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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Red Pedersen, 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 25th. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Erkloo's Reply

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a short reply. First of all I would like to tell some good things that have happened or will happen to my constituency. The people in the hamlet of Hall Beach have been asking for a gymnasium for a long time. They will probably be getting a recreation hall next year, for the fiscal year of 1987-88. This is good news for the hamlet of Hall Beach.

I am also happy that Economic Development is hiring native people more and more. I would like the non-native Members to know that I am not against them, but they have to have more native people as employees in the departments. It is up to the communities if they want to hire natives or non-natives.

I am also very happy to see that the Education Department is equalizing teachers across the NWT. It has been very difficult for some teachers because they had to have up to 25 students in one class. We will now be getting into more effective programs.

I would also like to mention a little bit about the Housing Corporation. They will be giving more powers to the community housing associations. You will remember that I told the Minister of the Housing Corporation that he should consider giving more power to the housing associations. I would like to mention again that if you are going to give them more power and authority, if you do not give them more money it is going to affect the process. As you are well aware, each community is very different in their programs and I know that you will not be able to give them all the same amount of funding. I am happy that you will be giving them more authority and power and they will, I am sure, have to sit down together and make up guidelines and main objectives. I know some communities will not be getting what other communities are getting, but there is one main policy and that is if a member does not attend the meeting three times in a row, they will be taken off the board.

When you give the powers to the housing associations in the communities, they will be dealing with their own policies, making up their own policies in their own communities within the housing associations. If you are not going to allow them to make their own policies, if you will just be

making the policies for them from Yellowknife and if you give them their own powers, nothing will be happening within the community. I know the housing associations, if they dislike the policies that are given by Yellowknife headquarters nothing will happen. I am elected by three communities and represent the three communities and I told them that I will be working with them on these issues and I will continue to support them in their wishes.

We also discussed the aboriginal people's language at the Legislative Assembly last week. Our aboriginal language and culture has been talked about for a long time as everybody knows. As you are aware, and I know myself, our traditional values and our aboriginal language are one. If we lose one then we lose the other. For that reason it was stated in the report that there are different meanings for snow and as you know our language has many meanings for different words. We are going to have to work together at the Legislative Assembly if we want to see some progress within the aboriginal peoples. And Inuit have to work together with the Dene people. If we do not work together nothing will happen. For that reason I asked the Leader of the Executive Council if we can meet with two of the aboriginal language task force people. This may take place in July as there will be a leaders' meeting in Frobisher Bay and I will let the Government Leader know by phone.

Communication Of Information

I am happy also that some of the hunters are being assisted in buying skidoos, equipment or any kind of outboard motors. I am also grateful that they are getting assistance to purchase their hunting equipment. Even though this was in effect for a long time in our community, we did not know until recently that the hunters were able to get assistance from the government. Now the information is being delivered to the hunters in the communities.

A lot of times I get confused. Sometimes I wonder if I have to act as information officer in my constituency or not. For that reason communication should be the mandate of the communities. We should be able to communicate more and more. I heard earlier, and this was news to me, that if I sell \$600 worth of furs I will be getting assistance on top of it. I just heard about this when there was a motion on the floor. I did not know there was an incentive program. Some of the communities are not aware that they are able to go caribou hunting by aircraft and that they are able to get assistance. There is a lack of information. It is hard to pinpoint where the problem is, perhaps in the Department of Culture and Communications, or in Renewable Resources or the hunters and trapper associations in the communities. This kind of information should be available to people in the North. The acts and the bills should be translated and more of them should be made available to the communities. Those of us who are in the Legislative Assembly are provided with translated items, but I do not really mind if some of the stuff we get is not translated. For example before we went to Vancouver, something had to be translated and we had to defer this because it was not translated. We did not deal with the bill that we were to be dealing with because it was not translated. But when it was translated into Inuktitut some of our Members on the legislation committee who need the translation most, were not attending the meeting. What I am trying to say is that our communities need translations more than we as Legislative Assembly Members do because they are the ones who have to enforce our acts, not us. I have other comments to add to this, but this will be the end of my comments for now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Butters.

Mr. Butters' Reply

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate Commissioner John Parker on being honoured recently as a recipient of the highest award to be bestowed on a Canadian civil servant, the Outstanding Achievement Award. It is an honour well deserved and reflects a lifetime of dedicated service to his country, Canadians, and to the people of the Northwest Territories.

With the end of this month we will witness to all intents and purposes the shutdown of the Canadian Forces station in Inuvik. There has been a Canadian military presence in the Mackenzie Delta since 1926, some 60 years ago, beginning with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, army, and followed by the naval radio station at Aklavik in 1949. In 1962 the military base relocated in Inuvik. Military personnel and their dependants have left an indelible mark on our community, becoming active and providing leadership and service in the recreational, cultural and educational life of Inuvik. With Inuvik volunteers the armed forces constructed the Dave Jones recreational facility. For many service personnel and dependants, Inuvik became home as they returned for posting after

posting with their children receiving the bulk of their education in the territorial school system. The high quality of that educational system could always be judged by the ease with which dependants of military personnel adjusted to southern schools on relocation. The contribution of the armed forces personnel and their dependants to the life of our community cannot be quantified. We are losing many good neighbours and old friends and we wish them well in their new assignments.

Decommissioning a station is always an emotional experience, whether you are a member of the armed forces or a resident of the community affected. The initiative of the Hon. Dennis Patterson, Minister of Education, to obtain the vacated CFS facilities for an Arctic College campus in the Western Arctic has aided in reducing the sense of loss with the decommissioning of CFS Inuvik. We look forward to an early announcement of the federal government's decision to turn that facility over to the GNWT and to the Territories Education Minister's subsequent announcement that courses will be offered in the new Arctic College facility this coming fall.

In closing, sir, I would stress again the need to ensure that Canada does not withdraw its economic presence from the Western Arctic as it has its military presence. There is no argument that the technology of military communication practiced in the Western Arctic has become increasingly redundant, and the purpose served by CFS Inuvik as a communications centre has become time's victim. But that argument cannot be applied to the petroleum exploration delineation activity being threatened with the cold death of immobility in Canada's Western Arctic. In the last 20 years we have seen developed a work force of northern people who are as familiar with computers and the drill platform floor as they are with the vagaries of spring ice. We have seen the Canadian technology developed and operating which is in the van of anything being done in the world's remote regions. We have seen developed an ice-breaking concept that is as startling in its departure from traditional vessels as was the Arrow from conventional aircraft. Canadians have found oil in sufficient quantities to guarantee our self-sufficiency in energy in years to come and freedom from OPECs pricing caucuses.

Canada has begun, just begun, to tap its Arctic oil with the construction of the Norman Wells pipeline and is an eyelash away from opening the whole of the Mackenzie basin to delineation and productive activity. The GNWT with an Arctic accord identifying revenue resource sharing arrangements between this government and the Government of Canada, would no longer have to explain or rationalize self-consciously the requirement for an annual deficit grant. Surely Canadians are not going to shut down their North.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Hear, hear!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I commend the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Tagak Curley, for his actions and his initiatives to prevent this situation from occurring. Be assured, sir, that you have the support and the good wishes of all northerners for success in your endeavours in these trying times. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Item 2, Members' replies. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 53-86(1): NWT Housing Corporation's Five Year Capital Plan

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have the pleasure of tabling the first five year capital plan in the history of the Housing Corporation. This plan has been a long time coming and has been requested by honourable Members, the special committee on housing, community groups, my colleagues and their government departments, for some years. In response to these requests the corporation has worked hard to find a fair process for determining unit allocations. The resultant five year capital plan recognizes the relative needs of each community for both new housing and the replacement of aging, inadequate northern rental inventory. Release of the plan will permit proper long-term planning for municipalities and for government departments responsible for providing support services and infrastructure to the communities.

In conjunction with the release of the five year capital plan, I am pleased to announce the commencement of a community capital planning process which will allow for community choice in the selection of the appropriate mix of planned home-ownership assistance and public housing program units. In this regard, Housing Corporation district staff will be in touch with community-based organizations and MLAs over the next few weeks, if they have not already done so.

I am sure that there will occasionally be cases where community disagreements over allocations or survey results will occur. Your valuable input and suggestions for improvement to overcome these differences can and will be considered. Your major window into the process is during annual plan updates and, more specifically, during the complete resurveying of needs which I have directed my officials to conduct this autumn.

In summary, the Housing Corporation has gone a long way toward meeting its objective of developing an equitable five year capital plan. I trust you will all support this effort and help make it even better in the future. Thank you, very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Item 3, Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude this item for today. Item 4, oral questions.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Are there any replies on oral questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 280-86(1), asked by Mr. Paniloo on June 17th, 1986.

The user pay program is a continuous program and the objective of the program is to encourage tenants to conserve electricity. The program will be reviewed after one year to see if the objective is being met. Power bills should be paid as soon as possible after the tenants receive them. With respect to the issue of bills arriving after the due date indicated on the bill, the NWT Housing Corporation have entered into discussion with NCPC to extend the terms of payment on their bills from 30 days to 60 days. If NCPC is agreeable to this change, then the problems of bills arriving late should be mitigated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. That is the first time I have seen Mr. Beaver smile for some time. Welcome to the House, Mr. Beaver.

---Applause

Are there any further answers to oral questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

Further Return To Question 312-86(1): NCPC User Pay Policy

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, a number of these responses are essentially to the same question, so if the House will indulge me, this is a return to an oral Question 312-86(1) asked by Mr. Angottitauruq on June 19th.

Presently NCPC allows people 30 days to pay their electricity bills. The NWT Housing Corporation have entered into discussions with NCPC to extend the payment of their bills to 60 days to allow for slow postal service. NCPC enters into an agreement with people to whom they supply electricity. Under the terms of the agreement NCPC can terminate the service of supplying electricity to an individual if the individual does not pay his electricity bill. NCPC enforces this agreement.

Housing associations have entered into a similar agreement known as the tenancy agreement with their tenants. Under the terms of the tenancy agreement, the housing association has the right to terminate the agreement, enter the premises and evict the tenant if the tenant does not pay his rent.

While I have outlined the strict nature of the agreements in place, I would like to advise the honourable Member that eviction and termination of services would only be applied in extreme situations and after a thorough and careful review.

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

Return To Question 306-86(1): Responses Re Teaching Of Stone Sculpture

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return on behalf of the Minister of Education to oral Question 306-86(1) asked by Mr. Erkloo on June 19th, 1986, concerning a co-operative conference resolution regarding teaching stone sculpture.

While the Department of Education has not received a resolution concerning the teaching of stone sculpture, the department recognizes the value of preserving this art form. Funding is provided through the cultural inclusion program for such skills to be taught to students and a number of LEAs have arranged for stone sculpture to be taught in schools, such as the Ilihakvik School in Cambridge Bay. The teaching of stone sculpture generally depends upon the availability of local artists. Also, recognizing the importance of this art form, the department is developing a teachers' art manual which will include a section on stone sculpture.

The Department of Education is also investigating the possibility of providing training in stone sculpture to adult learners through the Arctic College and adult educators in communities. Preliminary discussions concerning such training have taken place with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

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

Further Return To Question 313-86(1): NCPC Policy Of Cutting Off Power To Houses

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 313-86(1) asked by Mr. Erkloo on June 19th.

If a tenant does not pay his electricity bills, NCPC will inform the housing association or authority of intended disconnection. In the event of disconnection, the housing association or authority is responsible for preparing the house against damage, as result of a freeze-up resulting from disconnection. A tenant's failure to pay his electricity bill will cause extra work for the housing association or authority maintenance staff in preparing the house against damage of freeze-up, and the money spent for this type of work would be better spent on more rewarding types of maintenance work. To prevent this unnecessary work and expenditure, tenants in public housing should be paying their bills as soon as possible after they receive them. I am aware that there have been some problems with respect to bills arriving late. As I informed Mr. Paniloo, I have asked my officials to work with NCPC to see if the billing date can be extended to 60 days.

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

Return To Question 265-86(1): Employment Of Local Residents In Housing Construction

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 265-86(1), asked by Mr. Erkloo on June 16th, to deal with employment of community residents on construction projects.

In the general conditions section of the contract documents, there are several references regarding the usage of local manpower by the contractor; a practice that the Housing Corporation encourages. Also, at the pre-construction meeting that is held with each contractor, the use of local manpower is stressed and the contractor is further encouraged to use as much local labour as is practical. All contractors are aware of the benefits of hiring locally and we do enforce the reporting of the contractors local and/or regional expenditures which form part of the contract.

Mr. Erkloo, your statement is correct. This particular contractor, NDL Construction Ltd. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, started work in Pond Inlet on May 22, 1986. This contractor is also building our public housing units in Clyde River. Up until now, both crews concentrated on the Pond Inlet project, due to excessive snow accumulation this year in Clyde River. From approximately May 22, 1986 to June 11, 1986 only two local people were hired. On June 5, 1986 two more were hired and as of yesterday, with the southern work force being reduced, the contractor has approached the hamlet of Pond Inlet to get their assistance in hiring six additional workers to work in two eight hour shifts.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Richard, oral questions.

Question 328-86(1): Target Date For Boundary Agreement

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice and it concerns the discussion paper which we were discussing for a short while yesterday. There is a reference in the discussion paper, and I understand the Minister in part authored the paper, where the Executive Council recommends -- this is on the issue of division -- to the Assembly a number of things, one of which is that a target date be set for a boundary agreement. I would ask if the Minister could confirm that that recommendation means that this Assembly should set a deadline or target date and not some other body. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 328-86(1): Target Date For Boundary Agreement

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of the discussion paper was to put forward options that this government, through this Assembly, might want to follow, and at some point it might be the wish of this Assembly to say at a certain point in time that the division question should be resolved. It is not the intention of the Executive Council to move unilaterally on this particular option until there has been approval by this Legislative Assembly.

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

Question 329-86(1): Benefits For NWT Seniors' Society

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the Minister of Health. I know that some representatives of the NWT Seniors' Society have in the past met with the Minister to determine whether it would not be possible to extend some benefits to seniors in the area of pharmacare and extended medical benefits. I am aware that the NWT Seniors' Society recently had contacted the Minister to determine whether there was any progress in this area. So could I ask the Minister whether he is able to report that there may be some changes in the benefits that seniors are able to receive for pharmacare and other medical services?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 329-86(1): Benefits For NWT Seniors' Society

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I think I have to make an apology for the fact that when I had the meeting, I believe this was initiated about six months ago in Mr. Ballantyne's office, that the item fell between the cracks and it was my fault. I did not have any staff at that meeting and I did not relay the events of that meeting properly to them until about three months later. So I have to apologize for that, which is one of the causes for delay. I would like to say that what was basically asked for has fairly significant financial implications and what has been more recent and through meetings with the seniors here in Yellowknife and the department during the summer is to try to get detailed information out of our present statistics so I can come up with some dollar figures that I can take to the Executive in the fall. Hopefully I can have something concrete in some of these areas by the October session.

In addition I would also like to say that in the meetings that my officials have had, some of the programs of the government and some of the rights that seniors can take advantage of, were not known to them and one thing the department is going to have to do is come up with a brochure or pamphlet or some sort of a program that will make elders more aware of some of the benefits that they are entitled to as ordinary citizens and as well because they are over 65. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Chair would like to recognize a former Member, Mr. Kane Tologanak, in the gallery. Welcome to the House, Mr. Tologanak.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 329-86(1): Benefits For NWT Seniors' Society

MR. MacQUARRIE: The Minister mentioned a significant cost, but the seniors believe that if there were an immediate extension of benefits to include prescriptive drugs and some non-prescriptive drugs that are necessary to treat some of the medical conditions that are common to elderly people and costly to them, that may not be a significant cost to the Government of the NWT. Generally, did I understand from the Minister's answer that he is disposed to try to improve benefits in these areas and that this Assembly and the seniors can look forward to some concrete action by the fall?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 329-86(1): Benefits For NWT Seniors' Society

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the matter I was trying to get out was that it is significant for the Financial Management Board to have concrete facts and figures backing up the possible new expenditures, although the expense may not be that great. I have to prove to them that it is not that great. I should be able to have some concrete yeses and noes by the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 330-86(1): Lower Gas Prices

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. In some of the communities that I represent, the barges will be resupplying the communities this summer with gas. I wanted to ask the Minister, since the price of oil everywhere has dropped, whether or not people can look forward to lower gas prices.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 330-86(1): Lower Gas Prices

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there will be a reduction in gas prices. At the present time I am still seeking to have discussions with the federal Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development who puts the seal on the price schedule developed by Esso for products emanating from the Norman Wells plant. I have been seeking a meeting with the Minister for six weeks. I spoke with his office as recently as this morning and indicated the concern the Member has just raised and that we would hope that the eventual price determined for the fuel produced at the Norman Wells plant would reflect the falling prices being experienced on the world markets. That question is still under consideration.

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

Question 331-86(1): Transcripts Of Aboriginal Languages Task Force

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) In the past when we had meetings with the aboriginal languages task force, at the time they visited the communities, it was written down on paper. What I would like to know is, have the transcripts been prepared and if so, could I have them, please?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 331-86(1): Transcripts Of Aboriginal Languages Task Force

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, these transcripts of the aboriginal languages task force, provided they are available, I will be more than glad to give them to the Member. As soon as I get them they will be available to the Member.

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

Question 332-86(1): Letter Of Intent With Alberta Power

MR. RICHARD: My question is for the Minister responsible for the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat. It involves, Mr. Speaker, my request yesterday that the Minister table the letter of intent with Northland Utilities or Alberta Power. The Minister indicated that he would not do so

without consulting with his Executive Council colleagues and, this is the first opportunity I have had to request such a document since the Government Leader read the policy on access to information and open government. I quote the summary, Mr. Speaker, or part of the summary that "MLAs and the public at large should be kept informed of the affairs of government in the widest possible manner." In the context of that statement by the Government Leader, I cannot see why the Minister would not be forthcoming with a copy of this letter of agreement with Alberta Power on such an important issue that has been before the public for a number of years.

The Minister has indicated that the agreement with Alberta Power is stated to be subject to the negotiations with the federal government. Therefore, releasing the document could not in any way jeopardize those negotiations. Also, Mr. Speaker, from the Minister's responses yesterday, I must assume that the document, the agreement with Alberta Power, contains no financial details of the contractual arrangement with the operating contract that may be negotiated because it is too soon for those financial details and therefore there is no need to protect the privacy of Alberta Power with respect to its financial matters. Given the Government Leader's statement on open government, is the Minister of Energy not able to table a copy of the letter of agreement with Alberta Power with this Assembly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 332-86(1): Letter Of Intent With Alberta Power

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the Member that this government, the Executive Council, will no doubt be providing the public and the MLAs with all the information that they need with respect to the negotiations and any document that it is legally possible for us to disclose. I would like to assure the Member that there are certain obligations that the government enters into with a clientele relationship with the NUL which I think would require legal advice and since yesterday we have not been able to get that legal advice as yet. But I can assure you that I am sure we will be discussing the matter. For the Members' sake in the House, the letter of intent does not deal with the fundamental issues that we are dealing with, the financial matters. I would think that that is an area that you, as a Member of the finance committee, would be very interested in and I assure you that we will be providing you with information on these matters. On the other matter, Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to table the document or commit myself to that. I will have to consult with my Executive Council and we will be meeting shortly, as soon as the session is over.

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

Question 333-86(1): Liability Insurance For Outdoor Wilderness Program

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been again getting some concerns from Fort Providence with regard to the whole outdoor wilderness program. I have not heard anything from the Minister of Social Services on that, concerning liability insurance. I would like to ask the Minister whether this program is still going to go ahead and if so under what circumstance or condition?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 333-86(1): Liability Insurance For Outdoor Wilderness Program

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, the Executive Council will be meeting tomorrow morning and that is on the agenda, for a decision to be made regarding what the government is going to do about the requirements of those types of programs, and other agents and contractors of the government having to have liability insurance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Are there any further oral answers? Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 323-86(1): Assistance For Elders' Conferences

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 323-86(1), on behalf of the Minister of Education. This was asked by Mr. Paniloo on June 24th, support for elders' conferences and elders' recommendations regarding school curriculum.

In response to Mr. Paniloo's question concerning elders' conferences and the Department of Education's co-operation in this area, the Department of Education recognizes the important role played by, and fully supports the involvement of, elders in the educational process and other areas of community concern. The Department of Education has not received any direct requests for assistance in the holding of elders' conferences. Although the importance of these conferences is recognized, there are no funds available for this purpose in the Department of Education's budget.

The Department of Education officials have recently completed a survey to determine the level of involvement of elders in schools and in educational issues. It is encouraging to see that many elders are involved, especially in serving as members of LEAs and the department is promoting their involvement. The establishment of centres for teaching and learning in communities will facilitate this, especially in the area of curriculum development. This year centres for teaching and learning will be established in Fort Franklin, Fort Simpson and Eskimo Point, through the Inuit Cultural Institute, and additional centres are planned in future years. The department would be very pleased to receive any recommendations made by elders at elders' conferences and where they relate to the curriculum or other education-related issues, they will be given careful consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further replies to oral questions? Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 334-86(1): Icebreakers Ruining Hunting Areas

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a phone call from the deputy mayor of Arctic Bay regarding the sealift this summer, the ship route through the Northwest Passage which comes near Arctic Bay. If the Government Leader could try and find out if the ships are going to arrive in Nanisivik -- some are not icebreakers but an icebreaker escorts them. The Arctic Bay hunters usually go to the edge of the ice to go hunting and they also take tourists down to the ice edge to see the wildlife and they make money on tourism, in the range of \$33,000. They think they are going to make around \$40,000 on tourism this year. This is smaller than last year because the place where they usually go has been ruined by the icebreakers. They are very much against icebreakers coming into the Nanisivik area to go and get the ore from Nanisivik Mine. The ship is called Lady Franklin and also resupplies Panarctic camp and will be arriving in Nanisivik sometime during the ice time. It usually comes through Lancaster Sound and Arctic Bay, maybe four times. Could the Government Leader try and find out where they could make better times for these ships, as well as inform MOT. Arctic Bay settlement would be happy if he would do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps you could speak with the Leader and go into more detail. However, do you have any comment at this time, Mr. Leader?

Return To Question 334-86(1): Icebreakers Ruining Hunting Area

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, just to say that I will certainly take the comments and suggestions under advisement and will provide a reply to the Member. I would like to tell the Member that I will be travelling to the Baffin Region next week and Arctic Bay is one of the communities that I hope to reach. In the event that I do make it to Arctic Bay, I will try to meet with the local hunters and trappers and get their views personally myself. I believe what you say but it will give me a chance to talk with them about this concern too. So I will provide the Member with a response in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is taking the question as notice. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 335-86(1): Staffing Of New NWT Energy Corporation

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question directed to the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources. In the last few days we have been dealing with the question of NCPC. I would ask if the Minister could give this House assurances that no memorandum of understanding will be signed with Alberta Power until the question of personnel and personnel benefits and whatever other arrangements can be made, are agreed to between the GNWT and the appropriate utility company.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 335-86(1): Staffing Of New NWT Energy Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the Member the assurance of that because the issue is dealt with in a way that these are more than one component of a number of agreements that the territorial and federal governments are going to have to enter into anyway. We are dealing with a number of issues. The number one issue that we have been dealing with is the structure of the corporation and I think we have reached that issue, the Executive Council has definitely, and now we are concentrating on the financial negotiations as well as the evaluation of the assets of the present utility operator in the NWT. So Mr. Speaker, I just cannot give the Member the assurance of that.

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

Supplementary To Question 335-86(1): Staffing Of New NWT Energy Corporation

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Is the government prepared to table in this House the agreement with regard to the personnel and the arrangements that have been made with regard to the personnel of NCPC that are presently employed, and the agreements and the arrangements and the benefits that are to be given to those particular employees?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 335-86(1): Staffing Of New NWT Energy Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, once the agreement with respect to the personnel has been reached, I would definitely be prepared to table any agreement that is negotiated between the three parties: the federal government, NCPC and GNWT. I think it is important that I caution Members that personnel negotiations at the moment are still ahead of us and we have not got to detailed discussion of the personnel structure by the three parties. Therefore, I can only indicate to Members that comparing what the Northland Utilities is paying their employees, I think the personnel would probably be pretty glad to see that their benefits and their pay is definitely comparable and in many respects a lot better than the federal crown corporation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question 335-86(1): Staffing Of New NWT Energy Corporation

MR. NERYSOO: Further supplementary. Is there a clause in the agreement that has been reached, that the GNWT can withdraw from the agreement if the utility company is not providing satisfactory service to the people of the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 335-86(1): Staffing Of New NWT Energy Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I would like to assure the Member that the Executive Council is quite concerned with the progression of the negotiations. So far the letter of intent that we have signed is mainly concerned with respect to the transitional phase of the NCPC personnel from Edmonton to Yellowknife or Hay River or Fort Smith, for all that matters. Therefore the provisions that the Executive Council has guaranteed, as well as the letter of instruction, is a fact that the Executive Council would like to be able to reveal annually. But the agreement itself could be a little longer. But I want to assure the Member that the Executive Council is definitely concerned with your concern and that we are not entering into any permanent long-term arrangement. But subject to review as well as with respect to the federal government's position, unless the financial negotiations indicate otherwise, the provisions in the agreement allow us to give an appropriate notice to the company.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo. This is your final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 335-86(1): Staffing Of New NWT Energy Corporation

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to those comments, how is this government preparing itself to take over the utility company in the future if it does not itself have staff on hand and if they withdraw from an agreement by which Alberta Power is managing and running the utility section of the corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 335-86(1): Staffing Of New NWT Energy Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member will clearly see the authority vested in the government as well as the authority vested in the energy corporation, which will be run by the independent board of directors, as well as the chief executive officer and his staff. So therefore the government continues to exist and will exist and therefore as regards the policy-related responsibilities of the government, it is ensured in the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation Act that the energy corporation will be able to at least consult with the GNWT and the Minister responsible to ensure that the arrangement and the utility is provided to the public with efficiency as well as cost effective consideration. Thank you.

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

Question 336-86(1): Letter Of Intent Or Actual Agreement

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in a reply to a question asked by Mr. Richard, the Minister responsible for Energy indicated that he has signed a letter of intent to consider Northland Utilities as an operating contractor. Could he indicate to me whether in fact that letter of intent has outlined certain particular factors in it? Is it a fact that it is not just a letter of intent but that you have entered into an agreement?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 336-86(1): Letter Of Intent Or Actual Agreement

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I did sign a letter of intent with them which was reviewed by my colleagues and that was forwarded to them a while ago. That has formed the basis of one of the schedules in the agreement that we have signed with the NUL. So I can assure you that the interests of your constituents are well taken care of.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 337-86(1): Difference Between NTCL And NCPC Takeover

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development concerning NCPC. I understand that about a year and a half ago the crown corporation of NTCL was given to the highest bidder. In this instance it went to Nunasi, an Inuvialuit corporation. I would like to ask the Minister, what makes NCPC different with the type of process that is now being used in order to gain control over that particular company?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 337-86(1): Difference Between NTCL And NCPC Takeover

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the federal government. The federal government, two years ago, decided that a number of enterprises that could be profitable corporations were being run by a bunch of bureaucrats and therefore they decided that it was in the interest of the country that they privatize them. From my understanding, the federal government did not believe that it should be running a transportation agency and freight forwarding company, therefore they went to the public and asked for proposals to take over the NTCL. But as far as NCPC is concerned, my understanding is that this is a little more complex and involved -- the number of problems associated with it; the fact that it is not necessarily efficient in terms of how free enterprise is normally used to operating a company. This particular agency involves a social obligation in that the federal government has to continue to subsidize the power rates and therefore probably it is a bit more risky than some of the ventures that the federal government has operated before.

As a result of that, in keeping with a number of provinces, the first approach is to transfer it to the existing government, not only the NWT but the Yukon as well. Then it will be up to the territorial government to see if they want to privatize it later. I think the most important risk we are facing is that we are acquiring -- if we do not succeed in asking the federal government to forgive the debt, that we will be forced to take over the risk if we take it over with the same arrangement. But we are trying to avoid that and we are asking the federal government to take care of the liabilities that NCPC has at the moment. So my answer in short is that it is different, it carries with it a lot more risk than the Northern Transportation Company Ltd. has. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 337-86(1): Difference Between NTCL And NCPC Takeover

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just supplementary to the question. I would like to ask the Minister, NCPC right now has the staff and also the operators that are running these stations and I do not know why the Minister has to go to another company to run the operations of NCPC, maybe that was referring to Northland Utilities. Why can the Minister not just change the name of NCPC to a different name and keep it as it is and let that particular company operate by itself? I do not know why the Minister has to rely on a different company to operate what is now being operated effectively.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 337-86(1): Difference Between NTCL And NCPC Takeover

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can only indicate to the Member that a number of models were compared, for instance if you were to take over -- this is what I have been saying to Members during the last year and a half -- that if we were to take over NCPC and transfer NCPC and create a look-alike model in the Northwest Territories, we would acquire not only the very hard working personnel and power plants and hydros in the Northwest Territories but we would also acquire up to 100 headquarters personnel from Edmonton. From our perspective I know their role is very important to the present structure but we are not sure whether we are prepared to accept that many personnel to operate it. As a result of that, we have chosen to enter into a contract arrangement and save the costs of moving expenses which would have to be tacked onto the rate base which you, as a ratepayer for NCPC power bills, would have to pay. In order to save the public that amount of money in terms of the rate increases, we have concluded that the best route to go so far is to go on the operating contract and that in effect saves the public and the business community in the Northwest Territories a tremendous amount of money. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 337-86(1): Difference Between NTCL And NCPC Takeover

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, just supplementary to what the Minister has said. I would like to ask the Minister whether NCPC made any profits last year. Also, if Northland Utilities is to take over, who do the profits go to -- to Northland Utilities or to this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 337-86(1): Difference Between NTCL And NCPC Takeover

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my information is that NCPC has been making a profit for quite a long while and apparently there are some surplus funds that are sitting around there waiting for the NWT to take over so we can at least adjust our rates to a more reasonable, reliable, rational system in the Northwest Territories. Yes, they have been making a profit in the NWT but I think we should also remember that NCPC, for the NWT portion, apparently carries with it a tremendous liability in the amount of \$87 million or so. Therefore, not only are we looking at the profitable issue of NCPC but we would also be taking over the liabilities and we would like to defer them. In that respect, Mr. Speaker, it looks appealing but as far as the other part of his question, the profits that the energy corporation would benefit from, would be managed by the NWT energy corporation on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, they would not be absorbed by NUL.

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

Question 338-86(1): Tabling Agreement With Northland Utilities

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 18th, the Minister responsible for Energy indicated that he had asked Northland Utilities to develop a scenario on the operation of the NWT company's assets throughout the Northwest Territories. He had indicated then that he had received their work and was carefully assessing it and he was happy then on February 18th to tell this House that he was ready to make a recommendation when the paperwork was concluded. On June 24th, Mr. Speaker, the Minister read a statement on NCPC indicating that he has therefore commenced discussions with Northland Utilities with a view to concluding an agreement for the operation of our electrical system once the transfer has taken place. Given that the Government Leader has said that the government is committed to open government, could I ask the Minister responsible for Energy to table that scenario developed by Northland Utilities that gave him and the Executive Council the go ahead to commence discussions with Northland Utilities? Will he table that information?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will definitely consider that and bring back a reply in the morning because I believe it depends on how much information that the Member wants, and I believe the comparisons with respect to a number of the proposals that we had received. I really do not see an immediate problem with it but I will consider it and perhaps try and get back to the Member the first thing in the morning, or later today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 339-86(1): Handling Of NCPC Debt

MR. MacQUARRIE: My question is for the Minister responsible for Energy. On a number of different occasions, the Minister seems to indicate different things with respect to the long-term liability of NCPC. Just in an answer a few moments ago, he said that we would take over the liability but hope to defer it and at other times we have heard that it is hoped that it will be a write-off or that the debt will be converted to equity. For the public, could the Minister clarify what is the government's intention with respect to handling that debt?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 339-86(1): Handling Of NCPC Debt

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, what I did intend to say was that assuming that we take over the present corporation as it is, we would be taking over the present liability in an amount over \$80 million, so that is without any changes. But that position I am sure is not acceptable to my colleagues. We are operating on the basis of the seven principles that were agreed to and I am sure I have tabled the documents in the House. At the moment the financial model is now being finalized in our Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat and that will be presented to the federal government and NCPC shortly. But detailed negotiations of the financial position will likely be going on for a while, which could mean up to within a month or so -- the present schedule indicates that the bureaucratic comparison and negotiations will likely be going on for the next few weeks.

Until we get some indications from the federal government what they are prepared to do or in what form they are prepared to hold on as far as their bottom line is concerned, it is difficult for me and the Executive Council at this moment to table here as clearly as possible what likely will be the deal between the two parties, particularly with the fact that Ottawa obviously will want to have the best deal for itself as well. So in that regard I can only say that the mandate given to the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat is to try and negotiate the best deal possible, but then that would have to be ratified by the Financial Management Board and up to now we have not had a response from the federal government, but within a month or two I am sure we will have a better understanding as to whether or not the deal will be possible. Thank you.

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

Question 340-86(1): Discrepancies In Prices Of Petroleum Products

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I am not going to address this question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but rather to the Minister responsible for Government Services. The Minister is aware that there has been public concern expressed regarding the price of petroleum products being purchased in the Inuvik Region, in particular the petroleum products that were purchased previously from Norman Wells refinery. I do not believe the present prices or problems are a result of the bulk dealer in Inuvik but as a result of prices agreed to by the Government of Canada and Imperial Oil. Is the government reviewing this issue so as to address and rectify discrepancies in prices of petroleum products and is the Government of the NWT including in its presentation to the Government of Canada, assurances that NWT residents will receive the benefits of present lower world prices?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 340-86(1): Discrepancies In Prices Of Petroleum Products

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for giving me notice of this question a few moments ago. I answered a question similar to that that was presented by Mr. T'Seleie on the supply of fuel around the Norman Wells area. The reply is the same. We are in consultation with the federal government. I have indicated to the Minister of DIAND that I wish to speak or meet with him before he sets the price for the Norman Wells fuel this summer. I have been in contact with his office this morning and over the last three weeks I think I have sent a total of some six wires and letters to the Minister on this subject. So it is an outstanding issue and I appreciate the Member's concern with regard to the situation in those communities that are supplied by Norman Wells and I hope to address it in the very near future.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That appears to conclude oral questions for today. Item 5, written questions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 343-86(1): Core Utilidor Services

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Highways. On Monday, February 24th, on page 296 in Hansard, I asked about a demonstration project going on in the communities concerning core utilidor services, water and sewer facilities, particularly in areas where you have schools, community halls, stores, businesses. I asked if the demonstration project is still going to occur. In your response you indicated that in the course of the next few months your department would finalize plans on how to proceed with this. It is now June 25th, four months later. Would you please advise me whether your department has completed its planning for the demonstration project? Can you inform me and Members of the Assembly where such projects have commenced or will be introduced and when? If the plan is not to go forward, why have you made that decision? Can the community of Fort Providence be considered as one of the communities? Does this apply only to communities where they have delivery and pump-out system? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Written questions. Item 6, returns. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 274-86(1): Arctic Red River Training Camp On Traditional Skills

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to written Question 274-86(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on June 16, 1986, with respect to Arctic Red River training camp and traditional skills.

The settlement of Arctic Red River has prepared a proposal to establish a training program in traditional fishing skills in order to promote the development of local commercial fishing. Of the total request of \$27,300, \$13,800 has already been secured through a combination of equity and a contribution from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. An application for the balance has been received by officials of my department. If it meets the funding criteria, it shall be processed without delay so that the project may commence this summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns? Mr. McLaughlin.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return on behalf of the Minister of Education on written Question 292-86(1), asked by Mr. Appaqaq on June 17th, regarding moving of school material.

Following the repeated requests from the school principal, John Jamison, Department of Public Works and Highways have agreed that school supplies for the new school year can be stored in the new school. Since the new school is not ready for takeover we have to restrict the storage of school material as follows: storage in middle of classrooms on the floor only, leaving unobstructed access to all walls, cabinets, shelves, etc.; no storage in cupboards or on shelves; no storage in library, gymnasium, industrial arts room, home economics room, storage rooms, crawl space and mechanical rooms.

Our problem is the contractor has gone bankrupt just before the interim inspection for occupancy of the school. As a result, the contractor's bonding company and DPW are having discussions regarding finishing the school using another contractor. Representatives from the bonding company and the Department of Public Works and Highways will be in Sanikiluaq the week of July 7th to discuss a schedule to finish the school in time for the new school year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns. That appears to conclude returns for today.

Item 7, petitions.

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document. Tabled Document 77-86(1), Joint Statement by the Hon. Tony Penikett, Government Leader, Government of Yukon and the Hon. Dennis Patterson, Deputy Government Leader, Government of the Northwest Territories on Federal Comprehensive Claims Policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 78-86(1), Five Year Capital Plan of the NWT Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude tabling of documents for today.

Item 10, notices of motion.

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

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Second Report of the Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges; Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters; Bill 20-86(1), Public Service Act; Bill 19-86(1), Northwest Territories Energy Corporation Act; Bill 23-86(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1985-86; Bill 24-86(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1986-87; with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER THE SECOND REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES, PROCEDURES AND PRIVILEGES; REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION ON BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS; BILL 20-86(1), PUBLIC SERVICE ACT; BILL 19-86(1), NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ENERGY CORPORATION ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the Second Report of the Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges. We are on page 12, recommendations. Mr. Richard.

Second Report Of The Special Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we adjourned yesterday I had gone through the first 11 pages of the committee's second report and as a result of the matters referred to there, the committee has three recommendations that it wishes to make at this time. Before doing so, I know Members are very excited about this topic on rules and procedures and I wondered whether Members had any general comments on the main part of the report before I turn to the specific recommendations. It is a very exciting topic and I did not want to preclude anyone commenting on the report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Any general comments. No general comments. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first recommendation the committee would like to make at this time is with reference to the government response to committee reports, reports of standing and special committees of this Assembly. As we noted, in some of the other jurisdictions there is a fixed period of time within which government is to respond to committee reports, or a Minister of the government. Our committee felt that that was a beneficial provision and rule but that it should only be triggered by a request of the committee. It would not be an automatic requirement. But if a standing or special committee made a report and felt that there should be a response from government, they could request so and the rules could then provide that the government or Minister would make a response within a time period. The time period we are suggesting is 120 days, which I think is more than reasonable.

Motion That Rule 92 Be Amended, Carried

So, Mr. Chairman, I move that Rule 92 be amended by adding the following Subrule 92(4) "Within 120 days of the presentation of a report as provided in Rule 92(1) and (2), the government shall, upon the request of the committee, table a comprehensive response."

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Recommendations. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: The other recommendations that the committee wishes to make at this time deal with petitions. The committee noted in other jurisdictions that a member who has a petition to present to the Assembly has an option of either rising in his place to present the petition or filing a petition with the Clerk of the Assembly and have the Clerk read it out or report that it has been filed. This option we do not have in our current rules and the reason it is in the rules of other jurisdictions, we understand, is to allow Members of the Assembly to present petitions that they receive from constituents but that they may not personally agree with or they may be aware that the majority of their constituents do not agree with. So this would provide an option for the Member who wants to be identified with a petition, to rise in his place and present the petition in his own name or alternatively to file it with the Clerk.

Motion To Delete And Replace Rules 56(1) And 56(2)

So Mr. Chairman, I move that Rules 56(1) and 56(2) be deleted and replaced with the following: "56(1) A petition to the Assembly may be presented at any time during a sitting of the Assembly by filing the same with the Clerk of the House or in the manner set out in Rule 56(2); 56(2) A Member may present a petition from his place in the House during the daily routine under the routine 'Petitions'. He shall endorse his name thereon and confine himself to a statement of the petitioners, the number of signatures and the material allegations. In no case shall such a Member occupy more than five minutes in so doing unless by permission of the Assembly upon question input."

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: I had initially been concerned about the requirement in 56(2) that Members shall endorse their name thereon, but after hearing the explanation of the chairman, I understand now that if you cannot agree with the petition then you have the option in 56(1) and that if you use 56(2) it further implies that you do support it. So that breakdown is now satisfactory. But some of the wording is unclear to me -- "confine himself to a statement of the petitioners". What does that mean?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I did note as I was reading it that that wording is rather cumbersome. I think that is a typo and it should probably read "confine himself to a statement of the petition, the number of figures and the material allegations". I would ask that my motion be amended to read "statement of the petition".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard, you cannot amend your own motion. So Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Amend Motion To Delete And Replace Rules 56(1) And 56(2), Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: I would like to amend 56(2) to read in the fifth line, the word "petition" rather than "petitioners".

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question has been called. Those in favour? Opposed, if any? This amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Delete And Replace Rules 56(1) And 56(2), Carried As Amended

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried as amended.

---Carried

Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Next the committee has a related amendment that would require the Clerk of the House to report, when the Speaker calls for petitions, those petitions that Members had filed with the Clerk under Rule 56(1). This next recommendation would provide that the Clerk would report that under "Petitions".

Motion To Amend Rule 56 By Adding New Subrule, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that Rule 56 be amended by adding the following subrule: "Every petition presented under Rule 56(1) shall be reported by the Clerk of the House during the daily routine under the routine "Petitions".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard, your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Your motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally, the committee had noted with some interest the provision and rules in other jurisdictions that require the government to respond to petitions. We have no such provision but Members of our committee felt that it was a desirable addition or change to our rules. Under our current practice the Clerk simply sends a copy of the petition to the Executive Council. During the discussion in our committee, it was felt that nothing further ever happened after a petition was sent by the Clerk to the Executive Council. Our committee felt that that almost made the rules and practice of petitions meaningless. The piece of paper was just mailed over to the Executive Council and nothing ever happened. So this recommendation would require the government to respond to the petition within a period of time and the period that was suggested was 60 days, which again our committee feels is more than reasonable.

Motion To Amend Rule 56 By Adding Subrule 56(9), Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that Rule 56 be amended by adding to it the following subrule: "56(9) The Executive Council shall provide a response to a petition within 60 days of its presentation and such response shall be tabled at the earliest opportunity." Thank you.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering if Mr. Richard could advise us if that would apply to all petitions -- that the Executive had that responsibility -- because I believe there have been occasions where a petition petitions the Legislative Assembly itself to do something. So I am just wondering if this applies only to petitions which are directed toward the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure what example it would be where a petition would be addressed to the Assembly as a whole, but if there was a clear-cut issue for which that would happen, then the response of the Executive Council, surely within the 60 day period, would be along the line that the Legislative Assembly is looking after this one. I think if it stood out that it was the responsibility of the entire Assembly to respond to the petition, then the Assembly would be taking action on it. I think this recommendation addresses the bulk of the petitions, which in all frankness is addressed to the government of the day. Those are the ones that the Members of the committee felt had not been responded to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Richard, do you have any further remarks?

MR. RICHARD: No. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that the Second Report of the Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We are now on Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters. We have already discussed this document. Does the committee agree that this document is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 20-86(1), Public Service Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will turn now to Bill 20-86(1), An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Mr. Sibbeston.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present for your consideration and concurrence An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. By way of background, on January 7, 1986, I assumed responsibility for the Department of Personnel, which up until that time was under the control of the Commissioner. As Minister of Personnel over the past five months, I have held the mandate for the management and direction of the public service. I exercised that responsibility through the Commissioner who held formal authority under the act. This bill transfers that authority for the control of the public service to the Minister of Personnel. I will give a brief summary of the changes proposed.

The major change is to simply transfer the powers and duties of the Commissioner under this act to the Minister of Personnel. There are, however, some powers which will be transferred to the Government Leader and Executive Council. These are: the Minister of Personnel with the approval of the Executive Council will sign collective agreements on behalf of the government; upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, the government will organize the public service by departments; and the Government Leader will have the responsibility to increase or decrease the number of positions in departments with the approval of the Executive Council.

I am asking the Members of this House to give their whole-hearted support to the amendments. This bill represents a milestone in the evolution of responsible government in that for the first time the tremendously important portfolio of Personnel is put under the control and management of an elected person. With the passing of this bill we will have completed the process of transfer of all government functions from appointed officials to elected representatives of the people of the North. So we could very well be making history today. That is all the general comments that I have, Mr. Chairman. I will be pleased to enter into a detailed discussion of the provisions.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not go through the little preamble that I have, noting the purpose of the bill, since the Minister has indicated that. I can say that when the standing committee on legislation considered the bill, they had asked representatives from the Public Service Alliance, whose members would be impacted by changes to this act, to attend and present their concerns. So Mr. Darm Crook, who is the president of the PSA, and Doug Marshall, who is the executive director, attended the committee meeting with respect to this particular bill and the amendments that are proposed.

The PSA representatives noted that under the present appeal process, the Commissioner has the authority to override the decisions of appeal even when the three person appeal panel is unanimous in its decision. It was noted by these representatives that in fact the Commissioner in the past has sometimes overruled the appeal board. The PSA representatives felt that the decisions on hiring should be made in a non-political environment and that where there are disputes that might arise, these should be settled by an independent arbitrator. It was their position, therefore, that the bill should not give to the Minister the exclusive right to appoint public servants and that an appeal in this matter, if required, should be heard by an independent arbitrator. The PSA representatives recommended that particular amendment to the committee.

The committee after considering the matter did not accept that recommendation. It has not recommended that type of change to the government. But it recognized the concern of a Minister having the power to overturn the appeal board's decision and felt that if he were to do so, it is entirely appropriate that he should be willing to explain his reasons for doing so to the appellant. So by motion the committee recommended to the government that the regulations regarding this matter be amended to allow that when the Minister overturns the decision of the appeal board, he provide reasons to the appellant. In fact, in a letter from the Minister of Personnel, Mr. Sibbeston, it is noted that he does agree with that recommendation, that the regulations be amended to require that the appellant be informed of the appeal report and notice of Minister's decision and reason for decision, if different from the report. The Minister indicated that he would be recommending to the Commissioner appropriate changes to the regulations.

There was one other formal motion passed in committee and the Minister sponsoring the bill has rejected the intent of that. So I will raise the matter at an appropriate time, as we are going through the bill.

Although there were no other formal motions in committee, there were other concerns expressed and points at which the government was asked to consider various issues in the light of what committee Members had to say. I will note as you go through the bill where those places were and what the government's response was. So if Members in committee of the whole wish to pursue any of those, they are certainly at liberty to do so. With those general opening remarks, unless other Members have comments about the bill, I will be prepared to go clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): General comments. Does the committee agree we go clause by clause? Bill 20-86(1), An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Clause 1, department. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2, department head. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3, employee. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I was not in the standing committee on legislation, but there is an exemption here on paragraph 2(1)(j), could I just have it explained what that is?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, these are employees of housing associations, school boards and bodies of that sort to which the act would not apply.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Clause 4, establishment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 5, lay-off. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, authorization of Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just a note for Members' benefit that there was considerable discussion surrounding this particular clause because in some way it does involve the change of responsibility of regional directors. During the committee meetings there was quite a bit of comment from a number of Members about that particular change, a number of them expressing concerns about the change, fearful that in the regions it may not be as easy to get things done without a lot of red tape if regional directors do not have the authority that they had in the past. The Minister explained why he thought that with responsible government and with ministerial government it was important to have the authority in the hands of elected representatives, namely Ministers. Although there was a fair amount of discussion, no motion came out of that, no recommendation for any change from what the Minister said. I merely point out that discussion for the benefit of this committee. Some Members may wish to pursue it a little further.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, authorization of Minister. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 7, delegation by department head. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 8, reference to department head. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 9, exemption. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 10, powers of Minister. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 11, delegation of authority. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 12, classes and grades. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 13, considerations determining pay rates. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 14, Minister to fix pay and allowances. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 15, acting pay. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 16, exceptions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 17, organization of department. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 18, classification. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 19, request for new positions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 20, establishment review. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 21, exclusive right to appoint. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 22, appointments by competition within the public service. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: It was with respect to this clause, Mr. Chairman, that an additional motion was introduced in the standing committee on legislation and that was that the committee recommend to the government that the bill be amended to add a new provision that when the Minister is appointing, without competition, from either within or outside of the public service, that the appointment be with the consultation of the Executive Council and not on the Minister's own initiative. With respect to that, the Minister in his response to the committee indicated that he did not agree with that recommendation and was unwilling to make the change. He said in his letter to the committee that, "Such a requirement is unnecessary. Authority to appoint positions is integral to the management of the public service. I will consult with my colleagues in the Executive Council as I feel it necessary for the management and direction of the public service." So at any rate, there was that specific motion on the part of the committee and the government has decided not to accept it. Perhaps there could be a little discussion on the clause. If not, I would like to make a motion in committee. Other Members may wish to comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are on clause 22. Any general comments? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Amend Clause 22, Bill 20-86(1)

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, I move that in clause 22, subsection 16(2) be amended by adding immediately after "may" the words "upon the recommendation of the Executive Council". So the subsection would read "(2) where, in the opinion of the Minister after considering any recommendations of the department head, it is impracticable or not in the best interests of the public service to make an appointment from within the public service by competition, the Minister may, upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, without competition, appoint the person from within the public service who, in the opinion of the Minister, is best qualified."

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, and speaking in support of it, Mr. Chairman, there is an established procedure for competitions for positions in the public service. The procedure is established and followed because it is important to make sure, when making public service appointments, there is always fairness, and perceived to be fairness. If this were allowed to stand, and I acknowledge that in the past the Commissioner had such authority -- however, we all recognize too that, in previous years, we were under a colonial kind of administration where the Commissioner, personally, had enormous powers. But, at any rate, to exercise this means that you are setting aside established procedure and that is a fairly serious matter. In this case, Members of the committee who agreed with this motion felt that it was important that, if it were to be done, it not be done simply on the decision of a single Minister, who would indicate that he is not going to competition on a particular job.

Consulting Executive Council On Rare Occasion Not Cumbersome.

We felt, instead, that it would not be terribly cumbersome, since we can only assume that setting aside the procedure would not occur frequently, but it would not be particularly cumbersome for the Minister to consult with the Executive Council in cases like this. Certainly, having this requirement, as I said, is not, cumbersome but could at the same time save a Minister from a delicate situation that could result in criticism and of course, a decision like this could have an impact on the credibility of the government as a whole. Therefore, other government Ministers should be aware when something like this is done. We do not have a public service commission here, and I think most Members agree that it is not desirable, right at this time, to try to put one into place; so, in place of that, having some reasonable safeguards for objectivity, I think, is important. They are not intended to slight the actions of any particular Minister but just to make sure that we have a regime in place that is acceptable to everyone.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, as the Member indicated my response to the committee's request to amend the act, as proposed in the motion today, is that we not follow that procedure. My reason is that, generally, it does not happen very often in our government that senior appointments are made without competition. As I said, since I have been responsible for the department, I have made it a practice to put all jobs out for competition, particularly the high-level positions. That is the approach that we are taking with respect to hiring civil servants. I take the view that the matter of the management of civil service is a ministerial responsibility and should not require the Executive to become involved in this matter. We will note that the provision for making appointments would apply only where there has been a competition and no suitable person comes forward as a result of that competition. That appointment would be made from within the public service, so there is some protection, as it were, to be sure that the best person in the civil service is appointed. That is my view and I urge Members to consider the fact that by all of these amendments today you are giving the responsibility of Personnel to the Minister of Personnel. I think that you should have confidence and trust in him that he will do the best on behalf of the government. He can act alone and he need not run to his Executive colleagues at every instance when he has to make a decision on appointments that do not go to competition.

The other matter is that you do not want to clog up the Executive Council system with these decisions. I consider that the decisions are not very difficult and not such great decisions that they should have to go to all of the Executive Council. On the whole, I can do the task as the Minister responsible for Personnel without having to involve my colleagues in matters such as this. So, I urge you Members to not support the amendment.

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

Temptation To Hire Friends

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the amendment, I am supporting the amendment. The Minister of Personnel, I fully understand what he is saying but up to date, when the Commissioner is in charge of that, I know it is going well and I also know the present Minister is going to do well also. But considering the Ministers will be changed from time to time -- because in future time the Ministers will change, one of these may hire his or her best friend or close friends. This may never happen, but it is our job to safeguard against it. For that reason, I want the Members to support the amendment. I will be supporting it. We are aware that the Executive Council -- it will be pretty hard for them to meet every time to make decisions, but communications are easy to get these days. Thank you.

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

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I am not on Mr. MacQuarrie's committee, so I am trying to look at this objectively while not saying that Mr. MacQuarrie is not objective. I am willing to accept the Minister's word on this, that a clause like this is not necessary. I have no real experience on being with the Executive but just from the management point of view I know that people who have many responsibilities in certain situations have to make decisions quickly, without running to somebody to make decisions. If this amendment is going to make it cumbersome for what is basically supposed to be a management level of this government, I do not think it is in the public interest to put in such an amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. To the motion.

Amendment Not Directed At Present Minister

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. With respect to the Minister's comments earlier, I have observed that at very senior levels the Minister has gone to competitions for positions which would not have been put to competition at an earlier time and I do compliment the Minister for that, very sincerely. I would like to say that a clause like this is not directed at this Minister. We may very well be satisfied with his objectivity but we cannot know who would fill that post at some future time and this is just a bit of a safeguard.

As to my own objectivity, I would point out to Mr. T'Seleie that in committee the motion was moved by Mr. Erkloo and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence. Because it was a formal committee motion I felt that I should move it in the House here but I will say that I do personally support it as well. I do not think that it does take away from ministerial responsibility for management because it is not trying to interpose the Assembly in it. It is still in the hands of Ministers, the executive arm of government, and in the matter of engaging people you know that certain tasks are going to be required, you know ahead of time what the tasks are going to be and if it appears that you are unable to get somebody for some reason by competition, I cannot see that as an emergency thing where a Minister would have to decide all of a sudden in one day that he needed to make that kind of decision. There would be times simply to okay it with other Members of the Executive Council, so I would ask Members to support the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

Approximately 100 Direct Appointments Per Year

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I can just provide information provided to me by my staff in this matter. We, as government, make approximately 100 direct appointments per year. This was last year's figure and some of these were from within and some were from outside the public service. These are made for various reasons, including lay-offs, people completing training programs, health reasons, compassionate reasons, people returning from approved leave of absences. So, these are the types of reasons and, of course, occasionally where someone in the public service is seen as being very capable and suitable for the particular job, direct appointments are made.

I remind the Members that there are provisions already to review the Ministers' decisions in our legislation. If as a result of any of these direct appointments a civil servant is not happy, he has the opportunity to appeal that decision to the Minister. There is some provision for some safeguard providing for fairness. I still urge the Members in considering the matter to reject the amendment. I do feel that it is going to be much more cumbersome for a Minister to do his job because you are taking away some of his discretion. It is going to mean, to a certain extent, clogging up the Executive Council by bringing all of these matters to the Executive Council. I know from practice that the Executive Council agendas are very heavy with a lot of matters to deal with. Generally Ministers do not want to contend with having to review all of the proposed appointments. I think as a government we presently oppose the amendment but if we do hear from other Members that they feel strongly about this then we would reconsider the matter. It is certainly not a matter of life and death for the government. We will take your direction in this matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Amend Clause 22, Bill 20-86(1), Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 22, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Clause 23, when appointment from outside public service authorized. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Amend Clause 23, Bill 20-86(1), Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, part of the same package really, Mr. Chairman, so I further move that section 17 of clause 23 be amended by adding immediately after "Minister" on the first line, the words: "and upon the recommendation of the Executive Council". So that the section would now read: "Where, in the opinion of the Minister and upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, a suitable appointment cannot be made from within the public service, the appointment may be made from outside the public service." This merely refers to appointments from outside the public service without competition as the previous one referred to appointments from within.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question is being called. All those in favour?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, can I please speak to that motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The vote has already started, Mr. Sibbeston. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 23, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Clause 24, qualifications. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 25, probation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 26, rejection. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 27, special employment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 28, resignation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 29, abandonment. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: This clause, section 25, as explained by the deputy minister of Personnel, was allowing the employee the opportunity to explain his absence. He added that the intent of the clause was to allow the government to restaff without a resignation on file. The concern had been raised in committee that the matter of a decision about abandonment of a position may be acted on prematurely by the government and hence it was suggested that perhaps the government could add the words "except in extenuating circumstances". That was not a formal motion, the government was merely asked to consider it and the Minister in his reply to committee, indicated that he did not agree with the recommendation that this clause be amended to indicate that abandonment may be pursued after one week except in extenuating circumstances. The Minister said, "It has been the practice of this government to declare an employee to have abandoned his position after one week if the circumstances are known, otherwise abandonment of position is declared at the end of one month, after every reasonable attempt is made to ascertain the reason for the absence."

The Minister gave the undertaking that he intended to continue this practice. So it is the government's position that a change really is not required, that the section is not abused and only used when, in fact, it is clear that somebody has abandoned their position and it enables something to be done about it in a reasonably short time. So because it was not a formal motion, I will not make a motion now but just bring it to the attention of Members, some of whom may wish to comment more about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 29, abandonment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 30, laying off employees. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 31, order of laying off. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 32, misconduct or incompetence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 33, notice. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had at one time indicated when we were dealing with this particular clause, that I felt there should have been a time period given when the notice is of action that has taken place under section 28(1). However, the Minister replied to us indicating that it had been the practice to attach the copy of the notice given pursuant to that section with the recommendation. And that notice is given to employees at the time the recommendation is made as to what or whether the pay would be reduced. Talking at the time with the deputy minister of the department, he indicated that to some degree he would not have any difficulty with that. However, I will not pursue it because I will agree that, with the Minister's reply to us in his letter to the chairman of the standing committee, it has been the practice to attach a copy of the notice given to it with the recommendation. So I just wanted to raise it, that it was a concern in the committee. I will take what the Minister has indicated in his reply and leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Clause 33, notice. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 34, right of appeal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 35, appeal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 36, reinstatement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 37, suspension. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 38, termination. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 39, extension. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 40, proceedings upon completion of inquiry. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 41, notice of dismissal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 42, right to appeal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 43, dismissal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 44, leave of absence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 45, notice. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 46, discipline. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 47, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 48. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 49, when holiday falls on day of rest. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 50, times for taking leave. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 51, appointment during extended leave. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 52, appointment to another position. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 53, appointment at higher than minimum rate. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 54, denial of increase. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 55, regulations. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: On this matter of regulations, a concern arose that is a concern that has sometimes been expressed in committee with respect to other bills too, and that is, when we pass or amend legislation, there are often new regulations that will result from it and certainly that will be the case with respect to this legislation. At least one of the committee Members indicated that it would be desirable for the committee to be able to see the regulations at the same time that the bill is in the House. It is acknowledged that this has not been the government practice in the past and although request was made to see these regulations, we have an indication from the Minister that that is not possible at this time. Nevertheless, it is a general concern and perhaps the Member who raised the matter would like to comment further on it. My last comment on it would simply be that probably the government could be alerted that some time in the future the standing committee probably will be addressing this issue in a general way.

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

Legislators Should Have Input Into Regulations Of A Bill

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate, this business of having bills ready and coming in without the regulations has led to some difficulties in the past and there is no reason to think that it will not lead to difficulties in the future. I may be the only one of the opinion, I believe, that when the government is proposing legislation, it is already working on the regulations governing that legislation. As legislators we do not have any input into the regulations of a particular bill. As a legislator I have input into the legislation. Regulations and documents that come along with it, such as an interpretation of those regulations by personnel within the government, can change depending upon the individuals. And I have a concern and have always had a concern about the fact that the government proposes legislation and then says, "Leave the regulations up to us. We will make sure that they are okay."

Those regulations are rarely ever discussed in the House, where we, as legislators, have some input or could have input into them. I think that it is an important principle that, when the government proposes legislation, since they must, of necessity, already be working on the regulations -- I think that it is an important principle that we as legislators should know what those regulations are. I will continue to press for those regulations being part of the legislative process and the proposals that come into the House. I believe that laws are made for the good of the people that we represent. That is the only time that we have any input into them -- when the law is being proposed. Either we make amendments to it or have the government change it, as we have just had, to put it in the law.

There are a number of instances with a number of bills where there are particulars that I believe would be better in the law than in the regulations, because that is when we would have an opportunity to do something about them. But we do not have an opportunity to do anything about the regulations. It is left to government and we do not see this. I simply believe that, when the government proposes legislation, they should at least indicate to us what the changes in the regulations are going to be -- the regulations that are involved with the legislation. That is the only time, as I say, that we can get any input into it. Even though it has not been the practice, it has been something that has been asked for, not only in the standing committee on legislation and standing committee on finance, it has been asked by the public accounts committee and I think that Members who belong to those committees recognize that that is something we have been asking

for for some time. I realize that it is not the present practice of the government, or it has not been, but I see no reason why it could not change and the practice could be that when legislation comes in and the government is working on these regulations, that these regulations would be indicated to us and how they would govern the particular legislation.

I simply want to restate my particular case and, again, as I say, I may be the only one that is concerned with it but I think that it is an important principle -- one that we should establish. Thank you.

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

Appellants Will Be Provided Reasons For Decisions

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, public service regulations have been in existence for a number of years. I notice the one set of regulations is in effect since 1980 and there have been amendments in 1983 and 1984. So, I think that Members can expect that as elected people take over the responsibilities for the public service, there is going to be much more attention paid to the act and the regulations. I undertake to keep the Members advised of the changes that are made. In fact, I am undertaking to amend the staffing appeals regulations to provide that the appellant, the person who does not get the job, is informed of the appeal report and also of the decision of the Minister. I have undertaken to do that and this will help to make sure that the appellants who are appealing decisions are provided with notice as to why decisions were made. These are not provided for, at the moment, in the regulations and I undertake to make those amendments to our present regulations in the next few weeks and months, as soon as it can administratively be done.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that the Minister is referring to the appeals regulations, but there are regulations that govern all aspects of this particular piece of legislation and regulations that govern all the legislation. In this instance, I am pleased to see that the Minister agrees that the regulations would be amended to require that the appellant be informed. That is one instance, but it is the principle that I am concerned about and, I guess, it may be our own fault. We likely have, as a Legislature, even in this committee, I guess the power to, at least, demand in this instance that the Executive table those regulations at the same time and maybe we are, again, not taking advantage of it. I, again, reiterate that we get the regulations after the fact. After they have been there, they have been prescribed, if you like, where the regulations are made, we get a group of them together and they are given to us. It seems to me that, again, it is always after the fact. We have a difficult time then, changing these regulations. That is the only point that I am making.

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

Lack Of System Not Fault Of Government

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I would just like to make the point that, certainly, for my part I do not see it as a fault of the government that we do not have input into the regulations. It is obvious from many articles that I read that legislatures around the world are realizing more and more that regulations -- they even use the term "delegated legislation" -- that, in fact, it is part and parcel of the law, and that legislatures should be paying more attention to what is in the regulations. The way the system is now is that when regulations are signed, they are sent to the standing committee on legislation, but that is after the fact. We have the opportunity to review them and comment and, as I say, it is not the fault of the government that there is not some other system. As a Legislature as a whole, we could change that procedure if we wanted to. It is something that will have to be looked at more in the future as to whether there is a better way to have more input from legislators into the making of regulations, but that is something for down the road. I just wanted to make the point that we do not see it as a fault of the government that there is not a better system in place right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 55, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 56. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 57. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 58, collective agreement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 59, collective agreement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 60, collective agreement binding. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 61, exclusion. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 62, notice to commence bargaining. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 63, proof of compliance. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 64, saving provision regarding health and safety. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 65, collective agreement continued. Agreed? Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion To Delete "Consequential Amendments" In Heading And Replace With "Consequential Amendment",
Bill 20-86(1), Carried

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I move that the heading, "Consequential Amendments", immediately following clause 65, be deleted, and the following heading be substituted: "Consequential Amendment".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Yes, consequential amendment. Mr. Sibbeston? Clause 66, Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion To Delete Heading, "Workers' Compensation Act", Bill 20-86(1), Carried

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I would move that the heading, "Workers' Compensation Act", immediately following clause 66, be deleted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sibbeston, your motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion To Delete Clauses 67, 68, and 69, Bill 20-86(1), Carried

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I move that clauses 67, 68 and 69 be deleted.

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

MR. MACQUARRIE: Could we just ask the Minister for the reasons for the deletion of these clauses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the bill as it was originally presented contains three provisions pertaining to the status of employees of the Workers' Compensation Board under the Workers' Compensation Act. The Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board has set up a review board to study all aspects of the Workers' Compensation Board. It is expected that the report of the task force will result in recommendations for amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. I propose that it would be premature to consider any amendments that would alter the status of the employees of the board before the review board has reported. It is for these reasons that these amendments have been made.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 66. This is the last clause, I believe. The Minister has an amendment to the statement of purpose. Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion To Amend Statement Of Purpose, Bill 20-86(1), Carried

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, to reflect the deletion in the body of reference to the Workers' Compensation Act, I propose the following motion: That Bill 20-86(1), An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be amended by deleting from the statement of purpose the words: "amendments to the Northwest Territories Public Service Association Act and the Workers' Compensation Act" and substituting the following words: "amendments to the Northwest Territories Public Service Association Act".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The bill as a whole. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, just before we leave the matter. I have a question pertaining to appointments which I would like to ask the Minister responsible. It has been the practice recently -- well, a decision was made that certain appointments of public servants at the higher levels such as deputy minister, would be at pleasure and the implication is that a Minister can select his deputy minister. That is certainly acceptable and we recognize that there are certain other positions like that; executive assistants or certain other positions like that that would be by appointment. The question that I have is, is there a policy or is it understood in government that with the types of positions like that that are made by appointment, is it expected that the people filling them automatically submit their resignation when the person who appointed them is terminated as a Minister for one reason or another? Termination is not a very good word but when he steps down as a Minister or when his term ends as a Minister. Is there any policy with respect to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, there is at the moment no policy dealing with this matter. It is a practice that has just very recently grown into existence with, I guess, the growth of responsible ministerial government in the North. It is a practice now that Ministers are completely free to choose their own deputy ministers and it is a very positive thing and we have discussed the matter and have stated generally that it is a matter that we, as an Executive Council, ought to deal with -- we ought to provide a policy by which we function and do things in this area but to date we have not produced a policy which will guide us in the future in this matter. It is one that we will obviously need to deal with, likely before the next election so that the next government will come on the scene and have a policy that they could follow and could consider.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. The bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 20-86(1), Public Service Act is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We will turn now to Bill 19-86(1), Northwest Territories Energy Corporation Act, with Mr. Curley. We will take a 15 minute coffee break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 19-86(1), Northwest Territories Energy Corporation Act

Come to order. We are on Bill 19-86(1), An Act to Establish the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation, with opening remarks from Mr. Curley.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I do not really believe that I need to introduce the bill any further.

---Laughter

Sorry about that. Just for a refresher, Mr. Chairman, this particular bill is really to enable the Government of the Northwest Territories, among other things from the title, to allow us to establish a Northwest Territories energy corporation which would really be an NWT utility, a power company. One reason that we call it energy corporation is the fact that it would probably also be responsible for distribution of natural gas and manage the distribution of natural gas in some parts of the Northwest Territories as climate and production facilities enable us to do so in the future. So, that is one part.

As well, the legislation would enable the government, if and when it is appropriate to do so, to establish a board and chairman of the board to run the energy corporation and be responsible to manage and operate the energy corporation. How we actually manage the assets and the utility company is, in my view, very much of an interest to Members of the House and what the Members have to say is something that I think the Executive Council is prepared to listen to. But as far as the general introduction of the bill, it is really enabling legislation and, if the conditions permit and financial arrangements permit and if they are satisfactory to the government with the negotiations with the federal government, would allow us to do the thing. But if not, the bill could be waiting in the shelves and wait for the appropriate time and best climate in the North to enable the corporation to take over the power of utilities in the North.

I am not going to go too long in my introduction. But I wanted to indicate that the bill also has consequential amendments to the Public Utilities Act which would allow the energy corporation, if and when it takes over, to be subjected to the public hearing and comment from the Public Utilities Board on their rate increase proposal. So, Mr. Chairman, without any further ado, I will leave it to Members for general comment. Thank you.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister in introducing the bill, noted for benefit of the committee, that March 31st, 1987, was a target for completion of the transfer of the power corporation to the GNWT, but he also indicated that it was important to have an energy corporation act put in place now and he emphasized that, so that various matters having to do with the transfer of responsibilities could be begun and also to demonstrate to the federal government that the GNWT is ready to take on this responsibility. One of the critical things in the whole transfer would be the matter of financial negotiations, and the Minister indicated that he would hope to have negotiations completed near the end of July in this year. A question arose as to, if that were the case, what kind of input could Members have with respect to the financial negotiations, and the Minister indicated that he will bring a full report on that matter to the Legislature in the fall session of this year -- that is, after the financial negotiations have taken place and of course before the transfer occurs. It was observed that although this legislation might be passed, it is enabling legislation and if it were passed now, it still would not preclude the possibility that the GNWT will, if the financial package is unacceptable and they cannot negotiate a good agreement with the federal government, does not preclude the possibility that the GNWT would refuse to accept the transfer.

Negotiation Principles Agreed To By The Executive Council

Inasmuch as the Minister has already embarked on the financial negotiations with the federal government and since, in the eyes of a number of Members, that is critical to the matter of transfer, the Members were concerned about the shape of those negotiations. In committee the Minister outlined principles that have been agreed to by the Executive Council and that guide to the Minister in those negotiations and I think it would be appropriate for the public record here, to note those:

- 1) The first is that the GNWT desires the same degree of control over power generation, transmission and distribution that is held by the provinces.
- 2) The GNWT wishes to assume this control within the life of the current Legislative Assembly.
- 3) The GNWT will exercise this control through the NWT Public Utilities Board.
- 4) The GNWT wishes to see the electrical business initially conducted by a company with some degree of public ownership.
- 5) The classification of customers as hydro or diesel and as residential, small general service, large general service, industrial or wholesale is acceptable, subject to 6) and 7). Electricity rates to each of these classes should be based on cost.

- 6) Non-governmental residential and small general service customers in diesel community zones should not be asked to pay more than hydro zoned customers for reasonable amounts of consumption.
- 7) The NWT portion of NCPC should be transferred to the GNWT and refinanced as a viable self-sustaining enterprise capable of providing power to territorial residents at relatively stable rates starting at the level previously stated.

Those are some principles that are guiding the Minister in his negotiations. At a number of points in the bill, the committee had recommendations to make for changes. I am pleased to say that the Minister has accepted most of those changes and I will make note of them as we proceed through the bill clause by clause. But that is all I have to say by way of opening comments as the chairman of the standing committee on legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not making these initial comments as a Member but as the chairman of the standing committee on finance. I want to indicate that the committee has had an opportunity to review Bill 19-86(1), Northwest Territories Energy Corporation Act, which has had second reading. The committee expressed several concerns which are being addressed by the standing committee on legislation. The entire review of financial implications is hindered by our lack of knowledge of the negotiation procedure and the present status of negotiations. While this act will cost approximately \$320,000 this year, we are unable to advise the House on what it will cost in future years.

Mr. Chairman, these are the brief comments we would like to make concerning the bill. Mr. MacQuarrie has made comments that were raised both by Members of the standing committee on legislation and finance and that concludes our remarks from the standing committee on finance.

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

Degree Of Public Ownership Of Alberta Power

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, just a narrow question based on the principles that Mr. MacQuarrie read out that I believe come from the government. There is a reference to the desire of the government to see the electrical business initially conducted by a company with some degree of public ownership. That of course begs a question: What is the degree of public ownership of Alberta Power?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I can answer that question because the contract arrangement does not necessarily indicate that the government has no control over the utility. The NWT energy corporation would be totally publicly owned by the people of the NWT. That is mainly what we infer in that particular principle. The reason that particular principle is phrased in such a way, in my view, is that in the future or now or whenever, the government may, either partly or totally, privatize the utility company some day. But that is not the position at the moment. Our position is that the utility company, if the negotiations allow us to successfully conclude our concern, would be totally owned by the people of the North but managed in the first few years by the private utility contractor. But again these are subject to the terms and conditions in which we would be prepared to accept the transfer from the federal government. So I think the reason we put in that particular principle is really to allow us to have flexibility as to how we would like to have the ownership structured in the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Just so I am clear. I take it what the Minister intended with that particular principle was that the federal crown corporation, NCPC, not transfer its assets or the assets of that corporation directly to a private company like Alberta Power, but as we are doing with this bill, that there be a crown corporation established here as there is in the province of Ontario with Ontario Hydro and British Columbia with BC Hydro. That is the step you are addressing in that principle. I guess my point is that I agree with you that there be a crown corporation here, publicly owned, with our government as the sole shareholder, but I think you are ignoring what is in the minds right now of the Executive Council. After the first step you are going to turn it

over, virtually the whole ball of wax, to a privately owned utility company. I suppose the question then becomes on balance -- how much control does the new energy crown corporation have over the day to day operation of the operating company? And of course that draft contract is not before us, it is the bill that is before us. But I would just like the Minister to confirm that my understanding is correct that that principle deals with the first step only in the setting up of the crown corporation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, definitely first phase only, in my view, because the negotiating principles which were adopted by the Executive deal with the fact that GNWT does not have control over the present utilities and the negotiating principles which Mr. MacQuarrie quoted are the basis for our Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat to enter into negotiations based on these principles. Once the transfer has taken place, I would think then that some of the principles have been met and they would have to be revised by the government of the day -- who knows, you might be then the Minister responsible, in 1988.

What I am trying to say is that GNWT, the Executive Council, is aware of the fact that there is more than one business or native corporation in the NWT that is very interested in gaining an equitable position in the utility company. So with that in mind, we have been conscious of the fact in our negotiations that in the future that might be the route to go, either partly or totally, to privatize the utility company in order to allow the northern businesses or native corporations to have a share in the energy corporation. I do not know whether I answered your question or not.

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

Takeover Of NCPC In The Yukon

MR. RICHARD: On a related matter, just so the record is clear. The company that Mr. Curley has mentioned in the last two days in the Assembly as being the leading contender for the operating contract, Northland Utilities, I understand is a subsidiary of Alberta Power. I also understand that in the Yukon where there is a similar negotiation under way for the Yukon government to take over the Yukon portion of NCPC, that the Yukon government is itself entering into contractual arrangements with, I believe, Yukon Electric, which is another subsidiary of Alberta Power. Would the Minister confirm that my understanding is correct, that at the moment negotiations are well under way with two subsidiaries of the same company to operate NCPC in the Yukon and the NWT? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is true. Yukon Electric is also owned 100 per cent by Alberta Power and I believe that they have been managing and running a number of utilities in a utility system in the Yukon and therefore the Yukon government has already entered into an agreement with them to run the whole system that was operated by NCPC. So that is the case at the moment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard. General comments.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to appear negative to what the Minister and his officials have been doing in recent months in preparation for those negotiations and in drafting this legislation, but the comment that has been made to me, as the public becomes aware that our government is getting in bed, so to speak, with a private utility company, a subsidiary of Alberta Power, the Yukon government is getting in bed with another subsidiary; and that when the dust settles, we are going to have an Alberta based utility company operating former NCPC functions in the Yukon and the NWT. People are asking me what we are going to accomplish. I appreciate that there is a jurisdictional benefit in that the new operators will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board in each of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. That is a plus, I suppose, from the current system to the one proposed. But a lot of the public, I believe, see the proposals that are being put forward as not very much different from 12 or 24 months ago when it was proposed simply that the NCPC offices move north; a portion to the Yukon and a portion to the Northwest Territories. I simply make that observation. It has been drawn to my attention and as people see what has been happening in recent months they ask: When the dust settles, is it going to be much different from what we had in the past or what was proposed by moving the federal crown commission out of Edmonton? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Justification For Rate Increases

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be cynical, either. I would think that there would be a tremendous difference. I would think that if you get control over an energy corporation, power company, and you put it directly in your own legislation, that you can change legislation and terms and conditions of certain aspects of their policies to reflect more of the territorial economy -- I think that is significantly different, when the dust settles. In my view, Mr. Chairman, I think that giving the Public Utilities Board, an opportunity to review and justify the rate increases is one benefit that the public will be safeguarded by; that there will not be direct, automatic rate increases as the inflation rate goes up; that they would have to justify their costs, justify their rate increase proposals, subject to public hearings -- an opportunity by ordinary citizens to appear and make a presentation and express their own feelings as to how they are being affected by the rate increases, our rates in the NWT. I think that would be significantly different from the way in which the present NCPC is operated. As far as I am concerned you almost have to be a millionaire right now to be able to present a complaint against NCPC if you are not satisfied with the service or the high costs of power rates in the NWT. That is one difference that I see would be a direct responsibility of this government as well as an opportunity provided to citizens and customers to be able to present their case opposing our increased rates.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, just to clarify. I am in total agreement on that matter with the Minister. I take it the whole thrust of what we are doing is with that in mind; it is to somehow make the deliverer of electrical or energy services in the North responsible to a regulatory body in the North. I am totally in favour of that. I am not privy to the discussions with the Executive Council in deciding to go the route of an operating company versus letting the NWT energy corporation run it, but clearly when this bill, first saw the light of day, creating an NWT energy corporation, I thought the main reason was to get a corporate body here with this responsibility so that it is subject to the jurisdiction of our Public Utilities Board.

I suppose this is an aside, but I am a little concerned with the phrase in principle three that our government is going to assume the control over power generations through the PUB. I am one of the purists who likes to think that the PUB is an independent body and that is their responsibility and they will do it and the government will not interfere with their role. But I do not disagree with Mr. Curley on that primary objective, to make the current function of NCPC subject to the jurisdiction of the PUB of the North. But I do not think you have to go to private utility companies based in Alberta -- I do not know who the shareholders are but I presume they are based somewhere south of 60 -- in order to accomplish that end.

Although we are not dealing specifically with this in this bill, Mr. Chairman, I still have to be convinced and I am sure my friends on the Executive Council, in their wisdom, are making a choice for good reasons. But I have to be convinced as to why we are going the private operator route rather than taking not only the assets but the personnel resources of NCPC and forming our own crown corporation and running the utility on a day to day operational basis as well. Mr. Chairman, notwithstanding all of that, Mr. Curley and I agree on the principal object which is to make it subject to the PUB. Thank you.

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

Safeguarding The Social Component

MR. MacQUARRIE: I would just like to follow up on the comments Mr. Richard dealt with. The Minister on a number of occasions has stressed that there is a social component in this public utility and I assume that that is the importance of making sure there is a secure supply of energy to all people in the NWT and that it will be there in affordable rates. Of course, there is concern among some people that if it were to become operated by a private company, what happens to the social component? So could I ask the Minister, for the benefit of the public, would he perhaps summarize what are the features of this legislation and of the other actions that he is taking with respect to a transfer and getting a management contract -- what are the features that will safeguard the social component in this public utility?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not at all that clear as to exactly what the question is, because if you're talking in terms of legislation or in terms of the operation safeguards rather, I think it is complicated. I would like the Member to maybe be a little bit more specific because the mandate that we have been given is to try and ensure that the social considerations be maintained by the federal government and that level of subsidization be continued. That is one thing that we are asking the federal government to ensure, that these are there and that the safeguards for maintaining the debt load be significantly reduced by the federal government before assuming the responsibility. If the Member is asking me with those, then we are actually asking the federal government not to eliminate the subsidy that they presently carry out to the business community, as well as to the private residents in the Northwest Territories. Maybe the Member can be a little more specific in his question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, that was certainly one thing that I was alluding to, the fact that there are subsidies now. How is the Minister ensuring that we will not find ourselves in the position where we are unable to maintain the necessary subsidies, but also, with respect to the legislation itself, are there particular features of this legislation that help to ensure that the NWT energy corporation will be operated in a manner that will ensure that the social component is safeguarded? I suppose an earlier one that was also alluded to was that it would be subject to the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board. Are there any other features, in addition to the things that he said earlier, that the public ought to know in order to feel secure, that if a transfer takes place, they are not going to suddenly find a circumstance that is much worse than what they have been used to, despite all the complaints that we hear about NCPC, from time to time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the February session, I was able to table the MOU between Yukon, federal government, and NWT. The safeguards that I can attempt to assure the Members are listed in the memorandum of understanding; the power utility in the Northwest Territories must be efficient and cost effective, and the fact that that level of service must be maintained in high standards in the NWT. But how we achieve that is always subject to a degree of question by the public. I do not know whether we will be able to assure the public at the moment, other than to try to ensure that what we attempted to do is not to significantly increase the amount that the public is presently being burdened by the power costs. We would like to hope that any arrangement that we come to in agreement with federal government is acceptable to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Principles Agreed On Between Federal And Territorial Governments

The principles that were agreed to, I think, are important for me to quote at the moment because they are the basis for the mandate that we agreed to in Ottawa:

- 1) The integrity and quality of electrical service will be maintained. That is one assurance that we would like at least, to hold dearly as we attempt to transfer the NCPC to NWT.
- 2) The legal and financial integrity and the mandate of NCPC shall be maintained during the transition period, and the commission shall conduct itself in a way which facilitates the intent of this memorandum of understanding. That particular second clause shows that NCPC's present management must be satisfied with its concerns.
- 3) The interests of northern consumers will be protected.
- 4) The implementation plans for the transfer shall include a course of action for the fair and equitable treatment of NCPC employees on staff at the date of transfer.

So, Mr. Chairman, as far as I am concerned, these are the principles that were agreed to between the Minister of Indian Affairs, Ministers responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources, and Yukon and NWT, and we would like to hope that these broad principles that were agreed upon will be respected. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments? Mr. McCallum.

Government Directed Public Utility Board

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some general concerns, and I guess they are very much similar to what Mr. Richard had indicated. It seems to me that the parent body, Alberta Power, if we follow what has been done in the Yukon, the employees will become employees of Northland Utilities or, in effect, Alberta Power. What we will get out of this, because it is proposed under one of the principles of devolution, the last one, that it is to be a viable, self-sustaining enterprise and the rates are going to be based on cost -- so it is not going to be anything we are going to make money on, but it is good. It has been said that we may get a government-directed public utility board out of it. We will set up a corporation with a president and six to 10 directors and some clerical help. The employees will be employees of Alberta Power or Northland Utilities.

Even though the Minister indicated that there is going to be no difficulty with present employees of NCPC retaining positions, should they want them, I would have a concern that those present employees have already some financial benefits, such as pension, for example, with the federal government. I am wondering if it is part of the negotiations and how it is going to happen that their particular benefits are now going to be transferred to a private corporation, and whether that is possible. I know it was not possible for Members, here, when we were in the employ of the Government of the Northwest Territories, to transfer to a particular pension fund for Members. I have the concern there. I think what we are going to get out of it would be, as I said, a government-directed public utility board.

I have a further concern in this whole business of the negotiations that are going on. When we asked about these negotiations and whether this government is going to take over the liabilities as well as the assets, the answer that was given to us was, "We are hoping to convert the liabilities into equity." I know I do not know what that means. I am hoping that we can get some kind of explanation of what really this conversion of liabilities into equity really is. The whole process, it seems to me, was to set it up so that the government or people in the NWT would have some say over the rates. But I have a concern that that is about all we are going to get -- this government-directed public utility board. I would hope that what the government is doing with this particular piece of legislation is not leading us down the garden path, that there is not more to it than what we are supposedly wanting to okay; that is, establishing a corporation to be known as the NWT energy corporation, that is it. But it is not going to be a corporation the way it is being explained to us now. Even though it was indicated that there has to be some kind of public ownership in it, it does not seem to me that that is what is occurring.

So I have some concerns, Mr. Chairman, in all of these things, in light of the legislation, in what we are attempting to do may not come about. The Minister has indicated that he is going to give each of us a written report as to what goes on after this and that he would be prepared to release that document after a number of decisions have been made, including the site of where this corporation is going to be, but I am not sure that what we are going to get will be in time for Members of this Assembly to give any kind of approval to it; the door may very well be closed to the business of setting up a public utility organization that in effect does the distribution as well; it simply is a corporation that to all intents and purposes will simply direct a public utility board as to the method by which they would carry out their business.

As we go through there may be other concerns that I have, but basically, fundamentally, that is the concern that I have at the present time -- that we are not getting what we think we are going to get by its establishment or by bringing it into effect. I would like to get some idea, as I said earlier, Mr. Chairman, of what this business of converting liabilities into equity really means. As well, if the Minister could indicate to me the status of present employees with their financial benefits that are already in place through a federal government pension plan, whether they will be able to transfer those benefits into a privately owned corporation that may have a different set-up as far as a pension scheme is concerned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, as regards the various benefits of the independent power utility NUL, I would have to get more information about that and I will be prepared to make a statement on that tomorrow during question period. My information that I have is that the benefits are better than the present benefits they are getting from the federal government, but I can see that there are concerns that the career people would likely be cut off from their future benefits and all these things. I would like to make a more substantial statement on that before I attempt to

confuse the Member any further. But as far as the conversion of the debt to equity, again I will make a clear statement on that tomorrow because from my understanding it is a bookkeeping or accounting matter in which the federal government has, in the past, invested a number of shares and contributed to equity through substantial contributions to some federal crown corporation, but in some respect these were contributions and therefore were turned into equity. Rather than acquitting these various loans this company has acquired in the past, the federal government has consistently applied them against the rate base and therefore they are being identified as a debt which must be recovered from the customers of the Northwest Territories.

In our negotiations what we are attempting to do is argue that this is an accounting matter and therefore rather than calling it a liability it should be reversed with the federal government taking an appropriate response in their legislation or supplementary estimate to forgive the loan and therefore what we would acquire is a power utility fully paid to date. I think tomorrow I should try to bring in a more accurate statement on the present liability, which I am told is in the neighbourhood of \$80 million. I think it would be good for me to have a financial representative prepare a statement on that, as to what we mean by that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

Need For Technical Expertise

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier I asked a number of questions with regard to the transfer. I do wish to say that I support the initiative that has been taken but there are still some very serious questions that have to be dealt with. Firstly, I do not believe that you can be creating a power corporation to assume the mandate that has been identified in the terms of reference and within the legislation without having the necessary staff to carry out that particular mandate. If, as has been stated within the last two days, there are no technical staff, there are no managers, there are no administrators, then for what reason are we creating an energy corporation?

Further, the mandate of the energy corporation extends far beyond the present mandate that has been given to NCPC and, in fact, extends into other departments. Let me give you an example. With regard to petroleum products, the present responsibility falls within the jurisdiction and in the departmental responsibility of Government Services to deliver fuel for the purposes of generating electricity. They do it on behalf of NCPC. Now, in the case of water and sewer services like steam heat, presently that mandate in some instances falls within the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. How are you going to rectify those particular problems?

The other thing is that you have to remember that there is still this question about staff. People had this impression that we create a corporate structure responsible for energy on the basis of a board and a president. One of the major problems that we have had in our government has been our inability to respond to technical advice, to technical questions, for the production and the distribution of electricity and other utilities. It makes no sense to me, how we could develop an energy corporation with the idea that the staff that are responsible for administering, managing the particular delivery of that service will not be part of the transfer of responsibility to the Government of the Northwest Territories. It makes no sense -- but rather, we are going to give that responsibility to Alberta Power/Northland Utilities.

One of the problems that we have also had is trying to have Northern Canada Power Commission responsive to the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories. We have complained about the fact that their headquarters has been in Edmonton. We have complained about their corporate heads not recognizing the concerns of the people and residents of the Northwest Territories. Yet, in a private company, which is partly owned by the Government of Alberta and partly private, and whose headquarters will not be in the Northwest Territories, we are now prepared to give them the mandate and the responsibility for developing the utility service of the Northwest Territories. So, it makes no sense to develop that approach and yet suggest that they are going to be accountable to the legislatures and also to our Public Utilities Board.

On the question of social programs, I do not believe that it is the responsibility of any corporate body and structure to deal with social programs. That is a very, very separate thing. That is the responsibility of the government to deal with. Whatever funds you set aside to deal with subsidies -- and let me give my support to the Minister to negotiate those subsidies that continue to exist when supported by the federal government -- are not funds that are given to Northern Canada Power Commission as part of their funding financial resources. They are separate and they are to deal with the social questions and, in fact, to subsidize higher rates of electrical cost.

Even with regard to our presentation of this government, when we talked about rate rationalization, subsidization was separate. It was a separate government initiative. So, the corporate structure is not going to be responsible, even under the presentation that was given by this government on the whole issue of rate rationalization. It is very separate and it should not be confused that this corporation is going to be responsible for that.

Protection For Northern Based NCPC Employees

I still do have additional concern with regard to the personnel. There are a couple of things: firstly, most of the people that are involved with Northern Canada Power Commission, Northwest Territories, are native or are non-native people who have been living in the North and have been born and raised in the North. Now, I just question the idea that we are now going to use corporate classification processes to determine who is qualified to work for that corporate structure and, in many instances, I must say, that the corporate structures have stricter qualifications for individuals who work for them, as opposed to our governments. So in many cases we may be putting people who are native and non-native, who have very little education and very little qualifications, in a position that the corporate structures will not be prepared to recruit them or retain them on staff. In light of the economic situation that exists in this country, and knowing that long-term employees will more than likely receive benefits before those individuals that are going to be transferred from NCPC to that corporate structure, we should not fool ourselves with the idea that the people in the North are going to be protected. I had that concern because I know from experience that it is not going to be very easy to negotiate.

The other thing is that I would rather support the Minister pursuing the idea of the energy corporation as having total responsibility, knowing that the expertise for distribution and generation of electricity now exists in Edmonton, and to move that technical expertise north, with the idea of the Government of Canada providing the necessary financial resources. I would rather see that, and I would rather see us assume and transfer the staff that are now in place with the financial resources to ensure that we can recruit and retain those people. That would be the best route that I could suggest. I know that there are some that probably do not want to go that route but, none the less, I believe that that is the best route to go at this particular time. That, Mr. Chairman, is the initial comment that I wish to make.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, just for the record, really, I do not want to disagree with a Member with the assumption, but some of the assumptions are not totally reflective of what we are trying to do, as far as the corporate structure is concerned. Just because the government would contract the operating contract, that is O and M, it does not mean it would have no control over the development of the hydro system in the North. They can only recommend replacing equipment which they are administering and, as for the decision with respect to new plants or whatever, that would definitely have to be debated by the board of directors and, no doubt, the government cabinet would want to be consulted on the new proposals for hydro plants or whatever. Just because the energy company enters into a management service contract, it does not mean they lose control. I hope not. I hope that is not the case. We have a number of companies in the North that are in existence with the bare minimum of officers and staff that contract their services to other private, eligible, and more experienced operators. For the record, I thought it was important to make that statement.

As for the issue of social assistance and social subsidization, we have not stated, and I have not stated, that the energy corporation would actually be responsible for that. I have not made it clear that the GNWT would be responsible for subsidization as is the case with the federal department, Indian Affairs, who is responsible for subsidization. NCPC mainly operates and manages the system and that is what our contractual arrangement would be, that a private contractor would manage and service the system in place. But as far as a policy, guidelines and major capital planning, the recommendation would have to be presented to the energy corporation board and, like anything else, they would have to make their proposals to the government, to the cabinet on major capital expenditures. That, in my view, would be the case. I just wanted to clarify these things.

I think it should also be noted that just because there are these recommendations to the idea of entering into management contract with a private utility, in my view that does not preclude the future energy corporation from having any new method or new structure as to how it wishes to operate. Earlier we were cost conscious of the fact that it is going to be more costly to try to transfer an existing system the way it is, to the Territories -- that if you are, in fact, basing

your principle as cost effective reasons, you would begin to see that two million additional dollars to get into this fully integrated company is more costly. The federal government has indicated strongly that the federal government initial position is that they would wish to see that the transfer cost of the personnel, however many there are transferred from Edmonton, should be recovered from the rate base. That means the customers would be asked to pay more for the transition costs. But we are disputing that principle, we believe that the federal government should give a one-time grant or whatever else to pay for the costs.

Takeover Of NCPC Will Be In Stages

We thought it was important that there should at least be a track record in the Northwest Territories prior to complete takeover of the system or whichever the government or the Legislature would prefer to go. Complete privatization within two or three years, partial privatization -- or we would prefer to go fully integrated -- then we would have to privatize later. My assumption would be that this utility will eventually end in the hands of the Native Development Corporation and other shareholders in the Northwest Territories. Therefore, the issue that we are debating now is really in the transitional stage, but the control as far as the regulation aspect of the power company, I think, is the major benefit to the people of the Northwest Territories. The fact is that they would be able to make their case and object to any major proposals or rate increases that the power corporation would attempt to pass onto the consumer. There may be no other benefit but to me that is a benefit. It will not be cost conscious of operating a utility company. We believe in terms of the short term, obviously going the route to the management contract with a private utility company was saving this government and the federal government a tremendous amount of money which may have to be transferred to the ratepayers, the customers of the Northwest Territories. But, if we are not cost conscious, sure, let's go to the fully integrated right now and require additional civil servants to run the power corporations but that would mean that in the long run it may be more costly to the people of the North. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to place a short question regarding what possible benefit could there be in moving the corporation headquarters, because I am worried about the fact that it is going to cost very much to move it up north and all the utilities will be raised. The electricity costs will be raised if it is moved up north. I would like to know what possible benefit we could derive from moving the corporation up north. I know that it would be a burden to the people in the North if it costs more to move the corporation up north and it is not going to be of any use to the people of the North. I want that clarified. What possible benefit there could be in placing more burden on the people of the North? Thank you.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have said this before, if the prices are going to be raised, then we are not going to think about moving it. If it is not going to be of any benefit to the North, then we are not going to try to take over the management. We had been talking about it last year with NCPC and the year before, that if it was a lot better to have the federal government look after it, then I would not have tried to even take control of it. We have always been saying this over and over again from the outset, I have repeated this over and over again and since yesterday. How else can I say it so it can be understood by you? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments? Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree then that we go clause by clause? Mr. Nerysoo.

Fully Integrated Energy Corporation

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if I could ask the Minister a question before I make comments. Has the government reviewed the present cost of employees of Northern Canada Power Commission and the amount of money that is being transferred to NCPC by the federal government to ensure that these employees are receiving a salary and benefits? Have you done an analysis of that transfer?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have not seen the exact breakdown but I am positively sure that is part of the analysis that was done because that is a fixed cost and it is not difficult to find out exactly what the payroll costs of the present operations are. The government concluded right from the conception of the transfer idea that we would not want to assume over 100 employees to the headquarters of NCPC. There are about 108 employees in Edmonton, which in our view, Yukon government should also worry about. But even then the Yukon government has concluded that they are not interested in assuming any number of their personnel. As a result of that we will likely be asked to assume responsibility for a number of them. But going with the management contract arrangement there would be a bit of a cost saving, but in terms of the employees that is likely not acceptable. If we are to go fully into an integrated idea, NCPC's look-alike system in the NWT, I think then we would have to pretty much accept the fact that we either would take most of the NWT contingent in the present NCPC system and bear the responsibility for maintaining these positions and therefore we would then have to pass that on to the consumer. Whatever way it is it must be recovered from the people of the NWT. We believe that there was some modest cost saving but in the long run that is not acceptable to us and why not go for a fully integrated system?

AN HON. MEMBER: How do you determine how to do that?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, you can do it in two ways: Convince the Executive Council, convince the MLAs here. I have not heard anybody who wished to go into a fully integrated company yet.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible comments)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that the present legislation allows the Minister to establish a fully integrated corporation. I think that the idea of saving money is one thing but it depends on how you are saving it and for what reasons. Because in reality, I agree with the Minister who says we should not be totally responsible for all the personnel in Edmonton. At the same time I do say that we need to consider the expertise that exists in that particular office, along with the expertise that exists in the NWT, so that we can develop a corporation that is responsible for generating and administering the utility services of the residents of the NWT.

The Member raises a very crucial and important question that we unfortunately have not had an opportunity to deal with, and that is the decision as to whether or not it would be in our interests to either go through a partial integration of a utility company or whether or not it is in our interests to in fact support the Minister in his initiative, as a Legislature, to a fully integrated energy corporation. We have not had the advice nor the information to make that judgment and to support the Minister. Because I think that the initiative that the Minister has taken with the legislation, which started many years ago and has been concluded by the Minister now, is a good initiative and I would support the efforts of the Minister in implementing fully the legislation. But we cannot make that decision without the information being brought before us and the options that would be considered on behalf of all the people of the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard.

Committee Needs More Information

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of the discussion this afternoon has been concerned with the Minister's announcement yesterday that a decision is being made to go the route of the operating contract. It occurs to me, Mr. Chairman, that that discussion is perhaps slightly off topic in terms of this bill, but I wonder if we could ask the Minister -- I think we have to discuss the topic -- I for one would like more information so that we could adequately debate the decision about a fully operational crown corporation in the North or contracting the function out to someone like Alberta Power. I think we should have that debate but we have to base it on information. I am wondering if the Minister could undertake to give us something, some piece of paper with information on it that we could put into committee of the whole for discussion. I think a lot of this discussion now is not really directed in opposition to the Minister's bill, I think it is in the next step that the Executive Council are in the process of taking, which is to have the energy corporation that we are about to create with this bill, subcontract out its function. That step, I think, is of more interest to Members than is the first major step, which is this bill. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if we could ask the Minister if he would undertake to give us something in committee of the whole that we could deal with on that topic. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not that sure exactly what, and in what area, the Member would want me to table a document for Members' consideration. Does that mean that he would want me to table the MOU with the federal government for debate, or does he want me to table all the various NCPC reports that our research people have been doing, or does he want to table the agreement with the NUL? In that regard, I indicated that I am not sure that I could table that in view of certain legal obligations, because of the clientele relationship, which must keep confidentiality. I am sure you can understand that part, being a lawyer. I am not sure what he wants me to deal with. I can table a document, but everything is subject to final negotiations which have yet to be decided. If he wants a simple comparison between a fully integrated company and a management/services contractual arrangement, I think that is not hard to do because I gave you a figure already that it is going to cost two million dollars more in the very short-term to go to the fully integrated group. I do not think it requires so much of a debate, but rather, a choice which is what you want.

Therefore, to me, the simple solution to that would be to introduce a motion and see whether or not the majority of the Assembly Members support the concept of the fully integrated company. But then, there would have to be the rationale whether or not we want to go that route. Are we going to privatize in the year one, two, or three? If we are going to privatize, who are we going to privatize it to? Our assumption, as a government, has been that it should be privatized, in the future, to native owned development corporations which have consistently been lobbying us, and including other companies that think they can do the same management services, like Northland is able to do. Thank you.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I cannot understand those few remarks. Mr. Curley indicated because I am a lawyer, as he said, and maybe he can understand this because he is a politician. The Minister's statement yesterday, in this Assembly, referred to an earlier statement in February, when the Minister described two alternatives that the Executive Council was considering. One was a fully integrated company that would look and act like NCPC and the other, a government agency that would own all of the assets, but would operate them under a contract with an existing utility company. The Minister's statement was, "We are looking at this second option because the involvement of an existing larger utility in the operations would give us the best of both worlds."

Now what I think Members want to see is the information that led the Executive Council to look at option two, only. The Minister is throwing a figure of two million dollars out this afternoon. I would like to see where the two million dollar figure comes from. If you have two pieces of paper and the Minister is saying that there is two million dollars between them, let us see the pieces of paper. Let us analyse option one and option two. All I am asking, Mr. Chairman, is, can the Minister not move some of those pieces of paper into committee of the whole so that we can look at that decision of the Executive Council, which is a separate matter from this legislation which I, personally, with some minor questions, have no particular difficulty with, setting up the energy corporation.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no bloody difficulty with that, not whatsoever -- no problem. I do not think it will change the view of the Members. I can give them all kinds of other documents, it is not going to make one single difference, you know. If it is going to convince you, by looking at figures -- why do you want the figures for? So you can make a cost effective decision? What I am saying is, are you going to make a decision on a basis of the financial figures, by saving costs?

AN HON. MEMBER: What did you base the decision on?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Costs. I stated that cost was a consideration, as well as experience. The fact that whether you like Alberta Power or not, it has more access to other utility experience. Alberta Power has additional sources to draw from, being a subsidiary of Canadian Utilities. Therefore, we thought it was a benefit to have at least some resources to draw upon when and if, in some future years, that expertise is required. Whereas building a fully integrated company, at this moment, is going to be a tremendous task if not all the NCPC personnel would wish to move to the Northwest Territories. I can table the documents and I will table these documents, tomorrow.

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

Choice Between Public Or Private Energy Corporation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, well I hope the documents will be tabled, tomorrow, and moved into committee of the whole for discussion because it is clear that they are two separate issues -- I think most Members have no problems with this legislation, or very few. We are open to the idea of establishing an NWT power corporation and taking over the functions of generating and distributing power, but there seems to be a real question as to the best method of doing that eventually.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I said a choice.

MR. MacQUARRIE: It may be a choice, but that seems to me to be a matter for public debate and decision as to whether we do want to establish a public energy corporation or a private energy corporation. As I said, yesterday, I was rather surprised to hear that the Executive Council had made a decision to sign a letter of intent with a particular private company. I did not think the matter had gone that far yet and I am surprised that a letter of intent would have been signed before any legislation was passed providing for an NWT power corporation.

I hear statements today that the Executive Council has made the decision that this power corporation will be privatized at some point and that is a surprise to me, as well. Well, I am one Member who is, in matters of public utilities, fairly interested in them being public. I would like to have information that would enable myself and other Members to discuss that very matter. What is the best method of implementing it, once we have made the decision?

Yes, Mr. Minister, method is largely what it revolves around. Once you have decided whether or not you are going to establish a corporation, what kind of corporation will it be? That is an important matter for public discussion. So I guess I would like to see us go ahead with the bill but I certainly do want to see some documents that enabled the Minister to be so very certain about what is the best approach to take and to have the opportunity to discuss that in the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just by way of process, Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that we should probably proceed clause by clause examination of the bill and then come back tomorrow to this global question relative to the choices that have been discussed over the last hour. I suggest that we could move through the bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Do Members agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay. Bill 19-86(1), An Act to Establish the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2, definitions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3, establishment of the corporation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4, purpose of corporation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Board Of Directors

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 5, board of directors. Agreed? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, just a note Mr. Chairman that in committee consideration of the bill there was confusing wording at this point in clause 5 and the committee had recommended that that section be rewritten to clarify the intent. There was no disagreement about the intent but to clarify the intent, and the government has agreed to do that, and what you see in the bill now is what has been rewritten.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Clause 5, board of directors. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, appointment of director. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 7, vacancy. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 8, honoraria and expenses. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 9, by-laws. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 10, president. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Employees

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 11. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: In the committee meetings it was noted at this point what was recommended here with respect to employees was somewhat different from the approach that was being taken in the Public Service Act. There did not seem to be a consistency. The question was as to whether the president of the corporation and the board would have the power to appoint officers, employees, advisers and consultants directly or whether -- at that time an amendment was suggested to the Public Service Act, that the Minister should have functions like that with respect to the Workers' Compensation Board. The committee simply noted that inconsistency for the benefit of the Minister. In responding, the government indicated that this is precisely the way they would like the

appointments to be made. I think committee Members had no problem with that, it was just merely noting the inconsistency. But we also note that the Public Service Act, earlier today, was amended with the deletion of certain clauses, so that there was not that inconsistency and the whole matter will be looked at further. So what is here in clause 11 is satisfactory to the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 11, employees. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 12, liability. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 13, conflict of interest. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Powers And Duties

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 14. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: At this point, Mr. Chairman, a concern had been expressed about paragraph 14(1)(c) with respect to the provision of water or sewage services in the Territories. Members of the committee had been concerned that it was the intention of the corporation to extend its activities in that area and that was something that Members were reluctant to see. The government indicated that the intention was not to extend, but simply to enable this energy corporation to take over functions in these areas of water supply and sewage service that were already performed by NCPC in a couple of communities, Frobisher Bay and Inuvik.

In the response from the legislation division, it indicates that in response to that concern a subsection was added to section 14 to restrict the operation of paragraph 14(1)(c), so that the corporation can supply water and sewage service for a municipality or part of a municipality, only where a municipality is not providing the service or the municipality is not contracted with any person to provide these services for the municipality or that part of a municipality. As I said, the committee had recommended that change to ensure that the corporation will not take away business from small contractors and this letter says that this change was made and it is taken care of in the bill. So it is satisfactory to the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 14, powers. Agreed?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 15, additional powers. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 16, duties of corporation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 17, interruption of service. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Line Of Credit

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 18, line of credit. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask here if the government had not thought it wise to put some sort of a limit or a maximum amount in this borrowing power for the corporation, which is really just an agent of the government and our government itself, as I recall, constitutionally, has a maximum borrowing amount that it can borrow under the federal act that creates our government. Is the government not concerned about giving an unlimited borrowing power here? I am not sure if the Housing Corporation, another crown corporation, has a similar unlimited power or not. Perhaps the Minister could respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, just by way of an introduction to my response. Our legal advisers indicated to us during the standing committee on finance joint meeting that we are subject to the Financial Administration Act which limits the government's borrowing ability and therefore it was accepted that that was the case. My colleague may want to respond to that but the legal advisers who were present during our consideration of the bill did indicate that we were subject to the limits and borrowing powers of the government. It possibly could be expressed later a little more clearly by my colleague here. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As the Member and the Minister indicate, the territorial government does have a borrowing limit which is \$15 million. In view of the fact that this item will still be open tomorrow, if I could just take a quick look at it and come back and respond to that so if you could leave that one open, I will just take another look at it and bring it back tomorrow. I have taken into consideration the Member's question and I will come back to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we defer clause 18? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Can I have the committee's permission to make a comment about clause 17? To go back to clause 17?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Interruption Of Service

MR. MacQUARRIE: During committee deliberations, concerns were expressed about the fact that with NCPC if it botches in some way, the power goes out and there is damage resulting from that, that there is simply no liability, no claim. Members noted that clause 17(2) says the corporation is not liable and there was the fear that this was not going to be any different from the circumstances that now exist with respect to NCPC. But the government did point out and I think it is worth noting, that in 17(1) it says "where a plant or any part of a plant malfunctions and the corporation is unable to supply energy or where the corporation is unable to supply water or sewage service, the corporation shall (a) make repairs as promptly as possible; and (b) pending repairs, take all reasonable steps to supply energy or water or sewage service from other sources, if other sources are reasonably available." So, there is no liability where the corporation acts in accordance with subsection (1) so it was pointed out that if the corporation failed to act as it is required there, that there may very well be some liability and so that seemed to meet the concerns of Members in the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 19, issuing of securities. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 20, territorial guarantee. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 21, contribution. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: The legislation as it was written when it came to the committee indicated that the GNWT make grants to the corporation out of moneys appropriated for the purpose. The committee felt that there is a distinction between grants and contribution because contributions are accountable, and the recommendation was made that the word "grant" should be changed to "contribution" and the government has agreed to do that. That is reflected in the legislation that is in front of the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 21, contribution. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 22, utility program funding account. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 23, payment of costs. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 24, bank accounts. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 25, investment of surplus money. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 26, investments in energy utilities. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 27, fiscal year. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 28, auditor. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 29, tabling of report. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Discontinuance Of Service

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 30, discontinuance of service. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, just looking at clause 28(3) if I may, talking about the Auditor General's report. There was a question about the wording "a report". I guess they have made the change, I am sorry. Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, clause 30(2) refers to removal of property of the corporation and the committee was concerned with the way the legislation was written -- that the corporation, without reasonable notice, might enter premises and remove property -- and the committee asked that there be reasonable notice given and the government has agreed to that and that is reflected in 30(2) as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 30, discontinuance of service. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 31, rates. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 32, exemption. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 33, franchises. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 34, property. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 35, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 36, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 37, corporation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 38, public utility. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 39. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 40, new rates. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 41. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 42. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 43, rate base. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 44, investigations by board. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 18 is deferred. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I suggest that we move progress on this debate on the present time and return tomorrow as the first order of business in committee of the whole to examine the documents Mr. Curley prepares for the committee and I will have a response to the question raised by the Member relevant to clause 18.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Do the Members agree that I report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES, PROCEDURES AND PRIVILEGES; REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION ON BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS; BILL 20-86(1), PUBLIC SERVICE ACT; BILL 19-86(1), NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ENERGY CORPORATION ACT

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the Second Report of the Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges and wishes to report this matter concluded with four recommendations being adopted. And further, Mr. Speaker, the Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters is concluded. Also Mr. Speaker, Bill 20-86(1) is ready for third reading, as amended, and your committee requests leave to sit again.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. 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. You have authorized the Chair to change the sitting times so that we might be able to get away a little early tomorrow or at least complete the business. Would I have a quorum if I called it for 10:00 a.m.? Could I have a show of hands of those who would be available at 10:00 a.m. Those that would not be available at 10:00 a.m. would you be available at 1:00 p.m.? I think I am going to take a chance. I will call the sitting for tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. and hope for a quorum so that we could get on with the business.

I must admit that there is a personal part in this. The speaker for the Hay River graduation is not available and I have been asked to take his place and that is at 6:00 o'clock tomorrow night in Hay River and to get there means that I have to get moving pretty early. So I must admit that I have a personal interest in this. So I would hope that those Members who could possibly be here would be here at 10:00 a.m. to help me out of a bad spot. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Thursday, June 26th at 10:00 a.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Oral Questions
4. Written Questions
5. Returns
6. Petitions
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Tabling of Documents
9. Notices of Motion
10. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
11. Motions: Motion 44-86(1)

12. First Reading of Bills
13. Second Reading of Bills
14. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 19-86(1), 23-86(1), 24-86(1)
15. Report of Committee of the Whole
16. Third Reading of Bills
17. Assent to Bills
18. Prorogation

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 26th at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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