Welcome to the Northwest Territories gentlemen.

---Applause

Item 7, petitions.

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) I would like to table Tabled Document 16-85(1), Re Concern of Search and Rescue Committee in Pangnirtung. In 1983 there was a policy passed concerning people out on the land who are lost. I am going to be asking some questions, if it can be amended. I am just going to be tabling it for now.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 2-85(1), Federal Government's Arctic Air Facilities Policy, Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand down my motion until tomorrow. My seconder is not in the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee, I understand you wish Motion 2-85(1) stood down. If you stand down this will be the third time and you will have to reintroduce it into the House. This will kill this motion, if you stand it down today. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I will reintroduce the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Motion 3-85(1), Canada Post President to Appear as Witness. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) The interpreters do not have a copy of this motion. (Translation ends) Can I wait until it...

(Translation) Yes, just a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Can we put this aside until tomorrow? Is that agreeable to you? We are getting it right away? In the meantime, do I have your permission to proceed with Motion 4-85(1)? Motion 4-85(1), Appointment to Nunavut Constitutional Forum. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to defer the motion until Thursday, February 21st, 1985. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Have we agreement to allow the setting aside of this motion? Those agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Any opposed? Agreed. Mr. Pudluk's Motion 3-85(1), are we ready now to proceed?

Motion 3-85(1): Canada Post President To Appear As Witness

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS postal service in the Northwest Territories is provided by a federal crown corporation, the Canada Post Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the board of the Canada Post Corporation lacks representation from the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS there is increasing criticism and concern associated with the quality of postal service currently being provided in the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Moses Appaqaq, that the Assembly extend to Michael Warren, president of the Canada Post Corporation, an invitation to appear in the committee of the whole on a day certain during the spring session in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Just one moment, Mr. Clerk, please. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not much comment on this, this morning, so I will not be long. But in my community there have been some concerns. In the smaller communities there has been lack of postal service. Also the president of the Canada Post Corporation, I do not think has been informed about the North. We have been writing some documents to them about the problems that arise, about the post offices in the northern communities. He would be able to reply better if they were to go to the communities and visit them and see what the problems are. We will be asking someone to come and will be prepared in advance before they arrive in our communities about the problems that arise; before we meet with them we will be prepared on this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Appaqaq, as seconder would you wish to speak?

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Yes, I wanted to second this motion but I will make a brief comment on it. It seems like there are a lot of differences up in the North and I would like to hear from the president of the Canada Post. I, myself, in the government and in Yellowknife I have received some documents or some letters. Sometimes these letters are useless because they are so late coming in. So, I just want you to know that. Sometimes the mail that I am supposed to receive is 30 days late. So, we are very unhappy about that and sometimes we tend to lose our mail. I would like you to know -- we have mail that is coming in from Quebec in Great Whale River, it takes three days for our mail to get down to Yellowknife or from Great Whale and although they could have been mailed on the same day, sometimes they stay in Great Whale for over a week. So, I would like to be able to have some comments to the president of the Canada Post because I am sure that I will have a lot of comments to say to him when I meet him. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion is to send a letter to the post office president, that they want him to visit the Northwest Territories and want to discuss the postal service with us and I, myself, too, really agree with it.

Today we have two people from Nahanni Butte, George Betsaka and Jane Konisenta. While they are here I would like to say that not only the Arctic have postal problems, around this area too, especially small communities do have mail problems too and if the postal president comes to the North, we can talk to him about the mail problem in Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake. Mail into these smaller communities sometimes takes as long as three weeks and it is generally very slow and sometimes the mail tends to get lost. If he comes here to the North, sure it will be a great help to us.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Although the Department of Government Services is not responsible for the postal service we get frequent complaints from other areas and communities with regard to the type of service that the federal corporation is providing. Over the past few months we have heard from

Chief Grace of Arctic Red River on improving mail service there; from Coppermine, with regard to post office upgrading; from Coral Harbour with regard to properly regulated hours of operations and levels of service; from Fort Good Hope, from Mr. T'Seleie seeking ways to improve postal service to Fort Good Hope; from Resolute Bay, where the community for years, it seems, has attempted to have the federal department move the post office closer to their settlement. Since Canada Post changed their method of shipping parcels to the Northwest Territories, there have been numerous complaints about the service, particularly in the Kitikmeot Region.

At the same time it was identified that while service has been reduced, postal costs in the NWT are higher than anywhere else in Canada. So, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss these problems with the president of Canada Post Corporation.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in favour of the motion. I also have a concern within my area. Snare Lake which is a relatively small community is serviced totally by air and that is along with the community of Pelly Bay which is also serviced by air. At the present time the Canada Post does not have a regular arrangement to ship mail into Snare Lake and we have to rely on the good graces of the GNWT whenever there is a charter going into that community so that Canada Post can send the backlog of mail that is usually held in Yellowknife. So, I would like to support the motion, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. To the motion. Mr. Pudluk, would you like to close the debate?

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

Motion 3-85(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Let the record indicate that the motion was passed unanimously.

---Carried

I would like to recognize George Betsaka, the chief from Nahanni Butte. Welcome to Yellowknife.

---Applause

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills.

Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7-85(1), Appropriation Act, 1985-86 and Bill 3-85(1), Workers' Compensation Act, 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

Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with the NWT Housing Corporation for total O and M, \$34,197,000. Does the Minister wish to bring the witness before the committee?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

GNWT, 1985-86 Main Estimates Errata Tabled

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, on Friday I indicated to the chairman of the standing committee on finance that we would have available for circulation today, the corrected budget record. And I very much regret delay and inconvenience caused by Members resulting from the need to provide this

errata document on the 1985-86 main estimates. I would ask that maybe it could be circulated to Members. Members will appreciate that the main estimates is a very complex document which contains numerous detailed and interrelated schedules and summaries. As soon as some errors had been noted at the beginning of this session, I directed my officials to do a careful and thorough review of the complete document to minimize any need for further corrections.

The main estimates document is prepared without the assistance of a computer and there were many late adjustments to this years estimates which had to be manually integrated into the schedules and summaries within unreasonably tight time frames.

As a result the 1985-86 main estimates document contains an unusual number of minor errors. For the information of Members none of these errors affect the amounts to be voted and therefore the integrity of the main estimates document has been maintained so that today I am tabling an errata document with full details of all the corrections. Because of the interrelation of numbers throughout the document the occurrence of one error has required a number of corrections. I would therefore like to offer the assistance of my officials in making corrections to Members' main estimates documents. If any Members wish to receive this service, please ensure your name is on the document and provide me with it at the end of the days session. I will ensure that it is returned to you no later than the commencement of the Assembly session tomorrow. Mr. Chairman, I would be grateful if I might obtain the agreement of the committee to have this document form part of the record of this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just a point of order. When the Minister said he apologizes for the inconvenience caused "by" the Members, he meant caused "to" the Members, I am sure.

Secondly, the Minister refers to an unreasonable timetable, I might note that the Minister and the Executive Council control that timetable and I hope a lesson has been learned, that next year we will not have this many errors brought in front of us. But none the less, as a point of order, I just want to ask the chairman -- there are some discrepancies in the actual figures in the Department of Public Works. We have already passed that department and if you look through it there are a number of figures that have changed, that read a certain figure and should read another. What is the procedure to get that incorporated? Do we have to have another vote to incorporate the changes into the Department of Public Works document?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Ballantyne, to your point of order. If this errata is accepted by the committee then it would become a part of the main estimates that this committee is presently reviewing. I understand that the totals under Public Works and Highways, these figures have not changed. So, therefore, we can entertain the idea that this errata becomes part of the main estimates and then we can deal with the Housing Corporation. The financial figures have not changed; and totals as well. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to apologize, Mr. Chairman, if I said that there had been a delay and inconvenience caused by Members, that certainly was not my intention. My little script says "to", probably just a Freudian slip.

---Laughter

The second thing I would like to say is that the standing committee chairman knows full well that this is the first time that we have intruded a major amount of priority money into the budget at the very last moment and it has been on the initiative of this Executive that we put it into the budget. I think we deserve commendation rather than a kick in the slats.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I did not get that last remark...

---Laughter

...but Mr. Ballantyne, perhaps you want to comment on that?

MR. BALLANTYNE: I am not sure if there is a Dogrib translation for "kick in the slats". I was not commenting on the fact that the government did respond to some of the concerns of this Assembly. What I said is next year hopefully this process will be more streamlined and we will not have this problem. I just want to correct any misunderstanding of the situation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree that the errata becomes part of the main estimates for 1985-86? Mr. Richard. This copy is to be distributed right away. Since this is a major item of concern to committee Members, perhaps we can take a 15 minute coffee break now and then the copies should be available to all Members by that time. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come to order. Does the committee agree that the errata of which copies have been circulated, will be part of the main estimates for 1985-86? Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, are we just, we are still on opening remarks dealing with the...

MR. BALLANTYNE: No, we are on the...

MR. McCALLUM: I did not -- wait a minute, I did not ask you, I asked the guy up here. You are not the chairman, unless you changed roles here. Mr. Chairman, are we still on responses, if you like, to the opening remarks of the Minister of Housing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. McCallum, we are still under general comments at the present time. However, the committee has to decide what to do with the copies which have been circulated, the errata, 1985-86 which will form part of the main estimates. Is it agreed as a committee that this will form part of the main estimates?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Chairman, in regard to the question Mr. Ballantyne asked, does that mean we have to go back to the department that we dealt with to make sure that the proper numbers are in? Or, will the total government budget look after that?

Errata To Form Part Of The Main Estimates

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. McCallum, as the Department of Public Works has been reviewed by the committee and has been approved, with the inclusion of the errata tabled document, if the committee agrees that it will be part of the official document which will be part of the main estimates for 1985-86, my understanding is that the figures in relation to the Department of Public Works have not changed, therefore if the committee agrees that this tabled document should be accepted then it will be basically part of the total main estimates. So, therefore, I would like to ask the committee again whether it is agreed that the tabled document errata will form part of the main estimates for 1985-86? Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Agreed. Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses, if you wish, at this time?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where are they?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses to the committee, please?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce Mr. Irving, the president of the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, total O and M, \$34,197,000. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to comment concerning the warehouses in the communities. There are a lot of communities that have no warehouses and sometimes their properties are damaged just standing outside due to lack of warehouses and lack of facilities. Due to this fact, I would like to know what kind of plans you have in the future and I was wondering if you can allocate some warehouses into the communities. The amount of units allocated to the communities are decreasing and I think that you should increase small warehouses. I would like to know what kind of plans you have in the future. I know that there are only two warehouses going to the eastern region. Thank you.

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

Lack Of Warehousing And Office Facilities

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lack of warehousing and office facilities for housing associations has been a high priority of the corporation but because of limited funds we have only been able to do two, sometimes maybe three, warehouses a year. Now, I have not yet seen what the proposal is in the five year plan for warehousing but at present, basically due to lack of money we are only able to undertake about two a year. We are doing that based on a priority basis in terms of communities that have the largest number of houses and therefore they need the largest amount of space to work. Hopefully, over the next three, four, five years, we will be able to put a warehouse into every community. Our intention is to be able to supply every community with a warehouse and office.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was in 1980, if I remember correctly, there was a statement that Lake Harbour was promised a warehouse. Even up to this date it is not forecast in 1986-87. I am asking in regard to Lake Harbour's situation, as they do need a warehouse. I am wondering what plans you will have. Will you be able to provide them with warehousing in 1986-87? Thank you.

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

Warehousing In Lake Harbour

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I was in Lake Harbour, that was something we had discussed. Because Lake Harbour has such a small number of units, it will be quite some time before they would get the normal type of warehouse that we supply because we still have several of the larger communities that have not got any warehousing, so we are looking at alternative methods in Lake Harbour. There are discussions taking place right now between the corporation and the hamlet on perhaps, a joint warehouse. There is also another building in Lake Harbour that we are considering for warehousing right now. I cannot quite remember if it is a very old building but we do not have plans to put a Housing Corporation warehouse and office in there, at least not in the foreseeable future, but we are looking at some type of joint arrangement with the hamlet because they also require warehousing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like at this time for the committee to recognize His Worship Mark Kalluak, mayor of Eskimo Point.

---Applause

Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked the question in the House last week regarding Snowdrift public housing. I would like to know when was the last time when they built public housing. I am not referring to home-ownership. I wonder if the Minister could be so kind as to provide me with that information now that we are dealing with the housing budget. Mahsi.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a reply for the Member which I will be making tomorrow. I just approved the reply this afternoon. In terms of Snowdrift and public housing I do not know if we have ever built public housing in Snowdrift. At least the information I have only goes back to 1979. So, perhaps there might have been public housing built before 1979 but my information right now is that since 1979 there has been no public housing built. I will undertake to find out when the last public housing was built there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I have been going into Snowdrift for the last 10 years and have not seen any public housing built and this is why I am really interested in knowing when was the last time they built public housing. I am a little bit concerned about individual families that are unable to build their own homes and they are in desperate need of housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister, would you like to comment on that? No comment. Thank you. General comments. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions. First, when you were at Pond Inlet and when you met with the housing association board, I think you may recall that they did want to have more employees for the housing association and they did request that, but there was not enough money for salaries and wages. As you know there are more houses being constructed at Pond Inlet and they need to have more employees. I am wondering if you could give me a reply on that.

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

Low Level Of Maintenance In Pond Inlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there will be money made available this year for Pond Inlet to hire an additional maintenance man. It is recognized that their level of maintenance is far below that even of the other communities, even where we have a poor low level of staff available. Pond Inlet's is even below the minimal level of staff we have in most communities. In discussions with the regional office, my understanding is that money will be available for them to hire an additional maintenance man.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) The other question I have is with regard to the regional Baffin housing federation, called Igloovigalirijit. They have been meeting in the past but lately they have not had any meetings. I am just wondering if the board of directors of Igloovigalirijit will be continuing to meet or is it not existing any more?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that all the housing association chairmen and secretary managers either have just met recently in Frobisher Bay or will be meeting this month. When I was in Baffin, I was advised by the district that they had plans to have all the chairmen and secretary managers into Frobisher Bay, I think, it was the second week in February.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I even ask the question I know what the reply is going to be. But I have to ask it. Across the Territories people who are living in houses that are supplied by the Housing Corporation, I think, are paying a rent of 25 per cent of their income. I am going to put my attention to Pelly Bay. Pelly Bay is one place in the Territories which gets its supplies only by air. It has been brought to my attention a number of times already and I am pretty sure that it has been brought to the attention of the Minister of the Housing Corporation too. They receive subsidies. That is to upgrade so that they are paying almost the same amount for their groceries as the rest of the Territories. But then again I do not agree that they are paying the same amount as the others, because even though there is a subsidy their groceries are quite high. In fact they do not have any subsidy for fresh and frozen food. It is quite important for people to have that fresh and frozen food. I am pretty sure some people lack

and cannot afford some of the things that they want. I do not think they have any subsidy for regular airfare or freight. A lot of times I have seen them order groceries from Spence. In Pelly, I think their main concern right now is that some of them, self-employed carvers and low income people, even though they have subsidy, a lot of their money is going toward their rent. They are wondering now whether the Housing Corporation could look into the rent adjustment to have another form that is more suitable for that community instead of taking away 25 per cent of their income.

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

Review Of Entire Rental Scale

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two comments. First of all, I have given the undertaking to review the entire rental scale as suggested by the special committee on housing. We will be undergoing a comprehensive review of that scale to see if we can come up with a simplified and more equitable scale.

Secondly, with regard to the cost of food, this government does subsidize transportation into Pelly Bay for food items to put the cost of the food at the same prices it would be in other communities of that region. We subsidize to the sealift rate. Now, if in fact that has not been passed along to the community then I think it is something that the government will have to look at. But we do in fact provide a transportation subsidy to sealift rates. So, that is perhaps something that the government is going to have to look at if in fact we find that that subsidy is not being passed along to the community.

On the other matter of the rental scale, it is being reassessed and conditions such as the Member describes will be taken into account. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment on this. I am just wondering if we will be dealing with the Housing Corporation board of directors in the communities. We have a concern on this, if they are going to be deleting the board of directors in the communities, the employees of the NWT Housing Corporation. They have been visiting the communities and they have been dealing with who is going to be moving into new houses. If they are going to keep doing this I do not agree with it. I have not been seeing any people who are not operating well in each community that is run by the board of directors of the housing association.

I do not like to see this in my own constituency run by the NWT Housing Corporation employees dealing with the people who are going to be moving into new houses. I would like to see the community housing association run this. If the NWT Housing Corporation employee is going to be dealing with this, I think they will be moving in people that will not be able to afford to pay their rent. Can you tell me if you are going to be doing this in the future in the communities? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister, would you like to comment on that?

Introduction Of Points System Of Allocation Of Housing

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I will start at the end first. First of all, yes, we are going to continue doing it. Secondly, we are going to become even tougher in terms of the allocation of houses because one of the most common complaints that the special committee on housing had in nearly every community they went to, one of the common complaints of this House, and I can go back to Hansard and find in the record where in this House one of the biggest complaints against the Housing Corporation and the housing associations has been the method whereby we allocate houses. There is hardly a community at some point in time where we haven't had complaints from the community about that allocation system. So, yes, we will be doing it and we will be doing it even more than in the past but I am hoping that with the introduction of the points allocation system, that will be required of every housing association then this will remove a lot of the complaints by the tenants about the housing associations not allocating properly.

Probably the biggest complaint is that housing association board members tend to allocate houses to their relatives or to friends and that complaint has been heard from every community, from this House, and from the special committee on housing so we are now moving to correct that situation.

With the points allocation system there will be no room for housing association board members to give houses to relatives over and above those that really need the houses and that every person who applies for a house will be treated equally. Once the allocation system starts, then it is simply a matter of ensuring that the housing associations follow the waiting list as established by the points system. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood what you said. I have been involved with the local housing association since 1968 and I have dealt with this before, that you do not discriminate against anybody in the community. It is not running like that in each community, and I was just going to say that in some communities they run well. Up to now it seems like they are all like that in each community and I do not think that they are all like that. I just wanted everybody to know this but I guess about 10 per cent of them are like that, the housing association runs well. For these reasons, some communities should not be run by the NWT Housing Corporation and I guess I would like the idea of giving some assistance to the local associations if they are not running well. I would like to get some clarification, like the board of directors of the housing association, how are you going to deal with them? Thank you.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, first I would have to disagree with the Member's statement that about only 10 per cent of the housing associations have this problem. I would suggest that the vast majority of housing associations have this problem when it comes to allocating houses from the number of complaints that have been received in this House and by the special committee. The problem is, I cannot have 62 different policies on how to allocate houses. There has to be one system for application of houses across the Territories, and it has to be based on need. Now, what we are going to do is set up a points allocation system. Housing Corporation staff will work very closely with the housing board of directors in each community to ensure that they understand that points allocation system, then the housing association will be responsible for assigning the houses under that system and the corporation will merely review the allocations to make sure the housing associations follow the system that has been put in place.

Local Housing Body To Be Compatible With Community

In terms of the housing associations themselves, as I said in my remarks I think that different communities demand different situations and in some communities they want the hamlets to take them over and in some communities they want authorities and some communities want to stay as they are and some communities want half authorities and half association and on that one we will be flexible. We will meet the communities needs on that area and design a housing body that is compatible with the community.

But, I must stress that we must have one method of allocation of houses across the Territories, we cannot have 62 different policies and that, unfortunately, in the past has been what has been happening in many respects. Some communities follow the system, some communities don't, and it has caused a lot of confusion and it has caused a lot of bitterness and it has caused a lot of comments to be made and that is why we are moving to clean that area up.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister mentioned that we cannot have 62 different policies for the associations across the Territories. There is also the user-pay policy, which is the policy to conserve energy, but there are about 10 different ways that the associations are implementing this policy. Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say now that I was going to present a motion to request the Executive of the Government to dissolve this policy so that they do come out with a fair way of distributing power. This user-pay policy was introduced in 1980, I believe, but in the objectives of the Housing Corporation estimates, there is no indication of implementing this policy. I would like to ask the Minister where he would be getting the moneys to implement this program and how soon would it be a policy that is going to be fair right across the Territories?

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

User-Pay System

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member wasn't in the House on Thursday when I made my remarks, however, I will reiterate them for his benefit. I intend to move, immediately, toward the full implementation of the user-pay system in every community in the Northwest Territories. The system will be refined so as to recognize the differences between communities when it comes to power consumption. There is a major difference in the amount of power that is used above the tree line than which is used below the tree line. That difference has to be recognized. Below the tree line there are different power rates in different communities which would lead us to design a user-pay program depending on the type of power that that community uses. So we will immediately begin implementing user-pay and my officials are working right now on the details and while it won't be a comprehensive policy we are going to try and make it as comprehensive as possible, but we have got to recognize that there are just different circumstances in different communities with regard to power, power costs, the utilization of power, and so that policy will be amended almost on a community-by-community basis to ensure fairness.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as private domestic rates go, in the Territories there is not that much difference between Resolute Bay, for example, and Snowdrift. The other thing that I wanted to mention, too, is that presently there are 13 communities that are under the user-pay policy and the only thing is that there are no rewards if you want to call it that, to these communities. For example, in my own constituency we are getting I believe six houses in Hay River and Fort Providence but a community like Yellowknife for example, is not getting any houses at all and I believe that tenants pay 100 per cent and they claim back 25 per cent. I would like to ask the Minister, what is his position, if and when he does implement the user-pay policy, on some of these different arrangements with these 13 other communities. Are they going to dissolve that implementation and come under the new system? What is his position on that?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Okay, first of all, Mr. Chairman, while there may be not much difference in the domestic rate between a community like Resolute Bay and a community below the tree line, the difference lies in the amount of power that is used. People in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet consume a lot more power than people below the tree line because they have no other alternatives. Winters are longer, it is colder, so much more power is used in the high arctic communities than anywhere else in the North. So there is a difference, there is a big difference. In terms of the present system, no, what we have got in the present communities, we will leave there for the time being and when we come up with the new system, if we think that we can adapt these other communities to it, then they will join in. The information that I have is that the communities that are on the user-pay are fairly happy. The communities are fairly happy with what has been implemented in their community so I do not want to tamper with that too much. All I want is to add the rest of the communities on.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Minister that there is a lot of difference in the consumption of power between the people east of the tree line and west of the tree line but the whole purpose of the policy in the first place was for energy conservation. The other thing, too, is that this policy was introduced, I believe, in 1980, and 1983 was the last time that this user-pay policy was implemented. I realize that the Minister did say that he was going to implement that user-pay policy immediately in his remarks that he made on Thursday but it is now 1985 and the user-pay policy has been at a standstill for, I believe, approximately two years. What are the assurances that this implementation will take place immediately?

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

Minister's Guarantee Of Implementation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Chairman, the assurances are that I have given my commitment to this House to implement it. That is the assurance. The reasons why it was never implemented, I would think that there were two main reasons. One was because of concerns expressed by this House. In the Ninth Assembly, I think in the last budget of the Housing Corporation, there was a fair bit of

debate about user-pay and many MLAs indicated resistance to it. I think that was one of the reasons why the corporation did not implement or go ahead. The other reason is that NCPC has been very reluctant to implement it and, in fact, has thrown several roadblocks in the way of implementation. Those roadblocks will be overcome and as I indicated earlier, the guarantee is the fact that I have told this House it is going to happen.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a comment regarding the policies. The Minister just spoke about the need for the Housing Corporation policies to be consistent yet he wants to implement the user-pay policy across the North with different rates paid by each community. This is not consistent and the communities on user-pay do not feel that it is fair that rates charged are different in each community. The planning of the housing is so poor. In our special committee on housing visits in the communities there was one community where there were no windows in the kitchen, therefore they have to keep the lights on all the time in the summertime. In the summertime in the Territories we have daylight all the time and it was really sad to see that they didn't put any windows in the kitchen. They were not allowed to put a window in because they have to have the corporation's approval and they do not want to give that approval. Therefore, the light was kept on all the time so the power bill was very high and to me that does not make any sense at all. A lot of native people are used to having the natural light, not the lights on at all times, especially in the kitchen area.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated to the Member on Friday, in the case where excessive power is being used because it is a fault of house design or because it is a fault of the house and not the tenant then the corporation will make exceptions in those cases.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I have one question in dealing with user-pay. The Minister has indicated in relation to questions that I and others have asked about this user-pay and how it is going to be more equitable, that he intends to bring forth something that will be more readily acceptable to people and I do not mean to put words in his mouth, but words to that effect. And, he raises the concern that he has, as Minister, with the difficulty associated with such a policy as regards NCPC and that corporation's reluctance to get together. It is my understanding, and I think from the special committee on housing, that NCPC are saying that they will not expand due to the lack of an administrative capability and I think the Minister alluded to that or alluded to, maybe, other difficulties with it. Will the Minister comment on whether, in fact, they have reached any kind of agreement with NCPC about its acceptability of entering into a new kind of set-up?

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

Acceptance Of New Set-Up By NCPC

HON. GORDON WRAY: We have had discussions, not quite as fruitful as I had hoped, but I really do not want to tell the House what I plan to do because I am going to tip my hand before I do it and let NCPC know what our plans are but if NCPC -- well, put it this way, the bottom line is that if NCPC refuse to implement the program then we will dry lease every house we have and force them to bill the tenants directly. Then we will have the tenants come to the housing association and we will give them a cheque for the amount of money for the power bill minus what their portion is. That is the bottom line if NCPC refuse to go with the split billing. I think that they might find that type of system a little bit more difficult to swallow than split billing, so now they know what I am going to do and they will probably come up with an argument and try and stop it.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Well, I applaud the Minister for his initiative to try and get around the situation. I would just like to leave that alone and maybe come back and revisit that once I have digested a little bit what the Minister has indicated. Perhaps I could move on to another aspect, since we are in general comments, Mr. Chairman. In my original comments about what the Minister had indicated in his remarks to this committee, on the introduction of the budget for the Housing

Corporation, I dealt with three or four things and I hope I got it across that, like the infamous days of ancient Rome, I want to pull a Brutus, I am coming here to praise, not to bury. As I am sure the Minister did, when he was on the other side, just to get it straight, I applaud the way in which the Minister has responded to certain recommendations of the special committee on housing and the rapidity with which they were done but I would like to ask him to comment on a recommendation that the committee felt was most important. It dealt with subsidies and I allude to the remarks that he made today, very briefly, and on Friday, about utilities, to questions asked by Mrs. Lawrence. That was, in dealing with the subsidies and the recommendation that the special committee made, saying that the corporation should discontinue its present practice of providing housing subsidies to social assistance recipients and Government of the NWT employees living in NWT housing. Furthermore, that these subsidies be provided by the appropriate department, in this case, the Departments of Social Services and Personnel respectively.

I wonder if the Minister would comment on that and indicate to this committee whether, in fact, there has been anything done to identify just what kind of subsidies are being paid to social assistance recipients, to the Department of Personnel. If he can't identify that, can he indicate to the committee where in the budget of the Housing Corporation that kind of money is noted because I am sure the Minister recognizes that when an individual is on social assistance, the minimum rent is \$32? The Housing Corporation has been providing a subsidy directly through its budget to those people. We have asked it to be allocated to the proper department and I recognize as well, Mr. Chairman, that when we were discussing this recommendation in committee of the whole at a previous session of this Assembly, that the Minister indicated -- and I have to use my memory which even though I may have that disease -- I think I can remember words to the effect that he said, "Regardless of how it is paid, it will all come from the same budget." And that is the budget of the GNWT. But it was a recommendation of the special committee, one we thought that was of such an importance that we made it a third recommendation. And if it can be identified, what has gone on in the thinking of the department and the government, obviously, as to how this can be rectified? That is, putting the proper charge for providing a subsidy to the people who should be doing it, to Social Services and to the Department of Personnel.

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

Research Into Costs To The Government

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It certainly is one of the recommendations that I have not responded to immediately. One of the reasons being that it entails quite a bit of research to determine what the costs are and what the cost could be to the government for that. Potentially there could be a problem and this is why we have not been able to reply to that recommendation immediately because we are investigating it. It has not been dropped. I want to assure the Member of that. But we have to look at the fact that if for example, we say Social Services have to pay the total cost of the house, it could mean that there might be a decrease in money coming to this government from the federal government, because maintenance on certain of our houses is 75/25 split between us and CMHC. Their social assistance is only a 50/50 split so it could cost this government more money. That is what is ongoing right now, the whole research into that to determine just exactly what the costs are and if in fact there would be an increase or decrease to government. If it was decided to go with the recommendation then as long as the figures were the same it basically would be just a straight transfer from the corporation over to Social Services or to Personnel. But we are looking at that one very carefully. It is just going to take a little bit longer than usual or a little bit longer than some of these other ones to come up with a response to the recommendation. But I am hopeful that by the fall, we will be in a position to advise the Executive what it means in actual dollars if we were to go with that recommendation. I think that answered the question and I am not sure if there was another question there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments that it may indeed take some time to identify what can be done with people who are involved in social assistance because as you indicated to my colleague, Mrs. Lawrence, you may very well have to respond in a one-to-one situation. But I submit very respectfully to the Minister that it may not be as difficult to get that kind of research dealing with the Department of Personnel. These are government people, be they territorial or federal government. There must be a means to readily identify the people who are in the service of either government in that kind of situation. Has

there been any communication made to the federal government, for example? And is there anything being done with your own government -- its Department of Personnel -- for the people who are living in government houses? I, again, agree that it may take some time to deal with because you are talking about arrangements being made with the federal government for social assistance under EPF, established program funding. I think that is what you are alluding to and there may be some difficulties with those established programs and the funding. But has there been anything of a direct nature done or has there been anything done in regard to the GNWT and its Department of Personnel and to the federal government, the federal government possibly using those units?

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

Alternatives For Government Employees In Public Housing

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nothing direct has been done with the territorial/federal government because essentially I want to come at it a different way. One of the reasons for redoing the needs survey is because it does not provide me with information in terms of the numbers we are talking about. I think the first thing that I have instructed the corporation to do is identify for me tenants of public housing who are government employees, be it municipal, territorial or federal, so, that at least we know how many people we are talking about and how many houses we are talking about. The plan that I have for that area is to first of all move on those people with those kinds of incomes in public housing, into attempting to get them into the home-ownership program. This is why at the same time I am trying to negotiate with the federal government to cost share home-ownership, so that we can double that allocation and provide the alternative. While I am looking at two or three years down the road, if we sustain these present levels of capital, we should, in a couple of years from now, be in a position of being able to say that because there are now alternatives available within a community or we as a government have alternatives, bring in an income level for public housing. In other words if you earn above X amount of dollars, you will not be eligible for public housing.

Now, I cannot do that at present because I have no alternatives to offer these people but I am working toward providing an alternative so that we can start saying to people, "You are not eligible for public housing because you are making too much money. But we have this alternative program whereby we can provide you with a house." The government employees, I think, are the prime target for this type of strategy because the only reason they are in public housing to begin with is because there is no other type of housing available. So, that is the strategy in that area but once I have determined the number of government employees we are talking about and whether it be federal, municipal or territorial, then I think we will start communication with the various personnel departments to determine if in fact we should assess these people full economic rate which would then make them eligible for the various subsidies available through Personnel that other government employees presently enjoy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Minister, I agree with what you are saying and I just want to reiterate that it was an important recommendation, hence the numbering of it in the report of the special committee on housing. I note that in the document that indicates the priority programs approved by the Executive Council in relation to the corporation, the agency, that there are a number of priorities identified for the Housing Corporation. I would hope that in your discussion or in your review or whatever goes on in terms of those priorities as they apply to the Housing Corporation that that would be one that would be identified. There are a number of them and I applaud you for those because as I had indicated earlier, there has been a very quick response to a number of the recommendations that had been made to the government. I recognize again the recommendations, but in those priorities I do not note any reference to that particular recommendation and since the money that is being paid does not go into the purpose for which the Housing Corporation is set up, that is, to provide public housing, you are not losing as a corporation any moneys that will go into providing housing.

It will help a recipient, either under social assistance, either from the Government of the Northwest Territories or the federal government or maybe municipal government, to use housing. But your primary responsibility is to provide the social housing for those people who cannot afford other particular forms of housing. I guess if you got down to the basics, rationale for giving people housing under the corporation, would be, notwithstanding that you have other programs, to provide housing for those who cannot afford either to pay full economic rent, to build their own

home, to take on mortgages or anything else. That is fundamental rationale for the existence of the Housing Corporation. I just would hope that in review of the priorities that have been approved by the corporation, and therefore by the government, that there would be some indication that that is one of the things that you will do. We, as a special committee, and I am sure as this committee of the whole, would agree that is necessary to make sure that those people who are getting it are getting the money from the proper source, not from the corporation, because the money is not being used for the basic rationale of the corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question is not entirely going to this topic, however, before we approve this budget estimate I would like to find out something. The communities in Baffin Region last year increased the utility services and some of the people have refused to pay for the utilities because the rate was too high. I was wondering if you foresee this same problem arising again in the future. Thank you.

Problem With Hamlets Increasing Charges For Services

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to ensure that this same problem does not arise, the Department of Local Government is presently developing a policy for consideration by the Executive Council whereby there would be a standard rate of charges for municipal services in the various communities. The problem arose simply because some hamlets chose to up their charges for municipal services in the middle of a fiscal year and in some cases charges rose by as much as 300 and 400 and 500 per cent. The corporation were given a five per cent increase in their budget and simply did not have the money to match these increases. So, we have asked the Department of Local Government to see if they can come up with a much better way of hamlets charging municipal services costs because, as a corporation, we cannot respond to increases in the middle of a fiscal year. Neither can we respond to increases, as I indicated of 600 and 700 per cent. This House would never give us a 600 per cent increase in our budget and we are limited to what the House gives us. So, most of the fault, I think, lay with the hamlets in the fact that they upped their charges by so much and on such short notice and that is why we ran out of money. But the Department of Local Government, I believe, will be bringing forward a decision paper within the next two or three weeks so that this situation does not occur in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another question, the housing association in the communities have been having problems with funding for many years now but I would like to ask a question. After approving the main estimates, before you allocate it to the communities, I was wondering if you would be able to invite the housing managers, secretary managers because I think the secretary managers are not informed fully. I think that is probably the reason why they have been approving a lot of things because they do not fully understand. So, before you would start allocating the budgets to the North, I was wondering if you would be able to consult with the secretary managers from the communities. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Qujannamiik, Mr. Paniloo. Mr. Minister.

Informing Secretary Managers On Allocation Of Funds

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That process has already started. As I indicated, the secretary managers and the chairmen were brought together for Baffin and Frobisher on February 4th and the other district managers will be getting together with the secretary managers to go over the allocation of funds, but I should point out that the allocation of funds is set by the number of houses and the type of houses that every community has. There are set criteria for every community and depending on the number of houses and the type of houses that is how much money you get. There is a very strict formula for the funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Paniloo.

Timing Of Allocation Of Houses

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) The meeting in Frobisher Bay for the secretary managers and the chairmen, I think was too early. This meeting was set up even before the main estimates were approved. Also I heard that when you go to the communities you tell the communities how many units

will be allocated into the communities. I do not think that you should be telling the people in the communities how many units they are going to get before the main estimates have been approved. It would be more true if you were able to inform the communities about the allocation of the units after the main estimates had been approved. In this session there are a lot of people with questions and there are motions being made. Sometimes we have motions before the budget is approved. So I was wondering if this is going to be the case in the future again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I can say is that if I had to wait until after the main estimates were approved to allocate houses, there would be no houses. Most of the tender documents have been out now for a couple of months for those houses. I do not have the luxury of waiting until the main estimates are approved before I order houses because of the sealifts and because of the tender documents. It is already known in October or November when we go to tender what the housing allocations are going to be. So unless the Member wants to delay housing for another year, we have no choice but to do it this way.

Hopefully, with the introduction of a five year capital plan, this will be the last year where this occurs and Members will know in future what we are planning. But I do not have that document yet and it will not be developed at least for another month, so this year we had to do it the way we always do it. So, I am sorry but there is no other way to do it unless the Members want me to ensure that every second year there are no houses because that is the only way I could do it. I could not wait for the main estimates before I start allocating. Those houses are going to tender. There just simply is not enough time. If I waited until the middle of March to go to tender for the units it would mean there would be no winter road allocations, there would be very few sealift houses that year and they would have to wait until the following year before we brought the houses in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) I have one more question. When we are looking at the main estimates on page 3.10, there will be 20 units going to Baker Lake. Are these going to be new units or are these 20 units to be renovated?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. These are 20 units for rehab. Baker Lake has the highest number of northern rental houses of any community in the NWT and there are 20 units to be renovated.

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

Opportunity For MLAs To Examine User-Pay Policy

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get a comment or reaction from the Minister with regard to the user-pay policy. I understand that he is in favour of implementing a new policy or the revised old policy. He indicated that the reason why the user-pay policy did not go ahead previously was because of the problem of the MLAs not supporting that user-pay policy and also the non-co-operation of NCPC. I would like to ask the Minister whether once he formulates the new policy and it has been put together, whether the MLAs will have the opportunity to take a look at the revised policy and to have input to assure the Minister that he does have sufficient support of the MLAs before he proceeds with this new policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, I will be sitting down with the MLAs to go over it and explain to them just exactly what the policy is and how it applies to their communities. I do not think the problem of not implementing was totally because of opposition by MLAs. I just think at that point in time -- and I am only speculating here now because it was before my time -- but I think the corporation was nervous with going ahead with user-pay because there had been some opposition shown in the House to it and they were not quite sure whether they should continue or not. But, yes, I will be sitting down with the MLAs and going over it for their areas.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the other concern I would like to raise is whether the Housing Corporation does have a policy in regard to considering which business should supply materials and goods to the Housing Corporation, whether there is a policy in that regard.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: The buying policies of the NWT Housing Corporation are governed by, among other things, the business incentive policy. It is done nearly always through tender. They are the same criteria that the government uses for purchasing their supplies.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: I would like to ask the Minister whether the policy in place is to support northern businesses that are already established, businesses that have supplies at hand, who would have supplies in their warehouses, when they do put a bid for tendering to supply goods and materials to the Housing Corporation, or whether the GNWT or the Housing Corporation consider that they are dealing with businesses that just have an office and a telephone and they do not have the supplies at hand. Once they get the contract, then they would go out and get those supplies. I am talking about these established businesses like the Johnson's Building Supplies, for instance, which as the Minister is aware, is in building supplies. Therefore they would have warehouses full of supplies so that they know that they can bid and also they are in a business of supplying these services. But I am concerned that there may be other businesses that are just formed and they do not have supplies as such but yet they would put forth a bid. So that comes to mind, whether we are really furthering our cause in terms of supporting northern businesses in the NWT.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. The Housing Corporation is not responsible for defining who or what is a northern business. We get that from the Department of Government Services and according to their criteria, well in excess of 90 per cent of our supplies contracts went to northern firms. But we do not define who or what is a northern business, we merely follow the guidelines as set by the government under the business incentive policy.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I still have to hear from the Minister whether this government or the Housing Corporation support northern businesses in terms of whether we are dealing with a fly-by-night corporation that is formed a week before or a month before the tenders are given and they have not been in business previously and they do not have the necessary stock because they have just recently formed and you have other businesses in existence for quite a few years. I want to know whether that policy is adequate, that is used at the present time.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, obviously we support northern businesses, that is the answer to the first question. Two, if a company was formed a month ago it would not qualify as a northern business, therefore it would not be eligible to receive northern preference. Any company to receive northern preference or be classed as a northern business has to be designated under the business incentive policy and, as you know, we have a new one with much more stringent conditions than any previous policy and we believe that is as tight as we can reasonably make it.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can pursue the matter further with the Minister with some examples which he might appreciate have created or may create some problems with the present policy in place.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: I will be happy to talk to the Member, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any more general comments? Mr. Ballantyne.

Possible Division Of Housing Corporation

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, in light of the findings and recommendations of the interim report of the special committee on housing, has the Housing Corporation undertaken internal reviews of its programs and its policies? I guess you alluded to some of them, a review of the make-up of housing association members, but I wonder, in a broader sense, with the spectre of division hanging over us, is the corporation looking at that eventuality, the possibility of dividing the corporation? Is the corporation looking at going beyond the concept which the Minister outlined in his opening statements, about maybe more power going to the regional offices? Has the Minister looked at the possibility of turning over programs to communities or groupings of communities?

The reason that I ask is that, as you know, the special committee will be making recommendations -- it was our hope that there would be some interaction between the corporation and the special committee before we do make our recommendations. If the corporation looks at some of these concepts that have been put forward and comes up with some good rationale as to why some of them are not possible it will help the special committee in their final report.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I think the Member just touched on something that the Executive was eager to tackle and I think that is why the Leader has been insistent on reviewing the role of the Executive Council when it comes to the matter of constitutional development and, I think, that is why we want this debate opened up. I have not received a mandate as the Minister of Housing to actually begin implementation of division of the corporation and there is a question as to who should have that mandate and, I think, there are differing opinions. I think until that debate is cleared up and until we get a firm idea of who is going to do what then, no, I think with the Housing Corporation right now, we have a lot of other problems to tackle and until I get the mandate from the Executive I have not addressed that question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I just used that as one example of the sort of things that I guess should be looked at over the next period of time but some other examples were the possibility over a period of time of turning over responsibility of some programs to communities or to regions. Some of these concerns were outlined by various communities that we visited and, again, I guess before we make our final recommendations this sort of interchange of ideas and rationale is important so that we do not make recommendations in the spring which, in fact, are impossible or really difficult to implement. I wonder if you have looked at any of those and how would the Minister suggest that this communication takes place between any analysis being done of programs and policies of the corporation and to tie that in with the recommendations of the standing committee?

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

Focus First On Local Housing Associations

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That, I think, is one of the more difficult questions to answer very simply because with division hanging over us, obviously there will be two governments and that government may wish to implement something in the role of housing that it feels is the best method to go ahead with and I do not know if we would want to start making changes now and then have to change them two years from now, or three years from now. It is a very difficult question to answer. I have primarily set out, first of all, to establish the role of the housing association at the community level and get that straightened out and get them running. This is why I have brought in the idea of block funding and a little bit more responsibility for them so that they can have a little bit better hands-on management and control over the day-to-day business. I think that we will, obviously, have to look to the role of the regional body, some form of a regional body and what type of controls and what type of responsibilities we give that regional body but I must admit that it is not something that I have spent a lot of time on because my priority, right now, is to get the communities fixed up and running properly. I think once we can do that then we can look at having a regional body set up and running properly because I think that is where the two main problems are.

How do you get the dialogue going? I do not know. I guess through my discussions with the special committee and, I guess, with their discussions in the communities and with the expertise that they have available to them, maybe we can, perhaps, come up with some form of model. Maybe we can take a look at the provinces and see what they do there. In the provinces, I know, municipalities, to a certain extent, control housing and actually are funded for housing. I do not know if we want to go that far in the North but I think that is a much more long-term scenario than trying to fix up the short-term problems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will have a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order now. Mr. Ballantyne, you have the floor.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I will just wait until the Minister gets back to his seat. He shared an ash tray with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where we left off, I think I have an understanding where the Minister is coming from. When we look at the evolution of policies and programs, we do have the possibility of division coming up and I think we all have to look at any recommendations that we make in light of possible division of the Territories.

Capital Cost Overruns

If I could go on to another question, and I hate to belabour the point, but it was to do with the capital project overruns and the supp that came down last year. I wonder, just as a point of clarification, if the Minister could explain to me and if he does not have this actual answer, I have already talked to the financial management secretariat and we will get it another way, it seems to be a little bit unorthodox that that supp of \$8,860,000 came out of GNWT O and M money and at the time the major operative word when that supp was requested was to provide working capital, and there was the lesser implication of cost-sharing of the overrun but I wonder, is not that a little bit unorthodox? Should not that \$8.86 million come out of the capital budget of the GNWT, because any moneys that are paid back will be paid back from the capital moneys of CMHC and of the Housing Corporation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that the decision as to where the money came from was the decision of the Department of Finance and, once again, because I was not around I really do not know the reasoning behind that decision, to be honest with you. I do not know if the Minister would know. Can you excuse me for a moment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Go ahead, Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Could I take that under advisement and provide the Member with an answer?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that would be acceptable. Regarding cost overruns, on Friday the Minister said that there was some documentation developed to justify the recovery of three million dollars and the Minister said that he would make that available to the committee. I wonder, where is that? I would like to look at it. In that justification, I think there are some 46 various cost overruns we are talking about, a total of \$7.5 million, and I wonder in the justification could we have the names of the companies involved? When you look at 46 different projects with significant cost overruns, or many of those projects had significant cost overruns, I submit that that \$7.5 million if it was not wasted in cost overruns, some of it anyhow could have been used for building houses and repairing houses. Could we have the names of the contractors involved and the details of those contracts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we will attempt to provide as much information about it as we can although I hope the Member does appreciate that it will take us a considerable amount of time to put it together. There is a lot of paper work involved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, but I think it would be worth while for this House to know the details of each of those overruns and, again, I think the lessons we can learn from that extraordinary number of projects with cost overruns is that we can ensure that that sort of thing does not happen again. So, I think it is good for everybody in this House to know why it happened and to take steps to ensure that it does not happen again.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will attempt to have that information before the end of the session. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more general comments? Mr. Richard.

Implementation Of New Financing Programs

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could return briefly to a couple of matters that the Minister spoke of last week. Firstly, the new programs, the interim financing program and supplementary financing program and the amount of money allocated to them. By my rough calculations, in this first building season there could be as few as 20 recipients of the supplementary financing program at a maximum of \$25,000 each and there could be as few as 10 or 12 in receipt of the interim financing program moneys in the one building season. With that small number in mind, can the Minister not give us in some certain detail how he will ensure that these applications are treated in a fair manner by way of a start date, an advertising program, to make the public aware of the availability of these funds and the date on which they will become available?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds will be available as of April 1st, 1985 and the promotion material is in the process of being developed right now and should be hitting the streets fairly shortly.

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

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another matter, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated on Friday that he could not or would not conduct a needs survey in Yellowknife similar to the ones which he is conducting in the other communities and stated that the reason for that was that he did not have the resources within this budget of \$54 million to do the needs survey in the community of Yellowknife. Can the Minister tell me what was the estimated cost of doing that survey in this community of Yellowknife that caused him to rule that out?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To do a comprehensive survey as we do in other communities, the estimated cost was anywhere between \$60,000 and \$100,000.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, later in the day, on Friday, the Minister softened a bit and indicated he would look at some method of assessing the true needs of Yellowknife. Can the Minister give an undertaking today that he will find the funds, whether it is \$60,000 or \$100,000 or some lesser figure, in his budget to, in fact, try and ascertain what the needs are of the poor people of Yellowknife, that sector of the community that requires access to public housing in comparison to people with a similar problem in other communities?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I cannot commit myself to committing funds for that purpose. Thank you.

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

Allocation Of Houses, Community Needs Summary

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could turn to another matter, I didn't fair very well on that one. Mr. Chairman, the Minister has provided to us recently a document entitled "Community Needs Summary" and while I have some difficulty in understanding the various calculations and the entries on this document, there is quite a bit of detail by communities with the exception of the city of Yellowknife. But for the communities that are referenced in this document, can the Minister firstly tell me was the 1985-86 allocation of the 200 housing units based on the data that appears in this document?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: It was partially based on the data and partially on the advice of the regional offices because it is recognized that the data is insufficient. While it is there, the data is not as accurate as it should be. So, partially, yes, but more so from the district offices and their own knowledge of the region. That is why we are revising the entire needs survey because from my trips around Baffin I very quickly discovered that the data in there is not accurate data.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister then could be perhaps patient with me and give this committee some explanation of the allocation that was done. In a response to a written question of the last session the Minister indicated that the public housing allocation was based on the aggregate of three considerations. There are three terms used in the Minister's written response -- community shortfall requirement, community population requirement and unit replacement. Mr. Minister, how do these terms relate, if at all, to the document entitled "Community Needs Summary"?

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

Housing Requirement Categories

HON. GORDON WRAY: To answer the last question. First they do not relate too well at all and that is why I have ordered a complete and comprehensive review of the needs data and of the survey. In terms of the explanation of the three terms, I must admit I am going to get quite a kick out of explaining something to a lawyer, but that is beside the point.

Community shortfall requirement is essentially how many houses we require in that community to house the population that we have. That is what that means. Community population requirements asks has there been a major increase in population or is there anticipated a major increase in population for factors that would be outside of normal population growth? I guess the best example of that is Gjoa Haven which went from 400 people to 700 people in the matter of three and a half years, totally unexpected, totally unanticipated. So, we have to look at those factors. With unit replacement we look at what we have, what condition it is in and how old it is and if in fact we should be replacing units. In terms of unit replacement we have to look very carefully at the number of matchboxes and the number of A-frames, anaraks, the number of old northern rentals. So that is what that term means. It is in fact the requirement to replace units.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, if the figures in this document entitled "Community Needs Summary" were insufficient or inaccurate and the Minister in allocating the 200 public housing units used other figures provided by his regional offices, are these figures available? Can we see them on another spread sheet so that we might compare them with the needs as shown in this document?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we do not have another survey. We used the expertise of the district offices, in the various communities and the program officers to determine along with some of the information from the needs survey for this last year where we think the major requirements are. Now the hope is that next year and in subsequent years we will have a much better data base and therefore will be able to pinpoint exactly the number of houses required. But essentially in this exercise the needs survey was used to a certain extent but we also depended heavily on the expertise of our regional people.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister indicating that in a sense then he, perhaps with a combination of the expertise of the regional offices, overruled the figures that are shown here because it was felt that they were insufficient? If that is so, why were the figures that were used, the expertise of the regional offices, why are they not documented anywhere if in fact there was an overruling if you will, of the documented figures as they are? How is it that the better figures are not documented somewhere?

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

Inadequacy Of Present Needs Data

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very simply because we do not have the better figures. That is why we are redoing the needs survey to give us the better figures. I will give an example. I think the two best examples we have are Gjoa Haven and Pond Inlet. The needs survey does not show that we have major problems in those two communities with population growth. There is no accounting for the fact that the population in Gjoa Haven has increased so drastically in the last three or four years. Pond Inlet is the same thing. The document does not show that in Cape Dorset there is a very large number of houses required but also it does not show that the houses that are presently there are in very bad shape. The document did not tell any of us that in Broughton Island there are a lot of matchboxes. It does not tell us that in Clyde River the houses are also in very bad shape. That knowledge is contained by the people in the region and they know it but it has not been documented. That is why I have ordered a complete review of that survey to tell, you know, that while we might have 50 houses, do we really have 50 good houses or do we only have 20 good houses and 30 bad ones? It does not tell us that in Gjoa Haven because of people relocating from Spence Bay and other communities we are going to need more houses in Gjoa Haven in the next two or three years than we do other places. Now, it tells us to a certain extent but it does not give us all the information.

There was no overruling, I guess, because essentially what happened was the staff of the regional offices sat down along with the needs survey, along with their own knowledge of the communities, along with requests by MLAs, along with requests from housing associations generally, and came up with what they thought for this year would be the best distribution of houses. We recognize that when you only have 200 houses to allocate and you have a requirement for 1000, that obviously some places and some people are not going to be happy. But until I have the better needs survey and until I have that five year capital plan, I really cannot sit down and say this is the way we are going to go. It just takes time to develop that knowledge and it takes time to determine that base data. We are under certain constraints too because the special committee on housing have addressed it and they have made recommendations that we are trying to address and we just need time. I do not have all that many staff. There are some things which are higher priority than others and the needs survey is one of the highest priority areas.

What I am saying is that if some Members feel that this year allocations might not be quite on, well, they could be correct. But I am hoping that next year we will have an allocation method and a system of allocation that will keep everybody happy.

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

No Accurate Data For Housing Needs

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I find it rather ironic that the Minister, at this time, is indicating to the committee that he does not really have the basis in terms of factual data on which to make an assumption in terms of where the needs are. That is really what I am primarily interested in. If the various regions have not completed their housing needs survey, then how can the Minister indicate to this committee that in his personal opinion, as Minister of Housing, there is a greater need in the eastern communities as opposed to the western, if he has no factual basis on which to back up that statement?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Well, the Member is twisting my words, but I have one factual basis and that is I have more population in the East than I have in the West, twice as many. Now that is simply enough fact to determine that there is going to be a higher need.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, if we go back in the history of the NWT Housing Corporation for the last five years, or even 10 years, and look at the numbers of units that have been allocated into the six districts, I am sure the Minister will come to the conclusion that it has not necessarily been based on need. He has already indicated to this committee, as I understand it, that the allocation of units by the various community housing associations has posed some problems and that it has not necessarily been based on need. Now he is trying to correct the policy so that there is a fairer means of allocating these units. That is the indication that I get from the Minister. So I cannot really see, based on that statement, that we can wholeheartedly agree that the Minister's personal statement that we are not getting our fair share in terms of housing units in the West, is not necessarily correct. So what factual information does the Minister -- is he prepared as Minister to table those documents to back up the statement that he has made?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Well the Member is obviously confused. When I was talking about allocation of houses in the communities I was talking about the method whereby housing associations allocate new or existing units to the people in the community. That is what I was talking about earlier. When it comes to the allocation of houses, if the West has not been getting their fair share in the last 10 years then why did he not do something about it when he was in the government? Regarding the allocation for this year as opposed to the year before, there are only two regions where there has been a decrease in allocation of housing, the Keewatin and the Baffin Regions. In the western districts the allocation has remained the same and there has been an increase in the Inuvik Region. The only two districts where any housing has decreased has been in the Baffin and Keewatin Regions.

Now, I cannot answer as to why houses were not allocated before, and if the Member feels they were not allocated properly then that is his prerogative. All I can say is that I am attempting to address the problem so that I can give myself and give the corporation and give this House, for the first time, accurate base-line data so that when it comes to allocation of houses we will have no squabbles about this community needs more than this community. As to the documentation to back up these allocations, sure you can have the documentation, what there exists of it. I have no problem with that.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Now that the Minister is in power I am sure that he will review the policy that has been in existence for many years, even before my time when I was involved with the Executive Council. But I would like to indicate that the present policy does not necessarily seem to indicate that there is going to be any change in direction because obviously you have not got the survey needs done in some of the districts, so how could the Minister indicate at this time that the allocation at the present time is fair? I do not think he can. So I am questioning the Minister, how could he, as Minister of Housing, indicate to this committee that the needs are greater in one region as opposed to the other if he does not have sufficient data at the present time to back up those assumptions?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have data upon which we base the allocations. Now I have indicated that I am not completely satisfied that that data is correct. However, I do not know what the Member wants me to do. I mean I have given my commitment to revise the needs survey and have it done in time so that when we do go to allocate units for next year we will be operating with correct data. I do not know what more he wants.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, what I would like is to see a fair distribution of those units because those units are coming from public funds and they are there to be spent on behalf of all residents of the Northwest Territories, not just in one particular district. We have two housing programs and I would like to see the two programs are reassessed to ensure that there is a fair distribution in all of the six districts.

Cost-Shared Agreement, Home-Ownership Programs

I would like to ask the Minister whether the lack of a building code in the Northwest Territories is posing a problem in regard to reaching an agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in terms of entering a cost-shared agreement in regard to home-ownership programs?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, not meeting the national building code is not posing a problem. We are actually addressing that and all HAP units will be up to NBC standards fairly soon. The reason that the cost-sharing has not taken place is because I only made the request a month and a half ago and because it is a new program and because the CMHC do not do it anywhere else and because there is a new government and a new Minister in power -- previously I would say no, they did not want to cost-share, but now with the new federal government in power, and with the new Minister, they say that they will look at cost-sharing of provincial or territorial initiatives, and that is why these discussions have now entered into it. Up until the new government was in power, the previous government did not want to talk about cost-sharing.

In terms of allocation of units this year, if you want, for the district allocations, there will be 353 units total and that includes senior citizens, public housing, home-ownership, rural and remote. Out of that 353, 171 goes to what is commonly known as the three western districts; 182 goes to what is known as the eastern districts. That is almost a 50/50 split. I do not know how much fairer I am supposed to be, given that there is almost twice as many people in the small communities in the East as there is in the West. I think perhaps maybe the West is faring a little bit better than they normally have done in the past. There has never been such a high level of housing going into the western districts as there has been in the past two years.

I think sometimes people conveniently forget things like rural and remote, home-ownership, senior citizens and other types of housing that are not available to any eastern communities. All of the senior citizens home repair program, not one dollar is going to any eastern community, it is all going into the West. So perhaps when Members are looking at allocation, they should be honest and look at all allocation of housing units and not just public housing because public housing appears to go into the Eastern Arctic.

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

Support From CMHC

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the allocation and number of units under public housing does not only appear to go into the eastern communities but it does. It is really a matter of fact, so we are not debating a hypothetical situation here. However, I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, in regard to cost-sharing of these programs, why is there a difference in terms of the kind of support that this government is getting from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in regard to the cost-sharing of these two particular programs? The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation seems to be putting in a lot more money to implement the public housing program but when it comes down to home-ownership programs it really is the territorial government putting in most of the bucks in this program, and in the public housing program it is the other way around.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I am being asked why the federal government did something. I am having a hard time answering for the corporation never mind for the federal government. All I can say is that in discussions with the new federal officials -- apparently up until the new federal government took power, there was a feeling that provincial initiatives would have to be funded by provinces or territories and that the federal government really did not want to get into cost-sharing with provincial initiatives because of the fact that we had a federal Liberal government and we had provincial Conservative governments. So, they did not want to be cost-sharing provincial programs in case they were seen as -- or they did not want it to be used politically against them as helping a Conservative government broadcast its success in housing programs. Now, that is only speculation on my part because I cannot answer for the federal government. All I can indicate to you is what I have done with the new federal government and that is that I approached them immediately to try and cost-share the home-ownership programs. They have said that they will look at it and I am hoping that they are going to look at it favourably. But, as to why they did not do it in the past is speculation on my part, but I suspect it is because they did not want to fund Conservative governments, if you want the bottom line.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I would hesitate at this time to do an assessment of the Progressive Conservative government as to how they are going to deal with the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories, but what I would like to know is whether the Minister will pursue with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation that the cost-shared agreements should also apply to the home-ownership program on the same basis as public housing? Is that possible?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: We are actively pursuing the cost-sharing of HAP, although we have proposed a 50/50 split because the 75/25 split of public housing is under the National Housing Act and it is the National Housing Act which has determined what that level of split should be. We have proposed 50/50, essentially because I wanted to get it cost-shared and I did not think if I went and asked for 75/25 or 90/10 I would get it. So, I went to them in this new spirit of co-operation that the federal government is talking about and proposed an equal partnership. It was simply a strategy on my part to get them to agree to it and I am hopeful that they will agree to it but if I went to them and asked them to fund it in a major way then I suspect that they would say, "no", because we have a problem in terms of dealing with CMHC and with the federal government because they basically look at the home-ownership program as an upfront grant or a front-end grant which they do not do. So, first of all, I have to get their philosophical acceptance of cost-sharing, once we get it then I can start working with the numbers, but I do not want to jeopardize any cost-sharing by asking for too much at the outset.

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

Additional Funding For Home-Ownership Programs

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I can see the predicament of the Minister in regard to seeing if an arrangement can be made with Canada Mortgage and Housing but do you think it is possible, Mr. Minister, that the Executive Council, with its present make-up, can consider some of those millions out of that \$10 million capital reserve fund which is not allocated for any specific purpose at this time, which is allocated for 1985-86, that some of that capital money can go into the home-ownership program which obviously is underfunded at the present time? In regard to the public housing program, we have adequate funding for that particular program but you seem to be having some difficulty in regard to finding capital funds to increase the number of units that will be required for the home-ownership program.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, they already gave me two million dollars this year alone for home-ownership. You can only go back to the table so many times. The Housing Corporation received almost one-fifth of the entire priority budget, so I do not know if, when I went back, it would be entertained but I should indicate to you that the present level of construction that we have in all the areas is going to push the corporation to its limits and that any additional money would be very difficult to use in this year. You know, there are certain constraints too upon us because of land and time, etc. So, I do not know, I would not go back to the Executive this year for more moneys for home-ownership but I certainly intend to go back in future years.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated recently that part of the problem with allocating units to the various communities has to deal with the availability of land. Can the Minister indicate to this committee whether he has any problems with the availability of land within the Mackenzie Valley communities and if so, why?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I can indicate to you that we have enough land for this years construction. We have problems for the following year. In terms of the exact details on a community-by-community basis of land status, no, I do not have that information. We can get that information but I do not have it available to me right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, I had some comments also on the allocation and the needs study. I was going to do it in detail of the capital plan but since we have been dealing with it now when everything is fresh in our minds, I have a few comments. I guess it is evident from the questions that are being asked the Minister, there has been a lot of misunderstanding and confusion among MLAs as to exactly how the housing units, both HAP and public housing are allocated and there have been different signals coming from the Housing Corporation as to methodology. I think we are very glad to hear that the Minister will be looking for a fuller data base and I think that after all the communities are fully surveyed, including the larger communities in the West and including the people who are not in public housing, perhaps that two-to-one East/West needs split will change quite a bit. I think that the needs of other communities which right now do not enjoy a lot of public housing will be better understood. I would like to outline some of the problems with the basic understanding of how the needs survey is done and how houses are allocated.

Needs Criterion In Capital Planning Process

The Minister has said that the data base that he had provided us, the needs in the communities, is not the only criterion that is used, that in fact the expertise of the regional offices is also used and we have here, again, a response to a question made to the Housing Corporation on the needs study, one of the questions was, how does the needs study data relate to the capital planning process? I will quote from this response from the Housing Corporation: "the planning process is similar to that of the GNWT involving the determination of program targets to regions and the development by districts staff of regional capital plans. Substantial justification of the plan at both the program target level and the regional level is an important aspect of the process. Regional plans may consider justifications other than data available to the housing needs survey but must not contradict it." It seems to be even though the data base that the Housing Corporation has now is incomplete, it is really the only way to ascertain relative needs, region by region. So that I would say it must be a prime part of the consideration, even though in each region it may be incomplete, it should give a basic idea which region has greater needs than another region. Am I correct in that assumption?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Well, as I indicated to Mr. Richard, yes, it is part of the whole process. There is no denying that. All I am saying is that I am still not satisfied that it is accurate enough to give us the proper information. I know, for example, that in some of the western communities where we do not have any public housing there is no need shown but yet I know there is a need and the problem is the needs survey has never addressed people who live outside of Housing Corporation houses. So, I do not have what I consider, in order for me to make a decision, good base-line data on proper allocation and I will not have that until we review this whole survey and get an updated amount of information. So, for the time being, I have to use what we have along with input from the district offices and the Housing Corporation board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand that and I agree with the fact that we need more base data but what we have done is we have put together an attempt at an analysis of the last two years and what we did is base it on the needs as shown in the document that was given to us for 1984-85 in Inuvik, Keewatin, Hay River, Kitikmeot and Baffin, because in Yellowknife and in many of the Dogrib communities, the data base is very incomplete and we did not include that in our findings. We did a relative comparison of needs of the five other regions, of the stated need according to the documentation that was provided to us and then the number of public housing units and the number of HAP units that are built in each one of these regions. If I could just go through it, so everybody could get an idea. Obviously it is based on incomplete data which the Minister is trying to improve, but it gives us an indication as close as we can come with the data we have been given, of exactly what has happened over the last two years.

Comparison Of Needs And Allocation, 1984-85

In the Inuvik region, according to the statistics in 1984-85 there was a need for 264 units. That is for all the communities in the Inuvik area. Now, that is 28.4 per cent of the total need of the five regions in question. The Inuvik region got 63 public housing units in 1984-85 and 19 HAPs for

a total of 82 units. We included HAPs here because I think it does meet a need and if there is a HAP unit put into a community, it obviously frees up some public housing. So, trying to look at the overall package, we did not include senior citizens units.

The Inuvik region had 28.4 per cent of the need according to the data. They received 26.4 per cent of the housing, a combination of public housing and HAP. So of the need for the Inuvik region in 1984-85, they had 31 per cent of their particular need met.

According to the same statistics, the Keewatin had shown a need for 110 units which is 11.8 per cent of the need of the five districts. They received 69 public housing units and five HAP units for a total of 74. So, the Keewatin, according to the criteria that we have, had 11.8 per cent of the need. They received 23.8 per cent of housing. They had 67.3 per cent of their needs met.

The Hay River district had a need of 130 units. Now, even though this is incomplete, the need is more than this, but just based on this with a need shown, according to the statistics of 130 units which is 13.9 per cent of the total need, they got no public housing and 22 HAP units. So, they had 13.9 per cent of the need, they got 7.09 per cent of the units. So, they had 16.9 per cent of their needs met.

Kitikmeot showed a need for 69 units which is 7.5 per cent of the need. They got 34 public housing units and three HAPs for a total of 37 which is 11.95 per cent of the houses built. So, they had 7.5 per cent of the need and got almost 12 per cent of the housing. So, they had 53.6 per cent of their needs met.

In the Baffin, it showed that they needed 311 units which is a third of the units which are needed in the five regions. They got 70 public units and five HAP units for a total of 75. So, they got 24.19 per cent of the units built. They had 33.5 per cent of the need and they got 24 per cent of the houses. So, they got 22 per cent of their needs met.

Comparison Of Needs And Allocation, 1985-86

As we go into 1985-86 using the same criteria, Inuvik showed they needed 196 units which is 25.5 per cent of the total units needed. They got 68 public housing units and 32 HAP units for a total of 31.1 per cent of the units built. So, 25.5 per cent of the need, 31.1 per cent of the units built. In this case 51 per cent of their needs were taken into consideration.

Between 1984-85 and 1985-86, new criteria were added whereby estimated houses because of population increases or houses burning down or what have you, are also added to the list of houses that are needed. So that has been taken into consideration.

The Keewatin in 1985-86 showed a need for 74 housing units which is 9.6 per cent of the need. They had 57 public housing units built and 10 HAP units for a total of 67 units which is 20.8 per cent of the needs met. They had 9.6 per cent of the need. Okay, in this particular case, 90 per cent of their needs. They got one-fifth of all the houses constructed in the Keewatin and it provided according to these stats 90 per cent of the needs of the Keewatin were looked after in 1985-86.

In Hay River, 114 units were shown to be needed which means Hay River needs 14.8 per cent of the total need. They got four public housing units and 29 HAP units for a total of 33. They got 10.2 per cent of the houses built. So 14.8 per cent of the need, 10.2 per cent of the houses built which is 29 per cent of their needs were met.

Kitikmeot needed 50 units which is 6.5 per cent of houses needed. They received 33 public housing units, and five HAPs for a total of 38 units. So they had 6.5 per cent of the need, they got 11.8 per cent of the houses actually built which looked after 76 per cent of their needs.

Then Baffin needed 289 units which is 37.7 per cent of the need. They got 50 public housing and 14 HAPs, a total of 64. So they had 37.7 per cent of the stated need but they only got 19.9 per cent of the houses built. So they only got 22 per cent of their need met.

Again, Yellowknife because the data base is incomplete, there has not been a housing survey done in Yellowknife or in many of the Dogrib communities, we took it out of the equation. But as you can see of the five regions identified it seems to me that we are looking into next year, based on the data we have, that many of the concerns of the Keewatin and Kitikmeot have been met. And next

year, I think the logical thing to expect is for the Baffin, for the Yellowknife area, for the Hay River area and for the Inuvik area, to have an emphasis placed on them. Now again, I agree that the data base is incomplete. We could only work on the same data base that the Minister is working on. So I submit that two regions have had many of their needs met and that hopefully in the plan for next year and the years after, other regions now can be considered for increased housing allocation.

And my second point is that before a five year capital plan -- I think the Minister has said that -- can be finalized a true data base for the whole NWT has to be brought on stream so that we will know the real needs of every community in the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister.

Data Given Does Not Represent The Truth

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Well it shows what you can do with numbers. I quite frankly reject those numbers. They are meaningless, they do not even come close to representing what the truth is. For a start they do not include rural and remote or senior citizens programs which account for nearly 60 units. When you talk about the Keewatin needing 74 units, that is ridiculous. My home community of Baker Lake alone is short of 57 houses. There are 69 families and people on the waiting list and only 14 houses to give them this year. The community of Rankin Inlet is short close to 50 units alone. So the information as I indicated earlier does not represent it. So you can take the information and use it any way you want but I suggest to you that that information is certainly not information that I am going to use because it is erroneous and I can tell you right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Well, that may be, but what really concerns me is this is the information that the Housing Corporation is using for their needs. Now, I am somewhat concerned that we use the data given to us by the corporation. The Minister himself says that that data is totally useless. And so I do not quite know, it seems to me that the whole process for the last two years has been based on some subjective value judgment. That this information and everything that the Housing Corporation is basing their needs on should be thrown into the garbage. Is that what the Minister is saying? If that is the case, let's say it and we will start from scratch.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you want to respond to that?

HON. GORDON WRAY: I would like to thank the Member for justifying my request to the Housing Corporation to totally renovate the needs survey, because he has just justified my instructions to the corporation. That is exactly what I did do because I knew that the base-line data was not good data and I only had to make one trip to Fort Simpson and talk to the band council to find out where the problem was in the West. In terms of the needs survey from the Keewatin, one of the reasons I ran for this House and one of the reasons I wanted a Minister's job is because I knew the Keewatin had never been well served by this government up until last year...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...because a needs survey was not even done in some of the communities. So the information might not be accurate. In fact I question the accuracy myself and so I thank the Member for justifying my instructions to the corporation. I know I must be doing a good job if he agrees with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: My point is and I think it has been made very clear by Members of this House, no one is happy with the process as it exists. My point is that in the last couple of years anyhow, the decisions as to where housing should go have been based on very subjective value judgments. And I am only trying to emphasize this so that the practice of basing need on subjective data ends and that for next year we will have total base data for every community in the NWT. Needs will be based on that real data and the real needs of the communities.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: I do not know why the Member feels a need to repeat what I said. I already told him that the first day, that that is what we are going to do. That is what the whole objective is of the complete revamping of the system.

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

Review Of Criteria

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I think the real objective here ought to be that a fair distribution of taxpayers' money goes into northern shelters. I think the honourable Member from across opposite here...

MR. McCALLUM: Who is that? What is his name again?

---Laughter

MR. WAH-SHEE: ...has had a whole bunch of units allocated to his area for some time. So I do not think he can really complain and he was not even a Minister at that time. But I would like to -- I am the one asking questions, Mr. Minister. So in regard to the...

MR. McCALLUM: He is interrupting you again. I wouldn't let him do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Could we have order, please? Mr. Wah-Shee, go ahead.

MR. WAH-SHEE: I would like to inquire as to when he is doing a complete overhaul of his criteria for allocation of these various units. Will the Minister assure us that the MLAs will be involved in the needs of their particular districts so that we can have input into it so that these units are not allocated purely on political relationships or influence? Rather it should be based on need.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: That is what the board of directors has said that they are going to do. The chairman from the Member's constituency has taken that into account and will be doing that. As far as I know unless it was done in previous governments, no housing has ever been allocated on political influence. Although there was quite a considerable amount of other budgets allotted by political influence, housing has not been.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any more general comments? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I want to talk about possibly another topic in general but first I have to make reference to a comment the Minister made in response to Mr. Wah-Shee. I think the Minister said that it is the first time that a committee of the House has received accurate data. I hope he is not suggesting in any way that previous data submitted to this House by the corporation and its personnel has been inaccurate, given that he inherited the same personnel that I did. I had every utmost faith in the kind of data that was provided me. I hope that he is not suggesting that the previous data, as I say, can be attributed to personnel because I look around and they are the same players.

Treasury Board Submission

Regardless, I would like to refer back to the Minister's statement to this House, on page seven, when he indicates that in the 1985-86 budget estimates of the corporation -- I am quoting from his paper -- that he is proposing a 35 per cent increase in funding for public housing maintenance. Further along in the next sentence he says, "Meanwhile the Government of the Northwest Territories continues to seek redress at Treasury Board for the original base funding deficiency." My questions to him are, what is the status of this Treasury Board submission? I take it it is a submission of the federal Treasury Board. Are these funds within the base for formula financing? Thirdly, are these funds primarily to bring up to whatever standard the Minister is talking about, employees of housing associations, housing authorities and federations, so that they will be paid the same particular salary and benefits package as other government employees?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the first point I did not say that this is the first time accurate data was brought to the House. I said that when the revamping of the needs survey is done, hopefully we will be able to bring in for the first time accurate data or data that we know to be absolutely 100 per cent correct, and that is what I said. I would not suggest for a moment that the Member would bring in inaccurate data, but that he had the same data available in his term that I do. All I am saying is that I do not think the data is as good as it should be.

In terms of the Treasury Board submission, it is in Ottawa. It has not been rejected by the federal government. They say they will look at it and I gather that is what they are doing right now, but it is also not within the present base-line data of the formula financing. That is why I went to Treasury Board, because it is outside of what was negotiated under the formula financing agreement. If we were to get the money then yes, we would be able to bring up housing association employees' salaries, benefits, wages and the maintenance funds to housing associations in comparison to GNWT maintenance funds and standards and wages. It is based on the fact that as far as we can determine, when the federal government handed responsibility over to the territorial government, approximately \$254 per house was turned over for their maintenance, and even 10 years ago \$254 was not going to buy you too much. That is the base upon which the Housing Corporation has developed its budget which was obviously a very inaccurate base to begin with. So the intention at the Treasury Board is to acquire extra money so that we can have compatibility between housing associations and government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McCallum.

Wage And Benefits Package For Local Employees

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate to me just what that figure will be to bring employees of local housing associations' authorities or federations up to a similar status wage and benefits package as other government employees? A supplementary to that, if I may, since it will come from the corporation or from the government, will they then be considered government employees or will they be employees of the associations' authorities or federations, and will there be an agreement to that effect?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total Treasury Board submission is for \$12.1 million. Now rolled up into that -- it is not only money for wages and benefits -- it is money for maintenance of units, and we are basing the money for the maintenance of the houses on the government's maintenance management system, the DPW maintenance management system which we use to determine how much money we allocate for maintenance of government housing, we are using the same data to speculate how much we need for housing associations. So, that is the first question. The second question is, no, all we would do is increase the budgets of the housing associations so that they could pay their employees' benefits. They would not become government employees.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, further to that, the \$12.1 million Treasury Board submission is not just for employees but it can be broken down depending upon the government's maintenance system and how it will dictate as to what formula basis. Would the Minister break it down as to what amount of that \$12.1 million is for wages and employee benefits as opposed to a management system similar to what would be done in DPW?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I should correct myself. It was not \$12.1 million, it is \$12.747 million and the breakdown is as follows: \$5.076 million for maintenance men, salaries and benefits, that is the maintenance people at the housing association level; \$3.437 million for materials; \$2.714 million for administration, salaries and benefits, that is the housing association secretary managers, assistant secretary managers, etc.; and \$1.520 million for regional office technical support, salaries, project officers, etc. for a total of \$12.747 million.

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

Land Assembly For Future Construction

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Talking about, as the Minister had indicated, a capital plan as to where the allocation of houses will be from year to year, in our budget book we have an idea of where certain particular public housing units will go this year. In terms of lot acquisition and site preparation for next year, there will have to be a certain amount of work done in various communities where certain, particular units will go in the year 1986-87 or 1987-88. Could the Minister indicate to me whether in fact there has been an agreement reached between other departments of the government as to any kind of site preparation or land acquisition, if you like, for future years for public housing construction? I do not see it in the book and if it is there, maybe the Minister could point it out to me.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. No, for this year, we think that we will be able to accommodate. For future years, no, we do have some problems and one of the reasons I am so anxious to get this capital plan solidified is so that we can start identifying the communities ahead of time and preparing the lots and the land a couple of years ahead of time. Discussions are taking place between the Housing Corporation and Local Government right now as to land acquisition for future years and there are ongoing discussions and the Housing Corporation is undertaking or in the final stages of putting an inventory of available land in all communities.

One initiative that I have undertaken which had never been previously considered was the redevelopment of existing community areas, because it is my feeling that there are many lots that exist right now within a community that could be utilized. On my Baffin tour, in particular, I saw a number of what I consider prime lots occupied by matchboxes and other houses of that standard which could be removed and new housing put in their place as opposed to developing new areas when in fact there is land available within most communities. I do not think there are too many communities where we could not find lots right within the existing community or in the core of the community. So, that is something which they are looking at now because I have issued that direction. I do not know if we have to go ahead with these major land assemblies as much as most people think we do. I think there is land there that just could be better used. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: I just have one further question of the Minister along the same lines, Mr. Chairman, and that is in relation to this whole business of land assembly or wherever the corporation should get the land. Is that to be a responsibility of the Department of Local Government, identifying what lands will be available? I have some concern as has been expressed by people in communities about not just the availability of that land but obviously with services that would be involved with it too. So, in relation to that, is the land being identified by the Department of Local Government for the Housing Corporation and does that include the services that would be necessary to develop the land as well?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The land is identified by the Department of Local Government in conjunction with municipalities. That is the present system and I would assume at the time they identify the land, they take into account the services that are required. We merely as a corporation, we identify to the department and to the community that this is how much land we need and it is up to them to sort it out between themselves. Thank you.

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

Offer To Conduct Needs Survey, Yellowknife

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I want to bring you back at least one more time to the matter of a housing needs survey for Yellowknife. In the last hour, sir, since you indicated that you had ruled out the housing survey because it would cost between \$60,000 and \$100,000, two people have indicated to me that they would be prepared to do it for much less than that and I am going to speak, when Mr. MacQuarrie comes back to the city, to him and my colleague, Mr. Ballantyne, about chipping in some money from our constituency allowances...

AN HON. MEMBER: Here, here!

MR. BALLANTYNE: (Inaudible comment)

MR. RICHARD: ...if, Mr. Minister, a housing needs survey can be done in this city for less than the \$60,000 to \$100,000, and I personally think it could be done for a fraction of that cost, would you consider, sir, undertaking such a study, the corporation?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Depending on what the Member's idea of a fraction of the cost is, yes.

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

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I take it then I can forward to you all the offers that I receive to conduct that survey for the corporation?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, I am more than willing to take a look at methods whereby we could do a survey in this community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Member might consider a petition as well. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions on the HAP and the rural and remote programs, but one question is a more specific question. I know some of the Executive Members were asking specific questions during general comments. It is just that the format of the Housing Corporation does not lend itself to a lot of specific questions. They are going to have to be asked but it is a different format from other departments so we will get them over with now and then we will be able to whip through the detail, just to keep Mr. Curley happy.

MR. McCALLUM: Speak for yourself.

Selection Of HAP Applicants

MR. BALLANTYNE: I will only speak for myself. I might have a petition. Okay, Mr. Minister, first of all, how are HAP applicants selected from the district offices' waiting lists? For those who are not selected but are eligible, are they automatically given priority the following year? How does that process work?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: The HAP clients up until now have been selected on the basis of applications. Then the district office has discussions with the housing association in that particular community, which will now be extended to MLAs by the way. Direction has been given that MLAs will be part of the process at the community level. The direction was only given a month ago so it has not filtered down yet. Any HAP clients that are not allocated a unit this year, their applications are now kept on file and yes, they then are looked at the following year as the first ones in. So we asked them to establish a waiting list which was never the case before because sometimes we did not have enough applications to meet the number of units. Now we are getting more applications than we have units so we are starting to establish a waiting list at the regional office of people who have applied, and they will get the first option of refusal the following year.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. That answered that particular question. One subject that came up time and time again for people that are on the HAP program is the possibility of getting some federal assistance for labour. I wonder, what is the role of the corporation in trying to co-ordinate that federal labour money or is it the opinion of the corporation that it is really up to the individuals to make their own arrangements?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: The role of the corporation essentially is to steer the applicant toward that funding. We have basically said that as a corporation we cannot get involved in it because we are not allowed to apply for these funds, which is what I wanted to do. So what we have done is we have contacted the communities where HAP clients are going and say to them, "This money is available, apply." And we leave it up to the communities or the individual to apply. In a lot of cases, the local housing association will apply on behalf of the clients. In some areas, in the Delta, the Inuvialuit Housing Corporation has applied on behalf of the clients in the Delta, and in some of the communities, the communities themselves have applied.

It is something that is not a very satisfactory arrangement and I have instructed the board to look at coming up with a method of ensuring that at least every community or every individual who does have a HAP unit has some method whereby to apply because what we are finding is that, particularly in the western communities, in some of the smaller communities, the communities are not applying or they do not regard it as a priority, and some of those communities are not getting the funds. So in discussions with the chairman of the board I have said, "Look, can you find a way, or at least find an agency in each community that we can go to and say, okay, here is how you apply, and help them apply for that money?" So it is more -- I do not know what the word would be -- but we sort of steer the communities toward that money.

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

Supervisory Assistance In Construction

MR. BALLANTYNE: Co-ordinating role maybe would be the term? There is another problem that was outlined in community after community and that is some recipients of a HAP house are without the necessary expertise to build housing. What sort of training and supervisory assistance can the Housing Corporation give to a recipient of a HAP house?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. In the past the only technical assistance available has been through the use of our project officers in the field who also have to, at the same time, monitor all the construction that takes place in public housing etc. This year, I have set aside some money in the HAP program to hire supervisors in term positions so that they can monitor more closely the HAP units being built. The reason is that the HAP unit is now getting to the point where many people applying for HAP and receiving them are not exactly totally capable of building those houses without some form of technical faults, so we want to make sure that the houses are built properly. So the proposal I am making this year is to put some money aside and I am going to hire supervisors in term positions to do nothing but supervise the HAP construction to ensure that the client does get a proper house.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: One suggestion was made in at least two communities, Fort Good Hope and Fort Simpson, where the band council would actually like to take over the HAP program. I wonder, is it possible, even on an experimental basis that for instance 10 HAP units be turned over to the band and those moneys given to them in total, saying, "It is all yours, go ahead and build them, and you are responsible for the allocation and the construction." Is that a possibility?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. That is exactly what we have been doing in Fort Good Hope. They took their own initiative two or three years ago and have been doing that. I think in communities or in areas where there is a capability, and we know that the money is going to be utilized to the best, then yes, we have no problems with doing it. We have done it before.

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

Rural And Native Housing Program

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand that there is a possibility that there are going to be some changes in the programs and the policies of the rural and remote housing program. I know the Minister has met with the federal Minister. Does the Minister have any of the new policies or the new requirements of R and R? If he does, when will they be made public?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Just a little brief history. What had happened was that R and R was a cost-shared program and then late last summer the federal government indicated that it was going to deliver the program unilaterally. We were happy with that actually because it means that we could take the money that we had allocated and put it into the home-ownership program. Then in December, the federal Minister requested if we would be willing to look at cost-sharing. I advised him three weeks ago that this was no longer possible because of the timing and because of our need to get materials on the way, that it would have to be 100 per cent federally funded because we had already put the money into another program. On the 15th of this month which was Friday I think, I got a telex from the Minister saying that 50 units of R and R have been allocated to the Territories and that they will unilaterally deliver them. So they stuck to their original intentions.

The whole R and R, or RNH as they call it, rural and native housing program, is now under much scrutiny by CMHC and they are taking a look at the whole program and I do not know what is going to come out of it. But I know that the program is being scrutinized very closely to see if it is meeting its targeted objectives. I should also indicate that I had asked that the RNH program be applied to Yellowknife and that request was turned down by the federal government. So I have not forgotten Yellowknife.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: We appreciate your efforts on our behalf. We probably would appreciate more successful efforts on our behalf.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: As a follow-up, I understand that there have been some problems with the R and R program as to arrears. I wonder if the federal government takes over the program, will there be any impact on existing occupants of R and R housing as far as any arrears that they might have?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, they are not taking over the program, they are just taking over the funding. We are still delivering the program.

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

Implementation Of User-Pay Policy

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still wanted to ask the Minister some questions with regard to the user-pay policy. I believe that the Minister indicated that he would be doing a comprehensive review of the allocation of houses, the user-pay policy and also with regard to the billing system. There is also the concern of hydro versus diesel and the division of the NWT. When the policy was implemented it was opposed by a number of MLAs previous to this session. The Minister also indicated that where you are living, east or west of the tree line, would make a difference on the type of power rates. So, I believe that there is a lot of work, reviews that have to be done. From the objectives of the association it does not indicate anything about the implementation of the user-pay policy. The other thing I have also noticed is that as far as person years go, I do not believe there is a substantial increase to the person years for the Housing Corporation. Does he require additional staff if a comprehensive review has to be done with regard to the needs assessment of a community, the allocation of houses, the user-pay policy, the review? Where does he intend to get the people to do those?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to start at the beginning here. Division of the NWT will have nothing to do with the user-pay policy. The split between hydro and diesel will have nothing to do with the implementation of the policy. It may have a very big bearing on the entire policy but it will have nothing to do with implementation of it. The reason that it is not mentioned in the objectives of the Housing Corporation is because it already was a policy of the Housing Corporation to move toward user-pay and it was just not being implemented. That is why it

is not an objective because the Housing Corporation already agreed four years ago to bring it in. I will not need any existing staff or additional staff. There is more than enough staff at the regional level because the implementation of the user-pay policy will not cause any increased work for the Housing Corporation. It is probably going to cause a lot of increased work for NCPC and perhaps maybe some additional work at the community level but there is no necessity for any additional Housing Corporation staff. If I had any extra PYs it would be going to the communities and not going to the Housing Corporation.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am still not convinced that this implementation can happen just because the Minister says that he intends to implement it. First of all, I do not know what the other MLAs think of this policy and whether implementation of the policy would occur. Certainly in my own constituency the people in the Deh Cho Gah and the Deh Cho areas have been opposed to the policy and have indicated so through a motion of the Deh Cho Regional Council, which affects, I believe, nine communities.

The other concern I have too is that the user-pay policy affects 13 constituencies. And I would like, Mr. Speaker, to present a motion to dissolve the user-pay policy until such a time as this government does come out with a better policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Gargan, are you moving a motion at this time? Would you read out the motion, please.

Motion That User-Pay Policy Be Dissolved

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that whereas the user-pay policy was established in 1980 by the NWT Housing Corporation and whereas there are some inconsistencies to the implementation of this policy because it puts some communities at a disadvantage, now therefore, I move that this House recommends that the user-pay policy be dissolved until such a time as the NWT Housing Corporation and/or the GNWT develop a more equitable user-pay policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Gargan, your motion is in order. To the motion. Would you like to speak to the motion at this time? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I guess the policy was in place since 1980 and has been put on stop since 1983. It has not been implemented in any other place. In the meantime, I guess the 13 communities under the policy are at a disadvantage to the people that are being provided with free power. The other thing I wanted to mention, it is the intention of this government to implement a user-pay policy once they have developed a more uniform or equitable policy. So I believe what I am saying is that the 13 communities that are at a disadvantage should not be paying power until such a time as this government does come out with a better user-pay policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really wish the Member would think of the consequences of his actions if this goes through. First of all, I think there are two things that have to be cleared up. First of all the Deh Cho Regional Council did not pass a motion saying they were against the user-pay policy. Their motion said that they were against the fact that the policy had not been implemented across the board but in fact they were in favour of the user-pay policy.

Home-Ownership Program Jeopardized

Secondly, the Member's home community and the representative on the NWT Housing Corporation board of directors from that community of Fort Providence, is one of the biggest advocates of the user-pay policy. And it was at her urging at the last board meeting that I have intended to bring this user-pay policy in across the board. So, I would hope the Member would check with his constituents first before he brings the motion in. Secondly, suspension of the user-pay program could seriously jeopardize our entire home-ownership program. Because why in the hell would anybody go into a home-ownership or into their own house, excuse me, I withdraw...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Honourable Minister, you have to watch your usage of certain terms. I would hope that you withdraw it. Thank you. Do I understand that you withdrew it, Mr. Minister? Thank you.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, excuse me.

---Laughter

Why would anybody want to own their own house if they can live in a public house and get free power and free maintenance? The whole reason for bringing user-pay in is to encourage people and to let people know that in some cases it might be advantageous for them to live in their own house.

Secondly, it will throw entirely into jeopardy the whole proposal to put their energy money back into the housing associations. Because if there is no user-pay program there is no incentive for people to save energy. Therefore, the housing associations would have no incentive to save energy, therefore, the Member could possibly be cutting off a vital source of extra funding that we are trying to get for the housing associations.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. GORDON WRAY: I really wish people would think about these motions before they put them in place. I have told the Member that the policy is going to be implemented. The reason it is being implemented is because of him and because of the people from his area and because of the Deh Cho Regional Council and now that we are going to implement it, he wants us to stop the whole thing. I do not know what we can do. We are responding to, obviously, what was an inequity in the system, we are responding to what people felt was inequality, we are responding to pressure from the communities that are on a user-pay program and now he is saying that those communities have to be taken off it. I mean, one week they want one thing and now he is saying they want another thing. How is the corporation ever supposed to develop policies if the communities are telling us one thing and MLAs are telling us something else that is totally opposite.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Continue.

HON. GORDON WRAY: The user-pay program is not a program designed to penalize people. It is a program that was brought in, designed to encourage energy conservation and designed to encourage people to get out of public housing. I have decided that the Member and the Deh Cho Regional Council and the members of the board of directors who at the last meeting urged me to implement it across the board were right in their thinking. So, therefore, I am saying I am going to implement it and now I am being asked to withdraw it. It is confusing enough running the Housing Corporation without getting conflicting stories every second week. So, I would urge Members to vote against this motion, if the Member does not withdraw it, because it could seriously jeopardize a lot of the initiatives that we are taking and that we are taking with the housing associations and that we are taking at the behest of the special committee on housing of which he is, I believe, a Member.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, my reading of what Mr. Gargan is attempting to say here in this motion is simply, stop the unfairness until you can bring in a fair policy and this motion is simply a recommendation to the government. The Minister has indicated this afternoon and last week that he will move immediately to implement an equitable user-pay policy. If that is so, then his government may never need follow this resolution. I believe Mr. Gargan's point, certainly what I hear him saying...

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on!

MR. RICHARD: ...is that, get on with implementing the fair policy and if you are not going to do it immediately, abolish the unfair policy. I think Mr. Gargan has a point to make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The hour is at hand before us, therefore as chairman, I will report progress at this time. Thank you very much.

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: Announcements. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce a challenge, a hockey challenge. The Sixth Floor Flyers who are alternatively Richard's Angels, being a hockey team of eminent skill and considerable renown, do hereby issue a challenge to the ordinary and ornery Members of this House, to attempt to recruit from their ranks, the semblance of a team to engage the fabulous Flyers in a game of ice hockey. Even before the puck is dropped at mid-ice, the outcome is surely a foregone conclusion but the game may provide some amusement to the general public and a reminder to the ordinary Members of their right and proper place, that is, second.

The contest will take place at the Gerry Murphy Arena on Tuesday, the 19th day of the Year of Our Lord, 1985. The puck will drop at 7:00 p.m. sharp and will likely end hours later when the fearsome Flyers grow bored with scoring goals at will and the ordinary Members, recognizing the superiority of the fantastic Flyers in every aspect of the game, cry "Uncle" or give up waving white towels. Because it is expected that there will be much blood, sweat and tears, it is suggested that the ordinary Members bring a lot of equipment and the RCMP have graciously offered to referee. The line-up for the Flyers is as follows: Yours truly, Quick Nick...

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: How about Pick Nick!

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: ..."King" Richard Nerysoo; Tom "Boom Boom" Butters; Gord "The Wrecker" Wray...

AN HON. MEMBER: Home wrecker!

---Laughter

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: ...Tagak "The Tundra Tiger" Curley; and "De Batterer" Patterson; also, Bruce "The Gun" McLaughlin; and then John "Slapshot" Parker; Nellie "The Tuk" Cournoyea, playing coach, formerly of Tuk "U" and the Border Jumpers...

---Laughter

...will be the coach. It is expected the ordinary team will consist of the captain, Ted "Rocket" Richard; big, "Bruisin" Bob MacQuarrie; Mike "Breakaway" Ballantyne; and, of course, Arnie "The Duke" McCallum; and, of course, James "Flashy" Wah-Shee...

---Laughter

..."Long John" T'Seleie, I am sure he will surface tomorrow; "Sam The Slam" Gargan from Deh Cho; and "Joltin Joe" Arlooktoo; Moses Appaqaq "The Belcher's Best"; Pauloosie "The Puck" Paniloo; Ludy "The Famous Peanut" Pudluk; Elijah "The Rink Rat" Erkloo; Don "Ol' Blaster" Stewart; and of course "Arctic Red" Pedersen; Michael "No Haven" Angottitauruq; and the coach will be Eliza "Coach" Lawrence, formerly coach of the Fort Res Treaty Breakers. So, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to a very good and entertaining evening tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

AN HON. MEMBER: When is the practice?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. McCALLUM: Only one comment, keep your head up.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further announcements? Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that I have a commitment tomorrow morning with the business council -- the business council will be having a session tomorrow -- I will not be attending the caucus meeting but I would like to invite all the MLAs for lunch and viewing of the Expo model. This will be the final opportunity to give your concerns and possible changes to the design, or advice to our consultant before they finalize the design aspects of the Expo model. I will be at the luncheon but I would just like to remind you at the moment, I know the caucus will have an opportunity to comment in the morning. So, there would be a bus to pick up all the MLAs at 11:30 a.m. for luncheon with the Expo commissioner and Alan Vaughan, so I hope to see every one of you tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day?

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

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 19th 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 7-85(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 Tuesday, February 19th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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