



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

7th Session

10th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report
DAY 16

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1986

Pages 602 to 648

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Mr. Clerk, by count I do not have a quorum to open this House today. Will you please list the names of those present?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Paniloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Gargan, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. McCallum, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Richard, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Wray, Mr. Patterson.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The count indicates that we do have a quorum.

Item 2, Members' replies.

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government Leader but I see the Government Leader has not arrived in the House for the question period. I would appreciate being called upon when he does arrive, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie if the oral questions are still on the floor, that would be appropriate but if he should not arrive before then, then you would have to have unanimous consent to go back to oral questions. You can, however, give your question and another Minister will take it on behalf of the Government Leader and have him bring back an answer. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 148-86(1): Possibility Of Changes To TFN Subagreement 15

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Aboriginal Rights, Mr. Speaker. It concerns the document which the Minister tabled yesterday, Tabled Document 35-86(1), being an open letter from TFN to the people of the Northwest Territories. I note, Mr. Speaker, that this document is a response to some of the debate which took place in the Assembly earlier this session. It is a very cordial response, in that the TFN welcome the thoughtful and constructive manner in which the issues were raised. More cordial, Mr. Speaker, than some of the responses from some of the Ministers opposite.

Mr. Speaker, my question concerns the need for clarification from the Minister between some of the statements that the Minister made and answers that he gave in this Assembly two weeks ago and what is in the TFN document that he tabled yesterday. The Minister, Mr. Speaker, in effect indicated to

this Assembly that the subagreement number 15 which was the topic of debate, was not cast in stone. On February 19th the Minister indicated that what was in the final agreement may differ significantly from what is in the subagreement number 15. And also on that date he indicated that any concerns that we do have about the subagreement will be resolved. On February 21st in this Assembly, the Minister indicated on the process of the land claims negotiations that once all of the subagreements in principle are initialled they are all then taken into one overall agreement and a fair amount of give and take will occur at that time. Also on the same date the Minister indicated that negotiations are far from complete and that much can change between now and the date of the final agreement.

Mr. Speaker, this appears to be at variance with the TFN open letter tabled yesterday. I refer simply to the bottom of page one of the letter in which the authors refer to the procedure or the process of all of the subagreements in principle being initialled and being released to the public for comment. "After this debate we return once more to the negotiating table to clarify procedural issues, to ensure consistency between the individual agreements in principle, and to deal with contentious issues that were put aside in the first round of negotiations." The important part, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "Substantive changes to the agreement in principle are not made during the second round of negotiations." Mr. Speaker, in view of this discrepancy my question to the Minister is, does the Minister understand the process? Is the substance of the subagreement number 15 not now beyond the possibility of change?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 148-86(1): Possibility Of Changes To TFN Subagreement 15

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My answers given in this House earlier, as quoted by the honourable Member, were based in part on the only real experience that we have in the NWT, to date, in the process leading to the final agreement. That is with the Inuvialuit land settlement legislation. I would say very obviously, if one compares the 1978 agreement in principle to the 1985 final agreement, one would find substantial differences. This reality was what lead me to state with some confidence that this was indeed the first step in a long process that I anticipate could result in change.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully disagree with the statement contained in the open letter based on our experience with the COPE claim. I also would reiterate again to this House that this government has an influence on the negotiations and we have served notice on both parties that we feel the issue of the jurisdiction of public government does need to be clarified and amplified in the process leading to the final agreement. By this I meant, Mr. Speaker, that whether or not the substantive provisions of the subagreement number 15 are changed, we will be participating in the negotiations so as to see that the role of a public government that may be in place when the claim is settled would be in fact fleshed out and clarified and acknowledged perhaps by another document or another subagreement before the final agreement is signed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 148-86(1): Possibility Of Changes To TFN Subagreement 15

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister clarifying that his remarks on the process made earlier in this Assembly were with the COPE experience in mind. However, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the Minister's disagreement with what is in the tabled document from TFN, and Mr. Speaker, I ask if the Minister would undertake to check as to what the process is. I am speaking now of this particular claim, the Inuit claim. What is the process or what is our government's understanding of the process, and to advise this House precisely as to what is or is not cast in stone once a subagreement in principle is initialled, in view of this TFN response tabled in this Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 148-86(1): Possibility Of Changes To TFN Subagreement 15

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will certainly undertake to do so. I would like to point out to the honourable Member that we have not yet heard from the other party to the agreement -- the federal government. I have been informed that a response from Mr. Crombie is expected any day now which I would make available to the House. This statement only comes from one party and it

could well be that the federal government may take a somewhat different view. So I will review the process and the understanding of both parties as to how it might work and report back to this House perhaps in the context of Mr. Crombie's response to my letter of January 17th. Thank you.

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

Question 149-86(1): Impersonation Of Government Leader On CBC

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader. Since I could not quite believe what I was hearing this morning...

---Laughter

...could I ask the Government Leader to confirm that he was, in fact, impersonated by someone on a CBC radio interview this morning, regarding perquisites for Executive Council? Were you impersonated, or was that you speaking, Mr. Government Leader?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 149-86(1): Impersonation Of Government Leader On CBC

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: The interview I had with one of the CBC reporters yesterday which was reported on this morning's news regarding services and Ministers, as it were, going first class and with respect to such things as housing. Is that the matter that the Member is concerned about?

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to talk about it and set the record straight in this matter. Over the last couple of years and months with the constitutional progress made in the Territories, the scope of ministerial responsibility has been greatly enhanced. Not only are departmental responsibilities increasing, but Ministers like their federal and provincial counterparts, are being called upon to be more accountable for their actions and the actions of their officials. This is of course in keeping with responsible government being brought to the North and with this I believe comes an enhancement in the stature and dignity of the office of a Minister.

So, what I was talking about in the CBC report, which was partly reported, is that if indeed responsible government has come to the North, if indeed the Leader and the Ministers are significant persons in this government, then in very basic things such as housing, we as a government will provide Ministers with adequate housing. With respect to travel in the North, there was some allusion to travelling first-class. Well, I am not referring to travels in the South, first-class. I, as a Minister, have travelled to the South but have never travelled first-class and do not intend to. What I was referring to are the basic things such as housing and travelling in the North. We are going to provide adequate housing and adequate means for the Ministers to travel in the North. This is all that I was alluding to. The government has a number of staff housing units in its stock but many of these are old. Most of them are between 15 and 20 years old. We decided, as a government, to buy a house for Ministers that would be a little bit better than the very modest -- and some of them are very run-down houses that are available to our government. This is the point that I was making. I can add that the house that I am living in is 20 years old. It used to be the house that the Commissioner lived in and I moved into it on December 18th. It is basically an old run-down house. We have had to put plastic on the house and make all sorts of improvements. The first night that I slept in the house the furnace ran all night non-stop because of the type of house that it was. I have never lived in all my life in such terrible housing.

So as a government, all I am saying is that we are going to upgrade that house and make it into a fine house for a Government Leader to live in, or future premiers to live in, and likewise for other Ministers that need housing, we are going to provide them with adequate housing. That was what I was trying to say. It did not quite come across like that. You want to talk about perquisites -- well, that is a wholly different matter that I was not even talking about yesterday. I was talking about housing and proper transportation for Ministers of this government.

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

Question 150-86(1): Eligible Income Level For HAP Houses

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. At the present time the people that get HAP housing do not have to pay, but I heard recently that in the future the people that are entitled to get HAP housing will be paying \$45,000 to get a HAP house. I want to know if this is true. Is the Housing Corporation going to have a policy where you have to pay? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 150-86(1): Eligible Income Level For HAP Houses

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to clarify the situation for the honourable Member. When we as a housing committee went around the North, there was a request made in many communities that the income level for eligibility of HAP houses should be raised. As you know now we are cost sharing HAP with CMHC who have some very strict requirements for income ceilings. We are looking at a possibility and right now no decision has been made whatsoever, that possibly higher income people should pay back part of the cost of the HAP house. But it is in the planning stage now. The MLAs will be fully consulted before any decision is made and no decision has been made right now. So we are not talking about next year, everybody who was eligible for HAP housing is going to have to pay back \$45,000 at all. But we are looking at the possibility for some higher income people paying back part of the cost of a HAP house. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 151-86(1): Government Misled As To Shareholders Of Iligiittut Ltd.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question for the Government Leader but on a different matter. It is in respect to the matter of the contract with Iligiittut Limited for leased accommodation in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Government Leader, we see from evidence that is put on the public record here in the Assembly over the past week or so, a number of things or many things. First, those that I want to refer to here, that there was a request of five Keewatin residents who were in the process of forming a company who asked the Commissioner to meet with them as the director of Personnel in Rankin Inlet at the time the proposal was discussed. We see also from the record that was provided in yesterday's Hansard that the Commissioner at that time specifically recommended that the base of participation in the company be as broad as reasonably possible. We see in the record as well that from July 19th there was correspondence from the secretary treasurer of Iligiittut that indicated that there were nine shareholders in the company. Now that number is far from the 30 to 40 that Mr. Wray mentioned at one time or even the 20 that he mentioned on a later occasion. But nevertheless that is broadened representation. So there was a letter indicating nine shareholders. Yet we know also, Mr. Government Leader, from the record of registered shareholders, that at the time of the incorporation of the company at the end of July, that in fact there were four shareholders registered. Of course, it is very difficult to believe that if it was possible by mail or other means, to get the names of four shareholders to the registered office of the company, it is almost incomprehensible to understand how it might have been impossible to get the other five names of the shareholders.

So, based on this evidence, Mr. Government Leader, it appears to me, and I suspect to others with elementary abilities of logic, that one or more persons seeking to do business with this government have deliberately misled the government as to the shareholdership of the company in question in order to acquire government business. In view of that possible conclusion based on the evidence presented, could I ask the Government Leader whether he will undertake formally to investigate this matter and if his investigation confirms deception, that this government take appropriate steps and perhaps take the step of denying government contracts to that person or persons for a suitable period of time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 151-86(1): Government Misled As To Shareholders Of Iligiittut Ltd.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, no, I will not undertake to cause an investigation to be done in this matter. I am satisfied with the information provided that the government acted properly in dealing with the matter. I am surprised, frankly, with the information given to the Member yesterday, that the Member still has concerns, as he is indicating.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I must warn that this is question period and not debating period. Would you limit yourselves to questions with an introductory that is a suitable length for an oral question. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 151-86(1): Government Misled As To Shareholders Of Iligiittut Ltd.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently the introduction was not long enough because the Minister obviously misunderstood the thrust of my question. I was not implying that the government had done anything wrong whatsoever. I said, based on the evidence that is presented in Hansard record, it appears that one or more persons may have misled this government in seeking government business. And that is what I am asking whether the Government Leader will investigate.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 151-86(1): Government Misled As To Shareholders Of Iligiittut Ltd.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, to that I just say that the Member is making an assumption. There is certain evidence that has been provided by the government in this matter and that is what I am basing my conclusions and my decision on today, to state that I do not feel that there is a cause for any investigation in this matter. The Member is basing his question on assumptions or is basing his belief that there ought to be an investigation on certain assumptions which I do not agree with. So, I just simply do not feel that there is any basis or any reason why our government should cause an investigation in this matter.

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

Supplementary To Question 151-86(1): Government Misled As To Shareholders Of Iligiittut Ltd.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, can I ask for what the evidence is that satisfied the government, that after requesting broadly based shareholding and receiving a letter indicating that there were nine shareholders and then finding that four were registered. Can I ask the Government Leader what evidence is it that satisfies him that the government was not misled in that?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 151-86(1): Government Misled As To Shareholders Of Iligiittut Ltd.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I do not particularly like getting further involved in an exchange such as this because I do not have all the information before me that I can refer to, a certain page or a certain decision that was made. I provided what I thought was general and sufficient information yesterday concerning the matter, to quell and satisfy the Member, to be certain so that he is satisfied that there was no wrongdoing, there was no misjudgment or any wrongdoing by any Minister or by the government in this matter. The Member is centring on the number of shareholders and I say to the Member that that is not central to this issue.

The Member indicated initially there appears to have been four shareholders and five persons that met with the Commissioner eventually and in a document that was produced to our government there was an indication of nine. This is not conclusive with respect to the number of shareholders that presently exist in the company. The Member must recognize that we are dealing with a company that is situated in another part of the North and it is very difficult to get information and to have paperwork done by companies and people that live in remote centres other than Yellowknife. I do believe that this is the case.

We are dealing with a company that is situated in Rankin Inlet and it is not always easy to provide and have all the paperwork done. It is also a reality of life that when you are dealing with companies, that all the paperwork is not always done to satisfy all of the requirements. So I do believe that there was a time when the paperwork was not done, which would not have truly indicated

the extent to which members were involved and the extent to which the company is broad-based and consisting of members in Rankin and Keewatin Region. If the Member wishes, I can provide an update and further information to the Member particularly in regard to this area of membership of the company.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 151-86(1): Government Misled As To Shareholders Of Iligiittut Ltd.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, a final supplementary with respect to the statement that the issue was not central. I am merely asking the Government Leader to relook at the record, that in fact that was one of the major reasons apparently why a proposal was accepted without request for a proposal. So could I ask the Government Leader, finally, at least whether he will carefully review what has been brought to his attention today and come back with a response tomorrow? That is as to whether he ought to further consider what I have said.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 151-86(1): Government Misled As To Shareholders Of Iligiittut Ltd.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes.

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

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 152-86(1): Audit Of HTA Funds

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not see the Minister of Renewable Resources but I have a written question for him. Many hunters and trappers associations do business at the local level with funding from GNWT. In most cases only the hunters and trappers association's secretary and/or chairpersons have access to where the money goes. Would the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources check with the Minister of Local Government to see if the hamlet secretary could act as auditor so that local residents can be aware of where their money is sent? And further, the hunters and trappers would do a lot better on money management for the public.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Written questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 153-86(1): Funding For Aulatsivik Centre In Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Social Services Minister concerning Aulatsivik employees in Cape Dorset. On behalf of Aulatsivik staff in Cape Dorset, I am asking the Minister of Social Services if his department could identify some funding being requested by this group. This money would be used to obtain extra office space that is in demand at the present time, as the existing space at the centre is inadequate. This group has already identified a building that is available, which could be rented for \$600 per month. On top of that an additional \$1500 is needed to purchase necessary office equipment.

Aulatsivik is a centre in Cape Dorset, where people with pending charges or those who have already been sentenced by the courts, plus other people, including juveniles with social problems, can go for counselling. I would appreciate it if your department would grant the funding much needed by this group.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Written questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 154-86(1): Pagnirtung Adult Education Programs

MR. PANILOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of DPW. The Baffin Divisional Board of Education has requested space in the present hamlet office in Pagnirtung, to be used when the hamlet moves to its new office, for adult education programs. Therefore, I am requesting that the Minister responsible for Public Works and Highways allocate funding for the operation of adult education programs in Pagnirtung. If this request can be supported, contact Joe Enook, chairman of the divisional board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Are there any further written questions? This seems to conclude written questions for today. Are there any returns? I do not like to interrupt the conference at the far end but are there any returns for today? There do not appear to be any returns.

Item 7, petitions. Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 7: PETITIONS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had my hand up but you did not see it.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Wray, go ahead.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have Petition 7-86(1), from the community of Baker Lake requesting a library facility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Are there any other petitions?

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Motion 15-86(1), Cruise Missile Testing Opposition. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS this Legislative Assembly has, by resolution, declared its opposition to the testing of the cruise missile in Canada and, in particular, over northern Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada, in co-operation with the Government of the United States of America, continues the testing of the cruise missile over the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS there have been 109 tests of the cruise missile in the United States with 44 failures during testing;

AND WHEREAS there have been five tests over Canadian soil with two test failures;

AND WHEREAS the last test over the Northwest Territories crashed into the Beaufort Sea;

AND WHEREAS the safety of residents of the Northwest Territories is at risk;

AND WHEREAS the environment of the Northwest Territories is in danger from any further failures of this cruise missile;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Michael Angottitauruq, that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories reaffirm its opposition to the testing of the cruise missile in Canada and, in particular, 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. Your motion is in order. You have the floor.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, during the Ninth Assembly of the Legislative Assembly a motion against the testing of the cruise missile was introduced by Mr. MacQuarrie which was supported by the last Legislature. This motion is to reaffirm that position. Also regarding the testing of the cruise missile, the federal government's position at that time -- which was the Liberal Party -- was in favour of this testing and a lot of concern was expressed by the two opposition parties concerning the testing of this missile, and now because the Progressive Conservative are the government in power, I do not know whether that concern is still a position that they have.

Also under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms this testing of the cruise missile was challenged in the Supreme Court of Canada. The challenge did not go any further than that because there was no challenge in the Supreme Court of Canada. Also there were petitions from different organizations against the testing of the cruise missile which were also introduced. Also the women's groups in Canada were also protesting testing any further arms production in the world.

During the last session some of the Members have supported the testing of the cruise missile due to the fact that during the federal debate it was felt it was one in a million that the cruise missile would crash. Unfortunately that was not the case. Based on the statistics that were gathered in the United States, of 109 tests that occurred, 44 of them crashed. After this perhaps, northern Canada was chosen as a test site, so that any further tests might not endanger the lives of the Americans. I certainly do not like that approach. There are people living up here and it should be a concern of all of us to consider the safety of residents in the North. The five tests that were tested up here were considered free-flight tests and out of those five free-flight tests that occurred, two of them also crashed, which is the equivalent of what also happened in the United States.

The other thing I would like to mention, Mr. Speaker, is that there were concerned citizens in the North that opposed the testing of the cruise missile when the Canadian army was up here, and the people expressed that concern. It was not a meeting where whether we opposed it or not was considered. The intention was always to test the cruise missile regardless of the number of people that opposed it. This has been going on too long now, where there is that feeling that the army is looking at the North as though there are no people living up here, regardless of the people's concern or decision which has been ignored. Things like this cannot go on.

I would like the Members of this House to support my motion against testing of the cruise missile, or reaffirm it. I would also like to ask the previous Members of the Ninth Assembly to support my motion on the basis that, after the tests occurred, there were two crashes. So this might change their decision to vote in favor of the cruise missile. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Angottitauruq, as seconder you may have the floor now.

People In NWT Concerned About Cruise Missile Testing

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the motion has explained itself so I do not think I will have many words to the motion as the seconder. I would like to say again what Sam Gargan has said. I guess we are all worried about the cruise missile crashing in a populated area. Machines are controlled but once they are out of control, they sure can get out of control. I guess that is what the people of the Northwest Territories are concerned about with the testing of the cruise missile. There are many things that cost millions of dollars even with updated controls and computerized controls. Once they get out of control they sure do get out of control. It is not only the populated areas that we are worried about, we are also worried about the environment. I guess the Americans are just taking the Canadians, especially the ones in the Northwest Territories -- they are saying they are too easy. The federal government, if they are given a few dollars for testing, they would not worry about the population or the people of the Northwest Territories and would not worry about their concerns.

I guess sometimes it has to be recognized that the people of the Northwest Territories have concerns. Since we are under Canada, as a Legislature they cannot control us, but at least they have to be reminded that we are trying our best for the people of the Northwest Territories. In the motion it states that in the 109 tests there were 44 failures. In the Northwest Territories out of five tests there were two. So I guess what we are trying to say is that anything that is man made is not safe if it gets out of control, even if it does not have a warhead on it.

So I guess the people of the Northwest Territories are quite worried and I guess there are not too many words to use to try to make people understand. We are concerned about the testing of the cruise missile for many reasons and there are only a few that we can say. I guess the federal government and the Americans are saying we have to be armed in case of war, but I do not think we want any danger happening to our people before the war occurs. I will end my comments to the motion. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in favour of the motion. I have spoken at length in this House on the matter on another occasion and I am pleased that the honourable Member has reintroduced the motion in light of recent events. It gives me an opportunity to say that I am still ardently opposed to the build-up and development of nuclear weapons. My words will be fewer, but as I said, the sentiment is just as strong. In my view it is absolutely insane to carry on with the build-up and development of nuclear weapons when there is already a stock, an arsenal, that is many times greater than that needed to annihilate man. There may be a little bit of an irony in all of us. We are told that the cruise missile has a complex guidance system, perhaps so complex one might compare it to the human mind. I am pleased to see that it may just have a mind of its own in view of what has happened recently. It appears to be rebelling at the rotten work that it is being trained to do. It may very well have more sense than those that are sanctioning its building, deployment and use.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: I am absolutely supportive of the motion introduced by Mr. Gargan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to see the motion and I will be supporting it. The testing of the cruise missile is very dangerous. At the time when they were testing the H-bomb around 1956, I was living in Pond Inlet then. When we were out hunting in the wintertime. It was dark. On our way back home we were not informed because we never had radios then, the whole sky was lit up at night. Maybe it was lit for 15 to 20 minutes and afterwards we were informed that Americans had tested this in the air. The following spring in that area where the testing occurred, there were some sort of abnormal things happening to the animals and even the skin of the residents living in that area. Also, during World War II, 1939-45, they used an awful lot of bombs at the time. They used to encourage people to drink only boiled water. The people who drank unboiled water had developed skin problems. For that reason this is very dangerous for the lives of northerners especially in Canada's North if they are going to do some cruise testing. I think they should do the testing elsewhere other than Canada. Recently when the cruise missile failed to operate, it was mentioned on the news that it could easily drop right on a community, a populated area and that people were scared. For that reason, the motion was just put forward. I will be supporting it with all my effort and I would urge the rest of the Members to support the motion also. Thank you.

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

Growing Concern About Peace In NWT And Canada

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the honour of seconding the motion that was introduced by Mr. MacQuarrie in the Ninth Assembly on this subject and spoke to it at some length at that time. I do not propose to restate again my deep concern about the implications of testing a carrier for nuclear weapons in the NWT and my deep concern about the madness of the arms race. But I would like to say to the people of the NWT and to the 10th Assembly with regard to the risk of crashes, "I told you so." In September of 1983 when we had our debate, I challenged the honourable Member for Inuvik -- of all places -- who said in his opinion the chances of loss were negligible. At that time, Mr. Speaker, there had been 50 tests in the US with two losses and I calculated the risk at four per cent. I noted that one missile had been so lost that it was never found. Mr. Speaker, it now seems, based on the experience so far in the NWT, that I should have predicted the risk was 40 per cent.

The other comment I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, is that I do believe that it is appropriate that in this Assembly we should consider these fundamental issues, even though they are a matter for the Government of Canada. I believe the Government of Canada is reassessing or should be reassessing its position with respect to testing this weapons system in Canada and in the NWT. I would like to note that since this Assembly last debated this matter there has been, in my view, a growing concern about peace in the NWT and in Canada. I was pleased, prior to this session, to have attended and supported a group of concerned citizens in my constituency of Iqaluit who are anxious to work toward peace, not only with respect to nuclear weapons but also peace as an alternative to violence in situations of everyday life. I am quite confident that I speak for my constituents and that group of concerned citizens in particular in fervently supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the motion. I just have a couple of points that I would like to make with respect to all of this. One of the things that strikes me is that a big majority of, at least people that I represent, have no knowledge of what the cruise missile is, no knowledge of what the purpose of testing is and really no benefit of what all of this involves. Therefore, for those of us who make it our business to know why these things are being done, we come to a point where we decide that perhaps it is not in our best interests to support these types of things especially when there seem to be obvious dangers in this military type of things taking place.

The other point that I wanted to make is that some people seem to be saying that it does not make any difference whether or not this government says yes or no, that the military will just go ahead anyway. I think that it does make a difference. I do not think that we should lie down and pretend that nothing is happening. I would go as far as to say that we have a certain duty, to make sure that these types of military exercises, etc., are doing us some good. If we conclude that they are not, then I think it is our right to object as strongly as we can. Those are the points I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Canadian Government Commitment To NATO And NORAD

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have some very grave concerns about the militarization of the world. I personally had some experience. I was in Vietnam and Cambodia and Laos and I have seen what the total devastation of war can mean. I was in Ethiopia, and in a war in Eritrea in Ethiopia that has gone on for 25 years. At the time I was there, the Americans were in Ethiopia and the Russians were in Somalia and it seemed it changed sides within a matter of days some years later they changed sides and the Russians went into Ethiopia and the Americans went into Somalia and nobody in either country quite understood what was happening. It is horrendous to see it first-hand, to see bombs dropping and people blown into little pieces. I was also in Hiroshima. I saw the results of nuclear war. That is something, unless people have seen it, that is hard to imagine. It is the moon coming here on earth. Everything is flattened for miles and miles around.

It seems to me that our governments, both the former Liberal government and the Conservative government, have bowed to pressure from the Americans. I guess for a number of reasons, it seemed to our governments that by allowing the Americans to test the cruise in Canada it is an inexpensive way to provide our commitment to the defence of North America. And I do believe we do have a commitment to NATO and to NORAD. I do not think the Russians are as benign as some people lead us to believe they are. Look what they are doing in Afghanistan and other areas of the world. I think there is a real threat, but I do not think the testing of the cruise is an appropriate way to undertake our commitment. I think that if everyone remembers Lester Pearson and his concept of quiet diplomacy and peace keeping it was probably the time in Canada that we had the most impact in the world, and changed a little bit the course of world affairs. The recent failure of the two cruise missiles in the NWT greatly concerned me as they concern many of my constituents. I believe that we have a responsibility to send a strong message to Ottawa. We are very unhappy with this present situation, so I give my full support to this motion. Thank you.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am concerned about the possible dangers to communities in the NWT over which the present path of cruise missiles being flown, that there are some dangers to life in populated centres that the flight path might be too close. So I support that one part of the motion that asks the government to reconsider. I know that the Hon. Harvie Andre, the Minister responsible, has told the House of Commons that his government has requested the US to put testing on hold until safety considerations can be taken into consideration.

However I, like my colleague Mr. Ballantyne, believe that Canada does have obligations under its NATO and NORAD agreements. The protection of democracy is a very important thing. Democracy is fragile. We have seen in Haiti and in the Philippines, where dictators have recently been brought down, people that took democracy away from the people. In this case the US government was actually able to keep something in the air. In those other places it was dictators being taken away from their country. But I have to say to Members, I, like everybody in the world, fear nuclear holocaust, the thought that somebody might push the button someday and we in the North are one of the most vulnerable areas in the world because any war between the US and the Soviet Union will result in missiles actually flying over our heads. I have to say that I fear that. However, people also have to look at the other side of the coin, that from 1946 until now is the longest period in modern history of the world that there have not been major world conflicts. The fear that all countries have over nuclear weapons is one of the reasons why nobody has dared to make major assaults on either side because they fear that if anyone starts it there cannot possibly be a winner in the end. So I have that fear.

Testing Necessary Before Missiles Are Armed

But I do have a feeling of personal support for the fact that Canada has an obligation under NATO to defend democracy on this continent; that the Russians are a threat to democracy and life as we know it; that their capability to attack our country, possibly with cruise missiles, is something that is a reality that is out there and that we have to defend ourselves against that. I believe that the Americans should test these devices which are going to be used for defence in the North American continent and perfect their ability to operate them without problems. Eventually if they are going to arm these devices I would like to know that they were tested and that they are capable of flying, because I do not want them launching over our skies and then having them fail when they are armed with a nuclear bomb. I think that the testing of these missiles is necessary and I think if Canada has to participate in this small way with the US, I am in favour of it. If we have the terrain that is necessary to test these missiles in, then I am in favour of it. I would like to support the Member that I think the testing area should be changed to less populated areas of our country, possibly areas where there are virtually no structured communities. But because of the fact that it asks us not to continue testing, I am going to have to vote against the motion because I believe that Canada does have a commitment to defend democracy in the Western Hemisphere and this is part of Canada's contribution to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to mention that I will be supporting the motion. I think as northerners, as aboriginal people, it should be the case that we support it. The reason is my community and the area around do not go for oil exploration and mining because they do not want to lose their livelihood, the animals, in that area. So I think my people would really support against the cruise missile testing if they had this over in their area because it would be very dangerous for the environment and the wildlife. It would be a threat to the communities, even to ourselves. If it were to land in the community or on me, we would not be existing today. The same thing with the animals. For that reason, as MLAs we should be able to consider what our people think and we have to inform the federal government and the whole Canadian population about the concerns of the northerners. Thank you.

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

Making A Better Place For The Next Generation

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be in support of the motion and I just wanted to make a short comment. As Members have stated, the testing of this cruise missile could destroy a lot of things. As Mr. Pudluk mentioned when there was testing of something similar to this, the sky lit up, etc. I remember when I was little, ever since that time when I was a young kid, the colour of my nails changed and I had a skin rash. Also I would like to say that all the

Inuit population had a very bad skin rash because they had no medicare system. They had to use the fat of the dogs for medication. They were killing their dogs because they were losing their skin because of this skin rash. We were not even aware as to what the reason was and nobody ever informed us of this. If these test cruise missiles were ever blown up it would be really dangerous and it will be worse than before. We have heard that people will have lung cancer and all the people would be dying from these bombs. It is very hard to see the future. When we talk about the next generation and what we want better for them, if these missiles are being used and implemented in these areas, I do not think it is going to be much help for the next generation. I think we have to put this testing, implementing and the making of these missiles to a halt. If we are going to try, as we say, to have a better place for the next generation, I think we should do something about it right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. To the motion. Question being called. Mr. Gargan, do you wish to close the debate?

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to conclude by saying that as far as arms build-up goes, I believe that we are raising the consciousness of the public with regard to the arms race. There are initiatives by the politicians with regard to arms reduction. I can use as an example, perhaps, Mr. Trudeau, on his peace initiative that he did just before he left politics. There was Mr. Gorbachev's position too, with regard to the summit, in which he suggested the elimination of nuclear missiles in Europe and the world. Just a couple of weeks ago there was a concern expressed by Mr. Reagan because Congress was not supporting his budget on the build-up of weapons. Also with regard to the space shuttle that blew up, I believe it did put some delay into the Star Wars project. So, I believe this is the time now that we, as politicians, should take a leading role in our peace initiative because where at one time there was a race, perhaps there has been a stalemate. This would be a good time to express our concern over any type of nuclear tests that could possibly eliminate mankind.

I also would like to say too, as to the budget speech by Mr. Wilson, a lot of the basic survival programs that are delivered to the little people in Canada are being jeopardized by greater expenditure of billions of dollars toward the military. I would like to think that that would change, that more would be put toward the basic survival of mankind and less on the elimination of mankind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 15-86(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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), Appropriation Act, 1986-87; Bill 2-86(1), Income Tax Act; and Bill 3-86(1), Institute of Chartered Accountants Act, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

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

Department Of Social Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We are on page 15.13, financial assistance services. Would the Minister like to bring in his witnesses?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring in the acting deputy minister, Blair Dunbar, as well as Mr. David Waddell.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is it agreed by the committee that the Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Financial Assistance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are on budget detail on financial assistance services. Are there any questions? We are on page 15.13. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there is an increase in the O and M because you are contemplating more senior citizens getting that supplementary benefit. I wonder if the Minister or his staff could give the committee an idea of how many people now receive the NWT supplementary benefit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, approximately 1200 people are on GIS, the guaranteed income supplement, and therefore, qualify for the territorial supplement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Financial assistance services, total O and M, \$11,031,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Spousal Assault Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Spousal assault services, total O and M. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the secretariat was here under Mr. Pedersen there were questions raised about the funds that were being placed in the budget of Minister McLaughlin and how the funds can be accessed by local groups. How these groups can go about making a proposal to take advantage of these funds. Some have made prior representations and it was indicated at that time that Mr. McLaughlin would be able to give a little more specific detail. I think the spousal assault money was about \$1.6 million here and \$1.2 million in contributions. I think at that time there was talk also about the transition houses. I wonder if the Minister could give us some details as to how communities that have existing programs, or other communities, could get some of these funds to carry out their particular objectives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before addressing the specific questions of the Member, I would like to point out to the committee that initially my department went to the government with this as being a priority item. I would like to point out that the Executive Council, after debating it, decided that this was going to be an ongoing commitment with the government. So it is not a priority item for one year, it has been built into the base of Social Services. We decided in this initial year at least, to highlight it as a separate section of the budget document, so that all Members and the general public could be aware of this new and ongoing commitment of the government.

Appointment Of Co-ordinator

Secondly, I would like to say that we expect to have a co-ordinator for this program in place within a week or two and there is a draft policy which I have not yet approved, which will be made public once the co-ordinator is hired, so that existing organizations and any new organizations will be able to have some guidelines under which they can make applications for funding.

As for transition houses, we have a commitment in the Baffin, something that was in the capital plan. I think it began about three years ago or it was put in there about three years ago and we provided funds in this current fiscal year for them to do some planning. In that area we will be providing them with a facility. The exact format of that facility is yet to be determined, but we will have a facility in place for them to use this fiscal year. As well there are other programs in other communities where they have existing facilities or are planning facilities and we will have funds available for the operation of transition houses or safe houses, as some people refer to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated that he has a policy in the making. Will this policy deal with subsidies for the safe houses or transition houses? Will it cover the cost of operations only? Will there be money to help purchase units, that is in capital? Is it possible that the government may have some units in particular communities and that you can work something out with the Minister of Personnel or Public Works, or whoever looks after them, that these units could be made available to people? Relating to my own constituency, there has been a program ongoing for some time but it is within the old St. Anne's Hospital. At the present time, unless something different comes up, I think it is the opinion of the new bishop to do away with that either on a private or public market because of the cost of maintaining the total building. So I am wondering if it is possible to get a house in Smith that would take the place of this, if the regional administration or Minister of Housing can find one. I am wondering whether the policy on subsidies will deal with operational costs or capital costs. Is it to be a three year program? You say it is built into the budget, but I had understood Minister Pedersen to say something about a three year program. Would it be on a continuing basis that you would provide these subsidies? What really will take place? Could the Minister indicate to the committee?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Funding For Program Costs, Enhancements And New Facilities

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are existing programs right now in Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife. There will be funds available to enhance those programs, including the operation of facilities. In Coppermine there is a new facility being provided by a renovation of a building. In Frobisher Bay there is a plan to use an existing building and possibly in conjunction with the Housing Corporation, providing a facility in that community, either through our department's financing or through CMHC, the details are still being worked out. There will also be funds to help new groups that are not in existence right now, with planning for facilities and programs. In addition to that I should say, Mr. Chairman, that our department, for more reasons than just spousal assault -- under the Young Offenders Act and under the Child Welfare Act in areas of family violence and child abuse, we have need of places in certainly the larger communities all over the NWT, as an initial place for a person who is in difficulties to go to or to be placed by the department and the RCMP.

I have asked my officials to look into the possibility of providing this type of initial placement facility in smaller communities, other than the major regional communities where they are expecting to have specific facilities built for spousal assault purposes. So we realize that something has to be done on the ground in every community and we are hoping to be able to provide, not a safe house, but possibly a room under contract in most communities. That is something I have asked my officials to look into trying to provide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Just to go back to the original question. I have talked about how different communities could get some of this money. Are there forms that have to be made out or how is the request made? Is it made directly to headquarters here or can it be done through regional offices? These grant moneys I expect are coming out of headquarters funding. What is the process by which they can get moneys?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, as I said, within two weeks we hope to have a co-ordinator in place and a policy in place and that will include whatever forms are necessary and whatever information is necessary to go out to the general public so that all communities will know how to access themselves to the funds we have available. In the particular case of Fort Smith, we were aware of the situation there and we will have funds available to help existing and new operations, enhance existing programs or improve their facility situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask about the funds that were going to be available in this coming year for the new safe shelters that are proposed for Frobisher Bay and Yellowknife. I realize that there is some \$1.2 million under grants and contributions on this activity and I

understand that any funds that would be provided to both the safe shelter proposed for Yellowknife and the one that is being put in place in Frobisher Bay -- what is the amount of funding that will be provided to each of those two centres?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The final amounts have not been determined. This is due to several reasons. In the case of Frobisher Bay, the initial proposal that they made to us was too expensive for us to undertake. The facility, we felt, was too large for an initial response and that we would phase into that. So as far as the mechanisms go, because we are talking about capital money, there are different ways we can look at doing this. There is a possibility that we could, as one of the Members suggested already, utilize existing buildings that may be in communities on a temporary basis and if we find that something larger is required, we could direct these groups to access CMHC funding, similar to what the YACCS, Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors, did here, where there is two per cent funding available for operations like this. As well, we may be able to construct something under CMHC situations with the Housing Corporation where we could then rent these facilities from the Housing Corporation. So we are looking into the alternative ways of actually providing the facilities. So the amount that we require in the capital area and the O and M area will vary, depending on whether or not we are successful with some of these new considerations on how we can achieve provision of these facilities.

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

YWCA Proposal, Yellowknife

MR. RICHARD: I can appreciate, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is going to be evasive in terms of giving an exact figure but in the context of the application that came forward from the group in Yellowknife to establish a safe shelter, and they put a fairly detailed O and M budget in the context of that figure, can the Minister advise this committee whether he is going to be able to, by and large, respond positively to that request?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By and large, yes, the YWCA model is a very good one and we expect to have successful negotiations with them which will make both us happy with the delivery and them happy with the amount of funding. I should say that we have been in contact with the operation in Whitehorse which serves a regional population similar to the one the Yellowknife one will be serving. As well it serves native and non-native people at the same time. We have details of their experience on occupancy and operations so I think we will be able to come to a very satisfactory conclusion with the YWCA in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Funding And Facilities For Small Communities

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask a question after giving a brief statement. The centres for spousal assault seem to be mostly directed to a more populated area than my community. There are not very many people and I have three communities in my constituency which have below 3000 people. I have a concern about this. If there are some problems in the family or with spouses, or if they are separated, they would have to be sent to Frobisher Bay. I was wondering how you would be able to help in a community like in my area? If a lady went to Frobisher Bay to get help and if it resulted in separation how would this be dealt with?

Also, young offenders in my area have been arrested and I have witnessed that they seem to enjoy being in custody and also the day care centres and rehabilitation centres. I think there would be better service in the communities if these problems were dealt with in the community.

Also, in these main estimates it seems as if the funding is only directed to the larger communities. I would like to get further clarification on this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The situation in small communities will be addressed as well. The Member has to maybe look back to the many public meetings that were held by the task force on spousal assault and Members will recollect that in a lot of the small communities the people at the public meetings felt that in some cases the situation was so severe that the battered spouse and the children were in danger if they even remained in the community and that also in those extreme cases a lot of counselling might be necessary in order to get the family back together again. Counselling would also include the husband. It was felt by even the people in the small communities that a large regional facility should be used to handle cases where the family situation was so bad that the wife and children would have to be removed and that counselling services should be available in those facilities.

I attended the Aggviq Society meeting in the Baffin three or four weeks ago and there they addressed the other concern as well; that one of the society's jobs, for which we will be providing them funds, will be to make public awareness of the issue something that can be achieved in all the communities so that people will know what services are available to them. In addition, initially, in the larger of those small communities where there has been a string of spousal assault situations, we will attempt to have instead of a safe house a safe bedroom where spousal assault victims could initially go when there is a problem. We might try to do this in conjunction with some of the other requirements of my department such as under the Young Offenders Act or children's services where once in a while we need a bed to take care of a child or someone else in between apprehension and transportation for example. So small communities and their problems will be a part of this plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Marriage And Family Counsellors In Communities

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) ...spousal assault we are all aware that it only occurs when a wife and a husband have a marital problem. When a wife and a husband are getting along well this does not usually occur. There are institutions or marriage counsellors available down south for couples who have a problem. The counsellors are highly educated, no wonder. In the northern communities in the NWT I know for a fact that we do not have these educated counsellors especially in the Baffin Region. There are just ordinary Inuit in the communities who can assist the couple who have marital problems. For instance like in Pond Inlet -- I will use that for an example -- there was a couple who could assist when couples had problems. These couples who were able to help other couples never received any formal education whatsoever. For that reason they did not have any certificates recognizing that they were qualified. I know that there are people in the communities who are capable of assisting. In the communities there are not that many I know but a lot of times when there are such people -- sometimes young people do not like to go to them because of them being shy.

My question is, for example if there were educated counsellors in Pond Inlet who would be able to do counselling whether it was a woman or a man or a couple, can the Department of Social Services produce some sort of a certificate that can recognize ordinary Inuit to be counsellors, recognize that they are qualified? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member's first comment was that people had to go down south in a lot of cases for family counselling. We are going to provide funding to train the people who will work in these regional centres to provide the family counselling necessary. It may be that in some cases the counselling that is required may still call for people to go down south. But we hope to have in these regional spousal assault centres and transition houses, the counselling that the Member is suggesting and there will be local native people in these regional centres who will be able to provide counselling hopefully in local native languages.

As well there will be follow-up in the small communities so that when, say, the woman and her children return back to the community, there will be follow-up in the community either by the social worker, possibly the priest in a church or other volunteers or people like the Member suggests who are good at this kind of thing but do not have any kind of certificate. Training will hopefully be available to those types of people so that when people return to their community there will be counselling. Also if there is counselling available in the community it may prevent some of the spousal assault situations that presently exist. Maybe some of those can be prevented by local counselling as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Recognizing Resources At Community Level

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you responded to me very well. Whenever there are social problems arising within the community the residents seem to think that there will be somebody coming into the community who will be able to assist in solving these problems we have. Also the government seems to have the attitude sometimes regarding problems within the community that if we remove this problem arising in the community to another community then the problem will be solved. I think we have to carefully look in the communities at the resources that are there, which would be able to assist practically with everything. The problem is that they are never recognized because of lack of formal education. I think we should understand, and I will use Pond Inlet for an example again. In Pond Inlet we only have one language which is Inuktitut. Occasionally we have to talk in English whenever we have out-of-town people visiting the community. For that reason the residents who can be resource people have to be recognized. If the residents will not recognize these resource people within the community, I think the MLAs here in this House will have to push this further. All the communities have these knowledgeable resource people who would be able to assist in these areas. Thank you.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly that is something the department recognizes, that the resources are in the communities and we hope that when people return to communities we can use those resources for follow-up and we can also use those resources to actually prevent spousal assault from ever happening. So that is part of the plan and we hope to put that together in each region and in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Spousal Assault Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Spousal assault services, total O and M, \$1,630,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Page 15.15, detail of grants and contributions, total contributions, \$4,764,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Information items, pages 15.16 to 15.20 are information items. Are there any questions? No questions. Okay, can we go back to page 15.07? Department of Social Services, total O and M. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one other question before we go into the total amount. Under alcohol and drug service, that youth community project, I understand, was in five communities. If requests come in and there is a need for it, will they be able to extend this kind of project to the other communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: We have money put aside for continuation of drug and alcohol prevention with youth in mind, and we would like to do similar projects as were done in those five communities, in some other communities. We are not necessarily going to have those programs continue in those communities. As I told the House the other day, I met with the 10 youth workers and actually congratulated them because they did a lot of the stuff that they said they would do at the youth forum. Some of them got elected to the education committees, some of them got elected to hamlet or band councils and they have gone ahead and formed youth committees. I told them that all the funding that they needed could not come from the government, that they themselves would have to

continue to do what some of them are doing, which is putting on dances and lotteries and whatever else to raise their own funds. So I can say to the Member that we will have similar projects available to other communities and the youth so far have proven to us and did what they said they would do, that they would help themselves. So we are counting on some of the funding being raised locally by youth themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mahsi cho, Mr. Minister. Department of Social Services. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask about the youth councils. Are we going to be speaking on this again or is this completed? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: I am not sure if he directed that at you or me, Mr. Chairman. We have passed that part of the budget but if the Member is asking if funds will be made available for youth forums and area and regional youth meetings, we will have funds available for that as well as for youth to travel to the provinces to meetings put on by some of the provincial and federal governments. So yes, there will be an ongoing financial commitment to youth to organize themselves in the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I just wanted to remind Mr. Erkloo that we have gone through the details of the budget already and that we have approved the amounts on each of the programs and that perhaps if there are further questions, that they be addressed to the Minister during oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) I tried to mention that I am going to have some questions concerning youth. Am I going to ask the questions now before we approve the O and M or do we have the opportunity to ask again concerning this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Yes, during oral questions. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I was going to suggest to Mr. Erkloo, I would like to ask a question on the youth issue as well and I take it, Mr. Chairman, that you are going to invite general comments on the capital budget. Mahsi cho.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are on the Department of Social Services, total O and M, \$41,460,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay. We will now go to the capital estimates. We are on page 12.08. Details of capital. General comments. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Baffin Region, they had a meeting in Pond Inlet in January. First of all I would like to ask if any other youth meetings are going to be occurring in the Baffin from time to time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: We have money available in the budget for regional and area youth groups to meet. In particular, to the Member's question about the Baffin, that will not be decided until a request comes from the youth in the Baffin. They may want to do other things with the money, but if they do ask, regional meeting funds are identified for that purpose. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Erkloo.

Formation Of Youth Committees In Communities

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Pond Inlet when the Baffin Region youth members had their meeting, it was very successful and beneficial. They have to help each other when they go back to the communities as youth and they were able to report to the other youth

members in their communities. For example, when they were in Pond Inlet they had to form committees that would be implemented into their communities and Pond Inlet already implemented their own youth committee. That was discussed when they had their meeting in Pond Inlet. The youth committee was implemented and also the social services committee in Pond Inlet and also they have their own young offenders committee. I would like to ask, since they have two different committees for young offenders, are those youth committees that were formed in Pond Inlet when they had their meeting, are they going to be in charge of the young offenders committees too?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The young offenders committees that are formed in various communities are formed because of the Young Offenders Act. Their primary purpose will be to carry on any programs that our government may be able to fund in that community, under the Young Offenders Act. So the young offenders committee will have a specific job to do with young offenders between the ages of 13 and 17. As I said, under the act there may be merit in having some youth on the young offenders committee because youth is generally accepted as being 16 to 25 years old. So perhaps the young offenders committee would be improved if there were some youth on it. But the youth councils that we are encouraging to form, are to deal with a lot more things than just the Young Offenders Act itself. We are hoping that youth councils can deal with all issues involving youth, not just the Young Offenders Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) We have seen committees being formed, for example, HTA and health committees and education committees and when they form their own boards they would like to be able to be responsible for their own board not to have anybody they cannot depend on. Also, sometimes they do not want to inform other committees. Sometimes when they form a board they start forming their own policies and they want to be in power and be in charge of everything. We have seen that in the past. When they do such things as trying to be superior they do not work together. In the Baffin Region we are trying to get everyone together to be able to have a BRC but when they form these youth committees and when they are not used to having meetings it seems to me that they are going to be trying to contain all these powers and not try to work with any other organization. Also they want to form their own policies and rules and regulations and they choose their own chairpersons.

As I see it, I think this is a very dangerous situation. In some areas this could be a great problem. I believe that the youth committees should exist because they have to help their own or other young people. Also, we are aware that our younger people and the older people are sort of separated and we sometimes wonder how we can get them to work together a little more. For those reasons, I think that when your department had these young people having meetings I do not think the Baffin Region youth or the people had much to say on what the agenda items would be. We know that they are going to try to develop programs. They were not shown by your department what problems could arise and how they could be directed. My question to you is when they start forming these committees maybe social services in the Baffin Region -- I do not know how perhaps these other organizations or the hamlet councils in the communities would be able to work with the youth committees. Maybe the youth committees should be allowed to work along with them in the beginning process of their committees to be able to work a lot better with them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. I just want to remind the Members again that we have already concluded the main estimates for the Department of Social Services and the details of the department. We are now on details of capital, buildings and works and that Members have already agreed that we have concluded details of the programs. Can we stick to the details of the capital? Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: In light of the fact that youth councils might recommend things that might have capital implications, I will just tell the Member that I agree with his description of the situation and that I have encouraged youth to participate in the existing organizations and I think they said that themselves when they were here, that that would be the best way to achieve their ends. I will make sure that the Member's comments are passed on to my officials in the Baffin Region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Formal Response To Recommendations Of Youth Forum

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the Minister raised it, Mr. Chairman, the capital plan that we see here does not include any response to the recommendations of the youth forum -- how is that for an opening? My question to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, is whether the Minister, during this session, on behalf of the Executive Council is going to provide a formal response to the recommendations of the youth forum?

The recent federal budget was very discouraging for young people in this country and in the NWT in that it not only failed to address the serious issue of youth unemployment but also disbanded a federal department, the Department of Youth. In this Assembly last October when the youth forum was here, we had the federal Minister of Youth who is now out of a job. Given that disappointment, Mr. Chairman, of the youth of the country by the lack of programs in the federal budget just announced, can the Minister not advise this committee whether he, on behalf of the Executive Council, is going to provide a formal response to this Assembly to the recommendations of the youth forum as were requested by motion of this Assembly last October?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, my officials including Jerry Paulette, who was one of the youth forum people, have been working through my department for a co-ordinated response which includes responses from some of the other departments involved and I am advised that the responses from the other departments are all in and that we should be able to formulate a response shortly. I hope to be able to table that response before this session ends. If not, I will do it by some sort of press release situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Administration Services

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Any more general comments before we go to detail of the capital? Administration services, total buildings and works, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Equipment acquisition, total equipment acquisition, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Administration Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total administration services, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Family And Children's Services

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Family and children's services, buildings and works, total headquarters, \$11,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$300,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year when this item came up, the Minister at the time who was queried about it, indicated that he really did not know what it was going to cost to renovate this particular building. I believe that this is the one -- it is not in Frobisher but in Apex. Is it the one in Frobisher Bay? The question I have is, Mr. Chairman, is that the total amount that will be spent on this building or am I confusing two particular buildings?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Member is confusing two particular buildings but they are related. We did look at renovating the existing children's group home in Apex and I felt it was going to be too expensive to do that and I thought I could put the \$200,000 I had available there together with this \$300,000 to do the spousal assault program and the children's group home program under one roof, both operated by Aggvik Society. But that proved to be unworkable, so the \$300,000 is the total amount of money that we have committed for the construction of a new spousal assault facility in the Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe then I could ask what is the status with the building or the home in Apex?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: The home in Apex is too small for us to continue to deliver the program in. It was going to cost, with the DPW estimates, about \$200,000 to upgrade the building and add on enough bedrooms to bring it up to institutional level of construction and building codes. We therefore decided to discontinue that program and to utilize, or possibly utilize the handicapped home in Frobisher Bay for the children that are presently being fostered there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman, some minor renovations could be made to that building so that it could be used for residential purposes and it may be utilized. If it is possible, that could be done to make it available to the Aggvik Society for the spousal assault program in the interim until the construction of the new facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Total Baffin, \$300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Kitikmeot, \$510,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total buildings and works, \$851,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$60,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Inuvik, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$45,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Kitikmeot, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$165,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Contributions, total Fort Smith, \$60,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Kitikmeot, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total contributions, \$80,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Family And Children's Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total family and children's services, \$1,096,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Correction Service

Buildings And Works, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Correction service, buildings and works, total headquarters, \$1,168,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 1985-86 budget indicated the cost of renovations would have been \$3.6 million. It is now up to \$4.3 million. Could we get some idea what else has been included in the renovations to the YCC to bring that cost up \$700,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, as far as I know the total renovations for the total project are actually going to be under budget. I believe that now if you will look at that page, the \$825,000 in "future years' anticipated" would be part of the total capital projections.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Total headquarters, \$1,168,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I am going to stick in around there for a minute -- I got lost in the shuffle. Last year's total capital projections for renovation of the correctional centre in Yellowknife was \$3,642,000. This year the total capital projections are \$4,317,000. All I asked was what causes a \$775,000 increase? I know what the total projections are and if you are going to forecast that you are not going to spend it, why are you forecasting that amount of money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, that represents two classrooms that are being added on to the facility as well as renovations in the workroom area which we are converting because we have had to put young offenders in there on remand and some young offenders that we could not handle in lighter security facilities. So that \$825,000 represents those improvements which will be used under the young offenders program until such time as we can get young offenders out of that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And we are hoping for offsetting capital revenues from the Solicitor General's office to offset this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: You are hoping for an offset on it. Do you have any kind of commitment that you will indeed get that funding? If you renovated YCC to accommodate -- obviously you must have spent some moneys already, because you have some young offenders in there now on remand. Do you have any kind of a commitment from the federal government that you will indeed get that capital cost?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I am confident that we will get that covered off but I do not have a firm commitment from the Solicitor General on that yet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Total headquarters, \$1,168,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$110,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I have the same question with regard to the increased cost for renovations to the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre. Last year it was \$785,000, you are now spending \$670,000 more dollars to renovate the South Mackenzie centre. Is the answer to that the same, because you are going to renovate it to take in young offenders? Do you already have young offenders over there now? And do you have a commitment to get that kind of money or is it just that you are confident that you are going to get it, as confident as we are going to get the money under the total young offenders financing, which to date you do not have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the renovations to the Hay River facility, as I indicated earlier, are going on because we are going to move the women from Fort Smith to Hay River. I am negotiating with the Solicitor General on money in that area, specifically for some corrections money not related to young offenders and I expect to be able to announce successful negotiations in that area hopefully before the Solicitor General comes to the Northwest Territories in May. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$110,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$60,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total buildings and works, \$1,338,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$85,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$30,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$51,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$166,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Contributions, total headquarters, \$120,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total contributions, \$120,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Correction Service, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total correction service, \$1,624,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Aged And Handicapped Services

Buildings And Works, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Aged and handicapped services, buildings and works, total Fort Smith, \$655,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Is this an additional facility or is this a renovation of a particular facility?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the Member probably knows that we are renovating a green building that is actually called "the pink house", to solve the temporary situation required by senior citizens. This \$55,000 is for planning money for the community for future needs in capital areas. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Still within the region, is that a new facility for Fort Simpson or is that a renovation or an addition to the existing senior citizens home that is there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, that is for a new facility. That was something that was committed previously and it has come up for construction this fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$655,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Inuvik, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Keewatin, \$55,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total buildings and works, \$810,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$43,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Keewatin, \$51,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$164,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Aged And Handicapped Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total aged and handicapped services, \$974,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total department, \$3,714,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any question on the capital recoveries? Distribution of budget, any questions? That concludes the Department of Social Services. Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to mention that Dave Waddell had to do double duty this year. He was our finance person and he went to the Department of Public Works. So he had to do two fairly large complicated departments this year, so I would especially like to thank him for doing that for both Mr. Wray and me this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses. Can we change the schedule of appearance to the Department of the Executive?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of The Executive

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We are now dealing with the Executive. Does the Minister responsible have any remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Executive department is comprised of quite a few secretariats and sections: Ministers, Offices; the Executive Council Secretariat, Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, the audit bureau, Regional Operations Secretariat, which includes regional staff of the department also. The department includes Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, Priorities and Planning Secretariat, the Women's Secretariat, the office of devolution and the Commissioner's Office. The Ministers that are responsible for the various secretariats, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Curley and Mr. Pedersen, will be speaking and dealing with their respective secretariats, if they have not done so already. So your consideration of the Department of Executive will not be complete until all of these activities have been considered.

The proposed operations and maintenance expenditure plan of the Department of the Executive for 1986-87, totals \$12,885,000, a six per cent overall increase from last year. We have 156.5 person years and in the expenditure plan proposals, in terms of the Executive Office, the most significant increase is 1.5 persons generally to build up the Office of the Government Leader. With our proposed capital budget, we have taken the comments made last year by the Assembly and have held the line and are only proposing to expend \$150,000 -- not for housing or first-class tickets.

I would like to briefly report progress on a number of items raised by the Assembly last year during the review and approval of the Executive's main estimates. On January 30th of this year, I took over the chairmanship of the Executive Council from the Commissioner. I believe this was an historic step which is supported by all the Members and puts us well on the road to responsible government. I would like again to commend John Parker for his co-operation and support during these changes.

This past summer the Executive Council made a number of organizational changes to the structure and responsibilities of various departments. Changes were made to improve the efficiency of government, eliminate overlapping mandates and to start preparing for the transfer of further program authority and responsibility from the federal government. Some changes Members may be interested in were: 1) the transfer of the capital planning division from Regional Operations to the Financial Management Secretariat; 2) the transfer of responsibility for cultural affairs, previously held in the Executive; and museums, the Northern Heritage Centre and library services, previously held in the Department of Justice, were transferred to the newly-named Department of Culture and Communications.

Clarification Of Roles And Responsibilities

Following the Executive review of our organization we felt that it was important to clarify the roles and responsibilities of deputy ministers and regional directors. We have done this with the onslaught or with the development of ministerial government and I guess with the responsibility of Ministers over all of the departments situated throughout the North, we have had to review the responsibilities and mandate of Ministers, as compared to the regional directors. So we have done that to give Ministers clear authority over all aspects of the department throughout all of the regions.

As part of the priorities exercise in 1985-86, the Executive Council established an office of devolution within the Department of the Executive. The office provides a one-window approach for both our government and the federal government for the co-ordination of program transfer. Your Executive Council looks forward to 1986-87. In the proposed main estimates now before you for the Department of the Executive, you will see the expansion of my Office. This expansion reflects my commitment, with the support of my colleagues, to increase the importance of the Government Leader's position. I am also pleased to report the success of our negotiations with the Secretary of State regarding official languages in the North and the Hon. Benoit Bouchard will be here next week to make some comments and sign the contribution agreement on aboriginal languages which we have agreed to. We have agreed to a three year extension period for the full implementation of those sections of the Official Languages Act relating to the introduction of French as an official language. In the interim, the government will actively begin the work necessary to make French an official language in practice as well as in law.

As in past years the main estimates were developed within the framework of the government priorities. The priority reserve itself was introduced in 1986-87 and new programs were limited to one year terms. This enabled Ministers to introduce new program initiatives to the operational and capital planning process. Priorities of the Assembly and Executive Council such as youth, spousal assault and native employment have received strong support.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my introductory remarks and I will be pleased to answer any questions of the committee. In this regard I guess I would ask if my officials could come into the Assembly before the Members here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): For the record, Mr. Minister, could you introduce your witnesses, please?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce to my left, Mr. Bob Pilot, who is deputy minister to the Executive Council, and Mr. Dick Abernethy to my right, who is deputy secretary to the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Are there any general comments? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One minor matter, Mr. Chairman. In the debate amongst Members about the wisdom of taking the Legislative Assembly on the road to the communities and the necessary large expense that is attendant on that exercise, it has been suggested that, instead of the entire Legislative Assembly sitting in the regions from time to time, so that the people can see their government at work more closely, we should consider sending the standing committees of the Legislature or the special committees or indeed, the Executive Council, to sit in the regions on a regular basis from time to time. Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if the Government Leader could indicate whether he and his Executive Council colleagues are considering doing just that, taking the entire Executive Council to communities? Clearly with the smaller number they could go to more communities than the whole Assembly could, to sit for a number of days if need be, to hear the concerns of the people in those communities directly, and in their own way allow the people in the regions, other than the large centres, to see the Executive at work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Executive Council To Travel To Regions

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, yes, let me say I have raised the matter with the Executive Council recently at one of our Executive Council meetings, and we do intend, as an Executive Council to travel to various regions in the North. The two regions that we hope to go to in the next few months are the Kitikmeot and the Inuvik Regions. The Executive Council did go to Frobisher Bay last January and we were in the Keewatin last spring, so the two regions which have been neglected are Kitikmeot and Inuvik. We do intend to go to these two regions. As a matter of policy we will be going as an Executive Council to various parts of the North to bring the government to the people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to the matter that I raised in a question earlier today and that is the Government Leader's comments on the radio this morning, in which he said that the Executive Members would be going first-class. That phrase carries with it some connotations that are bound to get into the minds of people in the Northwest Territories, connotations such as luxuriating in whatever is done and stinting for nothing and at a time when we are running a deficit budget. And in view of the poor conditions in which many of our people live in the Northwest Territories, I feel that it was very inappropriate to make that remark, and if the connotations of the word were to be fulfilled in actions, not just inappropriate but absolutely unacceptable.

To my mind elected representatives are servants of the people and that should always be borne in mind by those who hold elective office. If the Government Leader means that Executive Council Members should get a level of pay commensurate with the responsibilities that they have to bear, which are considerable and I acknowledge that, and a level of pay that favourably compares with the highest ranking public servants, I accept that. I believe that that is right. If the Minister is saying that, particularly those Executive Council Members who are not from the capital city but because of the burdensome duties they take on, find it necessary to live in the capital city, they ought to be provided with good housing, commensurate with their needs or their family's needs, I have no problem with that. If the Government Leader is saying that there are times when it does not make sense, in view of the time consumed and the inability to get on with other work, for a Minister to sit around in air terminals in the Northwest Territories two or three days at a time but rather to charter an aircraft and get quickly on to the other work that he has to do, I have no problem with that. If the Government Leader is suggesting that Ministers require adequate staff to be able to do their jobs effectively, I have no problem with that.

Connotations Bring To Mind Unacceptable Luxuries

From what the Government Leader said earlier today, I suspect that that was what he was referring to and not to anything beyond that, such as limousines and first-class travel on air lines in the South and an entourage of hangers-on and expensive entertainment at public expense and so on, which the connotations raised to mind. Because all of that would be unacceptable. It sounded to me from the Minister's answer before, that indeed that is what he means and if so, I invite him to clarify that even further and to make it very clear because there is an important difference in those two kinds of things. The public ought to know precisely what the Government Leader meant.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I guess I am pleased to say that it is all the things that the Member thought that I intended to say. It is not the frivolous perks type of thing that I meant. I continue to be amazed at the things that catch the attention of the public, in this case the MLA. I said what I did in a context of our devolution of government in the North, where we have a long history of government by civil servants. It is just in the last few years that you have ministerial government and with my becoming Leader, I am attempting to enhance the position of Leader which will eventually evolve toward the premier. Likewise with the increased responsibilities of Ministers, I thought that everybody would accept the enhancement in the stature and dignity of the office of Ministers in our government.

All I meant to say was, recognizing all of this, that Ministers are going to be cared for and looked after properly with respect to basic things such as housing and travel in the NWT. Really that is all that I meant. If you look at the way that our Ministers are presently conducting

themselves in terms of their offices and so forth, I think you would find that we run a pretty modest operation in terms of our offices, our staff and the modes of travel. This will basically continue. I guess the matter was raised with me by a reporter in the context of our government's purchase of a house yesterday for \$180,000. I know that there is a bit of a misunderstanding on that. I know some people might think that is a very expensive house but for Yellowknife it is not an expensive house. It is an average or a little bit above average house in Yellowknife. We were attempting through the sale to simply provide suitable housing for a Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Executive Council Members Should Deal With Policies And Directions Of GNWT

MR. MacQUARRIE: On another matter, Mr. Government Leader, one of the concerns that I have had all along is, that the way we are structured, I see it is entirely too possible for each Minister to be preoccupied with the issues in his own department and not enough aware of what I call the government-as-a-whole issues. To my mind, at least, that was brought sharply to focus in the matter of the principle that underlies the recent TFN subagreement. My concern, for the future, is to make sure that there is a mechanism or a regime in place that will ensure that government-as-a-whole issues are flagged and dealt with in a timely way and in a thorough way by the Executive Council. I would ask the Government Leader, who has recently been reorganizing the office and adding staff, whether he is satisfied that there is a regime in place now, where there is no doubt whatsoever that important principles that set policy or initiate new directions for the GNWT, will be flagged and dealt with adequately by the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member's concern. Because the ministerial government, the Executive Council, is relatively new in terms of the history of the North, a system has been put in place where all important decisions, all policy matters and so forth are really brought up to the Executive Council for decision-making by all of the Members involved. It is a system that has evolved through the course of time and it was probably necessary to go this approach because at various times we have had an Executive Council which consisted of appointed Members and now, through time, elected, to the point where it is totally in the hands of the Ministers. So a system has developed where decision is made by a group and the system is such that it is very difficult for a Minister to make a decision by himself. I would not, of course, have any experience in provincial and federal systems, but I know enough about the political party system to know that in provinces and in the federal government, the system there, though similar to ours, probably provides for more widespread authority by the various Ministers. Once he is given a mandate I suspect that the Minister is given latitude in making decisions within the mandate, much more so than is the case in the NWT. So without question I can allay the fears of the Member that we have a system in place where all significant decisions with respect to policy decision matters are taken up to the Executive Council and dealt with in whole. That is the way that we have been functioning and that will continue for the time being.

Role Of Government Leader

It also brings into question the role of the Leader. We do function on a consensus type of approach and up until now the role of the Leader really has not been clearly defined. Up until very recently the Leader had not even been chairman of the Executive Council and even now, as chairman of the Executive Council, what power do you have? What role do you have because people are not based on any party system and any platforms? Ministers on the Executive are there as a result of the support from the Legislative Assembly and go there as individuals on their own merits. So we are, I suppose, evolving and developing and learning as we go along but I can assure the Member that the system in place presently provides for all major decisions, policy matters, to be brought before the Executive and dealt with, generally, very thoroughly. I can tell the Member too that the attendance at Executive and FMB these days is very good. So you have a great deal of scrutiny on important issues through the attendance of all Members. So the decisions that emanate from the Executive Council are generally decisions that have been thoroughly dealt with and thought out before they are made public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We will recess for a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. MacQuarrie, you had the floor before we left for our coffee break.

MR. MacQUARRIE: The Government Leader seemed to be indicating that there has been the type of regime that I was referring to in place, although maybe evolving over a period of time. If that is the case and no changes have been made to improve it then I would still have a concern.

Serious Issue Rushed

When we were discussing the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat the Minister responsible for that secretariat indicated that the idea or the principle that is the major substance of that agreement was broached by TFN at least a couple of years ago, but seemed to indicate to me that the principle was not addressed by this Executive Council or the GNWT Executive Council until perhaps a very recent time. I think he indicated that about three months ago things started to roll in this respect and then suddenly there it was. What I would have to say is, since that was the exercise, that principle would have very serious implications for public government and I believe the Minister of Aboriginal Rights has acknowledged that it has an impact, I would have thought that was one of the issues that at some point somebody, very specifically as an agenda item at an Executive Council meeting, would have said "Here is a thought that is being proposed. Now because it has these implications where does our government stand with respect to this?" Yet I get the impression that specifically that did not happen until a later time when things were rushed and our government was almost faced with a fait accompli. For such a serious thing that is just not adequate.

So can I ask the Minister very specifically whether recently he has made some changes to the way things are handled that would ensure that that kind of thing does not occur? That every important issue will be flagged and addressed in that type of manner by the Executive Council?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that generally I do feel that the Executive Council deals with all matters that come before it very thoroughly. There are things that are not very important and there are others that are very important. All matters, particularly the important ones, I do feel get very thorough consideration and sometimes a great deal of debate and consideration before debate is concluded and a decision made. That is generally the way that things are dealt with.

The matter of the TFN claim that the Member is referring to, that is a matter that came to us at one point and I would have to admit that it is not a matter that came to us with a great deal of advance notice. It came to us somewhat unexpectedly because of the nature of the subject. It is a subagreement that is negotiated between the federal and the native organizations and it comes to us asking for our comments and if possible our initialling. When this happens, it is put on the agenda of the Executive Council and it is dealt with. Things of that sort sometimes come unexpectedly but I want to assure the Member that, though it comes to us unexpectedly, it does get thorough consideration and the decision that was made with respect to that agreement did receive full consideration.

With respect to the system we have in place, the system we have in place is for Ministers to advance decision papers for the Executive Council as much time in advance of the meeting as possible. Generally for our meeting on a Wednesday, the material would have to come in by Thursday or Friday of the previous week. There is the weekend and quite a number of days in the week for Members to consider the matters. If it is a matter that is of great importance oftentimes the matter will be deferred at the meeting to a subsequent meeting so Members have more time. We never have a situation where a matter is discussed superfluously or lightly. So things like the TFN subagreement came unexpectedly but once it was before the Executive Council, it was dealt with very thoroughly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Discussion Of Fundamental Principle

MR. MacQUARRIE: Not being privy to Executive Council meetings I cannot really challenge what the Government Leader is saying. Nevertheless I do know that the fact that a detailed agreement was presented to the Executive Council means to me that it could not have been discussed in the fundamental kind of way that it ought to have been discussed. Because you see a subagreement like

that would start with the principle and it is only over a period of a year or two years that flesh is put onto the skeletal framework, the principle. It is at the point where the principle is first broached that this thorough discussion should take place. Is this a principle that we can accept or cannot accept? Or can we accept it in some modified form? That is where the position should be taken by the Executive Council and then with that direction, representatives of the Executive Council can proceed to put some flesh on the framework. But I say that the first time the Executive Council is faced with it, is at a point where there is a great deal of work already done and detail, that in a sense you have already conceded the principle, and therefore I cannot see how it could get the fundamental kind of critical analysis and thought that is required in things like that.

Just one other question that I would like to ask and that is I hear the Government Leader saying that virtually all important issues come to the Executive Council, not virtually all, all I guess important issues come to the Executive Council, but he acknowledges that some are more important than others. The Government Leader did not disagree when I said earlier that I felt there were some departmental issues and then some government-of-the-whole issues. Could I ask the Government Leader whether he would consider, not just having Executive Council meetings with a mixed bag of items, where a Minister may feel "Well, I have other things to do and that is a meeting that I just cannot get to" and let it go at that, but rather identify the issues that have to be addressed, as largely departmental issues or government-of-the-whole issues. From time to time Executive Council meetings could be scheduled specifically to address the kinds of issues that can have implications for the whole government and for the whole territory. Presumably knowing that is the type of issue that is going to be on the agenda for that meeting, every Minister will make sure, number one that he is very well versed in all of the implications that are involved in those issues and number two, that he will be at that meeting to address them. So would the Government Leader consider something like that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Need For Leader To Set Agenda

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is a good suggestion. We have been doing some of that. I do admit that the meetings generally that are held are fairly heavy and intense in the sense that there are a lot of things to deal with in the normal course of meetings. As I said the attendance and the scrutiny has been very good. It has been progressing over the course of years. We do occasionally meet informally to deal with things away from the formal structure and setting of the Executive Council meetings. We have had supper meetings and we have had meetings away from the city of Yellowknife where we can deal with larger governmental type issues. Since I have become Leader I have become conscious of this matter too. It has been a learning experience and as time goes by I feel I am getting more experience and more knowledgeable in the running of government and the role and task of being a Leader. You do not have the mandate to be like a premier in the sense that you come into government with a mandate with platforms. So it is very difficult, in part, because the Ministers are all individuals, they come with their strengths and they come with the support of the Assembly on their ability and their own merit. So they are given tasks and it is difficult for me to say that I, alone, come in there as Leader and set the agenda and course of government for the next few years. It is a bit difficult and like I say, I do not have the experience at the moment to do that but it is a matter that I have been thinking about. I see a need to sit down very soon to set out the agenda for the government for the next year and a half or so that we are in existence.

I guess it was a little bit of that that we wanted to do with the native organizations, to see where we could co-operate, see what we could agree with them in terms of accomplishing things as a government and native organizations for the next few years. That was the reason for having the summit but I do agree that there is need for a Leader, I guess in my case, to sit down and deal with the governmental type of issues beyond the normal kind of issues that are dealt with from departments. So it is something that I will be doing in the next few months.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, just a minor item. With the new arrangement now with the Government Leader chairing the meetings of Executive Council...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. RICHARD: ...perhaps I will let Mr. Wray ask the question. I certainly do not want him to answer it.

On those issues where a vote may be required on some contentious issue that arrives on the table of the Executive Council, do you, Mr. Government Leader, retain a vote on those? I take it that being all agreeable gentlemen, that nine issues out of 10 are resolved without a vote but on the issues that do require a vote, do you, as chairman, retain the right of a vote on those occasions?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Exercise the moral option it is called.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, these Members are really getting into the internal running and function of the Executive Council...

MR. RICHARD: ...sit in for a couple of days.

Executive Council Operates On Consensus Basis

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I was going to say that anyway but it is a fact that our Executive Council does really run on a consensus basis and during the two years that I have been involved I do not ever recall things coming down to a vote, where there was a very big split in the decision that was made. We really do function on a consensus-type basis and whereas there are disagreements and different points of view, we spend a great deal of time debating and talking about them to the point where eventually things are more or less concluded and resolved and the votes generally are in favour of the motion. There is no counting of votes as happens here in the Assembly, for the most part.

As chairman, I do feel that I have a vote. I have not, even in the few weeks that I have been chairman, had a chance to exercise it. There are really no rules that we go by. There are no written rules that the Executive Council functions by. We generally follow parliamentary procedure and common sense and that is the way that we have been operating.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Are there any more general comments? If not, does the committee agree that we go to details? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Commissioner's Office, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Okay, we are on page 2.08 in the main estimates. Commissioner's Office, total O and M, \$329,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Ministers' Offices, total O and M, \$2,042,000. Agreed? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, included in this funding are the salaries for secretaries and executive assistants. With respect to executive assistants, and perhaps secretaries as well, what is the policy on the setting of salaries? I had been told that when executive assistants first came into being for elected Ministers that there were salary levels set, but recently I am advised that civil servants in other departments are being seconded as executive assistants to Ministers. What is the policy in terms of setting of salary? Do civil servants retain their salary when they get moved into the position of secretary or executive assistant?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, with respect to secretaries, the level of pay that they are paid is the senior secretary level in our government. I am advised that it is pay level 20. With respect to executive assistants, if executive assistants are seconded from some other jobs in the government then they come to the job with the pay in the pay range that they had been operating at. Generally we are following the federal government's pay level and criteria for our executive assistants.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Ministers' Offices, total O and M, \$2,042,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Audit Bureau, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We will go to page 2.12, audit bureau. Any questions on that? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, on the issue of the audit function I appreciate that currently the audits that are done by the audit bureau are internal audits only. Is there, in this day of devolution, any consideration being given to taking over or creating the function to take on the responsibility of the Auditor General of Canada? Perhaps it is something that we do not want to do. I do not know if we pay for it, but we seem to get good service from the federal Auditor General. Has that been discussed at all?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, we have not given it any consideration or thought at all. In saying this, I am not saying we are closed to any possibilities. If the Member suggested we do, we would certainly consider the idea.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, the internal audits that are completed by the audit staff, do I take it those are in the nature of spot audits of programs, as opposed to doing a complete internal audit of every dollar and dime that is spent in the government? Do you do, rather, spot audits on programs where you feel there may be a difficulty?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Pilot.

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, the government has an audit committee which is made up of deputy ministers of this government, who, on an annual basis put together a program of those departments which should be audited. Each department in turn is asked if they have any specific areas within their department which should be audited and those are given special attention. There are other areas, internal to this government, which either by agreement or by an act of the government must be audited. They are done on a rotational basis. The ones that are mandatory, that must be done according to an act, are selected by the senior management committee and then the department is advised that that is the area upon which an audit will be conducted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more questions or general comments? Audit bureau, total O and M, \$1,364,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Regional Operations Secretariat, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Page 2.13, Regional Operations Secretariat. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, in the booklet it lists the establishment of a field executive office at Norman Wells as an addition to the budget. To my knowledge there has been a field executive officer in that community for a couple of years now. I am generally not in favour of the build-up of government at Norman Wells, simply because I think that the base for that community is already there and I know from research that I have had done that there are, without counting the Department of Local Government, already around 25 employees of this government in Norman Wells, as compared to very few in the other communities. I do not see that there is anything wrong with having some of these other person years situated in the other communities in the region. I wanted to ask the Minister, who makes the decision about establishing these? Who decides where these positions are established?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Just generally, Mr. Chairman, where civil servants are placed in the regions is determined, in part, by the Ministers of the various departments. I think they for the most part decide where staff are to be situated, in conjunction with the regional director. That is the system that we have in place now for placing staff in the various regions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. T'Seleie. Please put your microphone on, Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to ask you if the location of the field executive office could be reconsidered for the future because, based on what I told you before, I am going to be finding it very hard to continue year after year agreeing to it and approving the budget for such a position.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister, do you wish to comment?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Just generally, Mr. Chairman, the government is administered and organized in interregional centres or regional administration at the moment. Up until now, staff are placed in the various regions with the foremost consideration being that of placing them where they can be most accessible and be of greater service to the communities in that region. So thus far we have established regional centres in five regions in the North.

Sahtu Area Remote From Inuvik

With respect to Norman Wells, because of the Sahtu area, those communities are sufficiently remote from Inuvik that they warrant some administration out of Norman Wells which is central to a number of communities in that area. That is the basis on which civil servants are, presently, generally located in the Sahtu area in Norman Wells. In the case of the two positions in Norman Wells, executive officer and executive clerk, these positions had previously been paid for out of impact funds related to the Norman Wells pipeline. These funds have ceased so we are transferring those positions to the Executive and we plan at present just to continue having them stay in Norman Wells.

I would say just by way of general information to the Member that the government has been functioning in this area. The Members know that in a number of other regions in the North recently the government has made some decisions with respect to placement of civil servants other than in the regional centre for that region. So the government is not closed to changing or rearranging its staff in a particular region but this will, in part, depend on the MLA raising concerns and being able to persuade the Assembly and me, as Minister, of the merit in placing or changing the location of staff members. So as a government we are not necessarily set on the old system of doing things. We are open to change and so if the Member really does feel that in the Sahtu area, we, as a government, should locate staff throughout the communities there we would certainly consider it.

The Member should recognize that you place staff with a view to having them accessible and making the most efficient use of them. So if you disperse them and locate them in a number of remoter communities, the question of accessibility to other remote communities comes into question, in terms of organization too. It may be a bit difficult to have a civil servant located in Norman, who is also to provide service to Good Hope, Colville and Fort Franklin. So Norman Wells had been picked because it was central.

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

Constituents Not In Favour Of Build-Up Of Government In Norman Wells

MR. T'SELEIE: The way I see it, it would be no more of a problem to have another central location in the region. I think it is just as difficult to get to Norman Wells as any other community in the region. The one thing I see that needs to happen is that there needs to be the political will to take a look at that. At least from my part I am willing to provide that. I know, in speaking to many of my constituents that they do not agree to the build-up of government in Norman Wells.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I must apologize to the Member. I did not quite get his question. If he could just restate it please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. T'Seleie, could you repeat your question?

MR. T'SELEIE: I did not have a question. I said that it is just as difficult to get to Norman Wells from any of the communities as it is to get to any other community which might be a regional centre. I do not completely share that argument with the government -- the bureaucracy I guess.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Government Leader has said on a number of occasions that the ministerial responsibility, now that we have elected Ministers, is something that this government is going to continue to emphasize. I am wondering, with the organizational changes that are being made in the government, about the trade-off between the growth in the importance of ministerial responsibilities throughout that Minister's department and certainly, the former reporting relationship of regional directors -- if the Government Leader, Mr. Chairman, could give some explanation of where the government is going with respect to that matter of the reporting relationship of the regional directors. And whether in this age now of increased ministerial responsibility by elected Ministers, we are likely to see a decrease in the staff that are called, to date, regional staff. I note in these current figures, there are some 65 person years. With the advent of ministerial responsibility does the Government Leader see that there will be no longer a need for a regional director or someone with that title and the staff beneath the regional director in each of the regions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Role And Responsibilities Of Regional Directors

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the Executive did recently undertake a review of the relationship of the regional directors vis-a-vis the Ministers. We have made decisions to change the role and responsibility of regional director more to that of a co-ordinator than an executive position having responsibility over all the departments. So we have done that and provided for line authority of the Minister to all of the staff in the regions. So we have effectively reduced the powers and responsibilities of regional directors and increased that of the Ministers and deputy ministers. However, I think that for the present time the staff requirement under this section will still be required. I should point out to Members that the regional directors are increasingly becoming more co-ordinators than with authority over departments and programs. Their function is to co-ordinate, to be sure the departments co-ordinate any activity in the region. Their responsibility is to report directly to the Government Leader. Their responsibility is also to attend regional councils and be involved in the capital planning process. I do not expect that their responsibilities will change much in the future because they will likely stay at this level of responsibility for quite a few years yet. The positions in the secretariat also include the field service officers in the area centres. As an example, in any of the regional centres we have a very minimal staff; we have a regional director, assistant regional director and a secretary and that is likely to stay in. In the area offices, we have a field service officer and a secretary oftentimes. That all adds up to 64 positions throughout the North and I do not foresee a reduction in this in the next couple of years.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: I have a question in regard to the regional executive offices. I am pleased to note that the Executive Council is doing a review, but along with the review I think I would be interested in knowing what kind of transfer of activities would be devolved to the areas. For

example, within the Fort Smith regional executive office I would like to see a minimized kind of authority. I suppose that presently rests within the Fort Smith executive office. I would like to see more devolution of responsibility going into the area centres because I think the problem we have right now is that we have been living with this concept of regional directors for too long. It has almost become an institution unto itself and then when you are talking about a review it seems like you are pulling teeth when you are trying to talk about minimizing the role and function of regional directors.

The problem in the past, too, is that the reporting relationship and accountability of regional directors has always been a problem. I think we should be at a stage now where we can clearly indicate what their role will be. I do not support the notion that they should continue with their present role and continue into the future because obviously time and time again, the Members of this House have raised the whole issue of more autonomy, particularly for the regions. When we are talking about regional autonomy we are not necessarily talking about more authority and autonomy for the regional executive offices. When we are talking about negotiating further transfers from the federal government to the territorial government we do not want to see a saturation of authority and co-ordination from headquarters either. To transfer that to the regional executive office is not necessarily going to satisfy, when we are talking about the whole question of devolution.

Devolution Of Responsibility And Man Years

I would like to have some indication whether there will be devolution of responsibility and probably even man years to the area centres. I find it difficult and I always have had some difficulty in supporting the notion that the role and function of the executive offices should really continue. I do not think this is really an issue that touches on an issue which is dear to the hearts of my eastern colleagues, which is division, so I do not see that as an implication at all with regard to that issue. So when we are talking about devolution I am sure the Inuit people from the Eastern Arctic would like to have just as much autonomy as they can. When you are doing a review I would like to know when that review has been completed or whether we would be informed of how that review went so that the Members of this House at least can have some indication as to what kind of administration changes we may expect and how much this is going to filter down to the area offices.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the matter that the Member has raised is under active consideration by the Executive Council, certainly, and has been initiated by me as Minister responsible for Personnel and also as Government Leader. The regional administration system in the North has been in existence for 20 years or more, firstly, when the federal government administered the North from Ottawa and then from Fort Smith. Since the territorial government has taken over administration in 1967, these regions have been in existence. The Fort Smith Region has been in existence since 1967, and the Inuvik Region since 1969. So I do consider it a part of good government management to review the regional administration and we will be doing that in due course. I will just say that for the time being.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: I would just like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to thank the Minister for doing that review. I am sure he appreciates that we have a status quo institution here from the very beginning I believe, when Stu Hodgson was the Commissioner and they moved here to Yellowknife in 1967 and I think that is the institution we have been living with since. I have really not seen any significant changes since then and I would hope that we could expect some changes with the participation of the regional groups.

Regional Operations Secretariat, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more questions on the Regional Operations Secretariat? Total 0 and M, \$3,645,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Priorities And Planning Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Page 2.15, Priorities and Planning Secretariat. Any questions on that? Priorities and Planning Secretariat, total O and M, \$376,000. Mr. T'Seleie .

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the Minister for a day in the life of someone who works in the Priorities and Planning Secretariat?

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I guess this will probably satisfy Mr. MacQuarrie, too, who was wondering whether as an Executive Council we scrutinize and have thorough meetings. We are aided by the P and P as we call it, Priorities and Planning Secretariat. That group is just a small group in government, which is in a sense our watchdog and scrutinizes all new policies, new programs that the Executive Council comes up with. Any new policy, new program, goes through the priorities and planning committee. This secretariat works on behalf of this committee. This committee is just a group of Executive members that review all new policy, new programs, new initiatives of the government. They scrutinize it for effectiveness, whether it conflicts with other programs and just all aspects of it. They provide a report attached to the new program or new initiative and eventually, once we have had our Executive Council meeting -- at priorities and planning, decisions are made and it goes up to the Executive Council for consideration there. These are staff that work on our behalf, as I said, spend time going over the fine details of any new programs and policies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Priorities and Planning Secretariat, total O and M, \$376,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Office Of Devolution, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): On page 2.17, office of devolution. Any questions? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: In the immortal words of Mr. John T'Seleie, Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask what is a day in the life of someone in this office? In seriousness, Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask, just to avoid any detailed discussion, is the discussion paper that the Minister of Aboriginal Rights is going to be tabling within the next week or two going to, without letting any secrets out, address the relationship between this office of devolution and the secretariat that the other Minister is responsible for? Because if so, I do have some questions on that but it would probably make more sense to wait until we see the paper to discuss that relationship.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the paper will deal with the relationship of this office as well as the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat and the work of the Department of Justice. A paper on the subject will be tabled in the Assembly in the next few days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, my only other question on this activity is to ask the Government Leader to confirm that the devolution process is continuing this week, that the Government Leader is not waiting for the once called or twice cancelled, summit meeting. That the process of devolution for the programs, forestry management, fire suppression, health services, highways, NCPC, that these are all progressing on schedule and that the government is not waiting on this so-called summit meeting. Could the Government Leader confirm that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can confirm that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any more questions on the office of devolution? Office of devolution, total O and M, \$329,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Grants, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Detail of grants and contributions, total grants, \$876,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We are now on page 2.22, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Any questions? No. Revenues, recoveries and transfer payments. Any questions? No.

That concludes the Department of the Executive. We still have to deal with two more activities later on when the Ministers who are responsible come back here. Then we will go to department total O and M after that. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Now, we will go to the capital estimates on page 2.05. General comments or questions. Does the committee agree that we go to detail of capital?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive Council Secretariat, Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Executive Council Secretariat, buildings and works, total Executive Council Secretariat, \$150,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total department, \$150,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): That concludes the Department of the Executive. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses at this time.

Department Of Personnel

We are now on Department of Personnel. Does the Minister wish to make opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be able to introduce the main estimates for the Department of Personnel. The day to day operations of the Department of Personnel were turned over to me by the Commissioner on January 2nd of this year. Although the completion of the turnover process requires amendments to the Public Service Act, which will be now introduced at the next sitting of this Assembly, the department is for all intents and purposes under the control of myself, as Minister responsible for Personnel.

I would again like to thank Mr. Parker for his co-operation and smooth transition that was made in the transfer. The proposed operations and maintenance expenditure plan of the Department of Personnel for 1986-87 totals \$15,881,000. A small 11 per cent overall increase from the previous year. We have 71 PYs and 4.4 casual years provided for.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform Members of some of the major activities and accomplishments of the department over the last year, as well as our plans for the coming year. Just recently the Executive Council adopted a new policy on human resource planning. This policy will form the basis of the government's future efforts to integrate personnel planning into our overall operational planning system. Based on the principle of merit linked into the goal of our representative public service, the policy will form the framework of human resource planning related to affirmative action, recruitment and staff training, development and advancement. Being emphasized in the policy is the principle of increased representation of northern native people, non-native people born in the North, women, the handicapped and other persons with special needs at all levels of the public service.

In the area of affirmative action I am pleased to report that there have already been significant improvements in the number of native people being appointed to the public service. In June, 1985 a staffing directive was issued to ensure the effective implementation of affirmative action initiatives in the recruitment process. That directive, in effect as a short-term affirmative measure until April 1, 1988, confirms a special status native northerners have in the competitive process for jobs in the public service. Between July and December of 1985, a total of 191 native people were appointed to positions in the public service, representing an increase of 61 per cent over the previous six month period.

Another encouraging sign is that native people are applying for jobs in the public service in ever-increasing numbers and in high levels in the civil service. We have clearly made a good start on our efforts to make the public service representative of the people it serves. Much more remains to be done and I will be reporting more fully on this when the budget of the Equal Employment Directorate is reviewed.

Collective Agreements Signed

I did not mention it earlier but collective agreements were signed this year resulting in improved wages and benefits for our employees. The two year contract signed with the Public Service Association provides a salary increase of four per cent for 1985-86, as well as a significant increase in the areas of maternity leave benefits, increased dental coverage and additional vacation travel benefits for on-the-land travel in communities off the highway. The department will begin negotiating with the Public Service Association on the amount of the 1986-87 increase for their members in the next few days. The agreement with the Northwest Territories Teachers Association has been finalized with a one per cent lump sum payment effective September 1, 1985, a two per cent increase effective January 1, 1986, and a cost of living increase September 1, 1986. Similar improvements were made to the teachers as provided to the Public Service Association.

The department is also working with the Departments of Health and Renewable Resources to effect the transfer of programs from the federal government. The negotiation of bridging agreements affecting these employees also begins in March with the Public Service Association.

In the area of staff accommodation there has been a substantial increase in capital expenditures this year to provide new and replacement staff housing and furniture. These increases are required to allow for a catch-up on staff housing shortages that have developed in the regions and to accommodate new person years projected for this year and next. At the same time, the department is continuing the sale of staff housing to assist employees to get into the private market.

Review Of Student Employment

Finally, I wish to indicate that my department is reviewing the services they provided to northern students who are attending post-secondary institutions. This review will identify some employment needs of students continuing their studies and consider the issue of jobs for graduating students. I anticipate completing this review in time to be of assistance in seeking work this summer and will work with my colleagues to maximize employment opportunities for northern youth who are pursuing higher education.

That concludes my introductory remarks and I would be pleased to answer any questions. I would ask if two officials could come into the Assembly to help me answer questions.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Go ahead, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce to my left, Mr. Jake Heron who is the new deputy minister of Personnel, who started on February 1st. To my right, Mr. Al Delmage, financial manager for the Department of Personnel.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of questions of the Minister of Personnel but firstly perhaps I could ask if the Minister could give this committee and the public some indication of what changes were proposed for the Public Service Act, that we were planning on considering at this session but because of untimely production of documents I guess we are not going to be considering until the next session.

Amendments To Public Service Act

In the city, Mr. Chairman, before each session, the MLAs hold a public meeting to get input from their constituents on the matters that MLAs are going to be considering at the forthcoming session and in the short time I have been an MLA I am already finding it very difficult to carry on that exercise because of the secrecy that is attached to draft legislation. I am not on the legislation committee and I rarely see a draft bill before it is tabled by a Minister in this Assembly. The Public Service Act -- or the amendments -- is a clear example where MLAs should have had in their hands at least a week, two weeks, before the session commenced, the draft legislation, with the blessing of the government to discuss the contents of the draft legislation with members of the public.

There are a lot of constituents in my constituency and I felt somewhat handicapped, or my hands were tied, at the public meeting I invited them to come out to. They had heard rumours there were going to be changes in the act that may or may not affect their own employment and yet we had nothing to discuss on the night of the public meeting. Still to this day, for various reasons, I do not know what is in the draft proposal and so I finally come to the day when I can ask the Minister, can he tell this committee and through the media, the public, what is in the proposed amendments to the Public Service Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the amendments to the Public Service Act is to reflect the changes that have happened recently with myself taking over as Minister responsible for Personnel. Members know that up until now it has been the Commissioner who has been responsible for Personnel. In the Public Service Act that is outlined, the Commissioner being the employer, the Commissioner being the manager and the person responsible for the public service of our government. So the changes we wanted to make were simply to change that; wherever the Commissioner's name was stated, to change that to a Minister. That was the main aspect of the changes that we wanted to make in the act. When we went into the review of the act, we thought it would be as simple as that. Everywhere the Commissioner's name was, we would change it to Minister. But as we got into it we recognized that the changes would not be that easy. We had to make other consequential changes, so the main purpose or the amendment is essentially to change the responsibility, so that an elected Minister is now responsible for the public service of this government. No more than that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Richard.

Term "Commissioner" Not Deleted From Other Acts

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, because we are not a province and because of our peculiar constitutional existence, virtually every ordinance, or now act, of the NWT refers to the Commissioner carrying out duties or responsibilities of the government. More recent legislation,

new legislation, does provide for a Minister or an Executive Member to have certain duties and responsibilities. The government has not seen fit to do a whole sale house cleaning of the acts to delete "Commissioner" in each and every act. Just this morning the finance committee was reviewing proposed changes to the Taxation Act, an act that provides for the levying of taxes on real property, and in there the existing legislation says "The Commissioner shall levy taxes". The wording is being changed by the government as to the manner in which the Commissioner is to levy taxes. That is an example of an act where we are leaving the old wording in the term "the Commissioner". In this age of ministerial government in the North, I understand that when a Minister does things like levy taxes, under that legislation he takes direction from the Executive Council. Why is it then, Mr. Chairman, that this particular act, the Public Service Act, is having a house cleaning on it, if you will, and not other pieces of legislation? Is there something about this act that causes this immediate change?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, if one looks at the Northwest Territories Act you would see that it provides for the Commissioner to be the chief executive officer of the government and a representative of the federal government in all aspects concerning the GNWT. But the practice has been, over the course of years, that the Minister directs the Commissioner to do certain things, to perform his duties in the North. The system of ministerial government is not being provided for in the Northwest Territories Act. It is a system that is being set up on the direction of the Minister of Indian Affairs and that is the system of devolution. The Yukon has followed that system and we, in turn, are doing likewise.

System Prior To Passing Of Amendments

In the case of Personnel, the Minister has authorized or instructed the Commissioner to turn over the responsibility of Personnel to an elected Minister. So when we were attempting to change the Public Service Act, which has the Commissioner as the employer, we were simply trying to reflect the political changes that had taken place. As to the question of, why this? I know when I became involved as Government Leader and as chairman of the Executive Council and also, in turn, responsible for Personnel, I was very anxious to take over on a day to day basis. But also in addition to that, to have the legal basis, have the authority in law also, to take over responsibility of the Department of Personnel. So until the changes are made in the Public Service Act, all matters of employment still have to be finally signed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner has been very co-operative. In letters that go out, job offers, appeals, grievances and so forth that are presently done, the system that we have in place is the department refers all those matters to me and I, in turn, when approved, pass them on to the Commissioner for his signature. I consider that he must sign it. So I am in effect in control of the department but I seek the Commissioner's signature on letters and on documents until we have made the changes in the Public Service Act. We will continue with this system until the amendments have been made. So it is a bit cumbersome but for the time being we must follow that system.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the restrictions and limitations that are imposed by the Northwest Territories Act and I guess that is my point. Legally the Commissioner is the chief executive officer and that is why his position appears in the wording of all of the legislation, including the Public Service Act. I guess it still remains a question for me why we are taking steps to -- why the government is proposing that they remove the reference to Commissioner out of one act and not out of all of them. I will leave that, Mr. Chairman, and go to another general comment.

The main estimates documents, Mr. Chairman, indicate that in 1984-85 the total person years in our government was 3494 and it is proposed that in the 1986-87 year there be total person years of 4051. An increase in two years of 557 employees or 16 per cent over 1984-85. That is a significant increase in two years. It is not caused, as I recall, by taking on federal employees, as we anticipate we will be doing in the next two years. It appears it is substantial growth in the public service. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the public feel better served because that is a substantial jump in the civil service in two years. I would ask if the Minister of Personnel could comment on what he sees are the reasons underlining that substantial jump in the size of the civil service in the two year period.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, that is a bit of a difficult question, I guess my excuse can be that I just came on the scene a couple of months ago. But just generally from what I can recall, the changes are due in part to the growth that has been made possible to our government as a result of formula financing which has occurred a year or so ago. That has resulted in quite a growth. The particular areas that I am aware of are, in the native languages area, there is quite a substantial increase with the money that we have for native languages in the North. And the Housing Corporation, with a demand for increased houses, has resulted in more employees to manage and supervise this increase. Other than that I think it has been just natural growth throughout the various departments of government. I can provide the Member with accurate and precise information on the subject if he desires this precise and detailed information.

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

MR. RICHARD: No, Mr. Chairman, I have in the main estimates document here the department by department increases over the last two years, including the Housing Corporation. But I was hoping, Mr. Chairman, appreciating the Minister has been the Minister for only a short time, to be comforted, or perhaps the public be comforted, with some overview reason for that substantial jump. Now I know in the next two years we are going to have another substantial jump, because we are going to be taking on person years from the federal government. That will probably cause this department to have to increase its staff because you are looking after the personnel responsibilities for a greater army, so to speak. No, I do not require the detailed figures, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more general comments? Does the committee agree then that we go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Directorate, total O and M, \$2,842,000. Agreed? We are on page 8.06. Directorate, total O and M, \$2,842,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Finance And Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Finance and administration, total O and M, \$437,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Personnel Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Personnel services, total O and M, \$1,131,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Personnel Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Personnel planning, total O and M, \$174,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Staff relations, total O and M, \$11,297,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Any questions? Revenues, recoveries and transfer of payments. Any questions? Distribution of budget. Any questions?

Total O And M, Agreed

On page 8.05, total department O and M, \$15,881,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We will now go to the capital estimates on page 5.03. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Government Leader with regard to accommodations. Where a community is in a position of providing accommodation other than government housing, what is the government's position regarding that type of accommodation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, there are instances in communities where government has its own housing and of course, staff are given those houses to live in. Where there is no government-owned housing, then the government leases houses for its employees.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: For bank loan purposes, has the government ever signed a lease agreement so that individual organizations or bands or councils can build a unit for lease for bank loan purposes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the thing that the Member alludes or refers to, I think, is possible. I am aware that the government has, where approached by a community group or a company that has broad community support, negotiated provisions for the company or the group to build houses on behalf of the government on a lease basis. So what the Member talks about is certainly possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more general comments? Does the committee agree then we go to detail? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations

Buildings And Works, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We are on page 5.05. Detail of capital. Staff relations, buildings and works, total headquarters, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Fort Smith, \$590,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Inuvik, \$1,159,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$1,726,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Keewatin, \$438,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Kitikmeot, \$1,386,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total buildings and works, \$5,349,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Equipment acquisition, total Fort Smith, \$680,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Inuvik, \$623,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Baffin, \$480,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Keewatin, \$368,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Kitikmeot, \$436,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$2,587,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total staff relations, \$7,936,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total department, \$7,936,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any questions on the capital recoveries? Any questions on the distribution of budget? This concludes the Department of Personnel. I want to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Does the committee agree that I report progress at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I move that you report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): That motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hands. Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

We have no quorum. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to ring the bell. I recognize a quorum now. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried.

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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-86(1) and wishes to report progress 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. Clerk, announcements and Item 17, orders of the day.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Thursday, March 6th.

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 Thursday, March 6th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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