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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

The Hon. Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1877
Hay River, N.W.T., X0E 0R0
Office (403) 874-2324
Home (403) 874-6560
Office (403) 873-7629 (Yellowknife)
(Hay River)

Angottitauruq, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.
X0E 1J0
Phone (403) 360-7141 (Hamlet Office)
(Natilikmiot)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
X0A 0W0
Office (819) 266-8860
Home (819) 266-8931
(Hudson Bay)

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
X0A 0N0
Phone (819) 939-2363
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1091
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N8
Office (403) 873-8093
Home (403) 920-2963
(Yellowknife North)

Butters, The Hon. Thomas H., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 908
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N7
Office (403) 873-7128
Home (403) 920-4411 (Yellowknife)
(403) 979-2373 (Inuvik)
(Inuvik)
Minister of Finance and Government
Services

Cournoyea, The Hon. Nellie J., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 156
Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T.
X0E 1C0
Office (403) 873-7959
Home (403) 977-2405 (Tuktoyaktuk)
(403) 873-8580 (Yellowknife)
(Nunakput)
Minister of Renewable Resources and
Information

Curley, The Hon. Tagak E.C., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 36
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
X0C 0G0
Office (403) 873-7139
Home (819) 645-2951
(Aivilik)
Minister of Economic Development and
Tourism

Erkloo, Mr. Elijah, M.L.A.
Pond Inlet, N.W.T.
X0A 0S0
Phone (819) 899-8845
(Amittuq)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2131
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P6
Office (403) 873-7999
Home (403) 699-3171
(Deh Cho)

Lawrence, Mrs. Eliza, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2053
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 1W9
Office (403) 920-8052
Home (403) 873-2457
(Tu Nedhe)

MacQuarrie, Mr. Robert, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2895
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2R2
Office (403) 873-7918
Home (403) 873-8857
(Yellowknife Centre)

McCallum, Mr. Arnold, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 454
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
X0E 0P0
Phone (403) 872-2246
(Slave River)

McLaughlin, The Hon. Bruce, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2637
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P9
Office (403) 873-7113
Home (403) 873-6200 (Yellowknife)
(403) 393-2939 (Pine Point)
(Pine Point)
Minister of Health and Social Services

Nerysoo, The Hon. Richard W., M.L.A.
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.
X0E 0J0
Office (403) 873-7112
Home (403) 873-3182
(Mackenzie Delta)
Government Leader and Minister of Justice
and Public Services

Paniloo, Mr. Pauloosie, M.L.A.
Clyde River, N.W.T.
X0A 0E0
Phone (819) 924-6220 (Hamlet Office)
(Baffin Central)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 310
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.
X0A 0H0
Office (819) 979-5941
(403) 873-7123
Home (819) 979-6618
(Iqaluit)
Minister of Education

Pedersen, Mr. Red, M.L.A.
Coppermine, N.W.T.
X0E 0E0
Phone (403) 982-5221
(Kitikmeot West)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 240
Resolute, N.W.T.
X0A 0V0
Home (819) 252-3719
(High Arctic)

Richard, Mr. Ted, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
Office (403) 873-7920
Home (403) 873-3667
(Yellowknife South)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0E 0N0
Office (403) 873-7658
Home (403) 695-2565
(Nahendeh)
Minister of Local Government

T'Seleie, Mr. John, M.L.A.
Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
X0E 0H0
Phone (403) 598-2303
(Sahtu)

Wah-Shee, Mr. James, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 471
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N4
Office (403) 873-8099
Home (403) 873-8012
(Rae-Lac La Martre)
Deputy Speaker

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
X0C 0A0
Office (403) 873-7962
Home (819) 793-2700
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Public Works and Highways

Officers

Clerk
Mr. D.M. Hamilton
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant
Mr. Henry Zoe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk
Mr. Joel Fournier
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard
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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaq, 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. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Thursday, October 24th. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Paniloo.

ITEM 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Paniloo's Reply

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to answer and voice my concerns. When the House opened and the Commissioner gave his Address and he was talking about employment in the Northwest Territories, I was pleased with his comments. My concern is transportation in the Baffin Region. The funds that we have now are not sufficient for me to attend meetings of the different organizations. We are always asked to travel and we are always running out of funds, with the air fare prices today. In the spring when the military charter an aircraft it costs me over \$8000. I would like the transportation funds increased. I cannot go to some of the communities this winter. I would like Transport Canada approached on the air fares. We do not have any choice but to travel with Baffin Region's Bradley Air Services, and they are very expensive. This is my concern. Thank you, I was trying to make that short.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Mr. Angottitauruq's Reply

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will try to answer and I will try to make it short. I agreed with the Commissioner's Address and whenever he speaks it is always about something good. Regarding my constituency, I have three communities with the DEWline. I will try to make this short and try to make sense.

First of all, regarding hamlet mayors and their council. I have been a Member of the Legislative Assembly for two years and I am trying to keep up to date with the hamlet councils. Hamlets are usually my priority. The Commissioner approving the land claims -- it has to be understood that being an MLA is -- for the people that are more educated and more exposed to today's laws. I think if they know more about today's laws I think they could easily overpower the hamlet by-laws. Perhaps the hamlet mayor or the secretary should have consultation with a law clerk regarding how the by-laws operate and how the hamlet should follow their by-laws. This was my concern about the hamlet by-laws and hamlets in the communities. I do not think they are directed properly when they are making up their by-laws. I think they need someone to direct them. Otherwise I think a hamlet operates on their own pretty efficiently. The only problem is with their by-laws.

Education Concerns

I was given a letter here so I am just going to read it briefly and I will continue with my speech. I would like to move on to education. I think we realize that there is something wrong with education sometimes either for the parents or for the students. They have problems -- I really do not want to talk about this for a lengthy period. I think I understand what the problem is especially in my constituency. I have experienced this.

Education today, either traditional or southern style, I do not think operates very well. I will use myself as an example. When I first went to school I did not know a word in English because my parents were Inuit people and they only spoke in Inuktitut. Even though they were not that old they were always out in the outpost camps and they were not exposed to southern communities or southern style communities. The people that they communicated with only talked in Inuktitut, that was their only language. Today it is not like that any more. There are English speaking people and also Inuktitut speaking people. When I went to school for the first time I think it was very difficult for me. I realize that today's students have a hard time too just as I did at that time but I am so concerned about my constituency. Sometimes they are trying to be taught the traditional way of living and sometimes they are taught English subjects. I do not like the way the students in my constituency sometimes will mix their language. They will talk in English and they will add Inuktitut to their English. I could do that myself, too, but I could keep on with one language. If I speak in Inuktitut I could keep on with speaking Inuktitut. I do not have to add English.

I think this is how the students speak at home. I think they see English and Inuktitut as one language but, at the time when I was going to school, people my age when they went to school were taught one language. They were exposed to English only, not a mixture. I am talking about today's students who are exposed to both while they are in school. They are not taught properly, they have too much of both English and Inuktitut. Some of us parents, I think, will tend to speak to them in English too even though their grandparents will be speaking to them in Inuktitut. I think that is how they start mixing their language. That will be the end of my comment regarding education. I realize we have to do something to make it better and I would like people to concentrate on it and try and make it a better situation.

Housing Construction

I will be moving on now to housing. I do not have too many comments to make regarding housing. I mentioned this before in the earlier sessions. In my constituency, it seems like housing problems are getting a little bit better very slowly but, as I said, I do not want to talk about housing too much, even though my constituency, the communities, that I represent have housing problems. One of the major problems in one of my communities is that when the community receives construction material it will be early August. Then they will have to wait a year and the next year they will start building the house. This is a major problem in one of the communities. We are concerned about the people who are lacking houses. I understand that when they try to build these houses in the winter months the houses are not properly built. The wood is frozen and when it becomes warm it expands. The houses are not constructed properly. When they are finished they look very nice -- this is when they are built during the winter months, but in the summertime the plywood will be out of shape because of the warmer weather. We have tried to deal with this problem before with the earlier housing staff but they have not really looked into finding answers to this problem.

I have suggested to the housing association in this community that they approach the Housing Corporation Minister and talk about this problem. I have not talked to them about anything else. I was just talking to them to suggest they talk to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. Maybe they should talk to them themselves. Perhaps if we were to try building the houses not in August but in the summertime for once, we could see how that turns out, even if we do not do it next year or the five years after that. I understand my constituents will be making a request to get these building supplies earlier than August so that they can start their construction earlier in the summertime and not wait until the next year. When they receive these building supplies they do not have a warehouse to store them and sometimes kids get into the supplies. It would be better if they started building them anyway so that the kids will not get into the supplies and wreck them. That is my concern on housing.

Community Committees, Health And Social Services

I will be moving on to Health and Social Services. Again, in my community it is run differently. I know there are health committees in three of my communities and they have been operating for quite a while. I do not think the GNWT is too concerned about how they operate and I do not think Health and Social Services work very closely with them but I think they are a strong committee representing the community. I would like them to get more support from Health and Social Services and Government of the NWT.

The health committees in the communities receive assistance from the hamlet but sometimes they do not have any funding to carry out their responsibilities and sometimes they are short of secretaries. One of their concerns is that they would like to have secretaries from the communities. It does not work too well if you are a member of the health committee, if any of you try to be a secretary. If you are going to be a secretary I think it has to be outside of the committee, it does not have to be a member. One should just be a secretary, not a member and a secretary of the health committee. I would find that very hard to do myself -- to try and attend a meeting and be a secretary at the same time. To me I think it is better if the committees are eliminated because if they are not getting help from the Government of the NWT and the Department of Health and Social Services then they might as well not exist at all because they are not getting any encouragement from the Government of NWT or the Department of Health and Social Services.

I realize the Government of the NWT has a Health and Social Services committee, they have social assistance appeal committees in their communities. This is the committee I am talking about, social assistance appeal committee. They realize members who are given the responsibility should be carrying out their job. They would like to get more power to operate in the community because they would like to do a better job. Perhaps they are trying to be hired by the social workers. I do not agree with that but if the social workers were to work for the social assistance appeal committee then it would be appropriate. I think they operate not only as an appeal committee but they also, for example, if there is a child that is abused or not taken care of properly they have a big say in where the child is going to go. That is one of the things that they also do.

I will move on to recreation. I think recreation applies to all the communities in the NWT. In some of the smaller communities they have their own recreation groups. We realize that there is a youth forum that will be meeting with us in a couple of days or so. We have problems in our communities where the middle-aged people would like to be involved in recreation activities but they are not involved because the gym is set out for the younger people. Since I have been a Member I think they have talked about holding bingos but I think there should be more activities going on for middle-aged people recreationwise. I also know that if a person chooses to do a certain activity they can do this certain activity for themselves. What I am trying to say is that I think the middle-aged people should be more involved in recreational activities. The younger people in my constituency starting from age five to 19 are not involved in recreational activities that much. For this reason I am giving my replies in my own language to be understood regarding the younger people having recreation time in their community. I think I am finished with this item and even though there are a lot more problems in our community, this has been a problem with most communities in my constituency. I would like to see the older people and younger people have their own recreation times in the community. This should be recognized by people. It could be any community in the NWT for recreation is a big thing for all the communities.

Contamination By PCBs

I will move on to another subject. I am not concerned only about my constituency, except I will be talking mostly about them in this fall session. I just do not want anyone to ask why I did not mention anything about my constituency after this fall sitting. In the past summer I went to visit my constituency by boat. I was told about PCBs in the old DEWline, that they were very dangerous to the animals and the people. The federal government had written a report and I read it and I was really disagreeing with it. All those old DEWline sites and the animals or sea mammals have been contaminated by PCBs. The DEWline sites were the ones that caused this problem to arise. I agree with this but myself I sort of disagree with it. There are some rivers running up to the Mackenzie River, I do not really have any problems with this but I have a personal concern about the DEWline. About 50 per cent of this has been affected by the DEWline and also, just looking at this and these animals, I have a real concern about the fact that 50 per cent of this has affected our area. Those DEWline sites have been recognized by the people for a long time and I think they are very scared that they will be getting a lot of pressure from the Inuit people that they should start

giving out compensation to the communities that have been affected by this. Why has the problem of PCBs arisen? We have to be concerned about animals for those people who depend on them for a livelihood and this contamination should really be recognized as a very awful thing.

Talking about DEWline sites, I do not think they are really operating well or really aware of anything that is going on in the sites. I know that they burned their garbage and there are times they dump their garbage in the lake or close to the rivers and this should be told to the DEWline people.

Last summer, through the radio, we learned about the Polar Sea arctic voyage in our sea, and it went through the Northwest Passage. I do not think that American ship was really well liked by the people when it went past the northern sea. All the aboriginal people have to start exercising their own rights but we really have not got our rights yet. The Canadian government has been administering our rights. Even though we would like to run our national water, we have not been given any rights to operate it. I could say that the Canadian government is not running their own land. Even though aboriginal people have not been given any rights to run their country, if you were born in the NWT and you are using it as a land, when there are some ships operating in your area, it really affected you. Even if we start crying and begging them not to run in our waters, we do not have any rights but the federal government is the one who could be blamed.

I will go on to another subject, regarding Greenpeace. They have said that the Inuit who are making money selling sealskins have been affected by what they have said. We are all aware of this but I am concerned about it since it is getting harder and harder and it seems like it is too late to say that. Even though they are the ones who stopped the prices of sealskins, they are too late to start supporting the Inuit people, the people who were depending on seals. This is going to affect the Inuit for a long period of time and they should not be saying that. We feel sorry that they are not making that much money now with the sealskins. I am a living person, I just see that. I just understood that they were too late to apologize to the people who were depending on skins.

Help For Patients Travelling Outside Their Communities

In my last point I just wanted to mention what is happening with the patients in the NWT. This is my last item and also my time will be up. I have concerns about the patients either going down south or going to the hospital in the NWT. I think in some parts you could get some idea about my concern about the patients. The patients are lacking interpretation and also there are times that they do not even have interpreters. I think some people are aware of this. Some people can say that he is saying that because he is prejudiced against white people. I have learned how to speak English. When you go down south, when you are unhappy, when you are going to the hospital and when you have some problems with transportation, you get worse and you start getting worried. Some people could say that the government are running their operation very well and also they have nice employees who look after the patients such as picking them up from the airport, but there are times when bad weather occurs or maybe the airplane has mechanical problems and returns back to the community or lands somewhere else where it was not supposed to land. If you cannot speak English or Inuktitut -- it could be a person who cannot speak Inuktitut -- when problems like this occur you have all these things on your mind, like where am I going to go, who is going to help me, where am I going to stay? When all those questions arise, just by flashing your finger, it cannot get better. Because this a federal government operation and their employees are not the same, it would be nice if they could prepare a report saying, "If you cannot speak English, you can give this to this person" and just tell them this is the person to contact if you have trouble -- and you could give them a call for your services.

It would be really nice if Health and Welfare could provide some kind of papers that could say that; if they get lost or need help, they can phone this place. Yes, it would be very nice if the NWT government could give funding to prepare any kind of documents that could be given to the patients. It would be a great help. I do not think there should be problems preparing this kind of a short document to be given to patients. If they cannot speak English or dial the numbers, they could easily give that document to anybody and that person would help them to dial that number. I have heard this before that there are times that a lot of patients wait for a long time at the airport and they have even tried to communicate with their hands and they are not understood. There are times they just start crying. There are times when they do not receive help for a long time until someone notices they are crying and looking for their suitcases. It would be nice if we can provide them with a piece of paper just saying that this person is going to this

place and all that. It is mostly for the older people who cannot speak English. The younger people do not have that kind of a problem because they know how to read numbers. These are the concerns I wanted to mention in my reply. I do not have any further replies. Thank you very much.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Item 2, Members' replies.

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 64-85(3): New Elementary School For Frame Lake South

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has, in his capital plan, a provision for a new elementary school in Frame Lake South in Yellowknife, I believe a 10 classroom elementary school in the capital plan for 1988-89. The Minister very kindly last year provided funding for four portable classrooms on that future site because of the increase in the enrolment figures in Yellowknife Education District No. 1, last year and this year. I believe the Minister already has been requested by Yellowknife Education District No. 1 for one or two more portables which will be required in September of next year because of the ever increasing enrolment. In this connection, Mr. Speaker, it appears certain that the permanent facility is going to be required earlier than the 1988-89 fiscal year. Will the Minister, therefore, consider moving forward one year the capital plan for that school project? If the Minister would consider that, Mr. Speaker, can we expect to see a change in the capital plan when it would normally come before us at the winter session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 64-85(3): New Elementary School For Frame Lake South

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I undertook previously in this House to see if I could find a way of moving this project forward. I am impressed with the information we have about enrolments, that even with the classrooms that were erected this summer and the additions that did take place in various schools this summer in Yellowknife, there still is projected to be a space crisis, even in advance of the proposed construction date of 1988-89.

So I can assure the honourable Member that I do not need persuading that there is a problem and that the school should be moved ahead if possible. But I cannot provide any assurances at this date that I have found a way to do so. However, I will assure the honourable Member that I will continue to work with my colleagues to see if there can be a way found to move the construction date of this school forward. There are some possible ways in which this could occur, including an addition to our overall capital budget through the establishment of so-called "B level" projects. I have alerted my colleagues in the Executive Council to these problems and pressures and expect to address that issue before the budget is presented to this House at the next session, that is within the next few months. So I can assure the Member that I am well aware of the problem in Yellowknife and I will seek a solution. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair at this time would like to recognize the former MLA for the Sahtu area, Mr. Pete Fraser, in the gallery.

---Applause

Welcome to our friendly House. As well the Chair would like to recognize the grade six students from St. Patrick's Elementary School and their teacher Gerard Landry.

---Applause

Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 65-85(3): Funds For Employment Of Youth

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services is not here at the moment and I would like to ask him a question. I think he is responsible for the youth delegates. In 1985 in the summertime there were a lot of young people with employment. They did a very good job. I was wondering if you could provide more funding for the young people to get jobs in the communities.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 65-85(3): Funds For Employment Of Youth

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for getting me back in the House and I apologize to the Member. Regarding the matter the Member raises, my department itself does not have within its budget, funds for the employment of youth, but there are various federal programs, most of them coming through CEIC, which provide employment for youth during the summer. The federal Minister of Youth herself has an influence on the federal Minister responsible for Employment and Immigration and that is similar to the capacity that I have. Mr. Patterson, for example, has responsibility for the CEIC funds involving training and I believe some of those are specifically designed for youth and summer projects. I can assure the Member that in my capacity as Minister responsible for Youth, that I will be putting as much pressure as I can on both the federal Minister and the territorial Minister responsible, to make sure those programs remain in effect. Thank you.

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

Question 66-85(3): Development On Frobisher Bay Hillside

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if I should ask the question about the petition that Dennis Patterson brought up. It talks about the hillside in Frobisher Bay. I know this hillside is considered very important and they do not want any development in this area. I am going to ask the Minister of Local Government if he could put this as a priority and work on the petition that was given, or if the Executive could set this as a priority because I know there are buildings that are being built and when I went through Frobisher Bay they had put the base in, and I think this is an urgent matter. I would like to support the people in Frobisher Bay. I am originally from Frobisher Bay, so I would like this to be taken as an urgent matter to listen to what the people have asked.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 67-85(3): Sick Benefits For Self-Employed Persons

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. We know that if there is a person who is sick, the nurses hand out medical certificates to the patients whenever they think they are sick enough to not go to work. I wonder if Social Services has the same form for someone like a hunter or a carver. If he stopped carving for a while, I wonder if there is a form that should be filled out saying that he should be helped by Social Services. I would like to understand if there is a form and how it is done. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 67-85(3): Sick Benefits For Self-Employed Persons

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the person who is ill is unable to hunt or trap or unable to carve or do a craft or any other job which is a self-employed job, the same type of a letter from the nurse verifying that the person is sick and verifying the period of time the person was sick could be submitted to the social worker in the community and that could be used as justification for giving financial assistance or increased financial assistance to the person who is sick in order that he can provide money for his family. Basically, Mr. Speaker, the same form that the nurse would send to an employer could be used by the patient and given to the social worker as proof that he is unable to earn a living. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 68-85(3): Sale Of Walrus Igunaq

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I got a reply from the Minister a few days ago regarding the concern of people of Igloolik and Hall Beach about walrus igunaq, whether they can sell it or not. I think that the Minister is aware that when we had the meeting their concern was that a lot of Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay people and other communities, were all asking for meat and they always sent them away. Their concern was whether they can sell the meat to other communities or not. They also suggested that the Minister talk or write to National Health and Welfare of Canada. Her reply was that Health and Welfare Canada said you cannot sell it but you can give it away. We are back to square one. My question is, were they maybe the wrong people to ask? Perhaps her department can start asking a different department. I wonder if she is going to do more research and if it can be done? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 68-85(3): Sale Of Walrus Igunaq

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in regard to Mr. Erkloo's question, the Department of Renewable Resources is trying to find another way. There are inspections that are required for health purposes and I believe that in a lot of circumstances the federal health inspection people are very concerned that whatever is sold under their sanction would not be turned into another tuna fish affair. I believe that there is no objection to trading between communities but to sell in a commercial outlet is something that they are not sanctioning. However, I would like to assure Mr. Erkloo that I have asked the department to continue to research it to see if there is another process by inspections that we can carry out that will allow a proper health stamp to be put on that particular type of product that he would like to exchange.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Question 69-85(3): NCPC Power To Houses, Spence Bay

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is going to be directed to the Minister of Housing. I just received a call from the mayor of Spence Bay this morning and the people of Spence Bay are quite worried about what the NCPC person has said on local radio. He sent a message out stating that he is going to cut off the power of those buildings as soon as he receives the word from wherever that the power should be cut off. The people are quite worried about it because they were thinking of the time for the aircraft to come in and the time that their payments are going to be done with. I am asking him, is that true that NCPC has the right to cut off the power as soon as the word or the name is mentioned on that? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 69-85(3): NCPC Power To Houses, Spence Bay

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is provision for the cut off of power. However, the cutting off of power can only be authorized by the housing association in consultation with the Housing Corporation. We are not going to start to give NCPC the authority to cut off power to houses in the middle of winter for the sake of five or six dollars, but I will check into the comments made by the NCPC superintendent in Spence Bay. Perhaps he is confused as to his authority. However, no power will be cut off unless it is expressly authorized by the housing association and every effort will be made to resolve any problems before we would take any action to cut off the power. That is the last form of action that will be taken. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 70-85(3): Recreation Program Development Position, Yellowknife

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to ask of the Minister of Local Government in relation to a response that I received from the Minister of Education yesterday regarding the recreation program development position. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to me, what is the rationale for creating a position for this in Yellowknife if, indeed, the recreation leadership program is now in Smith and eventually, next year, it will go to Inuvik.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 70-85(3): Recreation Program Development Position, Yellowknife

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the rationale for having the person in recreation placed here in Yellowknife is that he will have all of the North to work in. His job will be primarily to work between the department and municipalities or communities that will be sponsoring recreation persons for the course. That is the rationale.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. McCallum.

Supplementary To Question 70-85(3): Recreation Program Development Position, Yellowknife

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have a supplementary. I take it that this position is a new one that is being developed. It is not deleting a position from the Fort Smith Region, is that correct, Mr. Minister?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Further Return To Question 70-85(3): Recreation Program Development Position, Yellowknife

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. I think there may be some misunderstanding about the position because this new position has been created in my department in the recreation division in Yellowknife and as it happened the recreation officer living in Fort Smith applied for the job and got it. So, there is an illusion that a person involved in recreation in the Smith Region is being transferred to Yellowknife, but this is not so. The position of regional recreation officer in Fort Smith is now open to competition and will be filled shortly. That will be stationed for ever and ever, I suppose, in Fort Smith.

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 71-85(3): Licence To Sell Tobacco

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to ask the Minister of Local Government -- in my constituency some of the private businesses get their licences from the hamlet offices. Some of the businesses are opening just to sell soft drinks. I do not know if it is your responsibility as to how a person would go about opening a business to sell cigarettes. I would like to find out where we can get a licence to sell tobacco or cigarettes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the question as notice and give an oral reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 72-85(3): Payment For Government Leader's Party

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Local Government. First of all I would like to ask -- he has invited me to a party. Are you paying for this? Are we not partying for the old Ministers? Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 72-85(3): Payment For Government Leader's Party

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have sent, as Leader Designate, a little invitation to the MLAs and a number of other people in Yellowknife with the idea of having a dance on Friday night. I guess I am relatively new in this position. I have to find out precisely where the money will be coming from for this.

---Laughter

But I am sure with the budget of over \$600 million our government can surely sponsor a small very modest evening for the Leader and as well the new Executive Members and also an opportunity to say farewell and cry on the shoulders of the Ministers who will be leaving us for a short time.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Who's crying?

---Laughter

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: You're right, Nick. You are going to have to cry on my shoulder.

MR. McCALLUM: Could we have a rebuttal now?

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Question 73-85(3): Economic Development Co-ordinator, Gjoa Haven

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister of Economic Development. Last year in my constituency they were requesting a fish cannery. This was in Gjoa Haven. They wanted a person that would co-ordinate this fish plant in Gjoa Haven. They also requested an economic development co-ordinator or planner. I would like to ask if we are going to be getting this economic development co-ordinator? If so, how soon will it be? This is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Regarding his question I will be looking into this and will reply to him tomorrow. I just want to look into it further and then I will reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mahsi cho. Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 74-85(3): Housing Problems, Pond Inlet

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for NWT Housing. First of all I would like to thank him for the new two-storey houses built in Pond Inlet. We have a couple of problems regarding these new duplexes. I have talked to the Housing Corporation in Frobisher Bay about this problem. I was informed that the administration of the Housing Corporation could solve this problem without my going to this House for help. However, I found out they did not have enough money there to deal with this.

Since our new Government Leader said that he had quite a lot of money on the side I want to know if he can make it available for us to deal with this problem. In the new buildings that I am talking about they have only two air vents in the living room. The living room is very cold in the wintertime. The foundation is not made properly so for instance if the washer is on you can feel the house shaking because it is not on a good foundation. If you want to find out more about this perhaps you can talk to me later on. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I assume the Minister will get together with the honourable Member. Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 74-85(3): Housing Problems, Pond Inlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will talk to the Member about the problems. However, the problems he described to me appear to be construction deficiencies and if that is the case then money is available to repair them. We have certain holdbacks on houses for construction deficiencies and I think these appear to be construction deficiencies so we will be able to do something about it. But I will talk to the Member afterward to get some more information from him. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 75-85(3): Transfer Of Forestry Responsibility

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources regarding Tabled Document 13-85(3) that she tabled yesterday, the Agreement in Principle for the Transfer of Forestry to the Government of the Northwest Territories and included with that were guiding principles for the transfer. My question is that since one of these principles, principle 10, that federal staff affected by transfer actions will be offered equivalent positions by the territorial government and both levels of government will work together to deal equitably with staff. When does she contemplate taking over and having the transfer of staff? When will that occur and when does she contemplate making offers to people who are now within the federal bureaucracy?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 75-85(3): Transfer Of Forestry Responsibility

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe, I will correct myself if I have not got the date, but I believe that the offer will be going at the end of December or 1st of January. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. McCallum, supplementary.

Question 76-85(3): Housing For Forestry Employees

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question dealing with this particular topic but I would want to address it to the Minister responsible for staff housing, if I may. I would just ask him if, in fact, contemplating this transfer of federal employees, he knows whether with the large number of employees who will be coming on stream within the territorial bureaucracy, he has had requests from the Department of Renewable Resources to provide more federal housing or how will these people be then housed? They will have to be moved out of federal housing. Is the federal housing being transferred at the same time or do you look for new units?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 76-85(3): Housing For Forestry Employees

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have provided, in consultation with the various Ministers involved in devolution and the Government Leader, a set of criteria to the office of devolution, which is attached to the criteria for transfer of authority. One of those criteria is a transfer of all related infrastructure including housing, PYs, communications, all of the moneys associated with the transfer. No transfer will take effect as far as I am concerned between this government and the federal government unless they are also willing to transfer that infrastructure because this government has been caught too many times in the past and no longer will it happen in the future. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair now would like to recognize the grade six class from J. H. Sissons School and Elizabeth Lorenz, their teacher.

---Applause

Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 77-85(3): Policy Re Housing Designs

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to ask Personnel, I believe the Leader of the Executive -- I got a phone call yesterday concerning -- when you are transferring your staff to the other settlement, when the person has a house do you have a policy that only you can buy it only if they design it like your staff house in the other settlements. Do you have a policy on that? If you do, how should it work because a lot of people have owned their house in the other settlement and designing how it is built is very difficult for them. I would like to know if it is the policy that it has to be designed like ordinary staff housing in the other settlements?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to indicate to the honourable Member that because of the detail necessary to inform the Member of the policy of government, I would like to take the question as notice and provide a detailed answer tomorrow so that you are aware of the details and the specifics of our housing policy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Chair would now like to recognize the chairman of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, Mr. Roger Gruben, in the gallery.

---Applause

Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Question 78-85(3): Gjoa Haven Student Attending Special School

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. From my home town there is one special student who is attending the Borealis School and I was informed recently that this student will now have to be going home in a very short time due to a lack of residence or boarding home. I take all the students as special students, any student, but if they are going to a special school I think they require the most, top priority, to attend that school within that season. I am asking him is he going to find a way to keep that student attending the school? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 78-85(3): Gjoa Haven Student Attending Special School

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, in light of that problem, which I am aware of, I have asked the Minister of Public Works to arrange as soon as possible for a house to be made available to the Department of Education in Yellowknife in order that we might hire group parents to live in the house and look after the student you are concerned about and others who are attending Borealis School from outside the community. So, I am pursuing a solution as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 79-85(3): New Home For Borealis School

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on the question that Mr. Angottitauruq just asked because it concerns my constituency, at the other end here where the Borealis School is located. I am pleased to see that the Minister is looking into the problem generally and attempting to resolve it by having a group home available. The Minister did not indicate when this is likely to be resolved. Is it something that the Minister hopes will be resolved within the next week or two or is it something that he is looking at in the long term?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 79-85(3): New Home For Borealis School

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are certainly trying to resolve this problem as soon as possible. If a surplus house is available then we would want to move within weeks. If it is not available then we will have to look at other solutions but I have begun inquiries to see if a house can be found on an urgent basis. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 4, oral questions.

Question 80-85(3): Audit On Housing Corporation

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I have been made aware that there have been complaints lodged by unsuccessful tenderers, southern firms, on contracts that have been awarded to northern firms. The unsuccessful contractors have lodged these complaints with their Member of Parliament. I have been made aware that in fact there has been an audit. The Auditor General has sent some people in to audit the Housing Corporation's practice of awarding contracts. Could I get an indication from the Minister,

is this against something that this government put in, that is, against the northern preference -- that a southern contractor does not like it? Or is it because of some kind of external pressure being put upon the Auditor General? The Minister will recall that we have talked about a comprehensive audit at the Housing Corporation. I wonder if the Minister could enlighten me how this came about?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 80-85(3): Audit On Housing Corporation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct. The Auditor General has conducted an investigation into the awarding of certain contracts by the Housing Corporation. This was brought about by a southern company who was not given a contract as a result of a decision of the Executive Council. As the Member knows I am not able to reveal as to why that decision was made by the Executive Council. However, a decision was made by the Executive Council to award the contract to a northern company as opposed to a southern company. This southern company apparently registered a complaint with their MP who brought pressure on the PMO office who brought pressure on the Auditor General to investigate us for doing things like this.

My understanding is that the PMO office called the Minister of Housing in Ottawa and asked him to conduct an investigation because a friend of theirs had not been awarded one of our contracts. I wrote to the Auditor General and expressed my concern that in fact this had been done. I in fact told the Auditor General that if they were going to make this a practice then I would hope they would extend the same courtesy to northern contractors who are unsuccessful in obtaining federal contracts.

I have received correspondence from the Auditor General which essentially says that he investigates complaints, being responsible for the NWT Government as well as the federal government. He wanted to check on what type of system we have in place in the North for awarding of contracts. I believe the investigation was carried out because of external pressure by southern contractors through the PMO office. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 80-85(3): Audit On Housing Corporation

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary then. Has this government, through its Leader or through you as a Minister, been in contact with the federal government -- not just with the Auditor General but with the Housing Minister -- have you contacted the federal Housing Minister? What is the government contemplating doing? If this is dealing with territorial programs, that is programs that this government set up, I think that the government obviously has a right to make those decisions on awarding contracts. I know that the Auditor General has the right to conduct an audit on terms. I mean we get that, he would report it on "any other matter" or a report. I had not heard of this being done before, otherwise we would have heard that the Housing Corporation would have gone through an audit. Do you contemplate any other action on this?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question 80-85(3): Audit On Housing Corporation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Calgary, at the last Ministers of Housing conference, I did raise this subject with the federal Minister of Housing because this was actually only one of several attempts by CMHC to dictate to this government the awarding of contracts. I told them that as far as I was concerned even though federal money was involved it was the prerogative of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories to award contracts under their jurisdiction and that in any case if we were to award a contract to other than the low bidder, the Executive Council had agreed that any extra money that it would have cost would have been provided by this government. So, that in fact the federal government would not have been asked to bear any financial burden as a result of a decision of ours to award to a northern contractor as opposed to a southern contractor.

The Minister of Housing told me that as far as he was concerned all he was interested in is seeing that the contract went to public tender. The awarding of contracts was, in fact, our jurisdiction. This, however, does not seem to have penetrated to CMHC officials or to the PMO

office. However, I am hopeful that there will be no attempt in the next contract season for any influence of that nature and if there is, then I intend to attempt to clarify it in writing for once and for all with the Minister of Housing. So far I have been unable to get him to commit it in writing but I have been given verbal assurances. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 81-85(3): Presentations Of Ministers To Alcohol And Drug Conference And Youth Forum

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure where my question should be directed. I am not sure if it is going to be a question. Perhaps it will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services because he was involved in organizing the Youth Forum and the alcohol and drug committees.

I was informed by one of the members who had a problem. Sometimes the Ministers are asked to make a presentation but I think they are involving the talk of division when they make a presentation. So, I think they are trying to say that the NWT should not be divided. That is what we are getting from the alcohol and drug committees and the Youth Council. That is what these two organizations are saying. That is their concern. (Translation ends) Apparently the Western Arctic Minister is implying or adding to the presentation why the NWT should not be divided into two. They feel that they did not come here for that, therefore they are not exactly happy about it. They have asked me to do something about it. I am asking Members from across the House that they should not talk about such things as division downstairs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 81-85(3): Presentations Of Ministers To Alcohol And Drug Conference And Youth Forum

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The drug and alcohol conference is being sponsored by my Department of Social Services. When the Youth Forum starts this weekend, that conference is also sponsored by the Department of Social Services. The youth delegates who wanted to, were allowed to come to the alcohol and drug conference in addition to coming to the Youth Forum. I believe there are two things going on at the same time. There are the formal presentations being made relevant to drugs and alcohol and healthy lifestyles during the alcohol and drug conference, but the youth themselves are having their own meetings in the evening relevant to what is going to come up this weekend, making plans for the weekend. So, I am not sure where the stories have come from. Some Ministers have been asked to appear at various parts of the alcohol and drug conference relevant to their own departments. I believe Mr. Patterson and Mr. Nerysoo have attended so far. I am not sure if other Ministers have. I was unable to attend Monday morning because we were voting on something that morning but I intend to attend later but I have no information myself concerning this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 82-85(3): Establishing NWT Police Force

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. As the Minister is aware, in the Northwest Territories we do have a five times higher crime rate than the national average. We also have on a national average, for every 2800 people, one policeman. The rate in the Northwest Territories is for every 200 people we have one policeman. On a national average we have 14 times higher policing up here than the rest of the country. I would like to ask the Minister whether he has considered or this government has considered whether there is an alternative type of police force, whether it is a municipal police force or territorial police force but has the government ever considered that?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 82-85(3): Establishing NWT Police Force

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to advise the honourable Member that this particular issue was researched approximately two years ago, upon my request. I must say that after a review of the possibility of a territorial constabulary, we found that the cost associated

to establishing our own police force in the Northwest Territories would be extremely high and that the best way at this particular time would be to work with the national police force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the federal government and jointly fund the services that are being provided, or would be provided the residents of the Northwest Territories. I must also say that there has been an increase in the number of by-law officers in the Northwest Territories in providing enforcement for community by-laws and that was a cost that was picked up by the hamlets through this government.

I also want to say that we have come to an agreement with the RCMP that we would concentrate on increasing the number of native people that would be working as special constables through the 3B program or the special constable program that is within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In fact, there is a submission that I will not personally approve but leave to the next Minister of Justice to deal with, but there is a request for an additional eight special constables for the Northwest Territories in addition to the request and approval that was given by the Members of the Legislature a year ago.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 4, oral questions. Item 5, written questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 83-85(3): Loader For Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Minister of Local Government. There are two separate things but I will be asking them together. The first question to the Minister of Local Government.

During Baffin Regional Council meeting in Pond Inlet, I brought up a concern regarding having only one loader in Sanikiluaq we are not able to keep up with the workload increasing in the community. Sometimes when the loader breaks down, the operation of the other vehicles also has to stop. The only time they can carry on with the workload again is when they receive a new part for the loader. For these reasons we have not been able to keep up with our workload.

And also, the community of Sanikiluaq is developing rapidly and I know there is no capital planning for Sanikiluaq until 1988-89 and those capital items will only be replacements for the old capital items we have. Since we only have this one loader to work with we feel that it will not last until the year of 1988-89. Therefore, I am asking the Minister of Local Government if he can provide us with two loaders in the near future, or even in the next fiscal year.

Question 84-85(3): Hamlet Office, Sanikiluaq

My question has to do with the hamlet office being crowded. The hamlet are taking over office spaces from others. It would be better if they were in one office building. The hamlet council have talked about the lack of office space. Could the Minister for Local Government make plans to get an office building in Sanikiluaq as soon as possible? We would like to get an office building big enough for all the people who need offices.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, written questions. Item 6, returns. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Further Return To Question 50-85(3): Public Housing Units For Yellowknife

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 50-85(3) asked by Mr. Richard. As mentioned in my correspondence to Mr. Richard last May, it is my intention to alleviate the housing situation in Yellowknife by addressing the need through the rent supplement program. This program allows us to lease units directly from the available market and lease them through the local housing authority on a rent-to-income basis. To date, we have confirmed our intention to negotiate leases for up to 34 additional units. This is subject to FMB approval of the additional O and M funding. If approved these units would be available sometime this spring.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns. Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 58-85(3): Increase In Resident Hunters' Caribou Quotas

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral Question 58-85(3) asked by Mr. McCallum regarding caribou quotas. The Department of Renewable Resources is currently reviewing the number of caribou available to resident hunters as part of a larger review of new demands for access to the Beverly herd. This review is being conducted jointly with the Beverly/Kaminuriak Management Board. The department is considering also the resident bag limits on the Bathurst herd as we have recently identified a substantial increase in that population. We shall, however, have to await the results of at least one more survey to be conducted during June 1986 before reaching a decision on the Bathurst bag limits. The Department of Renewable Resources will continue to ensure that reasonable allocations between users occur and that no group is restricted unnecessarily. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 6, returns.

Item 7, petitions.

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 14-85(3), Workers' Compensation Board Northwest Territories Eighth Annual Report, 1984. Thank you.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 15-85(3), a letter from the mayor of Gjoa Haven to me, asking for a new water lake in Gjoa Haven.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further tabling of documents? Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 9-85(3): Appointments To Standing Committee On Finance

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 28th I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that, in accordance with section 38(2) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, and notwithstanding Rule 86, the following Members be named to the standing committee on finance: Mr. Richard Nerysoo, Ms Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Sam Gargan, Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo, Mrs. Eliza Lawrence, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, Mr. John T'Seleie, Mr. James Wah-Shee, Mr. Ted Richard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further notices of motion? Mr. Pudluk.

Notice Of Motion 10-85(3): Appointment, Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 28th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Ms Nellie Cournoyea, honourable Member for Nunakput, be appointed to the standing committee on legislation. I will ask unanimous consent to move this motion today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Pedersen.

Notice Of Motion 11-85(3): Appointments To The Standing Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 28th, I will move the following motion: Whereas Motion 6-85(3) established a special committee on rules, procedures and privileges; and whereas it is desirable to name Members to this special committee; now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that Mr. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Elijah Erkloo, Mr. Ted Richard, Mr. Tom Butters and Mr. Michael Angottitauruq, be appointed to the special committee on rules, procedures and privileges. Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent at the appropriate time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notices of motion, Mr. Richard.

Notice Of Motion 12-85(3): Appointments To Standing Committee On Public Accounts

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 28th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that, in accordance with the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, and notwithstanding Rule 86, the following Members be named to the standing committee on public accounts: Mr. Elijah Erkloo, Ms Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Sam Gargan, Mrs. Eliza Lawrence, Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, Mr. John T'Seleie, Mr. James Wah-Shee, Mr. Ted Richard. Mr. Speaker, I will ask for unanimous consent to deal with this matter today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Pudluk.

Notice Of Motion 13-85(3): Appointment, Striking Committee

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 28th, I shall move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Mr. Sam Gargan, the honourable Member for Deh Cho, be appointed to the striking committee of this Assembly. I will ask unanimous consent to move this today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion 14-85(3): Appointment To Western Constitutional Forum

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 28th, I will move a motion to appoint a western Member to the Western Constitutional Forum.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 10, notices of motion.

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

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to deal with my two motions today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested. Are there any nays? None. Mr. Richard, proceed.

Motion 9-85(3): Appointments To Standing Committee On Finance, Carried

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act was enacted during the spring session in Rankin Inlet;

AND WHEREAS section 38(2) requires that there shall be a standing committee on finance;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to name Members to this committee;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that, in accordance with section 38(2) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, and notwithstanding Rule 86, the following Members be named to the standing committee on finance: Mr. Richard Nerysoo, Ms Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Sam Gargan, Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo, Mrs. Eliza Lawrence, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, Mr. John T'Seleie, Mr. James Wah-Shee, Mr. Ted Richard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to your motion, Mr. Richard?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 12, motions. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to proceed with the motion I introduced before.

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

Motion 11-85(3): Appointments To The Standing Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges,
Carried

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Motion 6-85(3) established a special committee on rules, procedures and privileges;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to name Members to this special committee;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic that Mr. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Elijah Erkloo, Mr. Ted Richard, Mr. Tom Butters, Mr. Michael Angottitauruq, be appointed to the special committee on rules, procedures and privileges.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 12, motions. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for unanimous consent to deal with my motion.

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

Motion 13-85(3): Appointment, Striking Committee, Carried

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS there is a vacancy on the striking committee due to the resignation of Mr. Red Pedersen;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill this vacancy;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Mr. Sam Gargan, the honourable Member for Deh Cho, be appointed to the striking committee of this Assembly.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 12, motions. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion on the standing committee on public accounts.

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

Motion 12-85(3): Appointments To Standing Committee On Public Accounts, Carried

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act was enacted during the spring session in Rankin Inlet;

AND WHEREAS section 38(2) requires that there shall be a standing committee on public accounts;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to name Members to this committee;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that, in accordance with the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and notwithstanding Rule 86, the following Members be named to the standing committee on public accounts: Mr. Elijah Erkloo, Ms Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Sam Gargan, Mrs. Eliza Lawrence, Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, Mr. John T'Seleie, Mr. James Wah-Shee, Mr. Ted Richard.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 12, motions. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am asking for unanimous consent to deal with my second motion.

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

Motion 10-85(3): Appointment, Standing Committee On Legislation, Carried

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS there is a vacancy on the standing committee on legislation due to the resignation of Mr. Red Pedersen;

AND WHEREAS the striking committee has met to fill this vacancy;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Ms Nellie Cournoyea, the honourable Member for Nunakput, be appointed to the standing committee on legislation.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion regarding the appointment to the Western Constitutional Forum. You can make it six for six with this one.

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

Motion 14-85(3): Appointment To Western Constitutional Forum, Carried

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AND WHEREAS the 10th Assembly appointed Mr. Nick Sibbeston and Mr. Bob MacQuarrie members of the Western Constitutional Forum;

AND WHEREAS a vacancy has arisen due to the resignation of Mr. Nick Sibbeston;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Mr. James Wah-Shee, the Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, be appointed to represent the interests of this Assembly on the Western Constitutional Forum.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 12, motions. Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 11-85(3): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1984-85

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 11-85(3), An Act Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1984-85 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 11-85(3) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 12-85(3): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1985-86

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 12-85(3), An Act Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1985-86 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 12-85(3) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 14, second reading of bills.

Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 3-85(3), Education Act; Bill 7-85(3), Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 1985; Motion 1-85(3), Establishment of Special Committee on Economic and Social Development, with Mr. Erkloo in the chair.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo, your point of order.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could we get unanimous consent for Members in this House to deal with the appropriation bills as a matter to be placed on the agenda?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The appropriations have had only first reading so they are not ready to go into the committee of the whole. We will now go into committee of the whole with Mr. Erkloo in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 3-85(3), EDUCATION ACT; BILL 7-85(3), MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1985; MOTION 1-85(3), ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Bill 3-85(3), Education Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The committee will now come to order. We are on Bill 3-85(3), Education Act. General comments. Does the committee feel that we should go clause by clause now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 1, "school counsellor". Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 4, definitions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 5, compulsory school attendance. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 8, duty of parent. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 9, offence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 11, school counsellor. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 12, information respecting absence. Agreed? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I would just like to note that in its review this was one area where a fair amount of concern was expressed by Members of the standing committee. Eventually the standing committee had recommended that subsection 98.5(2) be amended to indicate that the local education authority would first have to obtain the consent in writing of the Minister to institute proceedings for the prosecution of an offence. Before, the local education authority could request the school counsellor to institute proceedings. So, that was an additional safeguard. In other words, as the Minister indicated in his remarks, this bill allows for prosecutions but the Minister, and certainly the committee, were hopeful that it would never come to that. If this had to be done, the committee felt they would want to be sure that the move to prosecute had permission of the Minister. The government amended it and the bill that is before Members today reflects that. So, the committee certainly recommends it to this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 12. Agreed? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, on clause 12. "Section 98.2(1) Where a child is absent for a total of four days in any month..." I think these are not enough. Maybe it was more than four days. Is it possible to have it more than four days?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, as the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West pointed out yesterday, four days absence in a month represents about 80 per cent attendance. We feel, of course, that attendance should be closer to 95 per cent, that a child who is absent for more than

four days in a month without excuse is likely to be falling seriously behind in school, especially if you consider that the child might well be sick for one or two days a month on top of that, which would be excusable absences and would not count for the purpose of this bill but still would be time lost from school. So, I think if you consider that, especially in winter, a child might very well be absent two or three days a month because of sickness, really we are probably talking about a child who might have missed closer to six or eight days in a month which would be getting down to attendance in the 60 to 70 per cent range, which would cause that child serious learning problems. I would respectfully suggest that if you take that factor into account that this is a reasonable provision, a reasonable number of days. To answer the Member's question, of course it could be changed but after a lot of consideration we felt this was the best measure of when we should start being concerned. Thank you.

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

Situation When Parents Not Aware Of Student's Absence

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what Mr. Patterson said but I have another concern and I have seen it not just once. Sometimes I have seen students on their way to school but they have just changed their mind when they are on their way. Then the parents think that their child is in school. Would this be counted as the four days that they are missing, when the parents think that the child is in school?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If the child did not make it to school, of course, that would be counted as a day where there was no excuse or no justifiable absence. I have asked the people working on this legislation about that situation where a child might well be sent off to school with every good intention on the part of the parent but somewhere between home and school might not make it. In that situation, Mr. Chairman, it is obvious the parent has done everything that the parent could do. There is a possibility that if there was a school counsellor that that school counsellor could find the child and take the child to school and there are powers in this bill which would permit the school counsellor to do that but I would just suggest to the Member that if a child who has this habit is found to be missing more than four days of school a month and the matter is looked into, it would clearly not be the kind of situation where the local education authority could blame the parent or hold the parent accountable. I would certainly not see this kind of situation ever leading to prosecution. If the parent has done everything they can to get the child to school but the child has a mind of his or her own then this is not a situation where we would blame the parent. I hope that helps to answer the Member's question. Thank you.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that the parent should not be blamed. Maybe if the students do not make it to school and if they just start visiting their friends, I think I would suggest that the people that student is visiting could be blamed by the counsellor. For instance, if the counsellor goes to look for the student and finds the student at a friend's house maybe the family could be blamed that he is visiting. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Qujannamiik, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that situation is covered in section 98.7 and what it says is that another person would only be blamed if a child does not attend school if they have prevented that child from attending school. If the child visits a house and is kept there, even though the child wishes to go to school, then the person who does that might be guilty of an offence. Or if another person interferes with the school counsellor or refuses to reveal that a child is in their home or gives false information about that child then they could be in trouble. But if the child merely visits a family on their own then the household would not necessarily be blamed, nor would they be responsible under the law. It would take something more than simply allowing a child to visit. You would have to be doing something to keep that child out of school or doing something to interfere with efforts to get that child to school. Simply having a child visiting in your home, I believe, would not give rise to an offence. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a concern here and that is when the Minister went to Fort Providence he is aware that I am not living in a public housing unit. One of my older daughters is staying with her grandparents and I have some problems sometimes getting her to school. I have been trying with difficulty to see whether she might be able to go to the hostel at Fort Simpson. I realize the importance of education too, but this has been a difficult experience. I am just wondering, considering what Mr. Pudluk has said, that where the parents do make an effort of sending their kids to school, if they do run into these problems where these kids do not go to school but rather play hooky, it should be addressed. I am just wondering whether the Minister has other avenues that he would explore on that basis.

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

Counselling For Those Who Play Hooky

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really do not think there is very much that we can do if the child insists on playing hooky despite the best efforts of the parent. I really think that is a situation that can only be dealt with through counselling of the child. If that fails, if you have a child who is that stubborn or that independent I just do not think there is any real solution. Unless anybody can give me a better idea, I don't have a way around it. I recognize that the Member is suggesting that if certain children are that unmanageable that we should place them in hostels where they might have a better chance of making it to school. That always is an alternative which might be considered depending on the circumstances of a particular case. I really think that if a child is determined to avoid going to school there is not much that anybody can do. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has asked for suggestions. I am willing to give him some suggestions and that is I believe Mr. Pedersen used a can of beans as an example. Maybe trying to make the school more of an inviting place than it is now.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that suggestion. I think that is what my job as Minister of Education is, every day, to make the schools better, more appealing, and believe me I totally agree with that suggestion. I have had the problem with my own children some days. They decide to take it into their little minds that they do not want to go to school. It is not easy and this is why I feel a trained school counsellor might make a lot of difference and might perhaps help parents to deal with these particular kinds of problems, using counselling skills. I do not have any easy solutions. I would suggest though, Mr. Chairman, that these situations would be the exception, that usually if children are not going to school there are reasons other than the child's own preferences. Reasons such as poor nutrition, family domestic problems, parents who may ask them to baby-sit or perform other duties at home. Those are the main kinds of situations that we would hope to deal with with this school counselling regime. I do admit that it is not easy and it is not going to work in every case. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering if they have curfews now in the Education Act or regulations? Is there anything that deals with curfews by this government, like a 10:00 o'clock curfew or whatever the time may be?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Local Government might know better than I, but I am quite certain that the Municipal Act allows local governments, municipalities to enact curfew by-laws. They have the power to set curfews and enforce curfews within their by-law making powers. It is not a provision contained in the Education Act. Thank you.

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

Authority To Have Child Excused From School

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question of the Minister for some clarification. Could he indicate to me how a parent goes about having his child excused from attending school? I know that they have to.

MR. RICHARD: No, they don't.

MR. McCALLUM: In section 98.1(1), that is to take schooling under some other way, that is either at home or not, is it the principal's responsibility to give that, or does that come from the superintendent or directly from the Minister that the parents could keep the child at home and teach the child at home? I just want to know under whose authority that is given. I should know, but I don't.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Under the present section 96 of the Education Act, a principal may excuse a child from attending school if the child is on the land or a similar experience away from the community. The superintendent's approval is required if the child seeks to attend school because they are attending another school -- another form of instruction elsewhere. Similarly -- pardon me. There is a third category of excuse if the child is attending a private school approved by the Executive Member. I will try to say that again.

The superintendent can approve absence if he believes the child is receiving adequate instruction elsewhere. That could be the situation for example where a child is at home with a parent who is a teacher. Then the Executive Member, the Minister, can approve a child attending a private school, an approved private school. Then for on-the-land activities it simply needs approval of the principal. I hope that answers the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Clause 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 13, suspension of student or recommendation of expulsion. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On clause 13, I wanted, Mr. Chairman, to ask the Minister about section 99(5) where there is provision for a student who has been expelled to take a further appeal beyond the local education authority to the Minister's office. I take it, under subsection (5), that the unhappy student, who has already had a decision from the superintendent and from the local education authority, is still unhappy about the decision so this subsection allows the Minister to overrule, in effect, the local education authority. At first glance that concerns me that that would happen and I am wondering if the Minister can explain why it is necessary to put that override or final appeal in there? Thank you.

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

Minister Has Ultimate Responsibility In School District

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that in reviewing these sections having to do with attendance and suspension powers which formerly could have included suspension for persistent absenteeism, our feeling was that these decisions about expulsion and suspension do substantially affect the child's right to education, which right we are trying to protect and enhance through these provisions respecting compulsory attendance. It was the feeling that given that such a right is vital and critical of course to the student's entire future that there could not be too many safeguards in place. That it could possibly be that a principal and a local education authority and even a regional superintendent might for some reason be acting arbitrarily or capriciously and that there simply should be one further recourse for an objective assessment of the situation.

I agree that this might look like a challenge to the views of the local education authority and perhaps a challenge to the principle of local control but I would respectfully remind the honourable Member that even the school board itself can be dissolved at the discretion of the Minister, so we entrust powers to local education authorities which in most events will be respected but none the less the Minister of Education is ultimately responsible for the actions of his employees and even the local education authorities, including school boards. I would suggest that this simply reflects the Minister's ultimate responsibility for everything that goes on in a school district. The buck has to finally stop and I think it is in keeping with a ministerial government that the appeal should finally rest with the Minister. I would imagine that it would be a very rare event where the Minister would intervene after three levels of considering a matter but I guess we feel it is such a vital decision that one extra safeguard is in the public interest in the rare event of an unfair decision. I hope that explanation assists the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Clause 13: Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 16. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 17. Agreed? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding clause 18, can the Minister briefly explain to us when the Commissioner might make it come into force?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I am sorry, Mr. Pudluk, we are still on clause 17. Clause 17. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 18. Agreed? Mr. Minister.

Work To Be Done Before Proclamation

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answer to Mr. Pudluk's question, I think it is extremely important, before this act is proclaimed, that my department do two things. First of all, I think we should prepare an information package to local education authorities which would hopefully clearly explain the new legislation and how it might be applied in their community. Secondly, I am already working on a training plan for school counsellors so that we could, once school counsellors are hired, ensure that they are given the proper training in the skills that are going to be required to do this difficult job. If the Legislature approves this act I would complete those two tasks before actually proclaiming the act.

I think that what I would propose to do, Mr. Chairman, is have that work done over the next couple of months with a view to allowing certain local education authorities to implement the scheme before the end of this school year. For financial considerations and also because there is some

hesitation about this regime in some parts of the Territories, I would see it being implemented initially in three or four communities that have been asking for it for some time. Then once we have done so in a few communities and have hopefully demonstrated that it can work, we can be prepared to expand it. But I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that because we have to do this work that I would not recommend the bill be proclaimed until the new year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Clause 18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that Bill 3-85(3) is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 7-85(3): Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 1985

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Next is Bill 7-85(3), Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 1985. Mr. Nerysoo, do you want to make a statement?

Opening Remarks By Minister

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, every year we introduce legislation to correct technical errors or deal with matters that are to improve the technical situation of our acts. There are punctuation marks, marginal errors, questions of a typographical nature that have occurred during, either the printing or the typing of our legislation. As such, we introduce legislation almost every session to correct these particular anomalies in legislation. It is also to improve the margins, the definitions of words, as well as to renumber some of the sections of pieces of legislation that we have in place at the moment. The idea of the amendment is not to amend legislation, but as I indicated, to deal with those particular technical errors that were made by human error. So if we could proceed. Unless, of course, there is general discussion from Members, we can proceed clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can report to this committee that the standing committee on legislation reviewed Bill 7-85(3) and in fact there are no matters of substance that Members need to be concerned about. As the honourable Minister said, they are entirely matters of technical detail, punctuation and that sort of thing. So the committee recommended this bill to the committee of the whole.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. General comments. Does the committee feel that we should go clause by clause? Business Licence Act. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Contributory Negligence Act. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Credit Union Act. Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Education Act. Clause 11. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 13. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Evidence Act. Clause 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 16. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Explosives Use Act. Clause 17. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Human Tissue Act. Clause 18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Income Tax Act. Clause 19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 20. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Landlord and Tenant Act. Clause 21. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 22. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Clause 23. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 24. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 25. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Motion Pictures Act. Clause 26. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Municipal Act. Clause 27. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act. Clause 28. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 29. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 30. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 31. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 32. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Partnership Act. Clause 33. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act. Clause 34. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Trustee Act. Clause 35. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Vehicles Act. Clause 36. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 1. Short title. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that Bill 7-85(3) is ready for third reading?
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We will have a 25 minute coffee break and there is a finance committee meeting in the caucus room right away.

---SHORT RECESS

Motion 1-85(3), Establishment Of Special Committee On Economic And Social Development

Motion 1-85(3), a motion by Mr. Gargan and seconded by Mr. Pudluk. Does anyone want to speak to this motion? Mr. Gargan, do you want to speak to your motion?

MR. GARGAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Do I need to read the motion again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan, for the record I think you should read your motion unless you want to make another motion. Go ahead.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I will read the motion again for the record. Motion 1-85(3), the establishment of a special committee on economic and social development.

Whereas the NWT residents have not had the opportunity to adequately express their views on economic and social development in the NWT since the Berger Inquiry; and whereas this government has committed itself to providing full participation to northern residents in the planning and development of northern economy; and whereas social and environmental impacts are inevitably linked to all facets of northern economic development; and whereas it appears that NWT residents have not received appropriate benefits from past development projects and that they have not been given a proper choice of futures; and whereas it also appears that residents of the NWT have not received adequate revenues from past economic development projects; and whereas northern economic development and its implications for northern society is the most pressing concern of community leaders throughout the NWT; now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that, in accordance with Rule 87(1), a special committee of this Assembly be established to be named the special committee on economic and social development; and further, that the terms of reference of the committee be established by this House with a view to providing the committee with a clear mandate to review all aspects of economic development in the NWT in relation to the needs and wishes of NWT communities; and further, that the committee report to this House with recommendations for future economic and social development in the NWT.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I wonder if the mover of the motion might speak to it at this time. He did not have an opportunity in formal session. It was moved into committee. I think it would be proper that he introduce it at this time. I would like to hear more from him on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to refer to the Canada Oil and Gas Act. In section 10 of the act, there is a clause that refers to equity participation by the government and Canadians, including any aboriginal peoples of Canada who may be affected by the exploration agreement. Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Norman Wells experience is that a lot of people were right when they said that there was not that much participation from northerners including native people. The only benefits that they actually got from this whole project are mostly with regard to wages on the pipeline. It is a short-term project with no long-term benefits to the northern people. I also believe that for future projects -- there is I believe next year or the following year, a possibility that there is going to be a Mackenzie Valley pipeline going through the Western Arctic.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Laughter

Preparation For Development

MR. GARGAN: We have to prepare for this development as to whether there is going to be any revenue sharing in this development, whether there are going to be any long-term benefits to northern people. I also believe too, and I can only go by experience, that there are a lot of instances given attention by the media but it dies off right after that. An example is in the Yukon where an oil rig exploded and a person died because of that incident. I know the media mentioned that but there was no mention of it after that. Just this fall the oil rig on the Beaufort was washed away by waves. I do not know what the results of that whole incident are.

I could refer to a letter that was written by David Crombie to the president of the Dene Nation in which he mentions the economic development impacts including the training and employment that was provided, its positive and negative effects upon the communities and the management of the environmental impact of the project. Recommendations for the managers of future megaprojects will also have to be developed. So, I guess the Minister is giving some kind of a directive for future projects and the kind of recommendation that he possibly could get from this Assembly, from native organizations. Whether there is a possibility of revenue sharing, and who gets the revenue -- these have never been properly addressed. Also as far as the monitoring goes, the territorial government did some monitoring on the project. The Dene Nation did monitoring on the project. The federal government did monitoring on the project. What are the results of the monitoring that did occur? I have not got it clear what the results of it are.

The other thing, with regard to the Globe and Mail, is that in one case I believe it is in New Brunswick somewhere, there was an oil rig, the Ocean Ranger that tipped over and caused quite a lot of deaths. The families of these individuals are now organizing to have what they call an offshore safety monitoring agency. So, there are avenues there that probably could be explored for future developments.

The first development was the Norman Wells pipeline and this has given us some experience in what the deficiencies are and what is to be gained by the government, native people and by northerners. The other side of it too is that maybe you do have unions that negotiate for wages and that. We also have the Public Service Alliance. We have the NWT Teachers Association. I believe we should even go further and say that the native people too have collective bargaining rights to bargain on behalf of the aboriginal people in the North. I would say that we did have an inquiry 10 years ago but at that time we did say, "No development". I believe that whole concept has changed. Development is here to stay. How can we best take advantage of the situation that is here now? It has never been properly addressed.

The other thing is under the Public Inquiries Act. I was looking at an inquiry but I believe that, as with the special committee on education, special committee on housing, you have a lot more political clout if you set up a committee comprised of Members of this Legislature. For this reason I would hope that the Members would support my motion as it is but I would really like to find out what the other Members feel in order to support this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Would you like to make a comment, Mr. Pudluk? You were the seconder.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) I have no comments at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Member could provide me, at least, with some idea how he would see such a committee functioning. Is it proposed that it would hold hearings throughout the NWT and have meetings along the lines of the special committee on education? How does he see this committee operating? Would it be a special committee of this House which would just meet within the confines of the legislative building. What is the scope of the committee in terms of its life and also what he would expect it might do?

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

Role Of Proposed Committee

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman. I only could refer to the Fort Good Hope experience where they have gone into some kind of a partnership with the oil companies. I believe too that the oil companies are in favour of such a move. I cannot answer that. But we have to be able as a government or as a special committee to approach these people too and tell them what their position is too. They are coming up here and disrupting the social life of the people up here. They are getting all the profits that have been exploited up here. Now what their position is on that, I do not know. We have to be able to address that situation, the government's position with regard to land claims and with regard to revenue sharing. What is the government's position? What is the native organization's position? We do not know.

As far as the structure of this special committee is concerned, I can only say that my experience with a special committee has been very difficult. I found it quite hard on myself and I am sure a lot of the other Members feel the same way. I cannot think of any better structure than a structure of this Assembly, then the accountability is to your constituency as well as accountability by the government.

Also I would like to know what the feelings are now since the Berger Inquiry. We do have regional councils. What are the regional positions? What are the community positions? I do not know. At the time the Berger Inquiry occurred, people were opposed to a pipeline and they were not willing to discuss the advantages there could be if such a development occurred. But now I guess there is the realization that development is here to stay. But we really do not have a clear picture of what the communities' positions are. I am sure they realize that they cannot oppose, but rather I think they have to take a stand and say that development is here to stay and we would like to benefit from it. What kind of benefits can they get out of development? That is the question that has to be answered.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Essentially I was interested in trying to get a broader understanding as to how this special committee would carry out its mandate if the motion were to be adopted by the House. My thinking is that I am not too sure whether the public or the communities out there really want to hear from the politicians. I know the mandate would likely be to inquire and try and hear from the communities affected. But I think there have been quite a lot of inquiries and as well political and other major forums have been set up. There have been studies and reviews taken with respect to development in the North. I think one good example is the work that has been just concluded -- and we have not made public the recommendation -- that our government took part in, along with the native organizations and the federal government on the Norman Wells review of the pipeline project.

I saw some reports the other day through the paper. We do have our government report but I know it is not an answer to this exercise. But it did make some significant ideas that I know my Executive colleagues would like to dispatch once they have been considered by the Executive Council. I do have a copy of the report of the Norman Wells review but since the Executive Council has not given it approval, we are not able to release it at the moment. But I would think that at the next session that by then I hope that we would have had time to consider the implications involved in terms of finance, that we would be able to provide that document.

Not only that, I can understand the Member's frustration. I think we, the government, partly are responsible for not creating enough opportunities for ordinary MLAs to be involved in the shaping of the government policies, the major policies that have been formulated by both federal and territorial governments. I can give one example where some good ideas were shaping up. One was the review board, the review that had just been completed on Norman Wells.

The other exercise that the government is carrying out, and I would very much like to seek comment from Members in the winter session on the proposal to establish legislation with respect to resource development in the NWT, really to enable the government to have more control of northern benefits and socio-economic benefits that rightly belong to the people of the North. So that work is being carried out.

Conference Involving Public

I know what I would like to see rather than travelling, is that MLAs see whether or not there is an alternative way of getting the public involved out there. Should we not be looking at having a major conference or something of that nature to deal with some of the experiences of the most colorful individuals we do have throughout the North, to hear from them? I think it is important to hear from ordinary citizens and the businessmen and the local community representatives. I think it would likely be less costly and that the recommendation could likely be formulated to whatever forum or what both governments had jurisdiction on, whether it be economic development, whether it be social, so on. I am not really too sure what the best way is to have a special committee. I am not at all trying to suggest that we omit the role of the MLAs. I do not think for the moment from our side, sitting here, that we release enough information on what is happening with the major development proposals that have been discussed between the two governments.

I know there are some darn good ideas coming up and I would like to be able to commit myself that during the next session we put forward maybe a discussion paper touching on the major policy recommendations and seek advice as to how ordinary Members feel about the direction we are facing. That would be my proposition -- to include the resource revenue sharing principles and possible framework that the both governments are likely to be coming into agreement on. I can assure you today, too, that with our resource revenue sharing discussion with the Energy, Mines and Resources in Ottawa and Indian Affairs, we do have seven major principles that would be incorporated into what we call, "the northern accord". We would like to be able to call it that, but at the same time we have the responsibility to the native organizations that we not move so far ahead of them that we would exclude them. Therefore, the seven principles that I talk about include provisions to protect the aboriginal rights interests. I know this is not maybe a consolation to the Member but I can see his sense of frustration, sitting on the other side, because I think it is because we just have not been able to provide a fair debate to ordinary MLAs on these major resource development activities because we have been forced to react to them rather than the initiatives emanating from this institution.

I have a bit of difficulty with the motion because I do not see terms of reference, what they would be, what they are going to be doing and how long the committee would be involved in trying to collect all the facts that they would be attempting to gather out there. What I would like to propose is that he at least respond to the kind of idea that I am putting forward, maybe first of all a commitment that we should sponsor a series of meetings in the North, even maybe the Assembly put forward a conference to hear directly from the public, as we need more ideas. I do not think the government, we as the Ministers, should be the only forum but I would like some reaction from the Member before proposing another possibility. Thank you.

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

Employment Of Natives

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short comment. This motion is very understandable and we are all aware of the problems that have been arising even when we tried to come to the conclusion but we always have a hard time. Maybe I will tell a short story. It seems as if the non-aboriginal people in the North have been using natives when anybody thought they would start a business. For example, when Nanisivik was trying to start up they told the people they were going to hire 60 per cent native in Nanisivik. At the time when they first started the operation in Nanisivik they had that amount, 60 per cent employment of native people. When they started having full operation that 60 per cent really dropped and it went to six per cent. Also Panarctic have native people working for them. This past summer they have told us, since the first time they transported the oil down to Montreal, that there are only a few native people who are qualified. For these reasons, I think it seems like they are just using native people in order to start a business in the North and this is really bad to hear. When they start a business in the North and also when they can get only a few native people for employment. Let us look into this better in order to come into a better agreement and also set up a report about this. Maybe the federal government could realize and also the NWT government could realize what they could do better. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Qujannamiik, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The frustration that Sam Gargan has spoken about and I know many MLAs feel, is the result to date of major developments in the North. Results have not been as positive as they could have been. I think what Sam is saying is that we have to do something to ensure that in the future if there is to be major development that people in the North including native people will maximize potential jobs and business opportunities from that development. I am not saying that the committee is a bad idea but I just want to put forward a couple of ideas following along some of the things that Tagak Curley said. I think that one of the problems if we did set up a committee of the House, is that we do not have enough information right now and what would happen is that we would raise expectations in the communities. They would be asking Members of the committee many questions and right now all that information has not been brought together.

A Co-ordinated Approach

What I have said for two years in the House is that it is really important that this government has a co-ordinated approach toward major resource development. I think that is what Mr. Curley is saying. Now, because of the impetus created by Mr. Gargan's motion, we should try to get all that information together so we really understand the problem. Once we have the information together, maybe there could be discussions with regional and tribal councils with the government providing the information and expertise. After those discussions have taken place maybe have a central conference that Mr. Curley talked about where the Dene Nation, the ITC, Metis would all be represented and all the MLAs would be represented and also invite representatives of the federal government and of the major resource developers and have a face-to-face dialogue between all the interest groups because this is so complicated. I think maybe that might be a way to achieve Mr. Gargan's end. I am putting it forward. But maybe that is a way, that first of all we have the information, we would realize the problem, we could have regional discussions because each region has different problems, they could come together with some resolutions and then bring everyone together at a central location for a conference, discuss the whole problem and try to come out with some long-term solution. This is just an idea that might be a way of achieving the same thing and maybe more effective. I do not know. Maybe a special committee is a good way of doing it but maybe this way is another way of doing it that maybe Mr. Gargan would consider or Mr. Curley would consider.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure what we should be doing, having been involved with a couple of the special committees. Obviously, we are basically moving into a new group, a new government, and there is going to be a shuffle of portfolios I would expect. I do not mean to confuse that with other shuffles including Tuccaro's or any soft shoe shuffles, but you can draw comparisons maybe. There quite possibly could be new positions put forward by the new Ministers or Minister, whoever has Economic Development, if there is a change, or Finance, or whatever. They may put forth new particular positions as a government as to what they see as being priorities. As Mr. Ballantyne has indicated, there must be a wealth of material. Certainly, we, as an Assembly, are having some concern with the so-called northern development conference that is going to occur at the end of the month. Perhaps it is maybe time that such a conference, drawing together the so-called expertise that will be there at that one, maybe it is time to have that kind of a set-up occur here in the Territories rather than outside.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Statement Should Be Made In Home Territory

MR. McCALLUM: I agree that we have to impress upon people who are coming in here to develop the North, for whatever reasons, to pay greater attention to what people in the North have been saying. They have to understand that. They are simply coming in here and trying to develop the resources that are in the North, without paying proper attention to the concerns that run the gamut from A to Z, social, economic, etc., of people who live in the North. It is something that has to be put forward and I think that you can make the statement more meaningful if it is done in your home territory rather than going some place else and putting forth those concerns.

The government must have by now a wealth of material, either in positions, in trying to make arrangements with developers or even with the federal government. The federal government still controls the Northland but as trustees supposedly for the good of northerners. I think it is time

that, if there is to be further development as undoubtedly there will be, that any kind of development has to have at its heart not just the revenue for the country or for the world but there must be something in terms of good coming to people in the North. I think that it would be more apropos, in my opinion, that we impress upon the government now the requirement to do something but perhaps it would be best if we wait until the new government gets its feet wet and gets started and to come forward.

I am not suggesting that there will be anything different that would occur than has occurred in the past because I think the past government has indicated its position on development and has established through development policies exactly what must occur for the benefit of northerners, but it would seem to me that by drawing attention to the concerns again, we are putting the government on notice that something has to be done and be done quickly within the life of this particular Assembly, if we are going to attempt to ensure that people of the Territories benefit from the developments, regardless of what development there will be. I think that we could simply at this particular time indicate to the government that we want something back to us with an idea of where they see the Territories moving regarding development and where they believe we, as MLAs, and people of the Territories can have the greatest input. The government would have to come back to us with some kind of a proposal as to how we can get this across to people who come into the Territories, or organizations or businesses that come into the Territories to try to develop those resources.

The attempts and the positions taken by the previous government -- and I mean just the one of these past two years -- for example, there has been a great amount of work done in attempting to get better relations with business as well as with the federal government. I think it is something that will have to continue along in that line, that the new Executive Council will have to come forward with something to us that we would be able to look at and indicate to them that they have a realistic approach to what we should be doing. I, for one, would much prefer a northern development conference, either along the lines that Mr. Ballantyne has indicated, or a large one where there is input given and we talk with people from the North, not just by taking a few people from the North and going out into another community to talk about development of the North. True, the pending northern development conference is not just concerned with the development of the Northwest Territories. What we have to be concerned about is with the development of the Northwest Territories. If we are going to try to resolve that for the betterment of residents of the Territories, and I mean all residents, then that is more appropriately done in our backyard not in somebody else's. It would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that putting this particular topic forward at this time would serve notice to the incoming Executive Council to look at the concerns, pay attention to what is being said and to come forward with something so that we can try to resolve the issue to alleviate the concern and everything else that Mr. Gargan and Mr. Pudluk have put forward in this particular motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. To the motion. Mr. Richard.

Method Of Reviewing

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I, too, have some concern about the lack of more specific indication of the terms of reference of the special committee being proposed or the method of reviewing. The motion calls for a review of all aspects of economic development. For the method of that review, if it is just broadly to be a special committee travelling to the communities, I have some difficulty with that because special committees have grown to be very expensive propositions. At the national level, very recently the McDonald Commission had a very broad mandate as well and after a few years and \$20 or \$25 million of taxpayers' money, there were some 80 or 90 volumes of a report filed and in fact one of those volumes deals solely with the North. I have difficulty with a special committee of this Assembly taking on a broad task without a little more indication of how the review is to be conducted and a more narrow scope of the review.

I guess I would have to ask Mr. Gargan then what specifically would be the aim of the review. There is one I can see in the preamble; for instance there is an indication here that the northern residents have not received appropriate benefits from past development projects. Well, if the aim or one of the aims then is to get more benefits for northerners from these development projects then let us have government draft better conditions to attach to the approvals of the projects. The preamble also indicates that northern residents do not receive adequate revenues from past development projects. Well, again, if that is a specific aim then let us hone in on formulas. I am sure the Minister of Economic Development has already worked in this area. Let us take that specific task on and aim at getting more revenues as these projects are negotiated.

Report On Norman Wells Project Should Be Reviewed

Also, I suppose if one of the aims of this special committee that is being proposed is to learn from the Norman Wells project specifically, I for one would firstly want to see this report that the Government Leader promised earlier this year in the Assembly to Mr. T'Seleie, I recall, and Mr. Curley is saying that it has been prepared. It is being looked at. I for one, Mr. Chairman, would want to see that report, would want to hear the comments on the report from people like the native organizations and then see what the differences of opinion are on the report. Then we could look at whether this Assembly should strike a committee to go on from there or call a major conference as Mr. Curley is suggesting. For myself, I would like to see the report. I recall, I think in the month of May when the taps were turned on the pipeline, there being a tremendous divergence of opinion. Mr. Crombie thought it was a tremendous day. Some of the native organizations felt just the opposite, that the conditions that were attached to that project were not fulfilled for northerners.

I see these two different viewpoints being expressed and I would like to see the government deliver the report to the Dene Nation, for instance, and say "All right, comment on that. Where are the inaccuracies there?" Then give this Assembly an opportunity to review that report and proceed from there. Because we are at this particular stage, Mr. Chairman, in reviewing that major project and its impacts on northerners -- I think and I am hoping that is only a few months away that we can have access to that report -- I would be in favour of delaying the striking of any special committee with a broad mandate at least until we see that report. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Richard. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

Expense Of Conferences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had the opportunity to serve as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources previously to Mr. Curley. I think there is a suggestion that conferences are the only way in which we can deal with the question of economic development in the Territories. I think as much as the suggestion could be made that a special committee might be expensive, I would suggest to make note at this time that regional conferences leading to a larger territorial conference could be as expensive.

I think it is most important to also recognize, and the motion itself does not really deal with this, that one of the problems in the NWT is the manner in which the government itself participates in dealing with developments. It is responding to projects that have already been decided upon. One of the faults which I think is very clear, is that there is a need for the people of the NWT to take more initiative in determining the economic growth of the NWT and to become more progressive, more supportive of the idea of the development of the resources of the North, recognizing, of course, the interests of the aboriginal people and recognizing also that there is a need to deal with the socio-economic questions. Having read the motion I think the mandate as it is laid out is much, much too broad. To suggest reviewing all aspects of economic development, the mandate itself would be too broad. You would be looking at everything and anything. The reality is that government itself has a certain responsibility to do those things. In the case of educational training, I think there is a certain responsibility that is placed in the hands of the Minister of Education that he has been dealing with. There is a certain responsibility also in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism dealing with the question of socio-economic issues, as with the Secretariat of Energy, Mines and Resources. I just say to you, while I could suggest there is a need for a committee, I am not quite sure if this is the time.

There are other questions I have because you really cannot judge from past developments, particularly when you look at the questions or the issues and commitments that were made on the Norman Wells pipeline. For instance, there was a certain commitment to the people of the NWT, yet the industry itself overextended themselves to that commitment in light of the commitments that were made publicly. So one has to be cautious about the idea that there have not been those benefits, when in fact there have been. I think there are still many major and outstanding questions that have to be dealt with. The question of employment. The question of agreements that have been signed outside of this jurisdiction without the influence or the participation of the government which deal with the question of employment, socio-economic benefits, agreements that this government is not party to. I think if there is one thing that we as legislators have to give clear direction on and a clear mandate as Members of this Legislature is to have our government receive support to get into negotiating those types of agreements to protect the interests of the people of the NWT. The federal government has not allowed them really to participate. So, it makes it somewhat difficult in that sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

Northern Conference With All Parties Participating

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say that the motion as it reads is what I presented. The six "whereases" in the motion do not imply that those would be the terms of reference. I am certainly open to suggestions. The only other thing I can say is that this particular motion is maybe a form of finding what avenues could be explored with regard to development up here. I know that we might find some difficulty in getting moneys but certainly if this is going to be a northern conference then that would include everybody in the North...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. GARGAN: ...contributions could be made from the major oil companies, mining companies, the two governments, the native organizations. There are also people that own air lines that could contribute by giving air fares free and those are the things that could probably unify the northern people quite a bit. The other thing is that we do need community participation. We do need organizational participation, regional participation and territorial participation. When I say organizational participation, what are the unions' positions on development up here? What are the industries' positions? What is the government's position? Possibly it might not mean a special committee should be created because I know the difficulties that we went through when we were on the special committee on housing. I believe that there is great potential here for a better unification of the residents up here. We would like to hear from everybody. We could possibly go as far as saying that maybe we could have regional conferences but the end result is that everybody will get together up here and express their concern, the concerns of the government, as well as the compromises companies have with regard to developments that affect the people. Certainly right now because of uncontrolled large scale industrial development we have deep inequalities and further impoverished and demoralized native communities. If we, as northerners, are concerned with one another and care for one another certainly such a conference might benefit them. So, the motion that is in front of you, if the Members want to consider changes to it, I am certainly open to it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the motion. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have difficulty with the motion, in creating a special committee, but I like the idea of having a conference with the participation of the various resource developers as well as the people who are in business in the North and, particularly, if you have people who are participating in this conference on a regional basis interacting with the federal government and with the participation of the Government of the Northwest Territories. I do like the idea that was brought forward by the Minister of Economic Development and as well the comments made by Mr. Ballantyne and Mr. McCallum. I would prefer to have a conference as opposed to having a special committee dealing with economic development, particularly the whole area of coming up with ways and means by which the people of the North can better benefit from the resource-related development in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Possible Financial Assistance For Conference

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we are dealing with the possibility of a compromise here and maybe changing the motion and I am aware that the financial consideration is going to have to be considered but I would think, given the mandate to hold such a regional or major territorial conference to involve the resource developers and so on and federal politicians, there would be the good possibility of getting some of the third party funding from the federal government as well as the other third party programs that are available, particularly from EDA and something of that nature, if and when we are planning on the major economic input that this kind of conference could provide to the Members, the residents, taking place throughout the North. So, I know that whatever the motion is that is introduced here, it would have to have a good thorough review by the Executive Council and I would just like to say, as a Minister who would likely be responsible for keeping in contact with all the MLAs, I think we need your involvement in the regions -- very much so -- and I know that it is a major exercise and I think that the day has

arrived that we can no longer just leave these major policy formulations to the bureaucrats from the federal level and territorial level. I have not drafted a compromise motion because I really think it should come from ordinary Members and we would then in turn as an Executive be prepared to analyse it and implement it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the discussion has sort of gone away from the motion itself. I just have one concern though with the idea of regional conferences or a territorial conference. It is the fact of community representation, and I do not mean the idea of the person on the economic development committee, I mean an ordinary person that walks on the streets or is going to be affected by the particular conference because we have just argued in the last couple of minutes about the concerns that ordinary people have with regard to development and the effect that it would have on their lifestyle and yet any type of conference, economic development conferences, usually end up with those people that are already part of the development process, the companies, the resource developers, the people in the development corporations and those people that are heading up native organizations, but not necessarily those people that are from the communities. I would hope that if there is any suggestion that there will be a conference or a number of conferences that it will reflect that participation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion. Do I hear question? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: The idea anyhow is that perhaps we can look at the possibility of holding an economic development conference within one year and that at the budget session the government will try to co-ordinate all the information, put together an information package, develop an action plan, develop a way, as Mr. Nerysoo said -- and I think it is a valid point -- to maximize the participation from as many people as possible and maybe a way to do that is through existing regional and tribal councils. I do not know if that will be acceptable, that sort of idea that a year from now we will have a major economic development conference and between now and the budget session, the government will put all this information together and maybe come up with a proposal which would have to meet the acceptance of this Assembly and next fall have the actual conference. Would that be acceptable to Mr. Gargan?

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

Action Must Be Taken Soon

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I first of all would like to say that I do agree with Mr. Nerysoo that the communities have to be involved, not only the industries and government. Mr. Chairman, I do say that there is a submission right now to the National Energy Board with regard to possibly a pipeline going down the Mackenzie Valley as soon as next year. I mean, we cannot wait six months for the government's position before we decide what our future is. We have to start acting now before submissions are submitted or if it is submitted that we have a position for the companies that are going to be stringing the pipeline in the North. If we do not come up with a position now it just means that we might have lost out on something we could have taken advantage of. I believe that the communities have got to come up with positions. Regions have to come up with positions but I would like to see, as Mr. Ballantyne said, that we do have a great big conference but we cannot disregard the positions of the smaller communities. I do not know, I just do not know how the hell you, excuse my expression, I just do not know how to...

AN HON. MEMBER: Get that off the record.

MR. GARGAN: I just do not know how to put the motion together so that it satisfies everybody but we have got to have something. We have got to have something soon. That is my biggest concern right now and I would like to hear from other Members. Maybe if there is a small break we could redraft this so that it sounds a little bit better, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak to the motion. Though a special committee might be a helpful idea, on the economic and social issues I really do not think personally that a special committee would really be helpful. Economics are used by everybody but

not everyone can put input in. When we were dealing with the special committee on housing I felt that everybody understood that, understood a house, everybody requires a shelter. Also everybody requires the same procedure on the motion that is in front of us. I really do not think I could hope to see a question being answered through a special committee on this particular subject. I personally feel a conference might be helpful. I think it was a pipeline, mines and other things that were mentioned. I know it is probably talking about something like non-renewable resources. At the same time it is quite hard for all the communities in the NWT to fully express what the problems are according to that motion. I feel that if a conference was proposed then I would have supported it. I do not think I am going to be the one trying to make any amendments to that motion because I know how urgent it has to be, but then again there is another side to what I am thinking of. I would only have wished that this motion was put forward after the new Ministers were in their seats. That is one reason why I cannot accept the motion.

The overall wording of it I agree with. There are things on sight which I cannot agree with. Number one is the special committee. Number two and I guess my biggest one is I would like to see the motion introduced again after the new Ministers get their seats, then I would be more in agreement with the motion. At that time I might have made an amendment but not this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. To the motion. Mr. Pedersen.

Renewable Resources Must Also Be Included

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to see the motion introduced for reason that it brings this very important issue into the House for debate. As so many others have stated, I do not think that the special committee is the answer. For one thing I do not think we have enough time to do an adequate job during the life of this Assembly. We have not finished dealing with the special committee on housing yet and it is about two years in. So I do think if for no other reason than time I would support the regional conferences leading into a territorial conference. There is one thing I would like to bring out which I do not seem to have heard. I hope it is because my hearing is inadequate. In all the talking about this although the motion reads, "economic and social development", "planning and development of the northern economy", we have all talked to it, it seems to me, on pipelines and exploration and we must not forget the oldest and most traditional of our economies, the renewable resource industry. We must ensure that that is included in the concept of any conferences or whichever form we use to address this problem. The renewable resource industry is just as susceptible to outside pressures and lack of control on our part. For many reasons we have very little control of it because we do not process our product and manufacture it into finished products. I for one am convinced that there is a very real economic development potential and probably a far greater social development potential in the renewable resource industry than there is in the non-renewable resource industry. So, I would just like my fellow Members not to forget the renewable resource industry.

Possibly while talking we have delayed enough for someone to draft an amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I am not sure if he has to withdraw his motion or we vote on it and defeat it and bring in another one. Whatever the chairman thinks. What I am proposing, which Mr. Gargan agreed, is a motion that a major NWT economic development conference be held within one year with participation from governments, industry and maximum participation from communities; and the government will present a full information package and action plan and terms of reference for the conference at the budget session for summary considerations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I am sorry, Mr. Ballantyne, we cannot deal with your motion because we have another motion and if someone wants to make an amendment, that is okay with me.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Question has been called. All those in favour?

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that the original motion?

Motion 1-85(3), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The original motion. Okay, we will try again. For Motion 1-85(3). All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Does the committee agree that all the matters are concluded now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): What is the wish of the committee now? Do you wish to report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that the mover of the original motion knows that on this side I would be prepared to pursue the idea that I think most Members seem to be in agreement with but I did not feel that it was appropriate that I move a motion to hold such a thing but I will make a statement. I would like to make a statement to try and introduce it further, maybe early next week, to commit ourselves after consulting with the Executive Members on the issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. I think, Mr. Curley, you can deal with that tomorrow. I will report progress. The motion is defeated and the matter is concluded. There is no more business. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 3-85(3), EDUCATION ACT; BILL 7-85(3), MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1985; MOTION 1-85(3), ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. - Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 3-85(3) and 7-85(3) and Motion 1-85(3) and wishes to report Bills 3-85(3) and 7-85(3) ready for third reading, and Motion 1-85(3) was defeated.

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. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Bill 6-85(3) was ready for consideration in committee of the whole some two days ago. It was not on the order paper today. Could I have your assurance, sir, that it will be on the order paper tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKER: You may have my assurance that it will be on the order paper tomorrow, Mr. Butters. I shall have a word with Mr. Hamilton.

---Laughter

Are there any further announcements? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

ITEM 18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Friday, October 25th.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions: Motion 8-85(3)
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 6-85(3)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Third Reading of Bills
18. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Friday, October 25th.

---ADJOURNMENT

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