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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
Office (403) 360-6600
(Natilikmiot)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
X0A 0W0
Home (819) 266-8808
(Hudson Bay)

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

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1091
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N8
Office (403) 873-7658
Home (403) 920-2968
(Yellowknife North)
Minister of Justice and Housing

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

Cournoyey, Ms Nellie J., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 156
Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T.
X0E 1C0
Office (403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)
Home (403) 977-2405
(Nunakput)

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
& Tourism

Erkloo, Mr. Elijah, M.L.A.
Pond Inlet, N.W.T.
X0A 0S0
Office (819) 899-8903
Home (819) 899-8845
(Amittuq)
Deputy Chairman, Committee of the
Whole

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)
Deputy Chairman, Committee of the
Whole

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
Office (403) 872-3224
Home (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, Mr. Richard W., M.L.A.
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.
X0E 0J0
Office (403) 979-7112 (Inuvik)
Home (403) 979-2668 (Inuvik)
(Mackenzie Delta)

Paniloo, Mr. Pauloosie, M.L.A.
Clyde River, N.W.T.
X0A 0E0
Office (819) 924-6336
Home (819) 924-6340
(Baffin Central)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 310
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.
X0A 0H0
Office (819) 979-5993 (Frobisher Bay)
(403) 873-7123
Home (819) 979-6618
(Iqaluit)
Minister of Education

Pedersen, The Hon. Red, M.L.A.
Coppermine, N.W.T.
X0E 0E0
Office (403) 873-7959
Home (403) 982-5221
(Kitikmeot West)
Minister of Renewable Resources and
Culture & Communications

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) 873-7112
Home (403) 695-2565
(Nahendeh)
Government Leader, Chairman of
Executive Council and Minister
of Personnel

T'Seleie, Mr. John, M.L.A.
Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
X0E 0H0
Home (403) 598-2325
(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 and Chairman,
Committee of the Whole

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 Local Government and
Public Works & Highways

Officers

Clerk
Mr. David 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
Mrs. Marie J. Coe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

Speaker's Rulings

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Before I proceed with the orders of the day, I would like to advise the House of my review of the circumstances surrounding the various points of privilege raised by Mr. Wray, Mr. MacQuarrie and Mr. Curley. I have reviewed in detail the transcripts from Friday, February 28th, with the first point of privilege being raised by Mr. Wray. It dealt with the fact that Mr. Wray felt that Mr. MacQuarrie had suggested Mr. Wray was misleading the House. As I indicated on Friday, that was not the case, as Mr. MacQuarrie had indicated that this may have been one of the three possibilities, therefore, I find no case of privilege in this matter.

Mr. MacQuarrie raised the point of privilege on the remarks made by Mr. Curley, who had cautioned Mr. MacQuarrie for releasing confidential information when it relates to the owners and shareholders of companies. When the point was clarified by the Law Clerk it was clear that Mr. MacQuarrie did not release any information that was not available to any member of the public. Mr. Curley did indicate that he was prepared to apologize for any offence he may have committed toward Mr. MacQuarrie's integrity, although Mr. Curley did go further and make a statement which was not necessary, as Mr. MacQuarrie was within his right to name shareholders. After reviewing the circumstances I find no case of privilege in this matter.

I must point out to Members that during the debate on Friday there were a number of points of privilege raised. On reviewing the verbatim transcript I find there were no points of privilege.

The other matter that I advised the House I would consider was the request raised by Mr. MacQuarrie to have the Law Clerk determine who the shareholders of companies were and provide this information to the House. I have reviewed this matter and find that the Chair cannot be put in a position of directing the Law Clerk to provide this type of information on a request from of an individual Member in the House. The Chair also cannot be drawn into a debate on any side of an argument offered by two Members. This type of question should not be put to the House but should be directed by the individual Member directly to the Law Clerk outside of the House. The Law Clerk is to provide opinions to the House on legal matters in front of the House. If a Member wishes advice in the course of his duties as an MLA, this should be done through the normal channels outside the House. Therefore, I will not be giving direction to the Law Clerk on this matter.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, a matter of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie, privilege.

Matter Of Privilege

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On reviewing the transcript of Friday, I found that the Minister of Public Works said something terribly nasty about me and I would ask out of courtesy that he withdraw the remark. What he said, Mr. Speaker, on page 744 of the unedited transcript is that I was wrong about the law of the Northwest Territories. When we look a little further into the transcript we see that it was a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, that I was right about the law of the Northwest Territories and the honourable Minister was wrong. For the benefit of my constituents I would not want them to think that they had sent someone to the Assembly who was wrong about the law. As a matter of courtesy I would ask the Minister to acknowledge that I was right and that he was wrong in that matter, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe those facts to be true as I recall the conversation. Mr. Wray, he is asking for withdrawal. Are you prepared to give him one?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Never let it be said that I am unfair to the Member for Yellowknife Centre. In this case he was correct; one of the very few, but he was. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Members' replies. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Ms Cournoyea's Reply

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker and honourable Members, in reply to the Commissioner's Address I find that the Commissioner has raised a number of issues relevant and related to the whole NWT which have a special importance for the area of the Beaufort that I represent.

We all recognize the advancements being made toward responsible government and the effects in the direction of devolution. The Delta/Beaufort is in a rather unique situation regarding some of the features of devolution by virtue of the settlement of the Inuvialuit land rights claim of June, 1984. I am speaking most particularly of the implications of the transfer of lands and subsurface resources. Until the settlement of the Inuvialuit claim, the federal government administered all rights to the subsurface and often with very little regard for territorial and local interest. The final agreement provided the opportunity for the local interest to manage their own subsurface rights and I feel that that is truly a devolution of responsibility. At the time that the settlement was being negotiated, there were many sceptics about this principle. However, in January of this year Esso and its 23 associates concluded an agreement on an entirely new set of oil and gas rights on Tuk 71A lands. It is important to note that this agreement was entirely voluntary for both parties. It was clearly seen as being in both parties interests. It provides for significant local benefits which will be to the advantage of all local people and to this government as well.

This concrete example should provide the sceptics with some assurances that land claim settlements can improve the territorial situation significantly. It should also provide an example of the benefits of devolution. The ongoing challenge for this government is to actively seek to devolve many of its functions which can better be handled at the local level. Too often this government is perceived as pursuing devolution only from the federal government to itself. In order to do away with this perception the government must be seen to transfer legitimate decision making to as local a level as possible.

In the matter of distribution of regional government functions and operations I would like to take the opportunity to lend support to the Executive Council in the serious and positive approach they are taking. With a major transfer of forestry and the NCPC, many communities are anxious to be informed of this government's plan on where these functions and facilities will be placed. Although these decisions will not be made without a great deal of argument, which we all know, I am sure the biggest obstacle will be the argument to keep everything together and in one location. The Executive Council must be supported in their attempt to decentralize government functions. The extra cost burden on this approach can be weighed against the positive social well-being, the creation of jobs, and opportunity in providing an economic base and the availability of a broader selection of northern employees.

The Inuvialuit final agreement also provides models for significant devolution in matters such as wildlife management. The success of these models depends very much on the will and the effort of both federal and territorial governments. To date this government has demonstrated far more

initiative than the federal government and perhaps it is because this government has far more at stake and more to gain by the successful implementation of these models. I urge the Executive to increase its efforts with the federal government to impress upon them the importance to the whole of the Territories of this implementation process.

Effects Of Oil And Gas Prices

The Commissioner spoke at some length about the effects of oil and gas prices on the activity in the Northwest Territories. I have mentioned the agreement with Esso which may provide some cushion against the disastrous effect of this down-turn in my area. However, for government, I would suggest that they review the inevitable reduction in activity as an opportunity to catch and to prepare for the eventual increase in activity at a later future date. Specifically, I am speaking of the impact funding and projects for Tuk and two specific projects which I have mentioned time and time before, the erosion control and the road around the harbour. I feel that this should be completed. Not only are these projects required now and for the future, they will also provide a minimum level of activity necessary to support local industry during a most difficult time. The down-turn in oil and gas activity points out the importance to our region of the necessity of building a viable renewable resources economy to sustain our communities. The efforts to maintain a viable fur trade are essential for the whole Territories as well as for my area.

In addition, we must develop more diversity in the renewable resources sector. In the Beaufort/Delta the Inuvialuit Game Council has undertaken with the Department of Economic Development, an ambitious project to accomplish this end. The game council has completed the first of a three year effort to develop the basis for a self-sustaining integrated renewable resources economy. We know the challenge is great and the rewards for success are profound. We congratulate the Minister of Economic Development for concluding the new EDA program agreements with the federal government. The importance of a new EDA agreement to this industry cannot be overemphasized. It is essential that these new agreements are put in place quickly and structured so that meaningful long-term renewable resource industries can be developed. We feel confident that the Department of Economic Development will look toward this end. The money should not be treated as local make-work projects but rather as resources to build viable enterprises.

One of the successful renewable resources industries developed in the Northwest Territories is outfitting and guiding. In Nunakput this activity translates into many thousands of dollars in economic activity in our more remote communities. It has recently come to my attention that the insurance companies are refusing to continue liability insurance for the outfitters and guides. As you are aware, this government requires, by law, that these outfitters and guides carry liability insurance. Since this important economic activity for the Territories is in serious jeopardy because of the decision of the insurance companies we respectfully request assistance from this government to immediately seek solutions to protect this important industry.

Mr. Speaker, predictions on how long the oil and gas activity will be slowed down range from five to eight years. We should take this opportunity to address the social issues surrounding the inevitable impact of large development and specifically the preparation of our young people to take meaningful jobs as skilled and professional people within an industrialized North. Our educational systems and programs should reflect these long-term goals. The development and support of native language programs is also essential, particularly in our area to ensure the cultural survival of the Inuvialuit.

Within the Commissioner's Address there is always time put aside to mention well thought of people who have passed away. We appreciate this respect. In addition to this final respect I would like to suggest that we make a place for many fine people who are truly humanitarians and are still with us. Perhaps we can step up the Commissioner's Award. Many people would know of two ladies, Emma Dick and Sarah Tingmiak. They are probably best known for their long-term association with the Delta drummers and dancers. But more importantly, they are truly humanitarians. Over the last number of years we have had a very heavy level of deaths of our treasured people. The ones who are left behind go through much grief and sense of loss. Sarah and Emma, without being asked, continue to be at hand to help so many families to get over the most difficult times. It is the desire of many people that these two cheerful women be acknowledged in some way.

Mr. Speaker, as a final note, I have been asked by a number of media people what I have to say concerning an alleged motion that presumably was passed at the COPE general meeting on division. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, there was no such motion. Secondly, it would take too long to make the

corrections that are necessary to set the record straight. In other agencies or businesses when so many mistakes are made someone gets fired. There must be preferential treatment to broadcasters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Members' replies. Members' replies. This appears to conclude Members' replies for today.

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 131-86(1): Response To Question Re Leased Accommodation In Rankin Inlet

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Personnel. On a day last week, I had asked the Minister when his department made the Executive Council aware of the need for leased accommodation in Rankin Inlet and when they brought that proposal to the Executive. He indicated he would answer. Can I ask when I can expect that answer, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 131-86(1): Response To Question Re Leased Accommodation In Rankin Inlet

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I undertake to provide a response in the next couple of days, before the end of this week.

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

Question 132-86(1): Leakage Of Confidential TFN Subagreements

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that certain Members of this House appear to have been given copies of the Inuit impact benefit agreement two weeks ago and that this information is confidential and for the attention of the Ministers only, will the Minister, knowing full well that there has been a leak of confidential information, tell us how, when, and who, leaked the document? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not at all certain how the Minister would have that information. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I almost feel I should plead the fifth amendment. I will take the question as notice and attempt to answer as much of it as I possibly can as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 133-86(1): Response To Question Re Minister's Awareness Of Iligiittut Ltd. Proposal

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, this is for the Minister responsible for Public Works. Again, I had, on a day last week, asked precisely when the Minister had become aware of the proposal from Iligiittut Limited and he indicated he could not recall at that time but that he would take the question as notice and get back. My question is simply when can I anticipate an answer to that question, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Similar to the Government Leader, I will provide an answer before the end of this week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 134-86(1): Implementation Of Grade 10 In Baffin Region

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. In the communities in the Baffin Region the education system has only grade nine. When they are implementing grade 10 education are you still responsible for implementing grade 10 or is it the responsibility of the BDBE, Baffin Divisional Board of Education to implement grade 10 in the Baffin Region? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 134-86(1): Implementation Of Grade 10 In Baffin Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The responsibility for implementing extension of grades in communities in the Baffin Region, in my view, is shared between the Minister of Education and the Baffin divisional board. The responsibility of the Minister of Education would be to provide the funds in order to extend grades. The responsibility of the divisional board would be to implement the programs. So I cannot really say that it is exclusively my responsibility or exclusively that of the divisional board. I think it is a joint responsibility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair would like to recognize a former colleague, Mr. Peter Fraser, in the gallery.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Supplementary To Question 134-86(1): Implementation Of Grade 10 In Baffin Region

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) A supplementary to my question. I was informed by the chairman, by Joe Inuk, of the Baffin Divisional Board of Education that they were not informed whether or not they are going to have grade 11 in Pangnirtung. They were informed by someone and they were not too happy with that report. Perhaps in the future you should share implementing extension of grades more with Baffin divisional boards. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 134-86(1): Implementation Of Grade 10 In Baffin Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make it clear to the honourable Member that I asked my deputy minister to have detailed discussions with the superintendent of the Baffin divisional board about the department's views on their proposal, with respect to establishment of grade 10 and/or 11 in the Baffin Region. I am satisfied that there was detailed consultation with the superintendent and my deputy minister. If the results of that consultation did not get to the chairman of the divisional board, then I regret that happening. But it was my expectation that in consulting with the superintendent who reports to the chairman, that the chairman would be fully informed of the department's intentions and views on their proposal. Thank you.

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

Question 135-86(1): Grade 10 In Clyde River

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. In Clyde River when they opened the school he stated that Clyde River was going to be the first priority in getting grade 10. Have you forgotten about your promise to get grade 10? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 135-86(1): Grade 10 In Clyde River

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, no I remember very well that joyous occasion of the opening of the seven million dollar school in Clyde River. I remember very well communicating my expectation and my hope that there would soon be a grade 10 program in Clyde River. In doing so, I hoped to

encourage the community to encourage their children to succeed, to stay in school, to pass grade nine so that we would have enough students to justify establishing a class of grade 10. If there had been enough students for next fall, there certainly would have been grade 10 established. As I have told the Member, I am disappointed that they have not yet quite reached the necessary number of students by about half. So I would again make the commitment that as soon as the numbers are there, we will establish grade 10 but I cannot justify putting in the teacher and the money required for only five students. Thank you.

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

Question 136-86(1): DND Obtaining Permits Re Cruise Missile

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Leader of the Executive Council. It is in the matter of the cruise missile and its demise north of Herschel Island. In view of the fact that the testing was to determine any problems that might be occurring as they were testing this facility, would the Leader be aware whether the Department of National Defence had an ocean dumping permit...

---Laughter

...which is secured under the Arctic waters advisory committee which this government has representation on?

AN HON. MEMBER: Good question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 136-86(1): DND Obtaining Permits Re Cruise Missile

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the defence people obtaining permits from any government, certainly not from us. I will use the occasion of the Member's question to provide an answer to Members of all details and information that has been made available by the Department of National Defence in this matter in the next couple of days.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. This appears to conclude oral questions for today. Item 5, written questions.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Do we have any written questions for today? Mr. Angottitauruq.

Question 137-86(1): Five Year Capital Plan

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Local Government. Since the hamlets started doing their five year capital plan, the six hamlets in my region must meet to negotiate the plan. It is difficult for the mayors to support each others requirements and reach an agreement. I would request, if at all possible, that your department split the six hamlets in their preparation of the five year capital plan into two separate submissions, as follows: 1) Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay, Pelly Bay; and 2) Holman Island, Coppermine, Cambridge Bay. Would the Minister responsible for Local Government respond to this House at the earliest opportunity? The question is just a try. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Written questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 138-86(1): Economic Planner For Fort Good Hope

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Would the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism inform this House when the department will be in a position to fund the position of an economic planner for the community of Fort Good Hope? I would like to know if the community will be involved in the hiring of this planner and, as well, I would like to know whether or not the planner will actually be stationed in the community?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I thought this was a written question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. My apologies. Are there any further written questions? Mr. Angottitauruq.

Question 139-86(1): Nuclear Energy In The NWT

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next written question is directed to the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources. I would like to know if there will be, ever, any news of nuclear heating systems and nuclear power generators used in the NWT. If so, when would it be expected and how many would be the total?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further written questions? This appears to conclude written questions for today. Item 6, returns. Are there any returns? Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 85-86(1): Power For Directives To Nursing Stations

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 85-86(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on February 21st, concerning the authority over nurses in Health and Welfare Canada stations.

In reply to the question of the honourable Member with respect to my authority over nurses in Health and Welfare Canada facilities, I would like to advise the Member that I have no authority over any activities of nurses in the federal nursing stations. The direct line of authority to the nurses in the nursing stations is through to the zone director and from there to the regional director's office in Yellowknife. The regional director reports to the director general of medical services branch in Health and Welfare Canada. In turn, he to the assistant deputy minister, medical services branch. In turn, he to the associate deputy minister of Health and Welfare Canada. In turn, she to the deputy minister of Health and Welfare Canada and in turn, he to the federal Minister, the Hon. Jake Epp.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 91-86(1): Location Of Tank Farm, Gjoa Haven

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, return to oral Question 91-86(1), asked by Mr. Angottitauruq on February 25, 1986, with regard to the Gjoa Haven tank farm.

There is no proposal in the government's five year capital plan affecting the Gjoa Haven tank farm. The existing facility was completed in August, 1984 and its location approved by the settlement council prior to construction proceeding. I am aware of the concern raised by the Member in respect to the fuel dispenser unit being 50 feet away from residential buildings. The NWT fire marshal, following inspection of the Gjoa Haven tank farm, recommended in December, 1984, that the problem could be resolved through the purchase of 50 feet of piping and relocation of the dispenser away from residential buildings.

We are still reviewing the site recommended for the dispenser relocation with the fire marshal's office. The proposed new location poses a problem because of a large ravine cutting through this area which will not allow adequate space for the public to fill up their vehicles. The department will inspect the site with Department Of Public Works and Highways during the summer of 1986, to determine an alternative location for the dispensing building. We should be able to address this problem prior to resupply this summer.

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

Return To Question 80-86(1): Delay In Court Trials Of Assault Cases

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 80-86(1), asked by Mr. Paniloo on February 21, 1986.

This return is in respect of the oral question asked by the honourable Member for Baffin Central on February 21, 1986 concerning the visit of the territorial court party to the community of Pangnirtung. My officials have been in touch with the chief territorial court judge and have been

informed that the court party attempted to visit Pangnirtung last December, at which time they were advised by community leaders and the RCMP that it was not convenient at that time, since the hall used for hearing court was going to be used for certain other functions. The territorial court party again attempted to visit Pangnirtung on Thursday, February 20, 1986 and Friday, February 21, 1986 but due to bad weather the aircraft was unable to land at the community.

I was informed that the territorial court will make another attempt to schedule a court hearing as early as possible. However, any such scheduling has to depend on the availability of crown and defence attorneys, a judge, and the court staff. The territorial court will attempt if necessary to use a visiting judge to hold a circuit hearing in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns. This appears to conclude returns for today. Item 7, petitions. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 7: PETITIONS

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer Petition 6-86(1), signed by 622 of my constituents. The Pine Point residents who signed this petition are concerned that the staffing at Matonabee School is not adequate. This has resulted in an unacceptable number of students having to take courses by correspondence even though some of those courses are required for university entrance. As well, the petition urges the addition to the Galena Heights Elementary School is necessary, due to the fact that grades four and five have been moved to that school and the program requires improvement in the facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to table Tabled Document 33-86(1), Arctic Research Entitlement from Pond Inlet. They are trying to get some capital assets. They are teaching the people of the community. They are happy some eight people came into Pond Inlet to teach. So the people in Pond Inlet will have to acquire some capital assets to work on the ice. The eight communities will have to get some assets to do some work on the ice. I will probably also ask the question of the Minister of Education but I am just tabling it right now.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. On tabling of documents you should just give the title and a very brief explanation of what the document is about. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude tabling of documents for today. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 15-86(1): Cruise Missile Testing Opposition

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 5th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories reaffirm its opposition to the testing of the cruise missile in Canada and particularly over northern Canada; and further, that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories ask the Government of Canada to reconsider, with a view to reversing, its decision on testing the cruise missile in Canada; and further, that the Speaker convey this resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada and to the Leaders of the opposition parties in the federal parliament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Item 10, notices of motion.

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

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 12-86(1), Territorial Airports Program. Ms Cournoyea.

Motion 12-86(1): Territorial Airports Program

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS Members of this Legislative Assembly have expressed continuous concern about air transportation facilities in communities where there is no other form of access available;

AND WHEREAS this government continues to be told by the Government of Canada that the northern airport policy has yet to be reimplemented;

AND WHEREAS Members of this House have indicated there is a need to move ahead urgently to provide safe airport landing strips;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Michael Angottitauruq, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that the Government of the Northwest Territories: 1) allocate funds to the territorial airports program to alleviate the critical situations in a number of territorial communities; 2) attempt to negotiate on a community-by-community need with the federal government in absence of a federal northern airports policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Ms Cournoyea, proceed.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, this motion is somewhat selfish on my part because I do have one community that has grave problems because of the particular way that the airstrip is constructed, the direction it is laid in has caused a number of accidents at that airport. There is also a particular kind of anomaly that happens in the community of Paulatuk whereby the wind structure, because of the hills, causes a type of air pocket and even though there are good days, this type of wind velocity builds up and creates a problem when planes are landing. I realize that there are other communities in the Northwest Territories who have similar concerns and I believe that if a community has no other means of transportation, these situations become emergency ones.

I realize that for a number of years the Executive Council has been dealing with the federal government, and their ongoing reply has been that they are still reviewing the federal northern airports policy. I believe that it is time that the Minister responsible gets the support and the recognition that we can no longer wait for this abstract federal northern airports policy. I believe that in certain communities, the emergency need for relocation of airstrips and upgrading the program of airstrips and facilities, can be argued. I realize that the territorial coffers have slimmed down and there are difficulties with that. However, I feel that the situations in three or four of the communities in the Northwest Territories are critical enough that it warrants special attention at the territorial and federal level. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The seconder, Mr. Angottitauruq.

Air Only Mode Of Transportation

MR. ANGOTTITAUQU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to second this motion. Most of the times when we come here to the Assembly, there is always a time when someone mentions about the airstrips and airports. There was a time when the federal government put up a nine per cent tax on travellers. Our share of putting money to the federal government is, I believe, one of the biggest ones and we are not getting any services from them. Now, I believe there is a ceiling of \$50 but still it is not satisfactory to the people of the NWT.

People in southern places have short distances to go and they pay less for air fare. For us in the Northwest Territories, this is our only way of going to most of the communities in the Northwest Territories. In southern cities they can travel by train, they also can drive and they also can travel by bus. But a lot of us in the Northwest Territories can only travel by air. I guess it is not only a safe airstrip we want, we want safer aircraft too. We believe that the only way we can get better air services is if the federal government recognizes and does something about it. I believe if we were to look at the total amount the federal government is getting in taxes from the Northwest Territories, I believe it would be hard to believe how much the total would be for one year. Yet I do not think they are giving enough service to the Northwest Territories.

I believe a lot of communities in the Northwest Territories require some service. So I guess I really do not have anything else to say. I tried to make my point according to the motion. I hope that the federal government will start putting in a few services for the people of the Northwest Territories, since they are making a great deal of money from the people of the Northwest Territories. We travel a lot by air because that is the only way we can travel. Across the Northwest Territories the tax on air is quite a bit and this is a motion requesting that the federal government look toward servicing the people of the NWT on their airports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to bring Members up to date on what is happening in this situation. The Executive Council did allocate approximately \$300,000 this year in the priorities funding to alleviate some of the safety problems in nine undeveloped airports. We realize this is essentially a stopgap measure. However, the responsibility for provision of airport facilities has not been transferred from the federal to the territorial government. I will be coming forward to the Executive Council within the next month with a paper to get approval to begin negotiations on that transfer.

We will have completed the designs fairly soon on airports for Paulatuk, Pelly Bay, Rae-Edzo and Lac la Martre. The estimate for developing an airport to Transport Canada standards, at the present time, averages about five million dollars per airport. We have 11 airports which have yet to be worked on. So, just for those 11 airports the bill is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$50 to \$55 million. So it is not possible for us to undertake just more than minor projects to respond to the most urgent safety needs.

Just one bit of information. We were successful in convincing the regional headquarters of Transport Canada to advance recommendations on behalf of Paulatuk, Pelly Bay and Lac la Martre to Treasury Board for work to begin in 1986-87. However, Treasury Board and the Transport Canada headquarters in Ottawa disallowed those submissions and said that they were not prepared to go forward with them at this time. So we are still running into that major stumbling block. We will keep trying but this one is not an easy subject because of the high dollars involved and the tough stance that Transport Canada is taking in this whole issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 12-86(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. To the motion. Question being called. Ms Cournoyea, do you wish to conclude the debate? Question. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 13-86(1), Decentralization of NCPC Headquarters. Ms Cournoyea.

Motion 13-86(1): Decentralization Of NCPC Headquarters

MS COURNOYEA: I was going to call question, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken the position of supporting the principle of decentralization;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that there is a heavy centralization of government in Yellowknife;

AND WHEREAS there are a number of territorial communities, such as Inuvik, experiencing major down-turns in their economic base;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, Sam Gargan, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that, when NCPC is transferred to the Northwest Territories, the Executive Council consider splitting administration and operational functions, giving priority consideration to communities other than Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. To your motion.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I realize that this is not the first time that the debate of where NCPC should go has come before this Legislative Assembly. I note that on February 9th, 1979, there was a motion put forward by Mr. Lafferty suggesting that the administration request the Minister to instruct NCPC to locate their offices in the NWT, at such a place that requires economic stimulus and that such a move would stimulate. At that time there was a great deal of discussion on how that could be done. I also note that statement by Mr. Butters which states, "I also made representation to my honourable colleague and friend, Don Stewart, who sits on that board, advising him of the interest in Inuvik..." Mr. McCallum said, "I forgot". Mr. Butters says, "...on Inuvik being the headquarters or centre of NCPC's operations in the territories". I would point out that both the chairman and board member advised me if we want it, 'go and get it'."

Mr. Speaker, I realize that over the last few days and few weeks that Yellowknife has tried to go and get it. I am concerned because many people are not necessarily in Yellowknife and not in the communications area and able to talk quickly to media or put their case forward, that it may be perceived that other communities are not interested. In a statement by Mr. Nickerson at that date, Mr. Nickerson said, "Realizing that this will in all probability be built in Yellowknife anyway, I am fully prepared to support the motion." As well there is also a statement from the honourable past Member Peter Fraser who suggested it should be in Norman Wells.

Mr. Speaker, I am not advocating that the NCPC headquarters go anywhere in particular, except I feel that Yellowknife has enough as it is, and being the government centre with the people in the government supposedly representing the other communities. I believe it should be realized that since 1979 there were a lot of new communications systems developed in many of the communities which would allow them quite easily to handle any kind of administration or operational function.

I realize that this transfer probably will not go to any of the communities I represent and I am willing to live with that. However, I believe that there are other communities that require, not only economic stimulus, but to have the ability to allow people to go work without coming to Yellowknife. We talked a lot about young people becoming educated, people learning new trades, to become part of a system, but a lot of people do not want to do that in Yellowknife. A lot of people like their communities and they would like to raise their families there, use their education in that community and be part of an enterprise that is viable and contributing to the NWT economy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I would like to say again that I support the Executive Council in their attempts to decentralize, knowing full well that maybe in the next number of years that the only economic base is going to be government. So Mr. Speaker, let us support this motion and spread it around. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Gargan, as seconder.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to add a few comments with regard to the material that was given to us on why NCPC should be located in Fort Smith or else in Hay River. They both have good valid points on why it should be in one of the communities. However, it is difficult for myself to support one and not the other. So with regard to the motion itself, it indicates that it should be distributed evenly between the two communities or the third community which is Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Decision For Location Of NCPC Should Be Based On Economics

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, initially, I must say I am disappointed that the Member for Nunakput sees fit to put forward this motion at this time. This motion, Mr. Speaker, does not deal with the merits of placing the headquarters for the NWT energy corporation in the various communities, including Yellowknife, the various communities which have lobbied for this selection. If the Member had been in the Legislature two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, she would have heard the statement from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on the transfer of NCPC and the present status of that matter.

The Minister, Mr. Speaker, indicated at that time that the objective of the transfer is to achieve a fiscally responsible self-financing and dependable utility operation providing power at reasonable and stable rates. The Minister also indicated, Mr. Speaker, that he was in the process

and is still in the process, of meeting with the municipal councils of Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife and Inuvik and that he has not yet concluded that process, indicating that the last of these meetings was scheduled to be with the municipal council in Inuvik on March 4th.

There are indeed, Mr. Speaker, other communities interested in being selected as the headquarters, operational or administrative for the energy corporation. As I indicated in my own reply, Mr. Speaker, I for one am prepared to await the considered decision of the Executive Council. I am relying on them to make this difficult decision, based on the merits of locating the headquarters in each of those five communities being considered. I have requested in this Assembly, for those honourable Members on the Executive Council to make the decision on the basis of the economic factor -- which location will lead to the lowest power rates for all of the consumers in the NWT, in accordance with the objective stated by the Minister to this Assembly. That is what should be the overriding consideration, Mr. Speaker, not to ensure that it does not go to a particular community.

This motion, Mr. Speaker, is negative in its tone. Knowing as she must that Members of the Executive Council already have a difficult decision before them, it is regrettable, Mr. Speaker, that the Member for Nunakput feels it necessary to bring forward a motion which asks MLAs to vote against the selection of a particular community. I am from that community, Mr. Speaker, and I am unable to support the motion and will vote against it. As for other MLAs, I would ask you to leave this decision to the Executive Council who will be looking at the technical merits of each of the five communities, at the economics of locating in Hay River, Inuvik, Yellowknife, Pine Point or Fort Smith.

The mover of this motion has not told us what the power rates will be for your constituents if this motion passes, because she does not know. I do not know. I am expecting, Mr. Speaker, that the Executive Council will know or have some idea before they make their decision. I believe that each of us has a responsibility to our constituents to require the Executive Council to make decisions which will result in the lowest power rates for our constituents. If that means that the headquarters should be somewhere other than Yellowknife, so be it. But surely, Mr. Speaker, Members will agree that this motion and the mover of this motion has not given us the necessary information to make this decision, that it should be left to the Executive Council based on technical advice of their officials and on studies which they presumably have available to them. At a minimum, Mr. Speaker, I ask sincerely and I plead with other MLAs to abstain from voting for or against this motion because the motion is negative in tone because of the lack of information about what is best for our constituents. Mr. Speaker, I ask that there be a recorded vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague for Yellowknife South, I believe, has presented for consideration of the Members of this House, some very cogent arguments. Members must consider them, because I believe that we ought to be and will be, all of us, eventually answerable for the decision that is made. If that decision should result in increased power bills for users, who will become more and more numerous as the years go by, and they wonder why that is the case, it will be this House that is answerable. Now, that is not to be taken as a sign that we are opposed to decentralization. When I read the "whereases" in the motion, I can support every one of them.

The first one, "Whereas the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken the position of supporting the principle of decentralization." I support that principle with one qualification and that is the decentralization must occur under a policy that is prepared by the Government of the Northwest Territories and must not proceed without such a policy. The Government Leader a couple of weeks ago indicated that there is no policy governing decentralization now. Where there is no policy, of course, arbitrary decisions can be made and then unmade when those decisions fall under the responsibility of some different Minister, all adding greatly to the cost of Government in the Northwest Territories. So, I support the principle of decentralization. I support it in this sense, that the best opportunity to implement it is when there is growth and that will occur when there is devolution of more and more authority from the federal government to this government. Of course, some Members will point out that that is precisely what is occurring here. They are devolving NCPG from the federal government to this government. So I acknowledge that it may perhaps be the kind of opportunity that we ought to be looking for.

The one complicating factor is that the federal government had already made a commitment that the headquarters would be located in Yellowknife. On the strength of that commitment there has been

activity in Yellowknife directed toward making sure that the community is ready to receive the headquarters of NCPC. There has been an expenditure of considerable sums of money in order to do that and that is the complicating factor for me. Members of this House will find that I am very open to locating the offices of other devolved authorities, such as forestry, to other communities. I will not stand as an obstacle to that kind of decentralization because I see that it can be done successfully, helping to stimulate the economy in other communities without undermining the existing economies of communities. So I see it as a good opportunity.

The second "whereas" says that it is recognized that there is heavy centralization of government in Yellowknife. I agree. I recognize that heavy centralization and I believe that under a rational policy our government must begin to move to decentralize. So I am not challenging that at all.

Factors To Be Considered In Location Of NCPC

It says that there are a number of territorial communities such as Inuvik experiencing major down-turns in their economic base and I would add to that, that they are in need of economic support and stimulus. I want to participate in moves to try to bring that about, but as I said, in this particular case a commitment had been made to this community and the community had begun to prepare for receiving it. I say that our Executive Council, in making its decision, must at least consider that important factor, but most of all it must consider the factors that my honourable colleague raised just a moment ago, that is the Executive Council, when it makes its decision, ought to make a decision based on considerations such as these: that there will be an effective and efficient administration over the Northern Canada Power Commission or the territorial power commission when it is established here; and that the greatest consideration ought to be given to ensuring that in the future there will be the best possible rates and the best possible service to consumers from the power corporation. In making that kind of analysis, I would say that if it becomes apparent to the Executive Council that the operation and maintenance costs would be lowest in the future if the power corporation were located in Yellowknife, that that has to be a weighty consideration on the minds of the Executive Council; and Yellowknife simply cannot be arbitrarily excluded from consideration as this motion attempts to do.

If in that economic analysis it appears that you might get approximately the same efficiency of service and the same desirable rates from Yellowknife and some other community, then I agree the Executive Council ought to weigh it and say, on the one hand, the mitigating factor for Yellowknife is that a commitment was made but on the other hand there is another community that needs economic support and then weigh the balance that way and make a good decision. I could accept that. I certainly could accept it that if after the economic analysis it is very clear that some other community would offer the most efficient, effective, administration and the lowest power rates and the best power service, then Yellowknife need not be considered in that case. But all of that must be taken into account. This motion seeks to deny the opportunity to take that into account and that is why I too will vote against the motion. I would again reiterate what my colleague has asked, in urging other Members to consider those issues and to consider at least abstaining on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say just from the position of a person that maybe is not exactly on top of this issue, it seems to me that some of us here are concerned about some of these transfers and not just from the point of view of what it eventually would cost the government. I know one of the factors that is on my mind is that right now, as I understand it, there are a couple of hundred NCPC employees who live in Edmonton. In principle I do not agree with just shipping these people north. I would like to see that as many of these positions as possible be occupied by northern people. This is one thing that I do not agree with.

Also, on the principle of the transfer, I do not believe that northern people should have agreed to a transfer unless there would be some long-term benefits for consumers, in terms of costs. But I think what has happened historically with this issue is that there were loud municipalities who pushed this issue simply for the sake of increasing their population, and it came progressively to the point where it is right now, in that it seems it is something that cannot be stopped.

Also when I think of the cost of living in the North and what it would cost for these families to live in the North, as opposed to living in Edmonton, and the additional cost to this new corporation and that this cost would have to be transferred to the consumer, I think inevitably the

cost of electrical power will go up. So what I am saying, and I am trying to send a message to the Executive Council, is that we should not be on a transfer kick if I can call it that. In looking at the motion I have to think about the consumers' interest in this whole thing. In principle I think Yellowknife has a good base for living. At least in looking around here it is satisfactory to me but I would have to keep in mind what it costs. I think perhaps we should also think about the fact that if the staff of NCPC were regionalized maybe it might cost less. We do not have any facts on that. Mr. Speaker, I will be abstaining from the motion. Thank you.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I would not want to go to any length. All I want to do is make a brief comment about the motion. First of all, the motion's heading says "Decentralization of NCPC Headquarters". I guess every MLA speaks about the economy of the NWT. Well, if you want to decentralize it why not put it in my region which is called Kitikmeot East -- I changed the name to Natilikmiot, first of all it was called Central Arctic. That is where it should be.

No, I think I would put my faith in the Ministers at this time, because in a way I have a difficulty with the motion. The words can say it but I would like to go by paper. I probably have heard a number of towns that were recommended when the mover spoke to it. The reason I am going to abstain on this one is that I would rather have spoken to the motion after hearing from the Ministers or the Executive of what they intend to do with NCPC. I would support Hay River for reasons maybe that I do not understand. I thought that NCPC is running power plants and they have all kinds of mechanical equipment and parts. If the territorial government is going to take over NCPC, I believe, that a lot of their parts and services would have been cheaper if there were to be parts in their head office. But if not, then the organization is not really looking for a cheaper service in the NWT. Until some of my questions are answered, I am going to abstain from voting because there are many questions involved before any motion is passed and the Executive can be guided about what to do at this time. So I still have many questions on the motion but maybe next time, whenever there is a motion regarding the same issue, I probably would support it with better detail and with more knowledge toward the whole issue. Thank you.

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

Premature To Preclude Any Community

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of short comments to make as an MLA and I want to emphasize that, as an MLA, from the specific community that was mentioned in this motion. I have some problems with the motion. I think there are many factors that have to be considered before a decision such as this can be made. We are looking at the corporate structure, how to attract personnel, operational efficiency, etc. As my colleague said, the major benefit that our government can give to the residents of the NWT for providing a strong economic base is provision of cheap and efficient power to all the communities of the NWT. So as an Executive we have to consider many factors.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shh, Nellie.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think it is premature right now to preclude any community from consideration before all the facts are known. It might well be logical to decentralize portions of NCPC. If that is true, so be it. I for one have supported orderly decentralization of growth to communities. As an MLA I have been consistent in that and this might be one area where portions or maybe all of it will be decentralized. As a Member of the Executive I will abstain from this motion and as an Executive we will be making a decision once all the facts are known. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is one day that I should have stayed in bed. I feel put in a position to support such a motion. Because at our South Slave Regional Council meeting last summer in Snowdrift, a motion was passed to support a relocation of NCPC head office to Fort Smith. My constituency fully supported that move. I guess I felt like Mr. Gargan, in that it does not seem fair supporting one community over the other but it has been decided for me already. In a recent submission in Fort Smith, I was impressed with all the available property and housing at a very reasonable price. I am also very aware of the decision which lies with the Executive. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. Curley.

Circumstances Have Changed Since Decision Was Announced

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make some comments prior to the vote. I think it is important that we put some of the views that have been presented to the House into perspective because there have been a number of changes as many Members of the House know. For one thing, the nature in which the NCPC was considered by John Munro when he was Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs -- the circumstances have certainly changed. The fact that he was still dealing with one corporation and his exercise was mainly to transfer the headquarters of NCPC, as it was a single corporation for Yukon and the NWT, into the NWT. That was a preference at that time, Mr. Speaker, and many Members of the House have continued to support that view. But he did not choose to move the headquarters so much to NWT because it also dealt with Yukon, but in view of the large jurisdictional responsibility of NCPC he felt that it was important that it be at least central to Yukon and many of the communities in the Western Arctic and Eastern Arctic, therefore at that time he felt that Yellowknife was central considering that Yukon was a factor. He made that decision in, I believe it was 1981, and I could be corrected on that, Mr. Speaker, but I should point out that he made that decision, in my view, arbitrarily. There was no consultation in view of the fact that this House has indicated that we be consulted.

MR. MacQUARRIE: (Inaudible comment)

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: We did send out a message to Ottawa that we be consulted. He did not do so. Since then, Mr. Speaker, right after the National Energy Board hearing to which very substantial presentations were made by Yukon Members, including the public and consumer groups as well as members of the public from Yukon, this past winter, Mr. Crombie felt then that the issue that the NEB was dealing with, particularly the rate structure and subsidies, were not the only factors that he must address now and therefore he communicated to the Executive Council that he was going to be reviewing the whole system, the whole operation of NCPC, including the splitting of the corporation to Yukon and NWT. I think that should be pointed out for the record.

His latest communication, in my view, nullifies the decision made by Munro and I am saying that not to put any confusion to the House. In his instruction to the chairman of NCPC after the November 5 memorandum of understanding was reached, he stated, and I quote "In view of the memorandum of understanding of November 5, 1985, which was reached in consultation with you and territorial governments, I now ask you to temporarily delay proceeding with relocation. It would also be pertinent to not make any firm arrangement at this time for the sale of NCPC head office property in Edmonton." Mr. Speaker, if I were to continue, I do have the Executive Council's mandate to pursue the consultation process, which we think is important, to consult with a number of major communities that are in the position or might have a substantial presentation to address, not only the proximities of their community, but as well what it could offer to the corporation if it were formed in the NWT -- financial, as well as other factors that we are considering would be acceptable to the government.

Criteria Used In Making Final Decision

But for the Members' sake I would just like to indicate to the House the criteria used in the exercise that I am presently carrying out prior to the final recommendation being put forward to the Executive Council. That is: 1) cost of head office operations; 2) availability of appropriate transportation facilities; 3) office accommodation and services availability, customer service levels and regional economic consideration.

I am sure many of the communities that have presented their proposal to us fit all these criteria. So Mr. Speaker, I do not want it to appear that the Executive Council is going to make only one decision based on political factors. We are guided by very tight constraints and we will attempt to be fair. But at this moment, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of fairness to other communities, my Executive colleagues and myself are going to be abstaining from the vote and therefore I thought it was important that we do indicate that. Again, Mr. Speaker, it is not at all to undermine the Member's motion but the advice is welcome and we are certainly going to take it as it is as well as the comments made by other Members of this House. Thank you.

MR. MacQuarrie: In summary, you do not like arbitrary decisions and would not support the motion is what I understood.

---Laughter

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to add a couple of comments to the motion itself. I would have preferred the motion to delete any reference to any particular community, and since on Friday there was a motion placed before the House supporting the work of the Executive Council in making decisions or going ahead with things, I would have thought it would have been better to have a resolution clause...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. McCALLUM: ...that this House go along with the wise decision given by the Executive Council when in fact the decision would have been made. It seems ironic to me that the Member for Nunakput, who moved that motion, now is trying to tell the Executive Council what to do with it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Zap.

MR. McCALLUM: So I have a little difficulty with it. I want it perfectly understood, Mr. Speaker, that I prefer to have the new energy corporation of the NWT, not NCPC, located in my particular constituency. I do not believe that the government owes Fort Smith anything. I believe that Fort Smith can put forward a sales job, if that is required, as well if not better than other communities. I am not going to get into a discussion on whether or not one community is better than the other. I would have preferred to have spoken to the attributes, if you like, of my constituency during my reply to the Commissioner's Address. Again I do not want to see this particular motion dropped down to the level of debate that we had on Friday because I do not think we require any more of that kind of thing.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. McCALLUM: I think those of us who went out to Fort Rae on Friday afternoon were able to vent some kind of our feelings after that. Some people could not keep their heads up off the ice but others of us were able to get along and have a pretty good time even though we got the "what you call it" beat out of us. Nevertheless, I digressed for a moment, but I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, and to Members of this particular committee, that I know that other communities have made a pitch for the location of the NWT energy corporation.

Support To Executive Council To Make Right Decision

It is my understanding one final community, in this case Inuvik, is to make that particular pitch tomorrow. I would expect that the same two Ministers who have listened to the pitch that has been made by different communities, Pine Point, Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife, will look at it and bring back their particular findings to the rest of the Executive. It is very difficult for me to say that I do not agree with the resolution. I agree with maybe parts of the resolution. I certainly disagree with considering splitting up the administration and the operational functions. I do not think that is necessary at all. But I would prefer to have the motion read in the resolved clause, that if you are going to support the Executive Council on what they do in other particular things, it would seem to me that this is an instance where you would give that support to the Executive Council to make the right decision, based on all the available data that is necessary for them to make that kind of a decision.

I know full well that in the case of Fort Smith, that we would be able to put forth as good a presentation as any other particular community. I personally will leave it to that. I may not be happy with the ultimate decision but I know full well that I will have an opportunity to talk about it again when the decision comes back in to be announced by either the Minister or the Leader of the Government, when in fact the government decides what kind of a corporation or mechanism they are going to have for the distribution, the setting up or the actual taking over of it. I am going to take my chances on how this vote goes so I am not going to tell anybody what I am going to do before it happens.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this motion for the reasons that we have been indicating in the past, that with the aboriginal people there is not enough employment or opportunities for them. If headquarters were put in Yellowknife it would be clear that the aboriginal people would have very little part in this or be employed in this. I am not saying that the western people or the Indians are employed enough but I have seen in the past that there are not many aboriginal people employed. For the reasons I cannot say -- I am biased. I am not too clear on this. So looking at the smaller communities, in there are more Inuit in these communities. I am not too keen on where the headquarters will be stationed, maybe Baker Lake or Cambridge Bay. I am not hung up on where the headquarters will be stationed. So that the aboriginal people will have an opportunity, I will support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Question being called. Ms Cournoyea, you have the opportunity to wind up the debate.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I still maintain that even though there may be a decision in the end to have the headquarters in Yellowknife, I know that I will not, as a Member of this Legislative Assembly, have the attitude that this will in all probability be built in Yellowknife anyway. I am fully prepared to support the motion. Mr. Speaker, in view of what is happening in this government in terms of the turnover, I believe still that priority considerations have to be given to other communities. The reason is that otherwise it may be that they will not be given any consideration at all.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: I do not say that Yellowknife should not have it. They may in the end, but at the same time we must not leave what is unsaid to be unsaid. I was not here the first few days and the reason I was not was because we do have a very serious economic problem in our area. I had some business to do in regard to that. In terms of good decisions, I believe the Executive Council is going to make a good decision.

---Applause

I believe that. But I also feel that as a Member of the Legislative Assembly that the concerns that people out there have should be brought out at this level. The major concern that was in the area that I come from was that there was an inference that NCPC should be in Yellowknife because John Munro promised them that a long time ago. There was an inference that people had built up an infrastructure in Yellowknife to accommodate NCPC. My understanding is that we are attempting to make decisions in the North to the best of our ability, to look after the people who live in the North.

MR. RICHARD: Including our power rates.

MS COURNOYEA: I believe that sometimes these decisions are going to be made, not because of the power rates, but because of political pressure and I understand that as well. I fully support lower power rates. But I do not believe that is exactly what is behind the concern, that other communities might get priority consideration, but in that priority consideration it may be that they will not be considered because of issues and more information on stable rates, merits of the location of the headquarters, transportation, communications. But I believe that we should be quite honest in considering that there are other communities that really do require decisions from this government that will allow them to survive economically. I believe that there are other communities that could provide this housing and infrastructure for NCPC because, in the long run, if we are considering just only the rates and it is a matter of one and a half cents, it might be that the place you put it, you might recover that in terms of welfare payments and stability in those communities. I believe that the Executive Council would be considering those things.

I believe that the concern that John Munro promised Yellowknife that they are going to get NCPC, might be overshadowed by what is done in the end because it is a political decision and not necessarily one of economics. I realize that there has to be some studies to show and I believe that there has been a number of them that have already been placed before the power commission. I believe that it may be that Yellowknife has a better study than anyone else, mainly because of the access to support from highly professional people with honourable degrees looking after the welfare of people in Yellowknife. So, Mr. Speaker, it is not that I am saying that it may never end up in Yellowknife, but I believe that the other communities should be given prior consideration. Thank you.

Motion 13-86(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. I understand that a request was made for a recorded vote by Mr. Richard. Mr. Clerk, will you record the vote. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Paniloo, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Arlooktoo, Ms Cournoyea.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed to the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Richard.

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wray, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Curley, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Butters, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is passed with six affirmative votes, two negative votes and 12 abstentions.

---Carried

Motion 14-86(1), Jean Chretien's Contribution to the North. The Hon. Tagak Curley.

Motion 14-86(1): Jean Chretien's Contribution To The North

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Hon. Jean Chretien served as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development from July, 1968 until August, 1974;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Chretien was outstanding in the service he dedicated to the government and people of Canada from 1965 until the present time;

AND WHEREAS the Hon. Jean Chretien resigned his political career on February 27, 1986;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Legislature express its gratitude for the significant contribution made by the Hon. Jean Chretien to the North and its people.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your motion is in order. You have changed your seconder to Mr. Sibbeston. The Chair recognizes Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you. I just want to make a short statement about Jean Chretien. He was the Minister for Indian Affairs since 1968 and it was a lot harder to work with the Northwest Territories and the government was different at that time. There were not as many elected Members. We wanted to say thank you to the Minister. There are a lot of Inuit and Dene, native people, to whom he was really friendly when he was the Minister. For this reason he had a lot of friends in the Northwest Territories and elected Members all know this person. He was very helpful to us when he was the Minister. I would like to express my gratitude.

I remember when I was the president of ITC -- even before I was the president -- we were trying to get funding and we had his support: I had to have meetings with Jean Chretien when we were trying to set up ITC. There were some people that did not believe in this organization but he was very supportive. The only way that we could get funding was if he understood our concerns when we were trying to set up ITC. We had a picture of this when we had a conference and I know Red Pedersen remembers this, and Lena Pedersen. Since that time it seems like we knew him very well. (Translation ends)

A True Friend Of Many Native People

It is important that I do acknowledge the contribution given by Jean Chretien to the North because in my remarks in Inuktitut I indicated that since he became the Minister at that time, he has become the true friend of many of the native people, including myself, and many of my native colleagues and he has never forgotten them. He has always acknowledged the fact that he has many friends in the North. He was the Minister at a very difficult period, in my mind, for the North because our transportation was difficult, communications were difficult and politically it was a very difficult arrangement in the Legislature where there was a native minority in the Legislature at that time. He often indicated to me he was the father of the elected Council. He pushed for the elected Council membership. I do not know whether he achieved that fully when he was the Minister but I think he continued to press for that when he was the Minister. Therefore, I think, as he observes this particular Legislature, he truly has seen some significant changes and improvements in the system from the way it was run at that time. Therefore, I would like to just indicate from the North that he has many friends and we acknowledge him and we certainly appreciate his contribution to the northern people and its development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. As seconder, Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say a few words in supporting the good words that the mover of the motion, Mr. Curley, has said. I think Mr. Chretien throughout his political career has been an inspiration to many people in Canada. I think as a French Canadian he was an inspiration to other people in Canada, struggling in their quest to make their presence felt and known in Canada. Mr. Chretien as a French Canadian politician gained a lot of new ground, I think, as a Minister in the federal government that up to that time had pretty well been an English Canadian undertaking. And as a French Canadian he went throughout Canada and spoke about the French people in Quebec and was able to provide a much better understanding for the French Canadians and French fact in all of Canada. In this way, I think he added a lot to the Canadian political scene.

As I said when we other Canadians, I guess particularly native peoples, see a person like him with the determination and the guts and the fire that he sometimes shows, it is an inspiration for us to not sit by and to not be afraid to venture out and do things that are taken for granted by other Canadians.

Mr. Chretien Responsible For Many Good Things In The North

Mr. Chretien I know was the Minister for Indian and Northern Affairs for quite a number of years -- for about six years and I think it is one of the departments that he was Minister in for the longest period of time. I know that he is responsible for many of the good things that have happened to the North. I first knew Mr. Chretien in the early 1970s when I was a new Council Member. In those days it was quite a big deal for the Legislative Assembly or the territorial Council to meet with federal Ministers. I do recall quite a number of meetings with him and in all cases in the matters that we raised with him, he was able to respond positively and deal with our concerns.

I know that Mr. Chretien did a great deal too, for the native people of Canada. I know that he was responsible for funding the native organizations. He made it possible for native people to gather their forces to organize and represent themselves at national, provincial and territorial levels. It was a pretty scary situation 15 years ago and it was unknown for native people to stand up like this in public and say what you felt. Mr. Chretien, in part, is responsible for the Dene Nation, Metis Association and the Inuit organizations coming to a reality, so that they could be funded and encourage native people and leaders to speak up for themselves. I think the progress that Canadians have made in dealing with aboriginal rights, a bit in part is the result of Mr. Chretien's agreement to fund native organizations.

I know that Mr. Chretien has a special interest in and liking for the North. He has come North many times and I know too, that he adopted a young Dene person from the North, and that young child has grown up to be a young man and a very fine young man. So he has taken that kind of interest in native people in Canada in the North. So, I just want to express my sincere wish, I guess to Mr. Chretien and his wife Helene, and say that the people of the North wish him well and that he is always welcome back here in the North. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a few words to the motion of appreciation for Mr. Chretien's very major contribution to the North. I am quite sure that the little guy from Shawinigan is recognized as being a very big guy in the Northwest Territories and we all probably have Jean Chretien stories about how we remember things that he did or said which have very greatly affected our lives.

I would just like to add a few things which I remember. I know that when he became Minister, he was flying across the Arctic -- or shortly after he became Minister -- with the Governor of Alaska, and that was at the time when the people of Sachs Harbour and Banks Island had just realized that the Canadian government had negotiated a number of leases with oil companies and were very put out about that, because they had not been advised of what was occurring. They informed Mr. Chretien that they wished to discuss with him all this matter, and he did stop his aircraft and the Governor of Alaska kicked stones on the beach of Sachs Harbour for about two hours while Mr. Chretien talked with the trappers of that community.

I too, recollect his first visit to Inuvik. I remember him sitting on the desk in my office swinging his legs and talking to the president of the business council of the Northwest Territories, Jim Robertson and I and discussing the possibilities of establishing a business loan fund. He did not say yes and he did not say no, he said maybe, which was his way to give him a chance to think and I recollect it was a month or two months later that he indicated that he found five million dollars to set aside, the interest from which would form the capital -- operating capital for our business loan fund.

Another time I recollect, that he took advantage of the option that a Minister has, to involve himself in the pricing of the Norman Wells fuel product. And, at the request of this government, the people concerned along the Mackenzie Valley took a personal interest on the prices that were being set by Esso Resources of that plant's product.

As the Government Leader mentioned, he did consult, on many occasions, with the NWT Council of that day, and I can recall one time, I forget the debate that was going on, but we felt that we were not going to proceed with the debate unless the Minister came to Yellowknife and consulted with us and he did this. So, we spent a day, I recall, in the Fraser Towers, at which time he went over our concerns and again, there were changes made to improve our situation. He likewise, at the request of -- at that time the representative of Frobisher Bay, Bryan Pearson, moved to have the 14 Member House of -- was that the Seventh Assembly? -- the Seventh Assembly, changed to 15, so that the Eastern Arctic would have better and more equitable representation in this chamber.

Generosity, Fearlessness And Fairness Have Left Their Mark

So, as I say, the stories can go on and on. We all remember many of the things that Mr. Chretien has been able to do and how he has impressed and left on us all his mark of generosity and fearlessness and fairness, and we all wish him and his family well. Thank you, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the motion to be put on the floor. I know from quite a number of years ago, some of the incidents that Mr. Butters has related. I was on the scene during that period of time. What I feel that can be said for Jean Chretien, is the type of politician he was. I felt that even though I often did not agree with him, that he was straightforward, he was definite, he was tough, but he was fair. Thank you.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, just briefly, I concur with the remarks of the previous speakers. I believe that history will record Mr. Chretien as a distinguished and a great Canadian. He had the respect of all northerners during his tenure as Minister. I had the privilege of meeting with him on a number of occasions, though not as extensively as previous speakers. Mr. Chretien contributed generously of his time for the betterment of this country and was instrumental, Mr. Speaker, in recent constitutional developments in this country. I for one, am sorry to see him retire from the federal scene, but on the other hand he has done his duty, more than his share and has now earned his rest and his privacy. I think that it is very appropriate that this Assembly express its gratitude to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 14-86(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. Curley, do you wish to finalize? All those in favour? Mr. Butters, was your hand up?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, it was.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Angottitauruq, was your hand up?

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The vote was unanimous.

---Carried

---Applause

That concludes motions for today.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 1-86(1), Bill 2-86(1), Bill 3-86(1), Bill 4-86(1), Bill 5-86(1), Bill 7-86(1), Bill 8-86(1), Bill 9-86(1), Bill 10-86(1), with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-86(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1986-87

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder, I could make a minor suggestion to the procedure of the order of business for this afternoon. We have before us Health and Social Services and Workers' Compensation. I wonder if the Workers' Compensation Board might be moved up and fitted in between Health and Social Services. The reason for that being, it would then not require that Social Services people would have to sit until the Health item is concluded. This would give a bit of a cushion in between where we could call people when their time is required and save on their daily workload.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Health

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Department of Health. Mr. Minister, do you wish to invite any witnesses before the committee?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, I would like to invite my witnesses in, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to make a brief comment concerning the Department of Health. I know that you are not dealing with the boarding homes. In Frobisher Bay, some of our people are complaining about the fact that there is no boarding home in Frobisher Bay, but the patients usually stay at somebody's home and sometimes this is not too adequate for some people. Some people do not like it and some people do. For this reason, do you have any plans in the future for a boarding home in Frobisher Bay for the patients that go to Frobisher Bay hospital? Thank you.

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

Priorities For Transient Centres

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the boarding that takes place in Frobisher Bay is done under Health and Welfare Canada. They are the people that, right now, provide the home boarding which occurs. As you are aware, our government has funded the capital cost of a few transient centres and our priorities are to put transient centres into areas where people have to leave the region in order to go to the hospital. So, people that have to leave the Keewatin to go to Winnipeg, people that have to leave the Baffin to go to Montreal, and people that have to leave the Kitikmeot and some of the western Dene communities in order to come to Yellowknife, have been made our first priority and we are in the position now of resolving the Yellowknife difficulties for people from Kitikmeot, Fort Smith and Inuvik Regions that have to come to Yellowknife. So, once that is done, we might consider doing something within regions, but at this time we have no definite plans to do anything in Frobisher Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand what you were saying. Although it is like that, you have to consider that the Baffin Region has problems with boarding homes in Frobisher Bay. Also since you say that you are going to take this into consideration, I am very happy. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get some idea of how things are going here. I find that, in some instances and parts of individual activities of the department, that the numbers present some difficulty to me. I wonder if I could get the Minister to just remark on them. I think it is general throughout a couple of the areas.

I think that one of the things that strikes me is under medicare. In terms of the increase in the number of person years within this particular activity, there is a new person year being added to this particular activity, and yet the salary and wages are less than they were the year before, when you had one less. The same thing occurs in other particular parts; there seems to be something a little bit different about the numbers, and I wonder why the discrepancy? In administration you are adding six people and you are increasing salary and wages by over \$460,000. You are adding six people there. Now, in other places there is a reduction in the O and M. I recognize that within the total department the hospital insurance services make up the greater part of what goes on in the department, but I wonder if the Minister could comment on why there is a reduction in some areas where you have an increase in person years, and in other places where you have the same person years, there is an increase, or even a reduction. Under medical services contract, for example, there is the same number of people and yet there is less money in salaries. Either you are doing it cheaper or you got a good book man. I know, I'd better not use his name.

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

Physicians On Contract Not Included In Person Years

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In those areas regarding the physician services, we are recruiting physicians on contract in some areas, rather than on salaries. That is why the person years do not show that. I believe in some of the other areas of medical recruitment, we have so many people on staff to recruit that the costs of the contracts vary. But, we have a certain number of people working on the recruitment of physicians, whose salaries we pay, but some of them are hired on salary and some of them are hired on contract.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned a couple of days ago that when the Baffin Regional Hospital board will be in charge of 13 communities, you are going to be appointing board members from those communities. The chairman of the local health committee would be appointed to that board. My question is that in the communities, if some of them did not want to appoint their chairperson, although it may not be likely, is there a possibility that they could appoint someone else other than the chairperson? Thank you.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Baffin, the normal situation has been that the board has automatically recommended to me, in most cases, the chairman of the local health committee if one exists. But we will take nominations from hamlet councils or MLAs or the hospital board or anyone else that wants to send us a nomination. But I have to say that usually the procedure in the Baffin has been to take the recommendation of the board if they are recommending the chairman of the local health committee. But that is not a practice that has to be followed. We are willing to take nominations, as an Executive Council, from MLAs or the hamlet councils as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments. There are no further general comments. Does committee agree to go in budget detail? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Administraton, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Administration, total O and M, \$3,217,000. Agreed? Page 14.06. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the issue of the transfer, I am getting the impression that the financial implications for our government for accepting responsibility for health care programs, are quite complex. There has to be a concern, as with the other transfers, forestry, highways, and NCPG, that the transfer agreement with the federal government be such that we do not take over responsibility for existing programs, existing facilities, or O and M responsibilities, unless we are satisfied that we are also receiving the funding, including an escalation factor, presumably for future funding, for the programs and the responsibilities. We have been told, Mr. Chairman, that the forestry management and fire suppression transfer is proceeding well and cautiously and that that transfer will become sort of the model for other transfers. We are also told by Renewable Resources Minister and officials that they have hired outside expertise, I believe the expertise is in the financial field, to assist them in the exercise of ensuring that we are getting the funding to carry out these programs in the future. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could indicate whether his department similarly is hiring or contracting outside expertise, or whether he feels that the expertise is within the government to carry out this exercise, particularly the financial aspects that are quite complex.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this undertaking, one of the first things the Executive agreed to was that we had to have a high level position in the government heading up this thing and that is one of the reasons that we chose to have a separate deputy minister for each of Health and Social Services, so that the deputy minister of Health would be the main person, this would be his main task, as a priority, where he is dealing directly with the federal deputy minister and the associate deputy minister responsible for this transfer. We do not, at this time, contemplate having to go outside of the territorial government's resources. We have to understand that Treasury Board approval for the transfer in the Baffin, for example, was achieved about four or five years ago and that phase one transfer took place. We already have people in our government who are involved in that transfer and they are now working on three different committees to take care of concluding the Baffin transfer by September 1st. These are for personnel and capital and finance and the other one is operations.

In addition to that the position of zone director for the Baffin was seconded from our government to the Baffin Region, so that for such things as I said the other day, as the Department of Public Works checking all the buildings that DPW owns, we will be given access to those. DPW may or may not have the resources within themselves; with inspection they may want to contract that out. But those things are all basically covered. We are using the resources of the Department of Personnel, Finance, DPW, etc., to give us the expertise we need as a government to do this. The first transfer, which was the hospital, was very successful. The financial transition that took place worked out very well for both parties. We think it has been a success, both financially and as a program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Distribution Of Priorities Moneys

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the department had a list of priorities and I think it amounted to about \$300,000. There was some concern of the standing committee on finance about policies for the distribution of these funds. I wonder if the policies are in place or have they been in place and have these funds been disbursed? I believe the funding was in a number of areas, the assessment of the aged and disabled, I think that was one, and other particular ones similar to that. I think there were five or six of them.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the \$8000 to the school health curriculum is a continuation of an existing project for which the policy has been approved. The tobacco education program is a continuation from last year. The suicide prevention education program is something for which the policy has already been approved and the assessment project of the aged and disabled is also continuing from last year. It is just merely that we needed more time to complete that project. The money just hasn't been specifically committed but those are just our estimates of what it will cost us, for example in the school health curriculum, to finish off that project, as well as the project on the aged and disabled. Thank you.

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

Motion That Minister Of Health Prepare Plan Of Action For Transfer To Ensure Adequate Funding, Bill 1-86(1), Carried

MR. McCALLUM: I think in administration I would like to move a motion. I do not think it was moved last Thursday and it should come under administration I guess, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Health begin immediately to prepare a plan of action for federal program transfers over the next 13 months which will provide for an adequate level of base funding in both capital and O and M for existing programs.

Mr. Chairman, if I may comment on that. That is a motion of the standing committee on finance. We are concerned that it should also look at the new initiatives that may be undertaken to include such things as mental health services for residents, in light of the motion that was made previously by this House. We are concerned that the Minister take an active role in planning for whatever transfers come from Health Canada to meet future needs of the residents of the Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. McCallum, your motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to the motion?

MR. McCALLUM: One further comment, Mr. Chairman. I know the recommendation indicates that we are looking for the proper funding for capital and O and M for existing programs. Again, I want to impress upon him that the committee was concerned about future initiatives that may be taken, one of them being in the area of mental health for people in the Northwest Territories. I do not think I want to add much more to that but it is a motion of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Administration. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have mentioned this before quite a while ago. It is concerning the kids whose birthplaces are not registered. There are three of them in my constituency. Two of them have got their birthplaces done now in records but there is one more that has not got his birthplace recorded yet. He was born in 1974 but up to today he has not been getting any family allowance. For that reason the parents are concerned about this. The parents cannot prove whether the person is alive or not, because he is not recorded. So for that reason I am asking you again whether there has been anything done about this? I could get the name of that person that is not registered and talk with you about it. It does not have to be done in the House. Thank you.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had correspondence with some officials in Manitoba, for example, about similar problems with getting birth certificates and proper social insurance numbers, etc. Any problems with this are usually handled through the Department of Justice or the vital statistics section of the government. If the Member could just provide me with the name of the person and the birth date and the parents' names, we could pursue that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Administration, total O and M. Mr. Richard.

Timetable For Air And Ground Ambulance Program

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister at the last session tabled the second or the final report of the air and ground ambulance advisory committee. I understand, Mr. Chairman, since that time late last year the NWT Association of Municipalities had concurred in the recommendations of that report and indicated that concurrence to the Minister directly and had requested the Minister to identify the funding that was necessary to implement those recommendations and to bring forward whatever legislation was required to implement those recommendations. I also understand, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister indicated to the Association of Municipalities that he would be bringing that matter to his colleagues in the Executive Council for a decision in January of this year. With that background, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate to this committee what the timetable is for the drafting of whatever legislation might be necessary, but more importantly for identifying the funds, to operate the program that is recommended by the report that was tabled in the Assembly.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: As I indicated to the House to this same question on Friday afternoon, the Executive has given me approval in one area. I should say that in order to implement the report in total, as outlined, some of the costs would have been in the order of three million dollars a year. The Financial Management Board was unable to identify that type of funding, so the basic instructions and direction I have been given by the Executive and Financial Management Board to date is to look at rationalizing the existing services which are in place, provided by municipalities and provided by the government on both levels, federal and territorial, and including such organizations as St. John Ambulance. Some of the things being considered, are realizing that a reasonable vehicle is needed in every community in the NWT, it will be recommended to the Departments of Local Government and DPW, for example, as they replace vehicles in communities over a period of years, that appropriate vehicles be put in place so that they can do double duty as a municipal or DPW vehicle and as well, could be used to transport people, for example stretcher cases, to the airport in small communities.

So basically my answer to the Member is that the Financial Management Board has not been able to identify the funding necessary to fully implement the recommendations and my instructions are to rationalize all existing services and try to make the best use of existing resources. But the one main thing is that the Executive and the government has acknowledged that the ambulance service is definitely a part of the medical health delivery system in the NWT. And that acknowledgment has never been made by the government before. So we have made that acknowledgment and our first step will be to take advantage of existing resources and share, etc., and see what we can do from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Public Statement Of Alternate Plan

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I hear the Minister saying that at the moment our government cannot afford the recommendations contained in the report which he tabled last fall, but that the government is acknowledging that the responsibility lies within the territorial government to provide this program and is going to proceed with an alternate plan to provide the program, not the plan recommended in the report which he tabled. Is the Minister or department going to be making some public statement of where we are going in terms of ambulance services? Is the alternate plan going to be announced publicly and communicated to the municipalities in the near future?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the government acknowledges that the objectives of that plan are what we would like to pursue. But we are not going to be able to pursue them in the time frame there and we will not be able to pursue them exactly in the manner spelled out there. But we think that we can, over a period of years, as that plan suggests, put in place an equivalent level of service. But we want to be able to do it utilizing existing services. We are going to, through the Department of Education, work on training for people who operate ambulances and we have some legislation preparation under way. I know being a councillor on a municipality for a long time, this has been in debate for more than a decade and I think that the fact that we have acknowledged that it is our responsibility within the Department of Health to take the lead role in this is the first step and from there I hope to pursue the objectives of that ambulance report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, although it is not a recommendation of the committee, the committee in reviewing the budget of the department wanted to re-emphasize the importance of the department actively recruiting native hospital workers and the use of a positive affirmative action plan by the hospitals themselves. It is not a recommendation but I just want to make sure that that message is getting across to the Minister and his department.

Reason For Reduction In Transfer Payments

I have a further question, Mr. Chairman, on the total department. I think on Friday we were talking about funding that would come over from the federal government and noted that in the total department, the revenues, from federal grants, transfer payments, has been reduced by about three per cent this year over last year. I wonder if the Minister could indicate where this reduction occurred and possibly why.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: In the area of employing native people in the medical profession, our government has continued to pressure Health and Welfare Canada to have positions as CHRs available. One of the problems is that there are not very many native people graduating from grade 12 and therefore they are unable to get into nursing and doctor programs. However, if we did have people working as CHRs, especially younger people, they might then take the interest to go on and upgrade themselves. In that area, my department has had contact with the University of Manitoba and they are willing to set aside positions for us. And since training is in the Department of Education, I have made the Minister aware that Manitoba is willing to set aside positions for us in medical doctor training and also pre-medicine, and to upgrade native students so that they can then enter into nursing or doctor careers. As well there are a few other places I believe, in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and I have transmitted that information. Mr. Patterson in the TEP program in Frobisher Bay is going to have certified nursing assistants courses available. So Mr. Patterson has been accommodating to our department. As I pointed out to Eliza Lawrence when this question was asked of me the other day, one of our biggest problems is to get native people through the education system to grade 12, so that they can actually enter these professional fields.

On the second part of the question, which I also answered the other day, the main reason is that if you look on page 14.19 under transfer payments, the \$4,350,000 for the Baffin hospital is now in our base and is not a transfer.

Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Administration, total O and M, \$3,217,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Supplementary Health Programs, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Supplementary health programs, total O and M, \$1,439,000. Agreed?
Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: In this area of supplementary health programs, when we were going over the budget last year, the Minister indicated to the committee that the federal cost-shared programs only covered hospital and physician services, drugs and other things. The treaty Indians and Inuit are covered and the department had developed a list of what would be covered for other non-status people. The government employees get 80 per cent coverage and the Minister had indicated then that he would request that a plan be set up for people not covered, who could pay a premium and get this coverage. I ask the Minister now whether a plan has been developed and what is going on? And I hope that question was not asked last time.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that area we have people in the NWT who are either Metis or non-status, or non-native people who are not in any sort of a government plan. It is not that large a group and a lot of them are indigent and they would be covered under social services anyway or basically, sorry, because they are indigent our government covers their cost. There is really a very small group of people I guess that would have their own plan because they are not employees of the government or a large company that does have a plan. Those people are getting these benefits without any form of premium payment.

Private Groups Offer Service

There are now private groups offering that service and so for small employer groups, for example a drug store and his employees, there is the availability now to get Blue Cross or other equivalent plans. We did a fair amount of work on that and it appears that with such a small group, probably staying the way we are is the best plan, unless we want to look at possibly involving other employer groups. If we put the general public in the same plan as the employee groups then it would be a big enough base to justify but with the small number of people we have right now and availability of plans now for small employee groups it is probably not worth our while getting into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Minister, do I then take it from you that that is a definitive answer that you are not going to get involved, you are not going to pursue this business of trying to set up a plan for those who are not covered and who could pay a premium, because the numbers are too small? And just along with that, since you brought up the topic of privatization, most of the departments have I think put forth something toward the total government's plan of privatization. Have you done any kind of investigation, if you like, or have you re-evaluated if you had an opinion before or your department had an opinion before, the possibility of getting into privatization for example through Blue Cross?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think in the privatization area, this is not talking about the general budget, but this specifically, the thing is that there are those services available for people to purchase now in small employee groups directly from Blue Cross so that we are not getting into that area right now. The other thing is that for the collection of premiums, the administration might be too cumbersome, to deal with such a small group. Instead of premiums actually what we are charging right now, for example in the medical transportation is the \$50 deductible toward the air fare so that we do collect money from those people who can afford it. So

the people that are not indigent do pay something toward the plan right now. A new plan would probably have a premium and no payment toward the medical transportation for example. But we are not in a position right now as a department to go to the Executive Council or FMB with a firm decision. Until we can see what is going to happen with the private sector and the plans that they purchase themselves, we are not really in a position to say yes or no, whether we are going to decide one or two things. We are still pursuing it. But the main thing that has come up is, in the last year or year and half these small employee group plans are now available so that people who can afford it now can purchase a plan, just as government employees can purchase a plan through the GSMIP for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the supplementary health programs I take it you are not anticipating any great revision to the amount of money that was allocated to this particular program, that is you do not perceive extending medical benefits to other medical conditions, in this coming year. You are only looking for a \$60,000 increase in the supplementary health programs. Under your revised estimates, even though it may not be finalized, it does not seem that you are going to have, according to the figures that we have in front of us, any change from what you wanted in front of the committee last year. So could I get an answer or some idea from you about the idea of extending benefits? Are there any plans to extend benefits to further medical conditions? Have you had any requests in specific areas? Do you really believe you are going to be able to look after this program with a simple \$60,000 increase in O and M?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Slightly over a year ago we did add half a dozen-odd diseases or conditions to the two lists we have and basically the diseases that are on those lists are there because of two reasons. One, there is either a very high medical cost involved, for example in the purchase of drugs, or in the other case, in the purchase of such things as wheelchairs or equipment that the person would need. So we have identified those within the last year and updated the list as cases became known to us where people were suffering severe financial difficulty.

Where Coverage Less In Private Plans

In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, the FMB has approved one other thing which will benefit some people. The previous policy was if a person was on a private plan, for example, a government plan or one of the mining company's plan, they were not eligible for our benefits. Now what we have done is, if our plan, the pharmacare plan or the extended medical benefits or the chronic psychosis plan, is better than the private plan, our government will pay the difference. What we thought was, because government employees and mining employees for example, are contributing on a monthly deduction from their pay cheques toward a plan, they are basically taking care of themselves. We have this other group of people that are not in plans, not actually paying any kind of a premium. In some cases our coverage was better than a private plan which we felt was a little unfair, so we have extended that coverage only for the difference. So the people have to go to their own plan first, but we will cover the difference up to the level which our plan covers. That is a small thing that I think will help some people who have, I think, diabetes which is one of the common conditions where private plans are not as good as ours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I ask the Minister, is that now policy? Is it now made known to particular hospitals, public health nurses, private people? Is it a policy or is it done on application either to you or to your departmental officials?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I only had this approved within the last couple of weeks. What the situation is, is that most of these people were already on the plan. For example they were not government employees or they did not work for large mining companies when they first got on the plan and they just sort of stayed there. So in most of the cases that we are aware of, people are already on the plan and we have notified them that they should not be on the plan. Some of them had pretty extreme expenses and we decided we would not remove those people from the plan,

the ones that protested and who had a good case for us. In addition, we will be getting the paper work and publicity to make this known to the general public out as soon as we can get the necessary forms and regulations and policies adjusted and approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. The committee would like to at this time recognize John B. Zoe, chairman of the Dogrib Tribal Council, in the gallery.

---Applause

With that, we will take a 10 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. - Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make one correction to my previous statement on the extended medical benefits under the supplementary health program in general. For people that are in private plans to cover the difference, I have priorities and planning approval and Executive Council approval but I do not yet have the Financial Management Board approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Supplementary health programs. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, following up on Mr. McCallum's questions on the small proposed increase in O and M funding under this activity. I note that in this activity the program is to pay for most prescription drugs for senior citizens. I am aware, Mr. Chairman, that some senior citizens represented by the NWT seniors society have approached the Minister with a view to having a number of additions to the list of prescription drugs that are made available to senior citizens by the government by this program. Can the Minister indicate whether he has yet responded to that request and what the nature of the response has been?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, on the matter of the amount of funding if Members will look on page 14.07 the 1984-85 actuals were only \$976,000 and the 1985-86 main estimates are \$1,379,000, and we expect a surplus in that area. Therefore, we have not taken such a big jump again in 1986-87.

Formulary Advisory Committee For Pharmacare

In the area of drugs for the elderly, under pharmacare we have a formulary advisory committee to that department which puts different prescription drugs on the approved list to be paid.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, has the Minister responded to the request by the seniors society that the list be increased to include additional prescription drugs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, there is a drug list which is covered under health programs as each new medicine comes on the market. These different drugs are recommended for approval and then put on the list. Once they make that list they also make our pharmacare list and anyone over 65 receives those drugs without charge.

I am sorry. I guess the additional request that they made was that people who are not 65 years old should be considered. We have not advanced any of that or made a final decision on it as yet. They wanted some people under 65 covered as well, who do not have one of the specified disease conditions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Response To Seniors Society Re Increasing List Of Prescribed Drugs

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, that is one question which has been asked of the Minister and I would hope that he would give a response to the seniors society very soon. My information is that he has not responded to that request. But in addition, Mr. Chairman, there was a request made, because I was present when they made it to the Minister, that he consider increasing the list of prescribed drugs or perhaps name medical conditions. There was a specific request made to the Minister to consider additions to that list and that was sometime before Christmas. My information, Mr. Chairman, is that the Minister has not yet responded to that request. Can he not indicate when he might be giving a positive response or some response to the seniors society on this item?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can just undertake to the Member to tell him that I will have a response to the senior citizens group before the end of March.

Supplementary Health Programs, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Supplementary health programs, \$1,439,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

NWT Share Of Health Care Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): NWT share of health care services. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Under the NWT share of health care services, again, I am concerned about the increase in the amount of funding here. I know it is for non-native residents and still for Metis as well, but you only have an increase in this kind of funding for these services. That is for those who are not covered under the federal government. I guess what I want to get straight is, are the Metis people covered under this program still?

One further question. What stats are you using -- population figures -- to determine or guesstimate what your health care costs will be?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, Metis and all residents are under this NWT share of health care services.

MR. McCALLUM: ...all non-native.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, this is just our non-native coverage, which is people other than status Indians and Inuit, and the formula that we have on this is for example, for a community that is 50 per cent native and 50 per cent non-native our government pays 50 per cent of any capital that Health and Welfare Canada spends on the facility and 50 per cent of the O and M. We are still using figures that were agreed to previously, 1961 population breakdowns for the percentage in each community. We are currently negotiating with them to use the 1981 figures instead...

MR. McCALLUM: 1981?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: The current agreement has the 1961 figures for the breakdown in communities and we are currently negotiating with Health and Welfare Canada -- and they are anxious to have us do this actually -- to use the 1981 figures. I believe the total population of non-native people in the NWT has increased as a total percentage since 1961 so that would actually favour Health and Welfare Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

NWT Share Of Health Care Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. NWT share of health care services, total O and M, \$3,197,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, total O and M, \$46,536,000. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a general question on the THIS board. I see in the objectives of this department, Mr. Chairman, that the department plans on preparing a new Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act and I am wondering what the Minister's plans are with respect to the THIS board? It is set out in our current legislation as being an independent board in name but I do not believe it is in fact. It funds the hospitals. Now in the provinces, Mr. Chairman, I understand that some of the provinces fund hospitals directly from the department of health or whatever it is called in the provinces. Other provinces have, under the legislation, established independent hospital commissions with a chairman, or a commission from outside of the department or outside of the government, and clearly my understanding is that there is even in the independent commissions some representation from within the civil service or within the government on the independent commission, but not as chairman. Here, Mr. Chairman, under the present situation it appears that we have virtually an in-house, within the department, THIS board and given that the department intends to write a new act, what are the Minister's intentions with respect to THIS board? Is it going to become more independent than it is now from government, or is it, at the other end of the scale, going to be abolished and funding be made to the hospitals directly from the department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At one stage when I took over this job there was consideration of abolishing the THIS board and funding directly to the hospitals. Subsequently there have been discussions at FMB about the reporting relationship of hospitals to the government and concern because some of the hospitals actually have a larger budget than some of the departments of this government do. Some sort of control was wanted and an earlier reporting relationship, so that our FMB would have earlier notice of either overexpenditures or lapsing in funds. Taking that into consideration, as the Minister I feel that we need a THIS board of some form. I think that you cannot put your funding out and allocate it into each hospital. You have to have some funds held back for major emergencies, breakdowns of major things like X-ray machines in some hospitals, so it is good to have this one agency which the budget review hospitals report to and so we can monitor them and make sure they comply with the FMB requirements for expenditure reporting. Also the board can respond to emergencies that hospitals will have out of a fund that we would hold back for such purposes each year. We have an experience each year that certain hospitals will have major difficulties and we are best off to hold that funding in central areas so that we can respond to emergencies like that. So it appears better to fund through a central board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Richard.

Board Creates A Two-Step Process For Accountability

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, that is the sort of fiction that I was trying to address. Quite frankly, I do not understand why you would have to create a board just to hold funds that might be required in an emergency situation. I am sure the FMB or the FMS would be pleased to hold them. My point, Mr. Chairman, is if the government, Executive Council or FMB are concerned that there be a more direct and quicker reporting relationship from the budget review hospitals to the Executive Council or to the FMB, then there is no need for a fictional independent commission. Why create within the Department of Health another board under legislation? It is just a two-step process for accountability. But if the philosophy of the government instead is to create an independent hospital commission, as is the case in some of the provinces, then why not make that decision,

create the commission, appoint to it people from outside the government and turn the funding distribution over to the independent hospital commission? Surely, Mr. Chairman, the government soon must decide which route it is going to go. I am not sure which route it should go but my view at present is this THIS board is fictionally independent. The chairman is, I believe, one of the deputy ministers or assistant deputy ministers, and there is this two-step process to get funds out to the hospitals and the accountability back to the FMB or the Executive Council. I am asking, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could indicate whether the government is planning on going the independent route, in fact, or the total close-to-the-chest funding approach that would see the hospitals dealing directly with departments and departmental officials?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, in other jurisdictions I know it is handled different ways. In most cases though, a government official is chairman of any board if the board exists and I put to the Member that it would still be basically just about the same process anyway because if you did not have THIS, you would have a group of bureaucrats in the department deciding how to allocate the funds and probably holding back emergency funds anyway. The idea of the THIS is there are members of the general public appointed to the board and in that way the policy for how hospitals are funded has some general public input, which would not be there if you did not have the board. Granted there are pros and cons and I intend to take this issue to the Executive Council to have it finally resolved. I believe Mr. McCallum initiated this when he was Minister of Health and I do not think anything was done for a couple of years and then I have had it now for over a year. But, it is my feeling that right now, and my officials may convince me otherwise, that there should be a board in place with members from the general public having a say on some of the policies on how we fund these health boards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Well Mr. Chairman, if the Minister personally is in favour of the set-up, perhaps I could ask that this board, that are presumably members of the public, have an opportunity to have input on policy and how funds are distributed to hospitals. How big is this current board? How many members of the public from outside government sit on the board and how often have they met in the last year or the last two years or the last three years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

THIS Board

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The board has five people on it and it is chaired by Mr. Pontus. They also have Mr. Emery from Giant Mines in Yellowknife on the board, Mr. Pederson from Fort Smith, Ms Kilabuk from Pangnirtung, Ms Elias from Coppermine, and Mrs. Allen from Inuvik who are on the board. That is the full board, so there is only one government official on the board and they meet anywhere between half a dozen and 10 times a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I expect there are increases this year for the government operated and owned hospitals. Could the Minister give me an indication or give the committee an indication as to what formula is used or is that dependent upon the utilization of services within particular hospitals? Is there a set formula for funding the Stanton Yellowknife, H.H. Williams, Fort Smith Medical Centre, and I know that you do pay some costs for Inuvik, Rae-Edzo, Frobisher which is our own now, I guess, and Simpson? But is there a particular formula involved here and what is it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, regarding the federal hospitals, we make contributions to their operations according to the population type formula that was discussed earlier. I think in Inuvik, we make a contribution of some set agreed amount. For the two smaller hospitals, it is a percentage, I think, in Fort Simpson and Rae-Edzo. In the other hospitals, it is a detailed, basically line-by-line review, which I think Mr. Pontus would be more capable of explaining than I am, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Pontus, please.

MR. PONTUS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister said, each year for those hospitals for which we are responsible, they submit a very detailed budget with statistics and projections for the future years. We then go through on a very detailed line-by-line analysis to determine the workload that they have experienced and what they are projecting and whether the funding allocation is appropriate or not. Then those are brought before the board and an allocation is made.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note in the figures that we have, that there is an increase in grants and contributions, and I take it that those are the ones to our own hospitals, and the "other O and M" is for other parts. But that, it seems to me, is less than it was a year ago, even from the 1985-86 budget through to the revised estimate. It is a lesser amount. What causes this, even though you have an increase throughout chronic care, you have an increase for the Inuvik chronic care, you have an increase for the Montreal boarding home that would be involved here as well and an increase for the other hospitals of close to one million dollars? Is that not correct? Why then are you estimating that you will require less under this -- under "other O and M", than you did a year ago and that you actually used?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, if you look on page 14.09 and if you look at the 1984-85 actuals, that is what we actually used in 1984-85. The 1985-86 main estimates were \$18,670,000, and this has been an ongoing surplus. I think that it has happened about three times in a row, so the Financial Management Board corrected it this year with a revised forecast. The \$16,288,000 is probably what we should come in at or close to, and therefore the 1986-87 figure is based on a growth of that \$16 million rather than a growth on the old main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an increase within this particular activity, Mr. Chairman, of roughly \$150,000 for extended and chronic care. Where is that distributed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, that extended chronic care would come out of the \$29,108,000 on line two.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister, where does he intend to spend it? There is \$150,000 for extended and chronic care. You are increasing the amount for this particular program. You have already indicated that you are going to spend over \$500,000 for the chronic care wing in Inuvik, where are you spending the other \$150,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, all of the chronic care type cases are not within the Northwest Territories. We have had an increase in purchase services out in the provinces and that is what that \$150,000 is.

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, total O and M, \$46,536,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Medicare, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Medicare, total O and M, \$11,927,000. Agreed? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have been asked to inquire with the Minister about a situation admittedly not in my constituency but in Iqaluit and this concerns the pharmacist there who has been complaining to myself and I know some other Members. I believe he has a number of complaints and I do not want to get into the pricing of prescription drugs or the price that the government is paying for these prescription drugs. But there was one principle that was raised, Mr. Chairman, and that was the issue of a physician prescribing drugs and also thereafter issuing them at a cost to government, or dispensing the prescription drugs. There was a suggestion or an allegation that this in itself constituted a conflict of interest in that the physician was both determining that the patient needed the drugs and then turning around and in effect selling the prescribed drug to the same patient. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that this situation has been brought to the Minister's attention and I am wondering if he could advise the committee of what the government's position is with respect to that particular principle.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Position Of Pharmacist, Frobisher Bay

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, in Frobisher Bay because there was a pharmacy, patients would tend to go to the pharmacy which was then in the hospital and run by the government. Because they did not want to have to go to see the doctor and then have to go somewhere else to get the prescription. In order to encourage a private practice to start in Frobisher Bay, we allowed the doctor to dispense drugs to his patients only. This practice allowed this doctor to have a private practice. It was our intention that if a pharmacy ever did open up that we would -- and it was in the original agreement with the doctor -- that he would probably then be given notice, that he would not be allowed to continue this practice any more.

I should point out that the legislation does allow for doctors to dispense when they are given a contract with the government to do so. We do have a contract with him. It is my intention to maintain that contract. There was some controversy in the community about the prices of drugs charged by the pharmacist. This was brought to my attention by petitions, phone calls and letters about the high costs. There seem to be complaints as my colleague for Frobisher Bay outlined in his reply last session, that there are a lot of complaints about the pricing policy and everything. I will tell Members that on my last trip to Frobisher Bay, I had a meeting with the pharmacist concerned who has a private business, as well as the doctor, to explain my feelings to both of them. I will tell you that I advised the pharmacist that unless he came to some agreement with us on what a fair price was in the pharmacare system, which is agreed to by all the other pharmacists, that I would take into consideration any representation that he made. Because he is in Frobisher Bay, his costs are higher. If he could show us that, we would take it into consideration on his dispensing fee or the cost of the drugs themselves and we would make adjustments. It was my ultimate objective to have him prescribing to everybody in Frobisher Bay with the same price for the same drugs, and, if we could not accomplish this, I would consider reopening the pharmacy in the hospital. So that is where that situation lies right now, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the reason for the increase in other O and M of approximately one million dollars? What causes that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of it is volume growth and the other is related to what I advised you, contract physicians. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Medicare, total O and M, \$11,927,000. Agreed? Mr. Richard.

Permission For Physician To Prescribe And Dispense Drugs

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, getting back to this situation of the physician dispensing drugs so I have it straight. The Minister indicates that that is permitted by the legislation or by the regulations only where the physician has a contract with the government for the dispensing of

drugs. I am just wondering if the Minister could indicate what the justification of that is? Is it only in communities where there is no pharmacist available? What is the justification in the first place for allowing a physician to dispense drugs that he has prescribed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where pharmacists are not available the legislation and regulations allow us to have drugs dispensed by whatever means feasible and in nursing stations, nurses are allowed to do that. We have lay dispensers in some of the very small communities who are just general lay persons who are trained in the basics to be able to do some emergency prescriptions like penicillin or something like that. In this particular case there was a pharmacy operating in the federal, and then territorial hospital. In order to encourage this doctor to start into practice we allowed him to set a pharmacy up in his operation. He, I believe, dispenses around 50 or 60 per cent of his own prescriptions. He carries a very small inventory of just the basics, if you want to put it that way and then the rest of the prescriptions go to the local druggist. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I understand the justification is that a doctor is allowed to do that where there is no pharmacist. Now in the situation of Frobisher Bay, there now is a pharmacist and I take it from what the Minister said today -- am I correct in assuming that the reason you have not discontinued the permission you have given the doctor to dispense is because of the high cost of drugs that is being charged by the private pharmacist?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, once we had closed the dispensary in the hospital, which was done to encourage the pharmacist in starting, I actually had a letter on my desk ready to go to the doctor telling him that we would not renew his pharmacare contract but then all the controversy started about the different pricings of drugs being charged to different people. In other words, the druggist was charging people on the pharmacare program, for example native people and people on our program, our own pharmacare programs, that we have as one of our extended medical benefits, the price we agreed to. For people who are covered by other plans, he had another set of prices. I believe there were three sets of prices basically being charged and I can give you about 30 or 40 copies of the various letters describing how Mr. Barsoum arrived at his prices. But I have to reiterate that it is not a situation we want, a doctor dispensing pharmacy. But the community has requested me to maintain a pharmacy in the doctor's clinic and until I can get some agreement with the pharmacist to follow the pharmacare formula to all people who come to him, I am not going to take away the dispensary that is presently in the doctor's office. I may have to reopen the pharmacy in the hospital in order to get things back into line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Medicare, total O and M, \$11,927,000. Agreed? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a clarification on the last matter. In our laws do we require that doctors charge very specific amounts for specific services and prevent them from going beyond those rates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Drug Rates Established In Government Pharmacare Plan

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we do. In light of that, in most provinces the pharmacists dispense at the rate established by the government on their pharmacare plans and very few if any pharmacists go away from that because the pharmacy association for the province agrees that that is what they will do. All the pharmacists that belong to that association apparently do this in all the provinces. That is the position we would like to have here so that when you went to purchase drugs you would be charged the same amount whether you were indigent or a millionaire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: My point then, Mr. Minister, is why can we not in our laws provide for that kind of thing with respect to the dispensing of prescriptions? In other words, create that situation that a particular pharmacist would have to abide by and then get out of the business of having a competitor in another profession doing precisely the same thing. It seems to me that that might offer a resolution to the problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a consideration that we have talked about, that we could introduce legislation if necessary. We really only have the one situation which I think we can bring into line. However, I guess a pharmacist could choose not to belong to the pharmaceutical association and therefore bill as he pleases. So there is that possibility there that we may have to go to legislation in order to correct situations like this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Medicare, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Medicare, total O and M, \$11,927,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Medical Services Contract, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Medical services contract, total O and M, \$767,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Medical Transportation, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Medical transportation, total O and M, \$4,147,000. Mr. McCallum.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to report to the Minister a comment of the standing committee on finance about medical transportation. The committee wants to stress to the Minister that there is a need for greater communications between hospitals and nursing stations to ensure the adequacy of medical transportation of patients. While we recognize that this is presently a federal responsibility I want to impress upon the Minister the need to pursue this matter with officials at the federal level and try to identify a more efficient system for medical transportation. This is a very serious concern for the people of the Territories, who in many cases have no choice but to travel to receive medical assistance. Along with that I note that there is, even with the difficulties that are involved here, there is a small reduction in the O and M on medical transportation. Again I just want to make sure the Minister recognizes that the committee is concerned here. We want to ensure that when he is looking at the devolution of these services that again maybe they can come up with a better system than that which is in place now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Assistance For Patients In Transit

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that area and especially through questions from Mr. Angottitauruq concerning some of his constituents' problems -- in most cases it is either elderly people or unilingual people that have this difficulty so I pursued Mr. Angottitauruq's suggestion that people should have some sort of identification with them and a description of where they are going and by which means, only to find out that that is the policy Health and Welfare Canada has. In fact, they were put under pressure by native organizations in some areas that, for example, having people arrive in Montreal with tags on them saying where they are going was insulting. So they discontinued the practice. So what I have suggested is that they should have

some sort of letter with them that can describe who they are, what nursing station they started from, the reason they are travelling and any medical precaution which might have to be taken if they are delayed, as well as what air line they are travelling on, what their destination is and contact phone numbers at each end.

In addition to that suggestion, Mr. Pedersen through his Department of Communications, has advised me that now that they have a full complement of translators on staff in all different languages that he is willing to consider some sort of hot line, if you could call it that, that people could phone in order to have a translator made available to them at least during office hours. Considerations like that are being taken. In most cases that we have investigated, the staff and resources are there to do things right and just about every time we have investigated a complaint, it turns out there was a new employee, either at the nursing station or at the hospital or in the zone office, who was doing the work for Health and Welfare Canada. So these things have not been basically policy breakdowns, they have been communication breakdowns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Medical transportation. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a big concern regarding transportation. I know several times, the people from my constituency come into Yellowknife and they have to wait such a long time at the airport for taxis, and many times because proper arrangement was not made. These are non-status people, and the same goes for status people as well. So, even with what little the territorial government has now, they are not all up to par in transportation. How are they going to improve it, when they take over health services for status people?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For status Indian and Inuit, the Health and Welfare Canada has that responsibility now, and as I just pointed out to the honourable Member for Slave River, most of the problems are not because the resources are not there or that the policy is not there, the problem is there seems to be communication breakdowns with new employees, etc.

As regard to non-status, the problem is that Health and Welfare Canada does not take care of their costs or the arrangements for their travel. That is left up to them because the Indian health policy presently does not cover them. If the people are indigent and cannot afford the service, then this can be paid for by the GNWT and cost shared, I believe, under the Canada assistance plan. So if people are indigent, we can make arrangements to help out in that area under our medical transportation policy. But, Mr. Chairman, we have to know in advance, I guess, through that person communicating with the social worker in their community to affirm their eligibility and then arrangements can be made from there. But because the federal nursing stations do not take that responsibility, it is left up to the individual to do it.

We hope that once the nursing stations are under our government's jurisdiction, we can improve that. In the Yellowknife area, we are hoping that with a transient centre for the Kitikmeot, there will be a good connection between the nursing stations up there and the transient centre here, which will be staffed, you know, by people who have the ability to speak both of the languages up there. As well, we are expecting that the boarding home run by the Dene Nation will have Dene employees who are capable of speaking native languages. Hopefully that will also help, because apparently what is planned is that both these organizations will have vehicles and they will be doing the meeting of the patients at the airport. I believe that is in the proposal anyway to Health and Welfare Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Medical Transportation, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Medical transportation, total O and M, \$4,147,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Detail of grants and contributions. Contributions, administration, \$87,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, \$29,108,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Medicare, \$12,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total contributions, \$29,207,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services board. Any questions? Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Any questions?

Total O And M, Agreed

Okay, we go back to page 14.05. Total O and M, \$71,230,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

NWT Share Of Health Care Services

Contributions, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Can you turn to your capital estimates on page 11.06. Detail of capital, NWT share of health care services, contributions. Total headquarters, \$262,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): On page 11.06. Are we ready now? Page 11.06, on the capital estimates. Any general comments? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask a question about the Yellowknife hospital. The question that I would like to ask is, how does it become the responsibility of this government to put up the capital dollars for that hospital? How did that happen? That is my question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Funding For New Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I outlined earlier, I believe on Thursday, the funding for that hospital comes from the following sources. The city of Yellowknife provided the land and the servicing into it and the actual construction cost is one third -- all the money is actually coming from the federal government. Two thirds is coming from DIAND to the GNWT in its

base budget and the other one third is coming from Health and Welfare Canada in recognition that a third of the patients will be status Indian and Inuit. So the money was all negotiated and put into our capital budget over and above other plans that we had. In fact, that is really the only hospital that we are presently constructing. The ones in Fort Smith and Hay River were previously constructed by this government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to ask the Minister, on the part of this hospital that is going to be having to do with Health and Welfare people, I wonder if you could tell us whether or not people will start to come to Yellowknife instead of going to Edmonton for certain kinds of treatment. I wonder if you could tell us that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should explain to the Member that the funding formula is basically arrived at just by -- it is estimated that approximately one third of the people who use the hospital will be status Indian and Inuit. So, in other words the same type of funding agreements have been made in this case, as is the case in any capital improvements to a nursing station or building a new nursing station, that the percentage of the population that is non-native determines what share our government will pay toward that, and we always get that in our base budget from Health and Welfare Canada or from DIAND.

Facilities Available In New Hospital

The intention of having a larger facility here is that there are already people in Yellowknife or people who could come to Yellowknife and could have medical services provided in Yellowknife if we had enough beds. We already have the physicians and other professional people here to provide that service, but we do not have enough beds. So, a lot of patients who could be treated in Yellowknife, are sent to Edmonton after preliminary examination by a doctor here or a doctor in Inuvik for example.

In the case of new services, one of the main things that will be improved is diagnostic services. For a lot of the things like different tests of say, blood samples or whatever would have to be done, now a patient could be in the hospital here and there is a two or three day delay because we have to send the samples out to a laboratory in Edmonton to have the work done and then the analysis comes back a few days later. So, that service will be improved too by a better diagnostic facility in the hospital so that when tests are done, more tests will be able to be done right here in Yellowknife, so that the doctor can find out immediately the results. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: So, just for the record then, it is not just a Yellowknife hospital then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, that is right. The Member will also know, if he heard previous debates on this, it is not a referral hospital either. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, with the new hospital coming up in Yellowknife, what are the plans for the old hospital?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Disposal Of Present Hospital

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the old hospital I think was built in at least three different stages. Some parts of the hospital were constructed so long ago that they do not meet present building codes so that in order to make improvements or use it for something else it would have to be upgraded and that would be too expensive to do. So I imagine that parts of the hospital may be levelled.

Other parts of the hospital though are in good shape and there are different groups in town interested in using them. Some suggestions have been that it could be incorporated partly for services to the elderly, nursing home type care. There have been other Yellowknife groups interested in getting the facility to do different types of programs in. In addition, I believe there is an apartment there which nurses live in right now which some groups in town have shown interest in having renovated and used for other purposes. So it is not our intention to use it as a hospital any more but some services that are health related might take place in the hospital, for example, a nursing home. But those are only proposals from the department or different interest groups right now. Nothing has been formally decided. The only thing we have decided for sure is that in front of the existing hospital, the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors is going to put up a personal care unit there that will accommodate 30 people. In the long-term plan, the idea is to possibly join that on to the hospital once the hospital is no longer being used. Thank you.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not too clear on some of the comments the Minister made. Although it is not a referral hospital, funds have been given on behalf of the status natives and Inuit. Most of the people from the communities are coming to Yellowknife hospital, right? So money has been given on behalf of the native people as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It has been agreed by Health and Welfare Canada that approximately one third of the patients will be either status Indians or Inuit and therefore they have agreed to pay one third of the cost of constructing the building. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we desperately need space for young offenders, if space should be made available, would it be considered putting that program in the hospital so in this way we do not have to add on to the correctional centres in Yellowknife and Hay River? Could that be considered?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, it is my personal intention as Minister to not have young offenders serving in the same facility as adult offenders. We do right now have some young offenders being held in remand and some of the older sentenced young offenders in the correctional centre. I do not anticipate that we will require that facility. It will take a lot of renovating to make it suitable. I have had meetings as Minister of Social Services, with the Hon. Perrin Beatty and I am hoping to have some successful areas that we can negotiate on funds to serve young offenders before the summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Detail of capital, NWT share of health care services, contributions. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Since this hospital is being used by practically all the communities, would it be appropriate to call it "Stanton NWT Hospital" instead of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: Call it Stanton...

MRS. LAWRENCE: We have to leave the Stanton in there. NWT Stanton Regional Hospital. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Can we have order, please? Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, when this idea was proposed before, that it would be a Western Arctic regional hospital, people opposed that idea of naming it something like that. So the department went back to calling it the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Detail of capital, NWT share of health care services, contributions, total headquarters, \$262,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$899,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Inuvik, \$146,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$56,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Keewatin, \$321,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Kitikmeot, \$118,000. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Someone might not agree unless he knows exactly what "various" means for Kitikmeot nursing stations and residents. Could I have a little clarification on what "various" means? Kitikmeot is not very large but it has a few residents and it is good to know who is getting what. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as I outlined to Members before, whenever Health and Welfare Canada make any kind of capital improvements to one of their buildings or purchase equipment for one of those buildings, we pay a share of that cost. Each year they estimate to us what they are going to be spending in a region so in this case that would be the six nursing stations in the Kitikmeot Region. That would be our government's share of the money that is being spent to improve those buildings or purchase any equipment that is going to go in those buildings. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Total Kitikmeot, \$118,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total contributions, \$1,802,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

NWT Share Of Health Care Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total NWT share of health care services, \$1,802,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

Buildings And Works, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, buildings and works, total headquarters, \$17,085,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$115,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, could I just have an indication why the proposed expansion to the Frobisher Bay hospital is twice as much as it was in last year's budget? Last year's budget was \$743,000 total. It is now \$1,890,000. What are they adding on extra? How much of it are you paying for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, because it has been built into our base budget in Frobisher in both capital and O and M this year that would be our share and Health and Welfare Canada's share, whereas last year just our share would have shown up there. In other words, the money that Health and Welfare Canada used to spend is now in the budget.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then do I understand that what was contemplated in an expansion of the Frobisher Bay hospital last year, regardless of what our amount was, would have totalled less than \$1.9 million? Has our share increased?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total project is the same as it was. The only difference is that this year, because we have completed the negotiations on that hospital and the federal government has in the agreement given us those capital funds in our base budget, the whole cost of the expansion is showing up whereas last year just our percentage share of the expansion showed up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McCALLUM: (Inaudible comment)

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: No. Apparently the cost for the expansion is the same as was intended. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Total Baffin, \$115,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Keewatin, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total buildings and works, \$17,215,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$350,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Inuvik, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Keewatin, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$385,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, \$17,600,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total department, \$19,402,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a comment to the department. I know the comment was made in relation to the Department of Public Works, or at least I think it was, and it deals with the concern the standing committee on finance had on the tendering procedures used in the awarding of the contract for the construction of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. The information that we had at the time was conflicting. There is not much sense in my going through that now that it has been awarded. The Minister of Public Works informed the committee at the time that the way in which the procedure was carried out was not the usual practice of the Department of Public Works. There was a conflict with the board. The opinion of the committee is that the practices followed in the awarding of that contract are questionable and should be examined to clarify procedures for future construction contracts. I recognize this may very well be more in place with the Department of Public Works but the hospital board was involved at the same time and of course it is the responsibility to some degree of this department because I would expect that the THIS board at some instance had to be involved with it. I just wanted to bring that out. It was a concern of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Chairman, and it is a comment from them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Awarding Of Contract For Construction Of New Hospital

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think Members should be aware of the circumstances that occurred. There were only three companies that bid on the Stanton project and two of the companies who bid did not follow the tendering procedures as outlined. The group of people making recommendations to the board recommended that PCL, as the only ones who followed the guidelines, should be the company that had the award.

The tendering was put out on a two-phase process. One was to bid on the total project. Then there was a second day consideration. The board had previously decided to do it in a two-phase process. One, they would pick the contractor according to the main tender and then each contractor -- it was in the original tender documents -- would be allowed in the next day to come forward with proposals with what they would recommend should be some changes. PCL was the only company, it should be pointed out, that followed all the tendering specifications and therefore the contract was awarded to them. The other material came in on the alternate and PCL recommended a different type of walling which would save, I believe, in the order of \$400,000 or \$500,000. The building committee recommended to the board that that also be accepted and therefore PCL's bid was taken as being the only one who followed the proper tendering procedures and their suggestion of the \$400,000 to \$500,000 savings was also taken by having a different way of putting up the walling.

The Executive Council maintained all along that, even though the building committee and the board might make some recommendations, because this was such a large project the Executive Council would have the final say. The Executive Council chose PCL Construction with the walling changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Total department, \$19,402,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any question on the capital recoveries? Any questions on distribution of the budget? That concludes the Department of Health. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I would like to thank the witnesses and the Minister.

Workers' Compensation Board

We are now on Workers' Compensation Board. Does the Minister wish to make opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just very briefly. The Workers' Compensation Board is the agency that the Government of the Northwest Territories has to insure workers. In this system all the employers of anyone who has a job in the NWT, who works in the NWT, contributes a premium to cover these costs. The premium which is charged to the employers is determined upon how dangerous the jobs are. That is how they determine the premium. Also, in addition to this, even though companies might be in the same business, two companies might have different records of safety. So a company that has a very good record and has very few accidents because they are aware of safety, etc., will have employees who do not get injured and therefore they do not have very many insurance demands on the board. Therefore, the board gives them deductions on a merit system because of their good safety record.

Mr. Chairman, the board has basically three functions in this overall process. One is to set aside money for people who have received injuries and will be, for the rest of their lives, compensated for that injury. That might be the loss of an arm. Another fund that is established by these premiums is for workers who die on the job and leave behind a wife and dependent children. Every

time one of these two situations occurs, whether it is a permanent disability or whether it is a fatality, the board with the advice of an insurance actuary, determines how much physical cash should be set aside so that that person's injury or their family will be taken care of for the rest of the obligation or the rest of the person's life, depending upon what the situation is.

The other fund that is established through the premiums is what a lot of people refer to as a disaster fund. That fund is there in case you have a major disaster in the NWT such as the sinking of a drill ship in the Beaufort or a major collapse in an underground mine where several or possibly 10 or 20 people may be killed. So basically that is how the premiums are established and collected from the employers and those are the three main functions the premiums go to.

Members should be aware that in the order of \$70 to \$80 odd million is going to be in these funds in the immediate future. One of the main tasks that the board has to oversee and that the administration carries out, is the investment of those moneys that have been set aside and the board and its officials do a very good job of this. They usually gain more interest on their funds than they would in a bank. I think usually in the order of 14 or 15 per cent. So with that brief description for Members of how the board operates I would like to call in the witnesses right now, Mr. Michael Moore, who is the chairman and Mr. Bryan Roberts, who is the executive director of the Workers' Compensation Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Go ahead, Mr. Minister. Mr. T'Seleie.

Compensation For Hunters And Trappers

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I could ask the Minister whether or not the people that are involved in land based activities, such as trapping and hunting, would be considered in the same way as regular employees. I guess I would like to ask the Minister, is there a way that that is done, or is it possible right now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that in the natural resource industry with hunters and trappers, as far as our government is concerned and certainly as the Legislative Assembly has been on record as saying, it is a career, it is a job and there are dangers involved with it and that people should be encouraged to continue to pursue that as a profession. In light of that, there is a method whereby hunters and trappers can receive compensation.

In the case of ordinary employees, the employer, the company pays all the premiums. In this case and I believe a similar situation to this is if you own your own company, you can also pay an extra premium to have yourself covered. There are arrangements for that. So we have an arrangement as well for hunters and trappers. On a voluntary basis, they can pay a \$100 premium and that will cover them with all of the same benefits that other workers would be covered for.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: What about Assembly Members injured in a hockey game?

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am sure all Members have a list or a copy of a memo from the Minister regarding the present members of the board and their expiry dates. I wonder if I could ask the Minister, has he...

AN HON. MEMBER: Expiry dates?

MR. McCALLUM: That is what it says. I am just reading as it says in the letter, "...and their expiry dates." I am not sure whether they are all going to die or whatever, but they are all cut off. What I would be concerned about, Mr. Chairman, would be what is the position of replacing, as I understand it, five, three, whoever resigned this past year and who have put in recent letters of resignation? Could I ask as well of the Minister, is Mr. McLean still a member of the board? So that I have some idea of what the plans are for the Workers' Compensation Board in this area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Vacant Positions On Board

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There are three people whose terms expired early last year, I believe in the April to July period of time, who have not been replaced, and as well Mr. Berezowski and Mr. Hettrick have given me letters of resignation. Mr. McLean is still presently a member of the board. This was done in order that Mr. Roberts would be able to rely on Mr. McLean's experience even though Mr. McLean would not continue on as chairman due to health reasons. Mr. McLean is aware of the understanding that he is on the board for this purpose and expects to have his appointment terminated once the caucus has formally appointed a new chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Okay, that is Mr. MacLean's situation. What progress has been made to get replacement people for these five positions then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I have had to shop through the various lists. I believe over 30 different people were nominated from various organizations, including MLAs, and the Legislative Assembly has basically, through the caucus, given the direction that we want to have the board representative of all the regions and ethnic groups in the NWT as well as all the various industries. So once I received the resignations of Mr. Berezowski and Mr. Hettrick, I had to look for a few other names and I now have all those names and the Executive approved this morning a list for me to forward to Members of caucus and it is in the process of being translated because there are biographies for each of the people being considered. It should be on the agenda tomorrow. If it is available earlier I could try to give it to Members before they leave for home tonight, if the translation is done.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Apparently the translation has been completed so I will have that distributed to Members before they go home and that way they can fully discuss the item at caucus tomorrow. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the total number of members on the board be 12? Then are you replacing five people or more than five?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. During 1985-86 there was a total of 12 people on the board if you include Mr. Moore. At one given time in 1985 there were 11 people on the board. I am going to make a proposal tomorrow that there be the chairman, the executive director and 10 people on the board for a total of 12, Mr. Chairman. That is something I am sure caucus might want to discuss as well once they realize who they are and the criteria for them all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not go into the membership of the board because we will be discussing it prior to coming here. Have there been any further discussions or have any discussions taken place on the transfer of health and occupational safety to the board?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Transfer Of Health And Occupational Safety Responsibilities

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, considerations to transfer health and occupational safety from Justice to Workers' Compensation Board have been discussed by the Executive. Actually the Executive, I would say, tends to think that is a good idea. The board has been advised of the

Executive's preference in this area, that they want to have a final decision made whether that should be done or not. The board has come back with their considerations and in addition to this there are legislation and regulations which would have to be amended probably to do this. So basically the Executive has put it to Mr. Ballantyne and myself and the board to come back with an Executive decision paper on this. There are pros and cons to it. Some people feel that it is a good idea and some do not. It can be argued both ways. It is done differently in different jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions have moved it back and forth. So this decision will be coming before the Executive within a couple of months, I hope, once the new board is fully appointed and has a chance to give me their position on it. I will be waiting until the new board is in place and I would like them to be apprized of all the pros and cons of it, and any legislative and regulation changes that would have to be made we will take to the Executive for a decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that we have a different sheet of figures than are in our book. Mr. Chairman, last year the board received approval to raise the year's maximum allowable earnings, YMAR, from \$26,400 to \$30,400. Can I have an indication how that has affected the board's financial position in this past year and how it may affect it this coming year? Since we have not heard anything in this session, are there any plans that the board has now to come to the Assembly with a request to raise -- and I expect it will always be a raise rather than a change but it is usually an upward raise -- in the upcoming fiscal year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Moore to answer that question. Thank you.

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

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the board has no proposal to the Minister at the moment to change the YMAR, the year's maximum assessable remuneration. So there is no proposal before the Minister at the moment.

Answering the first part of the question, I am not sure that I can give a short answer to the question, what effect did raising the YMAR have on the funds? The YMAR and the \$30,400 which was set last August, is the basis on which all pensions are set and on which all payments of compensation are made. I think it would need quite a study to go back and see what might have happened if the YMAR had remained where it was and therefore if the compensations had been lower. I therefore cannot give you, off the top of my head, a financial answer to that question. I am not sure that it is a question that really can be answered, because it is hypothetical. What would have happened if we had not raised the YMAR? The reason for raising the YMAR, Mr. Chairman, of course is to set our compensation for injured workers and their dependants at a level which is relevant to the current earning capacity of those workers. By comparison with most provinces, at the moment the level \$30,400 is quite low, and to give you an example, Mr. Chairman, BC has just in the last few days, gone to something over \$40,000. But, if I could just say again, Mr. Chairman, the board has no recommendation on the table, and has made no recommendation to the Minister to change that figure.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Moore had pre-empted the question to a degree. How many other provinces have a higher YMAR?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, around half a dozen or eight provinces have a higher YMAR right now than we do.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, very briefly. I want to refer to the response that the standing committee on finance had from the Minister on the possible investment of some of the funds held by the Workers' Compensation Board in the North. I take it from this response that the Minister

provided, which is a copy of the board's letter in fact, that the current legislation and board policy would allow the board to invest in bonds or debentures of our own government which presumably are pretty safe or bonds and debentures guaranteed by our government. Also, a third category, bonds or debentures of municipal or school corporations in the Northwest Territories.

I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could indicate whether there is any discussion by his colleagues, particularly the Minister of Economic Development, or perhaps the Minister of Local Government, that some scheme might be established to allow northern businesses or northern municipalities to borrow these funds on the basis which seems to be allowed by the legislation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Economic Development and some of his officials brought this Chamber of Mines initiative to the attention of the board and the Executive Council and basically the Minister of Finance's department was involved in this as well because they are the ones presently guaranteeing loans to municipalities. The possibility of doing it is certainly there, but the only, I would say, difficulty is that the investments of the board, as I said previously, bring them in in the area of 14 to 15 per cent range, which is a little bit better than they would get if they were competing with a bank. So, it would really depend on the bank loans as to whether it would be of advantage to the different people that wanted this source of money or not, because the board itself would have to loan out money at approximately the same percentage that they are taking in profits right now.

In other words, if the board is averaging 15 per cent on its investments, then they would have to charge a 15 per cent interest rate, otherwise the board would have to raise premiums on employers, and I am sure that the Chamber of Mines would be upset with an increase in premiums. So, the only time that it would be an advantage is if one of those groups that the Member mentioned, required the funds and was maybe unable to acquire a loan anywhere else and the government decided to back it. Because I think that, in most cases, the loaning institutions would probably have a lower interest rate than the fund. If it was to the advantage of the group, it would be possible, according to the present legislation to do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. The Chair recognizes the clock and would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-86(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1986-87

MR. ERKLOO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-86(1) and wishes to report progress, with one motion being adopted and requests leave to sit again.

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: Mr. Curley, do you have an announcement?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of us will be travelling tomorrow so I think it is only appropriate that I seek at least approval for myself and Mr. Butters who will be up at Inuvik along with my colleague, Red Pedersen, who will be meeting with the land use planning commission. I will be up there for a couple of days and Mr. Butters likewise and so will Mr. Pedersen. I understand the Member for Nunakput will also be up there. We would just like the indulgence of the House to be excused for a couple of days. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to announce to the Ministers and the ordinary MLAs that today I heard that the mayor's wife from Sanikiluaq, Annie, who left in October for Winnipeg, today I heard that Annie had triplets today. The two girls are six pounds five ounces and the boy is three pounds. They are all okay. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I seem to have some form of announcement here. It is not as good news as the Member just gave out about the birth of triplets. It is more or less a report from some MLA cheerleaders who travelled to Rae last Friday with the Legislative hockey team who laid an egg. An enjoyable time was had by all who attended. It was a nice break from the session. There is honourable mention of some hockey players: Ted Richard who we thought looked like a perfect replica of Big Bird; and Art Look, who with Ted had the misfortune to leave their blood on the Fort Rae ice -- even though Ted's wound was to his upper lip, this did not mean to say he kept a stiff upper lip either on the ice or the bus trip home; "Good Sport Arnie" who just may have won the Oldest Player Award; Ludy Pudluk and Michael Angottitauruq -- Ken Dryden, Andy Moog, etc., move over; and last, but not least to number one on our program and number one in our hearts -- Dennis Patterson...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yeah!

---Laughter

---Applause

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: ...Mr. Speaker, he is described as "Bambi on Ice".

---Laughter

The score ended 15-7 -- not in favour of our tough team. But keep your heads up Rae! We'll be back next year. From the cheerleaders, Rah, Rah, Rah!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have rather bad news. Last Saturday I was called during the evening from Pond Inlet. The oldest person in Pond Inlet died at the age of 87 years. Also, that woman is my wife's grandmother. For this reason my wife had to go back home to Pond Inlet so I thought I would announce that. This was the oldest woman in Pond Inlet and very few older people are living today and I am very sorry to see her go. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. On behalf of the House we would like to extend our condolences. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

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

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 4th, at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions

5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 1-86(1), 2-86(1), 3-86(1), 4-86(1), 5-86(1), 7-86(1), 8-86(1), 9-86(1), 10-86(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 4th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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