



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): I intend to change the sitting hours of today, but before I do it I would like to have an indication from the House that I will be able to have a quorum. I am going to suggest that we recess at 5:00 p.m. for supper, cutting out the four o'clock coffee break and readjourning at 6:30 p.m. and proceeding until such time as the House calls to report. Am I going to have a quorum at 6:30 p.m.? Could I have an indication by hands who can be here at 6:30 this evening? It indicates that we will have a quorum so I wish to inform the House that the sitting hours for today will be 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. until the committee decides to rise and report.

Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Richard's Reply

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was going to give my reply to the Commissioner's Address yesterday which I read in the paper was the first day of spring and I heard it on the CBC news that yesterday was the first day of spring. I had always thought that March 21st, today, was the first day of spring but because it said so in the newspaper and on the CBC and because Mr. Curley or Mr. Patterson or Mr. Wray did not rise on a point of privilege to correct them then it must be correct, and that this is the second day of spring.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: You have a point of order.

---Laughter

MR. BALLANTYNE: Coming up.

MR. RICHARD: In the Commissioner's Address, Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner gave us a quick history of this Legislature from 1951 when there were three elected and five appointed Members to today, in 1985, when there are 24 of us elected Members here. Mr. Curley is reported in the press as calling for an election so that there might be a different 24 people here. I would have to say, Mr. Speaker, I just got here -- not like some of the Members here -- and I am not ready to pack it in yet.

On February 6th, at the opening of the session, Mr. Speaker, I must say that I was humbled by the presence of the individuals who walked up to receive medals from you and I would simply join in the sentiments that have been expressed that we owe a debt of gratitude to the Members of this Council or Assembly who have gone before us. We do seem to be at a vital moment of our history. I do not believe it is as historic as Mr. Crombie thought on February 6th when he said that the time for change had come. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that the time for change is proving to be very, very difficult indeed.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Let's have a time for no change then.

MR. RICHARD: Tomorrow.

AN HON. MEMBER: I suppose.

AN HON. MEMBER: Everything is fine.

Constituency Concerns

MR. RICHARD: I wish to speak briefly about my constituency, Mr. Speaker. My constituents continue to be concerned about the many practical matters that concern the constituents of other Members of this House. Issues such as the critical shortage of housing accommodation, day care facilities, shelters for victims of spousal assault, senior citizens accommodation...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. RICHARD: I am coming to that, Mr. Wray. The possible taxation of northern benefits, the northern preference policy and its successor foster child, the business incentive policy, the economic development of our Territories, the development of our resource industry; these are things, Mr. Speaker, that are very practical matters that do concern the citizens -- the constituents that I represent. I do, sir, wish to take this opportunity on behalf of those constituents to thank sincerely the Executive Members of our government for their endeavours in their respective portfolios in recent months in dealing with these problems.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: Because I know, Mr. Speaker, and I will concede that I know more than I did before, that each of them is working very, very hard in his or her job. I feel that I should say that publicly. They have not as yet found all of the solutions but I am satisfied that they are working on them.

I at this time, Mr. Speaker, especially want to thank the Hon. Dennis Patterson for responding to the request for additional school facilities in my riding and in this city generally. I want to especially thank the Hon. Nick Sibbeston, the Minister of Local Government, for assisting the city government with funds to replace the collapsed sewer system in this part of the city. Some of the waste material or effluent coming from this very building, Mr. Speaker, will flow more freely...

---Laughter

...as a direct result of the Minister's intervention.

AN HON. MEMBER: Out the door and...

MR. RICHARD: A special note of appreciation in recent days, Mr. Speaker, is due to the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin and the Hon. Gordon Wray in providing assistance to a local group of dedicated volunteers in their endeavours to establish a proper senior citizens facility in the city.

Alcohol Abuse A Serious Concern

I want to refer briefly, Mr. Speaker, to the problem of alcohol abuse, that is a serious concern of mine, a serious concern of many of my individual constituents, and a concern I hope shared by all Members of this Legislature. This problem, Mr. Speaker, has been highlighted once again by the very, very tragic event of last weekend at Rae-Lac la Martre, the needless death of two young people. I have, Mr. Speaker, in my other life as a criminal lawyer seen many, many tragedies

throughout the NWT caused by alcohol abuse and I feel strongly, Mr. Speaker, that we must take time in our very busy schedule to again attempt to come to grips with a virtual epidemic of alcohol abuse in these Territories.

Compliments To Members Of Constitutional Alliance For Work In The Past

Turning to the issue of constitutional development, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to publicly compliment the Members of this Assembly who have for the past year or more, served on the Constitutional Alliance and worked hard at the deliberations of the two forums and the negotiations with the leaders of the native organizations. Particularly, Mr. Speaker, my compliments go to the Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Bob MacQuarrie, the Hon. Nick Sibbeston, for their work and I say that, Mr. Speaker, my compliments go to them specifically directed to the time frame up to and including the January 14th agreement. After that, I don't know -- I do not want to get involved in discussing the many unfortunate events that happened thereafter. While Mr. Patterson has now resigned I believe that all Members of this House are indebted to him for the time and effort that he has put into the work of the alliance in recent years.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: When Mr. Patterson advised us that he had acted in good faith in the negotiations which led to the tentative boundary agreement, I believe him and I do so without reservation. I must believe, because I have not been convinced otherwise, that all members of the NCF, Mr. Amagoalik, Mr. Haogak, and the others, and all members of the WCF, acted in good faith in the negotiations which led to that tentative agreement. Speaking personally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see all of those people, including Mr. Patterson, together with Ms Cournoyea, continue their good work. But perhaps that is not to be.

When I entered this Assembly just five months ago, Mr. Speaker, I stated that I felt honoured and privileged to serve in this Assembly and I looked forward to working with distinguished Members of this Assembly. I still feel that way. I want to work with other MLAs for the betterment of all of the peoples of the NWT and I want to work in a spirit of co-operation and good will.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: I want to see the aspirations of the people of the East for a Nunavut territory, come to a successful conclusion. I believe sincerely, and I do not believe I am going out on a limb, Mr. Speaker, I believe sincerely that the majority of my constituents want to see the aspirations of the people of the East come to a successful conclusion, provided that the people of the West are left with a viable territory in the West.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: I believe, using the words that Mr. Patterson used in concluding his resignation speech, he said "There will be a Nunavut." I believe those words, Mr. Speaker, and I simply regret that unfortunately it may be later rather than sooner.

I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that I was not prepared for the acrimony and bitterness which I have seen in this Assembly. I do not believe I was naive in that respect. I knew that people disagreed on these important vital matters but I was not prepared for what I have seen recently. It disappoints me deeply -- the comments and behaviour of people I know and respect. But I suppose I will just have to get used to it. I have told myself however that I must try and strive to add good will to the debate and not in any way add to the bitterness. In that context, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to today, address any ill will toward anyone. But I do have one specific comment that I feel I must make. Many things have been said and done that have offended me. I hope that I have not done or said anything that has offended others, any of my many friends in this Assembly. If I have, I apologize, or if I do today, I apologize.

An Affront To Integrity Of Member

One specific matter, Mr. Speaker, that I must comment on, is statements by the chairman of the Nunavut caucus on Tuesday, when speaking in that capacity, and also on Monday in his Member's reply. Comments regarding freedom of speech being restricted and certain Members of this Assembly using technicalities to insist on stifling free discussion of these important matters and calling

on Members to think twice, that we should allow public debate on these important matters. Mr. Speaker, with respect to my honourable friend, to say that is patently unfair, in my opinion, and I am obliged to say so. I find it to be, in my opinion, an affront to my integrity as a Member of this Assembly, and although I am not one to pop up like a jack-in-the-box and object to my privilege being offended, I cannot let those remarks go by without commenting.

Mr. Speaker, there was last month a motion in this Assembly to have the alliance report discussed in committee of the whole. A motion by Mr. Sibbeston, seconded by Mr. Patterson. A motion that I supported and voted for.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Richard. Sorry, with reference to the rules of this House, you cannot reflect on any previous vote of the Assembly except for the purpose of moving that it be rescinded.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will attempt to speak within the bounds of that rule. On February 21st, Mr. Speaker, when we were -- this is difficult.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I know.

--Laughter

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I take it you will not hesitate to stop me if I offend the bounds within which you have put me.

MR. SPEAKER: You have my assurance.

MR. RICHARD: On February 21st, Mr. Speaker, when this Assembly was considering the motion to appoint Ms Cournoyea to the NCF, a member of the Nunavut caucus, Mr. Wray, objected to any reference being made to the tentative agreement. Your ruling resulted from that objection of Mr. Wray's in that there would be no discussion or even reference permitted to the tentative agreement. On February 25th, another Member of the Nunavut caucus, Mr. Pedersen, moved to postpone any discussion in committee of the whole of the alliance report. The ruling of the Speaker in that instance, however, permitted discussion. On the same day, February 25th, it was the Nunavut caucus who left this Assembly and would not participate in discussion of the alliance report. It was on that same day, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Wray, a Member of the Nunavut caucus, returned to the House, made a remark about no quorum, and left immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I for one, wanted them to stay. I wanted to ask questions of the Hon. Dennis Patterson and the others. I would have liked to hear from Mr. Curley, Ms Cournoyea and the others...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: You should have waited.

MR. RICHARD: ...as to why they disagreed with Mr. Patterson, Mr. Amagoalik, Mr. Haogak and the others. By leaving this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, they in effect prevented me from asking those questions.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Bob MacQuarrie.

MR. RICHARD: Who knows, Mr. Speaker? Maybe they could have convinced me that it was a bad agreement.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Bob MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: You were shooting at me yesterday. He is the guy that is talking today.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, with all respect to the honourable Member, I say it was patently unfair with that background...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Shame!

MR. RICHARD: ...to suggest that the freedom of speech of the Members of the Nunavut caucus was restricted in any manner. My honourable friend, Mr. Patterson, knows those things, that background. I know those things. So, Mr. Speaker, I had to ask myself who was he trying to fool? Was he trying to fool the media? We know you can't fool the media, they even know what day of the year it is. Was he trying to fool the Government of Canada?

Point Of Privilege

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I thought we settled the matter of the impropriety of imputing motives to Members in this House yesterday. Mr. Richard is doing precisely that. He just said I was -- he just implied I was trying to fool the media. Mr. Speaker, under Rule 33(i), you ruled yesterday that that kind of imputing of motives to Members is contrary to the rules of this House. Now I ask that you remind Mr. Richard of that ruling yesterday and that he be asked to withdraw those imputations of motives which are false. I do not try and fool the media, I try to educate them every day. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable Member retract any of the part of his remarks that have indicated that Mr. Patterson is guilty of any offence because it is contrary to the rules?

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable Member who objects is concerned that I am imputing improper motives to him, I...

AN HON. MEMBER: Apologize.

MR. RICHARD: ...I had not intended to, I am asking questions, sir. Why would my friend say those things? I was rhetorically, I guess, Mr. Speaker, asking the question out loud but if my friend is offended in any way by those things...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I damn well am.

MR. RICHARD: ...then I will retract them, Mr. Speaker and although words the other day were used that -- let's have a full debate and let's not use technicalities but...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: ...in that context, Mr. Speaker, I will ask the question then if I may continue, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You have met the requirements of the Chair. Proceed.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I -- to coin a phrase -- I must ask the question, who was he trying to educate that day?

MR. McCALLUM: You are going out of gear again.

MR. RICHARD: Was he trying to educate the media?

AN HON. MEMBER: Don't ask directions.

MR. McCALLUM: Hey, hey!

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Curley tells us that the media cannot be educated, they are incapable of being educated.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I did not use the word incapable.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Ask the Minister of Education.

MR. RICHARD: Was he trying to educate...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: You!

MR. RICHARD: The Government of Canada?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: No, you!

MR. RICHARD: No, I knew these things, he did not have to educate me. I knew what happened in the Assembly on February 25th.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Who knew?

MR. McCALLUM: Tell him, he does not understand.

MR. RICHARD: Was he trying to educate my constituents, sir, about freedom of speech and how Members behaved in this House? Was he trying to educate the Government of Canada and Mr. Crombie?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Which Members?

Member's Position On Discussion Of Alliance Report And Constitutional Development

MR. RICHARD: In that event, sir, if any of those questions are correct, let me clarify, loud and clear for the record, Mr. Speaker, my position with respect to the discussion of the alliance report and any issue of constitutional development of these blessed, beautiful Territories. I know where I stand on free discussion and Mr. Curley, if you are listening, this is it. I agree, I agree that we discuss the alliance report in the committee of the whole. I agree that we discuss, generally, matters of constitutional development in committee of the whole, and I agree to such discussions, Mr. Speaker, today, tomorrow, the June session, any time.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, as I say that was the one specific matter that I felt obliged to comment on but having got that out of the way I feel that we must, as Members of the Assembly, seek a resolution of the present impasse, and speaking personally, Mr. Speaker, I would rather be optimistic about our chances of success rather than pessimistic. It is a very, very difficult task but none of us here are, I hope, afraid of hard work.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thanks for your optimism.

MR. RICHARD: I agree wholeheartedly with the closing remarks of Mr. Crombie when he stated that the new North cannot be born in pettiness nor can it be shaped in self-interest. The new North, he stated, must be open to the widest possible future because the children of the people who made this land, both long ago and in recent years, deserve that kind of future.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I should say that, notwithstanding my efforts at good will and all of these good words of mine about good will and co-operation and positive attitudes, I have found that we on this side of the Assembly, ordinary MLAs, must of necessity attack from time to time the actions or inactions of those eight honourable Members on the other side of this Assembly, from time to time and perhaps every day, sometime, Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Hear, hear!

Underrepresentation Of Yellowknife In Assembly

MR. RICHARD: This parochial attitude cannot be helped but I know that those eight honourable Members understand that is our job. I recall, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Patterson's words of last fall when he in his reply indicated his disappointment that I had dared in my first speech in this Assembly to raise once again that awful, terrible topic of Yellowknife's underrepresentation in this Assembly.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Aw, go away. You're not doing too badly.

MR. RICHARD: I know, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Patterson disagrees with me on that issue.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: So did the Ninth Assembly.

MR. RICHARD: But I also know, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Patterson perhaps more than any other person in this Assembly will defend to the death my right to raise it again and again and again.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Right on.

---Applause

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Wouldn't give my life on that.

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: I am exaggerating, Mr. Speaker. I know, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Public Works and Highways, when he responds to my questions about the housing crisis in Yellowknife and when he tells me coldly, Mr. Speaker, that he not only has no plans to put any new public housing units in this city but that he will not even inquire whether we need any, I know, Mr. Speaker, that that Minister in his heart knows that I am right and that he is really pulling my leg. And I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that after that Minister has had his fun and played his joke on me, that he will take steps to alleviate the housing crisis in this city.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Good guy.

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: I have been concerned, Mr. Speaker, quite seriously since entering this House that I have had to be parochial and aggressive about the concerns of the city of Yellowknife but that is my lot in life, I guess, at the present time. My friends opposite tell me that if things do not seem to be going Yellowknife's way now, it is because Yellowknife got everything in the past. If that is so, Mr. Speaker, I am indeed grateful that I was not a Member of this Assembly in years past, for I fear that I would have been bored and had nothing to do. As consolation, Mr. Speaker, to the Members opposite, I can only promise that when Mr. Ballantyne and Mr. Gargan graduate to the other side of the House that I will be, myself and maybe Mr. McCallum and Mr. MacQuarrie will be, equally as aggressive or more aggressive with them than we have been with these eight Members opposite.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Do you want to promote Arnie? Arnie you may not want to be promoted.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Item 2, Members' replies. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to report on some information which I believe has already been tabled in this Assembly.

MR. MCCALLUM: Is that cricket? We have already dealt with it, you can't.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, you have the floor.

AN HON. MEMBER: We don't need them being dug up again.

Minister's Statement On Costs Of Division

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would like to report on some information which has already been tabled, I believe in the Ninth Assembly. The report on Impact of Division in the Northwest Territories by Hickling-Johnston Limited, commissioned by the special committee on division of the Ninth Assembly, chaired by Mr. Fraser, estimated that other O and M costs for additional headquarters costs with a division of the Northwest Territories would be \$15,936,000 per year, in 1981 dollars, representing an approximate six per cent increase in the then GNWT O and M budget. The report also estimated that capital costs would range from \$51,206,000 to \$92,676,000. I trust this information will be useful for the Member for Yellowknife Centre who wondered about the possible costs of division yesterday in this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, that basically is not the proper use of Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements are to be government policy and/or matters relevant to your department and/or a statement on behalf of the Executive and this is not an open invitation to speak on any matter that you might choose so I would, please, hope that the Executive would keep that in mind when using this particular Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I was speaking, Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. Thank you.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: That is true, but you are also using an old report and commenting on somebody else's work that has been done several years ago, that is not necessarily of current -- you could not call it current information that should be used in this particular position. Are there any further Ministers' statements? Ms Cournoyea.

Minister's Statement On Transportation Of Dangerous Goods Legislation

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in regard to some of the questions we had on transportation of dangerous goods when the department was up for questions and in not wanting to give as much as possible, on behalf of the people who have been working on the transportation of dangerous goods, I would like to relate some information that, perhaps, would be beneficial to the Members.

In late 1979, Justice and Public Services was directed to respond to the federal government's initiative on the transportation of dangerous goods field. The federal act, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, was passed in July 1980 and proclaimed on November 1st, 1980. The intention of this program was to provide appropriate standards to ensure the safe handling, packaging, shipping and storage of dangerous goods in relation to transport across Canada. Between 1980 and 1982 the Northwest Territories and other provincial and federal jurisdictions met and eventually supported and passed provincial/territorial legislation. The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Ordinance, passed in 1982, was not proclaimed at that time pending development of federal regulations that could be adopted by the provinces and Territories as regulations under their legislation and uniform provincial, territorial and federal policies. Since 1982 that development has been ongoing.

To provide a one-window approach to matters that could affect the environment, this responsibility was transferred to the Department of Renewable Resources. No person years or dollars were attached to this as Justice and Public Services requirement to that date was to draft the ordinance. No inspectors were required. Over the past three or four months the pollution control division has been working with the federal government to determine the division of responsibilities. Renewable Resources is attempting to do as much of this work as can be negotiated. The manpower request and funding is modest compared to what we understand the federal government planned, 13 person years. Our approach is to move slowly but thoroughly into this field and only request staff and dollars as required to maintain a proper level of service in this area. The federal act and regulations are to be completely in place by July 1st, 1985.

In order to comply with federal/territorial agreements, the territorial ordinance should be proclaimed at that time too, and adopt the federal regulations as territorial to complete coverage. The federal government intends to enforce the legislation starting July 1st, 1985. Many jurisdictions, including the Northwest Territories, are asking that the legislation be slowly enforced over a period of six months. During this year the public and industries affected will be made aware of the program and its impacts. The department is currently reviewing the existing legislation and proposing amendments that will bring it up to provincial standards regarding shippers, handling and offering to transport. This effort will be part of a complete environmental package being prepared for the fall session. A federal/territorial agreement is also being worked on that will finalize the division of labour. The department is seeking additional funding from the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Just to clarify the point with regard to Ministers' statements, your Rule 21, "On Ministers' statements as listed in Rule 20(1) and (2), a Minister may make a short factual statement of government policy." Item 3, are there any further Ministers' statements? Mr. McLaughlin.

Minister's Statement On Proposed New Mental Health Act

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time, later today, I will table the proposed new Mental Health Act. The purpose of this bill is to provide a legal framework for the voluntary and involuntary committal of mentally disordered persons; to establish the voluntary and involuntary committal procedure; to state the civil rights of a mentally disordered person; and to repeal the present Mental Health Act.

Mr. Speaker, the government departments concerned and several territorial organizations have been consulted by the Departments of Health and Justice and Public Services. The legislation is being tabled at this time in order to give the general public the opportunity to participate in the review of this legislation by the standing committee on legislation of this House. The government intends to advance the proposed new Mental Health Act as a bill during the June session in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further Ministers' statements? Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 166-85(1): Grise Fiord Residents' Return To Northern Quebec

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Grise Fiord, have not heard if they will be going back to their old post in northern Quebec. I am going to ask of the Minister of Local Government if that is the case.

Question 167-85(1): Recreation Facilities In Grise Fiord

I want to know whether they are going to start constructing recreation facilities in Grise Fiord. Are they going to start the recreation facilities in Grise Fiord?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 166-85(1): Grise Fiord Residents' Return To Northern Quebec

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, on the question of the residents of Grise Fiord about some of the residents indicating interest in moving away from Grise Fiord possibly back to northern Quebec where I believe some of the residents had originally come from, I have a report from my department which indicates that generally the members of the settlement council recently indicated that Grise Fiord is and should remain a permanent community. I understand that the matter was raised at a meeting with federal government recently in Ottawa but my department is unable to determine the precise nature and extent of the discussions held with federal officials. So at this point I am of the view that the community of Grise Fiord will continue.

Return To Question 167-85(1): Recreation Facilities In Grise Fiord

I am pleased to indicate to the Member that the Executive Council recently decided that they will be able to provide Grise Fiord with a community hall this coming summer. All details and precise financial arrangements have not been worked out but the decision has been made to assist the community with a new community hall. I am advised by my officials that the materials for the hall are to be transported into Grise Fiord this summer and construction started in the fall.

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

Question 168-85(1): Licence For Sanikiluaq Radio Station

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) My question is directed to the Government Leader regarding getting licences. On March 14th I sent a letter out requesting a licence to operate a radio station. I was told that I would get an answer but to date I have not received an answer. I want to know if we will be permitted this licence to operate a radio station.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that I had a reply done, but if I did not give it, then I will have to have a look and see where it is. I will reply tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 169-85(1): Status Of Aboriginal Languages Agreement

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader. Last year about this time, this government was involved, in almost a frenzy, about the entrenchment of French and English as official languages in the NWT. There was a special session called in June to deal with the whole subject of official status for those languages and as an aboriginal Member of this Assembly, at the time I felt that I really was bending over backwards to accommodate the government's request in making French and English official. I agreed to it on the basis that the federal government would be providing some \$16 million over the next four years to this government for the development of aboriginal languages. I would just like to hear from the Government Leader the present status of those negotiations.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 169-85(1): Status Of Aboriginal Languages Agreement

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to indicate that the negotiations are over, the agreement is in place. What I have requested from the honourable Member a number of times is to review some of the suggestions we are making. Since the last session I have had an opportunity to meet with the president of the Dene Nation, requesting his input into the direction that we wish to go. I have not yet received a response from that individual. The honourable Member knows that what I am trying to do is to ensure that there is a public process that allows some direction from the general public of the NWT on the direction we wish to go in the development of languages. I still feel that is the route to go.

On the other hand, the honourable gentleman should also know that there are programs in existence, and I have said this before, that I do not wish those programs to end on March 31, 1985. I wish to maintain those programs. We are going to develop a proposal and submit to the federal government the appropriate documentation so that we can get the necessary financing and my calculations show that it is \$996,000 to run all the programs that are in existence now and to complete part of the program in publication of materials that is already prepared to be published.

Now, that is one element. The other element is to improve the interpreter/communicator program for the GNWT, and as well, to have a proper facility that would allow for the training of any interpreter/communicator trainees or those individuals participating. At the moment in government or anywhere in the West, we do not have a proper facility to allow for that training to go on without causing difficulties. So, with the honourable Minister responsible for Information, Ms Cournoyea, we are developing a submission to deal with that particular issue as well. As well, we are looking at additional interpreter/communicators to recruit. We are also ensuring that a number of teachers that are presently in place that are involved in teaching of languages, both in the Eastern Arctic communities and in the Western Arctic communities, will be maintained in the upcoming year. Because as much as the program in itself might include the development of the languages, there is also an element that requires an ongoing educational element. That is the part that we wish to as well maintain, so we are trying to deal with this issue.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that we did not spend any of the one million dollars that was assigned for 1984-85. However we did -- and give credit to the Executive Council -- spend another \$100,000 on the Native Communications Society to put into place, in Dene communities, facilities that are capable of handling radio programs in the Dene languages to seven communities. So, we did spend extra money. It has nothing to do with the aboriginal languages agreement so while we did not spend that money, we are always spending money in a number of areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. T'Seleie, a supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 169-85(1): Status Of Aboriginal Languages Agreement

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, if Members will recall during the language debate, the Leader had quoted to us that we would receive from the federal government, four million dollars this year, four million dollars the next, etc. I would like to know from him what the status of those dollars are and whether or not it is the GNWT that is paying for the entrenchment of English and French or aboriginal languages or whether that is paid for by the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 169-85(1): Status Of Aboriginal Languages Agreement

HON. RICHARD NERYSOU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat this one more time. The \$16 million is associated directly with aboriginal languages. There is no money in the \$16 million that deals with French and English and the agreement itself, it was very clear that any additional moneys that are associated to the implementation of French in the Northwest Territories or French services will be totally paid by the federal government. That is the agreement. The \$16 million is associated directly to aboriginal languages. I must also indicate that there has been a communication with me, that the federal government is prepared to live with the agreement itself and to provide the necessary financial commitments that are there but I have not received a written copy of that particular commitment. I was told that that would be coming but I have not received it as of today, as of right now. Again, I indicate to you that the \$16 million is not associated with the provision of French and English. I said that before and I will say it again, it is part of the agreement, you have a copy of the agreement and if you read the documentation you will see that they will pay total cost associated to French and English.

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

Question 170-85(1): Honorariums To Housing Association Boards Of Directors

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to direct this to the Minister responsible for Housing. I am going to clarify what it is first. The housing associations in the communities have been given \$5000 for the board of directors. Now it has been raised up to \$7240. They have been concerned about the funding that they have been provided with and the fact that they have run this by themselves, for use by themselves. The president of the board of directors would get \$33 a month. I am just wondering if the board of directors could run their own financial operations. That is my question. I want them to run their own in the community, the board of directors of the housing associations in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 170-85(1): Honorariums To Housing Association Boards Of Directors

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the problems. However, the subject revolves around the honorariums paid to the board of directors of housing associations and those rates are set by the board of directors of the Housing Corporation, just as the executive for each board in the Northwest Territories sets the rates in terms of honorariums. There is concern from some communities that the honorariums are not enough, so I have taken the comments and the letters that I have received on this subject and I have passed them to the chairman of the board of directors, Mr. Gary Jaeb, and I have asked the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to re-examine the honorariums policy at their next board meeting in April. I would trust that probably by the June session I will be able to give the Member an answer in terms of whether we are willing to readjust some of the honorariums. Some of the housing associations want a substantial increase in the money that their board of directors is paid and we are going to have to take a look at it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 171-85(1): Full-Time Positions For Social Workers

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is to the Minister of Social Services. I have raised this question before. The social work employees in the regions have some problems in that they were only allowed to work four hours a day, at the time when I got elected. You increased the working hours up until April. I am just wondering if you are going to keep up these working hours, eight hours a day. I have some problems on this regarding the Young Offenders Act, because social workers have been helping us a lot in the settlements. Also handicapped people or disturbed people have been helped by the social workers in the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 171-85(1): Full-Time Positions For Social Workers

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department itself was concerned when we were only having social workers in the communities as half-time positions because we found that people would not stay with the job and that caused us difficulties as well, so that is why we made those positions into full-time positions. It is our intention to keep it that way and one of the contributing factors for us being able to do that is the fact that the Young Offenders Ordinance is coming into effect and will cause more duties for social workers. So the answer is yes, Mr. Speaker, those social workers will continue as full-time employees working full eight hour days now.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

Question 172-85(1): Reply To Question On Radio Station Licence For Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: My first question was not understood by the Minister. I will direct this question to the Government Leader. When we discussed issuing licences, I talked about the document I brought along from Sanikiluaq. It was dated March 14th and I had written a letter requesting to give me a letter before I leave Yellowknife. I have been waiting for that document because I have to phone the local radio station in our community. I would like to have an answer sometime in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 172-85(1): Reply To Question On Radio Station Licence For Sanikiluaq

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will provide an answer as quickly as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions.

Item 5, written questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I cannot ask my written question, I will ask it another day.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Written questions. Item 6, returns. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 157-85(1): Drop-Out Rate At Thebacha College

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Lawrence, March 18th, respecting student drop-outs at Thebacha College.

Since the fall of 1984, a total of 20 students have dropped out of the academic studies or upgrading programs. The total population of students in this area is 84. Whenever possible, counsellors meet with students who drop out, or have intentions of leaving programs, to determine reasons and to provide assistance which might allow the student to remain in the program. No major changes have been made in these college programs over the past two years. Students who enter the college and who wish to enrol in certificate or diploma programs are tested to determine whether they have all the required entry skills. In situations where students lack entry requirements, they are placed in the academic studies programs to obtain academic upgrading in those areas where they exhibit weaknesses. While the college does experience significant turnover levels in these upgrading programs, the system has resulted in a much higher success rate for those students who are presently enrolled in diploma programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 59-85(1): Ownership Of Outpost Camp Cabins

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral Question 59-85(1). It was asked by Mr. Erkloo on February 12, 1985, regarding ownership of outpost camps.

The Department of Renewable Resources has a long-standing policy of agreement which gives the hunters and trappers associations authority to reassign the use of government-funded outpost camps which have been or are being abandoned by the occupants. The hunters and trappers associations may

assign these camps to families or groups interested in participating in the outpost camp program, or it can authorize the use of these camps as short-term hunting camps. The hunters and trappers associations have the local authority to refuse the use of government-funded outpost camps for any other purpose than the initial intent, or for use by community members of the association.

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

Return To Question 108-85(1): Typewriters For Hamlets And Adult Education Centres

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, return to oral Question 108-85(1), asked by Mr. Erkloo on February 20th.

The honourable Member indicated the need in his communities for syllabic typewriters and requested assistance to identify a source where IBM syllabic elements and typewriters using such elements might be obtained. Research by my departmental officials has determined that the Government of the NWT is beginning to use new typewriters supplied by Xerox Canada, a company which incidentally is also developing a new syllabic print wheel for use for the company's typewriters. Since the ability to transcribe syllabics is so important to the Baffin regional office, every Selectric syllabics machine we possess is in high demand to the point that equipment requiring repair is flown out to Montreal for maintenance and correction. Therefore regrettably at the present time there are no syllabic element equipped Selectric II typewriters surplus to our needs. However, I would assure the Member that I will advise regional officials that when such equipment becomes available for disposal that the community requirements identified by the honourable Member will be given priority consideration.

The Member might also find helpful the information that reconditioned IBM typewriters are available at \$1200 per unit from Superior Business Machines, 449 St. Helen's Street, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 2K9. Phone 514-842-1744. And syllabic elements are available from G.W. Business Machines Ltd., Box 2429, Yellowknife, NWT, X1A 2P8. Phone 403-873-5880, for approximately \$29.17 per element. The Member already has a copy of this and the addresses thereon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further returns? Mr. Curley.

Return To Question 143-85(1): Sewing Centre, Hall Beach

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to Question 143-85(1). This question was asked by Elijah Erkloo on March 14, 1985, concerning the Hall Beach sewing centre.

Our area economic development officer from Igloodik has had recent discussions with some of the Hall Beach residents who are interested in reactivating the sewing centre. Apparently the individuals concerned are assembling a list of equipment and supplies needed to start the sewing centre once again. Apparently a building is available. The department would like to assist in whatever way it can to get the centre reactivated. However, many of these centres are established using federal job creation funds that are no longer available. At the present time it appears that if sewing centres are to be re-established it will be necessary for the producers to work at piecework rates with perhaps a sponsor such as the municipality providing space and utilities. My department can assist in providing funds for equipment and start-up materials as well as providing production and marketing advice. We are committed to working along these lines with the people of Hall Beach.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further returns?

Item 7, petitions. Any petitions today?

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. PUDLUK: Tabled Document 56-85(1), a letter from the municipality of Arctic Bay, NWT, addressed to me regarding the Nunavut boundary. Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, it is a very short letter and I would like to read it. "The council at a meeting on the 12th of March has agreed to support your position on the Nunavut boundary issue. The council is strongly of the opinion that the people of Kitikmeot and Beaufort regions should be allowed to voice their opinions in a democratic fashion to determine which portion of the NWT they wish to be part of." Thank you.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 57-85(1), the proposed new Mental Health Act and a summary in Inuktitut. Thank you.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 58-85(1), Second Annual Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30th, 1984, the Northwest Territories Law Foundation.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 59-85(1), a letter from the president of COPE to the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, dated March 14, 1985, regarding the establishment of a Western Arctic regional municipality.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have three documents that I would like to table. The first one is Tabled Document 60-85(1), regulations to the Business Loans and Guarantees Ordinance. You want me to read them?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Read it out. Read it all out.

---Laughter

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Can I have unanimous consent to proceed? Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 61-85(1), Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Beaufort Sea Environmental Assessment Panel Report, January 1985.

Mr. Speaker, if I may I would like to table the last document. Tabled Document 62-85(1), a copy of a letter addressed to the chairman of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum from WCF members. And if you would allow me, it is only a page and a half, I would like to read it for the record.

MR. SPEAKER: The problem with allowing tabled documents is length. Do we have unanimous consent? It is a page and a half.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Sorry, Mr. Curley. Are there any further tabled documents? Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 14-85(1): Standing Committee On Finance Report

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 25th, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the report of the standing committee on finance on the review of the 1985-86 main estimates be received and adopted. At the appropriate time today I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Wray.

Notice Of Motion 15-85(1): NWT Housing Coporation Appointment

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice on Monday, March 25th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that this House recommend the reappointment of Mr. Charles Haogak to the Board of Directors of the NWT Housing Corporation, and further, that the appointment be for a period of three years.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Is that your personal choice?

---Laughter

Notice Of Motion 16-85(1): NWT Workers' Compensation Board Appointments

HON. GORDON WRAY: I have another one, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 25th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that this House recommend to the Commissioner the reappointment of Messrs. Bryan Roberts and John Todd to the NWT Workers' Compensation Board, and further, that the appointments be for a period of two years. Mr. Speaker, I will ask for unanimous consent at the appropriate time to deal with these motions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion 17-85(1): Motion Of Appreciation For Marion Reaburn

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 25th I will move a motion asking this House to express appreciation to Mrs. Marion Reaburn for her 13 years of valuable service with the Hansard operation of this Assembly. Later on in the afternoon I will ask for unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Any further notices of motion? Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 4-85(1): Young Offenders Act

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 25th I shall move that Bill 4-85(1), An Act to Amend the Young Offenders Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to emphasize I would have let Mr. Curley read his letter.

---Laughter

I ask unanimous consent of this House to deal with the motion concerning the report of the standing committee on finance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Ballantyne.

Motion 14-85(1): Standing Committee On Finance Report

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the report of the standing committee on finance on the review of the 1985-86 main estimates be received and adopted.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I will be very brief.

MR. McCALLUM: I bet.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Okay, what I would like to do at this point in time is thank again the Members of my committee and the staff for the hard work they put into preparing this report. I hope that the Executive and the Assembly perceive it as a working document and look at it. I think there are some interesting ideas there that could help in the fulfilment of their role as a government.

I also would like to thank Mr. Butters for his co-operation during the process and thanks to Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Aumond. And I would like to give a very special thanks to Mr. Stewart, who went, through thick and thin, through all the standing committee on finance meetings. We appreciated their support and without their support it would have been difficult to fulfil our mandate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Pardon me. Mr. Curley. Excuse me, Mr. Curley. I am in error. I should have asked the seconder and he has indicated he wishes to speak. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I do not have any comments. I am ready for the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion, Mr. Curley.

Amendment To Motion 14-85(1)

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I am in favour of the motion but I would like to remove the last word and insert the following words: "be moved into the committee of the whole for further consideration".

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Curley. Your amendment is out of order. You can only do certain things with this motion. You cannot move it into committee of the whole. You can oppose it. Just one second, I will give you all of them here. I have forgotten two of them. Pardon me, you can adopt it, reject it or send it back to the committee but you cannot put it into committee of the whole when it is written in this nature. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an amendment which I suggest is acceptable and that is that the words, "and adopted" be deleted and the words, "and considered", put in their place.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley, I must apologize to you. Our rules permit a report from the standing or special committees to be adopted by the Assembly or it may be referred to the committee of the whole or back to the committee which presented it. It is Beauchesne that has the other ruling. Our rules supersede Beauchesne in this matter so your amendment is in order, Mr. Curley. I apologize. To the motion as amended by Mr. Curley. The motion is amended by dropping the word "adopted" and "be moved into committee of the whole" has been added. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: There seem to be two motions right now. You accepted the first one now, how about the second one?

AN HON. MEMBER: Time is up.

MR. PUDLUK: Oh, come on!

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. The Chair erred and apologizes to the House. We are not infallible and we have just done admitting it. There are two rules on the matter but our rules state that you can do what Mr. Curley wanted to do, so therefore his motion was the first motion and it has to be handled first. To the motion as amended, Mr. Curley.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Could the motion as it now stands now be read please?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. I give notice that on Friday -- that is the original motion but that, by unanimous consent, has been granted to deal with today and the motion reads: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the report of the standing committee on finance on the review of the 1985-86 main estimates be received and be moved into committee of the whole. Mr. Curley, it is your amendment. Do you wish to speak? To the amendment.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, very briefly. I wish to note here that I have no disagreement whatsoever with the report, I think the committee should be commended for the excellent job and very well -- I do not know whether I want to call it a timely report but we take it seriously. I think there are recommendations which some Ministers would like to respond to.

The very fact that they did not have an opportunity to respond to the report as their estimates were dealt with is why I would like to have an opportunity, more informally, to just look at some of the recommendations and then from there on I think we will have no problem in adopting the report as final. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The seconder, Mr. Butters. Would you care to speak to it, Mr. Butters?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. MacQuarrie had his hand up before the other Member. To the amendment.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Do I have the floor?

MR. SPEAKER: You have the floor, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Amendment To Amendment To Motion 14-85(1)

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would propose an amendment to the amendment and it would read right at the end, "as the first item of business on Friday, March 22nd".

MR. BALLANTYNE: We can discuss it in detail tomorrow. We can discuss it for three or four days, it is no problem.

MR. McCALLUM: Starting tomorrow morning.

MR. SPEAKER: Your amendment to the amendment is in order. To the amendment to the amendment. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. Yes, just to say that I feel that if the Executive Council wants to have a thorough look at that report at this time, I fear that with the amendment that Mr. Curley made it would simply be put to the end of the business in committee of the whole and, of course, we might never see it again. Since the Executive Council wants to examine it thoroughly I would want to give them that chance and the surest way to do it is to make it the first item of business tomorrow when we go into committee of the whole, Mr. Speaker. That is why it is in the interest, I think. This committee wants to see it and the Executive Council wants to see it done so I am just trying to be...

AN HON. MEMBER: A peacemaker.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Reconciled peacemaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, but who is your seconder -- of being peacemaker? Who was your seconder at being on the peace order? Mr. McCallum?

AN HON. MEMBER: We didn't agree with the original motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The amendment as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Does somebody wish a recorded vote or was that just...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

Amendment To Amendment To Motion 14-85(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour of the amended as amended motion? Opposed, if any? The motion amended as amended has been carried. The amendment to the amendment has been carried.

---Carried

Now, to the amendment. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour of the amendment as amended?

AN HON. MEMBER: Which one are we on?

AN HON. MEMBER: I am lost.

MR. SPEAKER: You think you are lost. You want to try it from here?

MR. McCALLUM: Is this the amendment to the amendment?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that is right. It is voting to the amendment as amended. All those in favour? Point of order. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I had my hand up before, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak to the amendment to the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I just would like, lest there be misunderstanding, to explain why I support Mr. Curley's amendment to allow this report and its recommendations to be considered in committee of the whole. It is because I think that this House, and I am not saying necessarily the Executive Council, this Assembly, must be cautious about approving reports and recommendations of the finance committee without debate. As I see it, Mr. Ballantyne's motion would have seen us accepting the report and adopting all its recommendations without debate.

AN HON. MEMBER: That's right.

Debate On Recommendations In The Interest Of The House

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The report was just presented yesterday and I think it is in the interest of this House that there be discussion on those recommendations. Mr. Speaker, I say this because I well recall the day in the Ninth Assembly and perhaps Mr. Ballantyne has been taking lessons from Mrs. Sorensen, his predecessor as chairman of the standing committee on finance -- and I say she did an excellent job in that capacity -- but in the Ninth Assembly, I well recall the day Mrs. Sorensen stood up and read a report similar to that of Mr. Ballantyne's yesterday which contained significant recommendations including a recommendation that a public accounts committee be established by this Legislature. She very quietly moved acceptance and adoption of the recommendations in that report. As I recall, this Assembly, without debate, accepted those recommendations and in effect made some major decisions. I am just appealing to this Assembly that we should not accept recommendations -- wide-ranging recommendations, however meritorious they are, without debate, without careful consideration in committee of the whole. So that is why I support Mr. Curley's amendment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to speak to the amendment as amended. Yesterday when this report was introduced, all the Ministers walked out. They did not want to hear it, except Tom Butters.

AN HON. MEMBER: I was here.

MR. PUDLUK: And they did not want us to read it in the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege, Mr. Patterson.

Point Of Privilege

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I was not only here during every moment of the presentation of the standing committee on finance yesterday, but I listened with rapt attention. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate that as the chairman of the finance committee read the report into the record, it was not time for the Ministers to respond to the report and therefore I think the Member is making a statement that, you know -- alluding to the fact that...

MR. PUDLUK: Point of order.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: ...that we do not have any interest in the report. We do have.

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: One point of order at a time and basically, Mr. Curley, you did not have a point of order. Mr. Pudluk. You have to do with rules. Okay, what is your point of order?

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They kept saying, "You are wasting our time and wasting your time" when we were reading this report. Somebody was. But also there were only 10 of us in the House, that were listening to all of this report.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Pudluk, that is not a point of order. So, to the amendment, if you want to speak to that now. But that is not a point of order. Now, speak to the amendment if you wish.

MR. PUDLUK: That is what I am doing right now.

--Laughter

I do not have very much to say any more. I am not going to support the amendment as amended. That is my point.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The amendment as amended. Question is being called. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think there is a little bit of confusion here as to what is happening. I think first of all there is a misunderstanding on the side of the Executive. There are not specific recommendations here. What there are...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Formal recommendations.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Formal recommendations. What they are are issues, identifying both general issues of government as a whole and specific issues by department. I think we are splitting hairs, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about whether there should be motions. I think our role is to identify to the Executive certain problem areas. So the feeling of having this motion adopted was that these areas have been identified. I have no problem at all with the concept of discussing them. I think at any point in the future once everyone has had a time to look at it, I would be more than happy and I think the committee would, to sit down and discuss some of these concepts. On purpose we did not put them forward as recommendations. So in adopting the report it is the ideas and the issues identified in the report. So it is not asking anything specifically of the Executive any more than these are what we consider to be the important issues and we really hope that you look at them seriously. That is the meaning and maybe this whole debate is going on and maybe it is not necessary.

Amendment To Motion 14-85(1), Carried As Amended

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment as amended. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The amendment as amended is carried.

---Carried

Now, to the motion as amended. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if this is a point of privilege but what motion are we voting on now?

MR. SPEAKER: We will read the motion that you are voting on now. "I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the report of the standing committee on finance on the review of the 1985-86 main estimates be received and be moved into committee of the whole as the first item of business on Friday, March 22nd." That is tomorrow. That is what the motion now reads and that is what you are voting on.

Motion 14-85(1), Carried As Amended

Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion with the amendment is carried.

---Carried

Motions. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to proceed with my two motions. One motion at a time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray is requesting unanimous consent to proceed with his two motions relative to appointments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Proceed.

Motion 16-85(1): NWT Workers' Compensation Board Appointments, Carried

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS certain vacancies occurred on the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board and it is desirable to fill those vacancies;

AND WHEREAS the Workers' Compensation Act requires that those vacancies be filled on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that this House recommend the reappointment of Messrs. Bryan Roberts and John Todd to the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board and further, that the appointments be for a period of two years.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

You can proceed with your other motion, Mr. Wray.

Motion 15-85(1): NWT Housing Corporation Appointment, Carried

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS a vacancy has occurred on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that this vacancy be filled;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that this House recommend the reappointment of Mr. Charles Haogak to the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and further, that the appointment be for a period of three years.

MR. SPEAKER: This motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Motions. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to go ahead with a motion of appreciation that I introduced just previously?

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. McCallum.

Motion 17-85(1): Motion Of Appreciation For Marion Reaburn, Carried

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Mrs. Marion Reaburn, Hansard indexer, has been employed with the Legislative Assembly since 1972;

AND WHEREAS she has been instrumental in the development of our Hansard operation to the level of quality it is at today, working over the years as proofreader, assistant editor and eventually, indexer, the position she still holds today;

AND WHEREAS Mrs. Reaburn's last session will be the spring session, when we will be meeting in Rankin Inlet;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that we express to Mrs. Reaburn our appreciation for her 13 years of valuable service with the Hansard operation of the Legislative Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Let the records indicate that it is unanimous.

---Carried

Motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Document 36-85(1); Bill 7-85(1), Bill 3-85(1), Bill 9-85(1), Bill 10-85(1), with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 36-85(1), REPORT BY THE TASK FORCE ON SPOUSAL ASSAULT; BILL 7-85(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985-86

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

Tabled Document 36-85(1)

We are on Tabled Document 36-85(1), which was tabled on February 28th, Report by the Task Force on Spousal Assault, with Mr. Patterson. Would you like to make opening remarks?

Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am very pleased that we are considering the Report by the Task Force on Spousal Assault today in this Assembly. The report suggests, Mr. Chairman, that spousal assault is a problem of serious proportions, although the incidence does vary from community to community. There are people who told the task force that spousal assault is increasing and I understand that the task force believes incidents of spousal assault are increasing but statistics are few. Certainly people's willingness to talk about spousal assault is increasing, which I think is healthy. That in itself, might leave the impression that there is more spousal assault than there was before it was discussed publicly.

Mr. Chairman, the report before this Assembly contains observations from the task force who believe that the incidence of family violence, including spousal assault, is frequent enough to be very serious. They note that there are changes happening in northern society which seem to have an effect on spousal assault, changes in traditional family structure, the emergence of the woman as a family provider, increases in unemployment particularly amongst men, and the introduction of new values which are in apparent conflict with old values are all put forward as things which influence spousal assault patterns and frequency. I also was pleased to note the task force view that the influence of television, video films and pornographic publications, although difficult to assess, may be significant, particularly in shaping attitudes of young people.

Mr. Chairman, the task force in introducing their report stated, "Public attention must continually be returned to spousal assault so that community and government resources can together begin to deal with it. We must use the media to which we have been provided such generous access to keep the problem before us, to discourage and censure spousal assault, to encourage family values and practices which will strengthen northern peoples and their communities." They went on to say, "The task force urges northern society and governments to take up the challenges posed in our recommendations, work and experiment with them. The public debate about spousal assault must continue. We must keep open minds regarding solutions and we must respond to community initiatives and good ideas wherever possible."

Mr. Chairman, in response to initiatives from the general public and from the advisory council on the status on women, who report to me, this government made spousal assault a priority and created a ministerial committee. That is what it has been called. In late 1983, the advisory council on the status of women has maintained a continuing interest in the progress of this work and are to be commended for their determination and efforts to have this government recognize spousal assault and family violence as a priority issue. Mr. Chairman, the ministerial committee I referred to earlier includes representatives from the police, the bar and bench, health departments, both territorial and federal, our Department of Social Services and representatives of community groups.

As I mentioned, they recommended a task force on spousal assault and this government agreed to its formation about a year ago. Its mandate has been to examine the experiences of victims, the needs of community groups and agencies who provide services to victims and to make recommendations to the Executive Council through myself and the ministerial committee. I believe they have earned our compliments and thanks for their excellent report. They have been thorough and have shown sensitivity and concern for those affected in these difficult spousal assault situations.

The chairpersons, John Bayly and Iris McCracken travelled thousands of miles to meet with many groups and individuals throughout the Territories. I feel their report reflects that public input. Other members of the task force include Lena Kikoak of Tuktoyaktuk, Margaret Vandell of Fort Providence, Bertha Allen of Inuvik, Mary Jane Goulet of Yellowknife and Geela Giroux of Frobisher Bay. Their commitment and hard work is also reflected in this report.

Mr. Chairman, I tabled the report of the task force on spousal assault on February 28, 1985, shortly after having received it. I would note the report is not yet final. Further submissions, appendices and other information will be included in the final report. It also has yet to be fully translated although through the offices of the language bureau, the introduction and chapter one have been translated into Inuktitut. We are also anticipating receiving further public response and written submissions.

I would recommend, Mr. Chairman, that at this stage it is appropriate to hear general comments on this report but I must explain that this government is not prepared to discuss each of the 100 recommendations in detail today. I would recommend also that if this House wishes to hear from members of the task force, the appropriate time would be after this report has been considered in detail by this government. Members may also wish to have an opportunity to discuss the report with their constituents prior to our next session.

Mr. Chairman, although the report as I mentioned, has not been considered in detail by the Executive Council, we have already considered a strategy to respond in a timely fashion to task force recommendations and in particular the recommendation on implementation on page 60 of the report.

The Executive Council has decided on the following action plan: the Departments of Health, Social Services, Justice and Public Services, Information, and Education will recommend three year programs to the ministerial committee. The ministerial committee in turn will consider the departmental plans and recommend a three year plan with a budget to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women who will seek the approval of the Executive Council. An examination must also be made of the role that federal funds can play in conjunction with territorial moneys and the Status of Women Secretariat has been directed to look into this matter immediately.

Mr. Chairman, this government is keenly aware of strong public concern in communities of the NWT about spousal assault. Our government is also concerned and committed to respond soon to crisis situations which must be the first priority, and also to develop co-operative approaches with the major departments and agencies affected to find new solutions and approaches to the problem of spousal assault. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair at this time would like to recognize, in the gallery, Mr. Sam Raddi, the former president of COPE.

---Applause

General comments. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by complimenting the Minister, Mr. Patterson, for his role in establishing both the ministerial committee which he referred to but particularly the task force that worked during the past year leading up to the presentation of this preliminary report and, in particular, compliment the Minister in choosing the individuals who make up that task force. The co-chairman, Mr. Bayly is a professional colleague of mine. There is much respect for him in the legal profession and I know that both he and I and, in fact, Mr. Minister yourself as well, have over the years acted as defence counsel for some of the perpetrators of spousal assault in these Territories and that we all know that those violent acts are invariably the result of alcohol abuse. I know, Mr. Chairman, that the tragedy of family violence is well-known to Mr. Bayly and that his wealth of knowledge was invaluable to the work of the task force. The co-chairmen and the members of the task force are to be complimented for this preliminary report and I wish, Mr. Chairman, simply to highlight the recommendations that strike me as being vital.

Three Important Recommendations

Firstly, the clear message in the report that more crisis shelter accommodation is necessary -- that is an immediate need. The report of the Yellowknife based group, SAFA, the Society Against Family Abuse, filed in this Assembly on February 22nd also recognizes that particular recommendation of the task force report. As does the letter that I think all Members have received recently from the YWCA group.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, another message that I think is important in this report is that it is the community which must come up with the solutions for that community and I know that Members of this Assembly have stated that before when we have talked about the problem of alcohol abuse. There is the responsibility on members of the community to come forward with solutions to this problem.

Thirdly, a point that I picked out in this report among the many recommendations, but I think an important one, is that government must make information available about the funding that is available, both capital funding, funding for conferences, funding for training and counselling. I think that message is brought home in this report and I concur in that.

Fourthly, and finally, Mr. Chairman, the message I see in this report that is important is that there must be a great deal of public relations through the media, exposure of this issue -- I believe it is mentioned in the report -- whether it is a poster campaign, talks being given in our schools, even curriculum programs being developed within our school system. The message must get out there about this problem. The report itself, I believe, has brought a high profile to this problem. The publicity that has resulted from this very preliminary report before us has assisted in putting that message before the public. The attendance, I cannot help but notice, Mr. Chairman, the attendance in the Assembly today is significant. I know that there are representatives here from the Society Against Family Abuse, the YWCA. The interest that has been shown is in itself indicative and confirmation that the task force to date has done their job well and I, given the Minister's opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, am certain that the Minister will respond in a positive fashion to these recommendations and that the Members of the Executive will support him in that endeavour.

Federal Report On Family Violence

Those are simply general comments I had, Mr. Chairman, but I have two questions that I would like to ask of the Minister. The first deals with a report that I must admit I only read recently. There is a federal report and it is dated May 1984 and it is fairly thick -- it is a white-covered document. There did not appear to be any reference in that document to the Northwest Territories. The programs dealing with spousal assault or family violence in the various provinces and at the federal level were dealt with specifically and I believe the report resulted in a Ministers' conference. The absence of the Northwest Territories from that report stood out for me when I read that and it may well be, Mr. Chairman, that it was before Mr. Patterson's time that this report was authored but there is a lot of information there about the programs that are available at the federal level and particularly federal funding programs and information about programs that are already under way in some of the provinces. I wonder if the Minister could respond as to why we did not participate and that simply is documenting the status quo I suppose, but that was a query I had firstly.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, and more specific to the work of the task force, the introduction, in fairness, states that this report is a survey and not an analysis of the problems. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could indicate, because the task force has not yet finished its work, if the Minister could indicate if he sees, within the mandate of the task force, a dealing with research of the causes of the problem, as to why the batterer does what he or she does. I appreciate this report deals mainly with after-the-fact treatment by way of shelter, counselling, etc., and I am wondering if the Minister could indicate whether that could be included in the mandate of the task force as they continue their work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

NWT Participation, Conference Of Ministers Responsible For Status Of Women

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, with regard to the absence of discussion of the problem of spousal assault in the Northwest Territories in a report that was put together by the Ministers responsible for the Status of Women in Canada. I know the report that

Mr. Richard is referring to. I too noted the absence of the Northwest Territories in the report. I must say, Mr. Chairman, that the report was presented to this body and it was the first opportunity I had to attend this national meeting as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women in the Northwest Territories. It is not correct to say that the report was authored before my time but the report was put together before we started to tackle the problem of spousal assault in the Northwest Territories.

I was able to report to the national meeting that I had established the interagency, interdepartmental committee which I referred to as the ministerial committee and that they had recommended the establishment of a task force on spousal assault and that the task force would be soon undertaking its work. However, we did not really have anything much that we could report, although I recognize that there had been important volunteer work under way in this community, for example, prior to that time. But by the time I had attended that meeting, we had not really begun to survey the problem and what was being done in various parts of the NWT and what was not being done. So all I could do was inform my colleagues that the activity of a Status of Women Ministry was new in the NWT, that when we got going, one of our first priorities was to tackle the problem of spousal assault, that reports of the work done in Canada and throughout various provinces would be very useful to our new task force -- I believe they did take significant advantage of that national report -- but that our conclusions and actions in the NWT would have to wait for a little more time. I at least was able to inform them of the initiatives that we had undertaken and orally let them know that we too were doing something.

I will be meeting again with the national body this June, I believe, and I will certainly make sure that they have copies of this important report and are kept informed of our progress. They have changed their priority this year to child care from spousal assault, so it will not be quite as much of an agenda item at the annual get-together, but I know they will be very interested in our work.

Research On Causes Of Problem

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, the Member asked if the mandate of the task force will be expanded to permit them to do research on the cause of the problem. Quite frankly, I had seen the task force on spousal assault as completing their work in the next few months and that the work of further researching the problem, looking at causes -- which I agree is important -- must and should be done by government as part of the response to the task force report. I think that they have pretty clearly told us that spouse battery is a learned practice, that it is passed on from one generation to another. Unfortunately when young men or boys see their fathers treating their spouses this way, they begin to think that is part of being a husband. Similarly young women who see the spousal assault in their own homes, unfortunately can tend to believe that that is part of being married, part of being a wife. So I believe that the emphasis must be on prevention and education and counselling. So that these practices, even if they are seen and even learned in the home, can be eliminated in future, through education, counselling and treatment.

I do not think we have to do extensive research on causes because I think almost everyone agrees that this is learned behaviour. However, I do agree that we need to do more research and particularly we need to gather statistical evidence on the incidence of family violence and particularly spousal assault in communities in the NWT. I think that the recommendations of the task force will encourage governments to examine these questions and to do this kind of research. To answer the Member's question succinctly, Mr. Chairman, I will not be asking the task force to expand its mandate and do this kind of work. But that is not to say that this kind of work shouldn't be done. I think the responsibility now must be taken up by governments and the task force will be of enormous assistance in telling us precisely what kind of work, in the area of research, must still be done. I hope that answers the Member's question.

It must be understood of course that, as I said in introducing this report, I have not discussed it in detail with my colleagues. We simply have not had time with the session on. So I am really giving my own opinions and I am sure the Member will appreciate that when we have had a chance to give it the thorough consideration it deserves, I will be able to answer these kinds of questions much more precisely. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's response. I just wanted to clarify that I was not suggesting that the task force do the research. I appreciate that it is a short-term task force that you have established but I would hope, and the Minister has actually confirmed, that the task force in its final report would make recommendations to the government as to doing some research into the causes of this serious problem. I believe the Minister and I are in agreement on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to commend the task force on their report. I have read it from one end to the other a couple of times. I think in many ways it is a very tragic document and in other ways it is very enlightening, at least if we take the proper action on it. I do not disagree with any of the recommendations but I would like to point out a few that I particularly agree with.

Like Mr. Richard, I think the recommendations on safe shelter for victims, which are contained on page 21 and subsequent pages, are very, very critical. I think that the recommendation for proper training of social workers, contained on page 37, is extremely important. And on page 38, regarding the training of family counsellors on a volunteer basis, we do have a lot of resources within our communities which we are now not using.

The recommendation contained on pages 28 and 49, on victim representation in court, where it is recommended that this be not necessarily done by a qualified lawyer, is one which I find particularly good. I have advocated a similar recommendation pertaining to the Young Offenders Act and I agree with it wholeheartedly.

Prevalence Of Violence In Communities

I think the question of spousal assault is really a very narrow interpretation of the problem that we face in our communities. General violence within our communities is the real problem and spousal assault is only part of it. Violence for whatever reason is very, very prevalent in our communities. I agree with the Minister, that violence on television and in publications, pornography, whatever, definitely has something to do with it. We see far too many programs that glorify taking the law into your own hands.

I would like to provide you, Mr. Chairman, with a few figures that are indicative of what goes on in some of the outlying communities. In my home community in Coppermine, it is a community of less than 900 people, there were a total of 167 criminal charges or charges in court, in 1983. In 1984 there were 155. So far to date in two court sessions in 1985, the total is over 60. These are very disturbing figures. I do not have the statistics, I could not get them but I know that many of these offences are violent offences, beatings, and many of these again are spousal assault. We have an alarming suicide rate. There has been some publicity of the problem we have and I personally feel that in many cases this can be traced back to the violence we have within our society. I think the effects of spousal assault are not limited only to the victim and to the batterer. When children see it, it most definitely affects them.

I am sure that children observing -- I do not necessarily speak only of small children, up to young adults observing father beating up on mother, that is not something that makes them particularly happy. I know for a fact that when talking to young people who have attempted suicide I have heard on several occasions of that being a contributing factor to it.

The violence that youngsters see affects them in later life too. Mr. Patterson just mentioned that boys seeing this could easily get to think that that is the way husbands ought to behave and girls could think that that is the way a wife is treated. It can also have other effects. It can have the effect of the girls deciding not to take on the role of a wife. Just 20 and 30 years ago -- it couldn't be all that long ago, because I do not feel all that old and I was there then -- society on the Arctic Coast in a place like Coppermine was composed of couples. When you became an adult you automatically got married. That was the way things were. And you raised a family. Now whether you were married in the legal sense of southern society or common-law, it really did not matter. By the standards of acceptance in our society you were a married person. This is no longer the case.

Changing Social Patterns

I have mentioned before for other reasons that this accepted standard has changed. That young women are choosing today not to be married and again, I am not talking about going to church and getting married. They are choosing not to live in a steady relationship and I cannot convince myself that women like men any less now and vice versa than they did in the old days. There have to be other reasons. Now, when I say that the young women are not living in steady relationships, I am going to back that up with a few figures. I just finished going through our population list and I do happen to know everybody within the community whether they live with someone or not.

In Coppermine alone, of young women between the ages of 20 and 30, there are 53 who are not living in any steady relationship. Now, this is not all confined to a group of say the 20 year olds that have not yet reached it. Of 20 year olds there are 12; 21 year olds, five; 22 year olds, six; 23 year olds, four; 24 year olds, six; 25 year olds, five; 26 to 30, there are 15. It is spread out right across the spectrum.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that we have a problem that if we do not deal with that problem and deal with it very soon, all the other good proposals that we may be coming up with may really matter very little because we are not going to have a society left to apply the good programs to that we do come up with. My friend and colleague from Kitikmeot East yesterday in his reply mentioned that in his constituency there were girls going to school in Yellowknife but unfortunately there were no boys. That they were walking around the community with their hands in their pockets. That is not unique to the Kitikmeot East constituency. It certainly applies in my constituency and I know it also applies in others. I think we should realize that we have to accept some facts and I think one of the things we must accept is that whereas traditionally perhaps in the South, hopefully in the past and less now, women may have felt inferior to men and been treated as such by men, we must realize that today in our outlying northern communities I feel that it has gone in reverse. I think amongst the young in the North, young men feel superior in one sense only and that is in physical strength. In almost every other sense in fact for whatever reason -- and I cannot pinpoint why we cannot get our young men to get a better education or whatever -- I think in almost every other sense that they feel it is reverse. They feel inferior. And I think the fact that 53 young women in my community are not willing to live with any of the young men available to them only emphasizes that.

Victim Representation In Court

I alluded before to the recommendation of victim representation in court and I would like to elaborate on that just a little bit. Recently, I think it was within the last 10 days, we had a supreme court session in Coppermine. There was a lot of charges related to violence, assault. In fact there were two charges of sexual assault, one of them aggravated sexual assault. What happened in that case, Mr. Chairman, was very disturbing to a lot of people. The defence lawyer who accompanied the court party put on a show that was equal to, in every respect, any of the court dramas you see on television. In a small community such as mine, when an offence like aggravated sexual assault happens, we know whether the person charged is guilty or not. People are quite open.

The defence lawyer in this case totally destroyed the victim of the assault on the stand -- absolutely and totally destroyed her with a line of questioning, as I said, that you would see in a television courtroom drama. Mr. Chairman, I submit to you and to the House that we must be very, very careful that we do not automatically adopt the southern standard of representation to our society up here. The victim in that case was very, very ill-served by even having complained.

I did not personally assist in taking that victim, when the offence occurred, to the nursing station. I saw the effect of the violence perpetrated but yet the case was dismissed because of lack of evidence. As I said the victim on the stand was totally destroyed. It was all handled in English too, by the way, and I think we must be very careful with that and I would, therefore, like to commend the task force on the recommendations on pages 44 and 45, under "assistance through the law and the courts", where they recommend that because it appears to be more important to the victim that the RCMP investigate and restore the peace than whether the batterer can be prosecuted, that this policy be reviewed.

If we cannot assure a court hearing that is humanly decent and fair to the victims then we should not submit them to the kind of ordeal that the young woman in question in Coppermine went through within the last two weeks. Mr. Chairman, I have nothing further to say at the moment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. General comments to the report. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Recent Awareness Of Scope Of Problem

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess many Members are reluctant to speak right after someone who speaks so eloquently and Mr. Pedersen certainly did that. I have always felt that there is no need for an apology for ignorance at a given point in time, providing once someone becomes aware of an issue, one then takes steps to overcome the ignorance and so I will confess that until less than two years ago, I think, this was an area in which I was largely ignorant. I simply was not aware of the scope of the problem or the seriousness of the problem and I can recall an incident that began to make me aware. There was a well-publicized case of a woman in eastern Canada who had killed her husband and I can remember thinking, when I first heard about the case, that that is surely wrong. If she did not like the treatment she was getting she was free to leave and that is what she ought to have done. I generally thought that where there were cases of spousal assault that they were occasional incidents that got out of control and I did not see it as a major problem. It was only after staying tuned in to that particular case that for the first time I became aware of the extent of the tyranny that can be practised by one person over another and when I had heard the details of the case, I thought she had done the right thing and believe that if I had been in those circumstances I would have done it myself.

I have tried to pay attention over the past year or so when groups like the Society Against Family Abuse and the YWCA, the Minister and the task force have begun to let the public know, generally, the extent of the problems and I do see that it is a very serious problem. I still do not know exactly how it should be resolved but I can see that through physical violence, through psychological and emotional terror that there are cases when, unquestionably, people are being exploited by other people. I understand from the report that it works both ways -- that it seems that the majority of cases are husbands abusing wives but it is apparent that it works the other way, if not with physical, then with psychological and emotional terror and I am rather shocked at the extent of it. It was something that was just not familiar to me in my life prior to that time. I have always been very much opposed to the exploitation of one person by another. Now that I am tuned in I am interested, I am open to learning more about the problem and, certainly, very open to supporting initiatives that the Minister intends to take in this regard.

Scope Of Departmental Recommendations Requested

With respect to that I have a couple of questions for the Minister as soon as he is ready to listen. You had indicated that one of the first steps that you are going to take will be to ask the various departments, Health, Social Services, Justice, Information, Education, to recommend three year programs. The first question that I have is, in making that request to those departments have you laid down some specific terms of reference? In other words, will you be asking them to look at all the aspects of this problem? One would be the great variety of measures that might be taken to relieve and help victims of assault. Another would be measures to try to rehabilitate people who are perpetrating the assaults and another would be trying to define and implement preventive measures through research and dissemination of information and counselling and that sort of thing. Are the departments directed to address all of those different areas?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intention is to have the departments work together beginning immediately to recommend on all aspects of the task force report, both the preventive and curative aspects and indeed all other recommendations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question is, has the Minister put a time frame on the request? Are the departments asked to have their recommendations back in two months, three months, or precisely what is the time frame?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, it will be my responsibility to implement this decision of the Executive Council. I am going to be honest and say that it was only considered last week and I have not, as of today, developed a time frame but let me say that we are very anxious to ensure

that the necessary work is done so that recommendations can be considered during the development of the budget of the government for the coming year which would require early action, this spring. I certainly intend to deal as quickly as possible with the recommendations, recognizing at the same time that some of them will require significant funds and some of them will also require a significant change in policies and programs of this government, new policies, new programs and changes in the way that we are doing things now. I think the reference to a three year plan was out of respect to the task force recommendation that particularly in the next three years it is expected that there should be action and at least annual reports to this Assembly on what has been done. We have adopted that three year long-range plan with those recommendations in mind. I have been able to meet with the ministerial committee since the report was completed and have informed that group, which I consider crucial to the implementation of approved recommendations, that I want to see them become active again. They have not been active while the report has been in preparation. I will look very much to their advice on how we can work together co-operatively, even between territorial and federal government departments, to get concrete measures off the ground.

Funding Presently Available

In the short term, since I mentioned moneys, I should remind the House that I do have some flexibility in the Status of Women Secretariat activity this coming year to immediately fund certain initiatives which might be recommended, either research or what I like to call action research where we could test and pilot certain approaches. I hope within the next couple of months to have proposals to present to my colleagues on the Executive Council as to how those moneys might be used. There is the sum of \$200,000 available in this current year for a response to this report and naturally I want to keep the House informed. I am certain that by the June session I will be in a much better position to answer the Member's questions about timing and implementation. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it appears that once the recommendations are crystallized for the Minister, and the Executive Council decides to act on them, and programs are maybe established that will be into the next budget year then. You have said there is some interim funding. Are there other interim measures? You were talking about action research that might receive some of that money. But, for example, the Society Against Family Abuse document that we received indicates there is an immediate need to establish safe houses for victims of family abuse and so my question to the Minister is, could he perhaps outline some interim measures that are being taken here or there to try to -- that seems to be the greatest need. There is need for counselling. The report suggests that a lot of volunteers will have to become involved and so on but it seems that the most immediate and pressing need is for there to be safe houses for victims of assault. Could the Minister indicate what, to date, might have been government measures taken to address that problem and what measures might be taken within this fiscal year to address that problem, quite apart from the longer-range recommendations that are implemented?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I have just today asked to meet with the Society Against Family Abuse to find out perhaps more precisely what it is that they would wish our government to assist them in doing in this community. I have yet to receive a detailed proposal in that regard, but certainly we would be willing to give it every consideration recognizing that in Yellowknife, particularly, there are numbers of women who cannot be accommodated using existing facilities and existing volunteer resources. I have also, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, asked the Status of Women Secretariat to immediately look into how we might take advantage of combining federal and territorial initiatives and in that regard we are actively looking into just how federal funds through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, with the co-operation of the Minister of Housing, might assist us if the construction of facilities is required. Quite honestly, I am not entirely sure what SAFA wants. I am sure that I will find out soon enough. I know they are very concerned about this issue and undoubtedly have plans but I am just not precisely aware at this moment what they would like to do. I will be meeting with them shortly and whether we have completed our consideration of these recommendations as a government or not, I will certainly try to respond as expeditiously as I can within our existing resources. I believe Mr. Wray may wish to add to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

Negotiations With CMHC To Establish Long-Term Funding

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, we have taken some short-term temporary measures here in Yellowknife. I think that in the interim we will have to look at doing that in other places where similar problems exist. For the time being we are probably going to have to look at utilizing or finding existing buildings that could be used for this purpose but I think that the long-term goal has to be one of myself and Mr. Patterson and Mr. McLaughlin sitting down and probably looking at the requirement and where that requirement is and working with CMHC to attempt to establish, perhaps, a budget under section 56.1 of the National Housing Act where this kind of money is available. At present, CMHC does not have a budget under section 56.1 for the Northwest Territories and I have requested that a budget be established. My officials are working on it right now. Section 56.1 is the section of the act which provides for funding for things like co-ops, senior citizens, items that we are discussing right now. I think that probably is the long-term approach that we have to take. One of the problems, and it is identified in the report of course, is the lack of statistics, the fact that people do not report these things. Therefore, the statistics available to us in terms of where the need is and what kind of numbers we are dealing with are not there and of course that makes it very difficult to come up with some kind of plan. I suspect that what we will have to do is develop a plan whereby we can respond on an "as needed" basis and as the problems are brought to us we will attempt to respond to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you. I do appreciate that the Minister for Public Works has already taken that interim measure in Yellowknife. It is appreciated. I am not sure whether it is adequate to meet the need that exists but I am sure Mr. Patterson will learn that in his meeting soon with the Society Against Family Abuse.

Just a final comment, Mr. Patterson in his answer just unconsciously I am sure had referred to the problem in Yellowknife. But the matter of safe houses seems to be a need that is much broader than just Yellowknife.

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

Breakdown Of Family Support Structure

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have to as MLAs recognize that spousal assault and violence generally is really a horrible manifestation of some very fundamental problems in our society. I think people also have to realize when we are talking about family violence, about spousal assault, what we are talking about is something very, very serious. There are many incidents of brutal violence, of the sort that if it happened to any one of us in our daily life, the perpetrator would be put in jail for months and for years. Many times this has been ignored because it is in the context of marriage. So we are talking about a very, very serious problem. I think everybody should recognize that. I think that there are many causes for this and there are better experts than me that have looked at it. But I think one of the things that has caused the incidence of spousal assault and violence generally to increase is the breakdown of the extended family group.

I think there was a time in our society when individuals would think twice before they committed violence against their spouse because of the pressure of other family members of that spouse who would take action against them if that happened. Now, in this mobile society, that support structure of the extended family group is gone. Now, people who would commit these sorts of assaults do it with the full knowledge that their spouse does not have that support mechanism in place any more. I think that is an important factor, and also I think the breakdown of the community or the neighbourhood. At one time also, in a close-knit community or in a close-knit neighbourhood, everybody knew everybody. And again, I think that was a deterrent for anyone to commit these horrible acts of violence.

I think there has been a major inability in our institutions, whether they are government, educational or judicial to deal with a rapidly changing society. There is a lot of built-in frustration in society now. There are a lot of losers, if you will, in society. It is a very competitive society and there are only so many winners in a competitive society. There is a lot of, I think, internal violence right now in a lot of people because they are so frustrated.

Integrated Approach To Social Problems

Unemployment has been institutionalized in our whole economic system. The politicians talk about full employment. The reality is there probably will never be full employment again. The reality is there will always be a large segment of society who will not have jobs and will have all those frustrations because of that. This report, which I thought was very good, outlined the tremendous influence of increased alcohol and drug abuse. I think that all too often we as governments and we as a society have looked at alcohol and drug abuse as a separate entity. We have tried to deal with the results of that problem in isolation. Sometimes we look at the concept of spousal assault as a separate entity. We look at the problems of juvenile offenders as a separate entity, when in fact they are all interrelated. I think it is very important that as a government, as social agencies, we take an integrated approach to these problems because the problems of one area have impact in another area. The frustrated juvenile offender probably has more chance to be somebody who perpetrates spousal assault as he gets older.

I think there has also been a perception of marriage, and especially of women in marriage, that in many ways is still somewhat medieval -- the feeling that a woman becomes a chattel within marriage. I think that is changing and that is changing because women are forcing that to change. But I think that in many ways our judicial system still looks back at the days when in fact a woman was the possession, for all intents and purposes, of her man. There have not been changes in the judicial system that really recognize the independence of modern women.

It seems that with almost each passing day there is more and more violence in pornography. There is more and more violence against women in pornography. I hate to think what the future holds for these kids right now that are exposed to alcohol and drugs and pornography. What will the problem be 25 years from now? I think if we do not come to grips with it now I think as Mr. Pedersen said, the problem will be insoluble in 25 years.

Report Deals With Areas That Are Key To Success

What I like about the report is the report dealt with a number of areas that I think are the key to success. It does not just touch in one area, it touches a broad myriad of areas that we have to deal with, each one in co-ordination with the other. Obviously, education is extremely important. I mean not only education of our children but education of our leaders. I think that there is not a full understanding in the leadership of this country, whether it is political, administrative or business as to how widespread spousal assault is. It crosses all races. It crosses all economic classes. It is not something that happens in the slums of Toronto. It happens in the best areas in Toronto, also the "best families" in our society and the smallest community in the NWT.

I like the reference here to rehabilitation. I think that is an important part of it though I for one think there is some value for anybody who might commit violence against another to know that they can go to jail and they will be punished. I think that is an important thing to know. I think we should be strong in that area. At the same time, I like the idea of providing options, perhaps saying "Well, for those people that can be salvaged, those people that can improve, we will give them that opportunity." For those who cannot, for those who continually go back to spousal assault and to violence, I say keep them in jail. I say we will give them a chance but I do not think they should be given the opportunity time and time again to perpetrate violence against innocent victims.

I think in alcohol programs, we will be dealing with that again. It seems that an important part of the problem in the NWT is alcohol. In all aspects, alcohol seems to be the major underlying factor. So I do not think you can solve or even alleviate the problems of spousal assault without having a co-ordinated approach to the alcohol problem. That is emphasized in the report, and like that.

What has happened over the last two or three years, I know in Yellowknife and I am not sure of the other communities, is that the groups involved here, SAFA and the groups that were in existence before SAFA was formalized, spent a lot of time and a lot of effort using volunteers to educate the RCMP. Now they have a tough job. But I think in Yellowknife it is improving. The RCMP are becoming more aware, the courts are becoming more aware, that we have a real problem.

I see us as a Legislative Assembly having a major responsibility. I think we have to say and have to say it publicly that spousal assault is an awful problem here in the NWT. We will make one of our major priorities to try to come to grips with it. I think we have to provide leadership

in that area. I think also our administration, the government, has to provide that sort of leadership. There has to be an education process in all areas of government so that every department realizes how important this problem is, how widespread it is.

One of the very good and I think interesting points in this report is there are not women in positions of decision making in the RCMP, and in this government and the fact is -- I have brought this up time and time again -- once you get beyond the position of chief, you do not see women in this government as assistant deputy ministers, as deputy ministers. You just do not see it. I think that the RCMP historically has been a male world. The courts also. Just now in the last few years, you are seeing more and more women being involved as lawyers, as court officers, and as police. That is another important aspect of it that this particular report brought home to me.

Report Raises Awareness

What this report has done up until this point in time -- it itself has been an educational tool, it has raised awareness of this problem throughout the NWT. I really commend the people on this task force who have taken their time and energy to travel through the North. We have all learned the magnitude of the problem from this report. For me and for all of us I say thank you for a job well done, or the beginning of a job well done. There is a lot more work to do.

As I see it, the government has a role and we, as an Assembly have a role, but social agencies in the communities also have a role. There has been an historic problem with political infighting among social agencies in communities. I think they have to recognize -- for instance, Yellowknife has many, many good agencies that are dealing with social problems but there has not been a concentrated or co-ordinated approach of all these agencies toward dealing with problems. So I accept our responsibility and I accept the errors that we have made in the past as an Assembly, as a government, in dealing with this problem. But I also put it to the agencies that they too have a responsibility to work together, to forget some of their differences and try to achieve a co-ordinated approach to this particular problem.

The one major fact and reality that I hope this report and the final report and the actions of this Assembly really emphasize is that spousal assault is not a woman's problem. It is a human problem. Every one of us has a responsibility to try to come to grips with that problem. It would have been nice if Mr. Bayly was here for some comments on the actual report. I say the report at this point in time is excellent. It is a great document for discussion. But hopefully in the final report, some of these recommendations will be amplified. I want to emphasize that each one of these areas is very important but I think it is important to prioritize some of these areas and that a timetable for implementation is given for all these recommendations.

I get a little emotional about this one because I have seen all too often the results of spousal assault. But I can say that I, as an individual MLA, will give the Minister my total support in trying to come to grips with the problem and trying to support the recommendations of this task force. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to go on to any great degree. Obviously I am impressed with the report and with the people who were involved with it. I compliment the Minister, as do other Members, on the work that they have accomplished. The current awareness and the improved sensitivity to the problem is a direct result of the work of the task force in moving around. I know that they came to my community, unfortunately that particular evening I think there were two other meetings and they had to compete with those other groups who were meeting.

In Fort Smith we have had a crisis centre for a number of years, run by a religious person, Sister Sutherland, who just recently has been honoured as Fort Smith's citizen of the year, not just because of her work at the crisis centre but for many other things. I have, as an educator, over a number of years, seen first-hand the results of family abuse, not just with children but with adults as well. I think that it is necessary to look at a program of prevention or take some preventive measures as a society. I agree with Mr. Ballantyne that we have made a band-aid approach to the solution of many kinds of difficulties in the communities. There are so many different groups or organizations involved with it, that we simply try to put a stopgap measure on a number of things.

I do not want to go into the recommendations, as the Minister has indicated at this time, save for one. It is a concern that I have locally, because of the possibility of some changes that may occur with the crisis centre that is there. I know there is a new organization in town, Tawow, but there may be some changes being made within the centre itself which is the old hospital. I think the old St. Ann's Hospital is an ideal situation because not only are the battered spouses able to go there but there is room for children as well.

Assistance To Centres Already In Operation

I have one concern and the Minister referred to it. This is the possibility of providing assistance to centres that already exist. I do not want my remarks to be taken the wrong way and to suggest that there will be changes made to the one in Fort Smith, but there is a possibility with the change in some personnel there. Obviously shelters that are being provided by, to a great degree non-government people through their largesse, as it were, at times are underfunded and if there is a change in the personnel involved, then that program could suffer because it may not have the proper funding to continue. So I would hope that, in the way that Mr. MacQuarrie had indicated, the Minister would look at some means by which he could provide some assistance to those centres that are already in existence. I relate specifically to my own community. There is a possibility that this centre may require some assistance financially to continue. It has over a number of years, provided a shelter for battered spouses as well as their children for a period of time. If it is to continue to operate and because there is a good awareness that it is required in the town, I would hope that the Minister and his government could see their way clear to providing some kind of assistance to them. I am not sure whether they have requested it, but I know that there are possible changes going on and there may well be a request from them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment and maybe ask a question. I am sure we are all aware that family abuse is a serious problem in some of our communities. Not too long ago there was a woman so badly beaten that she had to be medivaced from the community to the nearest hospital. What I cannot understand is, unless the person who was beaten lays charges, they will not take the individual to court. I am having a hard time understanding the law in that way. If it is that bad, that the RCMP has to send for a plane to medivac the person to hospital, then I would think that something should be done. He should be thrown in jail and throw away the keys or he should be encouraged to take a preventive program or counselling, so that he will not do it again. I do not understand her going back to get the same treatment. I am having a hard time to understand but it is not for me to judge anyone like that. It probably has to do with a lot of different problems, whether it is the children, no money, no place to go. I have seen a lot of cases in my time having worked in the hospital for a few years. I have seen a lot of physical violence against women. I also saw husbands getting beaten up by their wives as well.

Motion To Recommend That Funds Be Provided Immediately To Establish Safe Houses And Services, Withdrawn

I would like to -- I do not want to prolong this debate so I would like to make a motion on this report. Before I do that I would like to compliment the people that were involved in doing the report. The motion will read: whereas the problem of family abuse in the Northwest Territories is at a state of crisis; and whereas the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is considering the report of the task force on spousal assault; now therefore, I move that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive that funds be provided immediately to the Society Against Family Abuse and to other community groups which are providing services to battered women and their children for the establishment of safe houses and services to treat the problem in a realistic manner.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Can we get a copy of the motion? Mr. Patterson, do you have a point of order?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe there may be other Members who might wish to make general comments and I wonder if I might suggest that the motion could be deferred until all Members have had a chance to make general comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mrs. Lawrence, would that be agreeable?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, that is agreeable. I have been going in and out, busy making phone calls, and I was not aware that other Members would like to make comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mrs. Lawrence, would you like to withdraw your motion for the present time and introduce it later?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw my motion until later.

---Withdrawn

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

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that I guess the part of the report that interests me are the parts that refer to spousal assault related to the abuse of alcohol. I think the two are very much related. I was going to point out the fact that the Minister of Health was not in the House but he is back in now so it will be useful to have his ear. As I was saying, the two are related and just by way of general comments I would be willing to support any motion that addresses this issue.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I do not have a lot to say at this time because I believe that this subject is something that will be ongoing for a while. However, I would like to say that the report certainly is thorough and with all the recommendations I certainly hope that myself, as part of the government, would be able to at least try to help along some of the issues and try to resolve, through the recommendations, some of the problems that we all know are critical in many of the communities.

Problem Indicative Of Lack Of Well-Being Of Men

There was one thing I felt that was somewhat missed in the total package. I realize that the committee was dealing with the precise problem of once a person is assaulted and beaten, then what do we do from there? One of the things that I find that has not been identified -- particularly it will relate not necessarily to Yellowknife or the larger centres, or the more active centres such as Yellowknife and perhaps Hay River or the areas where there is a bit of a different lifestyle, but one of the things that I find myself, in my relationships with relatives and other people who come to a point where someone is hit or beaten up, one of the things that oftentimes is not really addressed is the fact that most of the time we are talking about women being beaten. Now, if you look at how that comes about, we do not often consider why a person would beat his wife or his sister. It is oftentimes because there is not a feeling of well-being with the men. What this society has been able to do in the last few years is to strip many of the communities of the lifestyle that has been very supportive of the men's well-being -- the ability to utilize the harvesting resources to be able to support a family.

I believe that if we look more toward the reason why, we come to a situation where people feel badly about themselves and use a way of getting out of how badly they feel about themselves through alcohol and then in the end the nearest person you can hit at, after you finish trying to make all your overtures toward the government, to restore your community, to sell what little you have been able to make off the land, after struggling to try to fill out all the forms to get reimbursed for maybe a bit of gas, and other things that we try to overcome, the expense that a normal male in a small community has to overcome, after that frustration the first person that you see and the person that is close to you is your wife.

Improving Role Of Men Will Help Women

I believe that this area has to be explored. If we can find some ways that we can address the concern of the male, to make them feel that stripped of the ability to commercially utilize the harvest, they can get something else to substitute for it. I do not believe that this is a problem where the wife is the problem. It is more the frustration of the male trying to make a living for his family and have a meaningful existence in society as much as it is being changed. I certainly feel that no male would assault a woman or use alcohol to, perhaps, take away his self-discipline unless there was something wrong there. I say that within most of our smaller communities there is something wrong and that is the ability for a man to look after his family, to be able to make

enough money, to put his children through school when they are away from home and the person that is generally the one who is harping on the male is the wife because she is always the first one to be told to get some spending money from the husband or to buy a new dress for her daughter or to do something because she is generally the one that is supposed to understand. I believe that in order to help the female we have to help the male as well. Once we find the approach where the male is satisfied with his ability to make a living and look after the family in this changing society, then we will do a lot toward spousal assault or the elimination of such.

I suppose people may think it is cute if I say this but what has to be understood too, is that many years ago and perhaps even in the time of my memory is that male people used to be able to have two wives. I do not think that is really a bad thing but society has said that is not right. Right now there are a lot of people cheating on each other because you cannot do this thing legally or with acceptance. I am a firm believer that if something works we should keep it and keep it out in the open. These kinds of things all cause frustration and certainly when you look at the quick changes people have been forced to go through just because society changes very quickly without their input or without even thinking they should have an input, the fact is that we are moving from what I felt was perhaps a reasonable way to overcome the many chores in the home to restricting people on what they do legally or make them feel ashamed of how they live.

Difficulties With Image Portrayed On Television

Then now we are going back to the whole scope of what television teaches us. Sometimes it is very confusing because on television the people that we are taught to respect which, pardon my expression, is the white society, are partaking in a type of violence that appears to be acceptable. It is very difficult for a traditional family to try to explain to their young people who watch a great deal of television why that is not acceptable and when dealt with in the right way some years ago some of those things would not have had to come to a point where people fight about them or argue about them. It is a normal way of living but not the violence. Now we are treating it with violence in order to get the kind of stimulation that people want.

Unfortunately, as well, I believe a lot of the women when they have a lot of children have a difficult time to respond in the glamorous form that is put over TV and they cannot compete with that kind of -- I do not know what the word is for it, but at that level of excitement. All these pressures are here and at the same time I guess we all want to have everything that we see and that is a lot of pressure on women. So, in terms of the whole approach to it, I believe that in looking at it the women have to try to be much more than normally human and the male has to be much more than normally human but it seems to be that the male counterpart is the one that has to try to come up with some kind of solution to financially look after the problems of the family. I believe that until such time as we can look more and more aggressively toward that, not taking away from what is in that report, but also addressing that issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not make too many comments. I would like to express my gratitude to the Minister and to the committee for the report. I think it is an excellent one. I think that the fact that the report itself was done is just as meaningful as the recommendations contained within the report because the mere fact that the report was commissioned serves in itself to highlight the problems. It serves itself to highlight the fact that agencies and people are now listening to a problem that I suspect has existed for a long, long time but, because of many reasons, embarrassment, inability to cope with the problems, the problem has been hidden. I suspect that even within the confines of this room there are many people who have had experiences in this area.

Twofold Problem

The problem as I see it is twofold. On one hand we have to be able to respond to the victims of these assaults once they take place but I think equally important, we have to address ourselves as to why these assaults are taking place. I think that is perhaps even more critical than our ability to respond, because if we can start cutting off the problem before it starts, then it is going to help us out a lot more.

I would not agree with those that say that alcohol is the cause of spousal assault. I think that alcohol is a vehicle by which spousal assault takes place. I would put to this House that probably the reasons why the person is using alcohol and the reasons why he is committing assault have a very common basis and that alcohol is merely the vehicle by which this assault takes place. I would also say that in all probability, one of the reasons that physical assault takes place, is because of the psychological assault that is perhaps performed on one partner by another. I think Ms Cournoyea has highlighted some of the reasons why psychological assault is taking place, but it is certainly a problem that we have to attack at its base and not confine all our efforts and all our resources and money to responding to the problem. I think we have to look deeper at that problem.

The other brief comment I will make is that one of the problems that we have in dealing with this problem is the unknown. How serious is the problem? How broad-ranging is it? Once again, I suspect that when we start to come up with the remedies for the problem and provide things like safe houses and provide people that can cope with these problems, that this House and even the committee itself is going to be extremely shocked at just how widespread this problem is. I think that once we provide the tools, the floodgates are going to open and we are going to start finding out just how serious this problem is because I do not think it is a small problem. Unfortunately, I am only too well aware of the vast number of instances where problems occur. Again, it is not something that is unique to the North. It is something that is right across the country. Luckily we are small enough and our communities are small enough that perhaps we will be able to highlight the problem and tackle the problem in a much better manner than has been done perhaps in southern Canada.

Victims Not Receiving The Help They Need

The last comment I would make, and I make it because when I read the report I must admit I chuckled in a couple of instances not because anything in the report was funny but because the report highlighted some instances that I was personally aware of in the last two or three months. There was one instance that I am aware of where a woman was very severely assaulted and the only recourse was for that woman to leave and go to a very distant community. Yet the person who had perpetrated the assault was back on the streets within 24 hours and six weeks later is still walking around waiting for a court case to be heard while the victim has had to be isolated from her friends and relatives in a community very far away. To me, it is rather sad that the victim is the one who is even further victimized, as opposed to the perpetrator.

Another incident that took place that I am aware of in which a woman who was the subject of assault many times over the course of eight or nine years but because of her fear of doing anything about it, had done nothing. One night she received a beating that finally convinced her that she had to do something. She phoned a social worker only to be told that he was sick and could not deal with the problem. She then phoned the RCMP who essentially told her that he did not really want to do anything and nothing was done. This did not happen that long ago. This is within the last five weeks or so that I was made aware of the problem. My fear is, and the report highlighted it, that it took this woman eight and a half years to do something about her problem and when she finally plucked up the courage to do something about it, the agencies, the people responsible for helping her, were not able to respond. My concern is that having tried this once that this person may very well never try again. The next time perhaps something may happen that will be even more serious than what happened before and perhaps she may be backed into a corner to the extent that she may be willing to commit a crime that many of us would not want to see. I think the report highlighted that and it was interesting that they did.

I suspect that this happens too many times so I would like to commend the committee on its report because I think they have zeroed in on what action has to be taken. I would hope that when we discuss it we will be able to do something about it. I would urge that we pay a lot of attention or at least as much attention to what is causing these problems as to trying to help these people after the problems have resulted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Are there any other general comments to the report? Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to first express my personal appreciation to those members that were part of the task force and those individuals on the task force that committed their time and effort in developing the report. I think that the whole question of spousal assault is an issue that needed to be addressed publicly.

I just wanted to say that I have been a party to seeing spousal assault being carried out and it is not a very pleasant thing. More than that, it affects a lot more than just the individual on which that spousal assault or that assault is occurring. It affects, in cases of family, the children, the individuals that are associated to that family. I just want to say that there is one point that was made in the text, under chapter one, which says, "Spousal assault is deliberate and usually secretive." Well, I am not terribly sure if "usually secretive" are the proper words to use. Probably secretive in the sense that it has never been an issue that people have wanted to talk about but the actual assaults are not always secretive. They are very public and they are public enough for not only the families to see them but the community to see them and that in itself is not a very pleasant sight.

Spousal Assault Seen As Acceptable By Society

What is sad about that is that the idea of spousal assault is something that the community begins to accept, particularly those people and families that have never seen it within their own families, so that this public assault creates an education among other people suggesting that it is acceptable and that is wrong. That type of assault should never, ever, be accepted. I think that the idea of battering, as indicated in the report as well, which says it is physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual -- I think that those are very good indicators of the extent to which any type of battering can occur but the idea of spousal assault suggests there is a relationship between or a problem between men and women that results in some type of assault. It goes further than that because what I have seen is that younger boys begin to assault younger girls and it suggests that that is acceptable so that the reality of assault between both men and women begins at a very young age. Society itself begins to suggest that they can accept that and that is bad.

I say that is bad because it creates another generation of people that are prepared to continue with the same type of habits that they thought were good for their parents and, in some cases, have seen it with their grandparents so they accept that. It continues through childhood, it continues into adolescence, it continues into the time when they become men and women and eventually, in some cases, raise families. In many cases it is far more than that. Even in the case where people do not get married but live together, it seems that because they have been a part of this type of assault, they continue that even into common-law relationships. I think that it comes to a point where they feel that no one should interfere in their lives when those things happen because they think that that is part of the accepted way of life. It isn't.

The sad part is that people have not, in the past, addressed that particular issue at this time because it is a major issue, not only in the Northwest Territories but throughout Canada. I think one should not take this particular issue in the context of what is happening in southern Canada and the way in which those people are trying to deal with the solutions, trying to deal with the questions, and the concerns that result from spousal assault.

I must say that the issue of spousal assault is a much broader issue and it is really, in some cases, family assault. We have categorized this issue as an issue between men and women and yet we have suggested that child abuse is a separate issue but the reality is that child abuse is a major element in this particular item of spousal assault. They suffer many times when spousal assault occurs. They are a major factor, the children are in the way, they get hit or they are told to get out of the house. Those kinds of things occur. They are abused in the process as well. I think that the idea of this issue being a very narrow one is not in my opinion the way to deal with it. It is a broad issue. It is a broad issue because it teaches the community and the family habits that really are not acceptable and should never be acceptable.

Alcohol, A Vehicle Of Violence

I just wanted to, as well, speak again on the point raised about alcohol being, I guess, a factor. I guess I have to go again to Mr. Wray's comments a few minutes ago, it is a vehicle. In many cases it is a vehicle because of violence or for psychological reasons, for personal reasons, there is no strength in the individual that wants to carry out that particular assault. This seems to be an item creating strength in the individual to carry out the assault. Again, it is not pleasant because sad to say the assault does not always occur again between the man and the spouse. It could go further than that. It could go from an issue between the spouses to a family member and friends.

I think that the chairman wants to recognize the clock. I still want to continue speaking about this particular issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Just a reminder to the Members that there will be a Management and Services Board meeting immediately after this. I will recognize the clock at this time. I also would like to say that I would like to make some comments too, myself. We will recess until 6:30 p.m.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with Tabled Document 36-85(1), Report by the Task Force on Spousal Assault. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I was indicating earlier the point about the use of alcohol as part of this particular debate and its association to spousal assault, the fact that it is associated and I suggested that it is a vehicle for carrying out such assault. Further, I indicated the effect of spousal assault on family.

I just wanted to also say that this situation is not only related to the men but also to women in numerous cases. It gets more dangerous, I believe, than just the idea of physical assault because physical assault itself leads to the use of things like weapons of various natures, beatings with whatever objects are available to an individual and not only the use of hands or feet, but it is much more dangerous than that. I also wanted to say that the issue itself is also a far more serious one than one that recognizes the political emotion of leaders such as ourselves. To those people that are involved in spousal assault either directly or indirectly, it is a personal emotion that is affected. There has to be a recognition, I believe, of that particular situation.

With regard to trying to deal with the issue. I think there have been a number of suggestions that have been made and as much as we can criticize the use of or the influence of television or video films or whatever additional publications that might show violence, I believe that we can use those mediums to create an awareness in the understanding of the effect of such a situation.

Issues Causing Or Resulting From Spousal Assault

Regarding the idea of also creating additional agencies in some instances -- I am not sure if the idea of creating additional agencies is always a good thing. I think that there are many agencies in existence now through which, if we use those agencies properly, we might be able to address some of the issues and major concerns that those particular agencies are dealing with, particularly if these issues have an effect on this particular situation, if spousal assault is a result of those issues that we are trying to deal with. As well, some agencies may be dealing with specific additional results out of the whole question of spousal assault. I raise this because we deal with the question of alcohol almost in isolation of the result that occurs from alcoholism or the abuse of alcohol, the abuse of drugs. We are trying to deal with the whole question of child abuse in isolation of the possibility that this might be the beginning of that situation of child abuse. So, I think that we must look at all the kinds of agencies that are in existence and see if they can address that particular situation.

I also wanted to just say that the report itself indicates that there is a difference -- and it is a point I made earlier -- there is a difference between the manner in which the people in the smaller communities deal with this question as opposed to the larger centres. In the communities it is at times very personal. It is personal in the sense of the way in which the community itself relates to the people in that community. More importantly the issue is very visible. It is very visible to people. That is a point I made earlier when I indicated that the effect of spousal assault goes further than just family. It goes to the community. It is necessary that we ask or seek support of people in the communities to try to address this particular issue.

Improvement Of Laws

I also wanted to say that maybe the laws have not been developed to properly address this issue as well. I think that is something that we have to work on together, as opposed to being critical of the laws as they are, to try to find some solution to improving the laws. I believe that many of the laws that apply to assault generally, are in the Criminal Code and therefore we have to impress upon the federal government to try to improve the laws as they are.

I find that people in the communities as well really do not want to get involved. They feel at times that they do not have an interest at all in trying to deal with the problem. And it is a problem and must be addressed. I think as well, as I indicated a few minutes ago, regarding the

use of the media or whatever possible public medium we have available to us, that we ought to be using it in expressing ways in which we can bring this issue to the attention of those people in the communities that are affected by spousal assault.

I will just conclude, Mr. Chairman, by again indicating to the members of the task force, certainly my own personal appreciation for the work that you have done. I think that the whole issue that you have been asked to deal with has not been, probably in many cases, a very pleasant one from the presentations being made by other individuals or by groups that have been associated with this particular issue. The unfortunate thing I guess in any report of this type is that you never ever get to hear what the children, that are involved in these types of families, go through. It is unfortunate that you really have not had an opportunity to hear what they have to say and the effect on them personally. But I would hope that at some time those people that are presently in school who have been associated with this kind of situation will be able to speak to you or the groups that are established or hopefully, some mechanism to deal with this particular issue that might be established by the Government of the Northwest Territories. I think that it is an issue that requires a lot of understanding and a lot of commitment to resolving the issues. As I said I appreciate and I thank the members of the task force for their contribution and their commitment to developing this report. This is not the end of the situation. This is not the end of the way in which we are going to deal with the issues as they are. It is really the beginning in the sense that this is the first time we have ever had an opportunity to discuss it publicly in a forum of this nature. I hope that it creates a lot more discussion not only within this particular forum but throughout the general public so that we can find solutions and ways in which we can deal with this because I do not think there is going to be one single solution that addresses this problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Are there any other general comments? Mr. Curley.

Reluctance To Talk Freely On This Issue

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank John Bayly, Iris McCracken and the members of the task force who were trying to get input into this. I would like to thank them very much because they had to work hard on this and as they say, they have not finished the report. Yet, I know this was very hard work and I know that they are not the only people who have to be responsible for spousal assault. I am sure we can understand from the report what happens in the communities concerning spousal assault. Perhaps it is hard to talk about this freely. I am sure a lot of people know that spouses and families who are assaulted are not too comfortable talking about this. So, due to this fact, I think that is why this has started in the beginning. I think that starts the lack of communication and lack of understanding so therefore they tend to fight each other. For example, in this House when we have a good understanding and afterwards when we start to misunderstand each other then we start to fight a lot.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to tell you I am sure in Rankin Inlet and in the other communities in my constituency they were really happy to see this issue being dealt with, as well as the people who work in the cultural institute. I have not read all the report but this was a tradition. There are some people who are being beaten not just in the Inuit way but in the whole world in different cultures. They all had traditions like that of somebody being hurt or somebody getting hurt. Regarding these facts, as Members, I know we are not going to solve this problem but we have to understand this more and the report has clarified it more for us but today even at the present time in the communities some of the people did not have any services to go to because they were scared to talk to anybody. For example, in this report the opening remarks of the chairman state that a lot of people have bruises and perhaps broken ribs. They are missing teeth and are bruised personally. So, sometimes there are a lot of people who are battered in the communities and some of them and their children are scared to live. They do not know who to go to for services like that. I am sure we are going to enhance these services from here for this reason. All of us MLAs cannot solve this problem but in the communities the spouses have to be happy with each other. They are supposed to be getting along together. I am sure this report is going to be helping the spouses because we are trying to look for some people for those who are in these kinds of situations to go to. Only when they start talking with each other will they be able to solve their problems and get back to their way of life. Some people are just left alone and so that they will be able to have some place to go, I like this intention.

Opportunities To Talk To Others

At the present time, we cannot fix this right away with money but I am sure we have to work within our communities as it states. Justice or the laws have to deal with this. They start dealing with the public by media and by religious groups. At the present time coming from the communities I stress that I feel that the communities have to wake up to these problems of battered spouses or families, as to how we can solve this. For these reasons I just wanted to speak in Inuktitut. Some people who are battered or who are scared of somebody sometimes do not have anyone to talk to. In those days they did not want to go to the peace officer to deal with this so even when we tell the peace officers they will not be able to solve our problems. These people who have no place to go, to tell about their problems when they have concerns and we have to look for some ways of dealing with this. Maybe in the communities, the men understand each other and the wives. I think we have to talk about our problems instead of just holding it inside. I am sure I would like to see shelters for these people. (Translation ends)

I would like, as I said before, to congratulate the members of the task force, particularly Mr. John Bayly who is very, very highly regarded not only in the city of Yellowknife but throughout with his work and the work that he conducted with his assistant and co-ordinator, Iris McCracken. I would like to congratulate you two for again bringing forward a very useful report. I know it is a beginning and I applaud them for that.

I think most of you know I am not a good example because I am divorced and I live alone but I will say this that before my dad died quite a while ago -- I never did mention anything about my dad, in politics, because I think a personal relationship with family is a very private one and I have always treated it that way. But I remember when I was a very young fellow and he knew I was going to get into trouble one day, he knew well enough, I remember him saying to me as we were hunting somewhere out in the country, I remember him saying, out of all the things he could have given me advice on, he said to me "When you get married someday, don't ever put your anger upon a woman. Do it some other way. Do something. Either go hunting or something but get yourself in shape and do not ever take it out on a woman." I often wondered about it because I still live alone after my divorce. Maybe he knew enough that the life between the two was not an easy one and that it had to be treated with respect and so on. I think it was very good advice and I will continue to cherish it whether it helps or not.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to put in my whole-hearted support to this area because I know it is pretty tough. It is a sensitive matter. I know with my own fellow Inuit people it is highly sensitive because many of our people are very shy. They are not used to the tradition of having counsellors here and there and therefore it is always difficult to finally humble ourselves to say, "Maybe it is about time I asked the question whether I can get help from somebody." So, I was saying in my Inuktitut remarks that I think the time has come, that there are opportunities, that it is possible to find help in situations where common problems exist with respect to spousal assault in any community. Those people who are in that situation do not need to fear reprimand because if the individual is seeking help we will be ready, our communities, our social workers, our nurses, our JPs, regardless, will understand that we are prepared to deal with this real and pressing problem.

Interest In Communities

For that reason, and I know that in my own community, there has been a tremendous interest in discussing the matter, I was very, very happy to see the tremendous interest developing in Rankin Inlet and many of my other communities. Women are getting together starting to discuss a very common problem that exists. I think through that, communities and those more fortunate will be able then to recognize that the problems do exist because so often we think there are not any problems simply because someone has not raised the problem to any of the authorities or whatever. So in that regard, I would like to encourage the work of the committee, the task force. I know they have pretty well concluded in this but I would like to suggest to them that they carry on in some way in advising the government because this is one step and with another two steps or more we are going to at least allow freedom of expression to develop in the communities so that we can begin to deal with the common problem.

In conclusion, I would like to again congratulate them on a job well done and I know that our government is going to be interested in putting forward a possible beginning of making funds available to provide counselling service and whatever. I know that the Minister responsible is

keenly taking the advice from the Members and therefore will be making some remarks I know that will eventually prepare ourselves to deal with this problem. So, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mahsi cho.

---Laughter

---Applause

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

Laws Should Deal Directly With Native Culture

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, have read the report and as the MLA for Deh Cho I have also seen some reports and new ordinances coming up. One of them has to do with the Young Offenders Act, then there is the new traffic ordinance and now we also have a new bill, Bill C-31, on the status of women. Certainly there would be something coming out of the spousal assault report. So, we are going to be coming out maybe with new laws or regulations. I just want to say right now regarding the laws, what used to be the British law is now Canadian law and they are at odds a lot of times with the culture of the aboriginal people. I believe the former Minister of Justice, Mark MacGuigan, did say that something should be done in the area of laws that deal directly with native people. Unfortunately, that government was defeated. I do not know what the Progressive Conservative position is on that but in going through the report I just want to make some general comments.

One is with regard to spousal assault. It is not only learned by children from their parents but it affects their ability to learn in the schools and this was stated by principals in different communities. I just want to say that just like other things behavioural change is something that can be categorized in about five or six different ways and I guess the kind of changes that are required here would be political change. I believe that this government does have one of the ways of changing people.

Some time ago I was on an interview board for a senior position and one of the first questions they asked is based on knowledge -- the first two pages do not necessarily have to do with qualifications of the individual. The first question they asked is to explain the process of behavioural change and describe the type of tools, educational tools, that are most effective in bringing about a desired change. The only reason I brought that up was because the kind of changes that were brought up in the North have always been on the part of the government and we do run into a lot of stumbling blocks when we ask for political autonomy or self-determination. A lot of times, in order for us to make changes we have to take on that responsibility and right now, with this spousal assault report, we are now going to have to be getting another institution to look after the problems of battered women.

Changing Roles And Influence Of Missionaries

I just want to turn to page eight where it says, "Since the earliest days of contact between Europeans and native peoples and indeed in pre-contact times, instances of wife and even husband abuse have come down to us in the written and oral histories of the aboriginal people of the North." I just want to say something about that. Even as early as 1960 a lot of the leading roles in a family were the responsibility of the woman of the family, not the husband. The husband was the provider to the family but the woman was the ultimate decision-maker as far as family life goes. I believe with the coming of the missionaries that whole concept has been changed. Basically, it is written in this report about vows being made when you get married to a woman and I find that -- unlike Tagak I am not divorced, but I have a common-law wife and we have been living together now for 15 years. As far as myself assaulting my mate, I have not done that but I have brothers, kid brothers who are married through the church who have been having those kinds of problems and I believe the problems are created because the statements when you marry a woman or a woman marries a man, that you love and obey through his health and sickness, really has a lot to do with wife battering. Just that expectation, I guess, would really cause that kind of a problem. One other thing too is that I found out through religion is that most of the religion based on feeling guilt and that has very little to do with ethics or morals. This is one area. I have been able to talk to an individual with regard to my situation and I was told that if you think what you are doing is right and you are not hurting anybody else in that process, then you are right, and it does not matter what other people's opinions are. I really believe that.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say that in a lot of instances government will have to start taking an approach that a lot of the responsibilities that are now being assumed by this government and institutions around this government, have to be given to the control of the local communities.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. GARGAN: I believe that is the only way that you are going to see a lot of changes being made, because of that responsibility for changing what is causing the problem.

The other thing that I have noticed is that we have not gone to Health or Social Services, but this is a topic that has been coming up. Right now, I believe in the Departments of Health and Social Services we do not have a health educator, we do not have a mental health worker, we do not have psychiatrists, for example, in the North. We do not have any in the North. So for a lot of these psychological problems that a lot of times this government says have to be dealt with by the experts, the experts are not even in the department. Who takes on the responsibility then? I guess again I have to refer to local control -- we should certainly be able to address that whole problem and I do not believe that getting more experts is going to alleviate the problems but just maybe aggravate them all the more. They do not understand it.

Materialistic Attitudes

The other thing among the native people that I have noticed in the last 20 years is that we have become so materialistic. We have to try to do better than the other person. Competition is another form of -- if you are living next door to a guy who has a skidoo, then you are reminded of it too, maybe every day of your life, that this guy next door is doing better than you so maybe I should have married him instead of you. You get that kind of silent treatment. I just wanted to say that a lot of times we have to adapt to changes in some form or another and that we are really forgetting our own roots as human beings. I really believe that if this government, or even ourselves, change a bit we might be able to address a lot of these problems without depending upon this government or institutions of this government.

I have read about half way through the report and it deals a lot with recommendations that are focussed toward institutions. So, I just wanted to say that and if there are any other forms of changes that could be thought of, I would certainly hope that they would be included once the final report comes out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to make a brief comment. I would just like to thank the people who made the report. First of all, when I first got elected I never used to support this. The way I understand this is it seems like it is more directed to common-law couples. They say they are going to make their vows when they get married. I am not sure which this report is directed to, common-laws or married couples. I think the archbishops should have been present while we are dealing with this issue. I thank the people very much for being able to make this report. When the BRC had their meeting in Pond Inlet, they stated that they could not go to Sanikiluaq due to lack of funding but just a little while later they went to Sanikiluaq and I do not know where they got their funding to charter a plane to go to Sanikiluaq.

Shelters Needed In Communities

I think this has really touched women and I fully support this report and I am sure in the future we are going to be dealing with this and trying to solve the problems. I know there are going to be some problems that will arise and it is not only spousal assault. There are other problems that arise with couples also and they have no one to go to, to consult and no place to go. I think we should have shelters in the communities. When there is a spousal assault nobody finds out about it until they go to someone else's house and I think we should be considering what we are going to do about getting shelters for battered spouses. This should be seriously considered and it is going to be a hard route to try and solve these problems.

I cannot criticize them that they are not capable of handling such situations. In some instances they have to be hospitalized because of spousal assaults. When the law exists I think then we will have ways and means of handling this situation, either through the police or an agency maybe that

one day receives a call that the police should enforce these new laws and just not say that they are asleep and they are off duty but respond to the request immediately. Thank you very much. I really do not have very much to say and please continue to work on this. Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mrs. Lawrence. Mrs. Lawrence, would you like to deal with your motion? Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to commend the members of the task force for the number of really good recommendations. I think we all agree it is a serious problem and hopefully these recommendations will help to solve the many problems that are created through spousal assault. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to support the many recommendations that are contained in that report. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, just a few closing remarks. I would like to say that I think this has been enormously beneficial to the task force members and myself and to my colleagues on Executive Council in getting the advice we need and I guess the inspiration we need to have the strength to tackle what we all understand is a profound and a disturbing issue.

I was very impressed with what Mr. Pedersen had to say based on his years of obviously very careful observation and participation in life at the community level. I also agree entirely with Ms Cournoyea that we need to support the dignity and worth of those who are involved in the renewable resources economy and what that elevation of status and respect would do for the dignity of the people who are tough enough to live that kind of life. Also, I would like to just say that, like Mr. MacQuarrie, I too really had my eyes opened since I obtained this particular portfolio. I was a bit amused, Mr. Chairman, by Mr. Ballantyne's advice about avoiding political infighting among social groups. I thought that perhaps some of them who sat here even this afternoon waiting for this debate to start might have wondered whether it is our place, any of us, to advise about avoiding political infighting.

---Laughter

Input From Children Included

However, I think we can all benefit from that advice of Mr. Ballantyne's, Mr. Chairman. As to what Mr. Nerysoo said, I just wanted to mention that I was certain that the task force in its usual thorough way had spoken to children, so I sent a note to John Bayly and he tells me indeed that they did speak to children; that Iris McCracken in particular, met with school classes in one community and was quite moved by what they had to say; that school children also spoke up at a community workshop in one Western Arctic community before the task force began to travel; and that individual children came to members of the task force to relate their parents' behaviour.

I would also like to thank Mr. Curley for his words of support. I agree that we should find some way to continue to get advice for the government from the task force, although, Mr. Chairman, I must say I think that whether we ask them to continue to give us advice or not, they are committed enough to this problem now that they have gone through the, I think sometimes agonizing, process of discussing it at the community level. I think that we are going to be watched by the task force to make sure that we take their recommendations seriously and I welcome that.

I also agree very much with Mr. Wray that merely discussing this problem as openly and as candidly as Members have today I think has a great deal of worth for the people of the NWT in confronting and tackling this issue and being upfront about it. I think more than any other part of the country we have the strength of human resources from small communities and extended family ties so that we have the capability of tackling this problem and beating it.

I welcome also Mr. Gargan's advice that we avoid creating yet another institution for the government to pretend it is dealing with a problem that people are capable of dealing with themselves. I agree with his caution about avoiding institutions but I would say that I do not really see the report as being preoccupied with institutional alternatives. I think they are focussing on making better use of professionals who are already in place. There are institutions

that I do not think are going to go away, but by helping them to do their jobs better -- and I do not see them emphasizing new institutions except that we do acknowledge that there are some situations where people need protection and need support. I agree entirely with using community resources and volunteers wherever possible. I think government's rule should only be to do what is necessary to permit people to help themselves at the local level. I think in the NWT we are blessed with those already, with a network of committed groups, mostly women, who are going to be of an enormous assistance in tackling this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would really say thank you, very sincerely, to all the members who have given us such good advice. It really is going to be of great assistance in tackling this issue and bringing it to my colleagues. Thank you.

--Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I am fighting the flu so I will spare you very many words.

My Department of Social Services will in many instances be the department that has to deal with the cost of meeting the very serious requirements recommended by the task force. I would like to echo other Members and commend the task force on an excellent report and a job well done, to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I would like to think that Members in the Assembly who have voiced their concerns in this area will be supportive of my department and I believe the Minister of Justice and Public Services department when we come forth with our requirements which would be necessary to meet the demands requested by the recommendations when the final report comes to this House. I think Members are aware of the cost that this government is going to have to undertake to meet the obligations of the Young Offenders Ordinance and Act as it pertains to providing facilities in order to serve people in their own region under that legislated program. I believe, as most Members around the table have said, that we do have laws in this country which demand that we meet the needs of families and spouses who suffer because of the abuses that occur during spousal assaults and through the side effects on the children in the family. It will be an onerous task for this government to meet those demands. Speaking as the Minister of Social Services, my officials are very interested in the debate and look forward to direction from the Assembly when the final report comes before the Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mrs. Lawrence, would you like to deal with your motion now?

Motion To Recommend That Funds Be Provided Immediately To Establish Safe Houses And Services

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I would like to put forth a motion at this time regarding spousal assault. Whereas the problem of family abuse in the Northwest Territories is at a state of crisis; and whereas the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is considering the report of the task force on spousal assault; now therefore, I move that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive that funds be provided immediately to the Society Against Family Abuse and to other community groups which are providing services to battered spouses and their children for the establishment of safe houses and services to treat the problem in a total manner. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mrs. Lawrence, your motion is in order. To the motion.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I will just make a brief comment. I realize that the task force has talked to some of the students and I think it would be appropriate to try to teach the younger generation of the situation and of the problems that are facing us. I know for a fact that there were some young people that came up to me one time. I questioned the boy why he beat up his girl friend and he said, "I have seen my parents doing it all the time, so why can't I do the same?" I felt that was just an excuse that he was using. Since he is educated he could have done a little better than that. More counselling is needed in this area.

A lot of people get so frustrated and they are not communicating. If they could have some kind of a counsellor to guide them. I remember there was a time when we used to be able to talk to elders and there are not too many of our elders left today that we can talk to. Therefore, we need professional people or even qualified counsellors that we can turn to in the smaller communities.

I do not want to say too much more. I have a lot on my mind but I just do not feel that I can speak on it right now at this time. I think there are enough Members who have had their say on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

Community Support Groups

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to speak to the motion. I am not sure if it is appropriate for me to vote on the motion because it is probably directed at myself. But I would like to just expand a little bit on what I had said earlier in that I do feel that, along with Mr. Gargan, we must rely on resources that are available in the community -- organizations available in the community, rather than institutions and a dependence on professional people. I think the organizations are already in place. I am not going to try and make an exhaustive list but I know there is a very strong support group for the operation in Fort Smith with Sister Sutherland, about which I have heard very good things. There are groups in Yellowknife like the Society Against Family Abuse and the "Y" and others. There is a host of others in Yellowknife. I am not even going to try and pretend I have included them all. There is the Baffin Committee on Family Violence which I have met with in my constituency, who are very concerned about tackling this problem and have done good work. There is a group in Rankin Inlet I know who are working with the new friendship centre which has incorporated into its building a small, safe place for people in crisis. So I certainly think this motion is appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Simply to indicate that I support the motion. I think the motion does endorse the recommendations of the task force report. It encourages the government to move on some of these recommendations in the short term and the motion is consistent with the remarks of all Members of the Assembly, of the committee today. I would encourage others to vote in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too, support the motion. I think the intent of the motion is that though we are all waiting for the final report of the task force and hopefully with that report, we can deal with the total problem over a period of time, there are some problems that really cannot wait. You know, until the task force report is in, I guess what we are asking is for the government to do everything within their power to try to alleviate some of these concerns immediately. I think Mr. Wray's response in Yellowknife -- I think that was a good first step but that idea is to do whatever the government can do to start dealing with this problem right away. So, I too support the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. To the motion. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask for copies of the motion. I guess Mr. Ballantyne has made it clear for me. I think it is probably best to try and deal with it as a whole over a period of time, in another way, I guess. I think that this whole thing is really related to alcohol and, I have said it before, that the other area, and I guess everybody agrees, is that people have to look at maybe making more money available for alcohol programs. I support the motion. That is all I have to say.

Assistance For Volunteer Groups

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the motion.

MR. MacQUARRIE: In reference to the remarks made by the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I would like to say that I agree with Mr. T'Seleie that it is important to make some funds available to the community groups that are trying to do the work. They are often comprised of volunteers who have good will and are competent and trying to address a problem that appears, from nearly everyone who spoke this afternoon or this evening, to be a serious problem in the NWT. I think for competent and dedicated volunteers nothing is more frustrating than finding that here and there, there are needs and if those needs were serviced they would be able to do an effective job. Yet they are frustrated if they cannot get that kind of assistance from government. I would hope that Members would pass the motion and I hope the Minister would take it seriously and do all he can to assist that kind of group.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one clarification when we speak about spousal abuse. In my understanding this holds an equally responsible statement for men who are beaten up by their wives. I am not trying to be cute but it seems to me that I know of some circumstances where that does happen and then the husbands are left with the children. I just want to get the clarification that this is equal representation here. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

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

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say that I would want to be on record as supporting the motion of my poor crib player. I would like to be on record as indicating that I support the motion...

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of privilege, Eliza.

MR. MCCALLUM: She can't, she already owes me a dollar and a half. I know that I interjected a frivolous comment. I do not mean to detract from the discussion that has gone on today. I listened with a great deal of heed to what people have said today. I think that there have been a great number of comments made through this debate. It started first with my friend from Kitikmeot West, Mr. Pedersen, and followed right through with everybody, with, I'll say my good friend and mostly adversary, Mr. Curley. I listened to what was being said and I know the work that is being done in certain communities in the NWT dealing with this whole problem.

I mentioned an individual today that I have a great deal of admiration for, Sister Sutherland in Fort Smith. I am sure that there are a number of people here who have first-hand knowledge of what she has done in this whole business of dealing with people in trying to reconcile the differences among families, among partners and families, but within the community. I just would want to say that I would totally support what Mrs. Lawrence has moved in her motion and I feel privileged to be able to say that I will support it very much. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Gargan, to the motion.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make a brief comment. I guess my whole intent when I first talked about spousal assault was that when I said that, I was not saying that institutions are bad. But a lot of times when this government creates an institution it becomes so big that the whole intent of help that it was originally intended for is forgotten and we create a big bureaucracy. I just wanted to make that clear. The other thing too is that a lot of times when you have institutions, they condition people to maybe live in hell and like it. So I just wanted to make that clear too. I just wanted to caution this government that if we do support groups or organizations that we do not forget what the intent of the support is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Motion To Recommend That Funds Be Provided Immediately To Establish Safe Houses And Services,
Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

This matter is now concluded. We will now deal with the main estimates. Is it agreed that it is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 7-85(1), Appropriation Act, 1985-86

Department Of Local Government

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Can I have some order here, please? We are dealing with the Department of Local Government. Is it agreed that the Minister bring in his witnesses? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Minister. When we concluded yesterday...

AN HON. MEMBER: A few days ago.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): When we concluded with Local Government, there was a motion on the floor. For the record, would the Minister introduce his witness?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: We have the same witnesses, Mr. Mike Moore on my right. Mr. Joe Kronstal on my left.

Motion That Minister Of Justice And Public Services Be Impressed Upon To Consider Nominations Of Municipal Employees As JPs, Reread

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. The motion reads that "I move that the committee recommend the Minister of Local Government impress upon the Minister of Justice and Public Services to accept and seriously consider nominations of municipal employees for positions as justices of the peace in communities in the NWT." This was moved by Mr. McCallum. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: As I recall, I was in the process of speaking when there was a point of order made. So I think I'll pick it up where I left off...

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on.

---Laughter

MR. BALLANTYNE: Right on, let's go for it.

MR. RICHARD: It was a challenge.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I believe it was a challenge. Okay, as I recall -- it is interesting the Executive wanted motions. The first one we tried has taken three days to get through it.

MR. McCALLUM: My friend Mr. Butters is giving me a hard time.

MR. BALLANTYNE: As I recall, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Pedersen both made some very valid points that in communities now there are many people that in fact can and should be able to take on that responsibility, people that do not work for municipal councils. I think that is not the point at issue here. I agree with that. Mr. Nerysoo can say what he feels the issue is. I feel that the issue is that in many small communities there might be, at some point in time, a situation when in fact the most obvious, the most competent person is indeed that person who happens to work for municipal council. As we see municipal councils taking on greater and greater authority, employing more and more people the choice becomes more and more limited. So we are not saying in this case, we are not asking the Minister of Local Government to impress upon the Minister of Justice to, in fact, choose somebody who works for municipal council. What we are saying is he consider keeping that option open. No more than that. My defence rests.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Curley, to the motion.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: To the motion. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Minister what means he is going to use to try and impress upon the Minister of Justice?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister, would you like to comment?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Through casual discussion and...

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is not acceptable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I know that this has been maybe a bugbear of mine because of the various questions that I have raised with particular people of the government, obviously with the Leader of the Government, as well as with the Minister of Finance.

AN HON. MEMBER: Particularly with Finance.

Utilization Of Expertise

MR. McCALLUM: I know that there has been a number of things said about this. I want to reiterate again that I believe that there are a great number of people in the Territories who have a lot to give to justice in the Territories and to the people that they are involved with. I have heard certain discussions or certain comments being made about what would happen in small communities as well as large communities. I am not saying that public servants, whether they are in municipal, federal or territorial employment, have all the wisdom. I am simply saying in the motion that I made that those who know the community should be best capable of serving that community. I do not think that we should rule out the utilization of those people and their expertise and experience. I do not think that you can, as my colleague Mr. Ballantyne has said, that you should be able to cut out a certain group of people because they are employed in a certain manner or with a particular group.

I am not asking the Minister of Local Government to insist upon using his good offices to impress upon the Leader of the Government, the Minister of Justice and Public Services, to actually name these people. What I am asking the Minister of Local Government to do is to use his offices and all the persuasion that I know he has to indicate to the Minister of Justice and Public Services, to not exclude a particular group. I know that the final decision will rest with the Minister of Justice and Public Services. That is the name of the game. But, to indicate to this House as has been, that he will not even consider these people, in my opinion is wrong. I am not talking about territorial government employees or federal employees, I am not talking about councillors who serve in municipalities and on their councils, I am talking about simply taking into consideration that over the years there have been a number of people who have something to offer to justice and that is the only thing I want him to do. Do not exclude them for the employment they have. Consider it, that is all. I would have liked to have gone on and agreed with the mover of the amendment. We lost that one, we will come again to that at another time. All I am saying in this motion is to ensure that the representations of people to the Department of Justice and Public Services for nominations to serve as JPs should be taken into consideration and seriously considered. That is the only thing that I am asking in this particular motion. I would hope that I would be able to get the support of the majority of this House to indicate and recommend to the government, just that; to consider them, not to exclude them, that is all. He, as the Minister of Justice and Public Services, has the final say but I know that the Minister of Local Government, because of what he has said in this House has indicated that he agrees with me that we should not exclude a certain group of people. Just for nominations, that is all.

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

Motion Will Create Problems In Smaller Communities

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was a JP before and in the smaller communities I think this will cause problems if they are able to get the JPs within the communities. In the smaller communities there are lots of relatives and also a JP would know those who are in the communities and if they tried to get a JP within the community I think it is very inadequate. I think it will be better to get federal or territorial employees to become a JP. For that reason I will not vote for the motion put forward. I know this will create a lot of problems for some of the smaller communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the motion.

MR. MacQUARRIE: A couple of words. It occurs to me in the Charter of Rights now we have a section called political rights and I agree that it is limited in its specific application to the right to run for office and vote. But I suggest the spirit of that is broader and it is that all people in

a democracy have fundamental right to participate in the governance of their society, and it is not specifically limited to elected office but to participate on boards, as justices of the peace and so on in that society. I believe that a case could be made if there were a blanket denial to a group of people for no good reason, and I say that in this case there is no good reason.

MR. McCALLUM: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: That you could be, and this phrase was suggested to me, "hoist on your petard" and that would be great to see.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Hoist on your own petard, right on.

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: You must recognize too that this is the perfect kind of situation for discretionary policy. Certain Ministers acknowledged that while they felt in some very small communities there was good reason for not having certain municipal employees as JPs, they acknowledge that maybe in the bigger communities there is not a problem and so they could be, so why throw a blanket over the whole thing and prevent all people from doing it? Leave the Minister that discretion and I hope our honourable Minister of Local Government, using his boyish charm and everything else that he has, well not everything else...

---Laughter

MR. BALLANTYNE: Make sure it's acceptable.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...that he will as much as possible attempt to impress on the Minister of Justice that surely these people ought to be left with a right and that appointments can be made with due discretion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a general comment toward the motion that was put forward. I will be supporting this motion for this reason. There is usually more than one JP in the communities. There are more native JPs than there used to be and I think this has been an improvement toward a better judgment. In the small communities, it is not always easy to find a good JP. For this reason, the hamlets -- I think I would like to have the hamlet employees be eligible to become JPs and I will be supporting the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Mr. Arlooktoo, to the motion.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is written in both English and Inuktitut. The way I understand this written material, I will be supporting the motion. In our communities we will have to be trying toward running our own affairs within the community whether the community should be small or should it be larger. I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. To the motion, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I just cannot resist an opportunity to give Mr. MacQuarrie a lecture in basic political science -- high school political science, I believe.

MR. MacQUARRIE: (Inaudible comment)

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: If this is university political science then my arts degree is not worth very much but there is a difference between...

AN HON. MEMBER: You've got that right.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: It probably isn't, I know.

AN HON. MEMBER: You have one.

MR. McCALLUM: That's what I said, they are a dime a dozen.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Before you go too far in case he might be.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: He is above all that.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Okay, well I will not be too hard on Mr. MacQuarrie but...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Can we have some order in the House? Mr. Patterson.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not very likely.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No, I just find it a little bit ludicrous, Mr. Chairman, to try to argue that this is a case of political freedom under the Charter of Rights because I think there is a fundamental difference between political freedom and between the local government, the legislative body, and the judiciary and I think if you are going to talk about political freedom we should be talking about the independence of the judiciary.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Hear, hear!

Position Of Municipal Employees Enforcing By-Laws

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I think one of the problems with having municipal employees working as justices of the peace is that they are employees of a political body, a local government, a legislative body, a spokesman for the community which enforces by-laws and let's not pretend that hamlets do not have significant by-law making powers. Now, what position are we putting a municipal employee in when he is adjudicating on matters of enforcement of hamlet by-laws?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: By-law officer.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that we really need to be so concerned about what Mr. MacQuarrie calls political freedom, that we should put someone in that difficult position. If we were extremely short of worth-while candidates at the community level, even in the smaller communities, who were not municipal employees I might say there may be some need for this kind of discretion but I cannot believe that is true in my experience. Though I respect other Members' views, I am going to vote against the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. A question is being called. All those in favour? Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Ha, ha, ha.

---Laughter

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I respect what the Members are saying, that they are going to vote for the motion, they are going to vote in favour of it. I, myself will not be voting for the motion, for reasons I believe that were expressed by some of the Members who are not voting for it. A number of figures were given out when it was spoken to, of how many criminals there are in the NWT.

MR. CURLEY: Four.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Can we have some order? Mr. Angottitauruq, please continue.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: We are dealing with justices of the peace and talking about criminals. Those who are in favour of the motion are not afraid of having their own municipal workers to judge them if they are criminals. For reasons, I will not be voting for the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Are you finished, Mr. Angottitauruq?

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: I am not voting for the motion because I believe there is some conflict between the municipal and territorial employees, as was mentioned. At the same time, there could be some better justices of the peace who may not be in conflict with what powers they are already given. For that reason I will vote against the motion. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion That Minister Of Justice And Public Services Be Impressed Upon To Consider Nominations Of Municipal Employees As JPs, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

General comments. Can we have some order please? General comments on Local Government. The vote was eight for the motion and 11 against the motion. Does the committee agree that we go into budget details?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Directorate, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Directorate, total O and M. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I did not have a chance to talk on Local Government. I just want to say that the other day when we were considering this department, there were some questions related to person years, juggling and all of that sort of stuff. I just want to say that when I look at the budget, I know that Local Government is one department that is pretty important for smaller communities and when I look at the number of person years that are allocated to that department, I do not feel that it is a great number of people. I think that there are other departments that do not have as big a presence and yet they have a larger number of person years allocated to them.

One of the reasons that I say this is I know that in smaller communities, especially impacted communities, the hamlet or settlement secretaries are getting more involved in more work. I know of some that I would say are being overworked because of the pressures that are being put on them by people to do more work. They are required to keep financial books and all that sort of stuff. I guess some of the things they do go beyond what their original job is supposed to be and in some cases I really see a need for more person years in the communities. I wanted to say that as a general comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): It has already been agreed, I believe, that we are on detail of budget, directorate. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. One of the aspects that we dealt with when we were talking about the standing committee on finance and even with the directorate, the committee raised the issue of justices of the peace as members of hamlet councils.

---Laughter

Now, Mr. Chairman, I realize that we just dealt with the motion that defeated what we are doing. I just want to raise this issue because it may be a little bit ironic. When the committee raised this issue of justices of the peace as members of hamlet councils, the Department of Local Government indicated that they felt at this time, like right now, the people in communities leaned toward being in favour of JPs sitting on hamlet councils. The department indicated at that time that they would work very closely with Justice and Public Services to ensure that whatever legislation was brought about was workable.

Now I understand the term "workable" to mean in point of fact that they would do exactly as the Minister of Local Government has indicated, that they would be considered to be eligible for it. Now I understand, Mr. Chairman, that we have just gone through a motion that defeated the idea of

having municipal employees. I just find it a little bit ironic when we are dealing with the directorate, which is the force of this department, having one view, and other Members of the government having a different view. I just want to indicate -- the Minister of Justice and Public Services is indicating that it was an Executive Council or an Executive Committee decision to do this. I know. I know because I talked to certain people on the Executive Council and it never came up. Thank you.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Point of privilege.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Point of privilege, Mr. Nerysoo.

Point Of Privilege

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I think, Mr. Chairman, that the Member should apologize because he does not know the facts and until he knows the facts, he should not make any allegations toward me for suggesting that the issue, or any other Minister has indicated that that issue has a suggestion that the issue that I raised and stated in this House as a matter of public record that the issue was raised and the suggestion is that he is indicating that that is not correct. Well, if that is the reality, then he should state who and at what time that item did not ever come up in the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To be fair to both Members of the committee, we will have to review the transcripts tomorrow. In the meantime we will continue with the detail of Local Government. We are on directorate. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I have been waiting for a number of days now to ask some questions about the department. What can I say, I don't want to waste anybody's time. I assure you.

Mr. Chairman, one of the issues that came up in the standing committee on finance was that there is a problem, to me and other members of the committee, in communities with the number of various organizations and groups in each community. There is an organization for housing, for welfare or social services, for hunters and trappers, for a myriad of different tasks. It has been brought up in a number of communities, including communities in the East, that there might be some merit in having these various organizations reporting to a hamlet council or to a municipal council to try to centralize the authority and function of these organizations. I wonder, is your department doing anything in that area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct and he seems to have placed his finger on the matter. The matter of the number of organizations in communities is a problem and in the new legislation there are proposals and ideas that the community council ought to be the primary body through which all these other organizations deal, report and so forth. The Member obviously has some information that we are dealing with the subject.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: One of the objectives of the directorate is that the department is going to introduce comprehensive policies on capital and O and M assistance to incorporated communities. I have two questions. Firstly, a little explanation of exactly what that will entail and secondly, there are capital and O and M -- maybe I will wait for recreation. I have a question on recreation.

---Applause

---Laughter

Mr. Curley would like to ask some questions next. I know he cannot wait.

---Laughter

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: What organizations are you talking about?

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (No translation)

MR. BALLANTYNE: It was a question -- just a brief explanation on the comprehensive policies on capital and O and M assistance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The department has 12 different policies and programs under which moneys, capital and O and M funds are provided. Some of these policies have been in existence for over 10 years. It was thought that there would be some merit in re-examining some of these policies and come up with more comprehensive policies than we now have. We thought that since we are in the process of providing new legislation that this might be an appropriate time to also deal with that. That review is under way and the new comprehensive policies I think will come to light or surface for government Executive examination I would say within the next year.

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

O And M Funding To Match Capital Projects

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think it is an appropriate place to ask this question as I know the Department of Local Government over a number of years has developed a number of policies to do with capital and O and M. At the same time, new arenas are being built and new facilities are being built that will also need an O and M component at a later date. Has any long-term planning been done, so that with the capital projects that we are building today we are assured that we will have the financial capability to run them all in five years from now? Is that analysis being done now or could we run into some serious problems down the line when we do not have enough O and M money to run these capital projects?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I would like Mr. Moore to answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Moore.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the capital policies which for the most part are directed toward building infrastructure in communities -- things like community halls, fire halls, all sorts of recreation facilities even roads and drains -- all of them carry a price in operation and maintenance costs. One of the main reasons we want to introduce new policies which we are calling comprehensive policies on the one hand for capital and on the other hand for O and M is so that we can match the two so that the policies of assistance to communities in O and M will keep pace with the requirements that are placed upon the community through its infrastructure. I think when, first of all, the Executive Council and no doubt later, the Legislative Assembly, see these proposed policies I think they will find that by putting the two together that we have matched them up and we have taken into account the community's needs for O and M assistance as well as for capital assistance.

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

Integration Of Capital And O And M Process

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think this is a very critical area because I know with all the demands on the department now and the need for facilities, that there could be some long-term significant problems. I wonder then as a follow-up to that, would it be easier for the department if the department could do its own capital planning in-house using the same process essentially as it used for O and M? Would it be easier to integrate an overall capital planning system?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, with respect to recreation facilities, there is not a certain amount of capital funds allocated each year to the department for recreational facilities. We have a program that provides for the building of core facilities and additional facilities. The sports,

curling rinks and arenas, buildings of that nature, fall in this "additional facilities" program where the government provides 60 per cent and a community is entitled to a certain amount of money over a five year period. That program is not a program that has a great deal of capital funds. The way the department has been dealing with it -- I have been involved with the department for one year and it is a program where we find out what requests come to the department from various communities and we attempt to respond to the communities on a needs basis and on the availability of capital funds. As an example, this year we have been able to respond to quite a number of communities and are providing a fair amount of recreational facilities. As an example, the city of Yellowknife has written to the department asking for three or so million dollars to build its curling rink and swimming pool. That is a request that has come into the department and one that we deal with almost on a year to year basis.

To answer the Member's question, there is not an allotted vast sum of moneys that is readily available. The program has limited funds but through the course of the year we attempt to react and respond to requests as they come in. As to the matter of planning we are bound and saddled with the government process of capital planning and I honestly do not know how we could ever be removed from that system. The Member is suggesting that the department deal with capital in its own right. I would say it is very difficult.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand it is a difficult question to answer. I just think that there might be some advantage to this department and other departments of integrating their capital and O and M process within the department. It is just something to think about.

Funding Of Positions And Person Years

If I could ask one more question on the directorate and I was going to ask it when we were last talking here about the PYs and positions. The department did give us a summary and they gave two ways of handling the vacancy factor. I will not get into the first way but I am glad you are not using it because I have major problems with it. The second way -- and I will read it -- I have quite a serious question about this one. The second approach for budgetary purposes is to identify certain positions as funded, those for which a full PY and full salaries, benefits and allowances are budgeted. Others are unfunded which is without a PY and without budgeted funds. The department is using that process and up until now it is fair enough. Then the department has adopted the practice of generally funding or budgeting for the most expensive positions. I take it if a department had for example 150 positions and 100 PYs it would budget for the most expensive hundred positions. My question is, because it does not work that way, at the end of the year there could be easily a surplus and that surplus I would assume could be used for other purposes. I think the process is unwieldy and somewhat misleading. We were voting for salaries with that process and I think almost invariably at the end of the year you would have surpluses there. What do you actually do with that extra funding and why don't you use some sort of average when you are figuring that out? The average of your positions would be the cost of a PY rather than your most expensive positions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I will ask Mr. Kronstal to answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Kronstal.

MR. KRONSTAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that has been posed is a good one and we did wrestle for some time as to which positions would be considered funded ones and which ones would not be considered funded positions. Truly, it was quite a struggle. One of the principles that we tried to adhere to was to ensure that the department would not be running short of moneys prior to year end and be seeking supplementary moneys. In order to safeguard that position sufficient moneys for the most costly positions were budgeted for, guaranteed. There have been position vacancies throughout the department and what that has resulted in are small lapses in moneys at the end of the year. I think perhaps in this upcoming year we could look at systems perhaps where some random distribution of funded positions could be used.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I find this system really is not portraying to this House the real facts. I would think one would be better off budgeting on an average position cost, even if that means it is more difficult to meet your salary targets. I think that in fact is an incentive for the department to really control its costs. I think what you are doing here is budgeting on the optimum end which I think allows far too much flexibility and too much potential for wastage.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will take the Member's statements as good advice and we will attempt to manage the department accordingly.

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are meeting here we get interpretation through interpreters, therefore I move that we adjourn so our interpreters will not be so tired.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Appaqaq, are you moving that we report progress? Progress has been called, it is not debatable. All those in favour? Eight in favour. All those opposed, if any? One. This motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister, Mr. Moore and Mr. Kronstal.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 36-85(1), REPORT BY THE TASK FORCE ON SPOUSAL ASSAULT; BILL 7-85(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985-86

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the Report by the Task Force on Spousal Assault and wishes to report this matter concluded. Your committee wishes to report progress in its deliberations on Bill 7-85(1), Appropriation Act, 1985-86, with one motion being adopted and that Bill 3-85(1), Bill 9-85(1) and Bill 10-85(1) are recommended for further consideration in committee of the whole.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Announcements, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I believe agreement has been reached between myself and the chairman of the standing committee on finance that the order for tomorrow will be changed slightly. That is the two items the Highway Transport Board and the Public Utilities Board will be moved up to follow the Ministry of Culture. That is to make use of the availability of witnesses.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters, we have noted your request and will change the order paper. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please. Mr. MacQuarrie, please.

Point Of Privilege

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a matter of privilege. I have asked that you have a look at the transcript of March 20, 1985, and consider whether -- and I say this without rancour -- but consider whether I might be owed an apology, by not yourself necessarily, but the Deputy Speaker.

I checked yesterday's record and I was asked to withdraw a remark where I allegedly said "hidden motive". I asked if we could not wait a day to see what I had actually said, but I was told that I would have to withdraw the remark. When I read the record, I see that in a general way on page 372, I did say that some people have "a hidden agenda" and I was speaking just generally at that time. I mentioned no specific names at all. But later on page 385, I said that Mr. Curley has a different agenda and a different objective from many Members in this House. So certainly if I had had the chance to look at the record, I would not have wanted to withdraw anything, Mr. Speaker. So I would ask you to consider that and see whether my remarks would stand as they were, please.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Curley's record is different.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. 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, March 22, 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
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Report of Standing Committee on Finance on Review of 1985-86 Main Estimates; Bills 7-85(1), 3-85(1), 9-85(1), 10-85(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 22nd.

---ADJOURNMENT

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