



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

7th Session

10th Assembly

**HANSARD  
Official Report  
DAY 29**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1986**

**Pages 1180 to 1221**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaq, 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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 18th.

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

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 43-86(1): Institutional Training Agreement

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that I met with the Hon. Flora MacDonald, the Minister of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, in Ottawa on June 13th, 1986 to sign an institutional training agreement for the Northwest Territories. The three year agreement replaces the existing agreement which expired on March 31st, 1986. The new arrangements were negotiated under CEIC's Canadian jobs strategy and they provide for a total of \$12,751,000 over the three year period. This agreement is expected to provide training for over 1300 NWT trainees and apprentices per year.

The terms of the agreement are very similar to those signed with other provincial jurisdictions as the Canadian jobs strategy is being implemented as a national program this year. However, in light of the markedly different economic conditions in the NWT, I was successful in convincing the federal Minister that flexibility will be required in the implementation of the program in the North.

Along those lines, the Hon. Flora MacDonald agreed to enter into a memorandum of understanding to assess the impact of the program and its expenditures over the next year, with a view toward amending the agreement if it is found that the program does not provide effective services to northerners. The memorandum will contain mechanisms for:

- 1) widening the list of occupations designated as skill shortages to provide more accessible training opportunities for more northern residents;
- 2) reallocating money within the training agreement to provide training for residents in those programs which are most appropriate for the NWT, and to avoid a lapsing of CEIC funds;
- 3) monitoring the training provided to determine whether changes to the agreement are necessary to take into account the unique needs of the NWT;
- 4) defining and implementing a study of the NWT apprenticeship program to assess the training results achieved by the program.

As a follow-up to this agreement, my officials have finalized an annual training plan for 1986-87 to schedule the courses which will be provided over the next year. I am confident that we can look forward to a very productive use of the money provided under the Canadian jobs strategy. Arctic

College has experienced a dramatic growth over the past four years in the provision of extension programs at the community level. A total of only 60 courses were provided in 1982-83. This has been expanded over the past few years to a point where over 125 courses will be provided across the NWT for 1986-87. This is due in large part to the increased level of funding provided by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission under the institutional training agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Sibbeston.

Minister's Statement 44-86(1): Cabinet Secrecy, Access To Information And Open Government

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I indicated to Mr. MacQuarrie yesterday that I would be making a statement with respect to cabinet secrecy and I am prepared to make that now.

Open government. The Government of the Northwest Territories has been and will continue to be committed to the principle of open government. It is essential that the people of the North and their representatives in the Legislative Assembly be kept informed about the matters that concern them. This implies that there be ready access to most government information. Secret government is something that simply cannot work in a system such as ours and all of the Members of this Executive Council remain committed to keeping the channel of communication between the government and the people as open as possible at all times.

Limits to open government. There are, however, some limitations on the extent to which government can be open. These have nothing to do with the personal sensitivities of the Ministers but are linked to some very important principles of our system.

Collegiality and collective responsibility. The first limitation is a necessary result of our having achieved full responsible government in the last year. In a system of responsible government the Members of the cabinet are collectively responsible for conducting the affairs of the Northwest Territories. This means that the deliberations in the cabinet meetings must be kept entirely confidential so that the discussions can be as frank as possible, and so that no Minister need fear speaking his mind to his colleagues. This privacy of the Ministers when they are deliberating on behalf of the people in the North is a long-standing and necessary feature of cabinet government and it is reflected as well in all other governments in Canada. An important implication of collective responsibility or collegiality is that the minutes of cabinet meetings are more than simply confidential but are indeed secret. However, in all jurisdictions in Canada, it is even considered to be an offence under the law for a Minister to talk about the substance and nature of the deliberations in the cabinet chamber or to "leak" cabinet documents to the public or the media. It would be nice if such measures could be avoided, but cabinet government or responsible government simply does not work without them.

Finally it is also an important principle of cabinet government that the minutes of cabinet meetings of a previous government are not available to the current government, not even to a current Minister who was a part of the previous administration. This is obviously to prevent one government from entering into witch hunts involving the affairs of a previous one and is one of the most important characteristics of parliamentary government everywhere.

The right to privacy. The second major reason for limiting the public's access to certain information is the need to protect individuals' and corporate individuals' right to privacy. It is perhaps ironic that the public's right to privacy limits the public's right to information about the affairs of government but because governments are in possession of often sensitive information about personnel, clients, contractors and other governments, the privacy of one part of the public must be guaranteed even if it makes the system less open to the rest.

Budget secrecy. The third reason for placing restrictions on access to information is that foreknowledge of budgetary information could place certain individuals in unfair competitive advantage in the market place. Budget secrecy, as with the broader principle of cabinet secrecy, is a cornerstone of modern parliamentary government.

Legislative prohibition. Finally, there are restrictions on the access to information in a number of areas where legislation specifically prohibits publication of certain confidential information, for example, the Medical Care Act and the Business Loans and Guarantees Act. Here, cabinet must limit the access to information because specific enactments of this Assembly have required it.

To summarize, therefore, this government is committed to the greatest possible openness in government. MLAs and the public at large should be kept informed about the affairs of government in the widest possible manner. However, such openness must be qualified by the application of other fundamental principles that apply to our emerging governmental system. These are the four:

- 1) Collective responsibility and collegiality require confidentiality of cabinet deliberations;
- 2) The right to privacy of individuals and corporations who have entrusted sensitive information to the government must be protected;
- 3) The budget and particularly, matters of ways and means must be kept strictly secret until such time as the information is to be released to the public officially; and
- 4) Cabinet, as with private citizens, must obey laws that require the maintenance of confidentiality of information.

The practical implications of all of this are as follows: The transcripts of cabinet meetings and the comments of individuals -- who said what to whom in the course of the meeting of the cabinet -- are privileged and in no case should be released to the public. However, if for instance an MLA should ask why a certain decision was taken -- for example, why the contract did not go to the lowest bidder -- the Minister should be able to give a general explanation of the reasons behind the decision but without referring to the specifics of in camera discussions and without releasing private information that could be damaging to the companies involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3, Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude Ministers' statements for today. Item 4, oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 293-86(1): Assurance Of Fair Hiring Practices

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for our Government Leader. I feel that enough is enough. I believe it is high time the hiring practices of this government were brought out of the closet. While the NWTPSA is screaming unfair meddling by the Minister of Personnel, they should own up to all the facts; that affirmative action has been in place for many years for the benefit of everyone -- the native and long-term northerners. The tables have simply been turned and formalized into policy and they can't stand it. I am personally very much aware of what it is like to be left on the outside looking in, seeing newly or not yet arrived southerners...

MR. SPEAKER: Question?

MRS. LAWRENCE: I am getting to my question, Mr. Speaker. We have, as a government for too long underestimated the capabilities of our own people and have allowed the unnecessary inflation of our non-natives...

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

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, this is the time for questions and while it is true there are preambles necessary to frame the question, my point of order is that this is a speech and I would ask you to uphold that.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been the policy in this House to try and be as lenient as possible with lead-in to questions and Mrs. Lawrence is dangerously close to being cut off, but I will make that decision. Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make it as short as I can. The practice of management at all levels has been to pick a candidate for a job long before the competition process even begins. What I understand is, that this is still going on. Will the Minister of Personnel give some reassurance that steps will be taken to ensure the mockery of our competition process will cease and that all competitions posted will be run fairly, so as to allow all interested candidates a fair and equal opportunity? I feel it is high time we close the door on facing people in this...

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. We are not -- I should not say we are not interested in your opinion, but this is question period. So you have asked your question. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 293-86(1): Assurance Of Fair Hiring Practices

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member that all competitions for jobs in the government will be run fairly and we will do our best to make sure that jobs at all levels of government, lower and higher levels of government, are open to all the people of the North and that we honestly do seek to get the best qualified people for the job.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Lawrence.

Supplementary To Question 293-86(1): Assurance Of Fair Hiring Practices

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the manager be held accountable for such action in the future?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 293-86(1): Assurance Of Fair Hiring Practices

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Member that the equal employment directorate has recently done quite a bit of work in assessing the situation with respect to the government as a whole, as to the affirmative action plans. All of the departments of government have been asked to come forward with management plans to increase the number of native people hired in their respective departments and the equal employment directorate has consolidated all of their information and has made it available for the Executive Council. In part, it is based on this report that the Executive Council has approved in principle, the expenditure of three million dollars through supplementary funding requests which will come before this House in the next few days. So, we are attempting to deal with the whole matter of native employment in our government and we are making the managers in each of the departments responsible for this area. Thank you.

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

Question 294-86(1): Cultural Inclusion Programs, Pond Inlet

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a letter from the Pond Inlet education society. There are several questions and the Minister has a copy of this, so I will ask him a question at the same time. This question is directed to the Minister of Education, Hon. Dennis Patterson. After several cultural inclusion programs it is always vague what the parameters really are and the questions are: What are the policies toward native culture and language development? Who is implementing or who is going to implement those policies? Is the program adequately funded? Why has there been no discussion with the local authorities? I think the Minister has an idea of what the question is all about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable Member for notice of this question yesterday. I am not quite prepared to answer but I will answer tomorrow. Thank you.

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

Question 295-86(1): Accountability Of Cabinet

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to hear the statement of the Government Leader on accountability of cabinet and generally pleased with the limited number of limitations there are on any answers. There was just one concern that I had. I believe the Government Leader used the word a "general" answer, and I would just like to clarify that. Could I ask the Government Leader that if a decision were to be made by the cabinet, particularly one that departed from established government policy, could the public and other Members of this Assembly expect that there will be a disclosure of the decision that is made and the reasons that were behind that decision, without getting into which of the cabinet Ministers said what about the issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 295-86(1): Accountability Of Cabinet

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the answer is essentially, yes. But I would say that the Member should not expect us as a matter of course to publicize the decisions without any question or querying. If questions are asked by the MLAs we will attempt to give as much information as we can.

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

Question 296-86(1): Organizational Review Of Fort Smith Region

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader. Can the Government Leader indicate to me whether, in fact, the government has hired a consultant to review the viability of the Fort Smith Region and, if so, when is that review to begin, what are the terms of the contract and what input will the town have?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 296-86(1): Organizational Review Of Fort Smith Region

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Executive Council has decided to do an organizational review of the Fort Smith Region. I just signed a contract this morning with Ewan Cotterill and Associates to examine the feasibility of decentralized organization based on the area offices model. The purpose of the review is to determine if services can be delivered to the communities in what is now the Fort Smith Region in a more effective and efficient manner than is provided now.

The study will be commenced immediately and the report is to be completed by early September. The terms are such that the consultant is to consult with as many people as possible in doing the study. So, the Fort Smith town council is certainly one of the bodies in Fort Smith that will be consulted.

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

Supplementary To Question 296-86(1): Organizational Review Of Fort Smith Region

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, the Government Leader has been asked if their government has a policy on deregionalization, if you like. We had not been able to find or see that in this House. I would like to ask the Minister, does he think his actions with the mayor, the deputy mayor and the president of the chamber of commerce and his dialogue with them the other day when he met with them in his office, does he not think that his dialogue pre-empted any findings of this particular review that he is starting now? Does he not believe that what he said to them -- that they have to accept the fact that the Fort Smith Region is dead and that he will try to not make a ghost town of the town -- does he not believe that that is pre-empting that particular review?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 296-86(1): Organizational Review Of Fort Smith Region

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe anything that I stated to the officials of the town of Fort Smith and the chamber of commerce in any way pre-empted the conclusions that are likely to be reached in the report to us. I did indicate to the officials that the report could likely result in a decrease in the number of civil servants in Fort Smith. While I said that, I undertook to review, in terms of our government operations here in Yellowknife, what possible departments or what possible agencies or what possible things could be done so that there could be some decentralization to Fort Smith. I undertook that and I really do not know what else I could say.

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



Supplementary To Question 296-86(1): Organizational Review Of Fort Smith Region

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a supplementary in terms of what the Minister is saying, that there will be a reduction in the civil service. Is that the same kind of reduction as another Minister of this government is doing by taking jobs away or making it fairly difficult for native people in that particular community to retain the jobs that they have? I speak of the Minister of Social Services responsible for corrections. A lot of the people who work for this government, its civil servants, a great number of them in Fort Smith are native people. How can you, as a Government Leader and an Executive or as individual Ministers, now take away jobs from native people and at the same time say that you want more native people in employment? One hand is not doing what the other is trying to do. I have heard the Member on different occasions express anger and frustration in this House. I want him to know that that is exactly how I feel. I am not going to throw any cups but I think what you are doing is wrong. You are pre-empting any kind of thing that goes on.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 296-86(1): Organizational Review Of Fort Smith Region

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I will say to the Member that what we are doing in this case is...

MR. McCALLUM: You are taking jobs from native people.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: That could well be, but what we are doing -- and I consider it a responsibility of our government -- is to review the regional operation in Fort Smith. If native people are out of jobs then I would feel sorry and apologize for that. But the requirement of having a management review done of the Fort Smith Region is of a much higher and more important matter than being concerned about the people who may be displaced in their jobs.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. McCallum.

Supplementary To Question 296-86(1): Organizational Review Of Fort Smith Region

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure I caught what the Minister said. I hope it was not what I thought he said; that the part of management of this government is more important than the people in the jobs.

I have one final question for the Minister. Will the Minister table in this House the policy for this decentralization, deregionalization, or whatever the hell you call it?

MR. SPEAKER: The language is unparliamentary, Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: There has been worse language used in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not here to argue a point. I am asking you to withdraw the word.

MR. McCALLUM: Whatever the "heck" kind of a policy it is. I withdraw the word "hell".

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 296-86(1): Organizational Review Of Fort Smith Region

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: The government at the moment does not have a decentralization policy. The Member is aware that we are doing on an experimental basis some decentralization in a number of the regions, from the regional headquarters to outlying communities.

MR. McCALLUM: ...not the headquarters.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: In most cases it was not removing people from the regional centres. It is not just a reallocation of civil servants in the region. So I cannot table the policy of decentralization of the...

MR. McCALLUM: Who gave you the right to do it? You don't even have a policy.

MR. SPEAKER: The House is starting to get out of order. I do not wish to have to ask some honourable Members to leave the establishment, but in fairness to everyone you have the right to ask questions and the person has a right to give a reply without interference on either side. Now I am going to have to start insisting that this be done and if it is not done I will have to expel Members who continue to interfere with replies from other persons. Mr. Richard.

Question 297-86(1): Status Of Experiments In Decentralization

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to follow up on this notion of decentralization or deregionalization, whatever the policy that does not exist is termed. In the February/March portion of this session, questions were asked of Members of the Executive Council of reports in the news media of programs and personnel being moved from regional centres to other communities and regions, and Members on this side of the Assembly sought from the government an indication of what the policy was. And that question, Mr. Speaker, remains unanswered to this date given the Leader's response today.

The Leader, I take it, is saying that we are proceeding with experiments of decentralization in the regions without a policy. Mr. Speaker, the first part of my question is, why is that? Is there not a policy being developed or are these experiments going on amuck without any plan to devise a policy? The second part of my question, Mr. Speaker, is why in that atmosphere of experimentation on development of a policy is the Fort Smith Region being singled out for a consultant study? Is there some particular reason why there is a study being done of the Fort Smith Region and not all regions presumably, for policies being developed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 297-86(1): Status Of Experiments In Decentralization

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will do my best to deal with the Member's question. The decentralization that the Member refers to and that was publicized during the winter session was the result of decisions of the government made through the course of last fall and early winter to deal with the new growth in some of the regions of the North. It was decided that rather than place all of the new growth in the existing regional centres that an attempt on an experimental basis would be made to provide some of the growth to the outlying communities in some of the regions. This was done to spread the benefits of government around to some other communities so that people can get jobs and also they can benefit from the economic benefits that usually arise from such growth of our government. So as I said, this process is going on now and going very successfully. We did not have a policy on which we made these decisions but government does not always necessarily act on policy decisions. Through time there may be a policy developed particularly as we see the results of such decentralization.

As to the question of why Fort Smith is being dealt with differently. The Executive Council decided that a total review of the Fort Smith Region would be done with a view to seeing if some other administrative system would be more efficient. Also Fort Smith is being dealt with differently because it is very close to the headquarters of government. There was some thinking that the regional system of administration for a region close to headquarters like Fort Smith perhaps is no longer the best vehicle with which to provide good government to people in this area. That is the reason why Fort Smith is being dealt with differently.

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

Supplementary To Question 297-86(1): Status Of Experiments In Decentralization

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to accept at face value the Leader's statement that these experiments are, I believe he said, "going very successfully". With what criteria are they successful if there is no policy in place? Is there a financial -- I appreciate that putting government jobs into a community that did not have those jobs before is very beneficial for the people of that community but at what cost compared to leaving it in a regional centre presumably in some of the other regions.

Can I ask, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister to indicate whether these experiments have a limited time frame? Is the government going to say at a point in time that the experiment proves that we should have a policy of decentralization based on some criteria that can be measured or are the

experiments going to continue indefinitely until another Minister with another portfolio decides that there should be decentralization of another program in another department in an entirely separate region?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 297-86(1): Status Of Experiments In Decentralization

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I perhaps should have been more precise in my statement when I said things were proceeding successfully. I meant the implementation of the decentralization and those cases that he is aware of are going on successfully. With respect to the cost, all of this is being done at very minimal additional costs to our government. I can provide more detailed information to the Member in the next few days if he wishes.

As to how long the experiment will continue, the decision was made to decentralize and that is going on. It was not done with a view to continuing that process indefinitely. I think the plan is to see how the decentralization of those moves that have been planned go. After the decentralization that has been agreed to thus far is completed, we will analyse the situation and see if there is perhaps a further need. So for the time being it is not an ongoing process, it is a one-time decision and once the implementation is completed we will review the situation again.

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

Supplementary To Question 297-86(1): Status Of Experiments In Decentralization

MR. RICHARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, I had hoped the Leader could have indicated a calendar date in terms of months or years when that review will be done but if I could ask a separate supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the consultant study that the Leader refers to today, to be back in the hands of the Executive in early September, will the Leader undertake to bring that study, because presumably it's not confidential or secret, to the Assembly at the October session so that it might be debated before the Executive Council implements any changes that are recommended in the study?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 297-86(1): Status Of Experiments In Decentralization

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will just provide a little bit more information with respect to the decentralization plans. The construction and the provision of facilities, buildings, offices and homes for the civil servants are all being organized and being built this coming summer primarily. Most of the actual moves will be done in 1987 so it will be into 1988, I suspect, before we have a chance to review and know what the result of this decentralization is. So it really does take us likely into the next Legislative Assembly after our completion in late 1987.

MR. MacQUARRIE: At which time it will be a different Minister who takes it all back.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: With respect to the request for an undertaking to bring the study to the Assembly, I find it difficult to give you that undertaking. It is something that we will consider and it is a matter that the Member will likely deal with again in the fall session. By then we will know whether we can publicize and make available that study.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. You have one supplementary left, Mr. Richard. Any further supplementaries?

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, sir.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Mr. McCallum, he has a question. All we would like you to do is rise and present your question properly, Mr. McCallum, at any time in this House. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 298-86(1): Organizational Review Of Other Regions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a similar subject, a question to the Government Leader. Is the study that has been proposed a reflection of other studies that are to be carried out in other regions and, if so, what other regions are being considered for review with regard to the manner in which they are now managed and administered and what programs are going to be included in those particular studies and review? I refer in particular to the whole Inuvik Region and whether or not we are going to be seeing a silent or at least secret report being conducted on that particular region.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 298-86(1): Organizational Review Of Other Regions

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member that there are no plans at the moment to do a review of any other region in the North, similar to that being done in the Fort Smith Region.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 299-86(1): Centralization Of Power In Yellowknife

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader, regarding some powers that are going from the regions to Yellowknife. I also would like to address the issue of affirmative action too, concerning people moving into Yellowknife to get into the public service whether they are native or native northerners.

In view of the fact that there are negotiations going on concerning some of these issues, concerning land claims and also with regard to the whole question of constitutional development and the division of the Northwest Territories, I would like to ask the Minister, why is it that during this 10th Legislative Assembly, we seem to be going toward more control and more centralization of government programs, in view of the fact that these other things are occurring?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question raised by the Member but I do find it difficult to answer because of the lack of specifics. I would ask the Member if he can point out a particular instance, a certain program that he has in mind when he asks this question so I can properly answer it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, are you able to rephrase your question?

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the affirmative action program, native people or native northerners are getting into the public service and in most cases these positions are here in Yellowknife. So, there is a drawing of resource people from the communities to the centre here in Yellowknife. The other issue too is that the program that directly affects native people, concerning the aboriginal languages, also is centralized and regionalized so in actual fact there are no programs that affect native people directly that are actually being delivered to the communities. That is another one.

The other thing is that the people at the regional level that address concerns of the regions directly have had some of their powers taken away by Yellowknife because they feel that Yellowknife could do a better job addressing, I think it is about 12 areas. For one person to have that power to address 12 areas is a substantial job. What I am getting at, Mr. Speaker, is that there are land claim negotiations going on, there is constitutional development going on, but it seems that even though these are going on, the Executive Council has taken a lot of the powers that maybe the native organizations or the Constitutional Alliance would like to have and I do not know where this leaves that process because it is being taken away while negotiations are going on. So, I am just asking the Government Leader, what is the intent during this 10th Legislative Assembly for the Executive or the central government to be trying to take over a lot of that responsibility that perhaps should be being dispersed rather than being centralized?

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

Return To Question 299-86(1): Centralization Of Power In Yellowknife

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will just try to answer the Member by dealing with his last point, that we seem to be centralizing and instead we should be dispersing to the regions. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any plan in our government to centralize powers. We have recently dealt with the powers of regional directors but that was an effort to establish ministerial government more effectively in the North but all of the regions, the regional departments, the regional superintendents in each of the departments, have powers to make decisions in the region. There has not been a plan or action taken which I consider centralizes power here in Yellowknife.

With respect to affirmative action, that is a plan of our government that is in all parts of our government. It is not only a Yellowknife program. In fact, the equal employment directorate has a small office established here in Yellowknife but it also has an equal employment officer in each of the five regions. So, affirmative action is going on at all levels of government. While it may appear occasionally that there is movement from some of the smaller communities to Yellowknife, this is likely the result of trying to attract some native people from the communities to work in government here at headquarters.

I can tell the Member that in terms of native employment, in some of the regions we are doing very well. In places like Keewatin we are up to about 56 or 57 per cent and Baffin has a similarly high percentage. In the Inuvik area it is close to 35 per cent, I believe. In headquarters here, this is where we have the smallest percentage of native employees so we will, obviously, try to increase that in the next couple of years. I hope that I have satisfied the Member. If not, then I welcome more specific questions or else I can provide more detailed information to the Member within the next few days.

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

Question 300-86(1): Hiring Practices Of Polar Continental Shelf Project

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to request the red ties be taken off because it seems that we are following the Parliament debates. I just want to ask the Government Leader, there is an employer in Resolute Bay, an agency run by the government and their title is Polar Continental Shelf Project. They do not hire local people from Resolute Bay. I believe they start their construction in February and they would stop their construction by the beginning of September. They are working in our community for eight months. This agency I am talking about has been working at Resolute Bay since the early 1960s. This was started because of requests from John Diefenbaker. They were trying to find out the current events that were going on in the North. In the beginning they had probably close to 100 per cent native Inuit employed in this agency when they first started out. Right now there is not one Inuit person that is employed there. Most of the employees in this agency are from the South. I wonder, Mr. Government Leader, if you could ask the federal government why they do not provide employment for the native people of Resolute Bay or the native people from the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 300-86(1): Hiring Practices Of Polar Continental Shelf Project

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look into the matters that the Member has raised and take what steps I can to attain more employment for the people of Resolute Bay. I will obtain information and where the situation warrants it, I will do my best to also influence the federal government to do their part to ensure that local people in Resolute Bay are hired. Mahsi.

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

Question 301-86(1): Terms Of Reference, Fort Smith Region Review

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could direct a question to the Government Leader, I would ask if the Government Leader would be prepared to table in this House the terms of reference of the study that is being conducted with regard to the Fort Smith regional offices.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question under advisement and reply to the Member tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Further Return To Question 242-86(1): Application For Funding, Pangnirtung Co-operative

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a reply to Question 242-86(1) asked by Mr. Paniloo. It was regarding the Pangnirtung co-op.

Consultants have been hired to analyse and prepare reports on the financial situation of each co-operative in the NWT. These reports are to be submitted to the newly formed NWT co-operative business development fund and the government/co-op steering committee to determine which co-operatives will be assisted and to what extent. All funding assistance to co-ops will be in the form of loans. A decision will be made by the development fund and the steering committee in the next few months on the Pangnirtung co-op.

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

Further Return To Question 107-86(1): Funding For Labour Component, HAP Program

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question 107-86(1), asked by Mr. T'Seleie on February 27, 1986, to do with funding for the labour component of HAP.

Since this question was asked, considerable effort has been undertaken to secure funding for labour on HAP units. The basis of this effort has been a proposal for \$2.7 million submitted to the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Wide support for this proposal was received from HAP clients, community groups, and, on two occasions, by motions passed in this Assembly. Although no funds have been made available as a result of this proposal, I shall persist in my efforts to provide assistance to HAP builders.

At this time, the NWT Housing Corporation has arranged to provide construction supervisors in communities where HAP homes are being built. This assistance will facilitate the successful construction of these houses. Further, I have instructed corporation staff to work closely with Indian Affairs and our own Department of Economic Development to determine what funds from the Indian community human resources strategy may be made available to HAP builders. These are interim measures and I continue to seek a long-term solution to this lack of funding. Thank you.

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

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three other returns here. This is a return to Question 281-86(1), the question was asked by Moses Appaqaq regarding the eider-down research project in Sanikiluaq.

The hamlet of Sanikiluaq's EDA application to count the number of eider nests in the South Belcher Islands was approved on June 13th. The purpose of this project is to gather data for the development of an eider-down industry in Sanikiluaq. As the Member has stated, the person responsible for administering this project is away in Ottawa for two weeks. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has contacted the Indian and Northern Affairs office responsible for setting this project up and they have told us they will move as quickly as possible to speed up processing the project. In the meantime, my department officials will work with the hamlet to try to arrange advance funding for this project.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have another return, to oral Question 289-86(1), asked by Mr. Arnold McCallum on June 17, 1986, regarding an economic planner for the town of Fort Smith.

The Member is correct in stating that the town of Fort Smith's EDA application for an economic planner was not approved. Under the community-based economic development planning program of the domestic market development subagreement, 29 projects have been approved for a total of \$2.05

million or 20 per cent of the overall EDA domestic budget. This is all the money available under this program for funding planners until the present agreement expires in March, 1987. New programs and budgets are presently being negotiated that would again enable communities to hire planners on a short-term, project-specific basis.

When the Fort Smith application was reviewed there were 11 other applications and only enough funds to approve seven. Priorities for funding were based on previous planning assistance, needs and resources of the community and purpose of the planner.

Consideration was given to the fact that a similar project was funded by EDA in 1981, \$84,000 for Fort Smith, and this current application did not build on the earlier project. The Fort Smith application was rated lower than others and with a limited program budget was turned down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some regions are having it pretty rough these days.

Further Return To Question 246-86(1), Funding For Community Libraries

Mr. Speaker, I have one more here, a return to oral Question 246-86(1), asked by Mr. McCallum on June 12th, 1986. All funding associated with library services was transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of Culture and Communications. Operating contributions and grants are available for community libraries, as well as some capital funds for the acquisition of library furniture and equipment. Mr. Speaker, this is a return from my colleague, Hon. Red Pedersen.

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

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Member for Nunakput inquired as to our government's action with respect to the erosion problem in Tuktoyaktuk, Question 282-86(1). I can tell the Member that we did approve funds for an engineering study of the problem, which is nearing completion. It will be done at the end of June. While I was in Tuktoyaktuk a number of weeks ago I had a chance to see the extent of erosion there and at that time indicated that our government was committed to finding a solution and doing something definite about the problem. That commitment remains and the Member can expect some action by our government initiated by the Minister of Local Government in the next few months.

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

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a further reply to a question asked by Mr. Richard on March 5th, 1986, Question 148-86(1), about the possibility of changes to TFN's subagreement 15. Mr. Speaker, I have responded in another return on the subject in a reply to Question 148-86(1) but I will reiterate that the initialling of the subagreement signifies only the acceptance by our senior negotiator of the particular subagreement under discussion and the commitment by the negotiator to recommend acceptance by the Executive Council. As the total number of subagreements are initialled, they are formulated into an agreement in principle. At this point or any point up to enactment of the settlement legislation, the initialled subagreements are subject to change. Of course, it is to be hoped that substantial changes will not be necessary. As TFN has stated, both governments as well as TFN have retained the right to modify or change initialled documents throughout the course of negotiations.

These points were emphasized in a letter tabled by our government at the recently concluded negotiations to finalize an agreement in principle on the TFN wildlife agreement. That letter was tabled by me earlier this session as Tabled Document 19-86(1). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today. Item 5, written questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 302-86(1): Lighthouse, Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is going to be a little bit long, Mr. Speaker, but my written question is to the Minister responsible for environment. I am not sure which Minister it is, Tagak Curley or Red Pedersen. I hope it will be understood, whichever

Minister will receive it. This is in regard to the lighthouse. When you see it you will understand it. I will just send it over there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a written question and it will have to be read into the record.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I do not think I understood you. It seems that you want me to read it all and it is very long. I am just saying that it is concerning the lighthouse in my community.

MR. SPEAKER: Regrettably, under written questions, the whole question must be read into the record, Mr. Appaqaq. Would you read the whole question?

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is in regard to a lighthouse located on the south side of the island. The residents of Sanikiluaq were not informed when the lighthouse was going to be installed. Every evening the light comes on and you can see it for miles and this creates a problem for the hunters in that it scares marine life, particularly whales, because it shines right on their regular route.

This is how we think the problem could be solved. Eliminate the light and install a radio. The way it is, it scares wildlife such as whales, walrus and polar bears because it's right in their route.

I was asked by my constituents whether the Minister responsible for environment can look into the problem. We would appreciate a reply regarding this from the Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Written questions. That appears to conclude written questions. Item 6, returns. Are there any returns today? Mr. McLaughlin.

#### ITEM 6: RETURNS

##### Return To Question 250-86(1): Annual Medical Examination For Sanikiluaq Residents

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written Question 250-86(1), asked by Mr. Appaqaq on June 12th, regarding Sanikiluaq residents receiving annual check-ups. The residents of Sanikiluaq, since July, 1984, receive special services through Churchill hospital specialists visiting the community. Prior to this date, specialists came from Moose Factory, Ontario. At that time, services were very irregular.

Since July 1984, a general practitioner visits the community for three to four days a month, a pediatrician visits twice a year and an ophthalmologist visits once a year. Overall, the services have improved remarkably. An ophthalmology technician will start visiting the community soon, this year. The Treasury Board in Ottawa has recently approved visits by a dentist just like in any other community in the Keewatin. Annual examinations have never taken place in Sanikiluaq and these are not recommended either, in any part of the country except for high risk groups.

Residents having special problems at high risk to any particular disease are more closely monitored than others. Others who are normal and found to be so by nurses do not need to see a physician on a regular basis. However, if they so desire, they can give their names to the nurse who will put it on the list of patients to see the general practitioner or the specialist. Priority to see the general practitioner or a specialist will, however, be given to those who need this service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Are there any further returns? That appears to conclude returns for today. Item 7, petitions. Mr. Patterson.

#### ITEM 7: PETITIONS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Petition 11-86(1), asking the Northwest Territories Liquor Licensing Board to review and revise the recent decision of the board to deny a discotheque licence to the Kamotiq Inn of Frobisher Bay. Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by 538 residents over 19 years of age from my constituency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7, petitions. That appears to conclude petitions for today. Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. McCallum.



ITEM 8: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Third Report Of The Standing Committee On Public Accounts

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a short report on the standing committee on public accounts and then I would like to table the report itself and the proceedings. So, if I could just make a short report on the standing committee on public accounts, who met and have reviewed the financial statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the report of the Auditor General for Canada for the fiscal year 1984-85. Mr. Speaker, rather than read all the report I would like to simply read out the recommendations of the committee.

Department Of Finance, Recommendations

The first department we dealt with was the Department of Finance, in relation to the work of the public accounts and the recommendations that the public accounts committee does make to the government. With regard to the Department of Finance, it is recommended that the comptroller general be given the responsibility to ensure that all departments act in a timely manner on the recommendations of the public accounts committee.

The second recommendation for the Department of Finance. It is recommended that by July 1st, 1986 the Department of Finance, through its centrally located office of credit and collections, provide to all program managers responsible for the delivery of goods or services for which payment is expected, a list to be regularly updated of all individuals and/or the principals of all business entities involved in past transactions that have resulted in bad debts to this government. It is further recommended that where a decision is made to provide goods or services to such individuals or companies, that documentation be placed on file that supports that decision and discloses the authority for making such a decision.

Further recommendation, Mr. Speaker. It is recommended that the Department of Finance complete a review of and make any changes necessary in the presentation formats and the terms used in the schedules to the territorial accounts. The department is to take every precaution to eliminate errors in content. It is recommended, in particular, that the present schedule for grants and contributions be divided into two separate schedules and that the schedule for write-offs include a listing of all individuals or companies for which a write-off in excess of \$500 had been necessary in the fiscal year.

Further recommendation, Mr. Speaker. It is recommended that the Department of Finance undertake a study to determine the feasibility and the implications of ways and means to record the value of fixed assets. It is also recommended that a study be done to determine the feasibility and implications of providing fully consolidated financial statements for the government and all its operations.

Financial Management Secretariat, Recommendations

With regard to the Financial Management Secretariat, there were two recommendations, Mr. Speaker. The first, it is recommended that where any transfer of funds between activities has been carried out under the authority of section 17 of the Financial Administration Act, notification be given to Members of the Legislative Assembly at the first sitting following the transfer.

The second recommendation. It is recommended that the Executive Council develop guidelines to govern the appropriate use of its authority under section 4 of the government contract regulations and ensure that in every instance in which it exercises that authority, substantiating documentation is available.

Department Of Public Works, Recommendations

With regard to the Department of Public Works, Mr. Speaker, there were two recommendations. First, it is recommended that the Department of Public Works and Highways, with the participation of the office of the comptroller general, rewrite and present to the Legislative Assembly, at its fall session in 1986, revised government contract regulations to include a requirement that any decision to award a contract to other than the low bidder be fully documented, including the criteria used in each instance for the determination of responsive and responsible and/or northern involvement.

The second recommendation. It is recommended that the Department of Public Works and Highways, with the co-operation of the Department of Finance, study the feasibility and implications of recognizing "capital leases" as capital items to be reported and voted upon as such in the main estimates review by the Legislative Assembly, and report their findings and recommendations to this committee at the fall session in 1986.

Department Of Education, Recommendations

With regard to the Department of Education, there were two recommendations, Mr. Speaker. First, it is recommended that the Department of Education complete its preparation of all its regulations, policies, procedures and manuals, as requested by the public accounts committee in May, 1985, and provide them to the committee by September, 1986.

A second recommendation. It is recommended that the Department of Education enter immediately into signed, formal agreements with school boards and districts which make legally binding the terms and conditions governing payment and accountability for grants and contributions, including notification of the right to have audits done by the government's auditor on the premises of the recipient.

Standing Committee On Public Accounts, Recommendation

A final recommendation refers to the committee itself. It is recommended that the chairman of the standing committee on public accounts undertake regular follow-up through the office of the comptroller general and where necessary directly with officials of the department or agency concerned, to ensure that the committee's recommendations are being acted upon in both an adequate and timely manner.

Those are the recommendations that we made, Mr. Speaker, from our review of the accounts and the letter on any other matter of the Auditor General. I want to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that we did have the Auditor General of Canada in attendance at our meeting and we greatly appreciated his assistance. I appreciate the assistance of the Members of the committee as well as the staff involved with it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any further reports of standing and special committees? Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. McCallum.

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents. Tabled Document 69-86(1), Third Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and Tabled Document 70-86(1), Proceedings of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following: Tabled Document 71-86(1), Draft Legislation for An Act to Establish the Arctic College, in English and Inuktitut. Mr. Speaker, I table this document in order to seek public reaction and advice from MLAs prior to the next session of this Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude tabling of documents for today. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 40-86(1): Appointment To Standing Committee On Finance

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, the 20th day of June, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move that the honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, be appointed to the standing committee on finance. Thank you.

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

Notice Of Motion 41-86(1): Terms Of Reference Of Standing Committee On Public Accounts

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, June 24th, I will move a motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the terms of reference of the standing committee on public accounts, as well as its conduct of business, be adopted. Thank you.

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

Notice Of Motion 42-86(1): Appointment To Board Of Directors Of NWT Housing Corporation

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, June 24th, I will move a motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that this House recommend that Mr. Steven Kakfwi and Mr. Jaykoolasie Killiktee be appointed to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation for terms of three years and that Mr. Gary Jaeb be reappointed for a term of three years.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. That appears to conclude notices of motion for today.

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

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 33-86(1), Tabled Document 67-86(1) to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ballantyne.

Motion 33-86(1): Tabled Document 67-86(1) To Committee Of The Whole

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Tabled Document 67-86(1), Sessional Paper: Political and Constitutional Development in the NWT, as revised, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion, as the first item of business on Wednesday, June 18, 1986.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that because of the fact that we did not hear from the task force on aboriginal languages that Mr. Butters has an amendment to this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Actually after your speech, I am not sure I shouldn't rule the motion out of order because you are going to change it anyway. But your motion is in order. Proceed with your motion, Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I have nothing to say about this. We expect a full discussion on this particular tabled document. I am looking forward to that discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder of the motion. Mr. Butters.

Amendment To Motion 33-86(1), Carried

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to amend the motion where it reads on the third line "the first item of business". The amendment will be seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point. So delete the words "first item of business" and insert the words "second item of business".

MR. SPEAKER: The amendment is in order. To the amendment.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to indicate, Mr. Speaker, if the amendment carries, this would permit the report on the aboriginal languages task force to be discussed first, in committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, secunder to the amendment. To the motion. Are you ready for the question on the amendment? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Motion 33-86(1), Carried As Amended

To the motion as amended. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. Mr. Richard.

Motion 40-86(1): Appointment To Standing Committee On Finance, Carried

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS there is a vacancy on the standing committee on finance;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill this vacancy;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, be appointed to the standing committee on finance.

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

---Carried

Motions. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to deal with my motion to set up the terms of reference of the standing committee on public accounts?

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

Motion 41-86(1): Terms Of Reference Of Standing Committee On Public Accounts, Carried

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Bill 4-85(2), An Act Respecting the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories, established that this House have two standing committees, one on finance and one on public accounts;

AND WHEREAS our rules have been amended to reflect this change;

AND WHEREAS there was one terms of reference for both committees;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the following be adopted as the terms of reference of the standing committee on public accounts.

Standing Committee On Public Accounts

Terms Of Reference

The standing committee on public accounts may, on its own authority:

- a) inquire into such matters as may be referred to it by the Legislative Assembly;
- b) review and recommend on the territorial accounts submitted to the Legislative Assembly annually by the Commissioner and Minister of Finance;
- c) review and recommend on the Auditor General of Canada's reports to the Legislative Assembly;
- d) investigate and inquire into those matters of a public accounts nature that, in the opinion of the committee, require investigation.

Conduct Of Business

- 1) The standing committee shall conduct its business in the manner approved by the committee;
- 2) The standing committee shall appoint a chairman to chair the affairs of the public accounts committee;
- 3) In accordance with Rule 93(1), the standing committee shall have the power to call for such persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses as, in its opinion, are necessary to the conduct of its business;
- 4) Five Members, including the chairman of the standing committee, shall form a quorum;
- 5) The Legislative Assembly shall provide the necessary funds to the standing committee required for it to carry out its responsibilities from the appropriation of the Legislative Assembly;
- 6) The standing committee, as a whole, or individual Members, may undertake such travel as is required to carry out the assigned responsibilities of the committee;
- 7) The standing committee shall be empowered to retain the services of such professional staff as deemed advisable by the committee;
- 8) The standing committee shall have the power to sit during sessions, adjournments and prorogations of the House;
- 9) The necessary administrative support shall be provided by the Legislative Assembly office;
- 10) The territorial accounts and the Auditor General's annual report and his report on any other matters will be referred to the standing committee on public accounts after tabling in the Legislative Assembly. Notwithstanding this formal process, the Commissioner is authorized to provide these documents to the standing committee in advance of tabling to expedite the review by the committee;
- 11) Meetings of the standing committee on public accounts for planning future work, briefings, reviewing progress, and drafting reports shall be closed to the public and press;
- 12) Other meetings of the standing committee on public accounts shall be open to the press and public, except when, in the opinion of the committee, it is not in the interest of the public to do so;
- 13) When requested by the committee, verbatim transcripts of the standing committee on public accounts committee hearings shall be prepared and published promptly;
- 14) From time to time, the standing committee on public accounts shall tender general advice and information to the Legislative Assembly on any public accounts matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 23-86(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1985-86

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 23-86(1), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1986, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor, to the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 23-86(1) has had first reading.

---Carried

First reading of bills. That appears to conclude first reading of bills for today. Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 14: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 20-86(1): Public Service Act

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 20-86(1), An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to amend the Public Service Act to place the main responsibility for the public service with the Minister of Personnel; to allow for delegation of responsibilities to the presiding member of territorial agencies with respect to members of the public service working for those territorial agencies; and to make consequential amendments to the Northwest Territories Public Service Association Act and the Workers' Compensation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 20-86(1), Public Service Act, has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, Bill 20-86(1) is now ordered into committee of the whole for today. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 42-86(1), Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages; Tabled Document 37-86(1), Constitutional and Political Development in the NWT; Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters; Bill 21-86(1), Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act; and Bill 20-86(1), Public Service Act, with Mr. Richard 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 42-86(1), THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): We are dealing with Tabled Document 42-86(1), The Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages. Members of the committee should have a copy of the report. If not, there are additional copies in the Assembly. Mr. Sibbeston, did you wish to make any opening remarks in addition to those that were made in March when the committee was last considering this item?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I can get the concurrence of the Members to invite those members of the task force that are present here in town to appear as witnesses in the event that there are any further questions by Members of the work they have done on the task force.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Does the committee agree that witnesses of the task force come into the committee to answer questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Could you please have the witnesses brought in? Mr. Sibbeston, would you like to introduce the witnesses then, sir?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the task force members again to our Assembly. It has been a few months, but welcome back. From my left, close to the door, is a member, Sue Look, from Fort McPherson. Next to her in the flashy, orange sweater is Fiebbie Tatti, co-chairperson. Next to her is Edna Elias, also a co-chairperson from Coppermine and lastly Elizabeth Biscaye, another member of the task force. Those four members are the members that are available to us and by way of process, Mr. Chairman, I think we should consider that Members have had an opportunity earlier in the session during the winter to make general comments on the task force report. Likewise, the members of the task force, I believe, had a chance to make their comments. The discussion today on the report is essentially an MLA's discussion of the report to give advice to our government as to what we should do with respect to all of the recommendations. The witnesses are available in the event that there are questions of them. This is the way I think we should proceed through the report. They are not numbered but there are major recommendations dealing with different aspects of the language matter and these, I think, should be dealt with in turn and the report proceeded with in this fashion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Members will recall that Members of the committee had an opportunity to give opening comments of their own last March. Is the committee agreed that the Chair invite any other general comments initially and then we would proceed perhaps by section of this report, skipping over the executive summary but starting with part one, the introduction, and then taking each part in turn and inviting comments on the specifics of each part and any motions that might emanate from that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Then I would ask for any further general comments that Members have at this time before we proceed to part one, introduction. Any general comments? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Point of order, Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, my point of order is that I would like to ask the Government Leader -- for myself, I am in agreement with the report and I am more interested in knowing when the government would begin to implement this report. I do not feel that a long, drawn-out discussion this afternoon on every section of this report would be really beneficial at this stage. I would like to know from the Government Leader when the government plans to begin to implement some of the recommendations of this report?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. T'Seleie, the Chair is of the view that that is not a point of order but is in the nature of a question but it is certainly permissible. Mr. Sibbeston, would you care to respond to Mr. T'Seleie's comment?

#### Views Of MLAs Sought On Report Of Task Force On Aboriginal Languages

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the government will be in a much better position to respond and take action on the various recommendations of the task force after we hear from the MLAs. I appreciate the views of the Member in this case. He says he agrees with the report and wants us to get on with it and if this is the consensus of all the Members then we will take that as good advice and instruction to begin acting upon the recommendations. As I said, we, as a government, as a cabinet, have not dealt with the report in whole. We do not have a government position on the recommendations of the report. We were, frankly, waiting for the views of the Members of this House to instruct us and provide direction to us and, as I said, we look forward to hearing your views. Once this is done then you can expect us to be acting on these recommendations and we will take your advice in this matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. General comments. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi cho. I felt that the task force did a very good job with such limited time that was given to them. I know that this report has been sent to all the community groups and organizations and has been out for a few months. I am sure some of the communities have had a chance to deal with it and my interest is that we should be able to pass this immediately and implement the recommendations that are put in front of us. It has been two years since we started working on it and we finally have the recommendations in front of us. I think we should be able to deal with it right away so that we can implement it. If we prolong it any longer it will just take that much longer to get some of these implemented. Mahsi cho.

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

#### Aboriginal Peoples Responsible For Protecting Own Languages

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just address some of the issues that were identified in this particular report. I know, Mr. Chairman, twice I asked for the transcripts of the community hearings that occurred and twice I have not received any response. However, in the report itself, they have identified a lot of areas that were expressed by the communities at large and primarily a lot of the blame that was given concerning the eroding of the aboriginal languages, through the education system and through the missionaries. However, the task force does recognize that and believes that aboriginal peoples hold a special responsibility themselves for their own

languages, for protecting their languages. They also encourage people to carry on their own aboriginal language in their daily lives, through their own political organizations within the communities and also within the regions. The end result of all those comments from the community is that we come up with recommendations that would provide services within government, within the courts, within this Legislature and within laws. Also it would provide translation services for the health and social services programs that require translation.

However, it does not say too much about the type of responsibility that is encouraged here, where the moneys are going to be coming from in order to implement the recommendations at the community level. It does indicate that translation services would be given to regional councils if they request it. In other words they are encouraging the regional councils. This is nothing new. They have been doing that since they started and as for band councils, it is the same thing. This has been going on a long time. To encourage it is nothing new but as far as getting aboriginal organizations to take on some of those responsibilities, it does not address that in here. Regional organizations taking on some of that responsibility is not addressed in here.

I know that we have created a central body here and, also, you have created positions -- like the Fort Smith Region got five positions that work out of Fort Smith. Although I do not have the transcripts I have to ask, have the communities actually set that? The development of the languages is going to be developed so that the best people or the experts are the government people and you create it from there and get the aboriginal people to deal with it once it has been developed. I always thought that as far as the experts go, it is at the community and regional level and that is where it should start from. The direction that has been taken with regard to this report is that we develop a central ministry and from there we work out the details and disperse it to the regions or to the communities and that is the way that I see it. There is a 10 year implementation of the programs but it is with the bureaucracy. I would like to ask the Minister where the regional councils, the aboriginal organizations and the communities that are directly affected by aboriginal language programs come in?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Sibbeston, would you like to respond?

#### Role Of Regional Councils And Aboriginal Organizations Versus Government In Language Development

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will just tell the Member that on the question of the location of interpreters -- region and communities versus headquarters -- when all of the staffing is completed in the present NWT language bureau there will be 55 positions; 27 of these are regionally located interpreters and headquarters will have 16. Then there are 12 headquarters positions that are administrative. The Member also asked, what is the role of the regional councils and aboriginal organizations? The present administration of native language interpretation and such services to the people of the North is done by our government solely through hiring people in headquarters and in the various regions and that is the process that we have in place to provide language services to the people. We have not involved the regional councils and the aboriginal organizations. To date, the aboriginal organizations have had their own interpreters. I understand that there has been cutting of funds for these organizations and there has been some discussion with our government as to some co-operative moves to share interpreters and so forth, but I believe thus far there has not been an agreement reached on that issue.

I think, for the time being, our government considers that the matter of native languages is a territorial government responsibility. We are asked as a government to respond and take action on language matters and we are taking steps. Unfortunately, in our steps we have not made any arrangements with other bodies but we do not foreclose the possibility. We do not rule out the possibility of such in the future but for the time being we considered it our responsibility and we will be taking the necessary actions.

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

#### Views Expressed In Report Questioned

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to perhaps ask the task force whether regional councils and aboriginal organizations were approached individually or collectively, because I do have a concern and certainly, although the task force does say that aboriginal language should be the sole responsibility of the aboriginal people, this is not the end result of what this final report is



saying. In fact, Mr. Sibbeston already indicated that it is the responsibility of this government to implement aboriginal languages, nobody else. I do not know whether in the transcripts the communities are saying that -- just vice versa, that being the experts, they should be taking on that responsibility, not the government.

I would like to ask the task force members what was said at the communities that justified the end result of this report? I would like to find out because the transcripts are something I have not seen. I have requested them but I have not seen them. I could probably safely say that this is not what the communities are saying. I would like to get some reaction on that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Would one of the members of the task force care to respond? Ms Biscaye.

MS ELIZABETH BISCAYE: The first time we started, Fibbie went to speak to the people on the Deh Cho council. We also went to the Mackenzie Delta council. A lot of people at that time said, in the different places we travelled, we should be in charge of our aboriginal language. The way it is now it is only non-natives who are looking after our languages. They do not understand our languages and therefore should not be in charge of them. It seems like they are always in charge of things like that. Whenever it has to do with money we have to ask Yellowknife. It is only non-native people who are in charge of this money, so we feel it is up to us and we want to say what it is we want and the way we want the job done. We feel it is our right. So this is what we want. We told the people on the task force what we want and this is what we have put in.

Also at the different leadership meetings, such as in Inuvik, we sat with people there. They also said it was up to the native people. Mr. Gargan asked about the transcripts of the meetings. After we finished on the task force, we went back to our jobs that we had been seconded from, so now he has to ask whoever is doing the work on this now. We do not know who is looking after this but when we finished our work we went back to the jobs we held prior to the secondment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Ms Biscaye. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I was also at the leadership meeting that was held in Inuvik. In both cases, as a matter of fact in the Deh Cho Regional Council when they met, they passed a motion that they would come up with a regional position. Unfortunately, the Executive did not support the allocation of a certain amount of money to go to the regional council to come up with a regional position. The leadership meeting that occurred in Inuvik focussed not on creating a bureaucracy in Yellowknife but actually in ensuring that, in order for the aboriginal language to survive, it has to be delivered by the communities at the local level. It has to be implemented in schools and also used extensively in leadership or general assemblies. I never once heard anybody at either meeting say that they thought the best place for such a development to occur is in Yellowknife. I guess I am having very much difficulty because they did go to leadership and regional meetings but the indication there, was not the same as the final result of this task force report. That is my difficulty, Mr. Chairman, because if I am to justify this final report as is, there must be some transcripts to justify that this is actually what has been said.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I would ask the Member, if he feels strongly with respect to where the Dene languages should be administered or should be worked on from, advise us. What are your views as to where (Translation) the Dene language should be worked out of. In which place, which community do you feel that the work should be taking place? If you do not like the work being done here in Yellowknife, is there any particular place or community that you feel that they should go to? Maybe you can tell us so we can do that. That is what I am saying. What we are talking about here is what you think about the work. You are the ones that are supposed to tell us how we are going to do it and which way we are going to do it. You are the ones that are supposed to tell us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Gargan, do you want to tell him?

MR. GARGAN: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I do not know. For the regional councils, I probably could safely say what their views are, but if it is appropriate at this time I would like to entertain a motion that addresses exactly what Mr. Sibbeston is alluding to.

Motion To Assess Views Of All Organizations Before Allocating Funds, Tabled Document 42-86(1)

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend to the Executive Council that it take the necessary steps to assess the views of all regional and territorial organizations regarding the recommendations of the task force on aboriginal languages before making any final decision on the allocation of funding for the enhancement and protection of aboriginal languages.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Gargan, could we have a copy of your motion? Mr. Gargan, your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, in my own constituency I have three communities. With regard to the Deh Cho Regional Council, there are nine communities that have expressed a regional view on aboriginal languages, not the final report that came out of the task force but actually to express the regional view. As well, the Dene Nation has sent letters to a lot of the Members regarding their concerns. However, in order to address all people affected I believe that we have to consult those people and get their views. The end result would be that we would probably have not only eight recommendations but maybe about 15 that would take into consideration the aboriginal organizations, the regional organizations and the communities. That is basically because, although in Yellowknife they do provide translation services at the professional level, in the communities where the population comprises 80 per cent of aboriginal people, there is very little or no translation service and that is where the emphasis should be put.

However, it does not say that in the final analysis of this report. Perhaps it is time that we ask the people, aboriginal organizations, what they view as the implementation of aboriginal languages. The regional councils have also been putting some of those regional issues for translation services at the regional level and that has not properly been addressed. I would like to think that this is half of the final report that is coming up and the other half still has to be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The committee is going to take a short five or 10 minute break and get your motion copied, translated and circulated.

---SHORT RECESS

Order. We have Mr. Gargan's motion now, typed, translated and circulated, coming around this side shortly. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, with all respect to the honourable Member, I really cannot understand why this motion should have to be made. I was present at the Baffin Regional Council in Pangnirtung when Inuit members of the task force on aboriginal languages travelled at great expense and some difficulty to attend the Baffin Regional Council and brief the regional council on their work and receive input. I believe that they have already met with the regional councils. Whether they have met with every regional and tribal council or not, I think we appointed the task force because they were experts on aboriginal languages and asked them to consult extensively in all parts of the Northwest Territories to hear the views of people. I think that when we first received the report we complimented them on the excellent work they had done and I, for one, am very anxious to get on with dealing with the recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, we need to start getting this important work under way. We are already almost halfway through the fiscal year and I do not want to wait three or six months, or whatever will be required, to consult all the regional and territorial organizations, whatever territorial organizations means, before we start getting something off the ground. I think these people have done an excellent job, I think they have widely consulted and with all respect, let's not consult any further. Let's get on with the job of doing something instead of talking about doing something. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to extend the views of Mr. Patterson. I feel that the task force on aboriginal languages has done the job that is contemplated in this motion. I could see that a process could be set up to set priorities but I feel that all we are doing in this motion is beginning another phase of consultation and that has been done already. I feel that I cannot support the motion because it is regurgitating the same thing that has been going on all

these years, study after study. I feel that people have had their input, the task force has done a very good job and there should be some consultation on setting priorities but I do not believe that there should be another study. Thank you.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Baffin Regional Council met in Pangnirtung in May there was a resolution made to defer or postpone the discussion or any consultation with respect to the aboriginal languages to the fall but I spoke with the mayors of Pond Inlet, Hall Beach, Igloodik and also with the BRC speaker, Mark Evaluarjuk. They understood that if we were to defer any discussion or any implementation of these recommendations, it would still be hard for any person, Inuk, Dene or any other aboriginal person, if I were to ask them if they would want to use their own language while they are in an office or in any work place. I am sure that they would respond similarly. I am sure that they would encourage the use of aboriginal languages in the work place or any place. I think we all understand this as MLAs. Because of that the motion in my view is to go back. That is, to start all over again to review the aboriginal languages. The mover of the motion indicated that none of the material they get is translated into their Dene languages. Obviously there is none because I do not think that there has been any review or study on their language. When you look at the recommendations, there will be a Minister and a deputy minister and obviously for the next 10 years these recommendations will have to be implemented. We know that if we are to approve the recommendations as they are now, the Ministers in the future will find out how the Inuktitut language should be standardized and also how the Dene languages should be standardized. I expect that there will be a standardization of the Dene language in the future. For this reason I would not support this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): To the motion. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a little bit confused with the motion. I will not support the motion. I am used to making things happen and that is not the intention of that motion. If a position was not presented by the Member and he had the chance to do it, he did not take it upon himself, we cannot wait forever. Maybe the Member forgets that he is elected and in the Legislative Assembly and not in a native organization. We can be funding for the same thing over and over. It takes too long and this is what has been happening in the past. We finally got this task force together and I think we should do everything we can to deal with it immediately and not prolong it any longer.

(Translation) We native people here, now is our chance. We have a chance to be working with our languages now. Now is a good time and we should go ahead and start working on our languages as soon as possible. The Inuit people have worked hard and they have travelled a long way from their home to be here and to work on this language task force. We have to take all these different things into consideration and we have to work to the best of our ability. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Is there any further debate on the motion? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, perhaps some of the Members should tell the French people that there is also a delay in their language programs for the next three years. However, the implementation of this program that the task force has come up with -- I recognize that they are experts now in this area, whether they are Inuit or Dene. I believe the report has dealt with grass-root issues and they have dealt with emergency situations, they have dealt with the bureaucracy that will not have a translation program. In other words the end result of this report is that we have developed another department that has to deal with grass-root issues at the community level. Now, how they are going to be addressing this issue, I fail to recognize.

In the communities people have been coming to me as an MLA and I have also heard Members here address time and time again my concerns because there is a lack of translation services at the community level. What we are doing now is that we are implementing a program in Yellowknife and hope that it will ripple down to the communities. In the meantime, the people we are representing are being denied a service that really is crucial to their well-being. We are denying them translation services in cases of emergencies.

If translation is going to be required and if it is going to be a professional occupation for some people, then those professional people, if they come from here, are required to go to different regional councils, assemblies, to translate for people who are directly affected. So I fail to see

how we are doing a service to our own constituents. This is what I just do not understand. If this motion is defeated I would really question, who are we representing here? We all keep referring to consensus government but when it comes to issues that may be addressed by government programs, we tend to miss the boat on who we are representing.

I like to think the Members, especially the non-native Members, know perhaps more about the issues at the grass-root levels than maybe some of the aboriginal Members. I do not know. But certainly I could address the issue on and on. Perhaps not supporting it is something that people have to live with. I would also like to say that I am still interested in getting the transcripts that resulted in the conclusions of this report. I have not received it to date. This would be my third time and I hope that I would get it.

I encourage the Members to consider my motion and seriously think about it before they vote on this very crucial matter that deals with issues that directly affect our own constituencies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Question being called. Mr. Sibbeston. Just because you are Leader, sir, we will let you have another crack at it.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I will be fair and I will not interfere.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, it is recognized that this is a free-for-all in the sense that any Member can speak. So I do not speak as Government Leader but as my sole little self, as MLA for Nahendeh or Denendeh. I want to just respond in part to Sam Gargan. I think what he is saying is that the administration of the language and cultural matters ought to be somewhere in the cradle of the Dene language and culture, which is close to Fort Simpson. That is where all Dene civilization grew out of and expanded to other parts of the North, like the Sahtu and down the river too.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible comments)

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I think my point is, if the Member is saying that the matter of language and culture ought to be decentralized further, that we would take that as good advice. I indicated that there has been some decentralization to the regional centres and if the Member wants us to decentralize things further or even to move the whole administration of languages to somewhere other than Yellowknife, then let us deal with that issue.

Years ago I had suggested to CBC that for the native languages they should have a production centre somewhere down the cradle, down the valley somewhere, because it is always difficult to get good Slavey-speaking people and others out of Yellowknife. But the culture and language is really alive and well in other parts of the North and that is where the action should be with respect to these matters. So if that is what the Member is getting at, then tell us and we will consider that. That is certainly my view, for what it is worth.

Motion To Assess Views Of All Organizations Before Allocating Funds, Tabled Document 42-86(1),  
Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Question being called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed, if any? Abstentions? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

I will remind Members that we are still on general comments and then we are going to turn to the parts of the report and hopefully deal with some of the recommendations in turn. Next on general comments I have Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to speak for too long regarding the recommendations because I have not seen any problems with this and I like the way it is going. I would like our language to be recognized. It has never been officially recognized as a language before. After this I wish that our language will be recognized. I will be very happy to see the recommendations proceed.

As well the task force visited every place they possibly could but not all of the places. I was pleased with the task force, they went to larger communities as well as small communities. I know the meaning of the recommendations and I know that they approached every community that may have an interest in the recommendations. I will support the recommendations of the task force whole-heartedly.

When the Baffin Regional Council had a meeting in Pangnirtung they wanted to postpone the discussion of this task force's recommendations but my constituents supported the task force recommendations so I will not support the recommendation by the BRC to have it postponed. I will be representing my constituency instead. We all know if we try and keep postponing events that should be happening at this time, it gets to be more of a problem, it creates more problems. I was going to make a short statement. I want to keep it going the way it has been progressing so far. That is all I would like to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Ms Cournoyea.

Allocation Of Funding To Non-Government Programs

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I realize that although people are always wanting more time for discussion, while we are taking that time a lot of the needs of the communities and regions and this government are not being met and in the interim there are certain decisions that have already been made. I would like some clarification in looking at this report of how much of this money has, in fact, already been committed and to what programs. In those decisions that have had to be made, was there a consideration of what portion would be spent inside the government, to be used in the government system and if, in making those determinations, some of which have already been made, was there a thought of a percentage that would be spent to fund organizations outside government? Just basically, how much of the funding has already been committed in programs to support activities both inside and outside government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Sibbeston. Do you care to respond?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I have the spending plan for this fiscal year. It involves \$3.1 million and also I have the proposed expenditure for the \$16 million dollars over the next three years. Next year is just \$3.5 million. We have had to submit plans to the Secretary of State in order to get this money and all of the money, this year \$3.1 million, has been spoken for. It has been allocated to various programs, ranging from Education to Health to Justice to Culture and Communications.

With respect to the other organizations, there is a little flexibility for this year and certainly next year there is some flexibility to provide funding to other than our own government programs. I do not know if this will satisfy the Member but I can provide more detail if she wishes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Ms Cournoyea, did you want to follow up further on that?

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I take it then that the Minister responsible cannot answer that question but maybe if he could concentrate on this area, regarding the part that is going to be spent for agencies outside the government, has there been a percentage allocated for those programs outside the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, there has been a small percentage given to other outside organizations but it is a very small percentage. I can recall an allocation being made to IBC for the children's program and some smaller amounts to other communications organizations in the North. It is a small percentage of the overall amount that has been made available to our government. I can get more specific details but I just do not know these off the top of my head.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I realize that there has been a small percentage made available to different organizations but the question really is, in making some determination and plan for the funding, how much has been identified for outside organizations other than government? Surely there are some plans to make sure that some of the communications systems, some of the various regional

aboriginal language development groups have some money to draw on and I know that there is very little money under Culture and Communications to deal with those issues. Although my understanding is that some money has been allocated for government affairs, is there a percentage allocated for this year that can go to these agencies who have worked very hard to support this government in bringing to the attention of the federal government that there must be funding for language programs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I must apologize that I am not involved in the day to day administration of funds for this. It is really a matter that Mr. Red Pedersen has been involved in but just from the information provided to me in his absence there is just a very small amount identified for organizations outside of government. I do not know the precise amount but there is only a very small percentage identified for agencies or organizations outside of government. I know the dollar figure but I do not know what that amount translated in terms of percentage is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Ms Cournoyea.

Policy On Allocation Of Funds

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I realize that the Department of Culture and Communications has recently been advised that they will be taking the responsibility, however the question I asked is on overall policy, in terms of the language transfer from the federal government to the territorial government and those negotiations and when the funding came through. Surely, there was a percentage that would have been identified for many of the programs that were seeking funding outside the government. My question is, in the overall policy, not departmental policy, but the overall government policy, is there a percentage that is looked at as supporting programs outside government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Well, the answer essentially is, no, Mr. Chairman. In the overall policy or the overall agreement that we have with the federal government, there is no provision in it to provide moneys to outside organizations. It is essentially an agreement between our government and the federal government. Within that agreement we have some flexibility as to how we spend the money. We do not have a policy to fund outside agencies but there is some flexibility. If we are pressed, if there are motions passed by the Assembly to provide a certain percentage, then I think we would consider it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Patterson, you had a comment on this topic here.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of criticisms or comments at least, by the Dene Nation for one, that these moneys should be made available to the Dene Nation to support their interpreter-translator corps which unfortunately had to be disbanded recently because of funding cutbacks, as I understand it, from the federal government. I certainly understand how important this capability is to an organization like the Dene Nation and to the COPE language commission or the Inuvialuit corporation or whatever other organization but I would just like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that as far as translation and interpreting services are concerned, the report of the task force on languages points to critical areas where public needs have to be served. One of them is this Legislative Assembly where there has been strong support for developing capability of simultaneous translation in six languages.

The other major area is health. I think the task force has pointed out quite clearly that this is an area critical to the health and safety of aboriginal people who need to know what illnesses they have, etc. The third area, which is an implication of a bill discussed in this House the other day, is in Justice. The providing of interpreting services to people who are appearing or have to deal with the law.

The only point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, is that whoever is given the responsibility for these services -- we may decide that the Dene Nation should provide translation services to the Legislative Assembly, for people who are dealing with the health system and for people who are dealing with the justice system in Dene communities -- but whoever has that responsibility, it is an enormous responsibility. It will require significant funds and I think it will very sorely

stretch the moneys that are now committed by the federal government in addition to moneys we already have in our own budget. I think we have to be very careful to say, "Well, we will divide it up amongst a number of organizations" because the responsibilities are major. I am not wedded to the idea of the government doing it but someone should have responsibilities for meeting these three key areas in Inuktitut and in the Dene languages.

#### Initiatives Oriented To Community-Based Projects

Maybe a little further to the Member's comment about percentage available outside the government, I would like to think that initiatives to date by the Ninth and 10th Assemblies have been heavily oriented toward community-based projects. As Mr. Sibbeston said, in order to obtain an overall agreement with the federal government to allow funds to start flowing this fiscal year, proposals had to be presented and I think the proposals that the Department of Education has recommended to the Secretary of State would see this basic approach continued that would take advantage of the resource people and the experience and the organizations that are available in communities and allow them to take initiatives to develop local projects which will enhance aboriginal languages. We do not need experts in offices in Yellowknife or in government offices to do this work. The knowledge and the resources and the milieu is available at the community level and I would underscore what Mr. Sibbeston said, that we hope to continue that tradition, subject to the advice given by this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. We are on general comments. Mr. Paniloo.

#### Further Input From Regional Organizations

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of Members have stated that they support the recommendations. I am not sure what my constituents would think about the recommendations because they have not really heard about the recommendations in the communities. For myself, I do not mind the recommendations. I have a question for the Government Leader. The BRC met in Pangnirtung on May 9th and made a motion there to defer the discussions on the report of the task force. What I wanted to find out is, if the bigger organizations from the Keewatin, Baffin and Kitikmeot find out problems, are they going to be able to recommend changes to the recommendations? The way I understand it is if there is a commissioner for aboriginal languages and extra staff to work on the aboriginal languages, my understanding was that they could recommend to the commissioner and to the staff to make changes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I think where the task force report is at now is that it has come to us as MLAs to consider, to think about it to see if we agree with the recommendations and, also, what do we do about the report. So, that is where we are at. I think we are pretty well finished with the communities and with the regional organizations as to input from them. I believe that the task force has done a good job in getting the views of the regional councils and some of the communities, recognizing that they had to do the work in a very short period of time.

It is now up to us as to what we do with the report. Whether we approve it or not approve it. As to the commissioner of aboriginal languages, this is one of the recommendations. It is up to you in part to tell us whether you agree with that approach of having commissioners of languages to be the watchdogs or watchwolves on behalf of the native peoples in regard to language. It is on these things that we would like to hear from you as to whether you support that or any other ideas that you have. The report is really now in our hands as MLAs and it is a challenge to us as to what we do with it. Once we hear your views then we will take the report as a government, as a cabinet, and review the report and what was said here and make decisions on it. We would have plans that we could present back to you during the fall session before definite, certain steps are taken.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not really talked to my constituents about this report. Most of the communities I represent are not aware of this report. Because they are not aware of this report, the Baffin Regional Council made a motion to defer the discussions on the report but I will not be in favour of that motion. I will not be in favour of the Baffin Regional Council motion, I will be in support of the recommendations that are in the report. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. We are on general comments. I have Mr. Erkloo next and then I would like to turn to the recommendations and take them in turn if Members are agreed. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to thank the task force group because they did a very nice job and put good recommendations together. We have heard that some of the discussion has been dealt with already. Some of the Members have said it was not shown to the public very much but some of the Members of the Legislative Assembly like myself, probably have not read the report from the first page to the last page. I have not completely read the report yet, personally. I will have a few questions to ask. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, if you could agree with me -- I know we probably will not go through this clause by clause but I would not mind if we could deal with this up to two weeks because it is a very important item to discuss. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Are Members agreed that we go into the recommendations in turn? Mr. Nerysoo, go ahead, sir.

#### Support For Existing Expertise Outside Of Government

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, just with regard to comments that were made by the Government Leader and the Minister responsible for Education. I would just like to indicate that one of the problems that we are having right now is with regard to the decisions of government prior to the acceptance of the report itself. I know that you want to proceed and want to implement and you have already gone in that particular direction of implementing some of the recommendations that have been made, but there are still some outstanding issues that have to be dealt with and I do hope that the decisions of the Executive Council with regard to the expenditures that have been made and also the decision for expenditures would not close the door to allowing for the possibility of the Dene Nation, for instance, approaching the Government of the Northwest Territories to find appropriate funds to continue with their interpreter-translator services that they have established. I think as much as we might say the government might have the particular expertise, the reality is that there is certain expertise that has already been developed and is now being utilized. We should not make a decision to close the door and shut down the possibility of that particular organization continuing with the services that they have established. My belief is that they have had an opportunity also to work with the government interpreters and are working in conjunction with government and therefore you have a good core of potential experts that you should take advantage of.

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, is that the process for dealing with applications and development of projects, I do not believe should be as long. I will give you an example of that, speaking from the Delta, in particular, Fort McPherson which has had in that community for a number of years a project. I know I have received support from both the present Government Leader and the Minister of Education to continue with that project but there is no process that is clear to the communities as to how and what type of presentations are to be made to access funds from the particular language agreement that you now have.

The other thing is that the government should develop a program that is long-term. While the decision of financing should be on a yearly basis, the proposal should be on the basis of a long-term program and project. We are all aware that short-term projects do not always answer and deal with the issues that are of importance to the community. I would hope that in reviewing again the manner in which proposals are accepted or rejected or submitted that it should be on a long-term basis, particularly since this particular agreement we are talking about, and I refer to the aboriginal languages agreement, is a five year agreement. I would hope that the projects would be seen in that light as opposed to just a project by project, year to year basis.

#### Loucheux Language Projects

One other particular concern I raised with the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications and which is obviously being dealt with through this particular arrangement is that of providing for a person year or the finances to assure the Loucheux-speaking community that there will be at least funds available to their project so that they will have the services they require at the times or for those occasions when it is needed. I believe that the issue of Inuvialuktun has been addressed and we would be looking at a language centre. I appreciate the response with regard to that but I still do think that it is important to recognize that each particular group of people have to have that particular service available to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. I have two requests for a coffee break. What is the pleasure of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Okay. After the break, I have Mr. Patterson for general comments and Mr. Gargan for further general comments. We will take a 10 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

We are on general comments on the task force report. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some comments I guess both as an MLA but also by virtue of my job as Minister of Education which has had quite a lot to do with aboriginal languages in the schools. I am anxious to get advice from the Members but I would like to give some comments from my particular viewpoint as well.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I support the key principles in the report. As far as recognition of aboriginal language is concerned, I certainly support the establishment of aboriginal languages as official languages. However, the term used in the report which I think is "suitable official status" should be more clearly defined. I would like to say from my point of view, I would not like to see these precious moneys wasted -- I will say that -- wasted, in such things as translating laws that people do not use and most people do not usually like to read in English let alone in other languages. I think we have to be very selective about what services we provide in connection with official language status. I think we have to be careful that they are relevant, real, vital matters to the people of the NWT. I am not sure that such things as printing the NWT Gazette in six languages, printing regulations, printing laws are going to be as important as other critical public services that are more meaningful to people.

I agree that people have the right to receive and the government has the responsibility to provide services in aboriginal languages. The report also strongly advocates students' rights to bilingual education. I support this as well but I think it has to be qualified by the need to have community support as well.

#### Proposed Ministry May Be Divisive

Mr. Chairman, I must say quite frankly that I do not really understand or support what I see to be the recommendation for a separate ministry of aboriginal languages. I see this as divisive and not ultimately supportive of aboriginal language maintenance and enhancement. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure how the sharing of responsibilities for language education and other education by two ministries as is proposed is conducive to the ultimate goal of seeing instruction of aboriginal languages and instruction in the school being an integral part of each native child's education.

Mr. Chairman, the need for ownership by aboriginal people of policy development, training programs, curriculum development and research is recognized. This would be supported by the establishment of a separate ministry and I understand that the task force wants to give the aboriginal languages a high profile by saying, "Okay, we will create a super ministry." I guess it would build on the present Ministry of Culture and Communications. However, with all respect and I guess this is from the point of view of a Minister in the government, I am not sure how responsibility for dividing responsibility for policy, planning and regulation between two departments as is proposed, Aboriginal Languages and Cultures, and Education, is going to work. I think if there are different priorities between the two Ministers who are jointly sharing these responsibilities there may be conflicting or confusing goals when we are attempting to establish a more culturally sensitive and appropriate education system. I guess the bottom line is that the recommendation about sharing functions between two ministries creates one simple problem and that is I cannot see who is accountable. Who would be responsible? If curriculum development is not proceeding apace in schools, who is responsible? Is it the Ministry of Aboriginal Languages and Cultures which is going to be charged now as proposed with curriculum development in the native language area or is it the Minister of Education? I can see, maybe I am being too cautious, but I can see each Minister, where things are not to the public's liking, being able to blame the other.

### Language And Culture Are Integral To Education

I think language and culture must be integral to all aspects of school organization and program delivery. I am concerned that if we take the aboriginal language development responsibilities in education out of the Department of Education and put it in this new super ministry there is going to be even more of a tendency to view language and culture as an add-on to the education system. I think already we have enough of a problem with, for example, the term "cultural inclusion" which I consider a very invidious term because it really implies something that is added on afterwards. I think our goal should be to integrate native languages and cultural activities into the school system, not take them out and split them off and give them to another ministry. Schools are already responsible to local education authorities, regional and divisional boards and the Ministry of Education. I think it would add to the problems of schools in responding to public directions if we add a third set of priorities, directions and programs from this other ministry.

### Present Initiatives Should Be Complemented

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to point out that presently the Department of Education has initiatives under way which address concerns expressed in the report: field-based teacher training, community-level development of language and culture curriculums through the indigenous language development fund and whatever might succeed it. This has worked quite well. We have used local language and cultural experts under the direction of qualified bilingual educators. There are plans to establish centres for teaching and learning which I discussed in presenting the Education budget to accelerate the development of language and cultural programs, to increase training opportunities for bilingual educators and to be centres for curriculum development. I think these initiatives if they can be complemented by the new resources that may be available from the federal government, will address concerns expressed in the report. I guess I am saying maybe we should build on what we have already got rather than starting completely afresh and creating a new ministry that would have these same responsibilities.

I also think, Mr. Chairman, that we have to recognize that for many students in order for them to have a sound basis for language development; we have to assess their abilities in aboriginal languages whether it is their first language or as in some communities their second language alongside their abilities in English. I think if we split the language development, English to the Education Department and native languages to this other ministry, we are failing to recognize that one child has two languages. I am not sure that it is in the child's best interests to split these functions off. My advisers say that it is not educationally sound to separate development of aboriginal languages and English. It is also essential that the development of both language programs be integrated with the remainder of the curriculum. As we teach children in native languages we should be simultaneously providing them with support in English as a second language. Mr. Chairman, I have a few more comments but I realize that I may be short of time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Yes, Mr. Patterson, your 10 minutes is up. Does the committee agree that Mr. Patterson can continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Continue, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to conclude this point about the separate ministry proposed. In my view, much of the work recommended in the report could be accomplished within the present ministry. The present mandates, I think, suggest a logical division of responsibilities. Responsibilities recommended in the report such as promotion of cultural programs for the population in general, development of technical terminology, standardization of orthography, should properly be the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

### Research Required

The Department of Education also needs to undertake research as recommended in the report. I think both departments should be involved in undertaking research in areas relating to their present responsibilities. For example, the Department of Education must study the area of first and second language acquisition, language development and learning styles. Culture and Communications, as I see it, should involve itself in research areas such as orthography and terminology, standardization, language status, place names, dictionary and grammar work.

The problems described in the report related to the issues in language education and the concerns expressed about the loss of aboriginal languages are ample indicators of the need for clear definition of policies in support of bilingual education and language education rights, both for native and non-native residents. The goals in the report for a bilingual education system, I support. I think the report is ambitious about the extent to which bilingual programs can be implemented at the secondary levels but it is very worth while to aim high in order to hit the mark. I support the need to clearly define language education rights for native and non-native residents and it may, therefore, be advisable to revise the Education Act accordingly.

Many of the other recommendations in the report on public awareness, students' learning style, the need for more appropriate curriculum materials, teacher training, recognition for teachers and language instructors are very timely and very appropriate. I also support the recommendations of the task force with respect to the encouragement of use of aboriginal languages as working languages both within and outside the government. I consider these essential to the Department of Education if aboriginal languages are to again take their place both as an expression of culture and as a respected means of regular communication.

One final comment that I made in my opening remarks when the report was first tabled. Mr. Chairman, I am not convinced that it is true that an aboriginal Minister is critical to the development of aboriginal languages.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I think Mr. Ballantyne is doing a good job in Justice, perhaps in part because he is not a lawyer and I have not been inhibited in being the Minister of Education although I am not a teacher. While I respect the desire of the task force to...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: And you do not speak the language.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...give emphasis to make sure this area gets a priority, if we were to implement the recommendations right away, we would have to take away Mr. Pedersen's responsibility and give it to either Mr. Sibbeston or Mr. Curley.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Pudluk.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Minister of Aboriginal Languages and Cultures.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am not defending Mr. Pedersen but I think he comes from a constituency where the majority of people speak aboriginal languages and it may be that he is as sensitive or more sensitive because he may not be an aboriginal person, to promoting these rights. Does the Status of Women Minister need to be a woman? It is the same issue. I am not convinced and I would hope that if we are going to accept this recommendation that we would perhaps not feel it necessary to strip Mr. Pedersen of his present portfolio when he has just probably got a handle on the issue. I doubt if that is the task force's intention and I just think that one ought to be considered carefully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. I have under general comments, Mr. Gargan. However, Mr. Ballantyne, you have general comments. Mr. Ballantyne has not spoken yet, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: (Speaks in French) (No translation)

Mr. Chairman, just as a point of procedure. When you said you were going to go through the recommendations, were you going to go through them as per pages 52 and 53 which breaks them down, courts, program targets, Legislature, etc.? Because I have a number of comments on the courts. Would you rather I did that now? Also, I am going to seek a little advice from the task force on how to proceed with courts. Should I do that under general comments or is there a more appropriate time to deal with that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): It was the plan of the committee to receive any more general comments in addition to the general comments that were received in March and then to turn to the specific recommendations in turn, not following the table on page 52 but the content of the recommendations earlier in the document report. So, is the committee agreed that we would receive any further general comments at this time, conclude general comments and then turn to the recommendations in turn? Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Agreed. Mr. Gargan, general comments.

Inadequate Funding For Independent Organizations

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we proceed with the recommendations that came out of the task force on aboriginal languages I just want, first of all to register a concern. I believe the Minister, when replying to Nellie Cournoyea, indicated that there is very little money actually being allocated for the implementation of the report of the aboriginal languages task force. A very small percentage is actually going outside the department or outside the government.

Also, Mr. Patterson has also indicated that if we were to consider other groups outside the government, presumably regional organizations, we would limit the amount of money that was designated for the development of the aboriginal languages and so, in fact, there is a high restriction on independent organizations being able to tie into this particular money. That is one concern. So, in fact, if there are perhaps 12 regional organizations that do apply it would be impossible to meet the funding or support funding for these organizations. That makes it even more difficult, Mr. Chairman, to deal with the communities where perhaps translation is a crucial issue and so while we are supporting this recommendation to implement the task force report, we have stagnated the communities in translation services which are crucial. I certainly agree that the development of languages should occur, whether it should be in Yellowknife is questionable. So we have created something that, if and when these recommendations are supported by the Legislature, pretty well sets a precedent, a mandate and a direction for this government to go. The direction is clearly spelled out. It also gives very little to and in fact makes it impossible for other organizations to tap into that money that is going to be exhausted in five years.

Further to that, I do not really know. There is a 10 year program here but perhaps we will be able to meet half of our task with regard to this particular recommendation and you cannot go beyond 10 years unless this government starts now to actually negotiate for more moneys to have this on an ongoing basis. Regarding whether the native organizations or regional organizations are going to support further enhancement of aboriginal languages based on what has been recommended here, I do not even know if the aboriginal organizations are going to be supporting this government in enhancing what is here.

Initiatives Needed At Community Level

Certainly, the direction that is going to be given concerning these recommendations is going to be for the implementation of languages in a central location and really we do not address the people that do require those services now. For example, in the courts, it would mean that a Slavey translator in my constituency travelling with the courts would be an asset. Certainly, addressing their own issues with the RCMP or with a court worker is something that is going to be an obstacle. Addressing issues with the teachers or with the politicians or with the nurses also would be an obstacle. We have pretty well eliminated that initiative from occurring. It is like Mr. Patterson and Mr. Sibbeston said, there is only a limited amount of money and we have to spend it the best way we know how. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know in my area that when the public hearing took place an announcement came on and everybody was aware of the public meeting. I would like a response from one of the members of the task force regarding the kind of response they got from regional councils. I know for a fact that they were at all these meetings and I would like to hear from Mrs. Edna Elias, if she would indicate the kind of response they got from the regional councils. What kind of response did they get?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Ms Elias.

MS EDNA ELIAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation) When we met with the regional councils, we met with the regional council in Pangnirtung and we also met with the Kitikmeot Regional Council and other communities. We indicated what amount of money we had and what the purpose of the task force was. The mayors and the regional councils all encouraged and supported the task force in their obligation. They personally have said, too, that when they return to their communities they will discuss this with the people in their communities. The speakers of the regional councils

indicated as well, that the mayors and the representatives of the hamlet councils would speak to the members of their communities. They have also personally said to us that they would strongly support any further initiatives that the task force takes on because they strongly feel that the aboriginal languages should not be forgotten by the future generations.

The Kitikmeot and Baffin Regional Councils strongly supported the task force and when we went into the communities, the mayors often met with us. They would express their opinions. Does that answer your question, Eliza?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Ms Elias. Ms Tatti.

#### Thrust Of Report Based On Control

MS FIBBIE TATTI: One of the clear messages that we got, not only from the regional councils but from the communities, the native organizations, the elders and the youth is that history has indicated to them that the government has not done enough in terms of native languages and culture. The basis for the report is control. When we talked to the communities, they wanted control. When we talked to native organizations, they wanted control. When we went to the leadership meeting, they wanted control. The elders and the youth and the adults all wanted control. The main thrust of this report is based on control. As Dave Courchene indicated a month ago on the radio, there is no regional control if you do not have headquarters control. If you do not have any control at headquarters, you are not part of the decision-making process, you are not a part of prioritizing what funding is going to be available at what time.

All those kinds of discussion took place when we had our hearings and the whole idea of control is throughout this whole report. I agree whole-heartedly with Sam's response in saying that there has to be control and we took very seriously what a person like Dave Courchene said, that 10 years ago when they started to work at the regional level, they thought that it was the most important way to gain control. After 10 years, they are finding out that you never really have control if you do not have it at the headquarters level. That is what this report is trying to deal with.

The thrust of Nellie Cournoyea's questions also comes down to control. That is the kind of direction that we received at all these levels during the community hearings.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Ms Tatti. Are Members agreed that we are concluded with general comments on the task force report? Mr. MacQuarrie, your hand is up. Does that mean you agree? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. No, I would like to make a few general comments as well, with your permission, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

AN HON. MEMBER: Gaelic?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Gaelic, yes. No, unfortunately the English stole my language. I am unable to speak it.

#### Official Status For Aboriginal Languages

I will not make comments at any length at all. Generally, I approve the thrust of the report and there seem to me to be two main areas. The one is with respect to establishing official status for aboriginal languages. The approach that has been taken by the task force is one that I approve of. I said that when the report was first brought to the House and I say it again. The idea of establishing linguistic regions and focussing on services to aboriginal people is a very good one as far as I am concerned.

#### Ministry Of Aboriginal Languages And Cultures

The second major thrust is in the area of the ministry and the report is about control as Fbbie Tatti just said. I heard the concerns expressed by the Member for Iqaluit and I recognize that there is much to think about in what he said. Nevertheless, I do hope that our government in its response will seriously look at the establishment of a ministry. In the WCF we have been trying, as a part of constitution building, to see whether there are areas which are of principal concern to aboriginal people and not to others. If there are such areas, it seems to make eminent sense that those areas ought to be under the control of aboriginal people to the extent that is

possible. It seems to me, as an individual, that matters of aboriginal language and aboriginal culture certainly fit that kind of definition, that those are areas which are of principal concern to aboriginal people and as much as possible should be under the control of aboriginal people.

With respect to establishing a separate ministry, I recognize that it could be complex. I particularly see that it could be complex in the area of education but those problems have already been pointed out by the Member for Iqaluit, who is the present Minister of Education. I hope, though, that in identifying problems a premature statement that the problems make it impossible will not result in our government dismissing that idea prematurely. It seems to me that it may very well be possible to identify certain aspects of what they are talking about -- for instance, standards with respect to interpretation services, the development of aboriginal languages and various aboriginal cultural activities that clearly could fit under a ministry like this, without detriment to other peoples.

Some of the recommendations that talk about curriculum building and so on in education, do, I admit, become very much more complex but I would hope that this possibility would be looked at. It seems to me that if it were, you could have an aboriginal Minister of Aboriginal Languages and Cultures who was named by aboriginal Members of the Assembly. I feel, though, that it need not necessarily be an aboriginal Minister. In other words, because of the method that we presently have of naming Ministers, it is entirely possible that we could continue with that method but once the Ministers are named, aboriginal Members could say, "Of those Ministers, this is the one that we would like to be in charge of this area." It may very well be an aboriginal person but it may, on the other hand, not be if they feel confident that Minister could deal with these matters. It is clear, of course, that Minister will be one of the Ministers in the cabinet and as such will be participating in cabinet decisions like other Ministers and will have similar limits imposed upon him like other Ministers. He will not have an unlimited budget, and so on, and that is all understood. But to me it does seem that if you had a ministry established in that way, with a Minister responsible when the budget was determined, it should be possible to let that Minister and aboriginal MLAs and, if they wish, elders and so on, who would form part of these councils, determine what the priorities will be for the spending of that money. That is the kind of control I think that they are looking for and at least for me at this moment it seems that that ought to be possible. I would urge the government to look further at it.

I am aware that the president of the Dene Nation, for example, Steve Kakfwi, does feel that if such a ministry were established it would go a long way toward resolving issues that arise in this area. As an individual Member, I again say that I would like the government at least to seriously consider that and do what is possible in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Are Members agreed we are concluded with general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Before we turn to the individual recommendations, would members of the task force like an opportunity to respond to any of these general comments? Ms Biscaye.

#### Few Recommendations Followed Up

MS ELIZABETH BISCAYE: There is one point that I would like to mention that the honourable Minister Dennis Patterson made. The Department of Education never did ever follow up on a lot of the recommendations that were made to the department by different bodies. One of those bodies was the Athapascan steering committee which I was a member of. They made a lot of valid recommendations and a lot of those recommendations were never followed up.

Another thing is that two bilingual conferences were held, one in Inuvik and one in Fort Smith. There are a lot of good recommendations that came out but then again very few of those recommendations were followed up. Again, there is the education report. What guarantees do we have that they will do those things now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you. Anyone else on the task force have any comments? Ms Elias.

Copies Of Task Force Report Sent To Every Hamlet.

MS EDNA ELIAS: To address some of the issues that were raised by various Members; such as the Inuit MLAs, the communities and the people not having had time to review this report. In the last few days of our existence as task force members, we madly scrambled with our mailing list and sent off copies of this report to every hamlet, to every LEA, to every person and group that we met with. They should be there in your communities somewhere. They were mailed out to the hamlets so that it would then be the responsibility of each individual hamlet to make sure that they were being distributed around town and being used by the various people who wished to use them.

This may sound a little off track but I want to point out that I was and I still am a little frustrated and upset that my colleagues, Jose and Leena, were not brought here. I have not really had a valid reason as to why they were not brought here. We had received verbal commitment from the Government Leader himself that we would be brought here with ample time to conduct a workshop with the Inuit MLAs to brief them fully on what was contained in this report. Having been called last Friday, having come down on Monday and having made the verbal commitment to the Inuit MLAs that we would hold this workshop with them, I feel that I was really let down and I have let them down as well.

Some of the comments made by Mr. Gargan show that he must read this report, keeping in mind that it is the joint effort of both Inuit and Dene. I sense that he is looking at it as if it is just the work of the Dene group and it is not. I find it rather a little insulting, too, that he generalizes in that sense.

I would like to say as well that we members are here and if anybody wants an in-depth briefing, we are available. If you cannot read the report, we also have auditory tapes that you can listen to. That is all I would like to say, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Ms Elias. Ms Tatti.

MS FIBBIE TATTI: When we went out to the communities and told them that we were going to be talking about native languages and that we would try to find a way in which their wishes and their needs and their wants would be expressed to the Assembly, a lot of people spent a lot of time telling us what they felt was important to them. I want to use an analogy that one elder used with us, that if you want the very best for your child, you do not entrust that child to somebody else to take care of that person for you. Language is the same thing. Language and culture are the same thing. That responsibility ultimately lies with the Dene and the Inuit people and allowing somebody to have access is not control at all.

Communities Want To Make Decisions That Affect Them

What we heard from the communities is that they want to be able to make decisions that affect them directly. There were at least 150 to 250 recommendations. What we have done is to take the main ones and try to find a solution as to how they can be properly addressed. I strongly believe that the task force took itself very seriously with this work and I sincerely hope that this Assembly will take a look at it and deal with it the same way that the communities and all the people did that have put so much effort into making it something that can be discussed and implemented. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you. Ms Look.

MS SUSAN LOOK: I was going to address you in Loucheux but I do not know if the Loucheux interpreter is out there or not. I think I will do it in English. I would just like to thank those Members that supported us with our report. You keep mentioning there was a very short time with a lot of communities to go to and a lot of people to consult. We did the best we could with the time we were allowed. The report indicates all the concerns that were put before us. As Fobbie stated, there were some 200 recommendations. I do not think it would have been fair to give you a report full of 200 recommendations. The ones that were pointed out are the ones we thought were the most workable ones and the most concerned with all the problems. This is why we did not have 50 or 60 recommendations. We had eight so it could be easily worked with.

### Aboriginal Person In Charge Of Ministry

The other thing that I would like to discuss is the ministry. It seemed a little bit confusing to some Members why we need a new ministry. What we heard in the communities was, it was always the white people in charge of our language. How could they understand it? We thought if we had an aboriginal person who had empathy for the language and understood it, let him go down and then the communities cannot say, "Well, it was a white person that let us down." This is another reason why we really thought a ministry might work, with an aboriginal Minister who speaks the language. Maybe it could be a white person who speaks the language, as long as he understands it.

Also, we wanted the ministry so that -- we keep saying control. Okay, we want control over the budget so that the budget could be allocated to programs that hopefully will work. We cannot say it will work. We have not tried it. All we are asking is, give us a chance. If it fails, it fails. If it comes out right, good for the aboriginal Minister. That is all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you. Is the committee agreed that we now go to the recommendations in turn?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): On page 15, introduction. There are no specific recommendations in that portion.

### Establishment Of Ministry

In part two, there are two recommendations on the bottom of page 21 in the English version, calling for the establishment of the Ministry of Aboriginal Languages and Cultures and also the second one for standardization of the Dene languages. Do Members of the committee have any comments on those recommendations, specific comments, or on any of the material leading up to those two recommendations? Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Someone was mentioning earlier about a Minister of Aboriginal Languages and Cultures. I believe there would not be enough funding for the Minister of Aboriginal Languages and Cultures. When Dennis Patterson was making his comments earlier, if the aboriginal languages department were to try and come up with some curriculum for the school program, he was mentioning that some of the responsibility would overlap with the responsibility of the Minister of Education because the Minister of Aboriginal Languages and Cultures would have some of the same responsibilities. This is what Dennis Patterson was commenting.

Because of the comment that was made earlier, the appointed Ministers would have to negotiate the responsibilities and the budget and from there they would divide the responsibilities into two. If this is going to be the case, I would like to know, is there going to be a motion made regarding the establishment of a Minister for Aboriginal Languages and Cultures? If they are not going to come up with a Minister for aboriginal languages in the near future, would they look at the possibility of having a deputy minister who is a Dene or Inuit person?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Patterson, do you wish to respond to that?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should be very sensitive to my position. I offered some personal thoughts but I think it is more appropriate if the Assembly -- Members of the Assembly give advice here on what should be done on these recommendations. I would like to assure Mr. MacQuarrie I have an open mind. I wanted to get my initial reactions out but I would rather listen than start predicting what the government is going to do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might have to come back to my question but I will let it go right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you. Are there comments from other Members on this part of the report? Mr. Nerysoo.



MR. NERYSOO: I do not have a particular comment with regard to this section but I was wondering if I could get the approval of the Members of the House to introduce a motion at this particular time and delay or defer its approval until after the discussion on all the specific recommendations have been made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Is this a motion of a general nature dealing with the report as a whole, Mr. Nerysoo?

Motion That Assembly Accept Report And That Executive Council Respond At Fall Session, Tabled Document 42-86(1), Deferred

MR. NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if I could read it very quickly. The motion reads: I move that the Legislative Assembly accept the report of the task force on aboriginal languages; And further, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that they prepare a response to the recommendations taking into consideration comments of Members; And further, that the Executive Council prepare a long-term strategy and a plan of action to implement the recommendations of the task force on aboriginal languages; And further, that the Executive Council table this response in the Legislative Assembly during the fall session of 1986.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Nerysoo, your motion is in order. You wish to defer it, however, to later in this discussion?

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just to put it on record that the motion has been introduced.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. For the record, the motion has been moved and is deferred until later in the discussion on this report. Comments from Members on this part of the report? Are Members agreed that we could move to part three? I am sorry, Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, just on the business of setting up a ministry. This government recently and in the past has set up, if you like, departments or ministries, directorates or whatever term they want to be called. I do not think that that should present much of a problem with setting up a ministry. The government at the present time already spends money or has money dedicated to languages. There is also the federal government's money. It would seem to me that, with the recommendations being made to the government to set up a new department or ministry, why can't the government then get the money that is available for this in total and put it under the responsibility of that particular person who is going to look after this department or ministry?

Now, the manner in which the Minister is selected. If native people want somebody who is conversant in the language as the Minister and the task force is indicating that it should be the aboriginal MLAs who select that person, then I do not have any difficulty with that. I do not think that they are indicating that we should add another person to the Executive Council. I do not want to add any more to the Executive Council. We have enough problems with the eight that are there now. But, I do not have any difficulty with the government setting up another department that deals specifically with the funding that is available to this government, whether from the federal government or from our own votes, and have one of the present Ministers take on that responsibility. If the aboriginal Members of this Assembly determine, given that it has been suggested that it should be a person who has a facility in the native language, if they determine themselves that it should be one of the aboriginal Ministers presently on the Executive Council, that is good. If it is somebody else, they, the aboriginal MLAs, made the determination to do it. I do not have any difficulty with it at all. I think we should accept the recommendation, have the government do it, and get on.

#### Establishment Of Bilingual Regions

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Comments on parts one or two? Does the committee agree we move to part three? Part three, principles for a language policy. I note that there is a specific recommendation on page 25 in the English version calling for the establishment of bilingual regions and regional aboriginal languages. Do Members have specific comments with respect to this recommendation? If not, we could turn to page 27 in the English version. I am sorry, Mr. Erklou.

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you slow down? Because of the translation in Inuktitut, the pages are a little different. Also, on page 25 you said there is a recommendation. Perhaps if you could read it, I would appreciate it very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. I am sorry. We are on part three, principles for a language policy. There is a recommendation -- I am sorry, we are on part four, recognition of aboriginal languages. Page 25 in the English version, the task force recommends that the government should recognize bilingual regions both English/French and the regional aboriginal language in the Northwest Territories. Do Members have comments on that recommendation?

In the same part four, under number five, legal protection, the task force is recommending that all of the rights and duties which make up the official status of aboriginal languages be enacted through amendments to the Official Languages Act and not left to regulations or government policy. Do Members have any specific comments on that recommendation?

Next, in the same section, the task force makes a recommendation regarding the federal government. The task force recommends that before the NWT has its own constitution, the federal government take whatever steps are necessary, short of changing federal statutes, to give effect to the task force recommendations. Do Members have any specific comments on that recommendation?

Turning to the next section, part five, aboriginal language institutions, there is a recommendation by the task force for the creation of an office of the commissioners of aboriginal languages. This is on page 29 in the English version. There are a number of recommendations with respect to the office of the commissioners of aboriginal languages. Do Members have specific comments with respect to these recommendations? Mr. Ballantyne.

#### Aboriginal Languages In The Courts

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, I think we might have gone over aboriginal languages related to courts. Have we passed that? We went very quickly over that section. I did not even hear the chairman mention it. Mr. Chairman, could I have the permission of the committee to return to that section?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Go ahead, Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of comments then. I have a couple of questions to ask the task force and a little bit of advice if I could get it from the task force. If Mr. McCallum would leave the task force alone I could probably ask them questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): You were going to proceed, Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: As the members of the task force are aware, we have taken a small but I think significant step in implementing one of the recommendations of the task force with the amendments to the Jury Act, which when proclaimed will allow unilingual aboriginal people to sit on juries. I have a question for the task force. I intend to set up a committee to look at how we can best achieve that amendment. As the task force is aware there are a certain number of difficulties involved in developing that skilled interpreter corps which is another recommendation of the task force. It will probably be necessary to develop a dictionary of legal terms which could be translated into aboriginal languages. I wonder first of all, has the task force done any in-depth study of ways to achieve that? If they have not, do they have any suggestions from people who might have some expertise in this field? Our problem is that this has never been done in the country. It was done in a limited way in Quebec. It is a formidable task. I think we can achieve it but I just wonder if the task force has any advice they can give to me as to who might be added to a committee to help us come up with recommendations which I have to bring back to this House?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Would one of the witnesses care to respond? Ms Tatti.

MS FIBBIE TATTI: Our response, I guess, is that once this report is accepted and the implementation process can take place, then you can begin to look at some of those kinds of almost detailed answers. We do not have an immediate response to that right now but I am sure that the members of the task force will be available if your department is involved in finding ways to deal with some of the issues that are being raised here. I think that the task force members would be available to advise you what they think took place or how the communities would like that to take place. So, we do not have an answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Ms Tatti. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is something that I want to move on in the next two or three weeks. Either officials in my department or myself could talk to you a little more about it. It is a whole new concept. We are moving quite quickly and in fact we have anticipated some of the recommendations and we are not waiting, we are moving on them right now. I think it is important that whatever we do, we have to do carefully because I see that the report and the recommendations will be judged by the success of the components of it. I think it is important that when we move, we do it well because that builds credibility then into the whole process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Ms Cournoyea.

Committee To Help Implement Amendment To Jury Act

MS COURNOYEA: In regard to Mr. Ballantyne's comment on setting up a committee, would this be an extension of the committee that was set up some time ago in the interpreter corps with the Department of Justice, I believe, about a year and one half ago, to take a look at ways that legal words could be made up? Is this a separate committee or is it an extension of it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: To implement the new amendments to the Jury Act, I think a committee will have to consist of representatives from the courts, perhaps from the crown prosecutor's office and obviously from the interpreter corps because there will be more to this committee's work than just enhanced interpreter services. We will be looking at some of the other technical aspects of implementing the committee. To answer your question, yes, I think it would be useful to have that particular group reactivated and be part of this particular committee I am talking about. I am asking the task force if they have any other ideas of who might be appropriate to help the work of this committee to deal with some of these difficult problems we are going to have to deal with in the next year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Just so it cuts down a little on Mr. Ballantyne's work, I believe such a committee was formed with the Department of Justice and court services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 29 below 2(e) there are two small paragraphs. They say, "Within 10 years the commissioners will have the power..." and "In 10 years the commissioners will review the overall progress..." and so on. And yet in number three, "The term of each commissioner will be for a minimum of five years." I wonder what this is going to mean in 10 years and five years? What is it all about? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Would one of the witnesses care to respond to that query?

MS FIBBIE TATTI: Yes, Mr. Chairman. (Translation) I am sorry. Mr. McCallum was talking and I did not hear your question. Can you repeat the question please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Would you repeat your question, Mr. Erkloo, please?

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under aboriginal language institutions, number 2(e) it says "Within 10 years the commissioners will have the power to conduct hearings or inquiries and to make recommendations." It says for 10 years and the term of office of each commissioner will be for a minimum of five years. Can you tell me why it says, "In 10 years the commissioners will review the overall progress..." and then at the bottom you said that the term of office of each commissioner will be for a minimum of five years? Can you tell me why the numbers are different?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Ms Tatti.

Appointment Of Commissioners

MS FIBBIE TATTI: The recommendation there was that the commissioner that we would have in place would have a five year term of office and so there can be two people over the 10 year duration but that after 10 years there would be an assessment of what has been taking place within that 10 years. So the term for which this person would be in office would be for five years and it could be that the same person or somebody else can replace that person and after 10 years there will be an assessment of what has taken place over the 10 years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you. Is that satisfactory, Mr. Erkloo? The Chair is going to recognize the clock at this time. I want to, on behalf of the committee, thank the witnesses for appearing and also on behalf of the committee apologize for the fact that we were not able to proceed yesterday as scheduled. We were a day late. What are the words? I will rise and report to the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 42-86(1), THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 42-86(1), 67-86(1), 37-86(1), Bills 21-86(1) and 20-86(1) and wishes to report, Mr. Speaker, that Tabled Document 42-86(1), The Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages, has been discussed with one motion being introduced and the committee wishes to report progress.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Announcements and orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Thursday, June 19th 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: Motions 34-86(1), 36-86(1), 37-86(1), 38-86(1), 39-86(1)
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Documents 42-86(1), 67-86(1), 37-86(1); Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters; Bill 21-86(1); Bill 20-86(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 Thursday, June 19th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
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Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
of the Northwest Territories