



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Before I start with the orders of the day, I have a letter here addressed to the Speaker, dated June 17th: "The following additional legislation is being introduced by my government during this seventh session of the 10th Assembly: Bill 16-86(1), Municipal Act amendment; Bill 19-86(1), Northwest Territories Energy Corporation Act; Bill 21-86(1), Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act amendment; Bill 25-86(1), Petroleum Products Tax Act amendment. I recommend the passage of each of these pieces of legislation. Yours sincerely, J.H. Parker, Commissioner."

Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 17th.

Item 2, Members' replies. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 40-86(1): First-Ever Occupational Health And Safety Week

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members of this Assembly that from June 15th to June 21st northerners will observe the first annual Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week. It is sponsored by the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering. This week is designed to promote good safety habits and attitudes on the job.

Safety week is being actively promoted by the NWT, co-ordinated by the safety division of the Department of Justice and the Workers' Compensation Board. Both agencies are involved on a year-round basis in preventing work-related accidents. Extensive publicity has been generated through radio, television and the printed media. In addition, information packages have been distributed to every community in the NWT and to employer groups and unions.

My department views the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week as an opportunity to bring to everyone's attention the importance of health and safety in the work place. Accordingly, the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, and I have jointly issued a proclamation announcing Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. Sibbeston.

Minister's Statement 41-86(1): Commissioner John Parker Receives Award And Appointment

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, as Government Leader and on behalf of this House, I would like to congratulate Commissioner John Parker on two recent achievements. In May, Commissioner Parker was the recipient of the 1985 Outstanding Achievement Award, the highest award in the Public Service of Canada. Governor General Jeanne Sauve presented Mr. Parker with a citation for continued and outstanding accomplishment and distinguished service of national and international importance.

Mr. Parker has also accepted an invitation from the Chancellor to sit on the Senate of the University of Alberta.

In the North we have long been aware of Mr. Parker's excellent service, particularly in promoting responsible government in the NWT. It is good to see that others throughout Canada are becoming increasingly aware of his contributions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I consider that Mr. Parker is a great northerner. He is increasingly becoming known as a great Canadian and I would like the Members to join with me to show our appreciation of Mr. Parker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

Minister's Statement 42-86(1): Mine Rescue Competition

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 13th and 14th the annual Northwest Territories mine rescue competition was held, this year in Yellowknife, hosted by Echo Bay Mines at the Echo Bay hangar, with teams from Con, Salmita, Nanisivik, Giant, Lupin and Polaris competing.

This competition tests to the full, the skills of miners in first aid and mine rescue, and many months of hard work go into every aspect of their training. The Justice department, mining inspection services, carries out a training program in every mine in the Northwest Territories and actively supports the mine rescue competition.

Nanisivik was the winning team this year and I am sure that this House joins me not only in congratulating them, but also in wishing them well in the national competition in Nanaimo, British Columbia, in September of this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude Ministers' statements for today. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Point Of Privilege

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a point of privilege regarding the editorial that appeared in the June 13th edition of News/North.

In general, I do not complain about or criticize what appears in the media although I sometimes disagree with the opinions expressed and occasionally feel that stories have been poorly thought out or researched. I sincerely believe in the importance of a free and independent press but when that freedom is exercised irresponsibly I feel that I must speak out.

Mr. Speaker, the editorial in question contained not just errors in fact, although those were plentiful enough, but also serious, even dangerous, criticisms of the development of responsible government in the Northwest Territories and it would be remiss of me not to refute them.

Let me begin with the errors in fact. The writer, who I must assume was Annelies Pool, since the editorial was unsigned, implies that I have a close personal relationship with Jeanne-Marie Jewell based on Ms Jewell's use of my first name. I will leave aside the fact that on the previous page of the paper I am referred to on a first name basis in a headline. Indeed the editor feels free in her editorial to refer to me by my first name alone, apparently assuming that we are close personal friends.

---Laughter

I assure you that we are not. Aside from that, let us just remember how small the North is. It is not uncommon to use first names, even when we are only slightly acquainted with the person referred to.

The editor goes on to describe a series of so-called arbitrary decisions that I have made over the last few weeks. I would like to indicate that the decision to decentralize government functions in the various regions of the North was one made by the entire Executive Council and not by me alone. The editorial wanted to give the impression that I was going around the North making arbitrary decisions. Similarly the editor suggested that I arbitrarily decided to grant the Fort McPherson Dene Band a road maintenance contract. Again, this was an Executive Council decision but I just happened to be in Fort McPherson and was pleased to make the announcement to the people there.

Mr. Speaker, the editor also seems to take offence to the idea that this government should do something special for the Inuvik Region because of the downturn in the oil industry. During my trip to the Delta every community I visited expressed deep concern about their economic future and I would have been remiss if I did not pledge this government to do something special for the people in that area.

As to the rest I must say I am amused and amazed by the furor that my comments on street names in Yellowknife has generated. I made these comments lightheartedly at the end of a long interview in Frobisher Bay. They were only meant as friendly advice to the people of Yellowknife, suggesting that if they did this other peoples of the North could relate and really see this truly as their capital. Certainly the reaction they caused is indicative of the problem that I was addressing. Obviously I hit on some sensitive feelings in this regard. I am similarly amused by the reaction to the title of "Premier". I never said, "just call me Premier" -- never once, and I would not think of saying such a thing. I merely indicated that as an Executive Council we had considered a number of changes with respect to calling ourselves a cabinet and calling the head of government a premier. I made the statement at a BRC meeting where some of the Inuit Members were in attendance. The response it created is very reminiscent of the media's ridicule for the term, "Legislative Assembly", when that was first used to describe this House.

By way of interest, in the late 1800s, in the period before the creation of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the elected leader of the then NWT, Mr. Haultain, was called Premier, so that is something to think about.

While I may be amused by some of the statements in the editorial, I can only be saddened, Mr. Speaker, by the overall implications of the editorial. To refer to me as "Papa Sibbeston" is insulting, not only to me but I consider that it should be insulting to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. It implies at best, that all power lies in my hands to exercise as I see fit, like a father controlling his children, which of course is not the case as you know. I am totally...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Demonstrate that this afternoon.

---Laughter

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I am totally responsive and accountable to you. At a time when we are trying to establish...

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as much as I appreciate the Leader's concern of replying to the press, I find that this is perhaps not the point to raise it in this lengthy rhetoric toward the press. Otherwise we will be doing that every day.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of privilege was called by the honourable Leader. However, so far he has not been on a point of privilege. I have been waiting for the privilege to show up but unless there is a point of privilege then the Member is out of order. A point of privilege must be a remark made by a newspaper of remarks made by a person in the Assembly or in a committee that is part of the Assembly. Now the Executive Council is not a committee of this Assembly. Unless we can get back on track here and you know from what you have got there, Mr. Sibbeston, you do not have a point of privilege. However, I will leave that up to you for the moment to see whether or not the rest of your dialogue is a point of privilege.

Errors In Editorial

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I appreciate your comments, Mr. Speaker. I thought I was dealing with certain errors that were made in the editorial. I was getting to the comment with respect to the editorial describing me as "Papa Sibbeston". I was going to deal with that issue because I do not consider that I am a "Papa Sibbeston". I was saying, at a time when we were trying to establish responsible government, for the paper to write such things about the Leader, I think is most inappropriate and unwise.

The word "papa" has a much darker reference especially when used in conjunction with words like "king" and "autocratic", terms like "abuse of power" and "oppressor". It calls up images of Papa Doc Duvalier and Idi "Big Daddy" Amin, dictators of the worst and most despicable sort. I can only hope that this reference was unconscious on the part of the editor and certainly not identifying me with those types of dictators.

Mr. Speaker, I am not afraid of criticism. In fact I welcome it as a way of ensuring that the actions of the government reflect the wishes of the people. But when that criticism is unfair or unreasonable and is aimed at me from the relative security of an unsigned editorial, then I can only respond as I have done today, with anger and frustration. Quite frankly the comments in that editorial hurt me, not because they struck home but because they were so similar to the kinds of attack I have seen native people having to put up with in the North.

I am a native person born here in the North and everything I have done, going through the school system, going to university, becoming a lawyer and achieving this position here, I have done by hard work. Like most native people I have had to overcome many barriers to accomplish what I have done. Now as Government Leader I am working hard to prove myself. That is why I say I do not really like being compared to some of the dictators that have been mentioned. As I travel through the North, I sense that for the most part that my efforts are being appreciated. So it is discouraging to me to get this kind of reaction from a newspaper. It appears that News/North is yet another barrier that native people have to overcome in the struggle to succeed and to become part of this government or to earn our spot in northern society. So let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this kind of reaction only makes me more determined to succeed and accomplish things on behalf of people here in our government.

The editor closes by comparing me to former Commissioner Hodgson, which I think is most unfair. The big difference, of course, is that Commissioners of the past never had to be elected. In our case, in a year or so, we have to go to the people again and face an election. The people, through the election process, will determine the fate of this government and of the policies it is trying to implement. No Commissioner and certainly no newspaper editor ever had to do the same. So that is all I wanted to say. Mahsi cho. Thank you for your tolerance.

---Applause

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 277-86(1): Status Of Policy On Open Government

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader. During the winter session, Mr. Government Leader, I had expressed serious concern about what appeared to me to be government that was unacceptable -- questions that were put to it and I know that the Government Leader, himself, when he travelled with me on the WCF expressed the hope that we could attain government that was more open and accountable. I am also aware that in between sessions the Government Leader indicated that he would be developing a policy to try to make government more open and accountable. Could I ask the Minister where that policy is at and when we will likely hear more about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell the Member that we have indeed been working very hard on the matter of cabinet secrecy and I will be pleased to make a statement in the House tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 278-86(1): Occasion For Red Ties On Liberal Members

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. I am quite confused. I am an NDP supporter and I would like to find out what the Liberals are doing today. I receive a letter every month of their progress and am confused today. I would like to ask the Government Leader, why are the Liberal supporters on the floor wearing a red tie and what is the occasion? Did the Liberal leader die today or what is happening? Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your contribution to the humour for today, Mr. Paniloo. Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 279-86(1): Funding For Early Intervention Program, Pond Inlet

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education, Dennis Patterson. There was a petition that was brought to the attention of the Legislative Assembly when you were not in the House and there is also a letter and a petition that was signed by 16 people concerning the same letter. I know you have supported the early intervention program in Pond Inlet and as you are aware it was a pilot project for the school. It was going really well in Pond Inlet but the funding was going to end in June and there is no funding available for Baffin for that kind of a program in the Pond Inlet area. I would like to ask you again if you will continue to fund that program in Pond Inlet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 279-86(1): Funding For Early Intervention Program, Pond Inlet

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have seen the petition and the letter and am aware of the project. Mr. Speaker, the whole question of the responsibility for preschool children is not clear at present in the Northwest Territories. As the Member knows, this was a pilot project for a year which involved the Department of Social Services and my department. We are at present, with Social Services, interviewing appropriate people from several government departments to share the mandate for preschool early intervention services. If a department or departments accept this mandate for preschool services, it will be necessary to prepare legislation, policy and a plan for the development of these services. I could elaborate, Mr. Speaker, on advantages and disadvantages. To answer the Member's question, a decision is going to be required within the next six months and I am actively encouraging the resolution of this issue and the necessary information to prepare for this decision. I hope that the good work in Pond Inlet will not be ignored and, perhaps, somehow can be continued and applied in other communities but this requires a decision which has yet to be made by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 279-86(1): Funding For Early Intervention Program, Pond Inlet

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to the question, I understand fully what you just said, that it will take about six months for you to make a decision on the preschool intervention plan but the school will be starting again toward the end of August in Pond Inlet and they would like to find out in Pond Inlet. Perhaps you could directly tell the Pond Inlet education department when the early intervention program will be beginning exactly. On which date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the petition and letter will be replied to and I will try to give as precise information as I can to the people of Pond Inlet as early as possible. I recognize they want the program to start up again this fall. There is a problem of policy and money but we are trying vigorously to address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Then I take it you are taking this question as notice and will be giving a reply at a later date which might be four or five months away. Is that correct?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is correct. You are always correct. Thank you.

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

Question 280-86(1): NCPC Bills Arriving Late

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recommended last February that the Executive Council look into NCPC's method of billing to the communities. I would like to ask the Minister what the Executive Council has done to date to mitigate the problem of bills arriving late, sometimes after the bill is due. In the last BRC meeting, MLAs were asked to find out what is being done and report back to their fall session, so I would like to know what the Executive Council has done and will be doing to lessen this problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question under advisement and get back to the Member tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

Question 281-86(1): Eider-Down Harvesting Studies, Belcher Islands

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism a question. Last year a study was done on the north end of the Belcher Islands regarding the possibility of harvesting eider-down. The economic development committee of Sanikiluaq are wondering if the same study could be done on the south end of the Belcher Islands. I was advised by telephone yesterday that this proposal was approved by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in Yellowknife.

We still have the problem that the person in government with authority to sign our application to release funds for the eider-down project is in Ottawa. As I understand it, he will be there for only two weeks. My question to the Minister is, is it possible for the Minister to contact this person, informing him of the urgency of getting this project under way as the economic development committee of Sanikiluaq would like to start as soon as the ice goes away, and the ice is going away very soon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to further study the research program in Sanikiluaq. They want to have research south of Sanikiluaq this summer. Today I will try to find out further from Ottawa whether there is any need to sign forms, so they do not have to wait too long, and then I will answer your questions tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Further Return To Question 268-86(1): Continuing Funding For Youth Program

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 268-86(1) asked by Mr. Nerysoo on June 16th. This is in order to complete the question he asked me, Mr. Speaker, concerning youth alcohol and drug prevention program.

In fiscal year 1985-86, priority dollars were provided to my department to assist in developing pilot youth alcohol and drug prevention projects. Six communities participated, hiring 12 youth from September, 1985, through April, 1986. The six communities were Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Frobisher Bay, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Fort Simpson.

This year I have been successful in having \$200,000 out of the alcohol and drug contributions designated as contribution dollars available toward youth prevention projects. To date, 16 communities have submitted proposals to hire 18 youth for a period of nine months. I am pleased to announce that all 16 projects can be accommodated within the funding available and that contracts are currently being prepared for processing. The target date for the funding to begin is July 1, 1986.

I am also confident that this program will be an integral part of our overall approach to alcohol and drug abuse in the NWT. The youth will work within established community alcohol and drug projects and will be responsible to them. The intent is to foster an awareness among youth in their communities of drug and alcohol abuse, its dangers and above all, to introduce a preventive response among youth.

Our experience with the projects operated last year has been most positive. It has shown that youth themselves are the best to address and deal with those problems unique to youth. The highlight of these projects has been the desire, commitment and involvement of the young people not only in helping peers but the community and its people as a whole. In one community, Fort McPherson, the two youth whom we hired through the project ran and were elected to the band council and local education authority.

I look to this same sense of enthusiasm and involvement from those youth to be hired this year in the following communities: Fort Smith, Fort McPherson, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, Baker Lake, Eskimo Point, Rankin Inlet, Yellowknife, Hay River, Spence Bay, Frobisher Bay, Fort Liard, Broughton Island, Fort Resolution, Inuvik and Fort Providence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 282-86(1): Funds For Soil Erosion, Tuktoyaktuk

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Leader of the government, Mr. Sibbeston. Two or three weeks ago you were in my constituency and I was very pleased that the meetings went well and particularly with your comments on providing funding for the soil erosion problem we have outside the school in Tuktoyaktuk. I wonder if the Leader could tell me when we might expect that these funds will be allocated? When will we be notified? Will this be coming forward as a special warrant to the Executive, and when?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

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

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

Question 283-86(1): Response To And Finances For Mackenzie Delta Concerns

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In conjunction with the question asked by Ms Cournoyea, I have a question of my own. Could the Government Leader please indicate to this House the time period in which he will respond to those concerns that were raised in the Mackenzie Delta communities and what time will the finances be approved and allocated to those projects that he so heartily supported during his tour in the region?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a bit of a difficult question to answer too. Some of the commitments that were made will obviously take some time but there were some commitments that are more immediate. I did indicate to, particularly, the community of Fort McPherson that I would be back within one month's time and I do intend to make it back to McPherson within that time. I would appreciate if the Member would indicate more specifically his concerns and the matters that he has in mind when he raised his general question. Then I would be in a much better position to answer him.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nerysoo, can you be more definite on your question and define your question a little more, please?

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not only the fact that, Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader made certain commitments to the community of Fort McPherson but there are such things as the question of the arena complex in both McPherson and Aklavik. There was the question of support incentives to keep the oil industry in the Beaufort. There was a question of the role of the regional director, in which in fact the community of Aklavik requested that this government not reduce the role of the regional director. There was a question of a need for a new office building

not only in Aklavik but also in Fort McPherson to accommodate both the band councils; the programs that this government has approved with regard to core funding arrangements; the question of erosion control in Aklavik, the river bank; and the question of outside contractors not hiring local people to deal with contracts in their particular community. Those were elements of the question. I know that the Government Leader may not respond today but I do wish to at least have an indication of what time and the costs that might be associated to responding to these commitments that were made by the Government Leader.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be pleased within the next two days or so to provide a detailed response to the Member.

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

Question 284-86(1): Increased Funding For Cultural Inclusion

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not exactly a question but I wrote to the Minister of Education yesterday when he was not present. I would like to ask this question again. I would like the cultural program funding made larger in Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour. Those two communities would like to have their concerns addressed regarding cultural programs in school. He was not here yesterday, so I would like to -- I do not know whether he can hear me. He is not facing me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Questions 276-86(1) And 284-86(1): Increased Funding For Cultural Inclusion

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the current budget for the cultural inclusion grants provides funding at the rate of \$42 per student per year. I have not made any plans to change that allocation while we are in the middle of the current fiscal year. However, Mr. Speaker, significant new programs are planned in relation to the development of the Inuktitut language and culture in the school curriculum and I would be prepared before the end of this session to provide to this House details of the ambitious plans that the Department of Education has to enhance the language and cultural curriculum in schools in many communities in the Northwest Territories including schools in the Baffin Region. I will ask that this question be taken as notice and I will provide more details before the end of this session. As to being away, absent from the House, Mr. Speaker, I was on duty travel. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 285-86(1): Liability Insurance For Wilderness Programs

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. It is concerning summer wilderness programs that are going to be implemented in a lot of the Dene communities. However, there is a problem with liability insurance for these organizations to implement their programs. I would like to ask the Minister whether there is a way around this whole issue, because I know that it is a concern in a number of communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 285-86(1): Liability Insurance For Wilderness Programs

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problem is not just restricted to that area. As the Members know, my department also includes some of the contracts that we have, to operate group homes and other programs. I wrote a letter yesterday to the Government Leader asking him at his earliest opportunity to put this urgent item on the agenda of the Executive Council so that I and other Ministers with related difficulties can tackle this problem of liability insurance. Right now, all of our contracts that we have with organizations like that require them to have liability insurance. Some of them are unable to acquire the insurance and if we were to pay that in the program then we could not afford to do all the programs. So, it is an urgent item that the Executive will be discussing shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 286-86(1): Phone Calls Home For Students In Residencies

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to be asking this question to the Minister of Education about the Ukkivik students. I heard that they can make long distance calls to their communities once in one month. There are not too many students here in Fort Smith but since there are not too many I was wondering if they could do the same thing in Fort Smith as they do in Ukkivik residence. If they can do the same thing in Fort Smith and also in Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do not as yet operate a student residence in Fort Smith. I hope that maybe we will some day but we do not at the moment. As to the Akaitcho Hall residence in Yellowknife, I will have to take that question as notice. I do not know what their policy is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Further Return To Question 124-86(1): Housing Designs

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 124-86(1), asked by Mr. Pudluk on February 28th, to do with improvement in housing design. The Housing Corporation is currently reviewing the entire home-ownership assistance program design portfolio. Each year clients bring forward design changes which are reviewed for possible inclusion in the designs. The specific issue of an additional door will be addressed. Generally, we are working toward a portfolio of house types which may be built in various ways to satisfy individual tastes. This year the basic designs will be reviewed and expanded to provide various floor plans and finish options. The corporation is also working on a revised catalogue which will present each design type in a more suitable manner to make it easier for families to decide which designs and options are more suitable for them.

If a client wishes to add additional amenities to a unit or expand the basic size of a house, they may do so as long as the proposed changes are reviewed by the corporation to ensure the changes or additions are structurally sound and the extra materials are supplied by the client. Thank you.

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

Question 287-86(1): Day Care In Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the community of Resolute Bay currently they are teaching adults and they find that it is a very good education. Some of the adult students who want to take this program have children. I wanted to ask the Minister of Social Services if it would be possible to come up with day care services. It would probably have to be taken care of by the government. If he can come up with a day care program before August we would like it, but if he could not before August, it would be too late. I know the government has a few buildings in Resolute Bay that are not in use. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 287-86(1): Day Care In Resolute Bay

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not catch that the question was directed to me to start with. I thought it was directed at Mr. Patterson but then I realized when he mentioned day care that it was probably coming my way. In the matter of day care, right now the only money that my department has in its budget is money to help those who are on social assistance or who have very low income jobs. In other words, single parent families of low income can get some assistance in paying for day care, but my department has no funds in order to provide the operating costs of buildings for day care programs anywhere in the Northwest Territories. The provision of buildings has occurred because of donations from hamlets and other organizations that have provided the buildings. The only money that my department has is the money in our program to help low income parents pay for whatever day care services they purchase. My department is unable to be of aid in the acquisition or operation of the building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 288-86(1): Chronology Of Events Re Official Languages Act

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could not let this day go by without having had an opportunity to review the comments by the Government Leader on Friday with regard to the whole question of languages and the so-called inactivity of myself prior to his anointment, I guess, as Government Leader. But let me ask the Government Leader if he is going to place before this House a chronology of the events that occurred in regard to the implementation or the passage of the legislation, the language act, including his so-called opposition to the appointment of Mr. Brian Lewis, who was in fact to develop a strategy for implementation of the language act. I would suggest that he maybe take advantage of the expertise not of Mr. Whittington but of Mr. Lal, who was involved in this process, and I would ask that the Minister, the Government Leader, assure the Members of this House that such a chronology of events could be placed before this House so that the public and the Members of this House could be given the proper information.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to do that as best as I could. I do apologize to the Member for having mentioned him in his absence. I can say to him that I was being pressed by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South asking me to account for our government's action and perhaps what the Member considered as lack of implementation of the provisions of the language act. I had indicated to the Member that it was very difficult for me to answer for the government because I was not the Minister in charge up to last fall when all of it was dealt with. However, I would be pleased to do the best I could in providing a chronology of events with respect to the language act we have before us.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. There do not appear to be any further oral questions today. Item 5, written questions.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I...

MR. SPEAKER: Pardon me, Mr. McCallum, did you have something you wish to say? Oral questions, Mr. McCallum? Mr. McCallum, you have the floor for oral questions.

Question 289-86(1): Economic Planner For Fort Smith

MR. McCALLUM: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. On Thursday last I asked Question 241-86(1) of the Minister regarding an economic planner for the town of Fort Smith. He indicated in reply that he would take a look at the application and return with an answer. I wonder if I could ask the Minister, has he in fact received a communication from the town regarding this particular issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I think for the record I should correct the Member. He indicated that he would ask a question but he did not raise it in the House. But I have the notice from him and I will be pleased to check the situation and reply as soon as I can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: You are taking the question as notice. Great deal of problem with that question, evidently. Mr. Gargan.

Question 290-86(1): Funding For Construction Of Complex, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. I understand that last Wednesday there was a meeting in Providence concerning the complex. However, there was no clear indication by the Department of Public Works on the set amount that is allocated for the complex. There seems to be some confusion on the amounts. DPW is under one impression and the community is under another impresssion. There have been continual meetings and really no results of the meetings. So I would like to ask the Minister what is the allotment that is going to be made for this summer for the complex that was supposed to be built in Fort Providence? I understand there are not going to be any offices but actually a community hall and an indoor skating rink.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 290-86(1): Funding For Construction Of Complex, Fort Providence

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The total allocated budget for the facility in Fort Providence is \$1.4 million. That is for everything. Thank you.

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

Question 291-86(1): Letter From Fort Smith Regarding Economic Planner

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sure would be nice to have the MLA for Hay River on my side once in a while. I would just like to comment on the question to which the Minister indicated by note that he would reply to me. I have a copy of a letter that was written to the Minister on Monday, June 9th, from the mayor of Fort Smith. I would hope that the Minister has received that letter and I could get a reply.

Since he is going to take it as notice, Mr. Speaker, I understand he is acting for the Minister of Renewable Resources and Culture and Communications today. Again I asked a question on Thursday, June 12th of that Minister, and he took that question as notice. If I repeat the question to the present acting Minister, will he take it as notice again? I asked the Minister Question 246-86(1) regarding the libraries in his department, whether in fact when the transfer was made, when his department became Culture and Communications, maintenance moneys were transferred to his department from the previous one. I was to get a reply on Friday, "tomorrow". I would just like to know if the "tomorrow" referred to here, is tomorrow's tomorrow, because it certainly was not Thursday's tomorrow or Friday's tomorrow. Am I going to get it?

MR. RICHARD: You're going to get it! Tomorrow. You're going to get it from the Speaker.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: If you don't get it, you should get it. We have two questions on the floor. To simplify matters I will rule the second question out of order. There is only one question at a time. Will the Minister please answer the first question?

Return To Question 291-86(1): Letter From Fort Smith Regarding Economic Planner

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I did receive the letter from Fort Smith and I will be pleased to make a reply as soon as I can. With respect to his first question as well.

But on the second question I will be pleased to take the question as notice and try to provide an immediate response as soon as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, you got your answers to both questions anyway. You have been very fortunate today, Mr. McCallum. Do we have any further oral questions? That appears to conclude oral questions. Item 5, written questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 292-86(1): Moving Of School Materials, Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is going to be directed to the Minister of Education. This is in regard to a new school in Sanikiluaq. I would like the Minister to inform me whether the school materials could be moved to the new school from the old school as soon as possible. I was informed that they would not be moving any material from the old school to the new school at the present time. They said that it would take too much time if they were to move them right away. I feel that it would take at least a month for them to move the materials when the school opens and they should do it right away.

My question to the Minister Of Education is whether he can get the materials moved to the new school as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the new school opens, so they can start classes as soon as the school year starts.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. Are there any further written questions? Item 6, returns. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 273-86(1): Alcohol And Drug Abuse At Aklavik

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written Question 273-86(1) asked by Mr. Nerysoo on June 16th regarding funding for the Aklavik alcohol and drug centre.

Federal funding through the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program was provided to the Aklavik centre through fiscal period 1984-85. The Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council of the NWT recommended against further funding for this centre in 1985-86 due to administrative and program difficulties experienced by the centre. A request in the amount of \$157,696 for fiscal year 1986-87 was presented to the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council in the spring of 1986. A tentative recommended approval of up to \$116,364 for fiscal year 1986-87 was granted. Funding is contingent upon the organization receiving society status and an on-site visit by officials of the Department of Social Services and Health and Welfare Canada.

I have been advised that the organization has been granted society status and that once this has been confirmed the on-site visit will occur. Once these contingencies have been met, a contract will be signed and processed through the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program of Health and Welfare Canada. Officials of Health and Welfare Canada have indicated that from the time of the confirmation of the legal status of the Aklavik centre to the point where the first cheque is received, it can take up to six weeks. Funding will be commensurate as of the date of the signing of the contract. I have also been informed that the organization is fully aware of their current and possible funding status. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns. That appears to conclude returns for today.

Item 7, petitions. Are there any petitions for today?

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 68-86(1), an editorial published in the French newspaper, "L'Aquilon", published by the Francophone cultural association, dated March 27th, 1986, entitled, "Un Vent D'Espoir". The translation into English, Mr. Speaker, is "A Cause for Hope". The editorial deals with the report of the task force on aboriginal languages and is in support of the task force report. Attached to this document, Mr. Speaker, is the translation in English. Merci beaucoup.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 34-86(1): Increase Of Exploration Tax Credit

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 19th, I will move the following motion, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta: Now therefore, I move that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Government of Canada, in the strongest possible terms, that the exploration tax credit be increased from 25 per cent to 40 per cent for an additional well to be drilled at the Amauligak field in order to enable employment to continue and to take a further important step toward hydrocarbon self-sufficiency in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Notices of motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 35-86(1): Workers' Compensation Board

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on June 19th, I will move that the Legislative Assembly recommend the appointment of Mr. Ted Carter of Gjoa Haven to the Workers' Compensation Board for a term expiring March, 1987.

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

Notice Of Motion 36-86(1): Assistance To Mining, Oil And Gas Exploration Companies.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 19th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that the Legislative Assembly request the Executive Council to urge the federal government to give every consideration to providing taxation relief and reasonable financial incentives to oil and gas companies exploring and delineating major petroleum reservoirs in the Northwest Territories and to consider providing site-specific assistance to NWT mining operations temporarily experiencing production difficulties.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 37-86(1): Contribution To "The True North Strong And Free" Conference

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Thursday, June 19th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that this House recommend to the Executive Council that it make a significant financial contribution to the sponsors of the conference entitled, "The True North Strong and Free? An Inquiry into Canadian Defence Policy and Nuclear Arms", to help defray the costs of the conference.

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

Notice Of Motion 38-86(1): Defence Of Health Of Peoples Affected By Chernobyl Tragedy

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 19th, I will move the following motion dealing, Mr. Speaker, with the victims of the Chernobyl disaster and their families: Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories support the following actions to defend the physical and mental health of peoples affected by the Chernobyl tragedy: 1) that the United Nations form an international investigative committee of scientists and medical experts to enter Ukraine to assess the extent of danger; 2) that Canada declare its preparedness to contribute emergency aid -- medicine, food, technical personnel, as needed; 3) that Canada announce an open door policy for family reunification and sponsorship of immigrants wishing to leave Ukraine; and 4) that the USSR permit communication between Canadians and their relatives in the Ukraine. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

Notice Of Motion 39-86(1): Declaration Of A Nuclear-Free Zone.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 19th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that the Legislative Assembly declare the Northwest Territories, land, coastal waters and air space a nuclear-weapons free zone; and further that this House use all means within its powers to ensure that the Northwest Territories be used solely for purposes that are peaceful; and further that this House declare its opposition to the exploration and exploitation of other materials related to the nuclear weapons industry; and further that this House declare its opposition to the testing and/or establishment of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons related technology and nuclear waste dump sites in the Northwest Territories; and further that the Speaker convey this resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada, the leaders of the opposition parties in the federal Parliament, the President of the United States and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Notices of motion. That appears to conclude notices of motion for today. Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 16-86(1): Municipal Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 19th, I shall move that Bill 16-86(1), An Act to Amend the Municipal Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters, do you wish to make a move on Bill 25-86(1)?

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 25-86(1): Petroleum Products Tax Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 19th, I shall move that Bill 25-86(1), An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That appears to conclude notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to proceed with my motion regarding the Workers' Compensation Board appointment, which I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested. Are there any nays?

---Agreed

You have unanimous consent, Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion 35-86(1): Workers' Compensation Board, Carried

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS a vacancy has occurred on the NWT Workers' Compensation Board because of Mr. Evalik's resignation and it is desirable to fill this vacancy;

AND WHEREAS the Workers' Compensation Act requires that appointments to the board shall be made on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the Legislative Assembly recommend the appointment of Ted Carter to the Workers' Compensation Board for a term expiring March, 1987.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Motions. Are there any further motions for today? Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to...

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, point of order.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, on Friday 13th, I gave notice that I would have a motion introduced on Tuesday, June 17th. It is in the book and today is June 17th, isn't it? Tuesday? I know I said January a while ago.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, you are correct. Your motion is in order for today. It was not listed on the orders of the day where we usually have them. My apologies. You may proceed, you have the floor.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I guess as a point of clarification the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe had seconded this motion.

---Laughter

The Member is not in the House. Oh, it is okay! She is coming.

Motion 32-86(1): Women's Correctional Centre At Fort Smith

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Tu Nedhe, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it reconsider its decision to close the women's correctional centre located in Fort Smith, in October of this year, until such time that facilities and staff are in place at the designated locations for women's correctional services at Yellowknife, Hay River and Frobisher Bay.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not put any whereas clauses in this particular motion, Mr. Speaker, because I think they are not necessary. In previous questions in this House, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Social Services if he would reconsider the decision to relocate personnel and incarcerated people from the present women's correctional centre to the new locations of that centre, until such time as these facilities were ready to take these people.

I did not consider that to be a very difficult request to make and on two occasions the Minister said, "No", that he would not do it at this particular time. Hence my particular motion then. If it is a government policy to relocate these people, I would ask the Government Leader and his Executive to reconsider this decision until these locations are ready and people are there, prepared to take on these responsibilities.

I do not want to argue the decision of the government that they are going to do away with one women's correctional centre even though, Mr. Speaker, the Elizabeth Fry Society at a recently held conference in Fort Smith expressed their disapproval of this particular move. I do not want to get into that particular aspect of this issue.

Facilities In New Locations Are Not Ready

What I want to get into, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that in the locations to which they are going to move personnel, both prisoners as well as correctional officers, the facilities are not at this present time ready to take on the extra tasks. For example, Mr. Speaker, in Hay River alone the first and second phase of the expansion that would expand the dorms, offices, storage facilities, a remand centre for males and females -- for these two particular phases which were commonly called in the plan, phase I and phase II, the working drawings, the designs, are to be completed in this fiscal year. So, the construction is to begin in 1988 and 1989 with the hope that they would be ready for occupancy in late December of 1988 or in 1989.

The third phase of that particular expansion was not in the original design as I understand it and for that particular phase, for which the client department has to consider getting additional funding, the designs and drawings are scheduled to be completed in 1987-88, construction in 1989-90 and hopefully they would be occupied in Hay River in December of 1989 or in 1990. That particular phase III of this plan is still subject to the client department getting additional funding for it. That includes a gymnasium and workshop facilities.

With regard to the Yellowknife facility, what the government has done is to take an area that housed the women's corrections in the past, seven, eight or nine years ago, and to remove from it what it has been used for now but there were other additional facilities that are required and additional changes that are required to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre if this is to go on.

One of the reasons for moving back one phase of the plan at the South Mackenzie was so that the Yellowknife Correctional Centre renovations could go along and you would not have had two facilities being expanded or renovated at the same time. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the department will have to seek additional funding to continue with the renovations at the YCC. I am sure those of you who have seen the supplementary estimates bill will recognize that there is an additional request of the department for funding to do that. I also suspect, Mr. Speaker, that the department will have to take from the South Mackenzie centre some of the funds that this government has allocated, or voted on, for renovations there to carry on their renovations at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre.

With regard to the Baffin Correctional Centre, Mr. Speaker, the Minister in reply to questions had indicated that they are now in the process of training people to take on the responsibility. He anticipates this training to occur before October of this year. I could be corrected and I am sure he will correct me if I use the wrong number, but I thought he said that three people are being trained now. He also has indicated that they will require in Baffin, five correctional officers.

Hardship Involved In Interim Transfer Of Personnel

At the present time at the women's correctional centre in Fort Smith, there are 11 people employed, five on a term basis, six permanent. Five of whom are correctional officers and one secretary. The Minister has indicated as well that his people will go down, I think it is next week, to see how many of those six people, those six permanent people will take on responsibilities with the department. Some of these people have been involved with corrections for some time and the concept that is involved here is that these people will be given the choice of whether they will want to continue in corrections and thereby take a transfer or leave corrections. According to the PSA they will try to fit them into other places within the PSA, within the government. The difficult part of this, Mr. Speaker, is that the Minister's plan now is to move the personnel from Fort Smith to Yellowknife for a period of time before some of them may or may not be hired to work in Hay River, whenever that facility is ready, and some of them if they do accept a transfer, will go to Baffin when that particular facility is set up to accommodate the number of incarcerated people.

I contend, Mr. Speaker, that that is being irresponsible -- moving people without regard for the people that are involved in this particular correctional centre. In planning to move them on a temporary basis to Yellowknife and eventually move them down to Hay River, have they no regard for the fact that these people, if they do accept the transfers, will have to sell their housing units in Fort Smith, and if they cannot sell them on the open market it will be the government who will have to buy them back? They will have to try to get similar accommodations in the city of Yellowknife if they are here for more than a year because, the government will have to provide for the first year for them, at least I would expect so and then if they were here over a year, unless there is a change in the policy, they will have to buy units here and then when they are transferred to Hay River, they will have to sell their units in Yellowknife and go through the same process again.

In one instance, Mr. Speaker, the senior correctional officer presently in the women's correctional centre in Fort Smith is just about three years or so to retirement. After spending 19 to 20 years in the correctional service, this particular person now, with the plan of the Minister, faces having to sell a unit in Fort Smith, acquiring another one in Yellowknife, moving to Hay River and acquiring another one in a matter of three particular years before the facility in Hay River will be prepared to take in these incarcerated people. I say that is not being responsible on the part of the Minister, in not looking after the welfare of his people. In all cases, these people have devoted many years to correctional services. These people are local people, save one, and they have had long terms of employment with the government in corrections. These are people with expertise that the Minister or his people are going to go to and say, "Look, this is the deal, take it or leave it. Either come with us to Yellowknife and then Hay River, or come to Frobisher Bay," with no regard as to their particular personal lives. I say that is irresponsible and, also, costly on the part of the government.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to argue the decision as to whether you should close it down. All I am arguing is for the Executive, the Government Leader, to take a look at holding back on the closure of the particular facility until the other institutions or other facilities are there ready to accommodate the personnel as well as the prisoners. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that there are other Members in this particular House who have the same feelings as I, in regard to the care of people who are long-term employees as well as to the particular cost to the government in going through with this, in my terms, idiotic plan to move people around when there is no need to do so. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mrs. Lawrence, as seconder.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A recent recommendation was made by the status of women group to centralize the location. Moving the women's correctional centre to Hay River is not what was recommended. I do not consider Hay River as centralized and if a move is to be made to Hay

River then we might just as well leave the centre where it is. We should leave the centre where it is until the facilities are completed in more central areas such as Frobisher Bay or other areas that are earmarked.

I just do not believe that the facility here in Yellowknife is adequate to accommodate the female inmates and as a Member of the finance committee I am a little bit concerned about the money it will cost to move the centre as well as the employees. I think it is expecting too much of an employee to make such a move twice in such a short time. I know the government seems to do things in complicated ways but it just seems logical that one move should be made and that the centre should be left in Fort Smith until such facilities are completed. Mahsi cho.

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

Capital Funding For Corrections

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make Members aware of what the government considered in doing this and we have considered this carefully. We have had to, I admit, make changes because of some circumstances. But they were actually happy circumstances, the main one being the fact that when I met with the Solicitor General of Canada last year when he first received his appointment to that job, I described the difficulties we were having here. I highlighted the fact that in the NWT we have the highest incarceration rate in Canada and probably one of the highest of any jurisdiction in the western world, setting aside some "banana republics". Also, for our inmate population, we have one of the smallest numbers of people out on parole, in proportion to the number of people we have incarcerated in any given time. What we needed was some funding to help us in that area. Through his good offices, I have received three million dollars recently to enhance the corrections capital construction program in the NWT.

Integral to this is the fact that we will have a federal prisoners exchange. We were able to apply that money to some of the modifications already planned at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, which will allow us then, to keep federal prisoners up here, ones that we volunteer to keep, that we feel are fit to be held there to their best advantage. This meant that we had to do more renovations than originally planned to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and therefore, Members are right, we postponed what is going to happen in the Hay River facility.

The Member is also right that I indicated initially that we would go along with the report. The main thing it asked for was the integration of female offenders into the adult population with the male prisoners so that more programs could be offered to them. Secondly, the other important thing we wanted was for female offenders in the Eastern Arctic to be able to be held in the Baffin. The government has decided to go along with those recommendations and to close down the Fort Smith facility because we do not want one facility dedicated to female prisoners only. The Baffin facility is completed and is capable of holding the female offenders that we have in our prison population from the East right now. We have three trained female correctional officers there and if we really wanted to we could move the Eastern Arctic inmates over there almost immediately. We were thinking of around the new year, but we are also capable of doing it in October if things fall into place.

In order to accomplish those two things by integrating the women into the three main facilities that already exist, we have to close down the women's correctional centre to get the person years that we require to put the people into the Baffin and Yellowknife centres. Members should also realize that it is our intention to hold prisoners on remand in a different facility from where we put women who are sentenced. There will be women on remand. Even if we move the female offenders to Hay River, there will still be women being held on remand and it will be our intention to have them held in Yellowknife. So there will be a requirement for female staff in Yellowknife. The people who move from Fort Smith may, in fact, remain in Yellowknife and others will be hired for Hay River. Our decision is to go ahead with this, to get the female offenders into the Baffin Correctional Centre as soon as possible and integrate the rest of the female offenders into the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and eventually the Hay River centre.

Person Years To Be Used In Community Corrections

At the same time we will be able to use some of the person years that we can save to start up community corrections programs. Because we received the three million dollars from the Solicitor General we will be able to start some small capital projects and funding community corrections in the NWT. This will include having parole officers available, possibly through community corrections, so that we can get more of our prisoners on parole.

So it is my intention, Mr. Speaker, to do everything I can to follow that report, which is to integrate female offenders into the adult prisoner population; move the Baffin female offenders to the Baffin facility as soon as possible; and at the same time to start a community corrections program. It is my objective, Mr. Speaker, and that of the Executive Council, to reduce the inmate count in the NWT and not to have it grow. The sooner we can do this integration and have some person years to work on community corrections, the earlier that objective will be met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to give the perspective from the Baffin because this motion reminds me of the difficult times I had with two cases I remember in particular, when I was practising law in the Baffin Region. I represented two young Inuit women in separate cases. They were both charged with arson, coincidentally, and what could be described as crimes of passion involving difficulties with their boyfriend or husband. The women both had young children; one had just given birth months before the offence. They were convicted and the offence did require a jail term. One of the women was from Cape Dorset and one was from Frobisher Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I remember how extremely difficult it was to explain to these young women with their young children and their families, that being sentenced to a period of, I believe it was one month in one case and three months in the other case, would mean not just being away from home and family for that period of time, but being away from home and family pretty well as far away from Frobisher Bay or Cape Dorset as one could get, in an area that they had never been to before, with a language that was unfamiliar and extreme barriers of communication with family and friends, let alone their children.

Baffin Correctional Centre Has Excluded Women

Mr. Speaker, the Baffin Correctional Centre has been in place since 1975, I believe, and has been an excellent facility. I think it has helped very many young Inuit males, who are the majority of offenders in the Baffin Region, to get help and rehabilitation in a cultural and linguistic setting that is appropriate. However, as grateful as we are for that facility, it has discriminated against women from the beginning. It has always been a source of great stress to me, especially after having represented these two women in particular, that in fact this excellent facility was available for men but excluded women.

So I feel very strongly, as I am confident do my constituents and probably other people in Baffin and Keewatin, that it is urgent that the women from that region who are in rare circumstances sentenced to imprisonment, should be serving their sentences closer to home and family. I think that their rehabilitation is going to be far more effective if that is the case. All the programs that are available in the correctional centre require a supportive setting of staff and of community and that, with the greatest of respect to the institution in Fort Smith, is sometimes very difficult to provide, especially where there is a language barrier. I support the move taken by the Minister, even though I do understand quite well that it has caused some dislocation in Fort Smith. In principle, I think it is the right move and I support the earliest possible implementation of that decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had not intended to speak to the motion but I would like to indicate firstly my support for the motion. It is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Patterson can get up in this House and suggest to other Members that we should be worried about the displacement of prisoners and rightly so, particularly from those far regions, but as important as that is, the concern that we should have is with regard to the displacement of those people that are employed at the correctional centre and their families. There is no attempt, I believe, on the part of the mover and the seconder of the motion to suggest that we should not be moving in the direction of bringing those people that are incarcerated in various correctional centres throughout the Northwest Territories closer to their home or their area of residence. I think that that would be a foolish position on our part. I do say this, though, that if there is a decision on the part of government to make two moves then it becomes very difficult to appreciate the actual decision itself. I think that is a concern we have to address.

Opportunities For College Training

We have to be cognizant of the concerns of those people that are affected because of employment and, of course, cognizant again of those people that are incarcerated in these centres. But I also wanted to indicate that this particular centre allows the opportunity for those people that are part of the correctional centre, if they so choose, to take part in an educational training program. We have a college program in Fort Smith at this time that they can take advantage of, prior to the move that has been suggested to Hay River. That same opportunity is available to Mr. Patterson's constituents in the Baffin Region as well, because they can also take advantage of the college programs that are in Frobisher Bay. I think that we should recognize there are many advantages and opportunities that exist in these two particular centres that they should take advantage of. I do not think that the decision that was made necessarily was the right decision but certainly we should, as the motion suggests, review that particular decision and look at all the decisions and the reasons as to why the move has been made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak very briefly in support of this motion. I think, as an individual, I have a feeling of what the Executive is trying to do but as Mr. Patterson has mentioned he has gone through some problems in his practice. Those people that he worked with are not there any more, not in that correctional centre any more. I do not think the Executive should try to get other Members to oppose the motion just because of something in the past. Each individual and each person studying are different but I have a feeling that if I support this motion those people that are working in the correctional centre in Fort Smith would be there a little longer. They know people there and once you have a home you really do not like leaving home even for work, unless you have no choice at all, unless someone gives you no choice. Therefore, for that reason, and not only that, I will support the motion. There are many things going around in the Northwest Territories today. There is division going; there is decentralization going; there is also devolution of powers coming from the federal government and well, I will just support this motion for all kinds of reasons today. Thank you.

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

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk about what I know. To us from the Baffin, in our view the correctional centre in Baffin is very good for us. It has been very helpful to a lot of people. When the people who went to correctional centres said they were too far away from home, we were asked if they could travel to a closer community. We thought that it would be helpful to the people who went to correctional centres, by helping them not to come back to the correctional centre as much. Also, if this would create a lot of jobs in the Baffin. I would not be supporting the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, would you sum up?

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to reiterate again, as I did make reference to it in the beginning, in light of Mr. Paniloo's remarks, that I am not against the decision to not have one particular facility for women's corrections. If the people of the East would prefer to have their people who are incarcerated throughout the corrections system, near their own homes, then that is fine. That decision has already been made. I want to impress upon other Members here, really, what is going on with what the Minister has replied. The Minister is, in my view, more concerned about getting the person years from that facility so that he can have them in Yellowknife and "Maybe", now he says, "they may have to stay there." That means that if he is going to get any PYs, people down in Hay River, he is going to have to come up here because as sure as God made good little angels, if Yellowknife Correctional Centre gets the additional PYs in their particular establishment they are going to stay there.

There are 11 people involved in this particular facility and for the ears of the Leader, eight out of 11 are native northerners. Two of them have lived in the Territories over 20 years, two of the non-natives. If this is an indication of this decentralization or deregionalization, if you like, of the government -- we are not getting rid of any people who are Johnny-come-latelys or Sally-come-latelys, we are talking about moving and depriving people in a particular community, native people, good people who in the words of the Leader, are the kind of people we want in our public service -- I will tell you you cannot have it both ways, Mr. Leader. No way. We are going to have

a remand centre now, in Yellowknife. That was not the original plan. The original plan was to put the people in the East and in the West. But because the Minister got some dollars from the federal government he is going to renovate the YCC and because some of these people are going to be kept on remand, they are going to keep them in Yellowknife. What is wrong with keeping the remands in Frobisher Bay? What is wrong with keeping the remands in Hay River, when they get there? Why do you want to continually build up more person years in Yellowknife when you have not got enough space in this city to accommodate these people? I suggest to you, Mr. Leader, that if you look at the decision to close it down as quickly as possible, you will find that one of your Ministers is trying to go against your affirmative action policy for employment. These are all female people involved in this. Female, native people.

I just want to make sure that Members know what is going on. If you are going to say something on one hand, you have got to say the same thing on the other. The left hand has got to know what the right hand is doing. Dollars to doughnuts that ain't the way it is tonight, Charlie. Thank you.

Motion 32-86(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: A recorded vote has been requested. To the motion. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Gargan, Mr. Nerysoo, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. McCallum, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Richard, Mr. Angottitauruq, Ms Cournoyea.

MR. SPEAKER: Those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Paniloo, Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request unanimous consent for first reading of Bill 16-86(1), Municipal Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested for first reading of Bill 16-86(1). Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Wray.

First Reading Of Bill 16-86(1): Municipal Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16-86(1), An Act to Amend the Municipal Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

First reading of bills. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 21-86(1), which I gave notice of yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested for Bill 21-86(1), Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act. Are there any nays? You have unanimous consent, Mr. McLaughlin.

First Reading Of Bill 21-86(1): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 21-86(1), An Act to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

First reading of bills. That concludes first reading of bills. Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 14: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 16-86(1).

MR. SPEAKER: Consent is being requested for second reading of Bill 16-86(1). Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Wray.

Second Reading Of Bill 16-86(1): Municipal Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16-86(1), An Act to Amend the Municipal Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Municipal Act to authorize the making of orders pursuant to subsection 3(3) of the act in respect of Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset, to be effective as of April 1st, 1982, and in respect of Frobisher Bay, to be effective December 31st, 1981; and to validate orders made in respect of Pine Point, Fort Simpson, Hall Beach and Eskimo Point. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 16-86(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 21-86(1). Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent for second reading of Bill 21-86(1) is being requested. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. McLaughlin.

Second Reading Of Bill 21-86(1): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 21-86(1), An Act to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend provisions of the

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act to allow the Minister, rather than the Commissioner, to appoint a board of management, a public administrator and an auditor for a board of management; to provide that a board of management and a public administrator may be responsible for more than one health facility; and to allow the Minister, rather than the Commissioner, to approve a contract with a private organization or firm to manage one or more health facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. To the principle of the bill. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 21-86(1) has had second reading. Mr. Clerk, you will enter Bills 16-86(1) and 21-86(1) in the orders of the day for today. Do I have unanimous consent from the House to place Bill 16-86(1) as the first order of business in committee of the whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Mr. Clerk, you will enter Bill 16-86(1)...

MR. McCALLUM: Not the first order of business. Mr. Speaker, I agree with putting it in the orders of the day in the committee of the whole but not as the first order of business.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Second order of business.

MR. McCALLUM: I do not care, any time after.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is yours the first one?

MR. SPEAKER: All right. There is some urgency to putting Bill 16-86(1) on. Do I have unanimous consent to put it on as second item? Only Bill 16-86(1). Bill 21-86(1) goes to the bottom of the order paper.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: We have agreement then, to put it on as second item of business, is that correct? Mr. Clerk. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 58-86(1), Petition from the Fort Smith Education Society; Bill 16-86(1); Tabled Document 42-86(1), Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages; Tabled Document 37-86(1), Constitutional and Political Development in the Northwest Territories; Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters; Bill 12-86(1), Taxation Act; and Bill 21-86(1).

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

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, as MLAs we often get things in plain brown envelopes and I did just receive one of those about five minutes ago. I am not sure quite what to do with it but at any rate I wanted to disclose publicly that I had received it. I am not hiding anything at all. I am not sure what this is.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is garbage!

MR. MacQUARRIE: It is garbage, is it?

MR. McCALLUM: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: I do not think so, Mr. Patterson.

MR. McCALLUM: No way, that is a very nice looking tie. I like the colour.

MR. NERYSOO: Wonderful colour.

MR. SPEAKER: You are fortunate that it is not another five or six feet longer, then you would know...

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: You would not hang me with it, would you?

MR. SPEAKER: We will go into committee of the whole with Mr. Erkloo in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 58-86(1), PETITION FROM FORT SMITH EDUCATION SOCIETY; BILL 16-86(1), MUNICIPAL ACT; BILL 12-86(1), TAXATION ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The committee will now come to order.

Tabled Document 58-86(1), Petition From Fort Smith Education Society

We are dealing with Tabled Document 58-86(1), a petition from Fort Smith Education Society. The Members will find the tabled document in their files. Mr. McCallum, I think you tabled this document. Is there anything you want to discuss on this?

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular document, Mr. Chairman, contains the names of approximately 475 people from the town of Fort Smith. Although the document is a particular petition to the Minister of Education or the Department of Education about the proposed staffing formula being put into place next year, I think as well, Mr. Chairman, that there are concerns of other communities. The town of Fort Smith is not the only community that is concerned with this particular topic. There are other communities. The Minister has, I am sure, received comments from a number of communities regarding his proposed staffing policy.

In this particular instance what is being proposed is to reduce the number of teachers in a number of schools in the Territories, predominantly in the western part of the Territories. There may be some reduction in other parts. In the Fort Smith Region, for example, the total region, there is a total reduction of approximately 18.5 PYS in that region itself. I am not sure of the figures in other regions.

When we were dealing with the budget of this department back in March when the standing committee on finance was reviewing the Department of Education, there was a notation within information that committee Members had that indicated that there was to be a three person year reduction in the Fort Smith schools. After one of the days in which this department came to the committee, I asked the Minister as well as the deputy minister and the financial administrator -- if that is the proper term for the person -- anyway it was Mr. Devitt, whether in fact they were going to reduce the total complement by three in Fort Smith. I was told "No, that is a mistake, that is to be for the Fort Smith Region." But lo and behold, when the ratio comes into effect, this pupil/teacher formula, it is not only three teachers in the Fort Smith schools, but it is now 18.5 in the region. And it is six or more teachers in the Fort Smith schools. I expect that in other particular communities there are as well reductions in regions or in individual schools.

Yellowknife School Boards Face Teaching Staff Cuts

I raised this whole issue during the review of the budget in March or February. I spoke to this particular policy and indicated what I thought would occur. But what is going to occur is even more dramatic than what I said, Mr. Chairman. For example, in Yellowknife alone, the formula for financing school boards 1 and 2 is based on the average cost of educating a student south of the lake. If there are fewer students in those schools south of the lake, then obviously the formula

is going to change as regards Yellowknife public school board and Yellowknife separate school board. I think that in this instance both of those boards now see that they are going to be faced with a dramatic cut in teachers. Or they will go to the taxpayers in the city of Yellowknife and raise more money if the government continues to retain the present policy of formula financing for schools.

In the interpretation of the directive that was sent to superintendents, some superintendents, I think it is safe to say, took a different view from others, in that in some instances the superintendent indicated to the principals of the schools exactly what programs would be taught in the school and, therefore, the number of teachers that would be involved. But the emphasis was on the number of staff people within the school, or it should have been, and not so much on the program. But because of different interpretations by different superintendents, things did not work out the same way in particular regions. As a result of this particular staffing policy coming into effect, there are set courses to be taught in the high schools.

Diminishing Range Of High School Courses And Alternatives

In point of fact, not all high schools are treated in the same manner. The high school in Yellowknife, Sir John Franklin, is termed a regional high school. The one in Inuvik is termed a regional high school. The ones in Hay River, Fort Smith or Pine Point are not. There will be particular courses taught there. As I said in my remarks in the budget dealing with this particular policy, the range of courses will diminish. I do not pretend to be so naive as to think that schools can offer anything from A to Z, from anthropology through to zoology. But what I am afraid is happening and will continue to happen is that where there are students embarked upon an academic course -- that is, toward higher learning -- these students will not be able to get their required program because there will not be enough of a range in the courses they are offered. Therefore, as the department has said through the Minister and deputy minister, "Well, if you cannot get the courses in these smaller high schools, you can go some place else and get them within the NWT." In this instance there are only two areas where one can go -- for students from south of the lake there is only one regional high school where the other courses are offered and that again is in Yellowknife, Sir John, which is already at a maximum. Both in terms of the students who have to be boarded either at Akaitcho Hall or within the city itself and in terms of the staff allocations, classroom space and teachers, they are at their maximum.

As a result of the staffing policy, Mr. Chairman, as it applies to Fort Smith, there will be no home economics taught next year unless one of the academic teachers now on staff, and who will be retained, can take some kind of refresher course for three or six weeks in the summer, or who has some facility in sewing or cooking and will be able to go in to teaching home economics. Because there were to be reductions made and because of the varying interpretations by superintendents other teachers have moved with the expectation that their program was to be cut. However, one of the things that can be taught is fine arts, except that in Fort Smith we are not going to be able to teach music unless by contract or unless there is some teacher that can teach music in addition to his regular course load.

In relation to Fort Smith, I know that there are too many staff members for the number of students enrolled. My concern, Mr. Chairman, is that as the number of courses that a given school can offer is reduced, the enrolment in the school will get smaller. Therefore, there will be still fewer teachers and, carried to the "nth" degree, we will end up with no courses and no teachers in the high school in Fort Smith. That goes back 20 years or more in education in the NWT. When students who wanted high school courses in Fort Smith could not get them in the school, they had to go to Yellowknife to Sir John. In one instance I know, Mr. Chairman, the department has spent a considerable amount of time, energy and money developing a science course for grade 10 students in addition to what is commonly referred to as "bugs 10" -- biology 10 -- physics 10 and chemistry 10. But lo and behold in the school in Fort Smith this year there is no science 11 course. The course that was developed particularly for non-academic students across the Territories cannot be taught in the Fort Smith school this year. There are general and advanced courses in English and in mathematics but there are only three science courses taught -- biology, physics and chemistry. That is only for the advanced matriculating students. There is no course save biology 10 for the general or non-academic students.

In the grade 11 program, there is no alternate program as there would be in English. Social studies and physical education still continue. The French is there as well. For the advanced students, the academic students in grade 11 and 12 at Joseph Burr Tyrell School next year, the only two options an academic student has is to take French 20 or fine arts 20 in grade 11 and to take French 30 or fine arts 30 in grade 12. Any student who wants to pursue other subjects, if they are matriculating students, will not be able to get them.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that reducing the course load in particular schools is a step backward. As I said, there is no home economics being taught in the high school next year and outside of grade 10 there is no industrial arts. In grade 10 there is no drafting. I am sure there are students for whom, having gone to school and taken these courses, these courses became part and parcel, an integral part, of their formal education. No food services, no clothing and textiles in home economics.

Junior High School Program Affected

In the junior high program, the school is at the present time having some difficulty with the locally produced course that is not the same as what is called the COP. I think it is a community program that is at the junior high level. They have a program that is called an alternate program. The bureaucracy within the department of education does not consider this program worth while. What will have to happen to students who should be following some kind of an alternate program is that they will be told to go into the regular stream of courses that they are not capable of doing. There is nothing else for them.

Special Needs Students Will Suffer

In all of this, Mr. Chairman, I commend the Minister in attempting to have more schools in the Territories teach higher levels so that educational opportunities throughout the Territories are going to be opened to more and more students. However, I do not see how it can happen. If in order to do that you are going to take away from other schools that particular option, we are going to have an elite school. If you do not like what is going on in your own community, you go somewhere else to get what you want. As well, Mr. Chairman, since this whole thing has come out there has been a great deal said about the special education or the special needs program. Many students in the Territories and territorial schools have special needs. What is occurring in certain places, Mr. Chairman, is that the special needs teacher is being taken out of the classroom and put into the superintendent's office. Then that special needs teacher, who formerly was in the classroom helping students, now becomes part of the superintendent's staff whose duties now will be to administer tests and develop individualized programs for students with learning problems. There will have to be one in Fort Smith to run back and forth between the elementary and the high school. If that is a change for the better, I fail to see the logic behind it. If we have students who require special needs and special education, the place to have those teachers is in the classroom, not sitting behind a desk developing programs and developing tests and administering them. Their place is in the classroom so that these students can get one on one attention, or a little larger number of pupils to that one special needs teacher.

I know that other communities have complained about the so-called staffing formula promoting mini/high schools outside regional centres, to provide a more favourable ratio in other schools. It just seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that though the Minister's goals and objectives are laudable, commendable and, as I say, I support the idea of getting people out, I still do not believe that it is right to take away the educational opportunities in certain schools in order to achieve that.

Wrong Way To Achieve Equality In Education

If the equality of education comes about in the Northwest Territories by dropping down from a high standard to raise the others from a lower level, I do not see that that is going to be equitable. If you have developed school programs and schools to a high level, surely to achieve equitable education you add to the lower schools and not take away from the higher ones.

I agree, as I said, that there are many communities with teachers and since education, more so than anything else or any other program in the Territories, is so important to everybody, I do not think that the Minister would have difficulty, certainly from Members of this Assembly, in getting the added financial resources if he is required to get more people. Education has increased its total budget in this government, I would suspect, more than any other department. Certainly, I for one would want to ensure that the Minister and his people have the adequate resources to provide the best possible education.

Our children deserve nothing but the best. Moving out is difficult enough for them. I applaud every move along the way. I do not agree with trying to get an equitable education by reducing what is good and trying to raise what the Minister thinks is not as good up to that level. Pull it all up. To take away programs from students in certain, particular communities so that you can move those positions into others -- I do not think that is the equitable way to go. I think you

are going to have a step backward in certain, particular communities. I do not know how you can go into a small community where there are three teachers to look after the classrooms and say, "That is what you had but according to the pupil/teacher ratio on the last day of September last year, you now get two and a half teachers." If that is pushing forth education I fail to see that.

When we were talking about this whole business of education, I raised the issue with the Minister of getting the proper people into the proper positions. The department was going to conduct some kind of a program to ensure that those who are either in control of education in the school or responsible for a large number of schools would know what is going on in education. I do not know what the results of that have been but I do know that in regard to high schools in the Northwest Territories there are very few superintendents, for example, or assistant superintendents or area superintendents who have had experience in high school education other than having been a graduate of that program. Their training and experience has been at an elementary, primary or even junior high level, but very few of them are high school and I thought I made the point with the Minister and his people when they were here before but apparently it did not. I want to make the point again. Teaching high school is not the same as teaching primary students or elementary or junior high. For one thing, students are older, they have different needs.

Restricted Programs Limit Opportunities

It seems to me it will occur, and I may be the only one who feels this way and if that is the way it comes out, so be it, it does not matter. I have been a skunk at a garden party at different times. But I still think that you cannot take away from programs and give educational opportunities, or take away educational opportunities from students who are in school in certain, particular areas to bring about an equitable educational system. I know that there are former students in this particular Assembly that, were they given this restricted number of programs, would never have gone to the school that they were in. They would have gone some place else.

MR. RICHARD: They never would have been elected.

MR. McCALLUM: They would have been elected, you do not have to pass an IQ test to be elected.

It seems to me again, Mr. Chairman, that what the petition is saying, and I am sure that the Minister has received numerous pieces of correspondence, letters, requests from other communities along the same line, I do not believe that you can get equitable educational opportunities, therefore a good educational system, based on a simple, mathematical formula alone. You have to know what the students require. You must know the needs of those students and students in all schools, in every community. Their particular needs have to be given, if not equal consideration, even a greater consideration. We sat through a caucus meeting last night, talking about housing programs and the Minister of Housing's task force on how to organize his responsibilities and the Housing Corporation's responsibilities. One of the principles that they recognized is that there are different communities in the Territories with different needs. I would expect that everybody agrees with that. If it is so in housing, which is important, so also is it important in education.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have gone around long enough and I am sure others will want to say something and I would trust that we would be given enough opportunity to comment again, since we are in committee of the whole. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Any general discussion? Mr. Patterson.

Comprehensive Review Of All Schools

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, perhaps before answering Mr. McCallum's specific concerns and, with respect, correcting some of the information that he presented, I would just like to explain generally that I have been, I guess, over some five or six years in this job now, receiving concerns from communities that they were not adequately staffed. Undoubtedly, many of the Members in this House will recall having raised these concerns with me. I was very often reduced to the situation in a public meeting, or at a regional education conference, of having to calculate the pupil/teacher ratio in a particular school and making a judgment about whether the school classes were too large or too small. Although there were some reviews done of staffing several times over these years, we had never undertaken a comprehensive review of all the schools, all the teachers in the Northwest Territories, with a view to determining first of all whether every community was being treated the same way.

Secondly, with the view to determining whether adjustments should be made, Mr. Chairman, we conducted a review and found that there were indeed several communities which, for some reason, seemed to be very richly staffed in comparison to other communities. I believe Mr. McCallum did acknowledge that much. Mr. Chairman, the problem of significant disparities in staffing really narrows down to two communities, of Inuvik and Fort Smith, on analysis. This is why we are considering the petition from Fort Smith today. We found, for example, in the high school program in Fort Smith, that the present pupil/teacher ratio was just over nine pupils for one teacher. This is probably the most extreme example of a disparity that I felt, in considering these competing demands from all parts of the Territories for more teachers, had to be addressed.

Policy Of Basic Equality Of Educational Opportunity

So, in fact, Mr. Chairman, a policy was developed which attempted in a way to be fair to every high school and in a way was fair to every elementary school and treated them equally, based on the existing resources. We attempted to develop a policy which would rationalize the staffing and give every student, no matter where they lived, basic equality of educational opportunity. I guess that is what underlined the proposal to the staffing allocation.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome the Member's comments that what we should be doing is building up the resources in schools which are understaffed rather than taking from those that are better staffed -- I will not say overstaffed, I will say better staffed.

It is true, Mr. Chairman, that most communities represented in this Legislature do not have a music or home economics program to lose. The problem, Mr. Chairman, is that lowering the pupil/teacher ratio even by one student per teacher across the Northwest Territories would be a very expensive undertaking. For example, if we go from a 19 to one, to an 18 to one ratio at the elementary level and from 16 to one, to 15 to one at the high school level, the cost would be approximately 30 teachers and as much as \$1.5 million. I guess the premise that I proceeded on, which the Member is questioning, was the absence of increased resources which I have been unable to obtain from the federal government following the special committee on education report in 1982. In the absence of increased resources I felt that the very least I could do was try to make sure that everybody is treated fairly and every community is treated the same.

So, that is the first question of principle that, I guess, has to be addressed by this committee, given that it does not appear to be easy to identify the sums required to adjust the pupil/teacher ratio by even one student per teacher and I am not aware of sources of funding within our government. I agree that the Department of Education has been treated perhaps more than fairly compared to other departments in allocating the territorial budget, although generally the increase to Education has not been greater in recent years than the overall increase in the growth of the government. Given that I cannot identify increased resources, I think the committee has to ask, "Do we continue to tolerate a situation where some communities are more generously staffed than others?" Mr. Chairman, knowing that it would cause some negative reaction in communities where reductions were recommended, I felt that it was also only fair to the communities who were understaffed to try to take some action. Because some communities may have reduced options as a result of these changes -- I do not think as significantly reduced as the Member suggests, but none the less I certainly acknowledge reduced options -- other communities will, correspondingly, be able to offer the programs that they have never been able to offer before and will be able to give their principals some increased time for administration.

Formula Designed To Provide Necessary Staff

So Mr. Chairman, generally speaking the formula was designed to provide the staff necessary in each school to deliver the basic school program: administration, supervision, counselling, library, remedial and teacher preparation needs of the school. We looked at the issue of classroom assistants and decided that that was separate from the question of professional teachers and that classroom assistants should be provided to schools where there was a significant number of native students in the kindergarten to grade six area. That has traditionally been how classroom assistants have been employed in the NWT and it is reflected in the formula.

I would like to stress that children with special needs will be dealt with quite separately from the formula. So when we are discussing staffing, the special needs of children with handicaps or educational disabilities or, in fact, special needs because of being advanced, should not be mixed up with the teacher staffing formula.

I would like to point out, however, that there has been a very significant increase in the funding provided for special needs education over the last three years. For example, in the Fort Smith Region that is being discussed here today, funding for special needs education, which is available to hire teachers, tutorial assistants, to train and work with parents, community-based approaches to children with special needs, the funding in the Fort Smith Region has increased about four-fold from 1984-85 when the budget was \$157,000, to the current year when it is \$586,000. That pretty well parallels the situation in other regions.

Also, Mr. Chairman, we looked carefully at the small high school and stated that at a minimum we would offer the Alberta general and advanced diplomas as options. Regional secondary schools, which have the certain advantages of economy of scale, would offer the general and advanced diploma, as well as vocational programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I am sorry, Mr. Patterson, your time is up. Does the committee agree that he continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Certain Programs Will Not Be Subject To Staffing Formula

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be more brief. I apologize that this is in English only, but as one of the Members suggested before the debate started, I can pass around information about the staffing formula and how it is calculated. The information will show that programs like the senior practical programs, the community occupations program, the vocational certificate program and as I have said, the special needs program, will not be mixed up with this staffing formula. Where these programs exist or can be created, they will be provided with the appropriate staff.

Which brings me to the point about the alternate program in Fort Smith. I would be quite open to looking at some modifications to that program, which is basically very similar to our community occupations program, so that it in fact could be funded as a separate program outside the staffing formula. It is a home grown formula in Fort Smith, which I recognize has been successful. It begins right in grade three and this is not the nature of the approved programs otherwise. But I think with some modifications we could recognize that it is similar to those programs and funded outside the staffing formula.

Just some general points without trying to say too much here. The Member for Slave River talked about a limited range of options. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that a comparison that we have undertaken of small high schools of similar size in Alberta, which uses the same high school curriculum, with NWT small high schools, shows that in every case of comparison, in fact the NWT high schools offer significantly more credits than the small school in Alberta. I think we have to recognize that small schools, such as the one in Fort Smith, do have basically a limited range of options.

So there is ample evidence, for example Samuel Hearne in Inuvik, a school of 173 students, offers 395 high school credits, whereas Hanna, Alberta, with 174 students in a similar high school, offers 293 credits, or three quarters of the number of credits offered in Inuvik. I guess my point is that we can possibly achieve the same standards as Alberta, in courses and credits available in a small high school, with a reduced number of credits.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to explain that we recognized that there were certain hardships in the implementation of this formula. We have tried to work very closely with the local education authorities concerned. My deputy minister and my superintendents in the Fort Smith Region have met extensively with the school principals and with the local education authorities and in fact, tomorrow there will be a high school curriculum expert from Alberta who will be meeting with principals in Fort Smith, to work on the timetables and finalize the course options.

Numbers Of Staff Reductions In Fort Smith Region

We have not, Mr. Chairman, reduced 18 positions in the Fort Smith Region. The reduction is 12 and as far as elementary staff reductions are concerned in Fort Smith, the reduction is not three as mentioned in the petition but one and a half positions.

Mr. Chairman, we have tried to operate with some sensitivity in implementing this formula. Only about 40 per cent of the recommended reductions from the formula have actually been implemented, but basically affecting, as I mentioned, the communities of Inuvik and Fort Smith. We will, over the coming year, be carefully reviewing the implementation of the new reduced program, what goes on. If there are major problems, we will certainly make modifications.

I am pleased to note -- I guess Inuvik is not on the order paper today -- that it appears that so far staff reductions have been accomplished there with, as I understand it, no course reductions. I am meeting with the representative of the Inuvik education authority and the MLA tomorrow and I may find that that is not the case but this is what I am informed by my staff.

I would just like to address this point before closing. In Fort Smith it is true that home economics and music are being cut but, Mr. Chairman, I have to point out first of all that many schools do not have those programs to begin with and, secondly, the take-up for both home ec and music has been quite limited. I note, incidentally, that in Frobisher Bay where the home ec program is being cancelled as well, by the way, and St. Patrick's in Yellowknife, no students are enrolled in home economic courses at all and I would also like to point out that home economics is not required by the Alberta curriculum. In P.W. Kaeser school, in Fort Smith, we only have five students in home economics in grade 12. So, Mr. Chairman, there are reductions but I would like to make it clear that they are only in those two areas. The French program, which is also referred to in the petition, is also funded separately. It is not affected by the staffing formula and the program will not be cut. In fact, in a day or two I would expect to announce the results of an agreement I have just made with the Secretary of State for Canada which provides significantly enhanced funding for French programs through the good offices of the Secretary of State in many communities in the NWT which have applied for enhanced French language instruction.

Mr. Chairman, in sum, I hope I have explained that this formula has attempted to try to treat every community fairly, as I have been assailed by charges that there are inequities. Mr. McCallum mentioned his concern that the high school enrolment will get smaller and there may be even more reductions of options required. I agree with him that this should be a concern because the smaller the school, the less flexibility we have and I know that as a principal he understands that much better than I do and I respect that.

Reopening Of Grandin Hall A Possibility

But I will say that in that connection, Mr. Chairman, I have actively followed up on a suggestion made by the Member at the last session of the Legislative Assembly, that we should look at reopening Grandin Hall residence in Fort Smith because there are some 60 to 70 students from Fort Simpson, Snowdrift, Fort Providence and Rae-Edzo now attending school in Yellowknife, pressuring the Akaitcho Hall residence and the home boarding program, which I think has stretched the good will of the residents of Yellowknife, so I would like to see a means worked out with the church. We are working on it actively now, where we could open up that residence and provide more student enrolment to the high school in the interests of being able to have a little more flexibility with course offerings.

The general science course the Member referred to is, Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, not a territorial course, not an NWT developed curriculum, it is an Alberta course.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say that we will monitor the implementation of this formula. Quite frankly, many teachers have left for summer holidays and many schools have closed or are about to close and the decisions really have been made to implement these staffing reductions in some communities and corresponding enrichments in other communities. Really, the petition's call to desist from implementing the formula, I believe those are the words, is really too late, at least as far as the 1986-87 school year is concerned. I will say again, Mr. Chairman, basically because teachers have gone on their holidays, assignments have been made and we have substantially staffed the schools for the coming year. I am pleased to say that no teacher has been forced to transfer and no teacher has been required to be laid off because of this staffing formula. It has been done with attrition. It has been done with some sensitivity, that is only why we have really implemented 40 per cent of the change and not 100 per cent. We will be monitoring how it works over the coming year and I will pledge again that if there are obvious educational disadvantages resulting, we will do our best to remedy those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. We will have a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We are discussing Tabled Document 58-86(1). General discussion. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I was pleased to hear that the Minister of Education would be meeting with the committee which oversees the secondary school in Inuvik. I am sure that at that meeting he will find that some of the calculation on the teacher/student ratio are a bit questionable. The concern at the school is that the reduction came much too quickly and perhaps the calculations of the number of students was not really totally accurate as to how many would be attending the facility, because the Canadian Armed Forces withdrew from the Inuvik Region. We felt that there should have been a little more attention paid to the quality of education and how that was going to be delivered to the present students, moving the emphasis more to the population of students coming from that immediate area, rather than a southern majority in the high school. So I am very pleased that the Minister will be meeting with the representative to discuss these issues. I believe he said tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There must be a reasonable equity in our education system with respect to the disposition of resources. I certainly recognize that. We could not maintain a situation where we were attempting to maintain quality of service in certain centres at the expense of adequate services in other centres. The Minister is saying that that is the situation right now. And if there is that kind of inequality, and on the surface it appears to be certainly that there is some, then the Minister has a duty to redress and I support him in doing that.

Clear And Public Demonstrations Of Redress Of Inequality

But I think in the whole exercise, job number one for the Minister is to demonstrate unequivocally, publicly with tables and charts and statistics and whatever is available now, in that regard, to demonstrate very thoroughly and very publicly that there is that kind of inequity and give clear demonstrations of how it is being redressed. It may be that some of that has been done, but not very much I think. I would like to see the actions that he is taking over the next year. From what he has said it appears he is being sensitive to reasonable concerns that are addressed and is willing to pace it at a rate that is maybe tolerable, if I understood him correctly, in saying that although they see need for what we call 100 per cent of change, only 40 per cent is implemented at the present time in order to be sensitive to the needs. I am pleased to hear that.

Once the job of clearly demonstrating is done, then I think the second thing in carrying through the change, is that it is most important for the Minister to be sensitive to the kinds of things that could occur in particular communities and try to minimize the impact on areas where losses are going to occur. In doing that I think it is important for the Minister to recognize that some schools in the western area are long-established schools. People have been working for many, many years to try to develop an excellent system of education and have managed over the years to persuade the department that certain resources were needed in order to do that. So as a result, after those years of efforts, they have attained in quite a number of communities, quite a good standard of education. The Minister in recognizing that length of work should be very hesitant about doing anything that might undo it and make everybody start over again.

As part of the public information program, I think Mr. McCallum makes a good point when he says that if there is inequity, let's try to get rid of it by leaving the best as it is and raising everything else to that level. The Minister makes a good point when he says that in order to do that, the resources that are demanded right away are simply too overwhelming, it could not be done entirely in that way. Part of the public education program should explain why it is not possible to do it in that way. Perhaps it is more possible than the Minister might think in looking at this thing initially. If the answer is that it is not really possible, period, that seems to imply that when you redress the inequity by bringing the top down and the bottom up so that they are even, all of them are going to stay at a mediocre level for years down the road.

Greater Resources Will Be Demanded

In order to make education throughout the NWT as effective as possible, so we have an excellent education system, at some point there is going to have to be a demand for even greater resources allocated to education. So could not some of that demand determination be marshalled now, to try

to persuade the Assembly and the government that if reducing the ratio -- let's say you left certain communities alone that have higher ratios now. You mentioned that to reduce elementary schools from 19 to one to 18 to one and high schools from 16 to one to 15 to one would require another \$1.5 million. Instead of doing that right across the board, so that favoured communities even got advantage or benefit of that kind of activity, leave them where they are and direct the \$1.5 million that is required toward the communities where there is unquestionably disadvantage now. You may start that program of bolstering.

At any rate that is largely it for general comments. It appears to me that there may be inequity now. I support the Minister if he is trying to redress that, but I say that it is important for him to demonstrate to everybody that there is -- and that his way of addressing it is -- a satisfactory and effective way.

Review Of Staff Resources In Department

A couple of questions that I would like to ask the Minister. It appears that they have reviewed staffing in all the schools. Has the Minister reviewed non-school staff educational positions? In other words, what about the staff resources in headquarters and in regional headquarters? Is there any paring down that can be done? Where can I find \$1.5 million? Are we really satisfied that Education personnel are in positions where they are most effective, that all of them are really needed? If he has not done that kind of study, would he consider doing it? Would local education authorities rather have an additional teacher in each community school than one teacher consultant or two teacher consultants in the region, or whatever? Has that kind of study been done? Is the Minister considering doing something in that direction?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am sensitive to the fact that we have to look to our own house before we tell communities that they maybe have more than adequate resources. I can tell the Member that yes, indeed, we are carefully reviewing non-educational staff at the moment. It is very difficult, I think, to apply a formula to administration but we are looking very closely at the regional offices and the level of staffing at student residences. For example, especially in light of increased grades at community levels, in order to determine wherever possible where savings might be made in order to benefit the classroom. I think this is what Mr. MacQuarrie is saying, ultimately what counts in education is not how many superintendents or what they do or what they say or what the Minister says but what happens in individual classrooms with individual students. I recognize that and I can assure the Member we are being, I hope, just as rigorous with ourselves in looking at our own staff as we are with schools.

Having said that and acknowledging the point made by the Member for Slave River earlier, that in fact the education budget has grown significantly over the years, I think, as far as financial administration is concerned that we run quite a tight ship. In fact, this current budget has provided some much-needed financial administrative assistance and also some student financial administrative assistance to cope with the increasing number of students obtaining post-secondary education. I can assure the Member, with that qualification in the financial area, that we are doing so. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just one more specific question. At one point the Minister said that the department would ensure that in each, even the small high schools, it would be possible to offer the Alberta general program. And yet I thought Mr. McCallum had indicated that in Fort Smith it would be impossible to offer science 11. I may be mistaken, but would that not be part of an offering of the Alberta general program for students who are going to get a high school diploma, but not necessarily have the matriculation that would entitle them to go to university? Does that science 11 fulfil the science requirement for a diploma?

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

Core Program Will Be Offered

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am at a real disadvantage here because I am dealing with two educators and former principals and I am just a layman. Maybe that is an advantage. I am assured, Mr. Chairman, that the statement that I made, stands that we will be able to offer the

general diploma and the advanced diploma. That is the core program. I cannot say at the moment whether science 11 is required or not but I suspect that if we are not offering it that it is not required. I am assured, and I believe there is an Alberta curriculum person in Fort Smith tomorrow, who will provide the advice the community might need in that regard. I believe that we have taken great care to ensure that those minimum requirements are there. Thank you.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I just had a few questions of clarification from the Minister about the policy that was circulated. I appreciate I am not versed in the terminology as much as my colleagues to my right and the Minister. I wanted to ask if the pupil/teacher ratio that is being proposed or is proposed in the policy includes some of the special items such as French immersion and the enrichment programs. The Minister indicated that the special needs, I know, was outside of this formula being proposed. I wanted to ask if those were included.

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

French And Special Needs Not Within Formula

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, French is not included in the staffing formula. It is considered as a separate program partly because we jointly fund those programs with the Secretary of State. So it is outside the formula. Enrichment refers to a special need, students who are advanced have special needs the same as students who need remedial help. That is outside the formula. Special needs is dealt with separately. As I said, Mr. Chairman, earlier, we have I think significantly enhanced the budget for special education in the last couple of years so there is only good news in that area. Thank you.

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

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other question I had to clarify is the reference in paragraph nine of the policy that was circulated, to the fact that this particular policy is not going to apply to the two school districts in Yellowknife at the present time. Could the Minister expand on that statement in paragraph nine? What does he foresee in the years ahead with respect to application of this policy, or not, to the two school districts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, maybe I can just make a general comment. I think recently I have come to realize, maybe because I am a slow learner, that there are many issues in education in the NWT that should most properly be dealt with by a formula. I know formulas are not perfect. But for example, in bussing and in student residences we should be able to tell every community this is the policy, here is how you fit, with clarity. So with regard to the question of funding for school boards, we are working actively now in conjunction with the school boards to revise and update the present funding formula so that it will not only apply to the school boards in Yellowknife but also to all schools in the NWT whether they be boards or independent boards or territorial schools. So, Mr. Chairman, because that review of the funding formula is still under way and will not be finalized until next year, I decided that it will be premature at this point to make any adjustments, at least as far as the coming school year is concerned, with respect to Yellowknife school boards. However, I have informed the school board chairman that in fact the new staffing formula can be expected to affect the school boards in Yellowknife in fiscal year 1987-88 because the present formula and undoubtedly a future formula for funding for the school boards relates to the level of funding provided in territorial schools. At the moment south of the lake is the standard used.

So we have said to the Yellowknife school boards that this new staff allocation formula comes at a time when your financial planning is so well advanced it would not be fair to expect you to implement any changes for the coming school year. But we have informed them that in connection with the development of this new funding formula, early on, well in advance of the 1987-88 fiscal year, we will be meeting with them to tell them how we see the new funding formula affecting the school systems in Yellowknife and also tell them how we see the implications of the staffing formula.

Revenue From Taxes For Yellowknife Boards

The object being, as Mr. MacQuarrie put it so well, to try and be as open and sensitive as we can in implementing changes which undoubtedly may have an impact on the taxpayers, basically, I think for good reason, we decided to take some more time to prepare for the special situation of Yellowknife having school boards and raising a significant portion of their own revenue by taxes. We are confident that having this extra time will mean that both sides, the government and the school boards, will have a pretty good opportunity to thoroughly investigate the ramifications of changes and prepare for them. That is the situation at the moment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any more general discussion? Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to indicate that since I tabled the petition by our rules, I have to use the rules, and if the numbers are wrong in there then I take responsibility for it. So I apologize to the Minister in terms of there being a discrepancy between our numbers. I am going from a directive from the department signed by the deputy minister on February 26th that indicated that in the Fort Smith Region, I believe it is the region, there were 200.5 teaching positions, the number of teachers and with the revised change to 181, I counted 19.5 teachers. With further information that I had for the area around the South Slave, Rae-Edzo, Fort Simpson areas, I counted 18.5 total reduction in the number of teachers with all the schools being involved. If those figures do not gibe then I apologize, I am simply going by figures that had been given to me, some of which have come from your department, Mr. Minister.

I want to indicate to the Minister that I am very pleased to hear that he will take a look at the alternative program that has been locally developed in Fort Smith and as he has admitted, has met with considerable success, that he would look at that particular program with some modification and try to come to some agreement about using that and keeping it outside the staffing formula. I appreciate the Minister replying in that way, the same way that I wish him the best in terms of his negotiations to reopen Grandin residence. As he knows he has my full support in that because I think that it can ease some of the difficulties that may be experienced in other areas.

With regard to the comments the Minister has made on particular programs, it may be true that nobody has been forced to leave or forced to transfer but in an instance with the high school, if home economics was not to be taught then obviously the home economics teacher had to find another position. Luckily, there was one vacant in another school. Without the program that person would have to find employment elsewhere, which this individual teacher did.

Regarding leave without pay and leave with pay and I do not know about attrition -- I guess if I had stayed there I would have been ready for that, but I did not, likely for the better and John agrees with that. That may be is the first time he has agreed with me in three years. I do not make the comments on the education because of any past experience, I have had a lot smarter people come through that school in spite of me rather than because of me. I do applaud the Minister for being able to take a look at things and being able to review it and obviously trying to consult with people. I am not sure whether Members want to comment on the whole issue, not just as it is reflected in the petition that is in front of us, but the whole problem. Mr. Chairman, if there are others I would defer to them before I make a motion on this.

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

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Can we have order, please? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year I did a tour in my region with the Minister of Education and there was a request from two communities that I remember -- I could check my notes -- for a home economics teacher and an industrial arts teacher. These types of teachers have never been put into these communities. Also I have statistics on the teacher/pupil ratios in the communities that I represent and they are much higher than some others. For me, I think the policy of the department is good because what they want to do is equalize the distribution of teachers and try to lower the teacher/pupil ratios in all the communities.

Proper Level Of Schooling Up To Grade Nine

I think that most communities go to grade nine and then after that the students are required to go to larger centres. I know in quite a number of places, that once the students complete grade nine in the community and go to a place like Inuvik, when they get to Inuvik they find that their level of education is actually a grade eight and to me it seems that is a serious problem for us. It seems to me too, it is very important that the students get the proper level of schooling at least to grade nine because if they do not learn something at that stage then I think it becomes more difficult to try to catch up at a later stage. Oftentimes students that are taught in that situation drop out of school. By that time they are 15 or 16 and I think most of us know what happens to that kind of person.

So, it is a serious problem for us and in the last couple of years I have made a commitment to myself, to start taking a closer look at the education system. From my point of view it has not done a very good job, especially for native people, and yet the government is pouring so many resources into it. I do not say that as a reflection on the Minister, I think there are many other causes. But that is the situation I think that we find ourselves in and if part of correcting it is giving up a few home economics teachers here and there, then I agree with doing that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Are there any more general discussions? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had an opportunity to discuss this particular issue with several of my communities. Not only that, but if Members here are not aware, I do not reside in the community of Inuvik. I must say that there has been quite a public expression of concern with regard to the direction the department is going with regard to this idea of redistribution of teachers. I just want to make a number of points but I do want to say one thing about a comment that was made by the Minister earlier, and that had to do with the comparison between a particular school such as Fort Smith and Hanna, Alberta. If we had the opportunity that is available to a community like Hanna, which has a number of larger schools in its region, there would be no serious problems and you could develop a comparison between that type of school population and a school of a similar nature. But the circumstances in the Northwest Territories are very, very different and I know that the Minister having had the opportunity to travel as a Member of the special committee on education and as the Minister responsible for Education, has learned that the circumstances in the North are very, very much different. They are different because we have to provide additional programs that are not necessarily always available, while schools that have larger schools in the area would have a variety of options available to them. So, that particular comparison is not what I consider to be a good comparison to make.

Opportunities Should Be Available

The other thing is that in most centres in the Northwest Territories where high schools are situated many communities take advantage of those particular institutions. The last thing that we should be doing is to try and reduce the opportunities for students that are academically inclined or technically inclined or vocationally inclined, so they will not be able to seek those particular programs that will suit their character and their own attitude with regard to education.

There are some issues with regard to particular types of teachers. I think that if the Minister recalls our discussion during the budget session, I suggested that we have to look for incentives to retain students in our schools. The last things you should be considering cutting, reducing, are those types of professional features that might encourage students to remain in school, such as your physical education teachers. The possibility of taking advantage of your professional art; students without the ability, historically, of having art teachers have developed skills that are far beyond those throughout the world. Artists, carvers -- these are skills that were not developed by professionals. But if you take advantage of the professionals and the capabilities of those professionals, we could recruit and teach those young people to take advantage of their natural capabilities. We could develop some very, very astute students, not only students in the case of academic programs but technical, vocational programs.

One of the things that we do have to do is to try and find other ways for students who are encouraged to come from communities to regional centres to remain there. One of the things that we have to remember at all times is that physical activity, physical education is very crucial and important to them. If there is one way of teaching them to react, it is that type of professional and that type of a teacher.

With regard to the home economics teachers, I would hope if the idea is to reduce the use of home economics teachers and if the case can be made -- I realize and recognize the case that was made by the Minister of Education in a particular situation where home economics teachers are not available -- then, at least, look for an option. We could take advantage of a contract situation where we could teach some of the young ladies and including some young men who need to learn some skills because we cannot tell them to leave school and go find an education at post-secondary institutions without knowing some of those types of skills.

I must also say there has been a lot of confusion with regard to the manner in which this type of redistribution was to be implemented. It was only two months ago that I had an opportunity to meet in Arctic Red River. The decision that was sent to Arctic Red River was that they would be going from two person years to 1.5 person years and within the last month that has changed. It has gone from 1.5 to two person years. Now that was the information that was given to a small community like Arctic Red River. If that is the information with regard to the smaller communities then no wonder there is confusion about the whole issue of redistribution throughout the Northwest Territories.

I do not want to oppose the idea of redistribution to improve programs and services in small communities. That would be the last thing I would oppose. But I do say, do not destroy good programs in order to try to create a situation of equality of teachers in numbers alone because programs are much more crucial and the success of those programs hinges on the quality of teachers that you have and it hinges on the morale of the teachers that you have, as well as ensuring that at least the students in the communities that go to the regional centres are assured that that quality of education is comparable from region to region to region. I think that is important and I recognize the Minister's initiative to try to create that quality in every community, but at the same time, do not base the direction on the basis of numbers alone because I think in the end you could lose the initiative. I would rather see a situation where you add a few more teachers than to take teachers away from other communities. I would be the first to suggest that we look at additional teachers in the areas where it is necessary.

Decisions Will Have Long-Term Effects

I just hope though, the confusion that surrounds the redistribution is clarified. I guess that this process right now is to try to clarify that, but more importantly to clarify the policy and the direction and the effect that that direction will have, not on 1986-87 school year, but the potential effect on the 1987-88 and 1988-89 school years, because it should not be looked at on a short-term basis. Education, and the Minister has always indicated this, is a long-term thing, it is not something that is dealt with overnight. It is a long-term plan and it affects not Richard Nerysoo and not Dennis Patterson and not any individual Member in this House, but young people that are not part of the decision that will result in the type and the quality of education that they are going to receive.

I just hope that whenever we make decisions with regard to education that we recognize the effect that we have on those young people and also the effect that we have on the profession that is involved in the decision to change. I am not one also to say that you should hide the idea of change or you should avoid change, but at least have people understand what changes are taking place so that there is no confusion and no opposition to the direction that is being proposed by the Minister. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate that advice and hope I can live up to it. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to confirm the total teacher person years in Fort Smith Region in the coming school year will be 188 and if we had originally tried to go further, I guess we learned that was a bit too far and I would like to take some credit for having softened the impact somewhat.

With regard to Arctic Red River, there will be two teachers next year. As far as the schools in Inuvik are concerned, just briefly, Mr. Chairman, there are 27 teachers in the high school with a student/teacher ratio of 13.4 to one. That compares with the NWT high school ratio of more like 17; and the elementary school, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, with a staff of 28, has a pupil/teacher ratio of 15.6 to one compared to a higher NWT ratio.

Mr. Chairman, there will be reductions in the coming school year in Inuvik of two teachers at the high school and three teachers at the elementary school. As I say, I am pleased to note that as I understand it today, there are no programs deleted at Sir Alexander Mackenzie school, even with the reduction of three staff persons, and a slight reduction of the options at the high school with the reduction of two person years. I think that may show that, in fact, there was room for a little more tightening up and I hope in meeting with a representative of the Inuvik society tomorrow that I can assure that community of our willingness to continue to monitor the situation.

I think one clarification that needed to be made recently was that the vocational certificate program and the senior practical program in those communities were not included in the formula. I think that was a source of misunderstanding and we are going to do our best to continue open communication. I have to rely on my superintendents fairly extensively, and my deputy minister, because I cannot always be there, but I hope we can follow the Members' advice and be as sensitive as possible with existing resources. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Minister and I agree with what Mr. Nerysoo was saying and I think it would result in better things. Since the Minister does agree that he will consult with school boards, with education societies, and I recognize and I think we all do, that the barn is closed, the horses are either in or gone for this coming year -- and he as well has indicated that he will be monitoring how this goes on, I would like to move a motion.

Motion That Local Education Authorities Be Consulted Before Implementation Of Phase Two Of Formula, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that this House recommends to the Department of Education that it consult with local education authorities, education societies, school boards before it implements a second phase of its staffing formula policy for the school year 1987-88.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, just for the reasons that I had indicated, that the Minister has agreed to consult, for example, with Inuvik, with the school boards before next year, that he has said that he would be monitoring the policy and that because of the varying opening and closing dates of the school for this present year it may be too late to do anything about it this year, for those particular reasons and because I think he is open to the kinds of suggestions and the dialogue that has gone on in this committee, I am trying to put it in the most positive way to the Minister. We would want to recommend that he would do it and just make sure there is consultation with these bodies. I do not expect it should cause any great difficulty but there should be some kind of consultation with these bodies before there is further implementation of that policy for the following school year.

Again, taking into consideration the concern that Mr. Nerysoo indicated, that there will be further implications down those years, for that reason I move that motion. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hands. Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Any more general discussion on this document? Does the committee agree that Tabled Document 58-86(1) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 16-86(1): Municipal Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The next item is Bill 16-86(1), An Act to Amend the Municipal Act. Mr. Wray, do you want to make any remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief comment and I believe the chairman of the standing committee on legislation has a comment to make. Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour have been operating and have been treated by this government as hamlets since April 1, 1982. A recent review of hamlet boundaries revealed that although notices of intent were posted and gazetted, orders for hamlet elections were made and registered, and hamlet proclamations were signed by the Commissioner and presented to the two councils, no orders to establish these hamlets were made or registered. Following this discovery, the Department of Justice reviewed all orders of this type and determined that in other cases there existed sufficient doubt as to the legality of what had been done to make it advisable to take remedial action. Orders were made in 1971 purporting to incorporate four communities -- Eskimo Point, Fort Simpson, Hall Beach and Pine Point -- retroactively although there is nothing in legislation to allow for retroactive orders.

When the Revised Regulations of the Northwest Territories were consolidated in 1980 the order of incorporation for Frobisher Bay that had been made before 1980 was not included. Sections 19 and 19.1 of the Regulations Act have the effect of revoking all regulations that were not carried over into the 1980 consolidation. In order to legalize the corporate acts done in good faith by the seven communities it is important that immediate remedial action be taken. Retroactive orders to accomplish this can only be made if an amendment is made to the Municipal Act to give the Commissioner the power to do so. Everything that should have been done to establish Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour as hamlets was done except the final order. The situation regarding the other five communities is debatable but remedial action is prudent. The proposed housekeeping amendments to the Municipal Act will allow corrective orders to be made. It should be noted, Mr. Chairman, that the failure to prepare and request orders to incorporate Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour and the problem with the other five communities were not the problems of the communities but simply a legalistic problem and an oversight by this government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie, as chairman of the standing committee on legislation, do you want to make any remarks?

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Members of the committee are of course somewhat reluctant to deal with retroactive legislation and yet it was evident that the spirit of what was intended, or what was done, was to confer a particular municipal status on certain communities in the Territories and because of technicalities that resulted from a failure of particular officials to fully implement the procedures that were required, it meant full legal status was in doubt for some municipalities. It is clear that the municipalities in question over these years have acted in good faith and therefore committee Members agreed that their actions should not be left in jeopardy as a result of technicalities resulting from failures to implement procedures at another level of government, which would leave them exposed. Because of that, the committee agreed with the government that this bill was required and the standing committee on legislation reviewed it and recommended it to the committee of the whole as it is, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Any general comments? Does the committee want to go clause by clause now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree then that Bill 16-86(1) is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Butters, the next item.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as Members realize we had scheduled for a day certain the Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages and it was to be this afternoon but we have eaten up most of this afternoon. I have spoken with the co-chairmen of that task force. They had expected that they would appear before us much sooner so I guess the expectation would now be that it might be the first order of business in committee of the whole for tomorrow. This would give an extended period of time in which that report could receive the full discussion and consideration of our committee. So, if that would be acceptable, we might look now at Bill 12-86(1), Taxation Act, which was moved back into committee of the whole last night, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that we go to Bill 12-86(1), An Act to Amend the Taxation Act? Mr. Wray.

Bill 12-86(1): Taxation Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are bringing this bill back because there have been some questions raised by the Department of Justice as to whether or not the legislation applies to taxes for 1986, dating from January 1st. So I wish to bring in an amendment so that it is clear within legislation, that the bill is retroactive to January 1st, 1986.

Motion To Amend Bill 12-86(1): Taxation Act, Carried

Therefore I move, Mr. Chairman, that Bill 12-86(1), An Act to Amend the Taxation Act, be amended by adding immediately after clause 6, the following: Clause 6.1. The act is further amended by adding immediately after section 50.1, the following section: "Transitional. 50.2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, the Commissioner may in 1986 establish rates of tax pursuant to section 50 for each class of real property and those rates shall apply to all taxes levied in 1986." This amendment, Mr. Chairman, would then allow us to levy the taxes retroactive to January 1st, 1986. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I would just like to make it clear, Mr. Chairman, that this clause was not a part of the bill when the standing committee on legislation reviewed it. So, as the chairman of the standing committee I do not have any comments to make with respect to this amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hands. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 6.1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Bill as a whole, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that Bill 12-86(1) as amended, is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No further business from the government, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): What is the wish of the committee now?

AN HON. MEMBER: Progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Are you making a motion?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hands. Opposed? The motion is carried that I report progress.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 58-86(1), PETITION FROM THE FORT SMITH EDUCATION SOCIETY; BILL 16-86(1), MUNICIPAL ACT; BILL 12-86(1), TAXATION ACT

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 58-86(1), 42-86(1), and 37-86(1) and Bills 12-86(1) and 16-86(1). I wish to report, Mr. Speaker, that Tabled Document 58-86(1) has been concluded with one motion being adopted. Further, Mr. Speaker, that Bill 16-86(1) and Bill 12-86(1) as amended, are now ready for third reading.

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: Item 17, third reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 17: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 16-86(1).

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We do not require unanimous consent for third reading. You are moving third reading of which bill?

Third Reading Of Bill 16-86(1): Municipal Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16-86(1), An Act to Amend the Municipal Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Third reading of bills. We are requesting unanimous consent to add to the orders of the day. In place of Item 18, a new Item 18 would read "Assent to Bills". Do I have unanimous consent to add this?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

---Agreed

ITEM 18: ASSENT TO BILLS

We will ask then if the Commissioner is available for assent to bills, please.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories I assent to Bill 16-86(1).

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, just as an announcement if I may, sir, there has been some concern about the excessive colour that has been added to this House today and I would just like to indicate to those who were concerned what caused it. A group of people who like to wear bright red or varying colours of red got together last evening to discuss certain mutual concerns and one of the things that came from that was that we would attire ourselves with a different colour. To put at ease those who have dark blue on or different shades of ties, we like to wear red and we intend to do this at different times. That is the reason for it. Just a group of people who like the color red and what it stands for.

---Laughter

---Applause

No roses though. We have no flower children.

MR. SPEAKER: Native dress has always been allowed, Mr. McCallum.

---Laughter

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day and announcements.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting immediately after adjournment this evening. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 18th at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements

4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions: Motion 33-86(1)
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 42-86(1); Tabled Document 37-86(1); Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters; Bill 21-86(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Third Reading of Bills
18. Assent to Bills
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 18th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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