



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

4th Session

10th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report
DAY 12

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1985

Pages 399 to 442

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Gargan, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Thursday, February the 21st.

Item 2, Members' replies.

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 112-85(1): Funding For Community Hall, Clyde River

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Local Government. In my community of Clyde River I have heard that the community hall was not going to be given some funding for improvement. I was wondering if you are aware that this building has been in existence since 1920. Thank you.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and reply to the Member tomorrow.

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

Question 113-85(1): Slavey Language Program, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Leader of the House with regard to the Slavey language program that has been in existence in Fort Providence, I believe for the last three years. I believe the program is going to be dissolved this coming fiscal year. I would like to ask the Minister if he intends to extend the program and whether it will be tied in with the six million dollars that the federal government agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 113-85(1): Slavey Language Program, Fort Providence

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to indicate that we do not intend to have present programs that are in existence dissolved. We hope to carry them over the subsequent years under the agreement that we reached with the federal government and, also, take into consideration other new initiatives that might be proposed.

Question 114-85(1): Document On Public Housing Needs In Yellowknife

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, earlier in this session the Minister indicated that a document does indeed exist somewhere that shows the needs or requirements for public housing in the city of Yellowknife and the Minister undertook, I believe, in committee to provide me with that information. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister could undertake to provide that in the near future so that I might be armed with that information before this session is over.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 114-85(1): Document On Public Housing Needs In Yellowknife

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make available any documents that we have that pertain to the needs of housing in Yellowknife. There is no problem with that.

MR. SPEAKER: The question, Mr. Minister, is when?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever I can find them.

---Laughter

We will put them together and give them to him if we do indeed have them and I am sure that we do have some, then they will have them before the end of the session.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Richard.

Supplementary To Question 114-85(1): Document On Public Housing Needs In Yellowknife

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, can the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation not confirm that the information that was provided to his corporation by the Yellowknife housing authority exists within the Housing Corporation department or his department and can he not undertake to provide that document or documents on a date certain rather than the day before the session concludes?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Would you try and remember to turn your receiver down when you are speaking into your microphone. Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 114-85(1): Document On Public Housing Needs In Yellowknife

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all seriousness the document that we have from Yellowknife housing authority can be made available immediately. I was referring to perhaps availability of other documents that might exist that pertain to the needs of Yellowknife, trying to round some of them up too, so that the Member has all the information available to him. I was just trying to be helpful. Thanks.

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

Question 115-85(1): Funding For Dock Facilities, Pangnirtung And Clyde River

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will elaborate on my question first. This question involves two communities, Pangnirtung and Clyde River. In Pangnirtung in 1984, six canoes were destroyed by the weather, and in Clyde River two canoes were destroyed by weather too. I wonder if the hamlets could be given funding to replace those damaged canoes. The hamlet councils do not want to replace something or fix something when they are not going to be refunded. So they do not want to make a dock voluntarily without getting funded to do it. I was wondering if it is possible for you to give some funding to build docking facilities? That is my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the matter is somewhat unusual and because of this I would like some time to consider the matter and provide the Member with a reply either tomorrow or the day following.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are having trouble with your microphone, too. I wonder if you could remember to shut off your receiver when you are using your microphone? You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today. Item 5, written questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 116-85(1): Peterhead Boat For Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. The Minister was in Sanikiluaq. This is an urgent request about purchasing a Peterhead or a similar boat. That is it, and the rest is written. Thank you. (Translation ends)

As the Minister is aware, the hunters and trappers association at Sanikiluaq has an urgent request for the purchase of a Peterhead boat. The only watercraft available to the community are canoes which are unsafe, especially in windy weather. In matters of emergency, such as search and rescue, a Peterhead boat could be dispatched immediately from the community, while awaiting the RCMP search and rescue aircraft. This aircraft comes from Frobisher Bay, travelling a great distance and arriving on site from six to seven hours after dispatch. The boat could be put to use on many other community services, such as acquiring the country foods which are necessary to the people who are unable to hunt.

As this is an outstanding request, would the Minister please consider this urgent matter, look into the possibility of acquiring a Peterhead for this coming summer, and report back to this House as soon as possible?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Are there any further written questions?

Item 6, returns. Are there any returns for today?

Item 7, petitions.

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand for tabling of two documents, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the section 60(10)(d) of the NWT Elections Ordinance, 1978, I wish to table Tabled Document 21-85(1), Candidate's Return Respecting Election Expenses for James Arvaluk. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 60(10)(d) of the NWT Elections Ordinance, 1978, I wish to table Tabled Document 22-85(1), Candidates' Return Respecting Yellowknife South By-election for the Following: Ted Richard, Pat McMahon.

---Applause

MR. BALLANTYNE: Do we have to agree on that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 9, tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Motion 4-85(1), Appointment to Nunavut Constitutional Forum. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 4-85(1): Appointment To Nunavut Constitutional Forum

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Constitutional Alliance, composed of the Nunavut and Western Constitutional Forums, was formed in February of 1982;

AND WHEREAS the 10th Assembly appointed Mr. Elijah Erkloo and Mr. Dennis Patterson Members of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum on February 9, 1984;

AND WHEREAS a vacancy has arisen due to the resignation of Mr. Elijah Erkloo;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to have a balanced composition in the Nunavut Constitutional Forum;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for High Arctic, that Nellie Cournoyea, MLA for Nunakput, be appointed to represent the interests of this Assembly on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Curley. You have the floor.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a short comment. We thanked Mr. Elijah Erkloo for being in this Nunavut Constitutional Forum, while they were dealing with division, when the caucus met the day before when we met. That Nunavut caucus are free to appoint whoever they want to appoint because there has been a vacancy for quite some time and I would like some support on this motion to fill the vacancy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Secunder. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I do not feel like making any comments right now, maybe later on if you let me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: We are now in formal session, Mr. Pudluk. If you speak now you have 20 minutes, if you do not choose to use it, that is it, but you will not have a chance again. So if you want to speak, speak now.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Come on Ludy, don't be shy.

MR. PUDLUK: I do not feel like going at it, I would just like to get permission from you, Mr. Speaker, if I want to speak later on. I want to use that 20 minutes after, not right now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: The order of speaking in formal session is the secunder has the floor and if he does not use it at that time, he foregoes his right to speak. This is by way of custom...

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Come on Ludy, ad lib.

MR. SPEAKER: ...and so you either speak now, or you do not speak at all, so you have your choice, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, can I give that secunder to somebody else?

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Good for you, Ludy.

AN HON. MEMBER: The motion has been withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, that would have the effect of withdrawing the motion if you do not want to proceed with being secunder.

---Laughter

MR. PUDLUK: Okay, I will keep that secunder, but I do not wish to speak. Thanks.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I respect the right of the Eastern MLAs to appoint whomever they wish to the Nunavut Constitutional Forum...

---Applause

...and on that principle I will not oppose the motion but I will also not support it. I intend to abstain from this when the vote comes in on this motion. I will give you my reasons. I will abstain because I feel the appointment of the MLA for Nunakput goes against, flies in the face of the agreement that we reached...

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: ...on the tentative boundary which we recently...

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order being called. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, the motion is to appoint the MLA from Nunakput to the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. The debate has nothing to do whatsoever with the report that this House has not yet seen or not yet heard from. I respectfully request that the debate be confined to the motion to appoint the Member to the Nunavut Constitutional Forum.

AN HON. MEMBER: Or reasons why not.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Inasmuch as the information has not been tabled in this House it is, therefore, hearsay and we have agreed on several occasions that the newspaper reporting is not that good, therefore I rule that the information as stated by the honourable Member may not necessarily be so. So it will be stricken from the record and he will stay to the debate.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, your ruling in this matter of not being able to even raise discussion or talk about the agreement that has been reached makes it very difficult to deal with this subject. Because a lot...

HON. GORDON WRAY: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, the agreement inasmuch as it has not been put into the House is not part of the House business. Now, it has been reported that there is an agreement, we recognize that. But yet it is not an official part of our records and therefore the ruling has been that it cannot be used in this debate until such time...

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to take your turn. Mr. Wray, you had a point of order.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My point of order was that we are discussing the motion to appoint the Member for Nunakput to the NCF and the speaker was departing from that motion and once again re-entering the debate on the report that will be tabled in two or three days. That was my point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: My point of order is that on February 6th on the opening of this Assembly, the Hon. David Crombie, Minister of Indian Affairs addressed this Assembly and during his address which was tabled in this House afterwards and which all Members heard as a record of this House, the Hon. David Crombie referred to the agreement that was made by the Constitutional Alliance and therefore it is before this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. McCALLUM: Good point.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Crombie is not a member of this House...

---Applause

...and whatever he had to say in this House really does not carry that much weight.

MR. McCALLUM: Better point.

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: However, this seems to be going to be a bone of contention so I am going to allow, which we can under the rules, debate on the point that we are dealing with now, so that we can hear everybody. If not, we are going to go through points of order all afternoon. Mr. MacQuarrie, I believe called a point of order. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You say you are allowing some debate as to whether that should be mentioned or not. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that the motion suggests that one of our Members should be appointed to a particular group, the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, which is also part of the Constitutional Alliance of the NWT. This House has already affiliated itself with that group. That group has been mandated by this House to do a variety of things, including to try to reach some agreement on a boundary to divide the NWT. Therefore, you are allowing debate as to whether we can introduce the agreement or not and I am explaining why I believe that absolutely we can.

So the House is being asked to vote on someone as to whether they should be part of that group that is going to do those very things. So surely I would say it is germane, Mr. Speaker, that in considering whether the appointment is a good one or not we must consider the things that that group is charged with doing by this very House. One of the things that that group is charged with doing is trying to get an agreement on a tentative boundary and in fact it has a tentative agreement, Mr. Speaker, and therefore, in deciding whether some Member of this House should go onto that organization it is most reasonable that some comment about that agreement would be acceptable in determining whether the candidate is suitable to go onto that forum and that alliance or not.

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very simply, no tentative agreement has been agreed to by this House. No proposal for a tentative agreement has been seen by this House. No proposal for a tentative agreement has been debated in this House and for anybody to prejudge what this House may or may not do is an insult to the intelligence of the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. GORDON WRAY: We are talking about a matter that is not even before this House and in the way of procedure it might never get to this House. We do not know that. It has never been introduced into the House and all I am simply saying, Mr. Speaker, is that we cannot discuss something that has not yet been in the House or we cannot refer to something which might or might not be accepted by this House. For all intents and purposes, that document is still an information item that is in the possession of the Constitutional Alliance. It is not in the possession of this House and it is not in the possession of any Members. So, therefore, how could we discuss an agreement that most of us have never seen? We do not even know what is going to be introduced into this House. Most of us have never seen it. It would be unfair to ask Members to participate in a debate using an agreement that most of us have never seen in the form that it is going to be introduced into this House. Only the respective chairmen of the forums have seen what is going to be introduced into this House. We have not seen it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, on the point of order.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: As I started out by indicating, I wanted to give reasons why I felt the way I did with respect to the appointment of the Member for Nunakput and part of my reasons are based on a tentative agreement that has been reached, and granted it is an agreement that has not been adopted or placed in the House yet. There are four of us in the Assembly that have been dealing with that agreement. There are four of us and as one person that had dealt with it, I have some opinions about it. It is true the agreement has not been placed in this House so Members have not had a chance to either adopt it or refuse it, yet the agreement does exist. It is out there in the world and some of your Members here have been involved in it. So, I consider that it is a matter that ought to be able to be talked about, recognizing that there are limitations. I agree that we ought not to and I certainly do not intend to go and talk in detail and at length about the agreement but I do want to mention it and want to state that it does exist. It is out there in the world floating around.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Unravelling.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as I appreciate your ruling, it is my understanding that once the Speaker has ruled on the point of order in the rules of the House, it is not debatable and I therefore cannot comment on your ruling which you have already given Mr. Wray on his first point of order, so, therefore, I just wish to at the moment state that I do accept your ruling and I think we have no business to question your honour. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. It is also the privilege of the Chair to allow debate if the question seems important enough at the time to allow debate and it appears that this afternoon was not going to be very clear sailing until such a debate was held and most people had a chance to make their opinions known on it. So, I have chosen to take this route which is also in the rule book. To the point of order. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I think it must be clarified that the issue here obviously is not the agreement itself but there is a mandate of this alliance that has been approved by this House and any appointment has implications as to the ability of that alliance to carry out its duties as set down by this House. So, I think alluding to the sort of things that Mr. Sibbeston was alluding to is well within the bounds of procedure. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order. Last call to the point of order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Gordon.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I have really not heard any argument that would change my position on referring to a document as a matter of fact, as if it were presented to the House and part of the information that we have. On the other hand, inasmuch as this question evolves around a person, as long as the documents and so on are not named, it really does not disqualify Members from giving any reason that they think that the candidate should have the position or the candidate should not have the position. But they should not be using a specific document as evidence, that is not in the hands of the House. So, now can we proceed in an orderly fashion to deal with this motion, please?

AN HON. MEMBER: We will try.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

MR. PEDERSEN: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a question being called. Pardon me, Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I did intend to continue with...

MR. SPEAKER: You have every right to, Mr. Sibbeston. Continue.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: ...thought out and logical arguments that I had presented but the primary reason that I intend to abstain is because of the fact that the motion proposes to put the MLA for Nunakput, who is representative of an area very far in the West into a body and forum that is dealing with matters very far in the East and that, of course, concerns me. As I understand it, the role of the alliance, the role of the forums is to deal with constitutional changes, to deal with such matters as division and I take it generally that the Nunavut forum is supposed to deal with constitutional changes in the East and in my view it is illogical, it does not make any sense for someone who resides and lives in the West to be part of a forum in the East. It simply does not make any sense and that is the main reason that I am opposed to the Member for the Nunakput riding to be part of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum.

The other matter, by way of general information, is that one of the roles or tasks I guess, of the Western Constitutional Forum is to try to reach agreement with the Inuvialuit people that live in the West and that is something that I, as Minister of Local Government, have been doing prior to the agreement in terms of trying to satisfy the regional interests. More recently the WCF has taken steps to go into the Inuvialuit areas to begin talks with the people there about regional forms of government. I say it will be very difficult to succeed in this endeavour in the next few months when the Member representing the Inuvialuit people is also a Member of another forum which has, as its primary role, the establishment of a Nunavut government in the East.

So, for all of these reasons I will be abstaining. I agree with the motion in part which proposes to have a more balanced composition in the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. I would have to agree that, thus far, there have been two MLAs from Baffin Island on the Nunavut forum and that has created an imbalance. So, there is need to provide a better balance but I submit that a much better representative on the Nunavut forum should have been and could have been someone from the high Arctic or else two MLAs, sitting here, from the Keewatin area or else people from the Kitikmeot Region. I think those people are still generally seen as eastern MLAs so those persons, I would say would have been more appropriate to have sitting on the Nunavut forum.

I say, Mr. Speaker, having to deal with this subject is not necessarily a pleasant matter and I want to state that I have nothing personal against Ms Nellie Cournoyea, but it is just the position she occupies and that the question of her representing a particular area that troubles me in this issue. So, that is all I have to say.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first heard that the honourable Member for Nunakput was being proposed as a Member of the Nunavut forum, I wrote a note immediately to the chairman of the Nunavut forum saying that I was astounded that...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: How did you hear about it?

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...that person would be nominated for a position on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. It appears, Mr. Speaker, that because some Members of this House do not wish to face the reality of the implication in what is being done, I cannot tell you precisely why I was astounded when I heard about that appointment. Nevertheless, I was and I still am.

The Member proposed by the Nunavut forum, for reasons which I cannot tell you, Mr. Speaker, because of your ruling and the desire of some Members to try to hide from the reality of what they are doing is a very deep concern to me. I have to pause a moment to excise my speech because there has been a limit on the freedom of speech, Mr. Speaker.

No Lack Of Choice

I would say that the choice that is being made by the Nunavut forum -- which I am astounded by and find, frankly, to be incomprehensible, and which saddens me rather than angers me -- I say that that decision of the eastern group cannot be explained, as Mr. Sibbeston said, by a lack of other choice because I see that the honourable Mr. Wray could have been appointed, the honourable Mr. Curley could have been appointed, Mr. Angottitauruq could have been appointed, Mr. Pudluk could have been appointed, Mr. Paniloo, Mr. Appaqaq could have been appointed. Any of these people, obviously, would have been acceptable to other Members and yet, and we know, absolutely know, that at least one of those that I have named was, in fact, willing to serve on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum but for some reason which I cannot say, Mr. Speaker, because I am limited in my speech this afternoon, for some reason that group decided to choose a particular person, namely the honourable Member for Nunakput, that would disturb other Members of this House. So the choice cannot be explained by lack of choice.

Inuvialuit Region Would Have Two Representatives

I say that the choice cannot be explained by the necessity of balance as the preamble to the motion seems to imply, Mr. Speaker, because if this motion passes the Inuvialuit will have two representatives on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. The organization that represents the people in that area, COPE, always has had and does today have a seat on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, contrary to what Mr. Curley apparently told the newspaper. He may have been misquoted and he might

want to clarify later but in his remarks in the newspaper he says that that group was represented on the Western Constitutional Forum and represented poorly and that is not the case, Mr. Speaker. It was represented on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, it had a full member on the forum...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...so if the views were not represented adequately, it must be the fault of the person they chose to represent those views and...

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on. Amen.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...not our fault. So, that organization will continue to have a seat on the Nunavut forum. The western Members never demanded that they drop their affiliation with the eastern forum, but this eastern caucus is telling us that besides that seat they should have another Member from that area, namely the Member for Nunakput which will mean that two out of the five Nunavut forum representatives will come from the Inuvialuit region and there will be nobody from the high Arctic and nobody from the Keewatin. So how is that balanced?

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame!

MR. MacQUARRIE: So how is that balanced? I cannot understand when they allude, in the motion, to "balance"...

MR. McCALLUM: Try to get someone from Keewatin.

Deliberately Provocative Appointment

MR. MacQUARRIE: So if neither of those is a satisfactory explanation as to why they are choosing this particular person then there seem to be two possible reasons left. One is that it is a naive, clumsy and fumbling choice which fails to recognize the serious implications of making that appointment. But having dealt for nearly six years with honourable Members from the Eastern Arctic, I know that it is not fumbling and clumsy. So there must be some other explanation and that leaves one explanation that it is a deliberately provocative appointment but I am unable to tell you why, Mr. Speaker, because of limitations that are imposed on this debate by people who are afraid to face the reality of the implications of what they are doing. At any rate I am afraid that I can only interpret it as a deliberately provocative appointment...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: You are not even...

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...and one that will undermine I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, something which I cannot allude to because of limitations in this debate. And therefore I will not allude to it but I will say, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to undermining that certain thing which I cannot allude to, I am afraid that it also undermines something that some of these Members have dreamed about for years, namely, the division of the Northwest Territories. This appointment could have an impact on that. It brings that question into issue and places that achievement in jeopardy. And if Members do not wish to face that reality I regret it. But nevertheless that is the possibility that exists.

Now having said all of that, Mr. Speaker, I must also say that however much I believe the decision that is made by that group is irrational and provocative and undermining, however much I disagree with what they intend to do, I will defend their right to do it if they insist. As a western Member I would not wish them to try to determine constitutional development in a western territory. I would not wish them to tell me who ought to participate in that process and therefore I will not try to tell them but simply tell them how I perceive what they are doing and I have done that, I think. So with that Mr. Speaker, I, like Mr. Sibbeston, will not vote on the motion. I could not possibly support it but I do not wish to defeat it if that is the wish of eastern Members. I would hope maybe they would reconsider and not move along with the motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: The House is to the motion, not the eastern Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say that I find it disappointing to see honourable Members in this House questioning the appointment of such a distinguished and experienced Member of this Assembly, one of the few women in this Assembly, to the Constitutional Alliance. I really think it should be considered not just an appointment to the Nunavut Constitutional Forum but also an appointment to the Constitutional Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, the appointment of Nellie Cournoyea is not going to prevent negotiations occurring between the Western Constitutional Forum and the Inuvialuit about their potential place in a future western territory. That appointment is going to enhance that process.

I agree, Mr. Speaker, that it means that Inuvialuit will be well-represented in the Constitutional Alliance but I think they deserve, in light of their special and pivotal situation, I think they deserve a special representation.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the assertion that abundant choices were available. First of all, there is a limit to what Members can contribute because of their personal obligations to family and community and otherwise. But secondly, Mr. Speaker, there has been, at least, an unwritten tradition in this Assembly, that Members appointed to the Constitutional Alliance from the Nunavut caucus and from the western caucus should represent all interests in the NWT, both native and non-native interests. I think that since I was appointed to represent non-native people in the Nunavut area that we were somewhat limited and it is not correct to say that Mr. Wray or Mr. Pedersen might have been available.

Member Of Nunavut Caucus

Mr. Speaker, I think far too much is being made about place of origin and constituency. As I see it, the Member recommended by the Nunavut caucus does not represent a particular constituency but rather represents the Nunavut caucus as a whole. And in the case of Ms Cournoyea, she has always belonged to that caucus. In fact I believe she was appointed to be a Minister, one of the four Nunavut region Ministers in this House, on the basis of her belonging to that caucus. I really think that the Members who have risen to question this appointment are really questioning whether in fact she continues to be a Member of Nunavut caucus. I think that is a matter that is up to the Nunavut caucus and up to the honourable Member herself. I would not wish to make any suggestions about who should appropriately belong to the Western Constitutional Forum. I think that it is distressing that the recommendation of our caucus is being questioned, when no one from the Nunavut caucus considered for a moment questioning whether Mr. MacQuarrie was a more or less appropriate representative of non-native people in the future western territory, than Mr. McCallum or Mr. Ballantyne. I think that with respect it is none of our business who the western caucus picks and with respect it is none of your business who the Nunavut caucus picks in good faith.

---Applause

And finally, Mr. Speaker, it distresses me that we are in effect questioning the value of the contribution that can be made by such a hard-working, and I think well-respected, Member of this Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I, too, am very disappointed. Mr. Speaker, I, because of your ruling cannot tell this House the reasons for my disappointment. As a new Member of the western caucus, I have been apprized by representatives of the Western Constitutional Forum of their work and because of the information about the agreement that you will not allow me to refer to, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the motion posed by Mr. Curley, with all respect to my colleague from Nunakput, the motion to me personally does not make sense. It may make sense, Mr. Speaker, if the very competent MLA for Nunakput were appointed to the Western Constitutional Forum but...

AN HON. MEMBER: She'll be sitting with them on the alliance.

MR. RICHARD: ...the motion as phrased, Mr. Speaker, to me, does not make sense. However, learning the traditions and customs respected by Members of this House, I cannot in conscience vote against the wishes of the eastern caucus in naming their representative to this or any other body and therefore I will abstain on the motion.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I was going to make an amendment, Mr. Speaker. It has been said that it is none of my business who is put on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you.

MR. McCALLUM: ...but then you ask me to vote. You said that only the East should decide on it but then you put forth the motion. Okay, I agree, none of my business, I should not be voting, so I will not.

AN HON. MEMBER: A good point.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Confusing To Federal Government And People Of The Territories

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have serious concerns but traditionally what we have done in caucus in the whole area of the alliance, we have allowed eastern Members to make their choice and western Members to make their choice and in that spirit I will not oppose the motion. I too, will abstain. I have the utmost respect for Ms Cournoyea. She is a very competent Member and I know she cares very deeply for her people. I do have very, very serious concerns as to the implications of this appointment. I feel that this appointment will confuse both the federal government -- and even though we cannot refer to the agreement here, Mr. Crombie, in fact, referred to it in his speech and Mr. Crombie in good faith has blessed the work of this alliance. I think we have to think of those implications as to our credibility with the federal government and I think that at this point in time the people of the Northwest Territories are very confused as to who is negotiating what with whom. I think this appointment will even make the situation more confusing to the people of the Northwest Territories.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

MR. BALLANTYNE: I believe it will jeopardize the mandate of the alliance to carry out its duties as outlined by this Assembly. I want Members to understand that this proposed motion could, in fact, start us down a path that could ultimately jeopardize division itself. I will abstain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) I would like to speak to the motion. What I just want to say is what I believe in. How we are going to vote on the motion, I would not predict and I would not say yet that I am sorry for who we appointed and I guess only at the end of the vote, it is going to only show how I feel. At this time I cannot predict anything in advance. But I am one of the eastern Members, Mr. Speaker. I could have been appointed, but I was not and for good reasons. I would not want to put myself forth to do negotiating, for my own personal reasons. I know my abilities. The eastern MLAs, I guess, appointed someone they thought might carry out the duties that Elijah has left. For some reasons, some of us eastern MLAs did not want ourselves appointed. We all had the ability. We all had the chance to be appointed but we only believed in one thing I guess, that we should put our minds together and appoint one and that is Nellie. It may in some people's thoughts break down the negotiations but I cannot predict that. I do not know what is going to come out but the only thing I know is I am going to vote for the motion and I do not think anybody is going to change my mind. I do not sympathize with those who are abstaining or who are not going to vote for it or who are going to vote for it. Our eastern decision is there and it is solid and that is what is going to stand and it just comes to that point for me. Why would the West oppose it so much and who would they rather have wanted? They have given out some names but as I said each and every one of us who might have been appointed, has appointed one who we want and that is where it stays. I do not think I have anything further to say at this time as it is going to show at the vote whoever supports the motion, whoever opposes the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. To the motion. Mr. Curley. If you speak, Mr. Curley, you close the debate. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak briefly to this. I believe that the situation we have arrived at in the Northwest Territories with the Constitutional Alliance and its work to date, as recognized by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, has put us in a position where we can see division coming up in the future, hopefully to be officially recognized within two or three years and maybe even be a reality in that time. As long as the Members who are going to be in both of the new territories feel that the territories they will live in are manageable and workable areas; that traditional routes of transportation, etc., are maintained as much as possible within one area; then support for division in the West -- those of us who do support it and I do support it...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: ...comes from a feeling that the people in the East want to have their own territory. They are the ones that took the initiative. They are the ones that forced it upon this House, and I respect them for that. On the question of division of the Northwest Territories, even though I voted against division during the plebiscite, I have come to realize that if 85 per cent of the people in the East want their own territory then I think they have a right to it. So, to Mr. Curley and his colleagues, I cannot wait until they are on the other side of the fence, hopefully, two years from now...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: There will not be a fence.

Question Of Division May Need Re-examination

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: ... and I wish them the best of luck in their new territory when it happens. But in this situation, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs has recognized the special place of the Inuvialuit in a proposed western territory. He has suggested that the Western Constitutional Forum and western Members should negotiate with the Inuvialuit to establish what the Inuvialuit will accept as a regional strength within our territory. I recognize and respect that desire they have and I feel that we in the West have been put in the situation of having division more or less forced upon us by the demands from the East and I want to comply with that. But, I have to warn the Members from the East that by appointing a person from an area which is, in absolutely all likelihood, going to be in the West -- if it isn't going to be in the West there is going to be great resistance in the West for a division and what you will be doing is causing the whole possibility of division to unravel.

I come from a riding where the exact location of the boundary line is not going to have a big effect but I warn you that other Members in the West come from areas that adjoin with and share areas with the Inuvialuit and it is really important to them and what you are going to do by appointing the Member for Nunakput to the NCF is to cause the whole question of division to be relooked at by the general public in the West and by western Members whose ridings will be directly affected.

I also suggest that Ms Cournoyea's, the honourable Member's role in this should be in the spirit of Mr. Crombie's speech which is to become involved with negotiating with the WCF, what the Inuvialuit's position and role will be in the new western territory. So, Mr. Speaker, I respect the rights of the eastern Members, the so-called Nunavut caucus, to appoint the person they chose but I warn them that in doing this, they are going to probably unravel and set back the division movement, possibly even stopping it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. To the motion. Mr. Wray.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: You may lose eastern support for your Executive position.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: If I have to be in opposition once more it will be great knowing where all the dead bodies are buried in your department.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will keep my comments brief. I am quite astounded at the dire predictions that are coming out in this debate over what...

AN HON. MEMBER: As usual.

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...over worries. However, I suppose we could have expected it. They have been looking for an excuse for quite a long time. The Member for Nunakput has been appointed by the Nunavut caucus to represent their interest in the Nunavut Constitutional Forum and the Constitutional Alliance. Like Mr. Patterson -- it has to be understood, that the constituency of the Nunavut caucus is much larger than just the Inuvialuit and that who the Member is being asked to represent, is the Nunavut caucus, not the Inuvialuit. She will represent them as their MLA, but on the constitutional forum. The predictions that we are hearing, I think, are ill-founded at this time, there is...

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is because you are not aware of what is happening.

Member's Roles Have Not Changed

HON. GORDON WRAY: Well, that is because they have not told us yet, that is why. But, there is a lot of premature thinking into this. The Member has been a Member of the Nunavut caucus for five years now, she sits in the Executive as a Minister, as a representative of the Eastern Arctic, she has performed those roles for five years. I am disturbed when I heard the comments from the honourable Member from Fort Simpson, who said as Minister of Local Government he is going to have a difficulty in dealing with the regional councils in that area because of this appointment. If that is the case then why wasn't that difficulty there before, for the last five years when the Member sat as a Member for the Nunavut caucus? To this point, nothing has changed. Nothing has changed yet, that would suggest that we should not appoint the Member to the Nunavut caucus.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the agreement?

HON. GORDON WRAY: We can't talk about the agreement, Mr. Speaker, so I am not going to.

AN HON. MEMBER: He doesn't wish to deal with reality, that is the problem.

HON. GORDON WRAY: All I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that I think that the dire predictions we are hearing here are dire predictions that the Members would have loved to have had two years ago but they just never had the excuse.

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

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I was going to suggest that if it is so important that the agreement be on the floor of this House before we proceed with this debate, then maybe there are ways that could be found to do that. But I do not know the score on the procedure there because I think that for some of us, if we wanted to comment intelligently on this appointment then we would have had to be aware of the agreement that is being referred to. I guess in this debate my main concern is that the NCF will now have two Ministers sitting on their side. I do not know what it means for the government to have Ministers sitting on these public forums -- the NCF and the WCF are both public forums -- and I think the Member for Nunakput is a Minister of a department that I think is really important to aboriginal people and...

AN HON. MEMBER: So is Local Government.

MR. T'SELEIE: So I too, want to respect the Eastern Arctic, I think they have a right to appoint who they want but I think I would like to ask them to reconsider this...

AN HON. MEMBER: Never.

MR. T'SELEIE: ...this whole motion, because it does have serious implications for what they want to do and, Mr. Speaker, I will be abstaining from the vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. To the motion. Last call to the motion. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some comments in regard to the motion that we are considering. With all due respect to the appointment, I will have to say that at some point in time there is a good possibility that we will be parting our ways and will go to each our own, to set up our own separate territory, our own forms of government. However, before that can happen we are going to have to have some form of understanding.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Timing Of Understanding May Be A Problem

MR. WAH-SHEE: The process of how we go about it, I guess, is something that we all have to work extra hard at, I think. That sort of understanding has to be based on honour, it has to be based on a commitment. However, there may be a problem in terms of timetable. That is really a concern that I have. I am prepared to be very patient but I think Members will have to realize that we are all in it together, all 24 of us. I am not too sure whether we will have a consensus in regard to reaching an understanding which will give a clear signal to the federal government who ultimately have to make that decision. We are, Mr. Speaker, I suppose in some instances the members of a debating society, but I really would like to reach an understanding with the Members of the East that once we reach an understanding that we will stand by, because I have to go back and be accountable to my people as well but having said so, I also have a deep concern and I would like to feel that I am speaking for the people of the North and not just for the people I represent...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WAH-SHEE: ...so, I would have to say that in terms of the timetable of reaching an agreement I think is really the issue at hand here, it is not who is being appointed, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Mr. Crombie came here and spoke to us, he spoke about the division and he said he did not feel bad about it. One thing he did not mention anything about was land claims. For that matter the lady from Nunakput, we do not really know which side she is on. There are lots of people from Nunakput who are really innocents from our country. There are Inuit from Alaska that are in her constituency but I myself am a Dene and the Northwest Territories are land of all the peoples. If we are going to separate it is kind of difficult. This spring and last fall, with the housing committee, I have visited the Eastern Arctic and I found the Inuit people very friendly people and also the Inuit people have been participating on these Denendeh deliberations. For that reason I find it very hard to vote. For that matter I am not going to vote for or against, I am just going to abstain.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I would like to say to the Chair that I, Nellie Cournoyea, know who I am, I know where and who the people I represent...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: ...they are from Nunakput. It is a very important part that is on display at this time. I have been consistent in my position and consistent in what I believe and presented to this Legislatiave Assembly and to other Members. Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to understand why some Members do not understand where I come from and who I represent. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. To the motion. Mr. Curley, you will wind up the debate, if you speak now. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be very brief. I know that the Members are anxious to get on with the business of the House and get on with their responsibilities diligently, but I would like to, Mr. Speaker, summarize a bit of what my motion stands for. I wanted to indicate to the House that I share the concerns of the Members who speak sincerely that there must be a proper understanding between the two and I really sincerely say that and I applaud Mr. Wah-Shee for saying that, because there is always a way of getting around to it. We do not have to speak and preach doom and gloom in times of a difficult situation. We can get around to it and I am all for that. I think it will come about. If some Members are worried about getting such an understanding established in times of difficult reality, like we have today, maybe they ought to give someone else an opportunity to try and work it out rather than just threaten the possibilities of the negotiations or whatnot breaking apart. I do not believe they will break apart. The Territories have got through a difficult time in the past. It is a tough region and we are going to come through...

AN HON. MEMBER: We are still together.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: ...and we are going to know if the Territories is going to divide, it is going to divide honourably like any other province has developed during stages of Confederation. We are a developing region. We may have some strong feelings about them but we are part of the history of Canada which is still evolving. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the House and again state to the Members that the Member for Nunakput has always been a Member of the eastern caucus and she has been known to be a Member of the eastern caucus. The other day at the Members' caucus meeting we specifically asked the Members during the caucus meeting that a Member be nominated to replace Elijah Erklou, who has resigned, and I remember the caucus chairman actually stating to us that is really the business of the eastern Members...

MR. BALLANTYNE: Caucus meetings are confidential, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: They are supposed to be, yes.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: They are supposed to be confidential. I did not know about that.

---Laughter

What is not confidential...

MR. McCALLUM: That is okay, just say you are sorry.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, what is not confidential is that it was up to the eastern caucus to decide, that it makes that recommendation and I think frankly that we are here to tell you that we have appointed our Member from the eastern caucus to represent the Members of the NCF. But, Mr. Speaker, before I close, to further elaborate the consistency of the Member, I would like to state some time ago there was a press statement and I am going to read just a brief two sentences: "The eastern Members call for establishing a territory above the tree line with the same structure of the kind that you are seeing in Yellowknife today." There may have been a few changes but relatively the same today and in order to elaborate...

MR. BALLANTYNE: Table that document, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I will certainly do that, Mr. Speaker, but in one part of the article it said, "Nellie Cournoyea of Inuvik attended the conference representing the Western Arctic communities of Holman Island, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik, Inuvik in the negotiations...."

AN HON. MEMBER: And Inuvik!

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, let both name her to represent them; we would not...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: ...and this report states that it was issued February 20, 1975. So, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Nunakput has been consistent and she has always been the Member of the eastern caucus and we are proud to nominate such a Member to represent the successful negotiations in the alliance where they have failed. We will regain momentum and go on with the job that we called for 10 years ago. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. A recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Paniloo, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Wray, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Curley, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Pedersen.

MR. SPEAKER: Those against, please stand. Abstentions, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Gargan, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Richard, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Butters, Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion 4-85(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, the vote count, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): In favour of the motion, 10. Against the motion, zero, with 11 abstentions.

MR. SPEAKER: 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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Committee will come to order. We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Justice And Public Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come back to order. We are on Justice and Public Services. Is it agreed that the Minister bring in his witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister. For the record would the Minister introduce his witness?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The witness that has joined me here is Mr. Stien Lal, who is a deputy minister of Justice and Public Services.

Museums/Heritage Division, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on page 8.12, Museums/heritage division. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a comment on the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre. As you recall, the centre was sort of born in some controversy but I think that time has proven it. Dr. Janes, the curator and his competent staff have a reputation throughout Canada and throughout North America and I think there has been a real effort to have that particular institution reflect the diverse culture of the North. I would like to express to the Minister and to the deputy minister to pass that on as our accolade to the good work they are doing.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I certainly will pass on that accolade to the staff of the museum and Dr. Janes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Museums/heritage division. Total 0 and M, \$1,283,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Library Services, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Library services. Total 0 and M, \$712,000. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just an update. Mr. Lal and I had a discussion, and I think Mr. Nerysoo is aware of it. Over the course of a number of years there have been some negotiations with the city of Yellowknife library as to giving that library more autonomy within the system. Discussions are taking place and I wonder if Mr. Nerysoo could just bring us up to date as to what is happening with those discussions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to indicate to the honourable Member that the department has developed a proposed agreement. The discussions between the two parties have been arranged, and it is our hope that this agreement will serve as a useful precedent for use in other communities as they indicate an interest in such an arrangement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Library services. Total 0 and M, \$712,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Grants, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Detail of grants and contributions. Total grants, \$32,000. Agreed? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just a general question that we are asking every department. In the whole area of grants and contributions I know one of the recommendations, at one point in time, of the Auditor General, was that perhaps the government should use contributions more than grants because there are more built-in controls in contributions than in grants. I wonder has the department looked at this and at the present time how does the department monitor its grants and contributions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to indicate to the Member that the contributions route is the route that we are going. That is, in most cases we enter into contribution agreements. There are some grant programs that are still outstanding but the trend is that we are going to contribution agreements. Certainly that is what we are doing at the moment and hopefully will intend to do in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total grants, \$32,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total contributions, \$1,036,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total grants and contributions, \$1,068,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Safety And Mining

Public Safety, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Detail of capital. Total public safety, \$100,000. Agreed? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to know about public safety. It lists environmental and occupational safety. It has Yellowknife listed there. I wonder if we could have some detail about that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will allow my deputy minister to respond to that particular question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Lal.

MR. LAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the item of public safety found on page 8.17 of the main estimates book deals with the safety equipment that is purchased by the safety division. This equipment would consist of such things as monitoring devices, laboratory equipment, equipment for enhancing safety in the industrial area as well as the occupational health area. There is also a substantial amount of money under the environmental/occupational health lab section which is \$75,000. That is intended for renovating the mine rescue station in Yellowknife to provide for mine safety enhancement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Lal. Total public safety, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Safety And Mining, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total safety and mining, \$160,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Court Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total court services, \$6000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Museums, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total museums, \$216,000. Agreed? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I wonder if we could have some detail about the \$100,000 that is listed under artifacts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe Mr. Lal can answer that particular question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Lal.

MR. LAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$100,000 under the item artifacts is used for purchasing of collections and purchasing of artifacts from within and without the Territories, that are used for the museum. If the honourable Member would like a detailed list of how this money was used in the previous fiscal year, we would be glad to provide him with that information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Lal. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Yes, I would appreciate a list of how that was spent last year and as well, I wonder if we could have some information on who makes the decision to buy artifacts. How is that decision made?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Lal will answer that particular question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Lal.

MR. LAL: Mr. Chairman, the decision is not always made by the same body. The decision, depending on the artifact to be acquired, is done on the basis of either the advice that they receive from the Heritage Council of the Northwest Territories, or in some instances, the director of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre decides himself. In some cases it is a committee of archaeologists within the museum who arrive at a joint decision. So there is no one body that makes the decision in respect of acquisition of artifacts.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Lal. Total museums, \$216,000. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I am going to ask a question. Are we on museums? I have a question regarding Pangnirtung, the Blackhead Island. There are old whaling camps there and historical sites in that Blackhead Island. There have been archaeologists and some tourists going to that island and they wanted to see some more tourism develop there. They have been asking to get some additional funding to serve tourists better at this historical area on Blackhead Island. I was just wondering if they could provide some funding in this regard. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to indicate that in 1985-86 we will be giving operations and maintenance funding to Pangnirtung for \$8000. We also are contributing capital, contributions to the Pangnirtung visitors centre for \$30,000 as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total museums, \$216,000. Agreed? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Yes, I wonder if, maybe not now but could I have a list? Under community contributions it is listed as various, \$100,000. I wonder if I could have a list of where that is going.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will provide you with that list.

Museums, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total museums, \$216,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Library Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Total library services, \$30,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total Justice and Public Services, \$412,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Information Items

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Any questions on the information items on the remaining pages? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, yesterday the Minister indicated that the donations made to the Heritage Centre for its purposes go into the consolidated revenue fund and it was the Minister's estimate that the amount was approximately \$50,000. Would that sum not normally appear on page 8.20, revenues, recoveries and transfer payments? Why does it not appear there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They do not appear in this particular document but they will be appearing in the supplementary appropriations.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I have a question on page 8.19, Norman Wells impact funding to ensure compliance with safety standards and regulations and provide a native courtworkers' office in the Norman Wells area. I see there is a decrease this year. Is this because of the wind-down of the operation in Norman Wells essentially?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is basically the case. Also, the other issue is that there is, I believe, one courtworker less in that particular community.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further questions on the information items? If not we will go to the Department of Justice and Public Services, dollar summary, total O and M, \$27,839,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total capital, \$412,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that the estimate details for this department are concluded? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, just to comment on the information page 8.22. I take it the purpose of that page is to show the distribution of the budget in this department among the regions. I believe the grants and contributions entry is incorrect in that the money that this department contributes to the Maliiganik operation, for instance, in Frobisher Bay should properly appear under the Baffin Region and I just make that comment to the Minister because I believe it does not correctly show the distribution of those funds.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, just to indicate that the way it appears is technically proper but maybe there might be another method to show it in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree that the estimates, details for this department are concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I know that we have completed the items with regard to Justice and Public Services but I want to extend my personal appreciation, on behalf of the government, to the staff and particularly to the deputy minister of Justice and Public Services for the work they have done over the past year. Usually there is a time when there is criticism of the work that they do but as Minister responsible for all staff that are associated to Justice and Public Services, I just want to have some time to commend them for the work that they have done and, also, no doubt, make them aware that I appreciate the work that they do on behalf of me, as a Minister, and certainly on behalf of the Members in this particular Legislature. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister.

---Applause

I would like to thank the Minister, and Mr. Lal. That concludes the Department of Justice and Public Services.

Workers' Compensation Board

Is it agreed that we now move on to Workers' Compensation Board? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that the Minister brings in his witness? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister. For the record, would the Minister introduce his witness?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce Mr. Bryan Roberts, who is the executive director of the Workers' Compensation Board. He is filling in for Mr. John MacLean, the chairman of the board, who is ill at present and unable to be here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the Minister have any opening remarks?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just have a very short statement to make, essentially just to summarize the role of the Workers' Compensation Board. The Workers' Compensation Board is the agency responsible for the administration of the Workers' Compensation Ordinance and the adjudication of all matters arising out of it. The board provides compensation for injury or death by accident arising out of and in the course of employment. Assessments are levied upon employers on the basis of a percentage of their pay roll to meet the costs of compensation and administration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Any questions? Mr. Richard.

Status Of Proposal On Investment Of Fund

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us what is the precise status of the proposal that came from one of the chambers of commerce in this past year for an investment of the compensation fund for northern purposes? In other words, is there work being done now and what sort of time frame could he envisage reporting to the Legislature on that proposal?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the concurrence of my colleagues, the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Finance, we have formed a senior officials committee with officials from those two departments along with officials of the WCB and Mr. MacLean, who is the chairman of the board, to sit down and to take a look at the whole proposal that was put forward by the various chambers of commerce but also to take a look generally at the area of utilizing the funds in the North to see if in fact there are other ways by which we can achieve this as well. I

would hope that we would be able to report something to the House, probably in the fall. It is a very complicated matter. It is highly technical because of the rules and regulations we have to work with but also I should indicate that I have instructed the chairman of the board that no matter what happens, at all costs, the integrity of the funds of the Workers' Compensation Board must be protected. They cannot and would never be used in any speculative type of arrangements. That fund is there for the benefit of workers and it must remain there for the benefit of workers and any type of arrangement that we might come up with would have to be done with the absolute guarantee that the money would be available if and when required by the board. Thank you.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, first of all I wonder if Mr. Wray could pass on to Mr. MacLean our concern and good wishes and our hope for his speedy recovery. Secondly, the Workers' Compensation Board is, I think, the best run board in the Northwest Territories. I think they should be quite proud of the work they do. A question I would like to ask is right now approximately what percentage of the assets of the WCB in the various funds are actually invested in the North?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his compliments about the board and I must admit that I concur with them. I also think that, with regard to the assets, none of the assets are invested in the Northwest Territories. I will and I have an investments inventory which I will table for the House so that Members can see where the money is invested but at present none of the funds are invested in the North.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I echo my colleague's question and I fully agree with the Minister's assessment that whatever the board does, they cannot jeopardize their main function which is to provide a safety net for workers but I would be looking with a lot of interest, also, at any proposals that the Minister might make in the fall. It is a large pool of money and I think that the more of it that could be safely invested in the North, put to the use of northerners, for northerners, would be to everybody's advantage. So, I will be looking with a certain amount of interest as to what proposals you might make.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the matter of having a group look into it, certainly it is worth looking into. I have no question about that at all, but from a comment you made some time earlier, I get the impression that as far as the workers were concerned, you would rely simply on the input of worker representatives on the Workers' Compensation Board but I would urge that you go further than that and if the group is examining it that you ensure that they take specific steps to hear from workers' groups as to the kinds of concerns that they would have about what might be done and for any suggestions that they might have about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will certainly take the Member's comments under consideration. The way I look at it is this money really belongs to the workers. It is there for their benefit and I would not in any way make decisions which may jeopardize the position of that money and I will take his comments under consideration.

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

Transfer Of Mining And Safety To WCB

MR. BALLANTYNE: I would like to move on to another point. I brought up this matter with the Minister responsible for Justice and as we all know he is looking at reorganizing his department and the idea that at some point the safety and mining division of the Department of Justice and Public Services might logically go under the auspices of the Workers' Compensation Board. Is the Workers' Compensation Board now undertaking a study on that particular matter?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I am not quite sure if a study has been taking place but I do know that the Workers' Compensation Board has made representation to me and their representation is that it is their opinion that they would like to see those functions transferred to the board for them to carry out. As the Government Leader mentioned, this is subject right now to a senior official's review and hopefully within the next short while, recommendations will be made to the Executive, at which time we will consider it, but the board's position is that those functions could be transferred and should be transferred to the Workers' Compensation Board and they would be quite prepared to undertake those functions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further questions? This is just a major information item, there are no moneys to be approved. Does the committee agree that the major information items on the -- Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: One question for the record. How many employees does the Workers' Compensation Board have?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At present there are 50 permanent positions, four of which are vacant. There are four term positions and four casuals, for a total staff complement of 54.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Are there any...

MR. McCALLUM: Jobs open?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Are there any jobs open, if we need one? But are there any staff positions in the regions or are all the staff in Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: All the staff are in Yellowknife, Mr. Chairman. The board in the past year or so has undertaken to start travelling fairly extensively in the regions, to start making people more aware of the WCB and its role and its functions. But at present all staff are in Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any more questions? Does the committee agree that the major information item on the Workers' Compensation Board is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to thank the Members for that speedy passage. It was certainly worth it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I would like to thank the Minister and Mr. Roberts. Does this committee agree we proceed to Personnel? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Personnel

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): In your main estimates booklet, Personnel is on page 7.1. Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: For finance committee Members, the briefing notes are under tab E in their briefing notebook.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you very much, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister, for the record, would you introduce your witnesses?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The witnesses that have come in to the House are the Commissioner John Parker and deputy minister of Personnel, Mr. Ted Bowyer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you have any opening remarks, Mr. Minister?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Personnel's O and M budget of \$14,672,000 is an increase of 12 per cent over the 1984-85 budget. The increases are made up of several items: 1) volume increases based on the size of the organization; 2) base adjustments to address base deficiencies in regions; 3) salary and other O and M increases; 4) a priorities exercise increase for native employment and affirmative action.

Apart from these items there are no other new enhancements or new program thrusts. The department has developed an affirmative action program to support the employment, training and development of native people. This policy will be expanded to include women and handicapped people by April 1, 1986. I will be tabling copies of the policy during this session along with the revised role and reporting relationships for the office of native employment.

We will be negotiating new contracts with both the Public Service Association and the NWT Teachers Association this year. The department, with the assistance of a negotiator and direction from the Executive Council, will be responsible for negotiations. Meetings with the Public Service Association are scheduled for the end of February and with the Teachers Association in April.

Our recruitment statistics indicate a further decline in staff turnover. It now stands at: 1984, 15.47 per cent, and this is in relationship to 1983, 19.63 per cent; 1982, 21 per cent; 1981, 32 per cent. We anticipate a low turnover rate in 1985 based on the state of the economy and continued emphasis on recruiting in the North. Less than 10 per cent of our staff were recruited in the South, not counting teachers, and 32 per cent of positions were filled by native people.

This years capital budget is \$2,231,000. While it appears to be a major reduction it should be noted that we will be requesting private contractors to build a number of units for us to lease on a lease purchase arrangement. The amount of construction obtained by this method will include buildings in Frobisher Bay, Eskimo Point and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, that is my opening statement. I certainly would suggest now that we begin discussion of the Department of Personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General discussion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Capability To Perform Jobs

MR. MacQUARRIE: The Minister said that we are going to see the policy on affirmative action sometime during this session. So I am content to wait on that. But a related matter that I would like to know about is this. When affirmative action is implemented, I approve generally of that approach. I always have a concern which I have expressed before that without question when people are put into various jobs that they must be people who are capable of doing those jobs. I feel that no policy is acceptable if you have situations where people who are put into jobs are unable to do them and it means that other employees are winding up having to do a job and a half or two jobs. So I just hope that that will be borne in mind, in whatever the government does.

Job Descriptions And Qualifications Necessary

But on the other side of the fence, I also noted -- and so have other Members -- that sometimes there are what I would call "phony job qualifications", that as things develop over the years you have a job description and requirements being written up that are questionable, in the sense that it is very probable that someone could do the job who does not have those specific qualifications.

So my question to the Minister is, is anything being done in respect of that? If it is seen as a problem, have we started making any plans to have a look at that and see what can be done so that we really can bring people in who may very well be able to do the job but for that kind of reason are not selected. The reason I think of this particularly is because in the kind of work that I am doing, I often encounter people who are very astute, bright and obviously competent, yet they do not have a great deal of formal education. Yet I have no doubt at all that if they were put into certain jobs they could do them effectively. So what is being done in respect of that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I just want to respond to the initial comment that was made and then give a brief comment with regard to the last item that Mr. MacQuarrie raised.

Without question the intent of any employment policy with affirmative action should be to improve the qualifications and the ability of particular sections of people to participate in the public service, and also to be able to perform the jobs that they are willing to take on. None the less and I would assume that certainly in asking and requesting that in this particular case, more native people become involved in government, we have to be prepared to provide the necessary training, the educational improvements that are necessary but as much as that we have to create an environment where native people that are outside of government see government as being a good place to work. There are also native people that are in government now that we can help to improve their situation in government. I think that we can not only concentrate on bringing people in but improve the role of native people in government.

Those people that are there now. I do say that, no doubt, the whole question of qualifications has been an issue of the Executive Council, we have raised it and we think that it is something that has to be dealt with over the next year and for that matter as it relates to any kind of affirmative action that we get into. Maybe if I could ask the Commissioner to add further to my comments, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Commissioner.

Equal Employment Directorate

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the question of job descriptions and classifications is one that comes up regularly and I think deserves to do so. We are constantly reviewing this subject with a view to making certain that the job descriptions are not put forward in such a way as to preclude the employment of people living in the area and that is a commitment that we make. As we go forward with policies of affirmative action, and initially the first segment of that is the policy of native employment, we will be creating an office or a directorate called the "equal employment directorate" to carry out this work and, as such, the duties of that office will include the review of all of the classifications in so far as they apply to job descriptions. We will be turning extra special attention to that area in trying to make certain that our job descriptions are meaningful and do not contain educational qualifications that are either not required or unobtainable. At the same time, of course, as the Member said so well, there is a requirement to keep the education levels up and to fill the jobs in a meaningful way with people who can handle the work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister would agree to have the director of the office of native employment -- I wonder if we could have her as a witness so that we can discuss the initiatives that are taking place in regard to that particular office. I can't really recall, previously, when we were dealing with the Department of Personnel, where we have heard the person in that position who has, I believe, formulated certain recommendations to the Executive. I, as Member of this committee, would like to put forth some questions to her if possible.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we may be able to answer the questions if the questions are directed at us and that might be the proper route to go.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Wah-Shee, do you want to have another witness coming up then or are you satisfied that the Minister will be able to answer the questions?

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I am not really questioning the capability of the Minister to respond to the concerns we may raise in that area but it just seems to me rather odd that we had so many people go through that particular position and, as you know, we have had quite a few capable people who have tried to make that particular position effective, in terms of making recommendations to the Executive, through the Department of Personnel. When we are talking about affirmative action I think I would like to hear from someone who is really responsible for that particular function and this is not to indicate that I question the answers or response we may get but I think that all of us would be very interested in hearing, perhaps, the future role of that particular function. If it is not effective then, obviously, we will have to look at alternatives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate to the Member that it is really our responsibility to determine the direction -- the Executive Council and myself as the Minister with the support of the deputy minister and I suggest that we may be able to answer the issue of the role of the office. I indicated earlier that I would be tabling in this House and will be tabling in this House tomorrow, the affirmative action for the native employment policy but I believe that it would be proper to ask myself and the Commissioner what we perceive as the role and the manner in which this particular section will be reporting to and how they will be dealing with the Executive in future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Wah-Shee, I would like to say that now that we are on general comments and that we will be dealing with the office of native employment when personnel services does come up. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, on general comments. I wonder if the Minister, then could perhaps indicate to the committee as to why there was such a number of turnovers in regard to that particular office. What are some of the reasons why we went through so many native people who went through that particular office and left in frustration? I may be wrong; I stand to be corrected.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Native Employment Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just to indicate that we have had three people heading up that particular section and two have left. Ms Casaway has been with us for a number of years now. She in fact left for a while to take a role with the Dene Nation and has returned and was given a task of developing a native employment policy. That native employment policy is now available to us and it will be tabled in this House. The Executive Council has approved that policy and we will be proceeding with it. We also are prepared to make you aware, as the Commissioner pointed out earlier, that we are now in the process of developing an equal opportunity office with a reporting relationship to a Minister. We have not yet indicated who that Minister might be and that is a subject that will be discussed with the Executive Council. Just to ensure that we have heard the comments that have been made by Members of this House, previously, with regard to the importance of the question of ensuring that native people will be trained, employed by this government. We also recognize, as a government, the importance of this initiative and as a government we have also approved a policy that will ensure that native people are employed, trained to participate in the public service of the Northwest Territories. As well, we are prepared to expend the money which we identified in the priorities exercise to ensure that this would occur and this is not a short-term exercise. We have committed up to three years of funding to deal not only with the question and issue of native employment but also with the whole question of women and the handicapped in the public service and their role and ensuring that their expertise can be utilized within our public service.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my feelings are that there should be more native people in the public service. I think that as long as that situation is not addressed the administration will always appear to be, I guess, foreign to people. Earlier the Minister has said he would be tabling what he calls an affirmative action policy or paper. I wonder if he could tell us how that paper will let more native people be employed in the public service?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Mr. Minister.

Promotion Of Government Jobs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate that while we have tried in the past to employ more native people in government there has never been a policy in government to ensure that that took place. There has been no directive to the heads of departments, chiefs. It has been on the basis of commitment. We now have a written document that is a policy of government that will ensure that native people will have an opportunity, either through training, to improve in training, to improve through opportunities to seek particular jobs, to participate in any way we can, to ensure that we have more native people in government. I just also want to say that in the past we have not promoted government as a place that native people should be working and it is time that we do that.

As much as government could take some blame, we have not exactly received a lot of support from the native organizations in trying to promote people in government and hopefully we can get some commitment on the part of the native organizations to help us solve that particular problem because we have trained people in government, we have had people that are very good and the native organizations themselves take those people. So, in some sense we have done a lot of work in training people but other people have been prepared to take them as well. I just hope that people understand that we feel that government is a good place to work. We have to create that atmosphere and generally create that attitude among people in the North. That attitude has not been in the North and among native people until very recently. I think it is only because of the change politically in the North and the role of native people as leaders, particularly in this Assembly, taking the initiative to create that particular atmosphere. Certainly as a government, we want to ensure that people, particularly native people at this time, the aboriginal people, understand that they will have our support in participating and being employed in government.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate what kind of co-operation or relationship exists with the northern careers program under the federal government. Does the territorial government participate in terms of sponsoring people in regard to northern careers and if so would the Minister indicate how many people have been sponsored in, say, the previous year?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a relationship but I just do say that the employment policy as we are presenting it to this Legislature is a policy that applies to the Government of the Northwest Territories. I will provide the information with regard to numbers, as soon as I have them available, to the honourable Member with regard to those people who have been involved in the northern careers program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Privatizing Government Functions

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that our government in the area of certain functions is what they call "privatizing", trying to turn certain things over to private industry. My question then, is the Department of Personnel following any such policy with respect to the provision of services to government, in other words, letting things out to contract rather than employing people in the public service? Is that a formal policy, or is it a practice that is informally being followed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, certainly with regard to Personnel, no, we at this time anyway are not looking at privatizing functions. The responsibility that the department itself carries out does not really lend itself to privatization in its general terms or specific terms. I would just maybe ask if the Commissioner can speak more on that particular item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, there is little to add. We believe that to do that would be more expensive and also the kind of functions, as the Minister has outlined, are the kind of things that can best be done with our own staff. We engage assistance for annual negotiations because we

have found that that is good practice to have someone from outside our service and we might from time to time seek some assistance in recruitment, although we have not found that necessary for many years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, I want to make clear that I certainly was not advocating that but I had just wondered whether it was being done. And, yes, it would seem to me that it might actually involve additional costs if it were to be done and that was what I was going to ask next. What would that additional cost be? So it seems that the Minister does feel that it is important to have an effective public service and that the morale of the public service be maintained as much as possible.

Preparation For Division

My other general question then would be despite the fact that in the last week or so certain events have developed, certain things have been said and done by some Nunavut Constitutional Forum members and others that may bring the question of division up as an issue but let us hope that it will not, and that the agreement that was reached will be affirmed in every sense. If that should occur, it is possible that division will occur and I would ask the Minister...

AN HON. MEMBER: On the floor.

---Laughter

MR MacQUARRIE: ...is his department...

MR. RICHARD: ...have a position on division.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...establishing or doing anything to begin preparation? You did talk more generally about a group looking into the whole area earlier. But specifically with regard to Personnel, what plans are there in that respect?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we have not done any analysis I believe with regard to the effect of division but there is no question that we will probably have to do something and certainly within the next three or four months we will be able to find or at least do some analysis and develop a report, if that is an area that were to occur.

I will just say that the question of devolution or division itself will be a responsibility in the Executive under my jurisdiction and certainly some of the work that is being done by that particular group that is dealing with the devolution of powers, plus we will also be dealing with the question of division. Some of the issues such as the responsibility of Personnel and all of the departments would be a part of that analysis as well.

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

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): The committee will come to order. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Point of order, Mr. Chairman, we do not have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Could we have the Sergeant-at-Arms ring the bell, please?

MR. BALLANTYNE: ...you are not a mathematician.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): You are out of order, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I apologize.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): The Chair recognizes a quorum. We are on the Department of Personnel, general comments. Mr. McCallum, you had the floor.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to take up in general comments from the concerns raised by Mr. MacQuarrie. Could I ask the Minister, regarding this whole problem of a possible division, has the government received from its two main unions, the PSA and the NWTTA, any correspondence or concerns that they have regarding this possible division? Therefore, are they looking toward what will occur with the members of those particular alliances or associations?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to our knowledge have they raised the issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. McCallum.

Priority List For Apprenticeship Programs

MR. McCALLUM: Just on general comments, Mr. Chairman, again. The affirmative action program I expect deals primarily with employment opportunities. I would venture to say that it will also include the employment of apprentices. At the present time the apprenticeship program, although it does not come under Personnel and it is now put together within Education, that particular activity is set up around or with a prioritized list of eligible people. I applaud the action of the government with its affirmative action program and I wonder, now that affirmative action programs will be coming into place, whether it is necessary to prioritize under the apprenticeship program, because I would expect that this whole process of affirmative action -- and I think that there have been five particular categories for people getting into apprenticeships -- and again I realize that comes under a different department but you are talking in Personnel here about a program that will go over all government departments. I know that there are people who have applied for apprenticeships who have had all their education in the Northwest Territories, who have been born in the Territories, they have taken their education through our schooling system and it has been indicated to them verbally that they are still not on the top priority list. I have a concern then with what is going to happen to this priority list for getting into apprenticeship programs.

In the area of this I raise a concern that I have had with the affirmative action program, that is with employment, because of our graduating students. I wonder what the department does in dealing with students who are now at school and will be graduating, whether they are going to be able to come back into the employ of the government. What kind of a program is set up to monitor the number of students who are at the point of graduation, whether they will be able to come in because under the provisions of the student loans program, there is a pay-back provision unless the student gets work in the Northwest Territories. Some students, of course, over a period of acquiring a first degree or two degrees if you like, in order to get an education have spent five years at some kind of academic institution and if there is no opportunity to seek and obtain employment with the government then they are faced with a particular pay-back that would approximate \$15,000. I think that the amount that they are eligible for is a loan of \$3200 a year.

Employment Of Graduating Students

That brings me into a question that is similar to that, what kind of monitoring system is set up to ensure that some of these students come in, especially in the regions -- not so much in Yellowknife, there seem to be that many more opportunities to get employment within the government -- in terms of hiring summer students during the summer employment. So, I wonder if I could get some kind of comment from the Minister on the idea of how the affirmative action program will affect the apprenticeship program, that priority list. What monitoring system is in place to ensure that graduating students will be offered employment, because of the pay-back provisions of the student loans? If there is any monitoring mechanism in place regarding employment of students during the summer by government?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I think that there seems to be a suggestion that we are going to have a massive surge of native people wanting jobs in government. Well, I am not quite sure if that is going to happen.

MR. McCALLUM: Point of privilege, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): All right, Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I did not make any reference or imply anything about the employment of native people. I am not talking about that. I did not make use of that term. I do not want the Minister to start to attempt to read what is in my mind. I have enough problems of my own. So, if he would just keep his answers to the questions that I posed and not try to read into my remarks anything untoward.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you for that clarification, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Minister, would you like to continue?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, maybe, Mr. Chairman, if I have the right to preface my remarks before I give a final response like the honourable gentleman had. I just wanted to indicate that there seems to be, and it has nothing to do with the honourable gentleman himself, but there seems to be an assumption that there will be a surge of native people that are seeking employment in government. But we, ourselves, are not sure that that is in fact going to happen. What has been lacking in government has been a policy that would encourage native people to become employed within the Government of the Northwest Territories. There has been always the assumption that that has been the case but really there has never been written direction or a policy of government that has stated that.

I do say that with regard to the apprenticeship program that there now exist criteria -- and maybe Mr. Bowyer can correct me -- but I believe that there are three elements: one priority, native; two, that they be educated in the North; three, that they would have resided in the North for 10 years. Those are the particular criteria now with the training program or the apprenticeship program. But that program itself is really monitored, as the gentleman knows, by the Department of Education. Maybe if I could ask Mr. Parker or Mr. Bowyer to respond to the other question of educational leave. Just to indicate to you from my position as a Minister, I believe that it is important that we maintain some of the commitments that we have made to people that are on educational leave, that we do not necessarily send them away from the North with the impression that they will have an opportunity either to work for government or work in the North and not give them that particular opportunity. But it is really a matter of trying to balance the thing with the direction that we are going in the whole area of native employment and also employment of residents of the NWT. Maybe if I could now ask Mr. Parker and Mr. Bowyer to respond further.

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

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to elaborate on what the Minister said, in the apprenticeship program there have indeed been criteria which have been used for a number of years in the selection of people for apprenticeship training. That has been native people first and then graded, coming down from people who are born and raised, in 10 years and so on. So there is really nothing new there. That has been an affirmative action program, if you like, that has been in place for some time.

Hiring Priority For Teachers

If I am clear on Mr. McCallum's question about teacher training and others being trained outside on grants. In the teachers area those people who are now at institutions are the first priority hire each year when we do teacher recruitment. I think, at least in the foreseeable future, because of the number involved they need not fear not being able to secure employment and thus be liable to pay back their loans. We are recruiting about 70 to 75 teachers from the South each year and that number far exceeds the number that are in teacher training for example, outside the Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no fear of an affirmative action program or programs regarding the employment. I think it is commendable of the government to start to sell to people -- native people, if you like, since the Minister referred to those, selling a career in the public service as an honourable profession. I think it is great that they have. But the affirmative action program in my understanding is not totally for native people. It is for minorities of all kinds. It can relate to the employment of women, the handicapped and everything else. But all minority groups have, under an affirmative action program, the right to seek employment within -- in a career in the public service. That is what I understand the affirmative action program to be. I just wonder whether it is necessary now with the affirmative action program -- the question I am asking I guess is, is it necessary to have this priority list in terms

of apprenticeship programs? It may not have been a policy as such but that is where we get into the difficulties and the interpretations of directives or instructions from people, and how people down the line interpret certain direction.

Mechanism To Identify Northern Students

I am pleased to hear Mr. Bowyer respond that people who are in education programs outside are not going to have any difficulty but I know first-hand of correspondence from the Department of Personnel in the past to individuals who are, not born in the Territories, but certainly living in the Territories from a year to a year and a half and have received a form letter from somebody in Personnel, even though they have all their education, they are in five years university at the expense of the government and they received a form letter saying "Thank you very much for applying for teaching in the NWT, but we are not hiring from the South."

What I am saying is, is there a mechanism where people in the Department of Personnel know who is outside taking that training? My God, we have paid for their education through 13 years of formal schooling, kindergarten to grade 12, given them summer employment. We have given them student loans or before the student loans, outright grants and then when they applied to come back to teach in the Northwest Territories, their home, they received a form letter from the government saying, "Thanks very much for applying but we are not hiring teachers from the outside." Now, I know that. All I am saying is, what is in place now to guard against the same kind of mistakes? And I am not trying to raise that as being a red flag. I simply asked what kind of mechanisms are in place to make sure that that does not occur again? I know not just one instance, I know other instances where it has occurred. The mechanisms in place to hire summer students outside coming back, not just in Yellowknife but in the regions -- I think it is a lot easier to look after students who come back to be hired in Yellowknife. There are many more opportunities. But in the regions, especially some of the smaller regions, it must be difficult and even though we, as a government, provide student loans and grants, the cost of going to university in this day and age, in 1985, is more than that. Again, from experience, I know. That is all I am getting at.

I have no fear of affirmative action programs. I applaud the government for doing that. I just want to know -- we have learned from the mistakes of the past so that those things will not come up, and I am only talking about what kind of mechanisms. How do you monitor the students who are out there so that they do not get this slap in the face when they apply to come back to teach in their home? That is the only question that I am asking -- nothing untoward about it at all.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have tried and are in the process of developing a system particularly as it relates to recruiting teachers. Maybe I could ask Mr. Parker and Mr. Bowyer to respond further to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we sincerely regret the occasions where a form letter has been sent and I feel very badly about that and we have instituted procedures with Education that we hope and trust will prevent that happening in the future. We have crossovers established with them now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Bowyer, did you wish to add anything? Mr. McCallum.

Negotiations With PSA And NWTTA

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask another general question? I'll leave that because I guess that I have got the answer that there are particular mechanisms and I am satisfied. I just want to make sure of it. Can I just go back to the business of the relationship that exists now and in the future regarding the negotiations with the PSA and the NWTTA? Could the Minister indicate to me whether they have opened? And if so, how they are progressing. It seems to me that the Minister, rightly or wrongly, had been quoted as sending out some kind of communication to indicate to one or both of them that there are going to be tough negotiations because of financial considerations and I think a figure, and he can correct me if I am wrong, of somewhere in the vicinity of two to three per cent has been sent out. Could I ask whether negotiations are under way and how they are progressing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We commence formal negotiations with the PSA on February 27th. We have exchanged letters with them to this effect and that date is well understood. We have not advised them as to how hard or how soft we are going to be. With regard to the NWTTA, the negotiations are scheduled to commence in April, because their agreement has a few more months to run. A date in April has not been set but we have agreed with them to commence in that month.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

Training To Match Increasing Complexity Of Government

MR. BALLANTYNE: I just have a question of a general nature and also a comment of a general nature. I think the Minister has stated the government's policy and government's support for providing more opportunities for native people in the public service. I think there is favourable agreement in the House toward that. But I wonder realistically even though we are talking about providing training programs, education programs, any number of programs to assist native people in developing skills for the public service, it is my personal opinion that this government is becoming more complex, very quickly and that the level of education support that can be provided might not match the speed with which this government is becoming more and more complex. For a small government, I think it is far too complex and I think in many ways we are going to FIS and computerize ourselves to a grinding halt one day. Does the Minister have any concerns about the rapidity with which this government is becoming more and more sophisticated and the inherent danger in that is that it will be more and more difficult for native people really to fit in in a meaningful way?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that I believe that people generally understand the situation with the complexity of government and the complexity that has developed over the past four or five years. I do not believe the program itself will fail because of that particular complexity. I think that we should take the program and the direction one step at a time. We cannot say it is a complete failure if only 20 people outside of the present public service now become interested in being part of the public service. What is as important to the program will be those people in the system now that want to attain a career that is better and more sophisticated than the one they are in at the moment and this includes both native men and native women. So, in that sense, I think that we already have elements, or groups in government, that are capable of doing that.

The other thing is that it will take us some time to be very clear about the direction we wish to go because, as much as the issue of career planning is, I guess, something we want to do as a government and are beginning to do now, it is something that we also have to do with those people, native people in our public service. We also have to develop the proper training programs, whether or not they are training programs that are offered on the job or as part of those programs that are offered generally to the public servants or whether or not it is a different career plan, different educational program that is required.

With regard to the computerization, I do know that we have been pretty successful, I believe, in training a lot of people to be able to use the FIS system and also have been pretty successful in training a lot of people to understand and work with computers. But the complexity of government and the manner in which we work fiscally or just with regard to day-to-day responsibilities is something that is happening all around us. I think that one of the problems is trying to keep up to that complexity and I think that the idea of training programs, training initiatives is to try to keep up to that complexity because as much as we want to simplify government, the reality is that that is not necessarily always possible and certainly we have to look at what is ahead of us, what the future offers us and certainly what we have to deal with in the very near future and even now with regard to the computerization of government and the updated equipment that we have to use now.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I agree there is a very important role in all life nowadays for modern and sophisticated equipment but I guess there is a point though where sophisticated equipment is not a tool for government or actually can control the working of government. We must find that balance,

but I am just injecting a little note of caution, and I think the Minister responded to that. We do not want to raise expectations so high that people are going to be disappointed. I think we have to be practical and realistic as to the expectations that we are raising and I think that was the point I wanted to make, just to inject a note of caution so that people do not think the world is going to change overnight.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you for your note of caution, Mr. Ballantyne. General comments. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have, I hope, a general question or comment of the department. If not, you can rule me out of order...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. McCALLUM: It is in the area of...

MR. BALLANTYNE: He is waiting.

MR. McCALLUM: ...and if...

MR. BALLANTYNE: Salivating.

MR. McCALLUM: ...everybody else anticipates, what the hell! It is in the area of staff housing and the housing policy of the government. He knew I was going to ask that.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Are you ready for that one, John?

Staff Housing For Local Hires

MR. McCALLUM: In this business of housing policy, could I get some clear indication whether staff housing or accommodation is being provided by this government to local hires? I must indicate to you that as the special committee went around there were certain regions that did not, where accommodation is not being provided to local hires. I am sure the Minister will recall when we talked about the recommendations of the special committee on housing that we were told through various communities that there were a number of government staff living in Housing Corporation rental units. We heard it from Pangnirtung to Baker Lake and in a number of other communities. The government staff compete, as it were, with people in the communities for public housing and that is not just the Government of the Northwest Territories staff but also the federal government. There were certain recommendations made by the special committee on housing regarding this particular difficulty and I wonder if the Department of Personnel have addressed or reviewed those recommendations and further, has there been any change to the policy of government staff in certain communities providing their own accommodation after one years service and is there any change to the buy-back factor of that particular policy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. McCallum, we are still on general comments. Mr. Minister, did you care to answer that question at this time?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to say that, generally, it is the policy of government to provide housing to all hires, including local hires. I do say though that there is a shortage of housing units even for those people that are being hired outside of a particular community. As, Mr. Chairman, Mr. McCallum knows also, the reduction over the past four or five years of our ability to build, to construct housing units for staff purposes -- we have had a number of years where we were not building very many units and it has only been, I guess, this particular year that we will have more units than usual. But our policy as I indicated is to also go to leasing more units from private enterprise and we are now in the process of trying to do that in three particular communities; Frobisher Bay, Eskimo Point, and Cambridge Bay. That is not to suggest, though, that we would not look seriously at other options that might be available to us in other communities. But basically those are the three communities that we would like to test at the moment. Certainly, from all indications there are private entrepreneurs that are prepared to provide the necessary buildings. With regard to the change of the present housing policy, maybe I could ask Mr. Parker and also Mr. Bowyer to respond.

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

Buy-Back Provisions Of Housing Policy

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we have not made any recent changes in the buy-back provisions of our housing policy. We are still promoting home-ownership to the fullest extent that we think is reasonable and I must say that the employees are responding very well to this. I think there is a good deal of satisfaction with that program and we do guarantee to buy back a housing unit if the employee leaves, resigns or anything of that nature and we have made two or three purchases.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Bowyer, did you wish to add to that?

MR. BOWYER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were asked by the Executive to review the buy-back policy and indeed to revisit the entire housing policy and the standing committee on finance were also interested in having us make that review so we will be undertaking that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say that originally I had some research done for unemployment because I believed that it is the native people or just people between the ages of 45 and 64 that are affected mostly by unemployment but after the research was concluded I find that that is not the case. The overall unemployment is higher in the Eastern Arctic particularly in the Keewatin and the Baffin Regions. The overall unemployment rates are higher in the 15 to 24 age group and lowest in the 45 to 64 age group. Native unemployment rates are higher than non-native rates in all regions and in all ages. This was done for myself. The other thing too is that with regard to education too, the same thing applies here too, that there are less native people graduating or even entering high school than any other groups in the North.

Incentives For Employment With Government

I would like to ask the Minister, if there is an affirmative action plan being developed by this government, there is a policy that is being developed within government and I am not too sure whether the native people at the community level are aware of this policy, but I guess what I would like to ask the government, other than that affirmative action, or the policy that is being developed within the department, what is this government doing to attract native people to Yellowknife? What are the incentives because certainly we need better incentives than that?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate that we are not tabling the policy, that there is no attempt, on our part, to attract people out of their communities if there is a possibility of employment in their communities but you have to remember one thing in that government cannot be the sole employer in the Northwest Territories. Industry has to be an employer as well. We can only create an atmosphere in government, where those positions that we are able as a public service to provide, we can create an incentive, a policy that will have the native people recognize that we are serious about having them work for government. As well, all our programs to date either through training, education, the ability to work for government, are all focussing on native people. As much as we can create an atmosphere for native people to participate in government in all those areas, they have to be prepared to participate.

In many cases, and it has been said in this particular House, the native people do not necessarily want to move from their communities. Even with all the incentives we might have, they do not want to move from their communities. But if they want to be a part of the job market, if they want to be employed by government in the larger centres, the regional centres, they have to be prepared to make that move. We can only create the atmosphere that we are prepared to accept them if they are coming. This policy itself will be made public. It will be sent to all communities. Hopefully, we will be able to do radio programs in the languages and they will be translated. That is the only way we can possibly make people aware that the policy exists.

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

Field Training

MR. GARGAN: When you are developing a policy, what is wrong with including field training as part of a training for an individual? I believe that transporting people to a central location, paying for their accommodations, meals, training allowance or wages, if that is in it -- what is wrong with getting an individual qualified person to go to -- in the long run it costs less to have one person doing the training in the communities.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that that is a feature of the native employment policy, that we are going to try to take into consideration those particular issues. As well, when one is training, there is a certain formal period of education that is required and anyone taking on a training position must understand that possibly, possibly that formal education will mean that they are going to have to leave the community and they have to accept that fact. That is a reality that has to be accepted in order for them and for this particular program to be very, very successful. It is not a matter of saying that these people will only be employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Any type of training that will upgrade their skill, upgrade their education, upgrade their experience in a particular job, will allow them to compete anywhere in the job market. That is what you are trying to do -- to allow native people to train to participate generally in the job market and that is a very important feature that we are trying to impress upon those people that want to work for government or at least be trained by government as well. We have worked with the native organizations in this particular document. They have sat down and provided direction, provided some recommendations, they have reviewed the final report and they have had an opportunity to give that particular direction.

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

Trades Training Where No Vacancies Exist

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say that I believe in Thebacha College they have heavy equipment operators training over there. Out of the 100 students that did graduate, 60 per cent of them are unemployed and they are still training more of the same thing so I guess the unemployment rate could very well keep rising for that particular group.

The other comment too with regard to training and apprenticeship is that I believe in every or just about every community in the North they do have some kind of air services, private business. These things are very attractive possibly to native people but no initiative is taken by this government to get into those new areas. So we are training the people to be welders, clerk-typists and those positions are all filled. We need new incentives to make it attractive the native people, not only to the native people but to all groups in the North. I do not think this has been happening.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. General comments. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to elaborate on what Mr. Gargan just said. The training that we have traditionally made available to native people has been in the trades field. Mr. Gargan is absolutely right that the available positions in those fields are filled. I think it is fine for the Department of Personnel to have affirmative programs but I do not think we cannot allow it to stop there. It has to be a total government approach because I do not believe we are going to get anywhere until we get the Department of Education involved in this.

Academic Qualifications Needed

The better positions within the civil service pretty well all require an academic qualification. If you check the posters for available positions this becomes very clear and yet -- and I am going to have to use here, "native students" -- native students that come out of the communities when they arrive at the high school level are absolutely automatically channelled into a diploma line of education. Most of them have never even heard that there is such a thing as an academic line of education. I have talked to many of them who may say, "Well, I would like to be a teacher" or "I would like to be a nurse", and they do not even realize the program that they are in will not qualify them for these jobs.

In the many years that we have had education in my region, the Kitikmeot Region, I may stand to be corrected, but I am quite sure that we have never ever had an academic grade 12 graduate. We did have a federal day school open its doors in Coppermine in 1950. So we have had 35 years of education and no one has yet graduated with the qualifications for the meaningful jobs in our civil service. So I think the training programs we devise for the trades are all very fine. They will not achieve what our population wants. The trades jobs in the community where I come from, from Coppermine, are already filled by local native people. We have a journeyman heavy duty mechanic, journeyman electrician, a journeyman plumber. We do not have any shortage of those. But we do not have anybody in the positions where an academic qualification is required.

I heard the Minister mention that it is necessary for people to be willing to move to regional centres. I do not quite agree with that. I suggested the other day in the House if we could consider moving certain regional functions to where people are and I still think that is a viable option. But I would hope that the government would take a total governmental approach and particularly with the Department of Education, devise a policy that right from the start will encourage people. Let us not automatically channel our students into the diploma line, let us automatically give them an opportunity for the academic line and keep them in there until such time as they prove that is not what they wish.

We are getting more students, Mr. Chairman. It is important we do something. From my community, we have right now 13 students at Sir John Franklin, next September we are supposed to have 32. The numbers are growing and it is important we channel them into something that will be meaningful for them later on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Mr. Minister, do you care to respond?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the last few comments that Mr. Pedersen raised certainly are a responsibility of the Minister of Education and really that particular program and that department. I do say this though that the policy that we are developing will be and is the government policy. Directive will be given to all departments, all regions, that that is the policy of this government and that they must apply it. So in that particular sense we will respond.

On the question with regard to moving. I really meant if there is a need to train, develop training programs, if you hire people in the communities, at some time without question there is a need for some formal education which is part of that particular training program. They must be prepared to make certain moves so that they can qualify and can complete the training program that they have been a part of in order for it to be successful. That is generally what I was talking about.

With regard to the other issue of departmental transfer. I believe we can deal with that at an appropriate time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

Women In Senior Government Positions

MR. BALLANTYNE: I keep my comments general. I have another general comment. Generally I keep my comments general. A lot of concern over the years has been expressed by women's organizations and I think Mr. Patterson knows full well the concerns of women that they do not have equal opportunity especially for senior government jobs. And I wonder if I could have a list from last year and from this year as to the number of women in government positions; heads of a division, chiefs, assistant deputy ministers and deputy ministers? You can reply at your convenience either today or maybe first thing tomorrow morning. But my question is, what is being done right now to encourage the hiring of competent women in senior government positions?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I guess there is nothing that has been promoted and certainly that in my opinion is a different question. I must say I had an opportunity along with the Commissioner to speak with the Advisory Council on the Status of Women prior to concluding our discussion on the native employment policy. They will be involved in the monitoring of that particular policy who will have the opportunity to meet with the advisory council on a periodic basis. Maybe I could ask Mr. Parker if he could further elaborate on what has been done. Certainly I want to indicate to you that the information that you requested could be made available to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Go ahead, Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would love to have more women in more senior positions in government and we are gaining a growing number. We will provide the statistics as soon as we can put them together. I think we are showing progress in that area but it is incumbent on the women themselves to keep pressing forward and applying for the jobs and seeking more senior roles. It is strictly and definitely a two-way street and it will only work if we play our part and make absolutely certain that there is no discrimination involved and that the women themselves play their part and apply and press for these positions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: It is a difficult area because it is a difficult area to legislate and affirmative action has its plus sides and its negative sides. I see that the major problem is one of attitude and one of education. It was my experience for instance, with the city of Yellowknife that women did not apply for jobs because there was a feeling they did not have a very good chance to get them. Once we made it clear that was not true, it was amazing how the number of competent women actually applying for jobs increased. In 1980, there were, I think, two out of 17 management positions held by women. In 1984 eight of the 17 were women. I think a message has to be sent down to the ranks of the senior managers that there is strong government support for hiring of competent women and once that attitudinal problem is addressed, once women really feel they have as equal an opportunity as a man for a position, I am sure you will find many competent women that previously would not have applied, would start applying.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: We will certainly take this advice and follow it up very seriously. We consider it an important issue to deal with as well and certainly as a Minister, I consider it important and will deal with it in an appropriate manner by making managers in our government aware that it is an important issue to deal with and that we try to create an atmosphere of non-discrimination within our public service and improve the atmosphere.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

Need For Statistical Data

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I just want to refer to the documents that were researched for me and when the researcher did these documents it was very difficult to come up with any kind of accurate data. I am just wondering if the Minister is contemplating starting a movement into getting statistical data so that we have something to go by to justify whatever it is that has to be justified because I believe that at the moment anyway it is very hard to do research when you do not really have any kind of accurate data to go on.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, in the last session I indicated we would be doing a labour force survey. We gave that direction, we received a lot of the information back. Some of the information was incomplete. In some cases the surveys were done very, very well and in others they were not done so well. In fact, my own home community of Fort McPherson was one of the worst ones done and the reality is that we did not get very good information and had to send back a request for that survey to be improved. So we are trying at the moment and since the last session to get the best possible survey done with regard to the labour situation and those people that are unemployed or employable really looking and getting as much in depth analysis and information as possible. In that sense we are trying to do that. We have also previously asked the federal government to try to do a better job with the census that they are carrying out so that we get a better idea of the figures of population, the breakdown of population and also the employment statistics because one of the major factors in developing statistics on unemployment in the Northwest Territories is that they forget that the trappers at certain times of the year are unemployed. They are really considered not to be employed people and it makes it very difficult for us to develop an argument with regard to programs and services if we do not have that basic information available. So, certainly, with regard to your comment, I also take that advice very seriously and we are trying already and have given instructions already to provide some survey or some statistics and have received a lot of the statistics back and we are trying to compile them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see some statistics about what is classed native and non-native. I wonder how is that defined? Who is native and who is non-native?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, in the material that was submitted to the standing committee we used the land claims definition. In order to make absolutely certain of a clear response, we had better get the answer and come back in with it either later today or tomorrow. It is a matter of the definition, of course.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. T'Seleie.

Implementation Of Affirmative Action Policy

MR. T'SELEIE: Earlier, when the Minister was talking about affirmative action he said that he would be tabling sometime during this session the affirmative action policy. I wonder if the Minister could give us an idea of what are the next steps in implementing that affirmative action paper.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that the first step was to make public the native employment policy. We, without question, have made the general comment that that will now be made public. We will be giving direction to our staff, the administration, that that is the employment policy that now exists and that we should be utilizing it in all parts of government. Secondly, or thirdly, we will be dealing with the question of the equal employment directorate and who that particular directorate will be reporting to -- which Executive Council Member, because we feel that it ought to be reporting directly to an Executive Council Member and as such we will be making that decision. We have not made a decision and that decision will be coming up at an Executive Council meeting probably within the next three or four days or so but those are some things. The other thing is that we have got to make public the policy to all people, not only to the administration but generally throughout the Northwest Territories either through radio announcements, as I indicated, in the appropriate languages and ensure that they are made available to community councils, band councils, municipal councils so that wherever possible these people know that we have this particular policy and they are aware of it. Hopefully we will then begin to attract people who wish to participate in the GNWT. We still have a lot of work to do and we feel that it is important that by April 1st, the program will be put into place.

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

Private Sector Employees

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question regarding the Department of Personnel policies, are they only directed to government employees. That is my first question. I have a question regarding non-government employees. Regarding co-operative employees or any other organization's employees. Is this department just dealing with the Department of Personnel, just the government employees?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Mr. Minister, do you care to respond to that?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this department only deals with government employees. Government of the Northwest Territories employees.

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we have to think about the NWT and I do not think that there is another personnel agency in the NWT. The private sector or other companies do not seem to have a personnel department. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Personnel, if they would be able to direct it to other private sectors regarding the personnel matters in the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, just to indicate to the Member that we are not the only government that has a personnel department. Industry also have personnel departments. I believe in the question of co-operatives, they also have a section that deals with personnel, hiring of staff, managers. Certainly under the responsibility of Economic Development and Tourism we do have an agreement with the co-operatives that deals with some element that relates to the co-operatives of the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. McCallum.

Government Employees Elected To Municipal Councils

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know where I can ask or make the comment under different activities of the department. But I would therefore want to comment on maybe a concern that has been expressed in certain communities. It is to do with employees of the government being elected to municipal councils. I expect that there is a section in the PSA agreement that indicates some kind of direction or what one can do when one is a government employee and is then elected to a municipal government. I wonder if it could be determined or if we could have a comment. Is there a government policy in addition to that agreement regarding these employees, I am not sure if I should say, their right or freedom, to speak to, ask against or for the government, its employees, its programs, its services and/or its policies? I wonder if I could get a comment as to what are the parameters for participation in municipal councils by government employees who are elected to these municipal governments?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, certainly I say that anyone who is a member of the public service of the NWT has certain restrictions with regard to the extent to which they can participate in any municipal election or municipal council. They are restricted generally by the conflict of interest policy and also with regard to political activities policy but that is very clear we have not -- maybe I could ask Mr. Parker to further respond to those particular issues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have two policies within the government that are peculiar to this problem and are part of our personnel policy package. One deals with the conflict of interests and the other one deals with political activities. The first one is quite straightforward and as you could appreciate, people are to avoid any conflict of interest in their jobs -- I do not think I need to elaborate on that one.

Political Activities Policy

But on the political activities policy, we draw a certain line above which people are restricted. We expect them to restrict themselves from taking part, from taking offices, for instance, in municipal elections. People in the Department of Local Government who are directly dealing with municipalities are not to take part as candidates, and senior people, such as deputy ministers, executive assistants as part of their job description are not to take part in political activities at the municipal or territorial levels. Does that answer the Member's question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Perhaps we will ask Mr. McCallum. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that there is a conflict of interest and that can be all-embracing in a number of areas, whether the interest is fiscal or monetary. I guess I am not so much concerned with that. I am concerned with how far down the line does this business go of not being involved with the politics of a community. If there are people in the community who work for the territorial government and they occupy not a senior position but a position with some management responsibilities, what are their rights as members of a town council to then speak to, at, for or against the government, its regional personnel, the government's policies, the services or the kinds of services and I guess the quality of those services that are being distributed within the communities?

I understand the business of conflict of interest but that conflict of interest is usually in reference to a fiscal conflict, not so much a conflict of an individual who may be in the employ of the territorial government. Not at a superintendent's level but it may be a foreman, it may be a

person in the management of a facility who then would, upon being elected into the municipal government, try to, you know, talk to or for or against or whatever the government that services its programs, the value or the quality of, as I say, those decisions of Personnel above the individual -- and I recognize that there is in the government personnel policy this business of political activity for deputy ministers or superintendents, that they do not get involved with that. I guess the question that I have, Mr. Chairman, is where is the line drawn on that kind of activity and how far can an employee of the government go as an elected municipal official in criticizing and the criticism may be affirmative or negative? I guess that is the kind of concern that I have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Commissioner.

Limits Defined By Common Sense And Discretion

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, this of course in any government is a delicate area that has to be handled with as great a degree of common sense as possible. There is a clause in the applicable ordinance dealing with the public service, that calls on employees not to criticize openly the policies of government and as a general rule we would like to think our employees would go along with that as a direction but we are not paranoid about it and we would expect any people below the managerial level to speak out, I suppose, about as freely as they would wish to.

Again, we would hope that they would use common sense but for those persons who are in a managerial role and the managerial role can extend to probably a fairly small unit as well, we would hope that they would use even more discretion in criticizing the government. There is no doubt that they have the opportunity to speak out in a general way. We hope that the criticism does not get down to particular detail of government programs or other employees within the government, especially their own managers. So, the cut-off is between people who are in managerial positions and those who are not but even those in managerial ranks, we would expect to be very open with them and not to be alarmed if they make comments about government policy. Having said that, no employer likes to have his or her employees taking very strong public positions against the policies with which he or she must work. I think that is just common sense.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Well, I guess, Mr. Chairman, that is the crux of the whole thing and I guess as an example were I to refer back a few years, and not all that many, so I do not need any "old, elder" remarks. If I were a school principal, as I was, serving on the town council and I did not particularly like the way the superintendent doled out funding or indicated the kinds of programs I would have one kick at the cat, as it were, in relation to the job. If there was a reduction of a program or services to the community to which I was an elected official, then it gives me a second chance and I can see then that there may be a conflict and I have to use some common sense, otherwise somebody is going to slap, well maybe more than that, tying of the can to me. That is the kind of situation they are in and I appreciate the Commissioner's reply in that but that is the kind of difficulty that I see that does occur and it may not occur in a great number of communities with elected municipal officials but it certainly does in some areas. So, I appreciate the response of the Commissioner. That is the exact difficulty as I see it and there have been questions raised by government employees about their freedom of speech being restricted in certain areas.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne, are you waiting?

MR. BALLANTYNE: I was waiting patiently, but my colleague wants to ask a question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): General comments, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just following up on the same matter. I am very glad to hear that the government is not paranoid about this matter, although that might very well be a matter of interpretation.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

Room For More Enlightened Approach

MR. MacQUARRIE: But it is not a business and I am going to allude to that in a minute, Mr. Minister. We do know what we have on the books and what the situation is but the question that arises is, is what we have necessary? It appears to me that it is not really, that there is room for even more enlightenment in this matter. I was going to say, leniency, but that implies that you are yielding when someone else does not really have a right. But in the matter in a democracy of free speech it is rather the other way around, that you start off with a right to speak freely and then there may have to be some restrictions imposed. So, in this case, maybe there have been too many and there may be room for a more enlightened approach because we do have a kind of anomaly. We have a situation where this government is saying, and I believe rightly, that its employees can become members of community councils, at least certain ones can and the restrictions that you mentioned I think are reasonable ones as to those who can. So, we say that it is all right for them to become members of community councils but then we may unduly restrict what they can say when they are on those councils and that is not at all desirable nor acceptable because, and now I come to the point which the Minister raised, "Run it as a business" he said, but I say that is not so at all because in a business relationship the Commissioner rightly pointed out that no business would like its employees publicly to criticize what it is doing.

I would say that the relationship that exists here is not the same because if you examine the business situation, you see that the employee has one relationship with the business and that is an employee-employer relationship and that is the only relationship that he has with that business but it is not the same with government. Government is public business that impacts all citizens, so besides there being an employer-employee relationship for a government employee, there is also a citizen-government relationship as well and employees of the government then must, to the greatest extent possible, enjoy the same rights as other citizens in dealing with that government. I would say that we should be looking to maximize opportunities for our employees to enjoy their citizen-government relationship with their employer. I will not ask you now, whether you approve of what I have said and I won't ask you whether you have specific plans now to try to open it up a little bit but I just would indicate that it is a concern of mine and I certainly would like to look at it a little further.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, the point that the honourable gentleman raised with regard to running it like a business. Financially you have to look at the situation, the moneys we have to spend. Maybe some people do not like it to be run like a business so that we are accountable. But I think that the circumstances under which we were living 10, 15, 20 years ago is very different now in communities. There is no need in my opinion in some circumstances for people to be participating on community councils who are employed by government. At one time we could get away with that. But I am not suggesting for one minute that they cannot. That is not the reality. I did not say that. What I am saying is that at one time maybe they were more valuable in that process than they are now. That people in the communities are capable of handling that particular responsibility.

Responsibility To General Public

You must also remember the public service has a responsibility not only to themselves as public servants but to the general public, to those people you refer to as citizens. Citizens providing programs and services, developing policies, developing direction to provide the best service possible and they themselves administer those policies. They themselves provide the services. They themselves provide the programs. So they are in a position that the ordinary person is not in. A very unique and a very fortunate position because they can act on the part of government and yet they have the right as citizens which ordinary citizens do not have, who are not part of government.

So I think that when I refer to or any reference is to try to diminish the rights of civil servants, public servants -- and that is what they are, public servants -- that one must look at the effect of that public service on the ordinary citizen. You refer to the rights of citizens but there are far more rights in being a public servant than there are being an ordinary citizen. Because you have the right first of all to develop policies and to direct those policies and you could cause problems and create problems for the ordinary person. Maybe that is what I find

sometimes as having to be a Minister, to be an elected official. What influence or what right have I really as a political leader in directing the public service without that criticism, without that critique coming back always to haunt me?

There were a couple of comments that I have heard people make. That is, "Allow the public servants to do what they wish, release information with regard to policy, direction of government." Yet at the same time we are responsible for protecting the public service. We have to stick our necks out there and protect the people who would rather release information to destroy politically the people that are in this House. Yet we cannot release any information as they do with regard to them criticizing projects in communities of our own constituency. Because that is not fair, that is not honourable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The matter of what information should be accessible to the public from public servants is a different issue and will be debated on another day. We are talking now about public servants who are duly elected to community councils and their right to criticize government policies in that capacity.

I would say, indeed the Minister underlined, that they are public servants and I would draw a second line under it. Indeed they are public servants and not government servants. They may in fact serve the public interest better once they have been elected to a community council by criticizing certain territorial government policies. There is certainly no need for these people to run. I suppose you could say that about everyone who runs and is elected. There is no need for them to run but they have the right to run in a democracy.

MR. McCALLUM: Most people say they shouldn't.

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. McCallum observed and maybe it did not get on the record that most people say that most of us shouldn't run. But that is another question as well. At any rate, all I am suggesting is that, yes, any given public servant has the responsibility for delivering certain programs and services and has the opportunity for input into certain policies of the government and in those areas there is a real question as to whether in his capacity as a councillor he should be challenging those very things. I even agree with the principle that, for Local Government for instance, those people maybe should not even be running because there is that kind of conflict. But it is not that I am talking about. You can have a teacher or principal or superintendent of education or whatever level it goes to, I am not sure right at the moment, but I would say at certain things in Education then, yes, that person maybe should not have the right to publicly criticize the policies of that department. But then there is the Department of Health and Social Services, there is the Department of Justice, there is the Department of Public Works, the Housing Corporation, all of which have dealings with the community councils and I can see no reason at all at the moment -- and they ought to have the right to criticize certain Ministers as well -- I can see no reason at the moment why in these other areas they should not be as free as every other citizen, keeping in mind that they should exercise prudence as everyone should who is involved in public office.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: That's like David Crombie's chief of staff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: This is off the subject but probably very helpful. In answer to the question by Mr. T'Seleie on the definition that we used in arriving at the native/non-native statistics, the definition we used was: "Native person is any person who is a descendant of the Dene/Metis or Inuit who are indigenous to the NWT." Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner, for very cleverly switching the topic.

---Laughter

General comments. Mr. Gargan.

Selection For Public Service Positions

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a concern that I would like to express and get a reaction from the Minister on it. It is with regard to public service positions in the communities. I will use Fort Providence as an example because this particular incident happened there. I believe an officer in Personnel from Hay River went down to Fort Providence and there was also the principal there and another government employee that did the selection for this particular position. The local education authority were given observer status on that particular selection. There must be a policy as to the hiring of people within the public service but it could be that it has just been overlooked. This particular selection was not based on the credentials of this individual but rather it was done on the basis that this principal could work with this individual. I wonder if maybe within Personnel, especially when it affects native people -- the people that were interviewed were all native people by the way -- that we could have maybe someone even from the office of native employment to be present when these interviews are occurring so that there is a fair way of deciding who gets the job and who does not.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly with regard to that particular incident, we do not know the details of that and maybe if you have the opportunity to speak to us about it we can respond properly.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is only one incident. There are other incidents that did happen that I would have to question on the way selection was done. I do not believe that these kinds of things only occur in Fort Providence. I believe it must be occurring in other communities, but it is just a concern I have and I wanted to express it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): The Chair recognizes the clock. I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Richard.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. RICHARD: 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. BALLANTYNE: Well done, Ted.

---Applause

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Friday, February 22nd, at 9:30 a.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: Motion 5-85(1)
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 9:30 a.m., Friday, February 22nd.

---ADJOURNMENT

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Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories