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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

The Hon. Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1877
Hay River, N.W.T., XOE ORO
Office (403) 874-2324
Home (403) 874-6560
Office (403) 873-7629 (Yellowknife)
(Hay River)

Angottitauruq, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.
XOE 1JO
Phone (403) 360-7141 (Hamlet Office)
(Kitikmeot East)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
XOA OWO
Office (819) 266-8860
Home (819) 266-8931
(Hudson Bay)

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
XOA ONO
Phone (819) 939-2363
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1091
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N8
Office (403) 873-8093
Home (403) 873-5232
(Yellowknife North)

Butters, The Hon. Thomas H., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 908
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N7
Office (403) 873-7128
Home (403) 920-4411 (Yellowknife)
(403) 979-2373 (Inuvik)
(Inuvik)
Minister of Finance and Government
Services

Cournoyeva, The Hon. Nellie J., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1184
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OTO
Office (403) 873-7959
Home (403) 979-2740
(Nunakput)
Minister of Renewable Resources and
Information

Curley, The Hon. Tagak E.C., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 36
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
XOC OGO
Office (403) 873-7139
Home (819) 645-2951
(Aivilik)
Minister of Economic Development and
Tourism

Erkloo, Mr. Elijah, M.L.A.
Pond Inlet, N.W.T.
XOA OSO
Phone (819) 899-8845
(Foxye Basin)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2131
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P6
Office (403) 873-7999
Home (403) 699-3171
(Deh Cho)

Lawrence, Mrs. Eliza, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2053
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 1W9
Office (403) 920-8052
Home (403) 873-2457
(Tu Nedhe)

MacQuarrie, Mr. Robert, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2895
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2R2
Office (403) 873-7918
Home (403) 873-8857
(Yellowknife Centre)

McCallum, Mr. Arnold, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 685
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N5
Phone (403) 872-2246
(Slave River)

McLaughlin, The Hon. Bruce, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 555
Pine Point, N.W.T.
XOE OWO
Office (403) 873-7113
Home (403) 393-2226
(Pine Point)
Minister of Health and Social Services

Nerysoo, The Hon. Richard W., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
Office (403) 873-7112
Home (403) 873-5310
(Mackenzie Delta)
Government Leader and Minister of Justice
and Public Services

Paniloo, Mr. Pauloosie, M.L.A.
Clyde River, N.W.T.
XOA OEO
Phone (819) 924-6220 (Hamlet Office)
(Baffin Central)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 310
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.
XOA OHO
Office (819) 979-5941
(403) 873-7123
Home (819) 979-6618
(Iqaluit)
Minister of Education

Pedersen, Mr. Red, M.L.A.
Coppermine, N.W.T.
XOE OEO
Phone (403) 982-5221
(Kitikmeot West)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 22
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.
XOA OVO
Phone (819) 252-3737
(High Arctic)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO
Office (403) 873-7658
Home (403) 695-2565
(Deh Cho Gah)
Minister of Local Government

Sorensen, Mrs. Lynda, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2348
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P7
Office (403) 873-7920
Home (403) 873-5086
(Yellowknife South)

T'Seleie, Mr. John, M.L.A.
Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
XOE OHO
Phone (403) 598-2303
(Sahtu)

Wah-Shee, Mr. James, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 471
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N4
Office (403) 873-8099
Home (403) 873-8012
(Rae-Lac La Martre)
Deputy Speaker

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
XOC OAO
Office (403) 873-7962
Home (819) 793-2700
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Public Works

Officers

Clerk
Mr. David M. Hamilton
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk
Mr. Peter C. Fuglsang
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant (Procedural)
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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard
Mrs. Marie J. Coe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant (Administrative)
Mr. S. James Mikeli
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1984

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Wah-Shee): Item 2, Members' replies. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Any statements today? Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Transfer Of Responsibility For Forest And Forest Fire Management

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, there were several questions asked of me in regard to forest fire management and I would like to make the following statement concerning the matter of forest and forest fire management. The following comments may help clarify the status of the discussions between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development about the possible transfer of matters related to forest and forest fire management to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Subsequent to the widespread burns of 1979 and 1980, discussions began with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs about the possible transfer of the fire suppression program to the Government of the NWT. The principle and the general approach to the possible transfer of the fire suppression program have been discussed at the political and administrative levels by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Department of Renewable Resources early in 1981. In November 1981, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development produced a position paper which detailed the factors and conditions for the transfer of the fire suppression responsibilities to the Government of the Northwest Territories. The GNWT officials subsequently discontinued the discussions in mid-1982 to permit the new Executive Council to consider the matter upon their assuming office. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has indicated an openness to resume negotiations.

I have instructed my officials to draft a decision paper which will assess the options of the transfer of forestry-related programs for Executive consideration. The review will also consider specific guidance for our government's negotiations for the transfer, should the Executive Council feel that the resumption of these negotiations is a priority. I am hopeful that this matter can be deliberated upon in the near future. Should negotiations be reinstated, it will be necessary for our government to determine a policy and priority system for fighting fires to guide our discussion of the budgetary requirements during the latter stages of arrangements for the transfer. I anticipate canvassing the views of the western MLAs on this matter before we take a final position on the matter of priority zones and the details of fire management strategies.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Any further Ministers' statements? Item 4, oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to hear what the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources had to say. I would be interested in having input into the possible transfer of the forestry program to the Government of the NWT. We had a bad experience with Indian Affairs people coming to the Territories, burning up some of the country, caribou country by Great Slave East. They were coming into the Territories practising setting fires and practising on the fires and they turned around and tried to say that it was a good learning experience for them. I do not approve of that. I will not accept that. Therefore, I am happy to hear what the Minister had to say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is more of a comment than a question, I gather. Mr. McCallum.

Question 69-84(1): Plans For Dispositions, Young Offenders Act

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Social Services. Could the Minister indicate to the House what plans for alternative dispositions, court orders, would be in progress now within the department in advance of the Young Offenders Act?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 69-84(1): Plans For Dispositions, Young Offenders Act

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Young Offenders Act, as Members are aware, will be proclaimed by the federal government fairly shortly and we will have to deal with its implementation. I have advised the chairman of the standing committee on legislation that the ordinance regarding the Young Offenders Act will be available near the end of the month, hopefully next week sometime, and it will also be available for the first time for the Executive Committee to deal with at the same time. The people in the department are working in the same manner as in the Fine Option Ordinance, where there will have to be people in the communities to take these community dispositions when the court assigns them. We have discussed this at the meeting I had in Kitikmeot with the people there, that they are going to have to deal with this question of who is going to take these community dispositions, the local settlement councils or some community groups? We do realize that in the different communities there are going to be different groups who want to do it. In several communities there will be more than one group available to do it. Some of these groups like Dechinta Society, just outside of Yellowknife, will be offering programs which we are going to try to make the courts and the judges very aware of, so that they know what the different services we have in place are, so that judges can assign these young offenders, knowing beforehand what is going to happen to them. Of course we will have various evaluations made. The judges may assign particulars to be evaluated which then go back to the judge again for his final conclusion in what he wants to do with the young offenders.

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

Supplementary To Question 69-84(1): Plans For Dispositions, Young Offenders Act

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister a further question? Is the government taking a position on the upper limit of the age? The federal act talks about an age spread from 12 to 18. Is that the position of the present government? Is that the age limit that this government would agree to?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 69-84(1): Plans For Dispositions, Young Offenders Act

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, I could be wrong but I believe the legislation that is in place by the federal government does not allow us to make a choice there. The 12 to 17 year olds, inclusive, will fall under the Young Offenders Act and we are going to have to react to whatever dispositions or sentences the judges hand down.

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

Question 70-84(1): Fire-Fighting Policy

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to refer my question to the honourable Member, the Minister of Renewable Resources, Ms Cournoyea. It is in regard to the forestry again. I know

what the territorial government's intention is with regard to negotiating with the federal government for the transfer of forestry to the territorial government. I guess it is okay but in the meantime there is still going to be another fire season coming up. What is the Minister's intention as far as priority zones go? Are they going to do away with priority zones and fight all fires in the Western Arctic or are they still going to deal with only the priority zone fires?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 70-84(1): Fire-Fighting Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the jurisdiction and the responsibility of the fire-fighting in the Mackenzie Valley and the Western Arctic is the jurisdiction of the federal government. As you know, since I have been here, there has not been very much time to begin any talks with the respective people who are responsible for forestry. I have taken into consideration the concerns that Mr. Gargan has brought forward and I do intend to speak to the people who are responsible. At this time we, as a territorial government, are not responsible but certainly I intend to deal with this matter. I cannot answer those questions exactly and in detail as I wish to do so.

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

Supplementary To Question 70-84(1): Fire-Fighting Policy

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the question. Would the Minister consider, while negotiations are going on with the federal government, that this government immediately take a position of fighting all fires, not only fires in priority zones?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 70-84(1): Fire-Fighting Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, although I fully endorse the fact personally, as a person interested in the well-being of the forest and the land to provide a home for animals and for the well-being of the people, I cannot at this time commit the department to fight all fires. I am not knowledgeable enough, at this point in time, nor have I got the support of this Legislative Assembly that we should move forward on such a position at this time. There have been some indications from people who have a feeling that perhaps fighting all forest fires may not be the best solution. I do not have that knowledge myself and I cannot at this time put this government in this position without discussion and without full consultation to say what is the best thing to do. As for myself I will endeavour to include the people who live in the area that is most heavily affected in trying to determine how far we can go in terms of keeping the well-being of the forest in a most healthy state. However, I cannot commit this government at this time to a position to fight all forest fires.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 70-84(1): Fire-Fighting Policy

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it is the position of this government or the Minister not to respond, with regard to fighting all fires, is the Minister prepared then to compensate all hunters and trappers that do lose their traplines due to fires?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 70-84(1): Fire-Fighting Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I do not have that money in my pocket, but there is such a policy that the territorial government is trying to put into place that will look after hunters and trappers who have lost their ability to make a living. It is not presently finished and perhaps when the Department of Renewable Resources comes up, we can deal with that in more detail and I will be pleased to have the deputy minister answering questions in that area.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 4, oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 71-84(1): Lists Of Names Re Grants And Bursaries

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Education. Would it be possible to get a list of all the people that are on grants or bursaries and also is it possible to get a copy of the people who are sitting on the committee to approve these funds?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 71-84(1): Lists Of Names Re Grants And Bursaries

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, those grants and bursaries involve public funds and I see no problem at all in providing the Member with a list. Similarly, since the regional grants and bursaries committees are set up under the Grants and Bursaries Ordinance, I would be glad to provide the Member with a list of names of the members. Thank you.

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

Question 72-84(1): Fire Damage, Community Hall, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Local Government. I just received a telephone call from Fort Providence this morning and unfortunately yesterday there was a near fire in the community hall in Fort Providence. The building is very old and the furnace is underneath, about three feet off the ground under the floor. Presumably that makes it very hazardous for fire because the floor underneath is all dry, it is not fire resistant. Therefore, yesterday what happened was that there was a fire down in that little space where the furnace was. Fortunately, the building did not catch on fire.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question, Mr. Gargan?

MR. GARGAN: I would like to ask the Minister what he intends to do, due to the fact that we are now out of the community hall completely and we are not going to be able to get anything done probably until springtime. I would like to ask the Minister to look at it as if the community hall had already burned down or something.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 72-84(1): Fire Damage, Community Hall, Fort Providence

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am also aware of the problem that the community of Fort Providence is having with the community hall. The Member referred to a fire that took place yesterday. I can tell the Member that I was in Fort Providence this past fall and we could not get the furnace going in the community hall for a meeting and this affected our meeting in the community hall. So I am very much aware of the situation, the very poor state of the community hall in Fort Providence. I guess there are two ways of dealing with the situation. The department has \$30,000 in the budget for Local Government for repairs this coming fiscal year. Also there are some funds in the department for communities to plan new community halls. Fort Providence is not slated to get a new community hall for a number of years yet, so we will have to examine the situation with a view to maybe providing more funds than the \$30,000 to repair the building and bring it up to an acceptable standard until the time when Fort Providence can get a new community hall. Alternatively, we can consider moving up the scheduling of the community hall a year or so, so that Fort Providence could get a new community hall within the lifetime of this Assembly. As I say, I am sympathetic and I am concerned about the problem, just as he is.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 72-84(1): Fire Damage, Community Hall, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that this year they are going to have \$30,000, I believe, for the repair of the community hall. That is hardly enough, you know, to do rewiring of the whole building. There also needs to be an addition put to the community hall to accommodate the new furnace that is required now. Also they need washrooms and they need running water in there. I mean, what does \$30,000 do? Maybe it will put in a new porch. That is about it. It is not enough money.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, what was your question, please?

MR. GARGAN: What in the Minister's opinion, will that \$30,000 cover?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mr. Sibbeston.

Further Return To Question 72-84(1): Fire Damage, Community Hall, Fort Providence

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think \$30,000 can accomplish a lot in this day and age when government is generally short of funds. If I was living in the community I would be very pleased to get \$30,000.

---Applause

I think the Member knows that we are sympathetic and besides the \$30,000 for repairs there is a possibility of getting contributions or some funds from other departments. The Member is aware that I have raised this matter with the regional director in Fort Smith and he advises that there may be a possibility of getting some funds to assist the community. So the Member has at least \$30,000. If he does not think this is enough, then there is a possibility of -- it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Member should be very happy that he is getting at least \$30,000 this year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, for being so generous. Item 4, any further oral questions? Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 73-84(1): Priority For Fire Suppression

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. Will the Minister take direction from this Assembly to make fire suppression a priority?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 73-84(1): Priority For Fire Suppression

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I think it is a responsibility of the Executive Council and myself. If I do get direction from this House, then certainly I will take the direction.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Any further oral questions? Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 74-84(1): Hunting And Trapping Policy

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, would it be possible to have the latest policy on hunting and trapping of the government?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Is this in relationship to Mr. Gargan's question earlier about compensation? I do not understand your question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clarification to your question, Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: The policy on hunting caribou. I understand the way it stands now anybody could go out hunting with someone that has a general hunting licence. It could be a non-native taking advantage of the person that has the general hunting licence. I want the latest policy on that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will have that delivered to the honourable Member by tomorrow morning.

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

Question 75-84(1): Emergency Funding, Community Hall, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question again to the Minister. I just finished telling the Minister that we do not have a hall now and we also do not have a furnace. I mean, April 1st is when the new fiscal dollars come in and we probably would not be able to get any money until June. In the meantime the community of Fort Providence is out of a hall for five or six months. We are in an emergency situation. What does the Minister intend to do now about the situation of the furnace?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, I have to bring to your attention that according to the rules you are entitled to ask a question of the Minister and you are entitled to, I believe, three supplementary questions. I believe you have used up your time for the day, so I do not think the Minister will be required to reply to that question -- only if he wishes to do so. Mr. Appaqaq.

Statement Misquoted By CBC

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have a question. I just want to speak on something I am concerned about because I am very concerned about this. Yesterday, I was talking about Pope John Paul and I was saying I support his visit here and I heard on the CBC they misunderstood what I said. I think they misunderstood what I was trying to say. I was trying to say that I would support John Paul coming up here because he was supporting the peace initiative and this morning people were hearing the Pope was supporting the war and this is not what I said. So I would like this withdrawn from the report. I do not want people to hear this, Mr. Speaker. I know that they have misunderstood me so many times. They misunderstood me another time and I was very concerned about this. If we are going to be misunderstood, we will not be able to work properly. We have to support each other and it would be better to understand each other more. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. I think that was a point of privilege that you were raising in regard to the statement on the radio, that you were misquoted. That will be noted and hopefully the media will correct the mistake as well. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 76-84(1): Minister's Statement On COPE Agreement

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, a week ago today, the Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development made a statement to the House regarding the position of the government on the proposed final agreement between COPE and the Government of Canada. I would like to ask the Minister if he was quoting from a particular document.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 76-84(1): Minister's Statement On COPE Agreement

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No, Mr. Speaker, I was not quoting from a particular document. I was reading from a statement that had been prepared by my officials on our reaction to the document. I was not reading from the document.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further oral questions? Supplementary, Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I note in our Hansard that the Minister in his statement referred to the final agreement providing such and such a thing. I took it at that time that he was quoting from or citing a document. I think that it is a generally accepted parliamentary rule that if one were to do that, the document should be tabled. It is an accepted practice in parliament or legislatures to table or lay before the House a particular document if one is going to speak or refer to it. When I look at the Hansard, it seems to me that the document has been referred to and I think that led to the discussion at that time about what should be tabled and how things come before the House. I accept the Minister's response that he was not citing a document or referring to a document.

Mr. Speaker, my question then obviously would be to you, sir, for a matter of a ruling. If Ministers or people are going to refer to documents and statements, those documents should be tabled. There is nothing in our rules, Mr. Speaker, now regarding the tabling of documents. So I have a question to you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, the Speaker cannot take questions. Questions should be referred to the Members of the Executive Council. That is basically under Item 4, and that is why we have oral questions. So I would like to remind the honourable Member that his questions should be directed at the Executive Council.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I would like to have some idea of the purpose of Item 9 in our orders of the day, tabling of documents. Could you indicate to me, sir, what documents should be tabled in this House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I guess it is my day to earn my money.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It is about time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, your point of order has been noted and in due time the Speaker will make a statement in regard to your point of order raised. Now, Item 4, oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 77-84(1): Release Of Final Agreement To MLAs

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. We were given an understanding last week, when they were down east, that the Minister or the Leader of the Government would make some attempt to see whether the document in question, the final agreement between COPE and the federal government could be obtained or released to Members of this Assembly. Could the Minister tell me whether there has been any progress in that respect? Will Members have access to that document?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 77-84(1): Release Of Final Agreement To MLAs

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, there has been no progress on that matter. I am aware that the Minister of Indian Affairs will be here and perhaps some Member of this House might wish to again raise the issue with him. May I say, again Mr. Speaker, that we are talking about a document that has been released to Members of this government's Executive on a confidential basis. That basis has not been changed by either of the parties to the agreement. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further oral questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 78-84(1): Jurisdictional Dispute, NCPC And Public Utilities Board

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Curley. I understand on April 1 a five per cent increase for NCPC will come into effect. There will be no Public Utilities Board hearing. I wonder if the reason for that is because the five per cent is just automatic, it was felt there was no need for a hearing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Return To Question 78-84(1): Jurisdictional Dispute, NCPC And Public Utilities Board

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take the question as the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources. My information, Mr. Speaker, is that it concerns the jurisdictional dispute the NCPC has with this government. The fact is that the Northwest Territories Act, gives its own jurisdiction to study the rates proposed and therefore the federal cabinet I believe, has made the ruling. I would like to take that question further and take it with my officials and have a proper answer before too long. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 78-84(1): Jurisdictional Dispute, NCPC And Public Utilities Board

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would appreciate it if the Minister would do that. I guess my question comes down to that matter of jurisdiction whether, in fact the PUB decided not to hold a hearing or if in fact NCPC refused to appear in front of the Public Utilities Board.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Further Return To Question 78-84(1): Jurisdictional Dispute, NCPC And Public Utilities Board

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, the NCPC have been invited more than once, and I believe that during the last three years they were actually asked to appear before the Public Utilities Board in view of the inquiries that were going on. NCPC requested that the Public Utilities Board postpone the hearings until the Penner committee and the National Energy Board reports were completed. Even after the reports were published, the latest information that I have received is that NCPC has flatly refused to appear before the Public Utilities Board and informed the board that they were going ahead with the proposed increase by April. So that is my understanding, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 78-84(1): Jurisdictional Dispute, NCPC And Public Utilities Board

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that is the case, when the Minister has researched it more, is the Minister prepared to make a very strong statement to NCPC that they should be appearing in front of our board, because that is the only method that we have to have any sort of control over the decisions of NCPC? I personally think it is an insult that they refused to appear in front of the board.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Further Return To Question 78-84(1): Jurisdictional Dispute, NCPC And Public Utilities Board

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the Member. We have a strong case with this problem. I wrote a letter to the Minister of Indian Affairs since he is the federal Minister who is going to have to make the decision with respect to the proposed rights. I have asked him not to go ahead with that and also urged him to make an appropriate ruling on behalf of the people, that NCPC should be subjected to the review by our own Public Utilities Board. Since then I have not heard from him, but I intend to communicate with him when he comes through. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further oral questions? That concludes oral questions for the day.

Item 5, written questions. Item 6, returns. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 46-84(1): Vehicle Policy For Senior Citizens Homes

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 46-84(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on February 9, regarding vehicles policy for a senior citizens home. Mr. Gargan is correct in his understanding that vehicles are not provided to these homes by Social Services. Senior citizens homes are operated by the NWT Housing Corporation and this would not be within their mandate either. There are some communities where local service groups make vehicles or drivers available.

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

Return To Question 51-84(1): Fort Resolution Sawmill

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written Question 51-84(1) asked by Mrs. Lawrence on February 9, 1984, concerning the Slave River sawmill. The Slave River sawmill has required some level of financial support from this government for the past several years to

finance its logging and milling operations. I first received notification on February 8th that this sawmill was in need of financial support for the present operating season. The information that has been presented to me does not provide a clear picture of why the financial assistance is necessary nor the amount needed.

Officials of my department requested financial statements from the sawmill manager some weeks ago, but these have not yet been received. On February 10, I forwarded a letter to the Member for Tu Nedhe detailing some of the information we require to make an informed judgment about the sawmill's need for financial support. The Fort Smith regional superintendent of Economic Development and Tourism has today contacted the mill manager and has advised him of our requirements. A meeting has been arranged this week between our regional staff and the sawmill manager to review the financial requirements. When a clear assessment of the financial needs of the Slave River sawmill is complete, the Executive Council is prepared to consider this matter and I will report to the House on the results. The government is committed to northern business development and native employment, but is not prepared to provide any form of financial assistance -- even emergency assistance -- until the total financial consequences are understood.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further returns? Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 66-84(1): Caribou Study, Baffin Region

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have three returns. In reply to oral Question 66-84(1), asked by Mr. Paniloo on February 13th, about tagging in the Baffin area. With respect to the recent questions by the Member for Baffin Central regarding caribou tagging on Baffin Island, I would like to provide the following information. Barren-ground caribou occupy almost every part of Baffin Island. However, little is known about the overall picture of long distance migrations and the relationships among the various populations. Harsh weather and rugged terrain on Baffin Island have prevented the use of extensive aerial surveys, such as those used to study mainland herds. Thus the technique of tagging caribou has been used to examine herd movements and determine other information about the animals. Tagging of caribou on Baffin Island has taken place at the Koukdjuak River from 1974 to 1982 and on the east side of Nettilling Lake in 1982 and 1983. Crews for these tagging exercises have been composed of Inuit, recommended by HTAs, hired from four communities in the southern Baffin and are supervised by our regional staff. Tagging is carried out at water crossings where it can be done quickly and efficiently, without the use of drugs, to minimize the danger to and disturbance of the caribou.

From 1974 to 1976 both ear tags and neck collars were used to mark the animals, but from 1977 on only ear tags have been used. These techniques are not believed to harm the caribou in any way. I am unsure as to what the Member is referring to when he mentioned "leg markings", as no other markings other than what are mentioned above were used. From the return of tags from caribou shot by hunters we are able to begin to understand caribou movements in the southern Baffin. The animals that are tagged at the Koukdjuak River use calving grounds in the Dewar Lakes/Longstaff Bluff area to the north. Tag returns have come from three main areas: Foxe Peninsula, the area between Frobisher Bay and Amadjuak Lake, and the area between Nettilling Lake and Cumberland Sound. As the Member has indicated, no tagged animals have been shot in the central Baffin. These results suggest that the caribou of northern Baffin Island belong to a separate population. Caribou found on Meta Incognita and Hall Peninsulas also likely belong to a different population. This information is basically needed by the department to show where the caribou are.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 58-84(1): Grants For Meals On Wheels Services

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an answer to oral Question 58-84(1) asked by Mr. McCallum and it regards assistance for Meals on Wheels. This service is arranged through contracts, not grants and contributions. Community service clubs are eligible to carry out this service on a contractual basis. The Lionettes Club is already involved in providing financial assistance to this service in Fort Smith. Discussions are currently under way between the Lionettes, the Department of Social Services and the hospital administrator concerning the provision of this service in the future. Mr. Speaker, I will get back to the Member after I have had further discussions with the department on the details of this contract.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question 6-84(1): High Rental And Price Of Food

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reply to oral Question 6-84(1) asked by Mr. Paniloo on February 3rd. The standard rental scale for public housing is set nationally by CMHC at 25 per cent of gross income. In the NWT the standard rent is reduced through a territorial rent adjustment which is geared to cost of living zones and size of household. As a result of this additional territorial rent subsidy, NWT residents pay less than 25 per cent of their incomes toward rent and enjoy the lowest public housing rents in Canada. In fact most public housing tenants who are working pay approximately 19 per cent of their gross income toward rent. It is true, however, that in specific instances there has been an overcharging of rent and I would urge the Member, indeed all Members, that if such cases are made known to you, it should be brought to the attention of the local housing association who has the authority to resolve these situations. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further returns? Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 64-84(1): Accuracy Of Surveys, Beverly/Kaminuriak Caribou Herd, And To Question 65-84(1): Involvement Of Caribou Management Board

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral Questions 64-84(1) and 65-84(1), asked by Mr. McCallum. With respect to a recent article which appeared in the Globe and Mail that made reference to new aerial survey methods employed by my department to estimate the size of the various caribou herds, I would like to provide the following information.

The aerial photography survey technique referred to is an experimental one which we have been developing over the past five years. It represents an approach to estimating population sizes which we feel will not only result in a greater degree of accuracy since it will rely less upon individual observers, but, as well, it will provide us with a survey record that can be revisited and rechecked at a later date.

The results of the surveys were recently examined by members of the Beverly/Kaminuriak management board at the board's January meeting. Prior to presentation to the board, the results were reviewed by biologists and technicians from all government agencies involved, including biologists and managers from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the federal government. No concerns similar to those attributed to Mr. Runge were brought forward. As a result, the Department of Renewable Resources is puzzled at his remarks and can only assume that they represent a very personal view, and certainly not the view of his government. However, since the technique is still in the developmental phase, we intend to continue to use it in conjunction with our more traditional visual survey method, at least for the next few years, so we will have both results.

The Beverly/Kaminuriak caribou management board was formed in order to provide a mechanism for users of these caribou herds to be involved in their management. I can assure you that my department takes its commitment to the board very seriously. As a result, when the allegations in the above article were brought to my attention I asked my staff to contact the board's chairman, Mr. Jim Schaefer of Fort Smith, to get his reaction. Mr. Schaefer expressed surprise at the article and indicated that the board has confidence that the aerial photography technique will develop into the primary tool for caribou surveys. Mr. Schaefer further indicated that Mr. Runge's reference to overhunting as the major cause of herd declines was just a little "too simple". This may be a result of the fact that Mr. Runge has not been involved with activities of the board for some time. As well, I have written a letter to the Minister of Parks and Renewable Resources in Saskatchewan and to the editor of the Globe and Mail and copies of this letter will be given out for Members' perusal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, returns. Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 59-84(1): Staffing In Trailcross And Correctional Centre, Fort Smith

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a reply to Question 59-84(1), asked by Mrs. Lawrence on February 10th, regarding staffing policy at the Social Services facilities in Fort Smith. Regarding the NWT Correctional Centre for Women in Fort Smith, from April 1, 1983, to present, 27 night shifts at the NWT Correctional Centre for Women have been staffed by one female corrections officer alone on duty. These 27 shifts are approximately 10 per cent of the total

night shifts worked during that period of time. The current policy is to minimize such single staffing. Budgetary restrictions, however, do not allow for sufficient staff to cover such contingencies as staff holidays, sickness, etc. Within budgetary restrictions staff coverage decisions are left up to the discretion of the superintendent. He follows certain guidelines, as follow, to minimize risks for unavoidable single staffing: a) not more than a five to eight total inmate count; b) no indications from outgoing shift of impending problems; c) back-up staff is available by telephone; d) no aggressively acting-out high risk inmates in the correctional centre population; e) staff member feels comfortable in handling the shift alone. There are presently seven full-time correctional officers on staff at the Correctional Centre for Women. Two of these -- correctional officer II's -- have supervisory responsibilities.

Regarding the Trailcross/River Ridge facilities, national fire code regulations require that there be one supervisor for every 10 children. This is considered minimal for ensuring safety of children during night shifts at Trailcross. This guideline, plus an analysis of other factors, nature of the child or children in care, availability of back-up staff, presence of high risk or acting-out children, is used to determine staffing ratios. Minimal staffing at all times is one at Trailcross, one at River Ridge plus a "floater" between the two buildings. Staffing beyond that is required if there are more than a minimal number of children, or difficult children, in residence. This additional staffing is at the discretion of the manager. It should, however, be noted that the presence of another staff member in a different part of the building, in itself, cannot guarantee that unfortunate incidents such as that referred to, do not occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further returns? Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 52-84(1): Mine Spill In Saskatchewan

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written Question 52-84(1), asked by Mr. Appaqaq on February 9th, regarding the Key Lake mine spill in Saskatchewan. The information that has been gathered suggests that the Key Lake spill does not represent an environmental hazard to the Northwest Territories. In order for the contaminated water from Key Lake Mines to enter the Churchill River basin and the Hudson Bay, it would first have to flow to the Wheeler River and into Wollaston Lake. Because of the large volume of water in the drainage system compared to the relatively small volume of contaminated spill, the Saskatchewan regional director of the federal environmental protection service is doubtful whether any increase in radium 226 levels could be detected at the outflow of Wollaston Lake. From Wollaston Lake, water flows through an even longer series of rivers and lakes before entering the Hudson Bay. It is strongly believed that no impact on the Churchill River basin or the Hudson Bay will result from these spills. The company has been encouraged to clean up as much of the spill as possible. Much will be unretrievable. The Department of Renewable Resources of this government is remaining in contact with Saskatchewan environmental authorities regarding these spill events.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Any further returns? That concludes returns for the day.

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 20-84(1): Boycott Of United Kingdom Consumer Products

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on February 20th, I will move the following motion. Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that this House, in order to counteract this unreasonable and emotional action, urge that the use and importation of Scotch whisky and other spirits produced in the British Isles be discontinued, and further I strongly recommend that residents of the Territories and other friendly provinces be encouraged to stop consuming United Kingdom jams, biscuits, and marmalades; and further, that this House recommend to the Fur Institute of Canada and to those Canadian provinces

either affected by this unwarranted fishery boycott or sympathetic to the plight of affected Canadians to take this move as a first step in an escalating series of boycotts directed at offending parties overseas. Mr. Speaker, I will ask at the appropriate time that we deal with this and ask for unanimous consent to deal with this motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, notices of motion.

Notice Of Motion 21-84(1): New Community Hall At Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Monday, February 20, 1984, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move that the Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it immediately consider providing funds for a new community hall for Fort Providence in the 1984-85 fiscal year. This is seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Bob MacQuarrie.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further notices of motion?

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

Item 12, motions. Motion 17-84(1), Pacific Western Airlines Board of Directors, will remain on orders of the day until the mover is present to deal with the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, because of the seriousness of the situation that our fur industry and our livelihood is undergoing, because of pressure groups moving heavily against us, I wish to request that we deal with the motion that I have submitted today and I ask for unanimous consent to deal with that today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is requested. Are you agreed?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

ONE HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been denied. For the record, who has indicated nay? Mr. MacQuarrie, and who is the second man?

MR. MacQUARRIE: I do not need a second man.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been denied.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 1-84(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1984-85 and Tabled Document 4-84(1), Bills 2-84(1), 3-84(1) and 4-84(1), with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

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

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We are going to be dealing with Economic Development and Tourism. Perhaps following that we will get into Education. Probably the Minister would like to make his opening statement before we go for coffee break. Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I believe my opening remarks, in view of the time, will likely go beyond coffee break. I am going to leave it up to you whether you want me to go through my opening remarks, but I think they are going to be a little longer than coffee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): What is the committee's wish, that we take coffee break?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Coffee break.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay then, we will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come to order. Would the Minister make his opening remarks? Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to make a very quick remark in my language before I begin the address, if that is all right.

(Translation) I will speak in Inuktitut for a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, before we go on to Economic Development and Tourism funding estimates for 1984-85. I would like to express my appreciation for your appointing me to a ministerial position. I would like you to know that. I also want you to know that my deputy minister is Jim Britton, who was originally director of the Baffin Region. We are now working together in my department. We want you to get a pretty good understanding of what we are doing in the area of Economic Development and Tourism so that the emphasis will be on local businesses and local economic matters for those people wanting to start their own businesses in the communities as there is very high unemployment. It is toward this, rectifying the situation, that we are working.

I want you to feel free to ask questions for clarification while I am making my presentation. I want you to know that this area is a very hard one, there is always a shortage of money. That is true in all of Canada but there are many ways to explore for new businesses, say through renewable resources, like a fishing industry in the North. We can set those up if we all assist and work together. We know that there is always a shortage of money but if we really try to work for progress, I think there are ways and means that can be found to correct some situations. I will now speak in English. (Translation ends)

Mr. Chairman, honourable Members, I welcome this opportunity to address you prior to your consideration of the budget for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Before I begin, Mr. Chairman, I would first like to acknowledge the contribution of my predecessor in this portfolio, the honourable Arnold McCallum.

---Applause

Both I and the officials of my department would like to record our thanks for the considerable achievements that Mr. McCallum was able to make during his time as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I would also like to acknowledge, Mr. Chairman, the support I have enjoyed during my early days in office from my deputy minister, Mr. Jim Britton, and the senior staff and I am pleased to report the feelings of great optimism and energy that I am sure will help us in the challenges ahead.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is important for us to recognize that the long-standing priorities of this House and this government have been in the area of social and political programs. Over the past decade this government has been generous to a fault in its social, health, education and local government responsibilities and indeed we have created a situation here in the Northwest Territories which is the envy of other jurisdictions in Canada. Our efforts in social directions, however, have in no way been equalled by our attempts to stimulate the development of a healthy economy in the Northwest Territories -- one that both generates wealth as well as distributes it. The development of a healthy and viable private sector, one that can produce profits and employ all territorial residents is a task to which I am devoted as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I submit to you that if we are to keep our social programs in place in the longer term, that we must now turn our attention and resources from the social and political realms into the economy.

Mr. Chairman, the department which I head up has the primary responsibility within government for developing a viable economy in the Northwest Territories. Without wishing to attack the officials of my department nor my predecessors as Ministers of the department, I must inform you that my early impression is that the department presently lacks the capability to effectively stimulate the development of our territorial economy.

Manpower And Financial Resources

Later when we examine the main estimates you will find that the manpower and financial resources devoted to this important work is wholly inadequate to the task at hand. I refer you now to page 22 of this government's 1983 Annual Report wherein you will find a graph indicating where the

territorial dollar is spent. I think every one of you should have had that. You will find a very small plot up here with the following number "four per cent economic development". You have to look more than once at this graph to find the very small slice of the total territorial budget that is devoted to economic questions for in fact it is a scant four per cent of this government's activity. This proportion will remain unchanged for the 1984-85 fiscal year in which it is proposed that we shall expend some \$21,602,000 of the total governmental spending package of \$523,594,000. When the manpower development division is moved out of this department into Education, as it shall be April 1, we will find that there are only slightly over 100 people working in this department and only \$15 million at our disposal in support of the private sector. Quite simply, Mr. Chairman, this is not enough to do the job. I find that in examining budgets of this government for the past several years that the share devoted to Economic Development and Tourism has shrunk from some eight per cent to its present four per cent. Believing as I do that government can be as successful at stimulating the private sector as it has been in addressing the social needs of the Territories, it shall be my top priority to reverse this trend in expenditures.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I know that one of the planks in the honourable Mr. MacQuarrie's campaign was to increase by one per cent of the territorial appropriation each year the size of this department's budget. I will certainly welcome his support in this enterprise in the months and years ahead.

Having been a Member of the Executive Council and Minister of Economic Development only a few weeks now, I have had occasion only to devote myself to beginning to understand the department and its operations rather than applying myself to the many policy and financial questions that lie ahead. However, I have some preliminary thoughts which I would like to now share with you, provided that I may do it under the understanding that these are not commitments, only ideas, in which I seek your debate and guidance.

Renewable Resources

It occurs to me, Mr. Chairman, that this government has done very little to support and initiate business and employment-generating projects in the renewable sector of our economy. We have been fairly successful in generating business and employment opportunities in the mining and oil and gas sectors, but in the process of doing so we have ignored almost totally our wealth of resources in the forestry, fur, fishing and agricultural sectors. Industries we create in the renewable sector have many advantages that we could exploit -- they generally do not have a fixed life, they are labour-intensive, and work within them, for many of our northern residents, can represent an opportunity to continue in a familiar and satisfying lifestyle. My officials, together with my colleague, the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, are developing a renewable resource use policy that will specify ultimately strategies for the exploitation of renewable resource opportunities throughout the North. I have instructed my staff to proceed with all possible haste with this work for I believe there are opportunities to be seized, particularly in the small communities which have very few prospects currently.

We are engaged presently in a task force on the Great Slave Lake fishery which will hopefully find a rationale and approach to supporting the struggling fishery on that lake. This industry is on the verge of collapse. Whitefish prices have remained constant for the past three years. Operating costs of fishermen and, more significant, the cost of running the so-called Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation have skyrocketed. Our subsidy to this industry in 1983-84 was \$355,000 and this subsidy serves mainly just to maintain last years prices. We must find a way to make the fishery and the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation more efficient, but at all times reaffirm our commitment to keeping this important industry alive. The final report of the task force is due this fall. I will be following its deliberations closely and will report to the Assembly on its conclusions.

I think this House must recognize that our whitefish industry is a very small part of the industry nationwide and that we may be forced to continue to work within the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in marketing and distribution of this species. However, the Territories has the potential to produce a great many exotic fish, not the least of which is the arctic char. I am not at all satisfied with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation's efforts with our exotic fish, and I have instructed the officials of my department to determine whether we should not go on our own and develop special arrangements to exploit, distribute and market these more lucrative fish.

Mr. Chairman, apart from fisheries, we have an enormous untapped potential in the forestry sector as well. While we are not encumbered by trees in my constituency, I have never been able to understand why we should import such huge quantities of oil and gas from Alberta when we have huge stands of timber throughout the Mackenzie. I think we must begin to examine ways we can use this resource to heat our homes, warehouses and offices and in so doing create jobs in the forests for our workers. To this end my department will be working with the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to identify communities where substitution of wood heat for oil is feasible. Thereupon, we must develop the capacity to assist entrepreneurs, municipalities, housing associations and others to make the necessary investment to convert to wood heat, to harvest the resource and to get at least a supply of some of our own energy needs.

I also find it significant, Mr. Chairman, that in the western part of the Territories we are still net importers of lumber. It is my understanding that this problem is at least in part due to the absence of the capability within the territory to kiln dry our locally-cut lumber. This problem simply must be addressed as we can no longer afford to have the jobs and business opportunities that are created out of our housing shortage accrue to businesses in southern Canada.

Our agricultural potential in the Territories, Mr. Chairman, admittedly is limited, but I think the people of the Territories and this government must do more to create an agricultural industry here.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: The lost opportunities and the enormous cash drain on our economy, by having to import virtually all our foodstuffs, simply cannot be tolerated in the longer term. While I appreciate that land claims are an issue in the development of agricultural lands, it is my sincere hope that ways and means can be found to develop an agricultural sector that will benefit us all.

I think as well, Mr. Chairman, that we can do much more to produce our own food requirements by better utilizing our fisheries and our game resources. One has to look to the situation in Greenland where locally-caught fish, birds and game form the staples of life in the urban areas, to realize how little has been done here. My department, once again in close co-operation with Renewable Resources, must find ways to assist individuals and businesses to make use of our natural advantages to support ourselves.

Our fur industry is under assault at the present time and runs the risk of being destroyed by conservationist forces in the South and abroad. We must be unrelenting in our attempts to counter the negative publicity we are receiving. Further to that though, we must ourselves, develop, produce and use more products from the fur industry. I am convinced with some imagination and investment that, for example, we can develop uses for seal pelts with wide use throughout the Territories. When we ourselves use these products perhaps we will be able to expand our markets outside the Territories.

Financing And Loan Funds

Mr. Speaker, if we are to develop our local economy we must recognize that there is a shortage of financing for individuals and businesses with which to proceed. The southern recession mentality unfortunately appears to have invaded the chartered banks operating in the NWT. In recent months we have experienced great demand for our loan funds and this is in part reflective of the skittish attitudes which the banks have to lending in the Territories. After consulting with the business community on its problems in obtaining commercial credit, Mr. Chairman, I intend to call a meeting of senior bank officials from the South to review this dilemma and discuss means of relaxing restrictions on credit in the North. Without additional private capital being available in our market place, none of our economic aspirations can be met.

As you know, this department through its business loan fund is a lender of last resort for businesses operating in the Territories. A short time ago, for the first time in history, our loan limit was reached and it was necessary for us to turn away deserving and credit-worthy businesses. Our loan limit will be raised during the current year to some eight million dollars. However, I intend to explore ways whereby this fund can be systematically increased so that new businesses can be created along with the jobs that follow them. We have experienced some serious problems within the loan fund as well, Mr. Chairman, and I am pleased to report to you that these problems have been addressed through our recent departmental reorganization. In an effort to try to speed up our response time in dealing with loan applications I am considering providing additional authority to

the regions to enable them to grant loans up to a predetermined amount without reference to Yellowknife. For some years the difficulties and delays associated with the eskimo loan fund have made it virtually impossible for businesses to use this source of financing. I believe the time has come for this government to negotiate the turnover of the eskimo loan fund to the GNWT from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Our government is heavily involved in the implementation and financing of the economic development agreement which at last has been signed with Canada. This agreement which will provide some \$21 million of incentive money over the next three years, has the opportunity to be a major force in stimulating new business initiatives. I have learned of some early criticism of the fund and will welcome from the Members the opportunity to discuss with interested parties their points of view to determine whether the agreement should be amended.

With land claims approaching resolution in some cases, it is incumbent on this government to recognize the increasingly important place that the native economic development corporations will be playing in the future territorial economy. It is vital that we in government are aware of these corporations plans and that they are aware of ours and that there be some level of co-ordination and collaboration. I have already invited the leaders of the major economic development corporations to meet with me and my senior officials to begin this process.

Participation Of Business Community

I mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, the advances that this government has made in the social and political areas. It is now time that the business community be given the opportunity to participate in the process of government policy making and that we in turn avail ourselves of their expertise and point of view. To this end, Mr. Chairman, I am considering establishing a businessmen's advisory council to advise me and this government on all manner of policy issues. We simply must make the voice of private business heard in the NWT and should formalize an approach to hearing it.

I believe as well, Mr. Chairman, that all of government must join in the process of creating an environment in which business can be done. I intend to work with my colleague, the Hon. Gordon Wray, to ensure that maximum benefits of our \$84 million in capital spending accrue to the work force and the businesses of the NWT. Too much of this money leaks out of our economy presently and we simply must take steps to break contracts down so that our businesses have the opportunity to participate. We must take further steps to insist that all contractors make use of northern labour, northern subcontractors and northern suppliers in carrying out work associated with our capital program.

I also believe that some of the operations of this government should be dismantled and turned over to the private sector. Years ago when there was very little infrastructure it was necessary for us to have our own tradesmen and warehouses filled with the materials that we needed to get the job done. This is certainly no longer the case and we must take steps to put these services in the hands of private businesses. We must, Mr. Chairman, make the business of creating business an objective of each and every department and agency of this government.

Mr. Chairman, there are a great number of communities in the NWT that have no immediate hope of economic opportunities coming their way. While I believe that the development of the territorial economy is fundamentally the responsibility of the private sector with our government in support, I also believe that we cannot allow welfare to become the dominant means of supporting people in the disadvantaged communities. My department presently operates some 19 commercial enterprises in various locations in the Territories. Those enterprises which have the potential to become profitable have become privatized for the most part but those that remain serve mainly to generate employment at a reasonable cost. These enterprises employ 80 people full time and as many as 320 people part time within them and to lose these jobs would be a great blow both to the workers and to the communities in which the enterprises operate. In addition to the commercial enterprises, my department runs the STEP program which is a job creation program with \$412,000 budgeted against it. The commercial enterprises and the STEP program together are able to do very little to address the serious economic needs of the smaller communities in the NWT. I believe we must find a way to induce employment, even if it costs us some money, in certain communities of the NWT. I think it is time for us to harness the resources of several departments and the federal government in this task and perhaps create a corporate entity that has the objective of producing jobs in the

disadvantaged communities of the NWT at a reasonable cost. To this end I will be working with my colleague the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin and with the Hon. Dennis Patterson to determine if collectively we can increase our spending power in the direction of providing an economy in the communities that will not have one unless we intervene.

Support For Co-operative System In NWT

Mr. Chairman, the co-operative movement in the NWT is at a crossroads. The co-op system is, and is recognized as a legitimate and significant economic vehicle which at the present time is in need of serious support. We are presently negotiating with the federal government a support package to aid the co-operative system and prevent some of the weaker co-operatives from failing. This is not a long-term solution but a temporary one necessary to give government time and the co-operative system time to examine its operations and to lay the foundation for a successful future.

A number of things are clear already. The umbrella organization, Arctic Co-operatives Limited, and several individual co-operatives must operate in a more effective manner if they are to succeed. It is also clear that in the next few years some existing co-operatives will probably fail and that government cannot continue to prop up unsuccessful co-operatives indefinitely. There are many challenges ahead of the co-operative movement in the years ahead but I feel confident that they shall be met and the co-operative system will continue to be a vital part of our way of life in the Northwest Territories.

I believe the time has come for the federal government to yield its role in supporting the co-op movement to this government. At the present moment through the Co-operative Associations Ordinance we have certain legal responsibilities vis-a-vis the system, but funding and control rests largely with Ottawa. This situation makes it impossible for us to come to grips with the major policy and financial issues respecting the co-ops system. Accordingly, in the months ahead, I shall be examining the merits of commencing negotiations with the federal government with a view to this government taking responsibility totally for support and assistance to the NWT co-op movement.

Tourism And Parks

Finally, Mr. Chairman, but certainly not least, I will end my discussion with tourism and parks. I believe that we are finally beginning to realize the benefits of the North's enormous tourism potential. The tourism sector is becoming a very vital and active sector of our economy and I believe will become even more important in the years ahead. We cannot, however, afford to become complacent and ignore our responsibilities in this important area. I believe government must press on to develop public tourism infrastructure everywhere in the Territories, provided claims can be met and settled. We must build parks and develop attractions. We must develop a spirit of hospitality in our businesses and on the streets of our communities. We must ensure that our facilities are comfortable, safe and provide good value.

Above all, we must now begin to seriously market the incredible tourism product that we have in the Northwest Territories. We must go into southern Canada, into the United States and into Europe to make tourists and tour operators aware of our natural advantages and our developing industry. It is no good simply to develop a product, we must actively get out and sell the product. I intend myself to devote time to this and will ensure that my officials and the Travel Industry Association and the zone associations have the resources to do the same. We have a unique opportunity upon the horizon with our pavilion at Expo'86 to raise the profile of the NWT nationally and internationally and by extension to attract more visitors to our communities. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism will be playing a major role in devising the Expo'86 pavilion and you may be sure that the tourism potential of the Territories will be constantly in mind in our efforts. Some three and a half million visitors are expected to pass through the pavilion and, if even a small proportion of those people visit the NWT, our investment will be repaid many times over.

Mr. Chairman, I have just given you a sampling of a number of thoughts that have occurred to me during my early days as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I am sure much of what I have had to say this afternoon will be moderated by the points of view expressed by my colleagues. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, my statements here are merely a sampling of things that can be done and perhaps with your support and encouragement will be done. My fellow Members of the Assembly, I now turn to you and ask for your support in the challenges which lie ahead in this portfolio. Particularly, I need your support in redirecting the priorities of this government to the economic sphere.

I will now table the proposed budget for 1984-85, a budget in which I did not have a hand, but now will do my best to support. This is a hold-the-line budget, one that does not address the initiatives which I have discussed with you this afternoon. With your active support I hope that a year from now I will be able to present to you a positive financial program -- one that has the potential to address the economic issues that face us all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree that the Minister brings in his witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, with your permission I would like to invite the deputy minister as well as the assistant deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Would the Minister introduce his witnesses?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you. To my right is the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. James Britton and on my immediate left is Lee Horn, assistant deputy minister.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had thought to speak, not at length, but at least in some degree of length about the importance of economic development and I need not now and will not, simply because I very much agree with the remarks that the Minister has made with respect to the importance of economic development. I generally find the assessment that he has made, very realistic and some of the initiatives that he is talking about promising. One particular aspect that he mentioned that I will comment on is his intention to meet with bank officials in order to try to free up a little more money for development in the North. I recognize the nature of that problem because in a way it is directly associated, for example, with housing in Yellowknife. We have had a serious problem here over the past couple of years. I know of people who are interested in providing multi-unit dwellings. In their opinion, the market is here. It is obvious from the long waiting lists there are for apartment spaces. So they see that the market is in place. They feel that the rates that are charged for the borrowing of money now are reasonable. They recognize that construction firms are hungry and willing to go to work for reasonable prices and so they say everything is in place for construction of housing in Yellowknife, yet they find it very difficult to get money because of the skittish attitude you mentioned of the bankers who simply are holding on very tightly to the purse strings. So I am pleased to see that initiative being taken.

I will not comment generally on the others. I just feel in a very general way the Minister has a good handle on the problem and some good ideas about initiatives to take and indeed the Minister will have my support in what he is attempting to do and a little later on I will attempt to see whether that support is more widespread through the Assembly and for my part I certainly hope that it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Improved Relationship With Southern Bankers

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, just to thank the Member for his confidence in myself as a Minister as well as our officials. I would just like to say to the honourable Member that I certainly will continue to listen to what he has to say. We welcome any proposals or any ideas

that might help improve our northern economy. I totally agree that we have allowed the banks to establish their policies and whatnot, but I believe that we just have not made any attempt to communicate with them. When I was in a private corporation, I had to travel to Toronto a number of times just to keep those senior executives of the banks in tune with what our plans were and I believe that, as a government, we need to improve that relationship with them and make them very much part of the northern economy because I think they could finally open up a bit.

I had wanted to discuss this case with the banks, with the Minister of Finance, and I will, for the record, be seeking his guidance as well as to how we probably can improve our relationship with the banks, southern bankers. I am going to be meeting with them and I might want to establish guidelines and so on and proper proposals for them to consider. So I would just like to give him that notice at this time. Thank you.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, was very pleased to hear the Minister's comments and I can assure the Minister of my support for his initiatives. I think all Members have to recognize that if we are to achieve some of the priorities that have been talked about previously in housing and social programs, education, ultimately we have to have the capacity to pay for them. Unless we develop a very strong economic base there will be a time in the future when we will not be able to pay for them and I think this goes hand in hand with the Minister of Finance's initiatives for formula financing. We have to increase the economic base so that there will not be an onerous burden on the ordinary taxpayers of the Territories with the introduction of formula financing. So I am very, very pleased to hear the Minister's statements and I agree with the Minister that the capacity of the department, the financial capacity, administrative capacity of the department over the years should be increased.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to hear some of those meaningful remarks although I was not in the House, I was upstairs making a phone call, but I heard parts of it. It is very nice to hear something more positive. I will remember those remarks down the line. Hopefully he will not forget what he is saying because we have heard that story before. I will remind you now and then, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, I would like to thank the Member for reminding me already that I should not forget and during these next four years I am going to continue to ask her to remind me because there are cases that we tend to overlook I am sure.

Communication On Strategy

I believe totally that the business of developing a northern economy is the responsibility of each and every one of us here and as well, creating an awareness to the public that they do have a role to play. It is my view that we just have not had a fair debate on northern economy because there are many different views; every community, urban communities and the larger centres, large corporations, small business people, hunters and trappers. Every single one of these, I believe, are interested first hand. As the Member for Kitikmeot West indicated the other day, unless each one of us is being the political government, all these others do not really mean much. So I think it is important that we communicate to the people and I intend to try and seek help from the people out there so that we can all together at least have a strategy that we can agree on. I do not think we can do it though with one blanket approach. We are going to have to approach it with alternatives and options here and there. Thank you.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to echo the previous comments of my colleagues. I was very pleased to hear the Minister's comments. It was almost as good as getting a reply to a reply. Like Mrs. Lawrence, I am sure I will be remembering. I have six pages in notes already of what the Minister told us. There are really none that I disagree with. I think the Minister's proposal to set up a businessmen's advisory council was a very, very important step and there is indication that he will be continually soliciting ideas from the private sector. I would hope that the Minister would consider when he sets up the business advisory council,

including some interested MLAs on the council as well. I think probably a lot of people had expected I was going to ask lots of questions on the budget in front of us. I do not think I am. I would feel that maybe our time could better be spent in support of the Minister's plans for the future rather than in discussing the budget for this year which, to me, is just to tide us over until we can get these new plans into effect. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. General comments. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too was listening to the Minister's remarks and I feel very good about his speech. If he is going to continue thinking of doing what he said, I believe that there could be some plans for economic development. I am a great supporter of private businesses as one of my very first jobs that I ever had in my life was being a business manager, trying to create jobs and trying to make the business grow. It was not my business but I was running it for the local board, for the co-op. So for any support to business that the Minister of Economic Development is talking about, he has my full support on it.

Function Of Economic Development Officers

There are some improvements that have to be made, not only in funding, also in the economic development officers and employees. They have to communicate with the applicants if there are any applicants for loans, or business advice or whatever. I believe strongly too, that they are the ones that are supposed to be working very hard to create and to give expert advice to people who are trying to start businesses.

In my area, in Kitikmeot East, there are a number of complaints about economic development officers not really giving assistance to people who require it. I believe it is the economic development division that should be looking after that. I do not think that problem is really coming to their attention from the people down there. Being an elected person, I hear a lot of complaints about economic development officers coming into town, staying for only two hours and then leaving. I do not think that is exactly the way the economic development officers should be doing it. I think they are supposed to be giving good advice, something like a preacher, in their work. So that is one of the little problems they should be looking after. That the economic development officers should give as much help as they can to individual people. I think that is what their work is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Mr. Appaqaq.

Assistance To Co-ops

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we will all be thankful for the speech that was made by the Minister of Economic Development. I realize funding is very hard to find sometimes. We remain concerned. What I want to talk about is that I have attended meetings with the co-ops, I have had occasions to meet with various people who handle money, but what I would like to voice at this point was that last fall the federal government was going to stop assisting the co-ops in June, 1984. I know that this has been deferred but they have reversed their decision. There has to be support for the co-operatives because the businesses belong to the Inuit themselves. The Inuit have a say in what the co-ops are involved in and that is the way of the co-operatives. The federal government asked us to form co-operatives -- this was a good thing -- but after the co-ops were formed the next thing was that they would stop supporting the co-ops at a certain time. That is not right. Since then they have said that they would stop assisting the co-ops as of March 31 and this is not the way it should be. We know that in the past when co-ops were just being formed, most of the Inuit did not have a formal education. The co-ops have a future, now that many of our children and younger people have education and can run those co-ops for us. In the future, our children will continue to get a better education so support for something like that should not be forgotten.

I think we are all in support of having a co-operative as it benefits people and the native people have a say in the co-ops. The other matter is it is also a big priority. We know that many companies go bankrupt. Even if they are a big corporation they go bankrupt. The government has not even discussed the matter. The co-operatives lost \$120 million last year and last year \$25 million of business was being robbed. This has never happened to the Inuit and they have never been told that the government will stop their support of these corporations and other big companies. This should not be done for the co-ops and even if some do go bankrupt, I think it is

up to the government to propose alternatives. Mr. Chairman, I think, just an information item on the co-ops and I think I would like to see it communicated to the federal government. Just because one co-op goes bankrupt it does not mean they have to stop their support. We have to look at it in terms of economic development in the long term, not just from day to day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I too, would like to compliment the Minister on his speech, about making changes to his department to meet the needs of the local businesses, as well as the community. I guess, as far as policies and regulations go, it is geared more toward the department's needs rather than the needs of the public it serves. Too many times Ministers, deputy ministers, high profile officials turn down the little people because their hands are tied due to the policies and regulations. Other times it is a way of escaping the real issue at hand.

I just want to mention to the Minister with regard to tourism, as far as tourism goes right now, actually, basically, the attraction in the North here is that it is the last frontier and people are interested in how it was maybe in the early 1900s or late 1800s with regard to the North. Pretty well things are still very traditional up here and the southern people who are curious to come here are curious, basically, to see what it is like to live in the late 1900s. I am very happy to hear that the Minister is taking some drastic steps in that area. I also would like to remind the Minister, too, that the speech he has made, we are very well aware of it and will remind him if he forgets it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. General comments. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand perfectly what is being said, but in the Baffin Region renewable resources and tourism are active only in the Pangnirtung area. What are your plans in the near future? Are you going to assist other areas that can be used as tourist attractions outside of the Pangnirtung area or are you going to ask all the residents of the NWT to participate to promote the tourism business? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) In regard to the comments I have made on the issue of tourism, we have very good tourist potential. There are many, many ways to find new ways for the tourists to go and that way the Inuit can find an economic base out of the outfitting business or carving business. In the Baffin Region there was a review of tourism done, not just in Pangnirtung, but perhaps you can make a further comment to that. We had heard that there can be a very good tourist business in the Lake Harbour area. Perhaps the deputy minister can elaborate on this further so that you will get a better understanding if that is okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Tourism Potential In Baffin Region

MR. BRITTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to supplement my Minister's remarks here, there was, two or three years ago, a very extensive study done on the tourism potential in Baffin and when we get into the detailed examination of the department budget you will see that there is \$139,000 in the capital program that is being devoted to developing some attractions throughout Baffin that were noted in this study. The study gave us a strategy and a game plan, if you will, to develop the tourism industry in Baffin. We are also hoping to do similar studies in other parts of the Territories as well. I think, myself, Lake Harbour has enormous potential. It is near to Frobisher Bay and there are already a great number of tourists who enter Baffin Region into Frobisher Bay, and I know that with the attractive nature of that community and the abundance of game and fish in that area that it is just a question of making the tourists who are going to be attracted into Baffin aware of what is there. It will not be too long before we get people going out there. So, without having the benefit of the tourism plan available, I cannot be more specific than that, but I can tell you it is included in the plan and that I believe the prospects are very considerable for that community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Britton. General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Plan Increase In Budget Of Economic Development And Tourism

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion at the present time. I will move that the Assembly strongly recommend to the Executive Council that it begin immediately in its planning to increase the percentage of the annual budget that is allocated to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. MacQuarrie, are you asking this department to increase the percentage for 1984-85?

MR. MacQUARRIE: In its planning, not changing the present budget, but to the point where it can pick up in its planning changes to the budget. I would like them to begin immediately to do that and I hope that it would be reflected in next years budget, but I do not have dates attached to it. Did you not get a copy of the motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I have a copy of the motion. Can we take a few minutes break and we will examine this motion.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

Amendment To Motion To Plan Increase In Budget Of Economic Development And Tourism

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move an amendment to the motion, if we could insert the word "total" before the word "annual" in the motion between "the" and "annual". The motion will read "I move the Assembly strongly recommend to the Executive Council that it begin immediately in its planning to increase the percentage of the total annual budget that is allocated to the Department of Economic Development."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To the amendment. The amendment is in order. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes. I would just like to reiterate to the amendment. I understand there was some confusion as to what budget we were talking about. This amendment is in the nature of a clarification so that it gives a clear direction to the Executive as to what we actually want to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): General comments to the amendment. Is the committee ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Amendment To Motion To Plan Increase In Budget Of Economic Development And Tourism, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): All those in favour of the amendment? All those opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak to the motion. I notice that it has drawn some Executive Council Members back into the chamber and I understand why and will address that in a moment. At any rate, the motion is open in the sense that it is not indicating specific figures. It is advocating that over the next few years an attempt will be made to reverse the process that the Minister mentioned earlier where, at one point, the budget for this department was somewhere in the neighbourhood of eight per cent and over the years it has declined to a little over four per cent. So the motion essentially is asking that there be a renewed emphasis on economic development and that an attempt be made, in reasonable steps over the next several years, to improve the portion of the budget for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to indicate the importance of trying to develop a sound economy in the Territories. In my own

campaign I had urged that this be done and I had urged very modest figures. Mr. Pedersen earlier in his speech to this Assembly advocated the same thing and had more liberal figures attached, but while we may differ in the amounts that might be appropriate, I think we both agree on the principle of doing this. The best justification that can be made for the motion is in the words that were uttered by the Minister of Economic Development when he was speaking less than half an hour ago. He pointed out that it is important to generate wealth as well as to distribute it. I might say that not only is the motion in line with the Minister's statements, but also in line with the Commissioner's Address where the Commissioner, in his statements, held that economic development required more attention from this Assembly.

As to the Minister's statements that societies must generate wealth as well as distribute it, that is absolutely true in my estimation. Productivity is fundamental, it is the foundation of wealth and I think as we move toward responsible government we have to move to some measure of self-reliance as well. As to the ways of generating wealth, there may be different methods of doing it and undoubtedly some methods are more acceptable than others to a variety of people, but despite ideological differences over the distribution of wealth, one thing is very evident. In every system there must be the generation of wealth before it can be distributed. The real question afterwards is what do you do with the wealth that is created? How should it be most fairly distributed? Certainly different people have different answers to that question and I must say in my own case I am not a firm supporter of the free enterprise system in the sense that other Members have said they are. Frankly, I am not, partly because I believe that the method of distribution is not the best method.

But nevertheless despite the difference as to the distribution of wealth I have no illusions at all about the importance of the creation of wealth. I think our society must begin to take that issue seriously. I know that a government cannot create an economy and probably should not try to create an economy but it can stimulate an economy. But, as our Minister said a little while ago, it is apparent that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism as it is now funded, simply lacks the capability to do that. I think that we must give it that capability. We must demonstrate to people in the Territories, to people in other parts of Canada and to the federal government that this is something which is of concern to this Assembly.

In advancing the motion, I do recognize problems that are associated with it. Within the NWT the matter of developing an economy is not an easy matter at all because of the transportation problems and costs. And because of the fact that there is not a strong agricultural base and probably never can be -- although there is some potential and it should be utilized. We have a problem of developing an economy because of distance from markets. We have the problem because of the nature of our society which at this stage in its development does not always have the training or the technical skills that are necessary to do an effective job of it. Nevertheless, I believe that all these problems are not good enough reason as to why we should not begin addressing that problem and moving more toward it.

Now, in advancing the motion I am not under the illusion -- and I would not want other Members to be under the illusion -- that this can be done without implications. Simply, what it means is, if we begin increasing the budget of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism over the next few years, it means holding the line in some other departments and in some other programs. That is simply a fact. There are many good things about the consensus form of government, perhaps one of its weaknesses is that each of us has particular causes and social programs that we want to see advanced and so we will continue to do that in the coming years. But I can say for one, while I would continue to try and advance them, that if the answer were given to me that that particular project simply cannot receive more funding because the money is required for an effective economic development program I will swallow that and learn to live with it. So I hope that other Members could adopt that approach as well. The present budget is pitiful. I think it is important that we begin to do something about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Motion To Plan Increase In Budget Of Economic Development And Tourism, Carried As Amended

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion as amended. Question is called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried as amended.

---Carried

Thank you. We will have a 15 minute coffee break now.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come to order. Are there any more general comments? If not, we will turn to page 15.05. Mr. Pudluk.

Air Fares Discourage Tourists

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief statement to make on economic development. Maybe I will start with tourism. This is a good thing when the Inuit people are involved but we have a problem. I think there would be more tourists if the air fare was not too expensive. When the tourists want to go to see places by plane they get discouraged because of the high prices of air fares. If they are going to create a park on Ellesmere Island it is a very distant place and it is not close to an airstrip. I know it is going to be very expensive to go up there. The person that takes care of tourism in my area is doing very well and works on this very well but he has said to me that there would be more tourists coming up if the air fare was not so expensive coming from the South. There are people that come from overseas. It is cheaper to come to Canada from overseas now but it gets very expensive when you are going up north. I think this is a problem.

I would like to say something about co-ops. I think there are a lot of them that are having a problem concerning finances and they are not making very much money because of the high prices for shipment of orders. The co-op federation are the ones that provide loans for shipment. I think they have the interest so high the co-ops are in deficit when they are running. This is a problem for the North. The co-ops are owned by the people and they would continue to own these co-ops but they have a real big problem on financial matters. I would like economic development to be aware that if some of the co-ops are going to be closed because of their deficit in the future, I know that the Hudson's Bay, in the communities that have closed the co-op, will increase their prices. So I would like Economic Development to be concerned about this in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Any more general comments? Mr. T'Seleie.

Economic Base On Renewable Resources

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I represent a constituency that has got a majority of native people in it. At the present time we have the construction of the Norman Wells pipeline. In speaking to some people, there are a lot of people questioning the benefits from this kind of development, non-renewable resources. There are jobs, there are seasonal labour jobs, but we are told that these jobs will last only until the pipeline is finished. I think, generally speaking, that has been a pattern in the case of large projects. Once the pipeline is finished there would be only a minimal number of permanent jobs. For sure it will not answer the job requirements in the area. So that there are a lot of people that are interested in developing the renewable resources of the land. This is why tourism and small businesses, small industries are very important. So I tend to support the small businesses because there is a better chance that people could control them. When I take a long look at the communities that I represent, I see that economically the base has to centre on renewable resources like tourism and perhaps country food industries, that type of development.

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

Benefits From Future Megaprojects

MR. BALLANTYNE: I totally agree with Mr. T'Seleie's comments about our experience with large megaprojects and I think that if we are going to derive maximum benefits from future megaprojects the planning process has to start immediately. I think the sort of things that we should demand before this government will support, for instance, an extension of the Norman Wells pipeline all the way down the Mackenzie Valley are first, improved business and job opportunities during the construction phase -- but as Mr. T'Seleie says that phase is all too short -- and to ensure long-term permanent jobs, to ensure access to cheaper oil and gas. I think probably one of the most important goals of this Assembly and of your department should be to make a share of the resources, resource revenue sharing, a priority and a prerequisite before the government actually will agree to support a large megaproject. I wonder if I could ask the Minister if there are any plans presently in the department to ensure that northerners will benefit in all these ways from any future megaprojects.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Member may know the issue of revenue sharing and control of resources is an ongoing concern of the government as well as the previous Executive Council. I have been made aware by the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, that they did send a major paper to the government with respect to revenue sharing possibilities, but so far the federal government has not responded to that initiative taken by our department. I share the Member's concern. I think these are the very things that we have to get serious about. The department as well as the total government objective is to take control of resources as well as to settle the issue of the revenue sharing dispute with Ottawa because we do not have an agreement with the federal government like the provinces have with respect to oil and gas activities or energy agreements for instance, let alone the major megaprojects. There are all kinds of committees that the federal government normally initiates when major development is taking place, but we are only acting as a third party member in this exercise. So I will want, at this time, to assure the Member that we, in my department and the government, will do anything possible to try and stimulate the debate and try to convince the Government of Canada that we do have to have more control of resources so that our people in the North are not experiencing problems that we face up here.

A Constitutional And Jurisdictional Problem

If I may go on, I really believe the issue is a constitutional and jurisdictional problem. In my view I think that the federal government has continued to have a major hand without ever giving us in the North very much of a role to play, for instance, a major responsibility to manage, plan and control these resources that we do have. Unless we get a strategy in the Legislature and a major plan to try and work toward a greater control of resources, I am not sure we are going to get it in the near future. These are just personal views that I have, but I believe that this committee, the Legislature as a whole is going to have to address the issue of revenue sharing with the federal government in a much broader way. I do not think we can do it by doing exactly what the federal government wants us to do. That means do it through the bureaucratic level. I believe the way we are going to really start to reap the benefits of the North is by this exercise, and I do not know what the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs plans are but I think we are going to have to get serious about it. It may be difficult, as you probably know, because of the political and constitutional nature of the Northwest Territories. The priority of the last Assembly was to deal with the constitutional issues of the North. Unless we start dealing directly with the federal government regarding constitutional and jurisdictional responsibilities I do not know how far we are going to go, but we in the department are putting forward discussion papers in that area. If we do make some progress I would like to let the Member know that I will do anything to try and table certain discussion papers or whatnot that we may be doing with the government. Thank you.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to hear the Minister's comments and it seems to me, and this is only a personal view also, that we missed a golden opportunity with the Norman Wells project to try to gain some resource revenue sharing. It seems to me that as a Legislature we have to recognize that in these areas many times we argue from a position of weakness because we do not have a very strong economic base. We are very dependent on the federal government. It would seem to me one mechanism of achieving resource revenue sharing is, if and when the next large megaproject is proposed, that we say directly to the federal government, "We are prepared to support it fully if we gain the things we want. But if we do not, we will do everything possible to impede it." I think that is the only way that we are going to gain these sorts of things because I do not believe the federal government will give them to us out of the kindness of its heart.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, again my personal view. I would tend to go along with that approach. I do not believe that we can achieve greater control of resources and manage the resources of our own up here by the one-track approach that we have traditionally, historically taken, allowing the government itself to make a major transfer of responsibility at its pleasure. In my view that seems to have been the case but other than the major political development issues, the Ninth Assembly took the political development responsibility and ran with it. The economic aspects and control of resources should involve, I believe, this Legislature and as well, possibly, a major policy established by our own government. If we can do that and lay out our own major policy with respect to resources and economic policy we may likely be on the road to start taking a

united approach. I would urge the Member to press his views and help us and guide us in that area as well, as a Member, because I believe the jurisdictional issues and political control and so on, each Member should be involved in, contribute toward. I would welcome any time, I am sure my colleagues would want to hear from each Member as to exactly what their views are on these because it is not going to be easy, it has not been an easy one, and I am sure it will be a difficult project to work toward. Thank you.

Directorate, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will go now to summary budget items. Page 15.05, directorate, \$3,585,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Financial Services And Administration, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Financial services and administration, total 0 and M, \$1,358,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Manpower Development, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Manpower development, total 0 and M, \$5,556,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Tourism and parks, total 0 and M, \$2,665,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Business development, total 0 and M, \$7,078,000. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Minister's opening statement he mentioned his support of the co-operative movement and in my constituency, right at this present time, the band council in Detah is attempting to set up a co-operative. Does the Minister or his department officials have any ideas at this time of the direction the government might take not only to ensure the success of existing co-ops but to encourage and assist new co-ops being developed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I am going to refer the question to the assistant deputy minister. On the broader side I would like to indicate to the Member that, as I said in my speech, we are negotiating presently with the funding difficulty that present co-ops are facing right now with the federal government. In view of the urgency of some of the financial crises that are facing Arctic Co-operatives Limited and individual co-operatives in the Arctic we have to find a solution to the immediate problem. On the longer side I indicated that we were prepared to continue to support these co-ops because they are the fabric of the small communities. I am sure that Moses Appaqaq indicated that also. We will continue to support, wherever we can, to make sure these co-ops are viable. In terms of the immediate financial support that is available I would like to refer this to Mr. Horn who is the assistant deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Horn.

MR. HORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no financial assistance as such given to groups who wish to set up co-operatives. We can and do assist them in putting together documentation and incorporating themselves and working with ACL in that regard. In the case you mentioned, we will be working with the people of Detah. There is no financial program available to set up new co-operatives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Horn. Mr. Appaqaq.

Employee Benefits For Co-op Employees

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I shall have a short comment regarding co-ops in the NWT. I am going to talk about the co-op employees. You would have to recognize, I think, actually Inuit people in the NWT are trying, working toward owning their co-ops. With the government employees, after 25 years of service they get certain benefits but this is not so with the co-op employees. I have been an employee of the co-op but I have never come across anything like that. If I were to get sick or have to stay off work I would not get any benefits from being an employee of the co-op. Perhaps if the Minister could communicate with the co-op federation it would be helpful. I also have come across someone who had been an employee of the co-op and once he stopped working for the co-op they just completely forgot about him. We have to have people who are comparable to ministerial levels working toward employee benefits for the co-operatives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation) I just want to reply to Mr. Appaqaq in Inuktitut. Those of us that are in Economic Development have nothing to do with the co-ops. In operation of the co-ops in the communities, they have their own committee members. They have their own way of employing their own people. They have to operate on their own. In the beginning, they were assisted greatly by some department but as they were able to operate on their own they were operating on their own and they are able to apply for...(Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I do not know if the Members got the translation of that part. Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, when Mr. Appaqaq is speaking in Inuktitut I understand him quite clearly so I am responding to him the way I understood him in Inuktitut, so I was not paying any attention in English. I do not know whether that was clear or not but I hope you got my answer anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if this is a good time to ask this question but, before I approve this budget, the Minister made a statement in his opening remarks about Expo '86 in Vancouver. I notice in the paper something to that effect but I was not too clear on the deadline period to have proper information out into the communities. We cannot very well assume that the proper information is out into the communities. I wonder if I can have the proper deadline to submit some kind of a proposal regarding that pavilion for arts and crafts or whatever.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Briefing On Expo '86 For Members

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad the Member raised the issue, the question regarding Expo '86 and so on. I would like to suggest to the Member and perhaps at an appropriate time I would like to invite all the Members of the Assembly, through the caucus chairman, to have a total briefing by one of our officers from tourism, Mr. Alan Vaughan, to brief everyone of you at the same time on the Expo '86 situation because I think it is very important that the Members know exactly what is happening. I know that you have heard by the announcement of the Commissioner that he appointed Mr. George Braden as the commissioner representing the Government of the NWT on the international committee involved. So I would like to possibly invite all of you at one time. We are going to do the same with the Executive Council on the progress so far. I think from there you

will be able to ask direct questions at a later time but I think Mr. Britton may have some further information that he can provide to you. So I am just going to allow him to make a short remark as well, through you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Britton.

MR. BRITTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Expo '86 project, of course, is a very large and complicated undertaking. I certainly agree with Mr. Curley's observation that meaningful discussion on this thing should probably occur after there has been an opportunity for a thorough briefing. In any event, I think Mrs. Lawrence's question has perhaps something to do with proposal call which has gone out to hire a concessionaire who would run the restaurant and the store and so on that would occur in our pavilion at Expo '86. Perhaps I could answer the question by saying in the proposal call, firms that bid on this, one of the criteria that will be taken into account in deciding who is selected is the extent to which northern goods and services and businesses are utilized. So I think there will be ample opportunity for the businesses and co-operatives and so on in the North to participate in this project. We are going to be looking for a business that is prepared to do this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Britton. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Just a supplementary question. My concern was, many times we are not too clear on the tender that is put out and we lose out on the whole process of the deadlines and all that. I was just worried, a little bit concerned that we might have missed out some good thing, I guess, at the community level.

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

Proposed National Parks In NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE: I am not quite sure what we are on now but I think we are on business development. I have, with the committee's indulgence, just a couple of short questions on tourism and parks. Mr. Minister, I see that it is one of the responsibilities of your department to deal with national park matters on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. I wonder what initiatives your department is taking in relation to new proposed federal national parks in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Horn to respond to that. He was a member of the management committee, the committee involved in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Horn.

MR. HORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am assuming the Member is talking about the parks initiatives that were announced in the Edmonton Journal. This government has a memorandum of understanding between the GNWT and Parks Canada on the development of the park in the northern part of Ellesmere Island. That memorandum of understanding expires early this summer. Essentially, what it is, is a mechanism which both parties use to negotiate points prior to going out to community consultation and consulting with the communities involved. At the end of that time, based on the feedback we receive from the community consultations, we would make a recommendation to the Executive Council. They in turn, take a position and convey that, their support or non-support or qualified support, to Parks Canada. As I said, we have a memorandum of understanding at the present time for north Ellesmere. There is nothing of that nature in place for either the East Arm or the other one they were mentioning, the North Slope. That would be in the Yukon Territory and not with us so we are not involved in that. But there have been no discussions of that nature on the East Arm park proposal. We had a meeting the day before yesterday with Parks Canada people on this very issue and the date that was set out in the Edmonton Journal was somewhat optimistic as well, by approximately a year. The earliest I think that it would be possible for the northern part of Ellesmere to be declared a national park would be in the summer of 1985.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Horn. Mr. Ballantyne, supplementary.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it then that the department is satisfied there is not immediate danger of a unilateral federal initiative creating federal parks in the NWT. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Horn.

MR. HORN: Mr. Chairman, generally, yes. What is on their mind we really cannot say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Horn. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I am glad you mentioned that Great Slave East is not in the agreement just yet. According to the statement that was made in the Edmonton Journal the so-called minister from parliament wanted to make his landmark in the Territories before the next election. I have news for him. He can make his landmarks somewhere else than Great Slave East.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Back to the budget items. Business development, total O and M is \$7,078,000. Mr. Ballantyne.

Consultation With Business Community

MR. BALLANTYNE: This is just in the nature of a general comment. In the whole area of business development, one of the major problems or perceived problems in the past has been that the business community has felt there has not been enough consultation with them as to government programs and policies. Is it the intent of the Minister to try to improve that dialogue with the business community, to work closer with them, to achieve ends that are of benefit to all of us?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Member for reminding me of that, I think, important responsibility to consult with business. I indicated earlier that I will be attempting to create a business council, a permanent one, so we can have a formalized forum for small business people as well as the larger businessmen of the North to advise the government as well. At this time I have written to all the chambers of commerce throughout the North to invite their comments and to advise me of their experience in dealing with the government and in what areas we could improve our services to the business community. So I hope throughout the year that I will be getting some consultation at the senior level of the government. I know that they have been somewhat confused in the past and I know that many communities have been pretty frustrated dealing with the department. We will accept that fact. There needs to be an improvement, so I am working toward that and if there is any way that the Member can suggest to me what better form we could use to improve it I would welcome any suggestions at any time. But I will assure him that at a certain level I will attempt to formalize not only the program officers, who are receiving information and concerns from the communities, but that senior policy level is involved in consultation with the business community. Thank you.

Business Development, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Budget item, business development. Total O and M is \$7,078,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Detail of grants and contributions, total contributions \$2,001,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks

Campgrounds, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Total campgrounds, \$696,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$524,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Acquisition Of Equipment, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment, \$95,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Tourism and parks, \$1,315,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Commerce

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$7000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Acquisition Of Equipment, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total acquisition of equipment, \$38,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Commerce, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total commerce, \$45,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department is \$1,360,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Pages 15.14 to 15.18 are information items. Does anybody have questions on those? Mr. Ballantyne.

Economic Development Agreement

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 15.15 I have a question of the Minister about the economic development agreement. I know this agreement has been touted over the last couple of years as being perhaps the be-all and end-all of economic development in the NWT. I am a little bit concerned the expectations may be a little bit too high because it will not fulfil all the needs of the NWT in this area. My question of the Minister is, has there been a strategic plan developed with specific goals and objectives in mind so that at the end of the four year period we have achieved something of substance? My concern is that it is very possible to fritter away this sort of arrangement on various unrelated projects so four years from now we might be no further ahead than we are today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly agree that there is a real possibility that we may not be able to meet the needs of our business people. I think the department has been aware of the problems that were involved in getting the information out and so on. But I would like to ask the assistant deputy minister to explain some of the things that have been going on because the EDA is not necessarily part of the department but is administered by all departments and is a federal program. So I would like him to explain to you generally the nature of that particular fund. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Horn.

MR. HORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the Member's question specifically, the EDA and the three subagreements that were developed out of the EDA, cover such a broad range that although we did at one point try to develop the whole EDA with a view to a common strategic goal, it soon became obvious that that was going to be a very time consuming, if not impossible, task. EDA therefore was developed. We think we have left enough manoeuvring room within it to do some fine tuning to it during the life of the agreements and we are working on strategies for the three subagreements themselves as opposed to one overall strategy for the total.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Horn. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Again, I know the complexity of it because it is a bilateral arrangement with the federal government. The sort of thing I was thinking of is that for instance, in the Minister's opening statements, he was referring to the concept of improving our capacity to market fish, for instance, to improve our capacity in the area of agriculture and I wonder is it possible for the government to encourage individuals or companies in these areas to do something of substance and perhaps spend half a million dollars on one project that will give us the beginnings of a long-term industry as opposed to divvying it up in \$40,000 or \$50,000 chunks, which do not really achieve any long-term goals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Horn.

MR. HORN: Mr. Chairman, the answer quite simply is yes, it is possible. The particular sectors he mentioned are specifically provided for within the EDA. It would be impossible for one proponent to come forward though and ask for half a million dollars to do all of these things because all of these things would have to be accomplished through a number of programs but the overall total to one proponent could well be \$500,000 or in that neighbourhood.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Horn. Mr. Ballantyne.

Difficulty Gaining Access To Economic Development Agreement Program

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand the difficulty, but I just wanted to make a point that it may be a positive way of using this mechanism. Of a more specific nature, one of the complaints that I have heard about EDA is the difficulty for a small businessman or an individual to manoeuvre through the various bureaucratic details in order to gain access to the program. I wonder if the Minister is aware of the problem and if the department is doing anything to try to alleviate that situation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am certainly aware of the problems faced by the small business people through this fund, as it has been established. I am aware of them and when I was briefed by the officials of the department, I certainly made it clear that we had to communicate and try to simplify, so the proponents and the applicants get better help in trying to get their applications submitted, because it is a really complex process I think for small business people to get their requirements met. I also am aware that we tried to establish a better profile with this particular fund and I understand yesterday that there was a press conference held by the officials. I know Mr. Horn was involved and I would like him to explain a bit about the specific ways that he is trying to communicate the concerns.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Horn.

MR. HORN: Mr. Chairman, there was quite a wait between the expiry of the general development agreement and the arrival on the scene of the new economic development agreement. There has been a great deal of pressure put on our department, on this government, and on the federal departments involved with us, in getting this set up and operating. Because of this haste there has been some problem in getting information out to everyone within the Northwest Territories. However, there are programs, I should not call them programs, we are making members of our department available to go out and speak to groups, to explain to groups. The employees of our department, the area economic development officers and the manpower development officers in the various communities are being familiarized with the economic development agreement process and will be better able to assist people in the communities in applying. I know the Department of Renewable Resources has brought their field staff up to speed on the economic development agreement and they, like our people, are out in the communities available to people. It is something that is going to take a little time. However, I would like to point out that we had a domestic market subagreement management committee meeting this morning. We have received now 46 applications under that particular sub. Quite frankly we have not been able to analyse and deal with all of them as yet, so we are not looking. While we want the EDA to be utilized, get it out there, we are really being stretched at this time to accommodate the applications that are coming in. So there are people out there who do know about it and are applying.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Horn. General comments? Mr. Ballantyne.

Setting Up Of The Business Council

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a comment and a question with regard to the setting up of the business council. Is the business council intended to be a council of small and medium-sized businesses or does the Minister expect that there will be representation from, for instance, large oil and gas companies and mining companies?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, at present there is no outline exactly how the business council is going to be formalized. I intend to try and, before too long, to establish work on the terms of reference of the committee. I would not expect that the major resource companies, oil and gas companies, would be involved. I think that these would be primarily middle-sized companies we have in the North. But I would like to discuss it further and before long I will be attempting to formalize the terms of reference, the size of the council, how it should operate, how often it should meet and what kind of liaison and reporting stages it should have with the government and the Minister. I do not anticipate the resource companies would be involved in that. Thank you.

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

Communications With Oil And Gas Industry

MR. BALLANTYNE: This is a supplementary question to that. One concern that I have heard expressed a number of times over the past four or five years from executives, especially in the mining industry, but also perhaps to a lesser extent, in the oil and gas industry is that they do not feel that there is close enough consultation process with them. They feel that some initiatives taken by the government, they do not understand. They feel that no one has really talked to them about it enough. I wonder, does the Minister have any plans to either formally or informally try to improve that communication with some of the major mining and oil and gas companies?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly am prepared to establish a better relationship and contact with the department. As the Minister, I will attempt to establish a better communication for sure. However, wherever the forum is, I will be available for these. I know that the chamber of commerce is very interested in seeing that I take part in some of their activities. But as far as more formal contact is concerned, in view of the major resource companies, the nature of our work going on, I would be inclined to think that that should be partly at the cabinet or Executive Council level. I do know that we have a resources committee of the Executive Council. I will work toward properly formalizing or inviting or finding a way for them to have possibly a formal sort of get-together with the resources committee and the Executive Council once in a while, because I do not really believe at this time that our department, with the kind of budget that we do have, can have a more formal relationship directly with the Minister. But I do welcome them to meet with me to suggest any major recommendations that they may want to have. I have been contacted by the Chamber of Mines and the president of Cominco that they do have a very major concern with respect to some of the policies of this government. And so I have communicated with them, inviting them to make representations to me, as the Minister, so that I can communicate that to my colleagues on the Executive Council once I have received them. Thank you.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are still on budget items. We have to turn back to page 15.04. Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Total O and M is \$20,242,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total capital, \$1,360,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): This concludes the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. I would like to thank the Minister. Before you go, the committee Members will remember we deferred an item dealing with the Executive. I was wondering since the Minister is here, is it agreed by the committee that we deal with the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, or report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have permission of the committee to have the deputy and assistant deputy minister to be excused from the chamber.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Yes, thank you. Agreed. Does the committee wish that I report progress at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, just a point of information. Are we going to do the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat tomorrow? Is that the plan now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree? Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, it is fine with me but as a courtesy I wanted Richard Nerysoo, since it is his overall secretariat, I had wanted him to be around when I made the introductory remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): If the committee agrees then we defer it again. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The next item for tomorrow is Local Government. Thank you. I am sorry, we did defer Education and Education will be next then tomorrow. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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. GARGAN: Thank you, 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 carried as amended.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: A point of information, Mr. Speaker. We trust you had a pleasant afternoon. Would you be able to tell us what happened to Rachel this afternoon?

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the information of the House, I think she was fooling around as usual. 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 Friday, February 17, at 9:30 a.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 17-84(1); Motion 19-84(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); Bills 2-84(1), 3-84(1), 4-84(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House adjourns until February 17th at 9:30 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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