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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1984

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MR. SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 8.

Item 2, Members' replies. There do not appear to be any replies for today.

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 25-84(1): Minister's Absence

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Could I ask the Minister the nature of the urgent business that took him away from this House yesterday, Mr. Speaker?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Shame, shame! He likes to be away from Yellowknife.

Return To Question 25-84(1): Minister's Absence

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the honourable Member's question the meeting was a regional meeting in Kitikmeot involving the chairmen and the representatives of all the social services or social affairs committees in the region to discuss existing problems we have, the possibility of formalizing agreements between them and this government regarding social affairs delivery in the communities, fine options and implications of the Young Offenders Act. I will say that I did not like to absent myself from the House, but when there are regional meetings I do intend to attend them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: I would like to have been there for the three or four days of the meeting, but because the House was on, I chose to be only there for the part of the agenda I felt was both important to them and to me. So if your question is related to, "Will I miss days in the House in the future at regional meetings?" the answer is yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 25-84(1): Minister's Absence

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I would like to ask a supplementary question because I believe that this is a very serious matter. I understand from the Minister that it was not a meeting of an urgent nature -- and not only from the Minister, but inquiries I have made myself -- but a regularly scheduled meeting. Does the Minister not feel in view of the fact that there are a number of regional councils in the Northwest Territories and many committees of regional councils, does he not feel in view of that, that if such bodies wish the Minister's presence at meetings they should schedule those meetings at a time when it is convenient for the Minister to be able to get to them, so as to not interfere with the Minister's primary obligation to this House so he can be accessible to all of the representatives that are elected by people throughout the Northwest Territories, rather than making himself a lackey to regional councils?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame!

MR. MacQUARRIE: Does the Minister not feel his primary obligation is to this House?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: It is the Government of the NWT, not Yellowknife.

Further Return To Question 25-84(1): Minister's Absence

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: The two Members of the Kitikmeot Region also felt the meeting was important enough for them to absent themselves from the House. I did point out to the people involved who organized that meeting, in future I would like them to try to avoid holding regional meetings which involve my department at times when the House is sitting, but if the choice be as it is and I have to miss a day once in a while to attend regional meetings, I will attend regional meetings just the same as I would attend meetings in Yellowknife at night with city council or in the morning. That is the policy that I will continue to operate under unless the Leader of the Government instructs me otherwise.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 26-84(1): Northern Preference For Tenders For Housing Corporation

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question toward Mr. Wray. I understand the Housing Corporation is putting forward tenders now for major projects. I would like to ask the Minister if the northern preference policy for goods and services is in effect for these particular tenders.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 26-84(1): Northern Preference For Tenders For Housing Corporation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All contracts which are tendered by the Housing Corporation are affected by the northern preference policy and it is the same policy that is followed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 26-84(1): Northern Preference For Tenders For Housing Corporation

MR. BALLANTYNE: Supplementary to that question, Mr. Speaker, a number of people have brought to my attention their concern that even though the government does have a policy, that policy has not always been implemented at the bureaucratic level and one example, I understand, is the tender of paints. I understand that it is part of the northern preference policy that manufacturers will not be directly asked for quotations but I have been told that manufacturers are being directly asked for quotes and sometimes the wishes of the Ministers and of the government are not being carried out at the bureaucratic level with regard to the northern preference policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 26-84(1): Northern Preference For Tenders For Housing Corporation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take the latter part of that question under advisement. I would appreciate the Member giving me more specific instances in terms of

dates and whoever is doing it so that we can address the question to respond. To respond to his hearsay and rumour is very difficult. If the Member wants to bring specific complaints with regard to the policy then I would appreciate hearing from him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: A point of privilege Mr. Speaker, I have a further response to the question that was directed to the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 26-84(1): Northern Preference For Tenders For Housing Corporation

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the northern preference policy the former Executive Council directed the Department of Government Services and a number of government departments to review the manner in which we were dealing with outside companies on applying that particular policy. The intent is to improve the application of that particular policy, to ensure that when northern businesses do apply for that particular preference we in fact apply the policy to those companies. So we are in the process of improving that situation at the moment.

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

Supplementary To Question 26-84(1): Northern Preference For Tenders For Housing Corporation

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, the reason I am asking that question today is because a number of large contracts have been tendered. I understand that at the time the process is completely reviewed by the different departments these contracts would have already been let. I would ask that the Minister have a quick look at that right now before these contracts are let.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 26-84(1): Northern Preference For Tenders For Housing Corporation

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I have already directed our departments to ensure that the preference policy is applied to all businesses that are legal entities of the Northwest Territories. In fact, we have gone so far as to direct them not to use telephone establishment in the North as northern businesses but rather businesses that are established, have employees in the North and have their working offices in the North. So we have gone even a little further than the suggestion that has been made to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 27-84(1): Policy On Ministers' Attendance In House

MR. MacQUARRIE: A question for the Leader of the Elected Executive in response to the earlier answers given by the Minister of Health. I certainly recognize, Mr. Leader, that there are times when Ministers must be away from the House. For example we have a letter from Mr. Butters today which explains why he is away and I certainly accept that. I would ask the Leader, does the Executive Council have a clear policy as to Ministers' attendance in this House? If so, what is it? If not, will the Minister look into that matter and ensure that there will be such a policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 27-84(1): Policy On Ministers' Attendance In House

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes Mr. Speaker, at the moment there is not a clear-cut policy with regard to attendance in this House. It is also obvious that there are certain important issues that the Ministers have to deal with outside the House during sittings of this House. We intend to ensure that we provide the expertise that is required from the Executive Council or to attend for answering questions that are raised in regional councils or meetings of any type, which are important to those particular meetings. With regard to the meeting that was scheduled, unfortunately it was not known at the time who would be in the Executive Council or at what time this House would be sitting this year because of the recent election. So it was very difficult for

the regional committee to indicate a time period that would be appropriate to the sitting of this House. Certainly the Minister that was absent from this House indicated to the meeting that any other future meetings should be scheduled around some of the time periods that he has available to him and I assume that every Member of the Executive Council will do the same. Again, to reiterate, when there are important issues that arise we will try to address them, as well as addressing Members of the House, on important policy.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Shaping policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 27-84(1): Policy On Ministers' Attendance In House

MR. MacQUARRIE: Supplementary to that. In the final analysis the Leader did not answer that part of the question. That was if there is not a clear policy and there seems not to be, will the Leader undertake to fashion such a policy in consultation with Members in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 27-84(1): Policy On Ministers' Attendance In House

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, certainly I will have to discuss that particular item with my Executive Council colleagues as to whether or not it is a policy or whether or not it is an arrangement that we reach among the Executive Council. Certainly there are other options that would be available to us in answering in this House when Members are not in the House that we could clarify and streamline. That is something that the Executive Council will deal with at the appropriate time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 28-84(1): Lack Of Hamlet Council Funds

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) I have two questions to ask, one to the Minister of Local Government. In regard to local government in the communities that I represent, Pond Inlet, Hall Beach and Igloolik, they are hamlets. All the staff of the hamlet councils in the past year had to go on half pay because of a shortage of funds. My question is, are there measures being undertaken so that will not happen again?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 28-84(1): Lack Of Hamlet Council Funds

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to tell the Member one of the first things that I will be doing once the Assembly is concluded here in the next few weeks is to take a trip up to the Baffin area and on this trip I will be meeting with some of the hamlets that have had difficulty in the past year. The matter of shortage of funding for some of the hamlets in the North is a matter that I see as a very serious problem and it is one I will be trying to deal with by seeing for myself, going up to the Arctic and seeing some of these hamlets and seeing exactly what the situation is. Once I have done that, then I will be in a better position to deal with the problem if indeed I feel that there is a problem.

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

Question 29-84(1): Overcrowded School, Pond Inlet

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) We have heard that the school in Pond Inlet will be extended in 1986-87, but I received a copy of a letter dated January 26, 1984, that was written by Jobie Nutarak, the chairman of the education committee in Pond Inlet, and the principal of the school at Pond Inlet states that they are overcrowded in the school and the teacher/student ratio is 20 to one. My question is, for the 1984 fiscal year will they send more teachers to Pond Inlet? If you are not going to extend our school this year, perhaps funds are available for Pond Inlet before 1985. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 29-84(1): Overcrowded School, Pond Inlet

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member raises two problems with which I am familiar. One is the concern in Pond Inlet about crowded classrooms and about the lack of classroom space. To the first question I am not in a position now to make a commitment about providing any extra teachers in Pond Inlet. I will, however, do what I can to meet that need. I would like to wait until the main estimates for the Department of Education are considered in this House where I may be informed of other such situations in the Northwest Territories. I would hope very shortly after that to see if any of the new resources which are available to Education in the coming year might be allocated where pressure is felt. I recognize that in Pond Inlet there is some considerable concern about this matter of staffing, but there are other communities where the problem is as great, if not greater.

As to the matter of classroom space, I have written the chairman of the education authority in Pond Inlet, Jobie Nutarak, recently in reply to his letter stating that I am quite confident that at the very least I should be able to provide for a portable classroom facility, a double portable to be constructed in Pond Inlet this summer provided we can identify funds in the capital plan, which would relieve the current crowded situation pending the construction of the school addition which I do acknowledge is still some way off. I also told Mr. Nutarak in that letter that I would investigate the possibility of moving the addition ahead in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 30-84(1): Ministers' Report On Claims Negotiations

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, the Hon. Dennis Patterson. Yesterday he gave an interesting reply to a question that was raised by Bob MacQuarrie, I believe, in regard to the Executive Council being accountable to this House and reporting in the whole area of aboriginal claims under negotiation. I would like to ask the honourable Minister what reporting relationship he perceives that exists at the present time in the accountability to this House in regard to the Members of the Executive Council who are negotiating aboriginal claims on our behalf, on behalf of this House, on behalf of all the residents of the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the honourable Minister as a member of the federal team, whether this House will be consulted in regard to the nature and content of the claims being negotiated on our behalf, or does the honourable Member, including Tagak Curley, feel that we Members of this House, 24 of us, when we elected the eight Members of the Executive Council, that we have given them carte blanche authority to negotiate all aspects of the claims on our behalf without reporting and being accountable to this House only after the claims have been concluded, and then we will be consulted and if that is the case...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee, the question, please. Not a speech. You will have to get to your point, please.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MR. WAH-SHEE: My point, Mr. Speaker, is that I would like to make sure that the Executive Council understands what I want to hear, Mr. Speaker, because, obviously sometimes they do not want to give replies to the concerns that we would have. My question basically is to the honourable Member...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: That is what I thought.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Will he report to this House and be accountable only after the claims have been concluded or are we going to be privy to the contents of the claims being negotiated at the present time in the interim period? Or is it the case that the claims are being negotiated to a conclusion and then afterwards he will report and consult this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 30-84(1): Minister's Report On Claims Negotiations

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first say to the honourable Member that I do not think the rules and principles of ministerial accountability to this House have changed substantially with respect to the Aboriginal Rights portfolio since that honourable Member occupied the position which I now hold.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Have they changed the practices?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I believe that all Members, all Ministers of this House are servants of this House and we serve this House at your pleasure, and if at any time any Member loses confidence in the trust that has been placed in me with reference to Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, I would expect a motion of non-confidence and I would expect if that motion passed, would see me quickly replaced by someone in whom this House had confidence.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable Member will appreciate that there is a difference between the executive and the legislative arms of this government and that when the Executive Council is given confidential documents on a confidential trust, that it is not in my power to table these documents in the House and to discuss confidential matters in this Assembly until that trust or that condition has been withdrawn by the Minister, the federal Minister who provided these documents. As I explained yesterday to the Member, I would be delighted to discuss matters relating to aboriginal claims, provided they are not subject to the limits of cabinet secrecy and I am sure the Member can appreciate those kinds of strictures that bind Executive Members.

Thinking a little bit further on Mr. MacQuarrie's request yesterday that this House be briefed, I do recall that in caucus the offer was made to have Members briefed on the COPE agreement and that offer still stands. I would be more than happy to arrange at any moment a briefing for Members of caucus on the claim, but I cannot go so far as to release for public discussion confidential documents. But, I am very anxious to fully consult with and be accountable to this House. Of course, I am here every day in question period, to be accountable. In no way would I like to be party to any situation where Members of this House were not apprized of the activities we undertake on their behalf as Ministers subject to the limits of confidentiality and cabinet secrecy. I hope that answers the Member's question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, inasmuch as I let things slip on one side, I let them slip on the other. Now we are even and we will get back to the rules with regard to questions and replies. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: A point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of privilege.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I am not sure if this is a point of privilege or a point of order. This offer of clarification was never made formally to caucus. I was made aware of the offer as chairman of the finance committee. I brought it to the attention of the finance committee. The finance committee decided themselves that they would like to see the document first before there was a briefing, so an offer was never formally made in caucus.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I have been at every caucus meeting and no such offer was made.

MR. SPEAKER: One moment please. That actually is neither a point of privilege nor is it a point of order. It appears to be a point of disorder with regard to your caucus meeting. So that is where it should stay. You must stay within your caucus confines and it may not be brought up here unless you wish to ask a direct question relevant to it. We will certainly have that privilege, but that is the only privilege you have. Oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since there seems to be some doubt as to whether or not the government is willing to brief Members of caucus on the COPE claim...

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry Mr. Patterson, this is not the place for this. It is question period. You can ask a question but that is all. Mr. Wah-Shee, do you wish to ask a question?

Question 31-84(1): Issue Of Overlap In COPE Claim

MR. WAH-SHEE: I think the honourable Member sometimes forgets he is sitting across the floor there. Mr. Speaker, I have another question, supplementary. Will the Government of the NWT guarantee that they will not sign the COPE agreement until the overlap issue has been resolved, in regard to not only the Dene and Metis but also the other Inuit groups that perhaps may have overlap interests in regard to that claim?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the Executive Council will take a full and clear position on the issue of overlap and the other matters of possible concern relating to the COPE final agreement at the regularly scheduled meeting tomorrow. I will make a detailed statement to the House once the Executive Council has considered the matter. I anticipate that will be tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are taking that question then as notice and will reply later. Questions, Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 32-84(1): Access To COPE Agreement

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister made a commitment to contact the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with respect to whether individual Members could have access to the COPE agreement before the government came to its decision on its stand. I would ask the Minister of Aboriginal Rights or the Government Leader whether such communication has taken place and what has been the response of the Minister of Indian Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, we have not, as yet, been able to reach the Minister of Indian Affairs on that question but expect to have an answer, a communication shortly. Thank you.

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

Question 33-84(1): WCF Position On COPE Claim

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Associate Minister of Aboriginal Rights, the Hon. Nick Sibbeston. Mr. Sibbeston is an Executive Council Member, or a representative to the Western Constitutional Forum. He has been well-known as a defender of the Dene in this House and outside this House. Could I have an indication from the Minister whether the Western Constitutional Forum has taken a position on various sections of the COPE agreement in principle, which will make up part of the final agreement, and specifically those sections 3(3), section (9), section 14(2)(j) and section 14(4)(i).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 33-84(1): WCF Position On COPE Claim

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Well, Mr. Speaker the answer to that is no.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. McCallum.

Supplementary To Question 33-84(1): WCF Position On COPE Claim

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, may I ask then a supplementary question of the Minister? Has he himself, as a defender of the Dene rights, in the Territories, has he himself taken any position in regard to that agreement in principle, in relation to those three? If the answer is no again, will he explain why not?

MR. SPEAKER: One moment on that question please. Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 33-84(1): WCF Position On COPE Claim

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I want to just remind the Member, Mr. McCallum, that I have just been appointed to be involved in the Constitutional Alliance two days ago. So the Member ought to appreciate that I have not had a great deal of time to become involved in the affairs of the WCF in this case. As to myself taking a position in respect of the COPE claim and the sections he mentioned, as you can see I have personally taken a position but I will be taking my position to the Executive Council and we will be discussing it. My position will be that taken by the Executive Council as a whole, which I expect to have done in the next day or two. So, I would ask the Members on the other side to be patient with respect to the Executive Council's position with respect to the COPE claims because I think they can expect that the Executive Council will deal with the matter in the next day or two and we will have a public position very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the rapidity with which the Member has been selected to act as representative of the Executive Council for the Western Constitutional Forum. I would hope that he would take note of those concerns that I have enumerated. They deal with the extinguishment of rights, they deal with the land selection, Inuvialuit rights and restricted entry, in other words the overlap. Since, I was told yesterday that the Executive Council is to meet tomorrow, Thursday, to deal with this problem I will ask the Minister then, does he intend to burn a lot of midnight oil tonight to try to get caught up with his particular position?

MR. SPEAKER: To clarify matters, I do not believe that Mr. Sibbeston has officially been appointed to the WCF yet. I think that still has to take place. He is not indeed a member of that board yet. So I would have to rule your question out of order.

MR. MacQUARRIE: His answer...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

Question 34-84(1): Government Consultation On New Parks

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism who is responsible for parks and by way of introduction sir, there is a section within the agreement in principle that deals with the establishment of national parks, wilderness parks within that agreement. In light of the fact that Parks Canada have indicated that they are going to set up two new parks in the Territories, one in the northern part of Ellesmere Island and around the eastern end of Great Slave Lake and because within the agreement in principle there is a mechanism by which the Government of the Yukon, together with community representatives in the Northwest Territories, for example; Aklavik-Fort McPherson, will have input, has the Minister made any attempt, in light of the proposed settlement paper with the Inuvialuit, to ensure the Government of the NWT will be consulted in the establishment of any new wilderness parks within that particular agreement?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I would like to thank the honourable Member for keeping his word, as he said yesterday, that he would give notice to particular Ministers when he has a question that is more expanded than he elaborated. I will tell the Member that the positions that have been formulated by the previous Executive Council, of which he was a Member, certainly are under active consideration by this new Executive Council. I have been advised by the officials from the department that they are studying the points that you raised. At this moment I have not had a full opportunity to really study the implications that might affect the Territories. I will, at the earliest possible, get back to the Member on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, I understand then that you are taking this as notice and will reply to the House when you have the information. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 35-84(1): Submission To Ministry Of State

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. It arises out of, again, the Priorities Summary Report that we received which states that the Department of Education is preparing a Ministry of State for Social Development submission to receive federal policy approval for the recommendations of the special committee. I would gather that it is a financial submission so I would ask the Minister to clarify whether this government is making a submission. If so, what is the extent of it and do we have reason to be encouraged by the federal government that they would receive a submission such as this favourably?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 35-84(1): Submission To Ministry Of State

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The submission is relating to policy about implementing certain recommendations of the special committee on education to the Ninth Legislative Assembly which were approved by the Ninth Legislative Assembly. The federal cabinet committee is willing to receive submissions. It deals with the formation of divisional boards of education, expanded levels of service in the area of special education, expanded levels of service in the area of adult education and continued development and implementation of the indigenous language

program. Having said that the federal cabinet is willing to receive this submission, I would not be fair if I raised expectations further about how that submission will be received by the federal cabinet but, of course, I am hopeful that it will receive favourable consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, just again for clarification is the idea that this government would seek to have the federal government approve certain policies for expanded programs in education, the idea being that if they accept those policies that they would be prepared to allocate additional funds for that purpose? If that is the case, could the Minister tell me what is likely to happen to the recommendations of the special committee on education if this type of submission is not successful?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie, your question is based on a great deal of supposition which is not proper in question period. I will rule that question out of order. If you can frame it in a manner that you have a direct question without all of these suppositions of this, that and the next type of thing in it, then I will accept it but these questions with supposition in are out of order according to your rules. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 35-84(1): Submission To Ministry Of State

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I will attempt to make it more clear then. The statement that I am using is not a supposition. We have the Priorities Summary Report which was presented to us by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It says that the Department of Education is preparing such a submission as we said earlier. My question is, is the eventual aim of such a submission to secure funds from the federal government, special funding to implement some of the recommendations of the special committee on education?

The second part of the question was if such an attempt were to fail, does that mean that many of the recommendations of the special committee on education will lie dormant? I think that is not supposition.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, the first question is in line. The second one again is bordering on supposition. The first one is in order. If you wish to answer the second one, proceed.

Further Return To Question 35-84(1): Submission To Ministry Of State

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, to the first question yes. To the second question, we will cross that bridge when we come to it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary to the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, Mr. Dennis Patterson. Mr. Speaker, if we were to accept the Minister's kind offer to be briefed on the COPE claims behind closed doors, would that not in effect after having seen -- if we were permitted to do so, to see the contents of the COPE claim -- would that not tie our hands behind our backs as MLAs? In other words, once we have seen the contents...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee, you are assuming again. Assumptions cannot be part of the question. You must ask a question so that it can be answered. "Assuming that these things are so..." is against your own rules of running the House. So would you please get your questions so that they are a question and a minimum of introduction, please?

Question 36-84(1): Formal Participation Of House Re COPE Claim

MR. WAH-SEE: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, what process does the Minister see in regard to informing the MLAs in regard to the COPE claim other than behind-the-doors consultation? Can we do something as part of the process in a formal manner in this House?

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 36-84(1): Formal Participation Of House Re COPE Claim

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I said yesterday, as soon as the document can be released by the federal cabinet I will welcome the opportunity to present it to this House and discuss it and debate it fully here, but in the meantime I cannot violate a trust placed in me as a Minister of the crown and I trust the honourable Member is not asking me to do so because if he were asking me to do so he would be asking me to violate the oath of office that I took a mere couple of weeks ago. I have also committed myself yesterday to seeing, through the offices of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, if copies of this document could be made available to Members of this Assembly on a confidential basis and we will be pursuing that with vigour. I have also stated or I will now state if it was not clear before that I would be pleased to make the officers of this government who are familiar with this claim available to Members of caucus for a briefing. I am sure that the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement would also be willing to make such a briefing to Members of caucus. Now I do not know what more I can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 37-84(1): Position Of Territorial Government On Fire-Fighting

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question addressed to the Minister of Renewable Resources and it is with regard to the priority zones on fire-fighting again. I just want to ask the Minister while negotiations are going on with the federal government on the transfer of forestry to the territorial government that this government take a position, a strong position on fighting all fires while this negotiation is going on.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I promised the honourable Member, I would come back to him with an answer and it is being prepared within the department to see how we can accommodate his request. I find it a perfectly logical situation to take it into consideration but I do not have the answer today and it is being prepared.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 38-84(1): Costs Of Fighting Fires

MRS. SORENSEN: Supplementary to that question to the Minister I wonder if she could in the response also give us information with respect to the anticipated cost of fighting all fires because of course, if this House is to support fire-fighting in all zones instead of just priority zones then there will be significant implications to the dollars that we would have to negotiate with the federal government as well. I wonder if the Minister could give me assurance there will be within that report some response with respect to the anticipated costs.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, this is basically why the answer is taking a little longer to bring forward to this House, because that is one question that I had asked, to be able to give a fair answer and what it could possibly mean if we were to support the idea of total fire-fighting.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 39-84(1): Report Of Cultural Development Policy

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Culture. Mr. Minister, many people in the Territories have been waiting with bated breath for some time now about a development in the Department of Culture. There has been a study paper being done -- and I think it has been redone -- that is supposed to be the basis of a GNWT policy on cultural development. Can I ask when that position will be finalized and further, when it is -- I should not say finalized -- when the draft policy is completed will it be brought to this House for discussion before it is finalized?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 39-84(1): Report On Cultural Development Policy

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I hope I can calm the Member's rage. Much of the credit must go to Mr. Wah-Shee who is responsible for this. The government has appointed Mr. Rene Lamothe as the senior cultural advisor for this government and he has produced a report entitled "On Cultural Needs". This report is currently being printed and should be available for tabling in the Assembly during the week of February 20th. In so far as funding for the cultural programs which could result, as a result of this report, there is presently no money provided for in the upcoming budget but a submission is being prepared for the Financial Management Board and supplementary funds will be sought so the program can be started early in the new fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today. Item 5, written questions. Are there any written questions today? Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 40-84(1): Supplies Purchasing From South

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Ministers responsible for DPW, the Housing Corporation and Government Services, please advise this House if their departments, during the past 14 months, have gone directly to a manufacturer to seek a quote for a tender when a supplier of that material exists in the North. If so, when and to which manufacturers? What supplies have been purchased from southern manufacturers in the last 14 months?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 41-84(1): Clean-Up Of Markham Bay Soapstone Site

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This written question came from the Lake Harbour co-op, requesting that they be given assistance to clean up the soapstone quarry between Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset during the summer of 1984. It is a major source that is very useful but it is not available at the present time. Lake Harbour co-op would like their draft proposal to be accepted in order to clean up the soapstone site at Markham Bay. The co-op will act upon the project and be responsible to carry out the work and we would appreciate the request that it be accepted. I thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 42-84(1): Ukkivik Residence, Frobisher Bay

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Minister of Education. How many times do the students have to commit offences at the residence of Ukkivik in Frobisher Bay before they are kicked out from the residence? Also, the parents have to be more informed about their children; what their activities are. At the present time, the parents are not always fully informed in Frobisher Bay and in the other settlements. At times they do not inform them for a long period of time. I propose that the students not be removed from the residence on their first offence but that they be removed on their third offence. May I have a written reply on this subject as soon as possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Written questions. Item 6, returns. Are there any returns for today? Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 23-84(1): RCMP For Hall Beach

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as a return to written Question 23-84(1), asked by Mr. Erkloo, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Foxe Basin, this is with regard to the RCMP in Hall Beach. The Government of the Northwest Territories has received a request establishing a detachment in Hall Beach for the last several years. The reason why it has not been possible to open a detachment in Hall Beach is that there was no suitable accommodation for the RCMP personnel in Hall Beach. An attempt was made through the regional director at Frobisher Bay to locate territorial housing in Hall Beach. That effort to date has not been successful.

I have now been advised that the housing association in Hall Beach will be able to provide one house out of the new houses expected to be built in Hall Beach this fall. The possibility of obtaining this house will be brought to the attention of the RCMP and a request will be made to the RCMP to establish a detachment in that community at the earliest possible time. However, it will still take several months for the logistics to be worked out and for a suitable person to be transferred to Hall Beach to open the detachment. It is hoped that if the housing is satisfactory, the detachment can be opened in Hall Beach in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 22-84(1): Plans For Senior Citizens Facilities, Yellowknife

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A return to oral Question 22-84(1), asked by Mr. MacQuarrie yesterday, regarding senior citizens facilities. The 1983-84 budget anticipated need for construction of a new facility in Yellowknife. The proposed cost for such a facility was estimated to be \$560,000 dollars. After meetings with a citizens' committee, Department of Health and representatives of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, feasibility studies were undertaken and plans were then developed to renovate a nurses residence for combined personal care/nursing care facility at reduced capital cost. These latter plans were subsequently rejected by the hospital board who elected to maintain the facility as a residence. In the interim Social Services converted the group home originally intended for use by returning psychiatric patients to use as a personal care facility, meeting the immediate need. Social Services entered a cost-sharing arrangement with the Housing Corporation whereby 75 per cent of the capital cost of a senior citizens facility would be met by CMHC. This arrangement is being piloted in Rae and is to be extended to other communities.

The present situation is that the Forrest Drive group home in Yellowknife is providing personal care services. It is successful but does not meet the total need in Yellowknife as projected for the next few years. The department is presently considering the following options. One, possible reactivation of plans to renovate the nurses residence. Two, the construction of a new facility, under a cost-sharing arrangement with CMHC which increases the money available by 300 per cent. Three, renovation and more effective utilization of the facilities currently available in Yellowknife, including the Mary Murphy Home. Any one of these alternatives would entail less capital outlay by the department than had been originally anticipated. This was taken into account during the capital planning process. Final plans will be made after consultation with the community and all relevant agencies and departments.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further returns? Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 14-84(1): Caribou Hunt Assistance To Broughton Island

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral Question 14-84(1), on February 7 regarding the community caribou hunt. The Member representing Clyde River, Mr. Paniloo, asked if the Broughton Island Hunters and Trappers Association would be receiving a grant for a community caribou hunt. The Department of Renewable Resources will be pleased to accept an application from the Broughton Island Hunters and Trappers Association for financial assistance to undertake a community caribou hunt. This application should be directed to the regional superintendent in Frobisher Bay. Up to this time they have not received a request for such funding.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns? Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 21-84(1): Assessment Of Need For Nursing Home In Yellowknife

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral Question 21-84(1), asked by Mr. MacQuarrie about nursing home needs in Yellowknife. The Department of Health contracted with Ms Lorna Willis, a nursing consultant, to review the needs for a nursing home in Yellowknife. Her report in final form was received in December of 1983. It indicated that with the imminent planning and construction of the new Yellowknife hospital, there is not a need, at this time, for a separate nursing home facility. We have accepted that as our position. However, the staff of Social Services, Health and the Homecare program of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital are in the process of updating personal assessments that were conducted last spring. These assessments were used by the consultant in preparing her report. We will continue to review the assessments on a regular basis. I will be pleased to table the report once sufficient copies are produced by the printing bureau.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further returns? That appears to conclude returns.

Item 7, petitions. Any petitions today?

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased that the Minister of Local Government announced that he was going to make a trip to Baffin Region. Before he goes to the Baffin Region, I would like to table this type of document so he could have a look at them before he goes to Baffin. I have three documents here which I would like him to look at.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, you are going to table those three documents? Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk. I wonder, Mr. Pudluk, could you give us a brief resume of what you are tabling, it does not have to be a long -- just so that the Members would know what the papers are about.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Erkloo was asking in his oral question about the budget for the hamlets in the Baffin. It is really something to do with budgeting for the hamlets. Tabled Document 9-84(1), Hamlet Funding.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 14-84(1): THIS Regulations

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Friday, February 10, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Eliza Lawrence, that this Assembly strongly recommend to the Executive Council that it amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services regulations so that the obligation on parents/guardians to make co-payments for a child who is placed in an institution to receive extended care will cease when the child reaches the age of 19 years. And further that the amount of such co-payments, when they are required to be made, should bear some reasonable relationship to the amount that the Department of Social Services allots for food, clothing, shelter and personal needs, per child, to families requiring social assistance. And further that the principle of "financial ability to pay" continue to be taken into account when co-payments are required to be made.

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

Item 11, notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Motion 11-84(1), Appointments to Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 11-84(1): Appointments To Workers' Compensation Board, Carried

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS six vacancies will arise on the Workers' Compensation Board before this session is finished;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that this Assembly fill these vacancies in order that the Workers' Compensation Board can continue its business;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point that the following people be appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board: J.D.C. MacLean be reappointed for a term of four years, and that William Berezowski, A.R.W. Hettrick, Robert Kuptana and Dale Johnston be reappointed for a term of two years; and further that Jim Greenhalgh be appointed for a term of two years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to the motion? Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

That concludes motions for today. Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 2-84(1): Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1984

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister responsible for Finance is not here at the moment I give first reading. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, Tagak Curley, that Bill 2-84(1), An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

The bill has had first reading. Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 3-84(1): Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1984-85

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, Tagak Curley, that Bill 3-84(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds and Make Loans to Municipalities in the Northwest Territories During the Financial Year 1984-85, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

The bill has had first reading, Bill 3-84(1). Are there any further bills for first reading? Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 4-84(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 3, 1983-84

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, Nellie Cournoyea, that Bill 4-84(1), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1983-84 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: We have a motion on the floor. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 4-84(1) has had first reading. First reading of bills. That appears to conclude first reading of bills for today.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 1-84(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1984-85, and Tabled Document 4-84(1), with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-84(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1984-85; TABLED DOCUMENT 4-84(1), 1984-85 MAIN ESTIMATES

Department Of Personnel

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. Does the committee agree the Minister can bring his witness in again? Agreed?

---Agreed

Would the Minister introduce his witness for the record, please?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The witness is Mr. Ted Bowyer who is the deputy minister of Personnel. Mr. Chairman, further to that I just want to indicate that the Commissioner, Commissioner John Parker, will be responding to some of the questions that might be directed to me and the deputy minister since he has the actual functional responsibilities for the Department of Personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I believe yesterday we were on general comments on the Department of Personnel. Are there any general comments from Members at this time? We are on general comments from Members at this time if they wish. In your book we are on page 7.01. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an issue that was raised in the standing committee on finance. I received a fairly detailed answer from the Minister and the deputy minister at the time, but I think that it is worth bringing up in the session in committee of the whole so that other Members will have access to the information. I refer to the objective on page 7.01 that describes what the Department of Personnel plans to do with respect to northern students and their employment over the summer. I wonder if the Minister could repeat for the committee of the whole what the department means by stating that it will provide "meaningful job opportunities and experiences for northern students". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. I will allow my deputy minister to respond to that question.

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

Summer Employment Of Students

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is meant by that sentence is simply that the program that we have been running for students in the Territories is not a make-work program. There are real jobs for the students to do. Those jobs occur because of annual staff holidays, because of increased activities such as sealifts and highway construction and other construction projects. We feel it is important that we not get involved in make-work programs and that the employment that they do secure is a meaningful work experience to them, that they learn what work is about, that they learn -- if there is -- that there is satisfaction and that they are contributing something. It is a part of their learning experience in developing themselves to become part of the labour market later on.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Just to further supplement the comments that were made by the deputy minister, on occasions in the past the Executive Council has taken the positions of identifying, within particular departments across government, positions that might be utilized for the purposes of employing students who are from the North and who have graduated from the North to return to the North and work for this government. So we do request that the Ministers look seriously at ensuring those positions are available and in fact in some cases we have taken the position to direct that finances be found within departments.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: I was pleased to hear that, Mr. Minister, because that is in fact exactly what happened I believe last spring when it was discovered late in the spring that very few departments had identified dollars, perhaps it was because they did not have an awful lot of dollars. It was the direction of the Commissioner and the Executive Committee that departments go back and find more dollars to be identified for returning students. I would just, by way of warning, indicate to you that in Yellowknife alone we have some 200-plus students who are out in southern post-secondary educational institutions who for the most part will be returning this summer. We know that the job situation is very tight in southern Canada and that there is very high unemployment among young people and in particular very little employment in the provinces for university students. So I would hope that the Department of Personnel would pay particular attention now to the identification of positions within each department that students could fill.

In addition I would hope that there is a person within the Department of Personnel who will carry through with this objective and in a meaningful way because if it is an objective of the department and yet there is no one person who has the responsibility sometimes what looks good on paper could

not in fact, be carried out. So I would hope that the Department of Personnel would be sure that a person would be assigned to making sure that the policy is carried out.

In addition to that, I know that this government has played a role with other potential employers of university students, returning students and indeed of high school students who will obviously be on the job market as well this summer. I am wondering if there is any initiative within the Department of Personnel that could be taken to encourage other potential employers in industry, perhaps in small business, perhaps even an incentive that we could take to have small business provide students with a meaningful job experience over the summer. Is this an area that the department is looking at now?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate that I believe the success of whether or not we can place these students that are now in post-secondary institutions depends on whether or not they make us aware as to whether or not they are interested in working for this government or in fact working for some company in the North. If we are not aware of that and they come to our doorstep after completion of the school term then it is very difficult for us then to plan. Our situation is that we have forwarded letters to most of the post-secondary education students and we have requested from them information as to whether or not they are interested and if they do indicate an interest we have asked them, I believe, what type of interest they have.

I want to indicate further, that we have identified within the Department of Personnel a specific individual who will be responsible for dealing with the whole issue of student employment. In the past our experience has been that we have been able to place students in other companies or to forward their names to other businesses so that those individuals could be recruited or hired on for the summer.

I have also requested from the department, in my discussions during the budget review, that, they put together a document that would compile all the present programs that might be available to the communities so that we would know where we were getting funds from outside of government in the sense of make-work projects. I believe that it is in the interests of most of the communities that do not know about these programs to at least have a brief summary of what those programs are about and how they might go about applying for the necessary funds, because from my experience, from what I have seen, all the applications come in on March 31st or April 1st and by that time you would have a situation where most of your funds have been distributed to other programs. So, we are trying to improve that particular situation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. With that we will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. I believe we were under general comments from Members. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to refer to page 7.01 with regard to Personnel services. It is with regard to recruiting people for work in departments. I guess the procedure right now is within the Public Service Alliance policy. Is that the procedure that is being used right now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister or your witness.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I am here. However, I am not quite sure I understand the question. There are certain ways in which we proceed with recruitment throughout the NWT.

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

MR. GARGAN: I guess my question would be then, does the Government of the NWT follow the procedure that has been our guideline, put down by, I think it is the Public Service Alliance?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I believe it is the Public Service Ordinance that we utilize. There is also an agreement, I believe, that is reached and results in an agreement between the Public Service Alliance and our association and this government. They have certain stipulations within that agreement that outline some recruitment procedures. There are also some procedures that we have that allow us to recruit from outside the government, both from the Territories and from outside the Territories.

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

Qualification Requirements

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to recruitment, my basic question is with regard to qualifications of the individuals who apply for these positions. There are certain qualification requirements. My question right now is that even within governments we do not have too many native or Inuit people in managerial positions, basically because the competency levels of these positions are so high that the native person does not have even a hope and a prayer of getting these positions. I will base it on that. Experience, that is the competency level could be at a certain level, but they go toward the more qualified person. What happens is that the competency level of that particular position keeps going higher and higher when in actual fact it should be at a certain level. So what happens is that if this individual with the most qualifications gets into this position, once he gets into that position, the competency level is based on that individual's qualifications and it keeps going up. The little people like us do not have a chance of getting into these positions.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I will allow the Commissioner to respond to that particular question.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, part of what the honourable Member says does happen. We have been guilty of this at times in the past, that is our positions being described in such a way as they become filled with someone at the top end of the scale rather than at the bottom end of the scale. But I think in recent years we have made a very serious effort to get away from that. We have a policy that has been well-established for the past few years, of hiring people in the North. That is we are not even advertising jobs in the South unless the jobs are for skills that simply do not exist in the North; there is no one available to fill them. So, in that way we have turned it around and I think that you will find that we are now hiring people at the middle and perhaps the lower end of the scale of requirements of competency.

I think the Members also have to bear in mind that there are quite a number of jobs that do indeed require certain levels of experience and competency in order that the work be performed. Some of these are technical jobs and some of them are of a professional nature. I do not think that the Members would want us to lower the standards to the point where the work was not being performed properly.

I would like to make one other comment and that is that I think that we are making some very definite headway in engaging northern residents and in particular native people to fill more and more senior jobs. Part of this is coming about because in the course of time the people are getting experience and they are learning to become managers. They are taking these kinds of positions. So they are moving up in the scale very nicely. I think, as you know, we have two or more assistant regional directors, we have several people in the senior ranks now who have got to those positions because they have developed a full competency in them. It is our desire, of course, that that continue. We are very, very anxious to provide the job opportunities and the training for people to advance within our system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Gargan.

Office Of Native Employment

MR. GARGAN: As far as I know getting people that are not quite qualified for the positions and then not doing the job I guess the same thing would apply for people who are overqualified and not doing the job either. My other question is with regard to the office of native employment. What kind of role does the office of native employment have with regard to classifying and recruiting people? Are they involved in that procedure?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: The deputy minister will answer that.

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

MR. BOWYER: Mr. Chairman, the office of native employment has been involved in trying to increase the numbers of staff in the territorial public service. They have been involved with looking at some classification. They interview and counsel a lot of people about the types of jobs, the kinds of things they need to know or to obtain experience in, in order to qualify for those jobs. More recently we have become involved and have the office of native employment quite involved, in attempting to develop a more vigorous program in this area to enhance the opportunities for natives to become employed in the public service of the government. That work is currently in progress. They are very actively involved in that at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Supplementary to the question, is the office of native employment actually involved in writing job descriptions and identifying the training needs of native people that might be able to fill those positions? In a sense maybe they are not quite qualified but just in a few areas, so that they train in those areas while taking on the position.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: They have not actually been involved directly in the writing of job positions, descriptions or qualifications. They certainly have been involved in identifying those for training positions and in some of the interviewing to select native people to go into the training positions in the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Supplementary to that question. If they are not involved in the selection of these people, also in writing some job descriptions and the training requirements for these jobs, I am wondering exactly what is the office of native employment supposed to be doing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Bowyer.

Function Of Office Of Native Employment

MR. BOWYER: It is a bit of a difficult question, Mr. Chairman. We have had some difficulty in defining the role of the office of native employment, how we can best utilize their skills and best get their input into the types of things that you are referring to. They now are involved in the selection process of all the training positions. We have other officers, of course, in our staff training and development section, some of whom are native people who are involved in selecting other staff for indeterminate positions. We are attempting to fill out their role and to maximize the use of those individuals in that office to assist us in things like developing an affirmative action program if one is required, going on from that to assisting in the development of action plans in departments to enhance, once again, the employment of native people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: How much support has been given to the office of native employment within Personnel as well as how much emphasis is put on different departments to encourage natives to get into these managerial positions? What kind of priorities has this government put as far as native employment goes?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, it is a high priority in the government that we hire native people in the sense of ensuring they have the proper training to take on managerial positions. If we are hiring native people for the sake of hiring them with no training at all it would be worse for us in a sense in the long term because they would be frustrated with the system and with the way in which we included them on the basis of just being "native people" rather than on skill and qualifications and of course you know there are many of those that are presently available to us.

The other thing is it is very difficult to, you might say, identify people and programs if we do not have the proper policy or the proper legislation in place to enforce that direction. The whole purpose of developing the affirmative action policy which may lead either to a policy initiative or further legislation is to lay that direction out. If we do not have that direction presently we just do not have a direction in government to implement the will of people to hire native people. That is our intention in trying to work on developing the affirmative action policy.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman. I notice under your objectives there was no mention of native employment. Is that an oversight? Are you sitting there telling me that native employment is a priority?

My other question is -- I have two questions together -- since the last Legislative Assembly what progress has been made in the last two years in the Legislative Assembly and I remember Nick Sibbeston spoke on this topic, that the office of native employment be considered a top priority and yet under your objectives there is no mention of native employment.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I just want to indicate to the Member that if you can find a way in which we can break an agreement with the Public Service Association, then please make me aware of it because the reality is that we are bound by an agreement under which we must provide certain protection for the people that we have under contract now and yet try to bring into the system new people. What we are trying to do is we are trying to find a way in which we could convince the union and the managers and government as well as people in government at the moment that we have to implement the direction that will protect and ensure employment for native people. We have got to work together with those people. We just cannot say it is a priority and at the same time start firing people for the sake of filling those jobs with native people. It just is not going to work and it is just not going to fly. We have to have a way, a method to ensure that we accomplish in the end what we started out to do.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: I realize, sir, affirmative action is taking place. How soon do you expect this paper to be completed and, when it is completed, will the policies that will be in place then the Executive can utilize that also? That is my question.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, with regard to the discussion paper on affirmative action I would be prepared to table that document in this House so that the other Members of the Assembly can review the items that are under discussion in developing the particular policy. As to whether or not it applies to the Executive Council we have taken the position that any recruitment at all is really left up to the individual Executive Council Members and that is basically how we have approached the whole issue with regard to the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Commissioner, I believe you wanted to say something.

Hiring Of Native People A Very Major Consideration

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to comment on the question that the honourable Member asked before the last one concerning the objectives and the policy of the department. I guess one of the reasons that the policy is not actually recorded here or the hiring of native people recorded as an objective is because it forms the whole fibre of our approach to Personnel and, since that is the case, I guess we just did not record it, but every time we talk about staffing and every time I talk to deputy ministers, every time the Executive talks about Personnel it is in the context of employing the people who live in the Northwest Territories and in fact particularly the native people. So I would just like the Members to realize that it really does form a very major part of all of our considerations when we are discussing Personnel in any way, shape or form.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question. Do employees for the government supply their own accommodations? Also they get medical benefits and rental. Those people who live in Housing Corporation housing get their housing but I am just wondering why they do not get housing allowances. I would like to find out. I noticed that government employees get the housing allowances. Thank you.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I am not quite sure about the details of that particular issue. Maybe I can ask the deputy minister to respond.

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

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the Member's question, housing allowances are provided for territorial government employees and that is a subsidized program designed to encourage home-ownership. The subsidy is not provided to employees who live in accommodation which is partly subsidized. That is mostly the case with the employees or people in the Housing Corporation houses or in public housing. If there is no subsidy involved, if they are paying full economic rent for their unit, then they receive the subsidy. If they are being partially subsidized through the public housing or the housing association program, then they do not receive the subsidy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize this and I would like to ask a further question. For the government employees, some staying at the Housing Corporation, how do they get houses? The Housing Corporation, how do they do this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: As employees of ours they are entitled to the entire benefits package, with the exception of the housing allowance if they are being subsidized in some way by living in a Housing Corporation house and that may be in the form of fuel or electrical subsidy or other subsidies. It is just a question here of not providing a double benefit to someone. If there are any options to that, at what point it breaks even. Would it in fact be of benefit for some individuals to pay the full economic rent, refuse the subsidy and accept our housing allowance. We have done some work on that and it seems like it is about a break-even kind of proposition. But the policy on housing allowances is that if they are being subsidized by the Housing Corporation or another employer, then we do not provide the housing allowance to them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I understand, but the last question I have now regarding these employees who get housing subsidy, do they get housing subsidy by their education or just as an employee of the government?

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

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has nothing to do with education. The policy is applied to all our employees.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how many people work in the office of native employment?

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

MR. BOWYER: Mr. Chairman, there are two people in the office of native employment and we have assigned some man years to regional offices. It varies from region to region, from three-quarters of a man year to half a man year in the regions to deal with native employment. In the actual office of native employment we have two staff. They are Elsie Casaway who is the co-ordinator and her assistant who is Bea St. Arneault.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, if you are going to start your own business, does the Personnel department have any training for these people who would like to start their own business? For example, to start a co-op. Is that something to do with the Personnel department?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, the actual responsibility of training for business development, business management, I believe falls in the jurisdiction of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister, in his opening remarks yesterday was really clear about the employment in the NWT. I was very thankful to him for explaining exactly what is going on in the North. I would not want to see our northerners just transferred out of the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Was that a comment?

MR. APPAQAQ: Yes.

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

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that qualifications for a job are very important. More important, I feel, is that whoever is employed in the community is to share with the community, whether they be an employee of a hamlet, education society or government. It could happen that when a position opened in a community, five people might apply for that particular job. Because of a qualification, two might be sent to, let us say, Frobisher Bay, for an interview. But the community may know that the third person, who according to policy or whatever, is not qualified, is the best person to serve that community. This could happen. It has sometimes happened. I am wondering what Personnel's position is on this. Does the community have more say in the future or are they consulted?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, that is kind of an interesting issue. It might be that in developing the paper on affirmative action, that may eventually result as a policy. That could be an item that is addressed a little more thoroughly, in fact, part of the policy in that it makes us aware and respond to the concerns and wishes of the community. That in my opinion might be the best way to do it. The other thing is that I am not totally aware of all practices or procedures. I have a fairly good understanding of them. Maybe that is something that we are going to have to seriously look at, how we utilize community expertise and community input.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further general comments? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This goes back to an earlier discussion but I wonder, just for the record, how many government employees are presently living in Housing Corporation houses. If you do not have it immediately available, whenever you can get it to me will be fine.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I do not have that information available but I can certainly make that available. In fact what I will do is I will go further into detail in the regions and possibly get into communities, in the sense of how many people we have got so that the information is available to all Members in the House.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just for my own information, presently how many women does the government employ in positions of chief of a division or higher?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister. That should probably include native people.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I do not have that information here and available with me. I will provide that information to the Member as soon as possible.

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

Medical Benefits For GNWT Native Employees

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize there are certain benefits available to the employees of the Government of the NWT. When it comes to medical and other benefits for medical, is it charged against the employee to have this benefit or is it compulsory that they just get it without paying any fees on it? This is for medical only.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I did not quite get the question. I think I have an understanding of what you are talking about but we were not sure about the question.

MRS. LAWRENCE: My question is, when the benefit is available to the employees, I know some benefits you have to pay -- say disability and I understand that -- but when it comes to medical services, does the employee have to pay part of that medical expense or is it available to all employees? Do I make myself clear?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: The deputy minister will respond.

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

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to respond to the Member's question. All our employees are covered under a variety of plans, from life insurance to insured benefits such as medical and some dental work. But certainly it does not cover everything. In the dental work area, for example, it does not cover a great deal. All our employees pay this regardless of whether they are native or otherwise. That is routine. If you are referring to where Northern Health becomes involved, I do not know. I am not sure what the Member wishes to know beyond that. The government pays part of the premiums in most of these benefit areas and the employee pays a share.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just wanted to know because there was an incident where a status person had to pay for his medical because he is employed by the government as a janitor. He has several children and he even brought it to me that it was not worth it for him to work if you have to charge him for medicare. I was just wondering if any arrangement or agreement has been made between the two governments. As far as I know, Health and Welfare are responsible for health services. I was not aware that GNWT was responsible for status people.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: As the deputy minister said, we are responsible for all our employees because there is a certain policy that has been agreed to that both the employee pays into and the Government of the Northwest Territories pays into to ensure that medical protection is afforded to our employees. As to the question of whether or not we are responsible for status Indians, if they are employees of this government our policy applies to them because they pay into it, but that does not mean we have taken the position that the policy of the federal government does not apply to them after they become employees of ours. In fact, I believe that the policy in our opinion still applies no matter what, whether or not they are employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

Performance Appraisal System

MR. BALLANTYNE: Under the activity, staff training and development, there is a section that says, "Develop a performance appraisal system for senior managers and establish a review process to develop an inventory of senior management profiles." I wonder what is the existing system for performance appraisals for senior managers and what will the new system entail?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We currently have an appraisal system in place for senior managers. It is called the Hay Plan system and there is an appraisal system associated with that. We are not satisfied that that is doing the job that it should, so we are trying to develop a new appraisal system which will in fact, in combination with the PINGO program which is a personnel information system, assist us in providing an inventory of the skills of the individuals we have in the management area and thus identify those needing further training or identify those perhaps that are ready for a promotion and that type of thing.

The appraisal area is an area which has been ongoing for as long as I have been working and no one has reached the perfect appraisal system yet. We feel that we may indeed need several appraisal systems, depending on the category of employee that we are dealing with. This one is an attempt to refine the appraisal system at the senior manager level, to give us a better understanding of the skills that are available to us, the strengths and weaknesses of our managers.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Supplementary, Mr. Chairman. Presently what is the system for appraising deputy ministers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the system is such that on an annual basis the Minister to whom the deputy responds and I get together with that deputy, wherever possible, and discuss with the deputy his performance. In addition to that, the Executive Council in a closed session, an in-camera session, discusses in a general and specific way the performance of deputies and that gives each Executive Member an opportunity to provide his or her opinion on the performance. In that way I think we arrive at a pretty fair conclusion. The other aspect, of course, is their performance on the firing line here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Does someone want to make a comment? Mr. Wah-Shee.

Improvement Needed In Native Employment Policy

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make a general comment in regard to native employment. The whole area of trying to attract, properly train and have aboriginal people within the administration at the managerial level, at the chief level and higher up, we have had from 1967 when the administration moved to Yellowknife to 1984 today. It would appear, in terms of percentages of native people holding responsible positions, a very small percentage, and I was quite interested in the remarks or the comments that the deputy minister of Personnel made in regard to the confusion and the difficulty in identifying the terms of reference or the role of the office of native employment. Surely when the office of native employment was first established, there must have been some clear role that this office was going to play. It has to be an effective role that this office of native employment has to play and it would appear to me that the office of native employment has been lost at the bottom of the totem pole in the Department of Personnel and it has not been effective. I believe that the statistics will show that this is the case.

I look forward to seeing a proper policy in place to improve and to have some results in regard to increasing the native people within the bureaucracy. I do not think the blame for the lack of native people at the managerial level should totally rest with the public service union, because recently the public service union made a statement to the effect that they welcome and support initiatives in the area of trying to train more native people so that in the end we will have more native people on a managerial level. I do not believe that the public service union is really a problem. I think the problem basically is with the lack of policy, lack of direction and also

something that is really important besides having a policy. I believe it has to do with the attitude of the Department of Personnel in regard to hiring and properly training native people. I do not accept the remark that the Leader of the Government made in regard to just hiring native people for the sake of hiring, because I do not think that is what we are interested in. We are interested in seeing that our native people are properly trained so that they can compete.

The way things are going, I feel that we are opening the doors in the Northwest Territories to have those people in southern Canada who are unemployed from the various provinces come up here for a few years and then leave, because the high rate of turnover the past years, since 1967, I think will indicate that a lot of the people who were hired from southern Canada have already left. I think in the whole area of trying to get more native people within the bureaucracy something really has to be done. We cannot wait for the next 20 years. We cannot even wait for the next four years. I think that something has to take place and some positive results have to come out of this. Excuses are fine. I think we can say that the native people who were employed with the public service are all gone to the communities working for the band councils and hamlets and settlement councils. I think perhaps that did take place, but since then what have we done?

I think that we need some factual statistics to work from. I would like to see the Department of Personnel come up with some hard facts in regard to the percentage of native people that have been employed from 1967 to 1984 and to see what percentage of turnover has taken place, and also to see the percentage of the managerial level that the native people are holding at the present time from the chief level and up, so that we can have this information. Also I would like to see what kind of resources were put at the disposal of the office of native employment to make it effective. I think it has to be a real priority for the coming years, so I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Personnel to provide us with this factual information, these statistics, so that we can help to improve the situation. We are not interested only in criticizing, but we would hope the criticism that we have is constructive and taken that way because we want to support initiatives that the administration is going to take in this area. We would like to support them. At the same time I think the attitudes of the people who are on the managerial level also have to change toward the aboriginal people. There should be some timetable that we can work toward. If it is going to be 10 years, if it is going to be five years, then let us have a target date and let us see what is wrong with our practices of hiring and training so that we can improve the situation.

I would be very supportive of any initiatives in that area and I am glad to see that you will be coming up with a policy which will, hopefully, change the situation for the better, so that the aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories can truly say that the administration really reflects the population make-up of the Northwest Territories. At the present time the way I look at it, you have a majority of native people in the political arena within this House but I am sad to say that the administration does not reflect the population make-up of the Northwest Territories. So I think that we ought to do something in that area. I would like to hear from the Minister responsible for Personnel as to how we can improve the situation. Thank you.

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

Increased Percentage Of Notherners Employed

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, if the Member can identify those people in the union that would like to quit their jobs so that native people can take over those jobs then I would like them to come to me and invite that sad situation to occur. I doubt very much if those people who are so vocal are in fact prepared to do that. I just want to get a few things straight. In my presentation yesterday I said 688 positions, excluding teachers, were filled: 94 per cent of those were filled from the North; six per cent were recruited from southern Canada; 232 positions or 34 per cent were filled by native northern people. If that has not been an improvement over what occurred over the past few years then I do not know what is. We certainly are trying to respond to the wishes of people in recruiting native people. I think we cannot overlook the fact that there are non-native people in the North, born and raised in the North who have as much right, you might say, to be hired by the administration of the North and they have to be protected as well. They understand the situation in the North as well as native people. So while we can argue the case for native people, so be it, we will argue that case but we cannot undermine the fact that there are non-native people who have been born, raised and are prepared to live in the Northwest Territories and have gone through our educational system and are prepared to come back and give us the expertise that they have and have worked hard to achieve. So, I think that we have to look at that situation as well.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Recently, a statement was issued by the Public Service Association that represents the public service in the Northwest Territories. And for the information of the honourable Member he can check that out with the union leadership.

In regard to the make-up of the present bureaucracy in terms of the managerial level, I think that if we look at statistics in terms of the non-native people who were born in the Northwest Territories, again I think it will be fairly small. I think you will find that the people who hold managerial positions at the present time were born elsewhere and came into the Northwest Territories quite recently. In terms of wholesale firing of the present people who hold managerial level positions, that is not the intent if we are going to improve the involvement of the aboriginal people. I think that the long-term residents of the North, who were born here, are in the same boat as the aboriginal people.

I think that the attitudes, again are very important. I think attitudes have to change and I would hope that this will happen. We are not questioning the good intentions of the Minister responsible for Personnel nor the Commissioner. However, I think the problem really lies with your top management at the present time who are responsible for coming up with recommendations.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I do not question the validity of the union making an announcement but ask them if they are prepared to resign. The Member can ask them and I doubt very much if that commitment will be given. With regard to accountability in this House, I am the responsible Minister and I am accountable. I have gone further than that. I think the department has gone further than that by indicating that there will no doubt be a policy developed but it cannot be developed outside the purview of the native organizations or the unions. It has to be done in conjunction with those people. We have also gone as far as to have a meeting between the Commissioner and the deputy minister and myself to look at how we might help the native organization in utilizing our training programs so that it can improve the quality of people that they have as much as the quality of people we have. We are going further than just trying to say that we are going to provide the policy. We are trying now to implement it without even having the policy in place. I cannot go any further than that but I can commit to you the fact that we will have something in place. In fact I indicated to you earlier that the document now out for public discussion will be made available to all Members of this House so that they can have their input in the discussion and the development of the policy that is going to be a part of the direction of the government over the next four years at least. After that I hope that we can come back and continue with that direction another four years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anybody else? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I am sorry but I am not quite satisfied with the answer you gave me and I should have questioned it right away when I asked you that question the first time. Getting back to medical services. Is there any policy that where you have to impose this package on the employees, it could be made available to them if they so choose rather than saying it is compulsory, you have to pay for these medical services. Because, as it stands, there are enough deductions taken from their cheques without having them to pay for medical services. Say if a person, a family, has about 10 or 12 children he is already getting these services anyway under the Health and Welfare services. So why should he pay for those medical services? I hope I do not have to ask the question again.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In some cases the payment is compulsory in a sense that it is a part of the agreement that has been signed with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Public Service Association. In other cases it is a matter of decision on the part of the employee. It is a matter of trying to get the things so that the government and employee are on the same track and we are in fact providing a particular service whenever the agreement is reached.

I do not think that where it is optional we force people to pay for the services that they are already receiving but it may be that the actual payment is small enough that it does not affect the pay cheque that much, that it might be to the interest of that individual to maintain that benefit

in the long run. On the other hand, if there is any question of the actual details of all the benefits that are optional or those that are compulsory, we will make that information package available to you so that you are aware of it. Because there may be some confusion in what is optional and what is compulsory, maybe that is something that we have to do a bit more work in making people aware of.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will have a coffee break for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. I believe we are under general comments. Mr. Gargan.

Requirements For Training Programs Too High

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 1980-81 there was a training program that was put up in Fort Smith in conjunction with the federal government with regard to community health representative training. The program was on for two years. I think the territorial government did drop it after two years basically because the requirements of that training program were that you have to have either grade 10 or 12. Also, I guess the drop-out rate for that program was such that, out of 12 students in 1980-81 that entered that training program, only two succeeded in completing it. The second year out of, I think, 10 students only two succeeded in completing the training course.

Basically the CHR training program was geared for people in the communities to help their own people in the area of health protection. The same training program is now running in the Eastern Arctic. I am not sure which communities, but the requirement now by the federal government is that the community makes the selection. The individuals' only requirement is to be able to read and write and also to be responsible for their job. I guess my question is, are we as a government putting the requirements too high so that it is geared toward failure?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, with regard to that particular program the Department of Personnel was not involved. The Department of Social Services and Health was actually responsible at the time of the program to carry out and identify people that would be involved in that particular program, so it had nothing to do with the Department of Personnel nor the Department of Personnel determining the qualifications or the criteria by which the individuals were recruited.

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

MR. GARGAN: My main concern is not whether it is with the Department of Social Services or whether it is the Department of Education. My question is with regard to all departments. Are the training requirements within each department too high so that the native people do not have a chance to get into it?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I am not totally aware of the qualifications required for each particular training program. I think that the review that has been taking place right now in conjunction with the Department of Education and all other departments and is bringing the total training responsibility under that particular department, is as well to assess what is really available and how we might deal with training programs as they arise so we knew exactly how the programs were instituted, what was required and from there the Department of Education would carry them out.

You have got to remember as well that there are two levels in government with regard to training. That is those that we take on at a lower level -- say there are three years of training required and you reduce the salary to that level and you increase it along as they increase their qualifications. You allow them to train to a certain level and at that time you are in fact a fully qualified member or a graduate of that particular training program. There are others that, of course, are worked out in conjunction with the provinces that have established certain qualifications before entering particular institutions. So you do not necessarily have to have the

highest possible qualifications to enter a job. It is possible you can train an individual from a certain lower level up to that particular level that is required to be fully competent. Now maybe that is something you are going to have to look at, but when you are going into a post-secondary institution that is very different. That is something that I do not have any control of, unless I had control of the educational system and I assume in some cases we do at Thebacha College but there are requirements that are required in all those programs. Those requirements are required all across this country but perhaps Education can respond to that when you get to them.

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

MR. GARGAN: Again, just referring back to that training program in Fort Smith, has the Department of Personnel by any chance reviewed or reassessed the whole process that was used for the selection of people going into that program and not completing it because of their lack of qualifications? Is the Department of Personnel using that as a lesson maybe to try to change it?

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

Responsibility Of Departments For Training Programs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I do not know the specifics about the particular training program, the actual situation, but I do know that the program was defined, outlined by the specific department themselves. All training programs are not, you might say, monitored through the Department of Personnel. It is the specific department that determines a program and determines the arrangement they are going to work with outside the Government of the Northwest Territories in the sense of arranging with the Department of Health and Welfare that they can work together and then come to an arrangement and utilize some of the funds of the government specific to those training programs and specific to training within each department.

Now the whole reason we are in fact trying to bring together that whole training responsibility under Education is in fact to try to address the issues you have raised here in the sense of making sure that we offer the best possible training program available plus address some of the issues as they relate to either overqualification or the kind of qualifications that might be dealt with. I do not think we had a co-ordinated manner in which we were dealing with training and that is exactly the reason they are trying to bring the thing under Education. That does not mean, though, that the departments that are proposing a training program are not responsible for developing the criteria, the outline for the training program, because certainly they will still have that particular responsibility but they will have to work now in conjunction with the Department of Education, but the Minister can inform you of that when he gets up here to defend his budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further general comments? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister what his views are about evolving the responsibility for the Department of Personnel toward a public service commission in the future.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I guess one of the actual proposals is to look at an arm's length responsibility or else a commission-type body that will be responsible for the recruitment and the services offered to the employees of government and at that time I will express my particular concerns or the issues I would like them to address. At the moment we are in the process of developing options that we will be discussing including the option of a public service commission or the option of retaining the department but that is something that needs to be dealt with by the total Executive Council and in fact has to be introduced as an issue to be discussed. At that time I will either raise my concerns or the issues, but that is something we are going to be discussing very shortly and in fact hopefully introducing a complete answer in the very near future.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I gather that the government has decided to go ahead with trying to determine whether it will be possible to mount a full-scale affirmative action policy for the Government of the Northwest Territories. In comments that I have heard publicly I gather the government would like to discuss the matter with the Human Rights Commission, with

unions, with native associations and so on. I assume that all of this will be directed toward developing a policy if it appears that we can go ahead with one. Can I ask the Minister, who will be involved in these meetings with the various groups that I have just outlined, who will be handling them and who will be formulating the policy?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I believe Elsie Casaway and Denis Kielly are the two individuals that are going to be involved in the discussions with the unions and with the native organizations. I would resume at some time my discussion with the Members of the Assembly depending upon their interest in terms of talking to them and other managers in the Government of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. MACQUARRIE: I want to think that over a little more. It is possible that some other approach would be better, but at any rate could I ask the Minister if we could get a very clear indication of what the situation is right now? I gather there are statistics simply because some are quoted from time to time and it is apparent to a lot of people that there is a problem, but could I ask that we be provided with a table or something that shows very clearly what the present situation is? That is, actual numbers of northern natives and I underline that, in other words, not necessarily natives from other provinces, but northern natives who are employed and perhaps there could be a distinction between teachers on the one hand and all other government employees. In other words, two tables, one for teachers and one for other employees and by region first of all, with numbers of native employees employed in each region, keeping headquarters separate so that we can see clearly what the situation is with respect to that. Then maybe the table could also indicate the breakdown at various levels, ordinary employees, middle management, senior management or some other. I am not saying those should be their designations but just to give the Minister an understanding of what I mean. We should be able to see clearly when we look at the table just how many northern natives there are at senior management levels, middle-management levels and so on. Would the Minister be able to do that and undertake to do it for Members of this House?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do not see a serious problem. I was just wondering whether that information might include those people that were being trained by government in government programs because it may be that some of the people that are graduates or are involved, in fact may become employees of the government. So just to make people aware of that.

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

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, I think it would be very useful to know not only the actual employment situation but the efforts at training that are ongoing with intended employment. That could be, I suggest, a separate little table then so we do not become confused with those who are actually employed at the present time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Was that a comment? Thank you. If there are no further general comments does the committee agree that we go into the budget detail of the Department of Personnel at this time, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Page 7.05, directorate. Total O and M, \$2,281,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Finance And Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Finance and administration, total O and M, \$310,000. Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Staff relations, total O and M, \$9,183,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Personnel Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Personnel services, total O and M, \$1,049,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Development And Training, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Staff development and training, total O and M, \$2,856,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Detail of capital, staff relations, total buildings and works, \$3,024,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Acquisition Of Equipment, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total acquisition of equipment, \$197,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total department, \$3,221,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Are there any questions on page 7.11, on the recoveries, total operating income, \$88,000? No questions. Page 7.12, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, information item. Total department, \$82,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Back to page 7.04. Total O and M for the department, \$15,679,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total capital, \$3,221,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): That concludes the Department of Personnel. We would like to thank the witness for appearing before us. The next department is the Executive on page 2.01. Would the Minister like to make opening remarks under the Executive at this time? Mr. Minister?

Department Of The Executive

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. On behalf of my colleagues I would like to present for your consideration the expenditure plans of the Department of the Executive for the fiscal year 1984-85. The Department of the Executive has been reorganized to reflect the most recent significant steps toward ministerial government. First, an eighth Member has been chosen by the Legislative Assembly to serve on the Executive Council. Second, the overall organization of the Department of the Executive has been improved to strengthen operational and advisory functions. Mr. Bob Pilot, who must be commended for his service as the last full-time Deputy Commissioner, has been appointed the deputy minister to the Executive Council. In his new role Mr. Pilot would ensure the operational efficiency of the Executive support services and co-ordination within the Executive committee system. Further, a principal secretary will be hired as a senior political advisor to the Executive Council to provide among other services an important communication linkage between the government and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

As a result of this restructuring within the Executive branch I believe the Department of the Executive will be able to respond more effectively to the Assembly. You will note that the budget contains resource requirements for a number of secretariats and directorates which will provide advice to the Executive Council and its subcommittees. Two new special Executive Council committees have been established; the resources committee supported by the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat and the Department of Renewable Resources; the aboriginal rights and constitutional development committee supported by the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. The priorities and planning committee which will be developing the new priorities of the government to 1988 on behalf of the Legislative Assembly will continue to receive support through the Priorities and Planning Secretariat. I am sorry, my mistake. That should have been the committee.

The expenditure plans of this department also contain the budget of the Highway Transport Board and the Public Utilities Board. In total, the Executive budget has increased by three per cent or \$300,000 in operation and maintenance and two person years to improve the financial administration of the department and enhance the electronic data processing audit capability of the government as required by the Auditor General of Canada. Mr. Chairman, to conclude my remarks I will ask the committee's indulgence to have the deputy minister of the Executive Council, Bob Pilot, and the deputy secretary, Dick Abernethy, to join me at the witness table. From time to time I may seek your concurrence to bring in a representative of other secretariats or agencies if required. Further, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Commissioner, John Parker, will be able to respond to some of the questions that may be asked by Members of this Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Would the Minister, for the record, please introduce his witnesses.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on my immediate right is Mr. Bob Pilot, who is the deputy minister of the Executive and to his right, Dick Abernethy, who is the secretary to the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are now under general comments from Members. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. For clarification I would request the name of the Minister who is responsible for regional operations?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am responsible now, I believe, for regional operations since it is a function under the Executive Council offices.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Then there is obviously a mistake in the organization chart shown on page 2.01 because it has the Commissioner directly responsible for regional operations.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this organization chart was a chart that was submitted prior to the changes that occurred over the past few weeks and within the last month. Certainly we would be prepared to provide the Members of this House with a new organization chart to update and inform the Members of this House as to the reporting relationships that now exist in the Executive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments? If there are no further general comments does the committee agree to go into the budget detail of the Executive at this time? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just a weighty observation here, Mr. Chairman. I notice that this is the only department in our estimates book that does not have objectives. Should we take that as an ominous sign of what lies ahead?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Perhaps the Leader of our Government can reply to that.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, if we had included all of the policies and directions we had already established, this book would not be thick enough.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further general comments? Does the committee agree to go into the budget detail of the Executive at this time? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Commissioner's Office, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The Commissioner's Office, total O and M, \$459,000. Agreed? Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short question. I think it was last year or the year before that the Commissioner's Office was talked about quite a bit. Maybe some of the Executive Members that are now the new Executive Members were the ones that had a lot to do with this for the Commissioner to leave his position. After those talks I wonder what is happening to his position now.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate that we have not got rid of the Commissioner as of yet. Certainly I do not see that happening within the foreseeable future, primarily because the Northwest Territories Act still indicates that the Commissioner is the

primary chief financial officer and the chief administrator of the Northwest Territories. He has over the past few years given away in the sense of devolved and through evolution given to the Leader many of the responsibilities that he had assumed over the past number of years. I have taken on such things as the Executive Council office that formerly was the responsibility of the Commissioner. Presently I work with the Commissioner co-operatively to run basically the Executive Council area and he still has administrative responsibilities within government so he is an important factor yet.

You also have to remember that there are many departmental responsibilities that he had previously that have been given to Ministers who have assumed or have been given that type of responsibility by the Assembly. We asked the federal government and in some cases Commissioner John Parker gave to Ministers authority that he had not received approval for, but thought it was necessary so that we can begin functioning like a government and that we could assume more responsibility to Members of this House. Those kinds of things have happened, but, like I said, I do not believe that we are trying to get rid of the Commissioner in the sense of kicking him out of the Executive Council, but we are trying to work with him. He is slowly evolving into a different type of a role, taking on different responsibilities that he did not have before or improving upon like the role of the Lieutenant-Governor, or the role you might say that the Governor General of Canada plays, that sort of thing.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I was in Arctic Bay I met with the Inuit Cultural Institute and they told me to ask the Commissioner in the fiscal year 1984-85 if he is coming up to Arctic Bay this year in 1984. The members over there in the Inuit Cultural Institute want to talk with him on the subject of him being a civil servant of the federal government. They want the Commissioner to go and talk to them.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I understand the request and I thank the honourable Member for passing it along. I have not spent any time in Arctic Bay for a couple of years and I would hope very much that I would be able to visit there some time during 1984.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Any further general comments? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess this is with regard to again the Commissioner's Office. Looking at the budget on that, there is salary and operations and maintenance but there is no money for grants or contributions. I am just wondering. I thought not too far back the Commissioner used to give grants and contributions.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. I must indicate to the Members that the grants and contributions are not under the Commissioner's Office but, rather, under the Executive Council Secretariat because it is a political decision that now determines whether or not and to whom those grants in fact go.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Admitted at last!

---Laughter

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: But there are many grants that have been given over the past few years that we have continued, things like to the Metis Association. We had agreed previously even before I was a Minister that the Metis Association would receive some core funding so they could provide funds to the communities. There are a number of organizations that come in on a yearly basis that we provide funds to which Members of the former House supported and were a part of that particular decision, that particular recommendation. I can leave it at that.

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

MR. GARGAN: Yes. The reason why I asked this question actually was because as soon as I was elected, I went down to the Commissioner and asked him for something.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I am sorry the Member is a little too late.

Commissioner's Office, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments? Commissioner's Office, total O and M, \$459,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Ministers' offices, total O and M, \$1,507,000. Is everyone happy with that amount? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive Council Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Executive Council Secretariat, total O and M, \$2,221,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Energy, Mines And Resources Secretariat, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, total O and M, \$1,042,000. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: It might be of interest to the Members here that we defer the final decision on the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat so that the responsible Minister at the time of his presentation might be able to give further details on those two particular Secretariats, Energy, Mines and Resources and Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. That is my recommendation because there will be, I believe, significant comments being made by the particular individual Ministers responsible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): What is the wish of the committee? Does the committee wish to proceed? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I wonder if we could not just have the Minister responsible go into the witness chair and answer so that we do not have to worry about this section later.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree? Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, would you indicate what is being proposed by the Leader? Is it to set aside Energy, Mines and Resources until the Minister responsible for that comes in, is that the suggestion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Perhaps we can ask the Minister for clarification on that point.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to confuse people but if you attended the standing committee on finance proceedings the Minister responsible actually dealt with those issues in that proceeding so what I am suggesting is that when you do get to Economic Development and Tourism that the Minister responsible for that particular secretariat will in fact speak on the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat and when you get to the whole question of dealing with

Education that the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development will speak at that time to those secretariats. That is in fact my suggestion, unless of course there is no serious problem and we can all agree with the finances being allocated.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we are not sure whether the Government Leader has any difficulties or problems associated with either. Within the review of both secretariats I do not know if there were very many difficulties that arose at the standing committee meeting. I see the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources is here now. I suggest we deal with that. There are two Ministers who are responsible for the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. Surely we could get one of them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister for Energy, Mines and Resources.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry for being out. I had to deal with another matter. The reason that I am asking for deferral at this time is not because of the problems involved at all. It is because there is so much important, I think, further information that the Members of the Assembly should have because the nature of the work carried out by the secretariat is very technical and complex. I think there are a number of issues that relate to, for instance, revenue-sharing proposals and whatnot that the Members would be pleased to know. These particular important areas are not quite completed in terms of more substantial presentations than the one paragraph in this section. So I have asked our Leader if he would be prepared to defer that for some other appropriate time to bring it back to the House.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, that sounds okay to me. I do not have any difficulty in relation to that. I am sure that other Members would not have any difficulty with that. I accept the explanation the Member has suggested. May I ask the House Leader or the Government Leader or the Minister responsible for the Executive in general, whether we could have a somewhat similar kind of an explanation as to why you want to defer Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I would think that the reason I am trying to defer is that, as you know, for financial convenience the two secretariats are within the Department of the Executive. There is a possibility that further...

MR. MacQUARRIE: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Yes, your point of order, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Could we deal with each one at a time? We were looking at Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister offered an explanation which is acceptable to me. So could we vote whether we agree for deferral and then move on to the next item, Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat.

Consideration Of Energy, Mines And Resources Secretariat Deferred

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Yes, we are under Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat. The Minister responsible would like to see this particular section deferred for the time being. So, what is the desire of the committee at this time? Do you agree that we should defer this particular section?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, total 0 and M, \$547,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion here that I would like to present at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does it have to do with aboriginal rights?

MR. GARGAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Do you want to proceed?

Motion That Government Position On COPE Agreement In Principle Be Tabled And Discussed Before Signature, Carried

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this House request the Executive Council to table its position on the COPE agreement in principle and to allow for discussion and direction from this Legislature before the agreement is signed by the territorial government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Could I have a copy of that motion please? We just want to take a few minutes at this time to see if the motion is in order. Mr. Gargan, your motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does anyone wish to speak to the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Do you wish to speak to your motion?

MR. GARGAN: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. All in favour please indicate. Thank you. All opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, total O and M, \$547,000. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Part of the mandate of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat as I read it on page 2.07 is to assess the implications of negotiated settlements in respect of program planning and legislative changes to ensure a smooth transition to the post settlement era. I would wonder if those assessments are going on now or have been going on with respect to the agreement in principle and with respect to the 10 agreements that have already been negotiated and initialled with ITC.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister, Dennis Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work certainly has been done with respect to the COPE final agreement. As I indicated in question period today I will hopefully, tomorrow, be tabling our government's position on this agreement and making a statement about it. I expect it can be resolved at the Executive Council tomorrow. It will address that very question so with the understanding of the House, I will not go into that in detail now. I will say certainly that we have been very concerned about being able to pay for the implications of the agreement as they impinge on territorial government services. I think the matter has been satisfactorily addressed by the federal government.

Now, as to the subagreements that have been developed by the TFN, I must confess that we have not got to the stage yet of analysing the financial implications, perhaps because that claim is not as far advanced yet as the COPE claim. We cannot yet really predict when the agreement might be finalized and when costs might start to accrue. But I can say certainly that we will be looking closely at this and of course the territorial government and its various departments have been participating in the TFN claim as well. While these agreements have been initialled, I think we have some idea of the implications but not detailed at this point, if that answers the question, Mr. Chairman.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think that this government obviously has very much an interest in a smooth transition as is outlined in the objective on page 2.07 and I would see that all Members of this Legislature would want to see that we understand fully what the implications are to this Legislature and to the Government of the Northwest Territories of any claim.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, as we discuss Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, to say publicly how very pleased I am that one land claim group in the Northwest Territories has forged ahead and has signed a final agreement. I think that all of us in the Northwest Territories should be very proud to say that we are a part of this very historical event. While there certainly are problems associated with some of the parts of the agreement, and that is to be expected because that agreement is not yet fully understood and fully read by all Members and by all people who are discussing it in public. This Legislature in particular over the past four years has constantly stated that it was in support of the land claim groups, that it supports and supported an equitable settlement of the claims. I think that we should now state to the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement that we are pleased to see them be the first group in the Northwest Territories to take that giant step.

I know that these are difficult times because of the overlap issue with the Dene Nation and with the land claim group in the Yukon but I think that with good feelings on all sides, and with a genuine effort at solving that issue that we can come to terms with it and the land claim groups can come to terms with it. I would like the opportunity to be able, as the motion pointed out that was passed earlier, to have some input into our government's support of that land claim and to make comments regarding the government's position so that we can be united in this Legislature on the COPE claim. I do have personal problems with the 10 per cent preference that has been talked about. I have not yet read in full detail that clause in the COPE agreement but I would not want to see that hold up the entire agreement to the detriment of the one group in the Northwest Territories that has proceeded ahead with its claim. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen.

Role Of Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask Mr. Patterson if he could give from his perspective a brief explanation especially to the new Members as to the role of the secretariat and the relationship of the secretariat to the constitutional forums and to the various groups negotiating claims? Unfortunately at the finance committee meeting we did not have a Minister actually to explain it so we heard it from the civil servants' point of view. I think it would be helpful if Mr. Patterson could just briefly explain the role of the secretariat.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly should apologize to the standing committee on finance for not having being able to attend as Minister responsible for this secretariat. As the chairman I believe was told, I had a meeting of the council of Ministers of Education for Canada that I felt it was important I attend at the same time.

Let me say that primarily the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat is responsible for supporting and participating in the aboriginal rights negotiations. I think the direction for our particular role was given by the Ninth Legislative Assembly after much discussion and debate and calls basically for the territorial government to have a role as part of the federal team, but also to try to represent, be sensitive to and advocate the concerns of the native organizations wherever it is possible to do so, at the same time having regard to the interests of all the people of the Northwest Territories. So primarily the secretariat is occupied with the challenge of representing the Government of the Northwest Territories in the land claims negotiations. This has been quite an onerous responsibility with reference to both the COPE and TFN claims and we hope in the coming year the Dene/Metis claim is going to heat up a little bit and we will be active there as well in seeing things move along.

Mr. Chairman, the Member asked about the relationship of the secretariat to the Constitutional Alliance. Of course, the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat played a key role in the establishment of the Constitutional Alliance and until the federal government decided to provide sources of funding

to the Western and Nunavut Constitutional Forums the secretariat actually provided the seed money to get the Constitutional Alliance off the ground. It is my view that it is not appropriate, since this Legislature is represented in a significant way in the Constitutional Alliance, that the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat completely withdraw from the Constitutional Alliance and so officers of the secretariat have been available in a support and sometimes advisory capacity to the forums and to the alliance to assist in any way that they can. I think at least from my point of view on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, they have provided valuable support and advice from the perspective of the government of the Territories and the Legislative Assembly. So there is still an important role there, although the forums now are much less dependent on the territorial government for assistance.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I guess the other thing I would say about the secretariat is that they are charged with being vigilant about the special rights and interests of aboriginal peoples and to the extent that many of the decisions of the Government of the Northwest Territories have implications with respect to aboriginal rights, the secretariat is available to the Executive Council to provide advice and input on those matters and now we have a special committee of the Executive Council called the aboriginal rights committee which serves as a forum for addressing and resolving these issues that relate to aboriginal rights. I am thinking, for example, of decisions of our government relating to development or the establishment of new institutions within the Government of the Northwest Territories that may have impacts.

Also finally, Mr. Chairman, the secretariat has been involved in a support capacity with the Department of Justice and Public Services in the First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights. The secretariat has been participating and supporting the tremendous amount of work that is required to prepare our positions at the conferences and I am sure the Member knows generally the Northwest Territories has been represented at the table by the Minister of Justice and the Government Leader and also either myself or Mr. Sibbeston as Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Ministers. I hope that answers the question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions? Mrs. Sorensen.

Government Position At First Ministers' Conference

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Minister. I am pleased that you have raised the issue of the First Ministers' Conference which is coming up later in March. It is my understanding that there are three or four agenda items concerning aboriginal rights and the constitution that will be raised. I am wondering if this House will be given the discussion papers before the Ministers proceed to the First Ministers' Conference so that we can have an idea of what our position as a government is and perhaps have input into that as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I believe the Leader of the Government would like to make a comment.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just to indicate to the Member that we have a meeting to attend on Monday and Tuesday on two particular items that are outstanding in the sense of discussions, one on land and resources and the other being self-government. These are in fact meetings that are leading up to the First Ministers' Conference that is presently scheduled for March 8th and 9th, 1984. After the meeting next week, I hope to have a document to present to Members of this House for further discussion so that we can make Members aware of the position we have taken to date as an Executive Council and then to proceed with suggestions from the Members of this House on our approach at the First Ministers' Conference. In fact I would even suggest that at some point we are going to have to make a decision as to who might not necessarily be delegates because the reality is that it is only the Executive Council and myself as Leader and the two Ministers of Aboriginal Rights are delegates in the sense of the staff members, the actual delegates, but, rather, to indicate who is interested in sitting at the First Ministers' Conference as observers to listen to the proceedings -- but that is another issue and that will be dealt with and while I am raising it here I intend again to raise it in the future so that we have an indication as to who is interested so I can at least get the appropriate passes and the appropriate information that is required by each interested individual to those people. As I indicated earlier, I will be returning with a fairly detailed document to this House on the position we will be taking.

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, total O and M, \$547,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Priorities And Planning Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Priorities and Planning Secretariat, total O and M, \$346,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Audit Bureau, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Audit Bureau, total O and M, \$1,235,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Regional Operations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Regional operations, total O and M, \$3,414,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Grants

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Detail of grants and contributions, total grants, \$846,000. Agreed? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I wonder if we could ask the Government Leader if we could get a breakdown of these amounts?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I can provide a summary of the Executive Council grants and contributions now and if the Member wishes I can make the document available to you. The Native Women's Association core funding, \$110,000; Girl Guides, \$15,000; Boy Scouts, \$10,000; St. John Ambulance, \$15,000; Air Cadet League, \$1500; Army Cadet League, \$1500; Storefront and deficit funding assistance, \$15,000; Canadian Arctic Resources Committee conference support, \$10,000; ICI Elders Conference support, \$5000; Town of Inuvik 25th anniversary celebrations, this is for the 1983-84 year, \$20,000; World University Games 1983, NWT contribution, \$18,400; Eskimo Dog Foundation transportation assistance \$9294; Inuit Circumpolar Conference support, \$50,000; Cultural Institute, transportation assistance \$1700, training assistance \$94,000; Native Communications Society, new printing equipment \$5000; the Yellowknife Shooting Club, facilities, upgrading, \$13,000; Dene Nation cultural project \$20,000, Father Henry biography translation assistance \$3000; Institute for Research on Public Policy, \$7500; Tree of Peace International Association, \$11,500; Metis Association of the Northwest Territories, core funding for first and second quarterly payments of \$55,000. Total to February 1, 1984 is \$492,394.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total grants, \$846,000. Agreed? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to ask a question about the grants to the development impact zones. I would like to know where those grants are going.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, maybe it would be of interest to suggest that the Member who is responsible for the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat could provide the detail of information on the breakdown of that funding source when he makes his presentation.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Grants, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total grants, \$846,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Detail of capital, total department \$275,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Page 2.13 we have a major information item. Do Members have any questions in regard to the Workers' Compensation Board? Questions? The Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat has been deferred for the time being. We will return to that section later on. So therefore, it would not be appropriate at this time to give approval to total O and M and capital. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We will defer the approval for the total O and M and capital until we have dealt with the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat. I would like to thank the witnesses at this time. Is it the wish of the committee to report progress at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Progress.

---Agreed

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

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-84(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1984-85; TABLED DOCUMENT 4-84(1), 1984-85 MAIN ESTIMATES

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that your committee has been considering Bill 1-84(1) and Tabled Document 4-84(1) and wish to report progress with one motion being adopted as recorded in the proceedings of this House.

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. Wah-Shee. Members have heard the report of the chairman of committee of the whole and I understand you are agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day please.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Thursday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions: Motion 12-84(1); Motion 13-84(1)
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 1-84(1); Tabled Document 4-84(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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