



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

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Pages 19 to 61

Speaker The Honourable Robert H. MacQuarrie, M.L.A.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1979

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. Braden, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Butters, Mr. Nerysoo, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Arreak, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. Fraser, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Stewart, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Noah

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): Please be seated. I refer Members to the orders of the day and we will proceed to Item 2, election of Deputy Speaker and chairman of committees of the whole; and of deputy chairman of committees of the whole.

ITEM NO. 2: ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE;
AND OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

We will deal first with the Deputy Speaker. May I have a motion with respect to the election of a Deputy Speaker?

Motion 7-79(2): Election Of Deputy Speaker

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Slave River, that Mr. Kane Tologanak, the Honourable Member for Central Arctic, be appointed Deputy Speaker and chairman of committees of the whole of this House.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion that Mr. Kane Tologanak be appointed Deputy Speaker and chairman of committees of the whole. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 7-79(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: All those agreed? Would you please signify? Opposed? Carried unanimously and congratulations from this Assembly to Mr. Tologanak.

---Carried

---Applause

Next I believe there is a motion to select a deputy chairman of committees of the whole.

Motion 8-79(2): Election Of Deputy Chairman

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Foxe Basin, that Mr. Dennis Patterson, the Honourable Member for Frobisher Bay, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole of this House.

Motion 8-79(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion that Mr. Dennis Patterson be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole. Those in favour please signify. Opposed? Carried unanimously and congratulations, Mr. Patterson.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 3, continuing replies to Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 3: CONTINUING REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Are there replies this afternoon? The Honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Braden.

Mr. Braden's Reply

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow Members. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to respond to the Commissioner's Opening Address and to discuss issues which I believe are of importance to this Assembly, my constituents in Yellowknife North and to the people of the Northwest Territories.

With respect to this Assembly I have had during the past two weeks a most enlightening experience working in caucus and now in formal session with newly elected Members. I want to say that I personally have been very impressed by the thorough approach which we as a group are taking in our deliberations and, while the next four years will necessarily produce frustration and heated debate, I have no doubt that these conditions will be the result of intelligent and reasonable positions on the part of individual Members or groups of Members.

Over-all it is gratifying to see and experience a level of enthusiasm in the present Assembly. I am confident that the product of this enthusiasm will bring better government to the people of the Northwest Territories during the next four years.

Now, I share with two other Members in this Assembly the privilege of representing Yellowknife; however I have, Mr. Speaker and Mrs. Sorensen, I do have what I consider to be a rather diverse constituency in so far as I represent the interests of a large portion of this city's Dene and Metis population. Throughout my campaign, and in the month preceding this session I have learned of the problems and issues relevant to my constituency. Common to all is our local economy, particularly the need to develop jobs for our young and growing labour force.

Concerns Of Yellowknife North Constituents

Yellowknife's small business community, which I believe is the backbone of our private sector, is also experiencing difficulties because of the slowdown in our city's economy and the region's economy. I also represent a number of Yellowknifers who work in one of our two gold mines. These residents, along with their colleagues at Con mine are concerned about mine safety and have expressed support to me and other Yellowknife Members for an increasing role in this area by the Northwest Territories government.

The campaign also brought out another issue affecting a large portion of Yellowknife's voting population, indeed the voting population of the whole Northwest Territories. I am referring of course, to the political rights of territorial civil servants. My constituents living in Detah and Lot 500 have concerns which other Members have already referred to, publicly and in caucus, issues such as improved housing, the Wildlife Ordinance, native claims and jobs.

Finally, and while other Members from outside Yellowknife may not feel that this is the case, residents of Yellowknife and my constituency are experiencing the impact of cutbacks in federal and territorial funding. Representatives of social agencies, our municipal government and recreation organizations have all expressed their concerns to myself and other Yellowknife Members.

Mr. Speaker, I will be working individually and with other Members from Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories on these and other important local issues. I want to stress that I will be working with representatives of the band councils, the city of Yellowknife and other local organizations to successfully address and resolve these issues.

A Communication Failure

Now with respect to the territorial level, we have heard Members publicly and in caucus express dissatisfaction with the role and impact of government in the Northwest Territories. Over-all I perceive that we in the North have over the past decade been the victims of a fundamental problem. For reasons which are too numerous to mention we have failed to develop and maintain communication, communication between and among the people, groups and government which make up the Northwest Territories. What I am talking about is the very basic human characteristic or function which can create some measure of harmony and understanding within a society. If it does not exist, the society is bound to experience problems which in our case I think have been painfully evident during the past decade. I sincerely hope that through this legislature we can begin to achieve communication between and among the people and groups of the Northwest Territories. This need not entail sophisticated structures of institutions or processes or procedures, for these I believe tend to inhibit rather than promote communication. In the near future our House will be starting this basic task. For the past two weeks we have in caucus and more informally amongst ourselves made a good start at communication. Now it is time to begin with the people of the Northwest Territories.

Finally and with respect to the Commissioner's Address we are facing a difficult financial condition in this government which I understand will be with us well into the future. I am told that this government's financial problems are primarily related to energy costs and I see no easy solution to our present condition in this area nor for the next couple of fiscal years. Northerners will have to make some sacrifices with respect to energy, we will no doubt have to pay more. Hopefully the federal government will recognize its responsibilities in the North and will increase its deficit grant to assist this government in covering growing costs of operation and maintenance and in our own area -- talking about this House, talking about headquarters and the regional administration -- we are going to have to work hard to get better value for our operating dollar.

Given that oil and energy in general are and will continue to be as I understand it, the source of our financial problems, I suggest that Members and the public in general give serious consideration to proposals which would exploit our northern oil resources to feed the habits of southern Canadians. Before we give approval to such proposals I urge that we all think carefully about the future needs of northern residents and the financial implications of continued dependence on southern oil. I believe that we in this House have a responsibility to think not only of the next four years, but what it is going to be like to live in the Northwest Territories in decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude I want to thank the House for this opportunity and I also want to thank all the Members and the staff and the officials of this House for what has been a most interesting and exciting initiation as an elected official. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other replies to the Commissioner's Address? I recognize the Honourable Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Noah.

Mr. Noah's Reply

MR. NOAH: Yes, Mr. Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to address you as the Member for Keewatin North. Over the years I have watched and listened to the proceedings of the Assembly and to the actions of the territorial government supposedly carrying out the wishes and desires of the people of the North. It saddens me to say that in my opinion I believe and in the opinion of the majority of permanent residents very little has been done to satisfy the wishes and aspirations of native people. In the last ten years there has been constant conflict between the Dene, Inuit and sometimes Metis on one side and the territorial, federal government and territorial Assembly on the other side over the way in which the North should be developed politically, economically and socially. While I see this Assembly as an assembly of change, let there be no doubt of where the people of my constituency stand. The people of the North should and will decide their own future. For those civil servants who do not understand, I am talking about the right of political self-determination. To the director of Local Government and to others in the Executive, where the government tried to attempt to deny us that knowledge, we needed to achieve the end by childishly cancelling the workshop in Baker Lake and eventually having eight members of his department resign.

Qamaneqjuaq Caribou Herd

Those colonialist days are over for good and I think we are going to see the necessary major changes at the senior civil service level. The director of the Department of Natural and Cultural Affairs has misled this Assembly and the public. There is no evidence of the decline of the Qamaneqjuaq caribou herd. We believe his statement and those of the other departmental officers are politically motivated. There is however substantial evidence that this herd has moved due to a number of reasons, for example harassment by low-flying aircraft, tagging programs at major river crossings and mining camps at various crossings, etc. The caribou are now north of Baker Lake in areas where there never was a substantial number of caribou and if you ask them where to find them they cannot tell you. The Inuit know where these caribou came from, they came from the Qamaneqjuaq herd.

The government brings in people every summer to hunt caribou and tag caribou and observe caribou but they hardly talk to the people and if they do it is usually to tell us we are overkilling even though we have reduced our kill by 50 to 75 per cent in the last two years. The problem is that we Inuit, although we have survived for 4000 years by knowing the caribou and their movements, do not have degrees in zoology and biology and so our opinions account for nothing.

Does this Assembly and these so-called caribou experts think for a moment that if we the Inuit saw the caribou were in danger we would not take steps to protect them? They are more important to us than to anybody. They are the basis of our entire culture and yet the government issues statements almost accusing us of systematically wiping out these herds. I think these civil servants should take a lesson from the caribou and migrate. We do not want them here, nor do we need them.

The other two major issues I would like to speak about concern air transportation and land claims. First I would like to deal with air transportation.

Air Transportation

The recent strike by air radio and marine operators brought home to many of us a problem which has existed for several years and one which I think this Assembly has to deal with during its life. The North, more so than any other place in Canada, is almost totally dependent upon air services for its major mode of transportation. The Western Arctic has links with the South by roads but even they, during the spring and fall break-up, must depend upon air resupply. The Eastern Arctic must rely on air transportation for medical services, food shipments, mail delivery, freight delivery and passenger traffic. In our area it is controlled mainly by contract and it is the same people who control the territories. They even have a certain amount of control due to fiscal reasons over the smaller airports but the MOT, Ministry of Transport, is it answerable to this Assembly or the territorial government, or to the communities and the native organizations, or are they answerable to anybody in the North? I say this, that the answer is no. I would very much doubt, in fact I know that if Edmonton or Winnipeg or even Toronto, if their airports were affected greatly as much as ours were during the recent strike the government would have moved quickly to solve the issue but I am afraid we are not too important to the MOT or to the Treasury Board.

For years we have had to suffer the indignities of MOT's bureaucratic decisions. For example, the closure of Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord four years ago, cutting them off entirely without any thought of the people living there, the cancellation of the resurfacing at Rankin Inlet, eliminating them from such service, the refusal to build terminal buildings at Baker Lake, one of the busiest and coldest airports in the Eastern Arctic, the erection, against all advice, of building around the parking aprons in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake causing severe snowdrifting problems, the fiasco of the runway situation at Repulse Bay where they have a 3500 foot runway but MOT will only resurface 3000 feet because that is their policy, but the area of 500 feet is the difference between Twin Otter service with high freight rates and 747 service and lower freight rates, not to mention passenger comfort. The problem exists at Whale Cove where they have 4000 feet and MOT only picks up 3000 feet because of the same policy and again causing the same problems.

The Ministry Of Transport Not Capable Of Running Northern Airports

All of these problems exist because of the arrogance and stupidity of MOT's Winnipeg central region office. The office is notorious all over Canada in its difficulty in dealing with airlines and communities and even governments. A recent internal study done by MOT points the finger at the central regional office as being the worst office they have. Even the territorial government cannot deal with them. I believe a meeting is scheduled sometime this month between the MOT and territorial government officials to try and sort out these problems, but I do not think it will meet with success. We are not high on their priority list and I doubt whether we are even on it. I do not think there is one native northerner employed as an air radio operator and yet most of these facilities have been in place for 20 years or more and ample opportunity exists in the Northern Careers Program, etc., to place native people in on-the-job training programs. I would think, considering some of MOT's decisions may affect the very viability of some of our communities, that the Assembly and the government should move now to take control of all airports, the facilities and decisions regarding airports in the North and take it away from MOT. They have proved, at least in the central region that they are not capable of running them.

Land Claims

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to deal with the issue of land claims. Land claims is the major issue in the territories today. Until land claims are settled the North will not easily rest. Political, economic and the social future of the territories lies within the settlement of land claims. I put it to you now that this Assembly's top priority has to be the settlement of land claims. I support the Nunavut proposal of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada which would split the territories in two. I support the native organizations when they say there should be no major development before land claims are settled. I support the position of the Dene and Inuit when they say that the territorial government should not be involved in land claims negotiation. I think that almost immediately this Assembly should meet with the representatives of the major native organizations to see what role, if any, they think they should play in the settlement of land claims. I will work in this Assembly to achieve those aims and I am confident others will work with me. I am thankful, Mr. Speaker, and thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: As an item of interest if I may call your attention to the wall hanging which has graced the sessions of this Assembly since it was presented at the Baker Lake session in the fall of 1969, it is Mr. Noah's mother, Oonark, a very famous artist, who was honoured at the United Nations a couple of years ago, who did that wall hanging.

---Applause

Are there further replies to the Commissioner's Address? I recognize the Honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Butters.

Mr. Butters' Reply

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, before adding my voice to the motion of appreciation to the Commissioner's Address I wish to congratulate you on your new responsibility and role. It is a most important one in our deliberations and I promise you, as I promised your predecessor, that I will co-operate with you and assist you in every way possible, even though I may not agree with your rulings.

I also congratulate and offer the same co-operation and courtesy to the Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for the Central Arctic.

I was told quite politely by some of the Members that I should not run on at the lengths I have been known to do in the past and I will attempt to meet that suggestion. I noticed this morning or I heard this morning at 7:30 that the CBC expected me to speak yesterday in support of the old guard, that I was expected to return in haste from Inuvik and speak for the old guard. I did wish to speak yesterday, but the reason was that at the last session of the previous assembly, I as a result of mix-up in airplanes missed the last day, the fifth day, and was not able to reply, I am afraid I did not have the courage to ask for unanimous consent to receive a special privilege. I wished to reply then because I wanted to thank the previous Speaker, your predecessor, for the very fine service and very objective manner in which he presided over the eighth assembly of the territories. I think, and I do believe the previous Members share with me the belief that he served us admirably and well and I would have liked to add my voice to that feeling at this time.

I would also wish to thank the Members of the previous assembly who are returned and those other members who either failed in their election bid or did not seek re-election for the courtesy and co-operation that I was shown as a member of that assembly. I did not have the opportunity then either to thank the Clerk of the House and his staff for the excellent service provided at all times to members of the assembly and I am delighted that we will be served in the next four years by Mr. Remnant and his very able and capable staff.

Concerns Of Inuvik Constituents

Honourable Members, I apologize for my absence yesterday. I was about what the Commissioner indicated in his Opening Address is a major responsibility of Members, a heavy responsibility of Members and that is to bring to this Assembly the views and concerns of their constituents. There is, and here I am following the tradition of new Members of speaking regarding one's constituency and constituency concerns.

There is in Inuvik at this time a very great concern regarding the diminishment of service that we have been providing the young in our community. It is alarming in the Year of the Child that education, the education of our youth, the preparation of that element of our society which will lead us tomorrow and ensure that we live out our latter years in comfort are being not refused, possibly, but may not be obtaining the fullest and most rich educational opportunities that they should. There was a great concern from the chairman and members of the Inuvik education committee that the grade one class, which really consists of four classes, teachers are serving individually 26 students, 36 students, 28 students and 27 students. They are bearing the primary educational responsibility for those numbers of students. Along with that difficulty, in their classes they also have an age difference of between five and ten years. Also in this very important year of education in that first year of education, the primary teachers are really teaching and working with four streams of students, an impossible job. I understand, from the Commissioner, that a number of the concerns which were raised with me and which were communicated to the Commissioner and the administration, have been removed and I would expect that the situation in Inuvik as regards the education of our young people is now being eased.

We had also the situation where there was no employment of substitutes permitted until three days had passed with the result that those teachers who are the real professionals and who have a very strong responsibility and feeling of duty to their young charges were either coming to work ill or physically below par to ensure that the students for whom they had responsibility would not be split up and put into other classrooms since substitute teachers cannot be hired.

There are a number of other constituency matters which I would wish to raise but I think that an opportunity will occur either in this session or during the budget session and I would defer those items to that time.

The Division Of The Territories

I have one point that I would like to discuss in this particular area of my response to the Commissioner's Address and that is relative to division of the territories. I think that Members recognize that the question of division of the territories is a very, very old question. I recollect that in 1965 my recommendation to the Carrothers Commission was that the territories be divided, so the concept of Nunavut that has put forward I put forward 14 years ago and I see no reason for changing that support at this date. However, Members will recall that the Carrothers Commission decision was that no, it is too early to create such a division. People of the East might be taken over by the bureaucracy in Ottawa in the Kent Albert building and that their aspirations and objectives may be much more difficult to obtain operating under a federal administration. The Carrothers Commission also recommended that the matter be considered in a period of ten years.

I can recall previous representatives from the East and specifically Mr. Bryan Pearson, the perfect little mayor of Frobisher Bay, making this point time and time again. I recollect too that in the previous assembly as will those Members who have returned to this chamber examined that recommendation of the Carrothers Commission and attempted to have it implemented. We had hoped and we had developed, identified an amount of money within this budget, within the territorial government budget for a committee to look into the matter of division and other matters of constitutional urgency and interest. Members will remember we went to Ottawa. We sat with Mr. Warren Allmand. We told him what we wished to do and in effect he said "If you want to go and play your little games, you go ahead, but I am making a decision on the constitutional evolution of the North within a few months and if you want to get on my bandwagon and come with me, fine. Otherwise your exercise or your recommendations may be redundant."

On The Matter Of Division

In the previous assembly the matter of division was one which we treated very delicately. I think in the main because we had not been given a clear direction from our constituents and, secondly, because we were 15 people from different parts of the North, from different cultural backgrounds, from different vocations, with different attitudes and I do not think -- here I am recollecting for myself personally -- I do not think any of us there wished to debate that question at the time. But I would suggest that it was considered and the question was in many people's minds. In recognition of that fact, is the recommendation of the previous assembly that when the Ninth Assembly is elected that it include with it a ballot on the referendum question. We have thought about it. It has been considered, but at that time it may not have been the time for decision. Possibly the Ninth Assembly is the Assembly that should deal with that matter.

I think that most of us would agree that if an individual or a group or a family forgets their history, forgets their mistakes, that they are doomed and condemned to repeat them. I think that it is also wise to remember not only one's shortcomings, but one's achievements. I have sat for a number of days in caucus and listened to many questions and criticisms of what one could take personally if one wished to, or take politically, as a member of the old assembly and I would like to examine some of the things that were accomplished and some of the achievements that came out of that assembly.

Achievements Of The Eighth Assembly

I remember one of the most moving experiences I had as a member of that house when we met with a number of the touring members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I with the Honourable Member from Rae-Lac la Martre, he and others, members of that assembly at that time, met in the Gold Room, and the majority of those present was black. They came from the African countries and each of the nations they represented was administered or governed by a parliamentary democracy and I remember when, I think it was the speaker of the Kenya house, got up and said, "We..." he took us all in, and at that time we were a lot less responsible than we are today but, "We share a system of government which is unique in the world, a system of government which ensures that minority voices can be heard, a system of government which allows every man to speak without fear as the theft of the freedom of speech will result in his own freedom being removed from him."

So, it was kind of interesting because I knew that these people had come from tribes, tribal communities, tribal cultures yet here was a group that found a system which had originated in the dim mists of European antiquity, as unique and valuable and worth holding tightly and dearly.

The seventh council of the Northwest Territories on which I sat with my honourable colleague from Mackenzie Liard was an interesting one also because it consisted of 14 members, four of whom were appointed members, members of undeniable ability, of brilliant and moving intelligence, leaders in the Canadian community. Somehow we, representing the communities and the backwoods, but we worked with them and accomplished many things. However we did move in that group, the ten of us did move that the eighth assembly be wholly elected and we put forward our recommendation for that objective. Many people at that time said, "What would you do when you do not have..." and they would mention the name of the appointed member "...to sit with you" and the people of the North could apply their talents to solve our horrendous problems and serve their constituents well. We thought we could. I think that the history of the eighth assembly proved that.

Directions Of The House Were Carried Out

I would like to thank, while I am on my feet, the Commissioner of the territories. I would like to thank him because as an Executive Member, and I admit I did know what to expect a year and a half ago when I accepted that responsibility, but I want to thank him and his predecessor for the fact that when I was assigned a departmental responsibility I was able to carry out that responsibility. Neither Commissioner Parker nor Commissioner Hodgson, when he had the responsibility, told me to do this or to do that. I served this House and the directions of this House as best I could. I carried out directions of this House which I did not agree with and which I had voted against as a Member in this chamber but when I found myself on the Executive Committee I carried out the directions this House had given me.

I can recall on one occasion at an Executive Committee meeting an item was up for discussion and we were trying to recollect just what was said here because only two or three members were involved in the debate. So we had brought in the records of the assembly's discussions so we could determine to the best of our ability what direction we had been given. I say to old Members and to new Members that this government is attempting to implement the direction it has been given from this chamber and if more proof be needed I suggest that the Government of the Northwest Territories, in fact the administration, has spun its wheels for the last four months waiting, waiting to find out what would happen here, waiting to find out what direction will be given here. I believe that the directions will be given in the near future and I believe that Members will be pleased with the manner in which their collective requirements and their collective objectives are carried out.

I would like to thank also the directors who worked for me while I served as an Executive Committee Member. I was surprised at their willingness to serve me as a short-term elected person. We had difficulties, we had arguments, but with patience and good will I think that a common direction was achieved and that was the direction this House had given but I was impressed with the willingness of the senior members of this administration to receive the direction of an elected member of this House, and I thank them for that.

Three Masters To Serve

I would just mention too that a person who is elected to that responsibility has three constituencies. I have said this before and I say it again because really one should work for one master only. It is extremely difficult to work for two masters and it is impossible to work for three. Yet this is the challenge and this is the responsibility which this House gives Executive Committee Members. One must serve one's constituents or they sell them short and they will fall back on their campaign promises. If you do not serve them you do not come back. One must serve this House, also, because just as this House bestows upon an Executive Member power and the responsibility of office it can take it away like that. This

is the difference with the type of government we have, a government by consensus. In the party system the ministers are supported by the majority of members in that party and they will not lose that support as long as they do what the premier or prime minister says. In this House it is different. When party politics come to this House then it will be much simpler and I for one have been supportive of party politics but I was taught a lesson by the eighth house, by the native members who came to that eighth house, and instructed me with their arguments in the values of consensus government. Many students of politics see this type of government as childish government, embryonic government. Really, this may be the government of the future. In other houses in the provinces and in Canada the member's first loyalty is not to his constituents but to his party. So, maybe this government that we are participating in now, which is so difficult to serve, is the government of the future.

When I mention that the Executive Member serves the House that is not taking away from that individual the responsibility to take one's own initiative and to be willing to accept the responsibilities for that initiative, even if it means that his resignation will be requested or that he may provide that resignation himself. For example, one of the last things I did as Minister for Economic Development and Tourism was to send a wire on Monday to the Prime Minister and if Members feel that I have acted improperly then you may chastise me. I sent this wire to the Honourable Sterling Lyon, care of the Prime Minister, with a copy to the Prime Minister and a copy to the Honourable Jake Epp and the wire said:

Wire To Premier Of Manitoba

"I wish to indicate the strong Northwest Territories support for your recommendation to the Prime Minister a few moments ago that early consideration be given to the establishment of special tax credits for and recognition of the extraordinary energy requirements of northern Canadian communities and citizens." Probably as you know Sterling Lyon made this suggestion at the recent first ministers' conference on energy.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife North mentioned the fiscal constraints and concerns which face us. The eighth house never suffered this problem. We could suggest spending money on this or spending money on that and there always seemed to be more than enough money. The Ninth Assembly is going to look at these fiscal concerns and matters with a greater intensity and a greater responsibility than ever before. Part of the problem is of course that in the Keewatin we are burning Venezuelan oil and in the Eastern Arctic we are probably burning Iranian oil. I found interesting the Honourable Member's suggestion relative to the Imperial Oil field and hope I will have a chance to contribute to that debate.

I am not going to speak much longer, I am not going to catalogue or enumerate all the many things which I think were accomplished by the previous House but just touch on one thing.

I was chairman of the special committee on constituencies, I was served on that committee by the Honourable Member for Foxe Basin, the then honourable member for Baffin North, the then honourable member for Yellowknife South and I recognize a former member in this House, the honourable member at that time for the Western Arctic. We put together ideas which we thought would represent better representation for the people of the North. We reported to this House and the House directed us to develop 22 constituencies and we did that and I must say the reason that the Honourable Member for Sanikiluaq has a seat today, a Member who represents a very small community in the Northwest Territories is here is because of the suggestion from one of the members of the committee which I chaired.

To make a long story short we put forward our position for 22 seats. We fought for that position because it seemed throughout the territories and in many cases in the South voices were raised against that objective -- "No, no!" Yet it was accomplished and I think that not only did the previous assembly give the territories representational government, but without knowing it we have given the territories, if not responsible government, the opportunity for responsible government.

The System Of Democracy

Democracy is a very strange system. A ballot box is like one of the one-armed bandits at Las Vegas. You do not know what is going to come out, but somehow by some magic after the people have spoken through the ballot box it is interesting to examine their choice. One would say "I could not have made a better choice if I had had all the computers and all the information available to me." I think that this Assembly is an example of that type of magic. One of the shortcomings of the previous assembly was that it was a matter of "other voices, other rooms," but this time sitting in this Assembly chamber are recognized dedicated, capable individuals who have served or are serving native organizations. They are here. The debate will be joined here. It will not be a case of other voices, other rooms ever again. This is a good thing. This I think is something that we never thought of when we sat down and put together our 22 constituencies, we never thought it could happen. Yet it has happened.

So I will just close with one thought and that is, Mr. Speaker, -- the story may not be true and I have not checked out its validity but I heard that on the night of October 1, one of the Members in this Assembly received a wire. I do not know if it was congratulatory but the wire consisted of a question and I think the question was something like "Does power bring responsibility?" That is an excellent question and it is a most moving and meaningful question to be addressed to the 22 Members who sit here. I do not think any of us can answer that question now and I do not think anybody would want to try, but I will guarantee that not only will all of us be able to answer that question a few years down the road, but so will our constituents who are present here with us through the magic of television, of radio and the printed word. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters mentioned the eighth assembly and as a matter of fact, Mr. John Steen who was a member of that assembly and it was called to my attention earlier by Mr. Evaluarjuk, that Mr. Steen is with us in the Assembly, in the gallery this afternoon. So I would ask Mr. Steen to rise and accept the recognition of this Ninth Assembly.

---Applause

Are there other replies to the Commissioner's Address? Are there other replies? Very well. There being none, we will move along and have that item again on the orders of the day for tomorrow.

Item 4, oral questions. May I comment first, Mr. Curley, that oral questions are generally addressed to Executive Committee Members and that there are no Executive Committee Members in the Assembly right now. We would have a hard time dealing with that item. Am I correct, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Item 5, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 5: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Written questions. The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mrs. Sorensen.

Question W3-79(2): 1980-81 Accountability By Activities Breakdown

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three questions. The first one: In determining the 1980-81 program budget development, the Executive of this government ranked program activities of each department in order of relative importance. I have been led to understand that the system was called accountability by activity and that there were three ranking categories. I would ask that the administration provide this Assembly with a department by department breakdown of those program accountabilities and the ranking given each as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further written questions?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen.

Question W4-79(2): Special Status, Fuel Prices

MRS. SORENSEN: My second question: Given the fact that the Atlantic provinces have been assured, both in the House of Commons and by the Prime Minister at the first ministers' conference held this past Monday, of a special status to compensate for the pending increases in fuel and for resulting increases in fuel generated power -- then I would ask if the administration of the territorial government has had the same or similar assurances by the Government of Canada. If not, what steps, if any are being taken to make representation to the federal government concerning a special status for the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other written questions?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen.

Question W5-79(2): Information On Money From Capital Expenditures

MRS. SORENSEN: It is my understanding that there is to be a transfer of money from capital expenditure to the operation and maintenance budget in order to help make up a shortfall experienced this fiscal year. I would request that the administration provide this Assembly with a list of the projects which will be affected by this decision and for any information that the administration may have with regard to the impact of delaying or cancelling these capital projects, particularly as they affect northern employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other written questions? The Honourable Member for Great Slave East, Mr. Sayine.

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, my apologies. This happened a little too quickly for me. Can we return to Item 4, oral questions?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sayine, although that item appears on the order paper, oral questions are addressed to government Members. We are in a difficult position right now of not having any government Members in this Assembly because there are officially no Executive Committee Members yet and the Commissioner does not have a place to sit in this formal Assembly, only when it is in committee of the whole. Therefore there would be no one right now to answer your oral questions. May I recommend that you have it written out and given to the Clerk of the House and we will accept it as a written question and you will get a response within a day or two days? Would that be satisfactory? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the direction and tenor of the Member's question and having had responsibility for that particular area in the previous Assembly I could respond to it and I think that the question is of some urgency. If the Assembly would permit this question and response to go ahead, because I believe the answer will require immediate action by this Assembly...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

ITEM NO. 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Is that agreed, Mr. Sayine?

MR. SAYINE: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Please proceed with your question.

Question 06-79(2): Funding Status Re Fort Resolution Sawmill

MR. SAYINE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, can the administration advise the current status of Fort Resolution sawmill funding application before the Treasury Board? Members will appreciate that logging for the next years production must be carried out immediately. My question is simple.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, would you respond?

Return To Question 06-79(2): Funding Status Re Fort Resolution Sawmill

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the situation is as the Member indicates. It is a very serious situation that is being faced by the Fort Resolution sawmill and unless something is done very, very quickly that lack of funding could seriously jeopardize its operational capability and its production capability for the coming year. I might just explain that when Treasury Board approved the last funding they requested that a report be prepared, which was subsequently done by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, and this report requested that a five year funding program be developed. In May of this year the Department of Economic Development officials prepared a Treasury Board submission which was forwarded to Indian Affairs and Northern Development for their action. In July officers of the department met with federal departmental officials and the officials in the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development were reluctant at that time to advance the proposal in the absence of a comprehensive territorial program to support marginal industries. You can see the problem, the situation government officials found themselves in, from what appeared to be a specific problem requiring a specific answer they were sent back to the drawing board to provide a general answer and policy for a very large question.

Following the July meeting the department began to develop such a broad proposal and that proposal is now with the federal departmental officials. On October 15 they met with federal officials again and were successful in convincing them of the immediacy of the need for Treasury Board consideration of the Slave River sawmill funding proposal. At that time the federal officials indicated they would proceed forthwith to advance the proposal to Treasury Board. Now the expectation was that Treasury Board would consider that funding proposal last Thursday. It was not considered and it would appear that the application has been deferred for six weeks. Now the Fort Resolution sawmill is required to get its people in the bush, I do believe no later than December 1, so it is a very serious question that the Honourable Member raises and rather a crisis as far as the productivity and success of that operation is concerned for the coming year.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sayine, have you any further questions to ask Mr. Butters? No?

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 5: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Are there any other written questions? Mr. Curley.

Question W7-79(2): School Children, Rankin Inlet

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Department of Education. Due to the pressing situation which has developed with respect to the school children of Rankin Inlet boycotting classes, and since the community education committee has asked the Commissioner and the Department of Education to retain all eight classroom assistants, will the administration assure this House that it is prepared to accept the demands of the education committee of Rankin Inlet?

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other written questions? Returns. Mr. Clerk, I believe there is a return and it would be customary for the Executive Committee Member to respond to the question but since we do not have any I hope the Members will be agreeable if I ask you to read the return into the record. Mr. Clerk.

Return To Question W1-79(2): Contract Violation, Department Of Education

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a return from the administration to Question W1-79(2) asked on November 13 by Mrs. Sorensen which states: Implementation of spending restraints initiated by the Department of Education is subject to contractual obligations. Clause 25.04 of the teachers' agreement requires that substitute teachers be hired when a teacher is absent. Clause 17.07(3) of the agreement also requires that teachers taking short courses approved by the professional improvement committee, will be given travel assistance. It is not the intention of the administration to violate either of these clauses in the agreement. The Northwest Territories Teachers' Association was informed of this today and telexes confirming this position have been sent to all regional offices.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. As has been the custom of this House at this time to recess informally for coffee, I declare such a recess now.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I recognize a quorum in the House and if we could turn to the orders of the day again, we will proceed to Item 6, petitions.

Item 7, tabling of documents.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 9: NOTICES OF MOTION

The Honourable Member from Pine Point, Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: With your permission I would like to give notice of a motion regarding the Executive Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

Notice Of Motion 9-79(2): Appointment Of Executive Committee

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Now therefore, I move that this Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that the following Members now be appointed to the Executive Committee: the Honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. George Braden; the Honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Tom Butters; the Honourable Member for Slave River, Mr. Arnold McCallum; the Honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Richard Nerysoo; the Honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, Mr. James Wah-Shee; and further that two additional Members be recommended for appointment to the Executive Committee at a later date.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion? The Honourable Member for Keewatin South, Mr. Curley.

Notice Of Motion 10-79(2): Appointment To Members' Services Board And Standing Committees

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that I will move the following motion:

Now therefore, I move that:

(a) a Members' services board be now established to assist the Speaker in considering policy matters relating to the operation of the Legislative Assembly in the provision of services to Members and that the following be appointed to this board: Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Arreak and Mr. Wah-Shee;

(b) a standing committee on finance be now established and that the following be appointed to this committee: Mrs. Sorensen, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Tologanak;

(c) a standing committee on legislation be now established and that the following be appointed to this committee: Mr. Sayine, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Curley and Mr. Patterson;

(d) a standing committee on Rules and procedures be now established and that the following be appointed to this committee: Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Noah and Mr. Fraser;

(e) a striking committee to name Members for appointments to vacancies which may occur in the membership of any committees or for appointments to any committees which may subsequently be established and the following be appointed to this committee: Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, Mr. Butters and Mr. Patterson. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other notices of motion? The Honourable Member for the Western Arctic, Ms. Cournoyea.

Notice Of Motion 11-79(2): Beaufort Sea, Special Development Area

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on November 16, 1979, I will be making a motion which will generally reflect the objective that the area of the Beaufort Sea in the Western Arctic be designated as a special development area and to take the development impact on the community of Tuk in that area.

Notice Of Motion 12-79(2): Inuvialuit Land Rights

Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on November 16, 1979, I will move that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories takes the position that the Government of Canada must honour its obligations in the agreement in principle signed with Inuvialuit and continue negotiations for the final agreement.

Notice Of Motion 13-79(2): Position On Land Claims

On November 16, 1979, I will introduce a motion that the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories will make itself available upon request to advise the federal government and the native groups on any matter they wish with regard to land claims negotiations.

MR. SPEAKER: Could you pause a moment? There may be something in the Rules which limits the number of notices of motion and the Clerk of the House is checking that now. He points out Rule 43: "No Member shall give more than two notices of motion in any one day".

Unanimous Consent To Introduce More Than Two Notices Of Motion

Of course Rule 3, I believe it is, allows the Assembly with unanimous consent to waive a particular Rule if that is the wish of the Assembly. Perhaps I can put that question. Does Ms. Cournoyea have unanimous consent of the Assembly to introduce more than two notices of motion today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any objection? Please proceed, Ms. Cournoyea.

Notice Of Motion 14-79(2): Negotiations With Native Organizations

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on November 16, I will raise the following motion that the Government of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly take the position that it must redirect the dates that the Government of Canada will resume negotiations with all native groups immediately and will take the necessary action to rectify the compromises to the rights of the people of the Northwest Territories that have occurred during Mr. Epp's term as Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion? The Honourable Member for Great Slave East, Mr. Sayine.

Notice Of Motion 15-79(2): Funding For Fort Resolution Sawmill

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice on Thursday, November 16, I will move the following motion:

WHEREAS both the federal and territorial governments have committed themselves to the development and exploitation of renewable resources;

AND WHEREAS the Fort Resolution sawmill is the major employer in the community of Fort Resolution;

AND WHEREAS continued operation of this sawmill is the only alternative to the provision of extensive social assistance payments;

AND WHEREAS a Treasury Board submission relating to the provision of a subsidy prepared and submitted in the spring has not yet been considered;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly request the administration to urge the federal government to provide the proposed funding immediately.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sayine. I did not wish to interrupt but I will remind all Members that when you are giving notice of motion the preamble material, the "whereas" clauses should not be read, just the resolution part of the motion and then when you actually move the motion you would include all the preamble material and of course all of us have much learning of that type to do. Are there any other notices of motion? The Honourable Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Noah.

Notice Of Motion 16-79(2): Amendment Of Schedule H Of Wildlife Regulations

MR. NOAH: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of a motion for Friday, November 16, 1979, when I will move: Now therefore, I move that this Assembly recommend to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that schedule H of the wildlife regulations made under section 34 of the Wildlife Ordinance be amended to change the open season for caribou in areas B/5, J/1 and J/2 be amended to July 1st to June 30th each year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah. I would inform all people who are serving notices of motion that you ought to transmit that notice of motion to Mr. Clerk by way of the Pages so it can be typed up properly and distributed to all the Members. Are there further notices of motion? The Honourable Member from Mackenzie Liard, Mr. Sibbeston.

Notice Of Motion 17-79(2): Committee On Unity

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on November 16, I will move the following motion: That a special committee on unity be established by this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion? We will now move to Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

The Honourable Member for Pine Point, Mr. McLaughlin.

Unanimous Consent To Move Motion 9-79(2)

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to request unanimous consent of this Assembly to waive the normal Rules of this Assembly and allow me to present the motion I tabled earlier regarding the selection of the Executive Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin is requesting unanimous consent to approve the motion with respect to the Executive Committee. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any objections? Proceed, Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion 9-79(2): Appointment Of Executive Committee

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I wish to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Yellowknife South that:

WHEREAS the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs has indicated to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the Executive Committee shall include between five and seven Members of this Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that the following Members now be appointed to the Executive Committee:

Mr. George Braden, the Honourable Member for Yellowknife North
Mr. Tom Butters, the Honourable Member for Inuvik
Mr. Arnold McCallum, the Honourable Member for Slave River
Mr. Richard Nerysoo, the Honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta
Mr. James Wah-Shee, the Honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre

AND FURTHER that two additional Members be recommended for appointment to the Executive Committee at a later date.

MR. SPEAKER: We have a resolution with respect to the composition of the Executive Committee. To the motion? The Honourable Member from Frobisher Bay, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in support of the motion, particularly that part of the motion which would permit two positions to remain unfilled at this time but on the clear understanding that this Assembly, of course, does want to reserve the full seven positions to be taken up in due time.

Concerning The Reserving Of Two Executive Positions

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from Keewatin South, Mr. Curley, announced and explained yesterday, an informal caucus of Members from north of the tree line or the area which has been called Nunavut or the area which consists of the present federal constituency of Nunatsiak, has been very concerned about certain problems which we see partly due to our isolation from Yellowknife and partly due to communications problems with participating as actively as we might wish to participate in this most important function of the Executive Committee. We met at some length to discuss this problem to find a way in which we could participate at this time without deserting our constituents and without necessarily having to move to Yellowknife. Unfortunately we found at this time at any rate, not one of the ten Members from that area see themselves in a position to make this rather drastic change, especially since many of us are new to this Assembly. Therefore, we asked the caucus to consider reserving positions with the possibility that further on down the line we may be able to participate either as full Ministers or as Ministers without portfolio. I am pleased to say that I believe we have gained the approval and consent of this Assembly for that idea and I am very pleased to speak in support of this motion, particularly because of the reservation of these two positions.

I would just like to explain a little further, if I may, Mr. Speaker, some of our thoughts on this shadowy question of shadow ministers. The term may be unfortunate if it denotes opposition and it may be that this new concept will over time be labelled in other ways. Parliamentary secretaries has been suggested, assistant ministers, ministerial understudies. I am not really fussy about what words are used, but I do wish to make it clear to this Assembly on behalf of my colleagues from north of the tree line that we do want to participate in the Executive Committee and particularly to allow the Executive Committee to take advantage of us even though we will not be in Yellowknife as often as we would like to be, but none the less to take advantage of our presence in our particular areas, to

consult us, should they feel they might need to consult us with reference to decisions which might affect the special interests of our constituents. Executive Members should feel free to take advantage of us in order to overcome communication problems which they might otherwise experience in dealing with the special problems of our constituents, the majority of whom are Inuit and many of whom do not speak the English language.

A Positive Relationship Wanted

We wish to assure this Assembly and the Ministers that it is our desire to work co-operatively with the Ministers and we are certain that this relationship can be a very positive, helpful relationship, particularly if the Ministers will consult us and will keep us informed, particularly of decisions which may affect our constituents. We are interested in developing better communication lines with the hinterlands and we want to work positively to ensure that the Executive Committee is accountable to all the vast regions of this territory. We do not wish to seek any special status with this Assembly, any formal designation, any special privileges over any other Members, but I am taking the opportunity to announce that we are interested in particular departments and we are interested in assisting the Executive Committee in this manner and I wish to do so by way of explaining what might otherwise be interpreted as our conspicuous absence from full positions on the Executive Committee at this time.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I am pleased also to inform you that we have had an opportunity today to consult with the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and have also received his assurance that he accepts our good intentions with respect to the Executive Committee and our desire to ensure that it reflects the views of the region north of the tree line and that he is looking forward to working with us in a co-operative and consultative manner.

Five Members Wishing To Act As Communication Points

If I may in closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that we have identified from our caucus five persons who are willing to take specific responsibility for acting as communication points. Once the Executive Committee announces the departments and portfolios that those Members will take responsibility for, we too will declare our particular interest in certain portfolios and responsibilities. But for now I would like to announce the names of the five of us who are willing to act in this capacity and who in due course may move into positions on the Executive Committee itself should we see fit and should we find ourselves a little more familiar with the government process than we are at present. I may say that this should afford us an excellent opportunity to learn more about the workings of government and the workings of the Executive Committee. The persons who are willing to serve in this capacity are Mr. James Arreak, Ms. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. William Noah and myself. We will particularly be working, of course, with our colleagues from the area north of the tree line and we look forward to working with, assisting, co-operating with and if necessary correcting the Members appointed to the Executive Committee, who it is my pleasure to state I am pleased to endorse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 9-79(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Is there further discussion on the motion? Are you ready for the question? I have a motion with respect to the composition of the Executive Committee. Those in favour please indicate in the usual manner. Those opposed? Carried unanimously.

---Carried

I, as Speaker, would offer my best wishes and I am sure those of the other Members of the Assembly to these Members, offer them our warmest congratulations, encouragement and support, to Members who will not be seen by us as a group opposed to us, but rather Members who have been given special status and special responsibilities to execute the will of this Assembly. To all of them our warmest congratulations and assurances of support.

---Applause

Are there other motions? The Honourable Member for Keewatin South, Mr. Curley.

Unanimous Consent To Move Motion 10-79(2)

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to move the motion I just gave notice of a moment ago.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley wishes unanimous consent concerning a motion with respect to the make-up of committees. Does he have that consent?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Any opposition? There being none, will you proceed, Mr. Curley?

Motion 10-79(2): Appointment To Members' Services Board And Standing Committees

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mackenzie Great Bear that:

WHEREAS a Members' services board and a number of standing committees are required to assist this Assembly in the proper carrying out of its responsibilities:

NOW THEREFORE, I move that:

(a) a Members' services board be now established to assist the Speaker in considering policy matters relating to the operation of the Legislative Assembly and the provision of services to the Members and that the following be appointed to this board: Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Arreak, Mr. Wah-Shee.

(b) A standing committee on finance be now established and that the following be appointed to this committee: Mrs. Sorensen, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Tologanak.

(c) A standing committee on legislation be now established and that the following be appointed to this committee: Mr. Sayine, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Curley, Mr. Patterson.

(d) A standing committee on Rules and procedures be now established and that the following be appointed to this committee: Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Noah, Mr. Fraser.

(e) A striking committee to name Members for appointments to vacancies which may occur in the membership of any committees or for appointments to any committees which may subsequently be established and the following be appointed to this committee: Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, Mr. Butters, Mr. Patterson.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 10-79(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All those in favour signify in the usual manner. Opposed? Carried unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

Are there other motions? The Honourable Member from Mackenzie Liard, Mr. Sibbeston.

Unanimous Consent To Move Motion 17-79(2)

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I also seek to waive the Rules, the procedure Rules, Rule 1(3), to permit unanimous consent to deal with the motion I had dealing with establishing a committee on unity.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston is requesting unanimous consent in order to deal with a motion with respect to the establishment of a committee, special committee on unity. Does he have that consent?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Any opposition? Proceed with the motion, Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion 17-79(2): Committee On Unity

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that a special committee on unity be established by this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded that there be established a special committee on unity. Mr. Sibbeston, you have the right to begin debate on the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this special committee on unity is to determine the means by which political consensus might be generated amongst the peoples of the North and to make recommendations concerning these means to the Assembly. The general intent, sir, is that throughout the course of the next few months, up to approximately one year, the committee when formed would go around and deal with all the native organizations in the North, talk with them and determine from them what are the types of changes that they would like in order that we can eventually come up with a consensus on the type of government that could be acceptable to everyone in the North. I will just say that much for the time being and perhaps there may be other persons who wish to comment.

MR. SPEAKER: The seconder, Mr. Wah-Shee, would you like to address the motion?

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to express my support for the motion and I do not really want to comment on it any further than that. There may be further debate on it later on.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion has been moved and seconded and is open for general debate. The Honourable Member from Frobisher Bay, Mr. Patterson.

The Possibility Of Partition Must Be Considered

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, while I am certainly in support of the principle of seeking unity and consensus among all the various parts of the Northwest Territories I would wish to make it clear that I would only support this motion if I could be assured that the committee on unity would truly seek to form a consensus of opinion on the subject of government. I notice Mr. Sibbeston used the word in the singular, but if such a consensus could not be obtained that the committee would not be precluded from reporting back to this legislature that in fact the consensus that it had reached after making inquiries in all quarters and studying the matter carefully was that in fact there should perhaps, as I am inclined to believe, be more than one government or more than one territory in the Northwest Territories.

I would want perhaps the mover of the motion to clarify to my satisfaction that while this committee might seek unity and consensus on a form of government in the singular for the Northwest Territories that it would not be precluded from studying the option of partition and from doing research for example on the cost benefit. There may be a significant savings if my beliefs are correct in the costs of administering government were the territories to be divided into one or perhaps even more, more manageable units. So, I would like some clarification on just what mandate the unity committee has, but if you can satisfy me that that committee is in fact open to any consensus that may be reached in the territories, including a possibility of partition which as the Honourable Mr. Butters pointed out is not a new idea, then I would support the motion but I would request clarification on that matter, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen.

Amendment To Motion 17-79(2)

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a motion, I would like to move that this motion be considered in committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: That the Assembly resolve into committee of the whole to discuss the motion?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Although it sounds like a motion made while a motion is on the floor I have been assured by the Clerk of the House in the past that the tradition in this Assembly is to consider such a motion to resolve into committee of the whole to be an amendment to the motion and therefore proper. I will entertain that motion and is there a seconder to resolve into committee of the whole? All right, there has been a motion to resolve into committee of the whole at the present time to discuss the motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for that motion? Mr. Stewart. No other discussion will now be entertained except as to whether or not we should move into committee of the whole. Is there any debate on that motion? Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I think that it is almost necessary that we do go into committee of the whole. This could be the type of program which is very costly. We have no indication of costs, how much money this could run into, we do not know where the money is going to come from and at this time of restraint we certainly cannot see more money coming out of education or some other program and without being able to identify the funds and put some kind of budgetary control, so we know where we are going, we are vulnerable. I do not oppose the motion but I think that to be businesslike we should determine these factors before we blindly give consent to something. On that basis I am supporting the motion to go into committee of the whole.

Amendment To Motion 17-79(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Any other discussion on whether or not we should resolve into committee of the whole? Are you ready for the question? If you are agreed would you please signify in the usual manner? Opposed? That is carried. So, we will do that and if you pause a moment I will find out from the Clerk how we go about it.

---Carried

MR. STEWART: A point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Your point, Mr. Stewart?

MR. STEWART: I was wondering, in past houses we did not necessarily have to go immediately into committee of the whole and inasmuch as there are still some appointments to be made could we finish the motions in formal session before we go into committee of the whole? I have one relative to the Deputy Speaker I would like to present while we are in formal session.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you repeat your last statement, Mr. Stewart?

MR. STEWART: I have a motion which I would like to proceed with on the election of a Deputy Speaker and that has not been handled, before we go into committee of the whole. I wondered if we could clean up the rest of these appointments while in formal session.

MR. SPEAKER: Earlier Mr. McLaughlin had moved the appointment -- no, it was not Mr. McLaughlin, I am sorry. The Clerk informs me and I thought that myself, that it was a motion earlier and the sheet we were given incorrectly called it a "notice of motion" so that earlier when it was proposed Mr. Tologanak was selected at that time as Deputy Speaker of the House. Am I correct in that?

With respect to your other point, Mr. Stewart, I have been advised also by the Clerk that it is not necessary to move immediately into committee of the whole. However Mrs. Sorensen indicated, she was the mover and indicated that she would like to do that immediately. Is there anything further on that point of order? Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I have been lost here somewhere because the paper I have delivered by the Clerk indicates that I gave notice of motion on the Deputy Speaker and there is an assistant Deputy Speaker here and so under what section actually were we able to proceed by way of appointment until now? I am lost someplace.

MR. SPEAKER: It appeared as Item 2 on orders of the day, Mr. Stewart, a special item which appears on the orders of the day apparently once every session and the Deputy Speaker and the deputy chairman of committees of the whole were selected today in the same manner that the Speaker was selected yesterday. When Mr. Tologanak's name was proposed in fact it was a motion and I called for a vote on the motion and it was carried. Is there any other comment on that point or order, Mr. Stewart?

MR. STEWART: No. That clarifies the matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Motions To Refer Are Not Common

MR. BUTTERS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Relative to the suggestion that we move immediately into committee of the whole to consider the motion relative to establishing a unity committee, I would just like to suggest to yourself, sir, and the Assembly, that motions to refer are not that common. They are usually made when the matter is one of some importance and requires much thought,

consideration and an exchange of discussion. We have seen I think, a record set here this afternoon with the number of motions that have been given notice of and received unanimous consent to be introduced, so I would just suggest that in view of the importance of the motion relative to establishing a unity committee, recognizing that there are a number of specific questions that will be asked and raised, that possibly the appearance of this item on the agenda, on the order paper, could occur either tomorrow or the next day. This is a suggestion to be helpful, not to slow up the progress or the business of the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: You rose on a point of order. I am not sure that there was a specific point that you were challenging. Rather, you seemed to be addressing yourself to the motion that was made and carried a short time ago, that this House resolve into committee of the whole, if I am not mistaken, and that it was agreed and I was about to do that when a point of order was raised.
Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a point of order. We are on Item 10 right now, motions, and we are deleting Items 11, 12, 13 and trying to get into Item 14. Items 11, 12 and 13 were not brought before the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: On the advice of the Clerk, Mr. Fraser, I am told that your point is well taken. I will now ask whether there are any other motions to be dealt with under Item 10. We will then after any other motions are dealt with, move to Items 11, 12 and 13 and if there is no business there, we will then consider the referral under Item 14. Are there any further motions? The Honourable Member for Great Slave East, Mr. Sayine.

Unanimous Consent To Move Motion 15-79(2)

MR. SAYINE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In view of the importance of the matter that I have placed before the Assembly I wish also to seek unanimous consent to put forth my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been requested by Mr. Sayine with respect to the sawmill at Fort Resolution. Does he have that consent?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Any opposition? Proceed, Mr. Sayine.

Motion 15-79(2): Funding For Fort Resolution Sawmill

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, I will move the following motion seconded by the Honourable Member from Inuvik, Mr. Butters:

WHEREAS both the federal and territorial governments have committed themselves to the development and exploitation of renewable resources;

AND WHEREAS the Fort Resolution sawmill is the major employer in the community of Fort Resolution;

AND WHEREAS the continued operation of this sawmill is the only alternative to the provision of extensive social assistance payments;

AND WHEREAS a Treasury Board submission relating to the provision of a subsidy prepared and submitted in the spring has not yet been considered;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly request the administration to urge the federal government to provide the proposed funding immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: We have a motion on the floor. To the motion?

MR. SAYINE: To the motion, Mr. Speaker. As the major employer in Fort Resolution, considering the desire of the federal Treasury Board and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development who have conducted a series of studies, primarily the report last summer from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, that this enterprise should be supported with an ongoing subsidy as an alternative to social welfare payments at a greater expense than the subsidy and that this proposal was put forward to the northern development section of the Treasury Board in the early spring, as of this date the submission has still not reached the Treasury Board for consideration.

The Slave River sawmill must make a commitment to the logging contractor to commence a logging operation in two weeks time. I ask why northern development section persists in jeopardizing the livelihood and income of the majority of my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there other discussion on the motion? Mr. Stewart.

A Problem Of Funding

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the situation in Fort Resolution with regard to the sawmill and basically support the motion. However I want to be assured at this time that this particular motion is just asking for the government to try to speed up the federal government supply of money. I want to make sure the territorial government is not getting involved in any way with putting out money for this project until such time as I would know how much money was involved and where the money was going to come from. As long as I have that assurance -- I do believe if I understood the motion correctly, not having a copy in your book it is always difficult to be able to follow these motions exactly -- if I have that assurance, I am quite prepared to support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Since it is a motion in formal Assembly Mr. Sayine would have right of last reply and perhaps he could clarify that for you at that time. Is there other comment on the motion? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, obviously I support the motion and I just wish to give assurances to the Honourable Member from Hay River that the situation he has described is exactly what is intended as a result of this motion, that the operation will be speeded up and the Treasury Board will be approached and given an indication of the urgent requirement for that funding to be made available to the loggers of Fort Resolution.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 15-79(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour of the motion indicate in the usual manner. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

Are there other motions? Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 12, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 13, second reading of bills. Having a look at the clock, I see it is time for coffee and doughnuts and I think we will take an informal recess now and resolve into committee of the whole after the coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: There is now a quorum in the House so I call the Assembly to order.

ITEM NO. 14: CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Item 14 on the orders of the day, consideration of business in committee of the whole as moved. This House will now resolve into committee of the whole to discuss Motion 17-79(2), introduced by Mr. Sibbeston and seconded by Mr. Wah-Shee with Mr. Tologanak in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 17-79(2), Committee On Unity, with Mr. Tologanak in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MOTION 17-79(2), COMMITTEE ON UNITY

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The committee will come to order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to sit here at such short notice. However I would like to say a few things if I may. I am very thankful to the Members for requesting me to be their Deputy Speaker and I will do my best. I have a bit to learn now to be Deputy Speaker, until I learn the parliamentary Rules which I will only have to deal with from time to time and since this is my first chairing in committee of the whole I would ask that you support me as much as you can. I want to assure anyone who may be thinking of my constituency that this will not affect my work in the constituency all that much. I am going to try hard with my work and the people you all know and I will be travelling to the various communities every so often.

So, the committee will come to order to consider a motion regarding the establishment of a special committee on unity. Before I ask Mr. Sibbeston as mover to introduce, or make his introductory remarks I might remind the new Members or some of the new Members of some of the Rules. Everyone gets a chance to speak and if anyone wants to speak again they will have to wait until everyone else has spoken and I would limit your remarks or anyone speaking to ten minutes. Mr. Sibbeston, as mover of the motion, have you any introductory remarks?

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I have made some remarks and I would like to make some remarks only after some other Members have spoken.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Wah-Shee, you are the seconder and do you wish to make any remarks?

MR. WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Can you turn your mike on?

A Political Structure Acceptable To All

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the reason why I support the motion is, in the Northwest Territories for some time now the various interest groups, it would appear to me for various reasons have not come together and of course one of these reasons is the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories have a pending land claim which is yet to be negotiated in good faith on the part of both parties. On the other hand, the various native groups have not accepted nor supported this Government of the Northwest Territories until now and we hope that this new Assembly will start out fresh with a new approach and a new beginning so that we take into consideration the concerns of the various groups that will participate and who are participating to form a political structure which will be acceptable to all. At the present time this is not really the case. It would appear that we do not have unity in the Northwest Territories and it was quite evident from the Honourable Members from the Eastern Arctic. They have expressed their concern with regard to the way possibly that this administration or this territorial government provides various services. Also the native organizations have expressed their intention to negotiate with the federal government with regard to not only land and compensation but also with regard to the political element of their land claim.

At the same time we as Members of this Assembly are sensitive to the wishes and feelings of the native organizations and the people they represent and this situation does not have to continue to exist. I think that we as Members of this Assembly must make an attempt to get a better understanding of their feelings with regard to what direction the Northwest Territories should go.

I also believe that to start off at the present time we should probably look towards ways and means of how we can make the necessary changes to accommodate the concerns of the various groups, and that would also include the non-native people. Hopefully the formation of this special committee will look into the various concerns of the various groups in the territories and make a recommendation to the Members of this Assembly with regard to how we should approach this particular sensitive issue. For these reasons I have seconded the motion and also I am supporting the motion. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie.

Confidence And Support Of All People Needed

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, it happens so often in history that people who point out the fact that problems exist are seen by many other people to be troublemakers or to be a problem in themselves. That so often is regrettable. I recognize that in pointing out a problem now it is possible that I would be branded as someone who is creating a problem. I would simply say at the outset that that is not so. There is a problem which faces the Northwest Territories, a very serious problem and I simply want to take cognizance of that fact.

I wish to support the motion to establish a special committee on unity. That is part of the campaign which I ran in Yellowknife Centre, it is part of the mandate on which I was elected. I spoke in favour of such a committee then, I speak in favour of it now. It is evident to me that this government, as it stands, does not have the confidence and support of all the people of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

I mean that as no insult to the people who did work very hard to bring about a greater source of power to the Northwest Territories in the last assembly. Nevertheless it is true, and there is plenty of evidence to indicate that it is true, not a figment of my imagination. The Dene Nation does not recognize the authority of this government. There are Members in this Assembly who do support the Dene Nation but they have come, as they have stated, not because they recognize this Assembly but because they want to use it as a platform to inform people across the territories of their views. That is one indication then, that there is not unity in the North.

The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada has made a proposal to partition the territories and that is a solid indication that there is not unity. We have heard in the replies to the Commissioner's Address, in the replies of Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Curley and Mr. Noah that there are serious problems as far as they are concerned in accepting the government as it now stands. It is more than problems, they do not accept it as it now stands.

Political Consensus Needed

Now, in light of that kind of evidence I do not think I am a troublemaker in simply pointing out that we have that problem and that we ought to address it. We cannot live in an ivory tower blithely believing that everything is all right and moving ahead as though there were no dissenting voices at all, believing that everything is well. We must establish a committee on unity to investigate the problem that exists and to try and deal with it in an effective and rational way. If we do not strike this committee what is the alternative? Is it to do nothing? To go on as before, moving ahead on a rigid timetable towards "responsible government" and provincial status, pretending there are no difficulties? If that is what this Assembly were to do we might well be able to impose a single political jurisdiction but I sincerely believe that it would be wracked by continuing tension, there would be internal dissent. That would be the one option or, on the other hand if we persist in doing nothing but marching blithely ahead we might get left behind and find that other people go their own way anyway.

I really believe that we have to make a serious attempt to get consensus, a political consensus in the Northwest Territories to bring about a situation where native groups could say in all sincerity, this is my government. But I know they will not be able to say that if we do not change because right at the moment they are telling us they do not accept it. So, it is going to mean we are going to have a single political jurisdiction in the North and it is going to mean that this government would have to modify, alter in significant ways to make it acceptable to the people who now reject it so that as I say, they could say this is my government.

I propose the establishment of an informal committee to try to get that consensus. Its purpose would be to travel, see the leaders of those groups who do not now accept this government, to see the leaders of other groups that would like to have something to say about what the shape of this government should be. I would like to see this little committee consider all relevant material, having a look at the Nunavut proposal, having a look at the expected recommendations of Mr. Drury, having a look at the whole picture and within a year or so coming back to this Assembly as a committee of the Assembly and saying to the Assembly "It would appear that if we are going to have a single government for all people of the Northwest Territories, here are the kinds of changes that apparently would have to be made. Is this Assembly willing to make them or not?"

Unity Can Be Achieved Without Animosity

On the other hand it could very well be and this is where I would want to assure Mr. Patterson on what he said earlier -- it could very well be that the committee after having frank and very open discussions across the territories discovers that a unified territory is perhaps impossible and perhaps its recommendation would be, I cannot say -- perhaps its recommendation would be that maybe there should be a partition. I do not have any presumptions as to what the final recommendation would be. It would report in a year. It is possible, for instance, that when the report is made that many non-native northerners would say to change the government in those radical ways is too much. We could not accept it. Well, it would mean that the changes would not be made because I sincerely mean a government that is acceptable to all people of the Northwest Territories and if we found that we could not create that kind of government, then we must make alternative plans. This can be done without animosity, without rancour. We simply recognize that the disparities are so great that maybe some other kind of political structure is necessary. That would be up to the Assembly to decide.

I would sincerely urge Members to support this motion. The question has been asked as to where would the money come from and I do not want to disparage such a thing as that in a time of restraint. It is a serious question. I would say that the Rules of the Assembly state that special committees should have no more than five Members, so it appears to me that it would be a matter of five Members making several trips to various points in the Northwest Territories on two or three occasions. When I look at our committee structure I see there is a committee on legislation, a committee on Members' services, a committee on finance and all of these have business to do. I would submit there is absolutely no more important committee than a committee, a special committee on unity and that if money can be found for the operation of the other committees, that I am absolutely certain it could be found, with a little ingenuity, for such an important committee as this is. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Sibbeston.

Legitimate Native Groups Must Be Recognized

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the motion is important because it indicates or it will certainly show that if a committee on unity is established that this will be the means whereby this Legislative Assembly can attempt to resolve the present disunity in the North. It also would indicate that this Assembly is not blind to the fact that there are others, there are some very legitimate native groups who have goals and aspirations involving political institutions quite different from this territorial government here and to set up the committee is just to recognize that fact, to say that -- we would almost be saying we are not going to be blind to this but we are going to recognize these other, you know, very legitimate groups.

The committee will be similar, in a sense, to the past assembly's constitutional committee which had put out its own position on constitutional development for this government. The only difference may be that this committee would meet directly with the native groups rather than try to propose constitutional changes by itself. Mr. Chairman, I think it is really important to react positively to the interest shown by the Dene Nation and ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. They have written letters to us saying that they would like to meet with us and I think it is important to be prepared. This committee would be a way of dealing with these groups.

I realize that the purpose of the committee to try to reach a consensus on political institutions in the North is an ideal, but I think it is worthy of our time. I think it is important to have Members on that committee who have the respect of the native groups so that they are not suspicious that we are just going to talk with them and eventually decide on our own what we think best for the North. I think it is important to have persons on the committee who perhaps are present members of native groups.

Attempting To Reach An Agreement In The North

I believe that the general situation in the North here is right for an attempt like we are trying to do, to reach consensus in the North and I say this because things have not been so formulated yet. The Dene Nation is still at a stage where I believe they have made some proposals to the federal government as to what they would like to see in terms of political institutions in the North but I do not believe they are so hard on it that they may not consider other forms of government. COPE, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement is in a situation now where no final agreement has been made and ITC, although they thus far have proposed the Nunavut, I suppose it is not impossible to turn back and be convinced that their goals and aspirations can in fact be met under one political institution in the North.

As to the question asked by Mr. Patterson, whether the committee would necessarily be committed absolutely to the present governmental set-up, I just say that it may be that the committee can be convinced that Nunavut as the people in the Eastern Arctic are proposing, is the right one for them. It may be and in the event that happens that will lend support to them but all we would ask initially is that the ITC people, for instance, be open to seeing whether their aspirations can be met other than through Nunavut under one government. So it is not unity at all costs. Only, you know, if they can be persuaded.

As to the general plan of approach I do not think the committee ought to travel to all the communities and try to get everybody's submission or feelings on the subject. The people throughout the Northwest Territories, the native people, have organizations which represent them and to date these organizations have presented or have formalized certain plans or aspirations about what they would like to see for their government so I think it is sufficient only to meet with these native organization leaders in their headquarters, wherever they be situated, Inuvik, Frobisher Bay or Ottawa. The committee would also consider the Drury report when it does come out and it would also consider the constitutional development paper of the last legislative assembly. As Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie said, it is important to take this action at this time because I think this Assembly needs to have its own position on government for now and in the future.

The Possibility Of One Government For The North

I just say, Mr. Chairman, that the idea of major changes to government or being involved in some form of body to try to resolve the political disunity in the North was part of my political campaign and I can say that I am totally committed very sincerely to see whether it is still possible to form a government, one government for the North. In saying this I say I am recognizing for instance, that the territorial government is in existence. It has big offices here and throughout the North. As you know the government is in place, so it has in a sense a certain advantage in terms of the government for the future. The Dene Nation, for instance, has their own plans or own aspirations for government in the North, but I am sincerely committed to see whether the Dene Nation for instance will compromise. I am also open and hope that this territorial government will compromise so that we may end up with something that is in between.

As to the length of time, I think that all of this work can be done anywhere from within eight months to one year and in proposing this motion I certainly am interested in being on the committee and being totally involved. As some of you may know, I have decided not to be involved in anything else on this Assembly. I am not part of any committee. I am not part of the Executive Committee and the only thing other than my duties in the House would be to this committee because to me it is so important. Whereas at the moment I personally do not accept this government, it may well be that after this committee goes around and makes its recommendations and certain changes are made that the government can become more acceptable. At that point I would certainly be glad to jump into it and be involved, but now I cannot in all conscience, cannot be involved in this government other than on this unity committee. So I certainly urge all of you Members to support it and I think it is done with good intentions and a sincere desire for positive change and coming up with something that the majority of people in the North can eventually accept.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Braden. Before I recognize Mr. Braden I hope you realize we are giving each Member ten minutes because there are other Members who wish to speak and we just lost time with Mr. Sibbeston but I might remind you of ten minutes. Try not to repeat things that were said previously in the remarks. Mr. Braden.

Work Being Presently Done On Constitutional Development

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. I want to say at the outset that I support the motion. There are however a couple of points or questions I guess that I would like to raise at this time. My understanding is that at the minimum this committee would function for eight months. Mr. Sibbeston suggested and Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie indicates that it could probably function for longer than one year. Now, in this time I would see that there are probably going to be certain changes taking place within the territorial government, for example in the Executive branch or in response to Mr. Curley's argument yesterday with greater decentralization within the territorial government administration or increased devolution to community governments. I would also assume that during the time the committee is meeting that negotiations leading to native rights settlements are going to continue taking place between the federal government and the four northern native organizations. I would also assume that some of the measures or benefits that are discussed or decided upon in these negotiations are going to have some implications for government in the Northwest Territories.

My point is that there is momentum taking place right now within this government, within the federal government, within the native organizations, which has as the final result something which is constitutional in nature which produces constitutional change in the way government is structured and the way it operates in the Northwest Territories. I guess my question, and I do not know if I am allowed to ask a question in committee of the whole, but my question is do the people who are proposing this committee assume that constitutional development as I see it, in a fairly wide range, is it going to be stopped all together or at least be allowed to proceed without prejudice to the future?

And similarly in the case of negotiations that are taking place and native claims do we expect that they would not entertain or enter into an agreement with the federal government on any benefits or provisions which are going to prejudice the outcome of this committee's work? So, I just have that general point and I hope I have made it clear and would say again that I very much support the idea although I have a few questions about it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Braden, you had a question and do you want a reply on it now?

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, if there are a lot of other people who wish to speak to this subject I would be satisfied to discuss it informally with Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie and Mr. Sibbeston.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Curley.

The North Is Too Preoccupied With Political Issues

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some concerns that I would just like to comment on because although I am in favour of the idea, I would say that first of all I would like to caution the committee that you establish with regard to running around all over the North and considering the questions which are very much the concerns of the native organizations. They have very capable staff looking after the concerns of the local community, and in fact that they might misunderstand this committee and think they are trying to take the ball away from them, if they are going to be very successful in their duty. I have raised concerns within the caucus that the North is preoccupied with political issues and political development for too long.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: Everything that affects the North seems to be a political problem, and every issue is brought up as a political problem. Even education, this being the Year of the Child, even children, they say, add to the political instability of this government. They have many more issues which are very much of community interest which are blocked because of the political situation. What I am trying to say is maybe then, in trying to put too much on the possibility of division of the territories, this committee might really want to study the impact of this instability, why it is creating such a mess. I think it is creating that kind of atmosphere because there are many problems. If you look at the young people of the Northwest Territories what are they preoccupied with? I think they are missing out on a lot and have no direct voice in public affairs and most importantly I do not think they are even proud of the Northwest Territories and the communities they live in. The simple reason is that the communities have nothing that is of interest to the young people, they lack recreational facilities, they lack communication in the communities.

Discontent With The Present System Of Government

The way I look at this committee -- they may want to shoot me when I say we should get away from the politics and there are certain parts of the population of the North that seem to have such discontent with this present system of territorial government. Sometimes I think we are creating the pessimistic attitude in many young people and I can tell you from the experience I have had, I have been one of those. A few years ago I was told by this legislature that it was the only spokesman; that all native group representatives of the people were not. But it should never be said, or at least they should not have the opportunity to state so in this institution because they just do not realize divisions of the younger generation. I have over the years had many opportunities to speak to the people of the North who have been struck by the other assemblies' desire to be the only spokesman and deny the rest of the interest groups the right to participate. Today we have seen the administration has tried a similar approach by saying the only way to be a responsible citizen and to have a responsible government is to be -- everyone is to be represented by this government. That may well be one of the important areas to have responsible input into the government but I think we should also be looking at how others, the population, the communities, the people in those settlements, how they could take an active role in developing the North, rather than concentrate so much on the political or possible partitioning of the Northwest Territories.

Different Regional Interests

I think that this committee, if it goes ahead and it tends to try and consider all the possibilities, including the division of the Northwest Territories, will only create an atmosphere which it may not want to achieve. So, what I would favour would be, if it would be possible to change the infrastructure, to see why certain communities are feeling such discontent and perhaps it should look more directly into the local government aspects as there are many communities in the Northwest Territories that differ from region to region. My recommendation would be, let us look at all of those different community attitudes and try and find ways to prove that it can become a better place to live and look at the whole territories as it is because you could obviously conclude that we have different regional interests. Many Honourable Members will tell you, sir, that we have a completely different regional atmosphere. For this reason I would be in favour of the committee group attempting to look at the local level, the local problems rather than trying to look at division because I think the political decision possibility can be handled by the native organizations. They are successful with the Government of Canada and if we feel some day we can contribute to that as an Assembly then they may all want to get involved in it but I do not think we should get involved at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Stewart.

A Problem Of Funding

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Curley's remarks and think probably that he has some very, very good points there. Previously I had brought up the matter of financing and at the present time due to the severe restraint situation that we are in, for money to be used for anything it must be found or taken from something else. I suppose if you wanted to get technical that that motion in itself was probably out of order inasmuch as the way it was worded, indicating you are setting a committee up and going to spend money in its operation. That can be overcome with a simple addition of a couple of words in the proper place that we have used many times before, indicating that the Commissioner request to do this, which under normal conditions he has done, but to direct any new type of committee as something to be set up that is going to spend money and looking at the list it is very difficult, without appreciating and having worked on it, to get an indication of how much money we are talking about.

Does this, depending on how you go about this -- I am now referring to the purposes of the special committee on unity and the possible activities and so on, this could cost \$200,000 or it could cost \$500,000 or indeed it could just be a minimal sum of maybe \$10,000, but if we are going to go into something like this and be responsible to the electorate and the administration we are going to say "We need this much money; find it for us," and then take the rap because of cutting back on other programs and having to say to other people "Look, we have not got any money for you because we had to take some of that over here and do this and that with it."

I think Mr. Butters made a very good point that in the past assembly we really did not have that much problem because money was not scarce, but money is scarce now and any time we make a move we are going to have to take money from something to put it to something else. So, therefore, I have no problem in supporting the concept of this at all. I think it is good but exactly what that committee might want to do also is something as suggested by Mr. Curley but I think clearly it should be straightened out and come back with a budget -- how much money we are looking at, how detailed we are going to go into this -- so that we know what we are starting because basically the way that motion is now it is a request to this Assembly to turn over a blank cheque to the committee. I am sure the committee would not intentionally -- I am not suggesting they are going to steal the funds or anything but committees get tied up in their work and it can be very, very costly. So I think on that basis I would like to see the motion come back with complete detail on what they are going to do and how much money it is going to cost. On this basis then if it is a suggestion, a request of the Commissioner, then it would be in order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mrs. Sorensen.

Strong Unity Is Needed Immediately

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that we in the North are in a very unique situation here, a situation where we can spend some time to determine what kind of government we wish. But I would caution the Members of this Assembly that unless we move quickly, very quickly in fact to come to terms with this question of government -- and I too recognize that this government has major problems -- unless we move quickly to come to terms with those problems we may lose what power we have now, right now in 1979 in the Northwest Territories. The world economic situation is in a serious state. You only have to listen to the news, the 12:00 o'clock news every night to know that. We are facing a recession in Canada, I am convinced of it. If not soon, if not within the next few months, but certainly by the end of the year. As the federal government becomes strained for finances it will look more and more toward the Northwest Territories for resource exploitation and we have already had indications of that. The people of Canada, the voters -- and again this is highly political -- the voters of Canada will force this development and unless we, the people of the North, are prepared, are united and know what we want, it is going to be done for us. It is going to be done for us by the people of Canada almost before we know it.

I still support the idea of unity in the North and perhaps the unity committee is the way to go. Some of my concerns are similar to what Mr. Braden had to say. I am particularly anxious to see safety and labour relations responsibility devolved from the federal to the territorial government. These are things that my constituents are concerned about and I would like to see the continuation of decentralization of Northwest Territories government management responsibilities to the communities. I would not like the unity committee to jeopardize those things.

I see this Assembly and the Members who have just been elected to the Executive Committee perhaps giving the kind of direction and change that might be necessary to make this government a government of the people of the Northwest Territories. So while I support the idea of the unity committee I too, have grave doubts about whether we really need the kind of committee that has been proposed. Perhaps we really need to do what Mr. Tagak Curley has talked about earlier. Thank you.

Government Of The North, For The North And By The North

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that all Members would be in favour of attempting to get a government of the North, for the North and by the North. I do not think anybody here in my opinion would have a difficulty with that. Whether that is going to be in one form of setting or speeded up, I think what we are trying to get is government in the North totally. The comments that have been made previously obviously express concerns with individual Members, but let me assure you that I have no difficulty whatsoever with setting up this kind of committee. I am here to get a consensus and though the last assembly may not have achieved all that people from without thought it could and should have, nevertheless, as has been stated, we did work on consensus and if we can get people from all over to do that, then I think that we will have achieved the purpose for each and every one of us being here.

I think that there are a great many things that we must take into consideration if we are to begin this kind of -- call it an inquiry, call it any kind of communication with people. We would not be unique in attempting to reconcile all the aspirations of all the peoples because this is a fairly unique part of the country. All governments have difficulties in truly representing all people. You simply have to look at the South and see what goes on, in the various parts of the rest of Canada attempting to come together. I think that there is a concern being expressed with the possible movement, that is, the rapidity at which we are going to go into this. I appreciate very much the comments of the last speaker and the kinds of concerns that she raised in terms of being prepared for what will happen. I think that there are many things that have to be taken into consideration.

Work Of The Past Assembly Should Not Be Rescinded

It has been expressed now and yesterday that various organizations within the North want to rescind the work of past -- not just the past council, the past assembly, but previous councils to that. There are certain Members that would want to ensure that the paper that was developed by the last assembly will not be the position of this particular House and yet yesterday there was a motion and already today it has been referred to, that we should not throw everything out, that we have to look at all things. I think that there are a great number of things that we can take a look at. I think that to move with a great deal of haste without knowing where we are going or what we want to do may very well jeopardize aspirations of others. But I think that we have to have some kind of an idea of what we want to do. I think we have to be able to come together and the fundamental basic principle is to get everybody together. As I said earlier, I do not think anybody would be against that and I for one would not be. So I would support the motion to form a committee, form a committee that would reflect the kind of diversities that we have within this Assembly that would be able to go out and not only meet with the leaders of various organizations, if there are any organizations that encompass a number of them, meet with them. I think it is necessary to go into the communities sometimes to talk to the band council, the settlement councils and these. I do not think it is going to be a very easy task.

A More Representative Government Needed

I recall previous assemblies trying to come up and face the reality of this, that there is dissatisfaction and maybe, as has been indicated by Members, even more so than just dissatisfaction. We attempted to grab back and try to do something about it and maybe we used the wrong term when we said we wanted to have an inquiry and were told by the federal government no, that is too important in that particular time of Canada and especially in the North. We will give it to Bud Drury.

I think if we are serious about representing people who are here there should not be anybody in this particular House who would go against coming to grips with it. How it is done, how long it will take, those are going to be things that must occur as time goes by but I think we should be of one particular mind that we are going to have to make this government accessible, even more accessible than it is now, representative, more representative than it is now and we should be committed to the one purpose of it. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I realize some of the Members who have spoken want to speak again to perhaps reply to some of the remarks that have been made but I want to follow the Rules and we have another person at this point. Perhaps Mr. Sibbeston and Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie could wait until Mr. Butters is finished. Mr. Butters.

Committee Budget

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the motion that the Honourable Member from Mackenzie Liard has made. I would expect that his motion does not contravene any of our Rules because we are entitled to spend our own money in our own budget for Members' committees as we see fit. However, when I am finished speaking I would like to know just how much money Mr. Remnant has in the budget for special committees and standing committees and how much, if I might use "fat" do we have in that budget which could be used for the purpose that the mover has suggested.

One thing I would suggest to Members is that I think we have been moved by the eloquence of the mover and our Speaker. It would appear that many Members recognize that change is required and I think that the Honourable Member from Central Keewatin referred to the winds of change or that this would be the Assembly of change. The motion and the direction of the motion I think is most pertinent.

Just before I finish my remarks I would agree too that probably the voice that we should also listen to with a great deal of concern and immediacy is that of the Honourable Member from Yellowknife South. What Mrs. Sorensen has said is exactly the fact of our territorial life. The pressures that will be made upon this Assembly by the outside forces pursued by the economic demands of our nation will be landing right here on our table and we cannot ignore them. We must deal with them and we must recognize that whatever our response is, and whatever our reaction is, whatever our recommendations are that they are realistic and they meet with the interests and aspirations and needs of our fellow Canadians. If we do not do this they will overrun us.

I would just like to rephrase something the Commissioner said yesterday when he was making reference in his speech, and he was speaking for the whole territories but I think with a bit of paraphrasing his words could apply directly to this Assembly. He said a further reality which we must recognize is our tiny population when viewed in the context of the rest of our country. We must be careful not to be lured into divisions which could weaken our voice and destroy our power. We need each other, our strength is in unity and I would add that our challenges are many. As one last suggestion to further this motion, if Mr. Remnant finds that we are short dollars I think it would be rather symbolic that we suggest that the money put aside for the Legislative Ball be used for this purpose.

---Applause

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Sibbeston.

On The Motion Being Unlawful

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Stewart has raised the possibility that perhaps this motion is unlawful as he says and I must say I find it extremely annoying that Mr. Stewart would raise a point like this. He ought to know we are dealing with a committee of the legislature and there is provision under the Council Ordinance which he passed which covers the holding of meetings, covering the expenses incurred in holding Assembly committee meetings and also covering payment to Legislative Assembly Members for that. I just cannot understand why he would raise that in an attempt to frustrate this, to have a committee on unity.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Nerysoo.

Devolution Of Authority To The People

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I myself am in support of the committee on unity or for unity. I agree that it would be necessary to find finances for this committee but I also find it necessary and important that a committee which will look at, I guess the structure of government that we will have in the future, is a need. I feel there has been an attempt to develop a central government without recognizing there is a need to strengthen the regional government, to strengthen the local governments. Unfortunately that has been the fact. We have continued to say in the past, and I am referring to "we" because I am one of this Assembly now, but there is a need to devolve authority to this institution without even considering the fact that the need to include the devolution of authority to people, and I am including in this, people in communities.

Therefore I think that institutions that are to be developed should include communities and regions. The other thing is the so-called devolution of authority. I have the same opinion that the eastern representative has had for a couple of days now, and that is the authority has been transferred to Yellowknife and not to the people. The kind of institution and the kind of government which has been developed has not been a government that people have been involved in. Therefore, I think it is necessary for this task force, for this special committee.

The other thing is for a long time now, especially over the last year, there has been considerable disagreement with the fact of setting up a land claims secretariat within the territorial administration. I think more important than the land claims secretariat is in fact this unity committee who will in fact figure out what is it and how is it that the people of the Northwest Territories can in fact work together. The idea of aboriginal rights should be left with people who do have the right to negotiate those aboriginal rights and we should in fact take on the responsibility of not denying those people. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Patterson has not spoken yet and I am willing to defer.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie. I think we are making progress here this afternoon. It seems that there was a strong point made by Mrs. Sorensen and others that while we are debating and trying to resolve the tremendously complicated political questions, the rest of the world is relentlessly marching on and we will soon be caught up in the sweep of events that will overwhelm any plans we have for any kind of political development. Mr. Curley also I think quite reasonably pointed out the tremendous challenge facing this committee in tackling these very delicate, complicated questions involving political matters and political development.

However, I do feel that by the same token these questions cannot be ignored or left to native organizations alone, necessarily, by this government. Specifically, for example, Mr. Epp, the Honourable Mr. Epp told a press conference in Frobisher Bay that he was going to consult this Assembly on its position on Nunavut before he decided how his department was going to react. The first ministers' conference on constitutional amendment to the constitution of Canada, with that planning is well under way. It is not clear yet who is going to speak for this government at that conference, although the indications are that we will be asked to participate in these most important talks where native rights, particularly, will be on the agenda for discussion.

Strong Unity Already Exists In The North

I think we must in discussing this committee and its terms of reference and responsibility not ignore these demands that are going to be placed on this Assembly. We have also got to respond to Mr. Drury. We cannot pretend that his report is not going to be laid before us and we are going to be consulted for a reply. I do not want to encourage the unity committee to discuss that division, that possibility in a way that will preclude any chance of progress being made, but my point of view is that if there is a case for unity and particularly if there is a case for continuing the Northwest Territories in its present form, then let that case be made because many people and I think people particularly in the area that I know best, the barren lands, if you like, many people are saying "Why should the territories and how can the territories remain together?" There is strong unity in the lands north of the tree line. Perhaps we have a simple task in achieving this unity since our geography is homogeneous, the majority language and the majority population is clear. There are strong local governments. There are strong regions. Let this committee examine these strengths and see whether or not they can be incorporated into our present government.

I also feel that we cannot ignore a direction that seems to be coming from this Assembly already and that has clear reservations about the previous paper on constitutional development. Perhaps by the end of this week we will know whether it is the wish of this Assembly to abandon this previous position. The legitimacy of the land claims secretariat has been seriously questioned, to my knowledge, by all the major native organizations. Perhaps if we are talking about finding funds to do the work of this committee, particularly if it will be working hard and travelling and spending money, once the position on the territorial government's role in land claims has been considered through Mr. Nerysoo's motion we will be able to say that the position of the territories previous administration and previous government on land claims is no longer the position of this government. I understand considerable funds which have been funnelled into the land claims secretariat have been wasted and could be diverted to this unity committee.

Advice On Constitutional Matters Needed

My view is that, like it or not, this government cannot afford not to respond to these difficult questions. I would hope that this unity committee and I would be interested in getting a reaction from the mover and the seconder -- I would hope that this unity committee could, if it could achieve consensus, give this new government guidance as to how we are to participate in constitutional amendment for the constitution of Canada, because again these questions will not go away. If we do not participate decisions are going to be made with or without our advice. I share the concern of many speakers that time is running out. I see the committee as having an urgent mandate to try and bring all these different directions together. I am also very heartened to see strong support in principle which I share for the desire and sincerity of the attempt to achieve consensus if it can be achieved. Let us look at this committee as an opportunity to focus all these concerns in one place, assess all that has happened in the past and provide a direction with the help of this Assembly from time to time when it is required, provide a direction for this government to take on the question of constitutional amendment in Canada, on the question of our role, if there should be any role at all in land claims negotiations.

I am inclined to agree with the prevailing sentiment, the direction we seem to be going is that no, that is going too far, that the land claims secretariat and the attempt of the territorial government to try and interfere in land claims has caused more problems than it has offered solutions. But let us address these questions and put all our focus into this committee if we are going to establish it and make the case for unity or make the case for other options. However difficult these questions are we have got to grapple with them and we have got to grapple with them in a hurry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, or is there someone else who wants to speak, not having spoken before? Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie.

A Desire To Preserve Political Unity

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each person who expressed support for the unity committee I am sure has his or her own reasons for doing so. I would like to express very emphatically that the reason I support such a committee is that it is my sincere desire to preserve the political unity of this territory and its people if these can be preserved by consent and not by imposition and to look at other arrangements if they cannot.

I am very pleased to see the tone of the debate thus far. To me it is an indication that perhaps something may well be done of value by this committee if it is to be established. I believe that an amendment will be necessary in order to make the motion acceptable and operative if it is to be voted on and passed, but I will not make such an amendment right now until there is more discussion. I do not think it is something we need rush. I am not in a hurry to railroad anything through.

Some of the Members who have spoken raised questions and concerns and if I may give my response to those just as another Member in the Assembly, to Mr. Braden who was concerned about the fact that there are other important political developments taking place, I agree that there are. I simply have the feeling that we ought not leave ourselves in a position where others make suggestions and then we react or respond, but that through this means we take the initiative to try to do something realistic, addressing the problem as directly as possible rather than taking a passive role and just responding to what others suggest, whether it is the Dene Nation or the ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, or the Drury inquiry, that we delve into it.

On The Question Of Funding

To Mr. Stewart, I did not feel that Mr. Stewart was trying to frustrate the attempt to set up such a committee. Stewart, MacQuarrie, I guess both Scotsmen or at least of Scottish origin are concerned about money as well and I recognize that is a serious question that has to be addressed. I was interested to note that Mr. Stewart felt that the concept was okay, but that certain things had to be accomplished if we were going to do it properly. I would ask Mr. Stewart as these discussions proceed if he would give us the benefit of his wisdom as to how to structure it in a way that will make it viable and acceptable.

To Mrs. Sorensen who expressed the idea that maybe we already have the instrument in our hands to bring about the desired change because we have Members here who are representative of all the ethnic groups, and perhaps they could initiate the kinds of changes that would be acceptable. I think that is very tantalizing for many people to believe, except that I perceive or at least I feel that there is a slight problem with that and that is we must remember that the people who are here in many cases have committed themselves to the aspirations and ideals not in an official and formal way but in a personal way to the aspiration and ideals of the organizations which represent their people. I am certain, though I may be corrected by these Members, that they would not want to initiate that kind of change but that they would prefer they go to the association which represents their people in order to find out what kinds of changes might be acceptable.

Mr. McCallum's remarks are generally appreciated and supported. Again I have heard Mr. McCallum say this in the past and I understand and accept the main theme of his argument which is that over a period of time he and other Members have been trying to transfer power from the South to the North where it belongs. I say that is absolutely what we ought to be doing, but there is one question that arises prior to that and that is who should be the repository of that power when it arrives here? My point is that the assumption has been made that it ought to be this government. My point is, further, that many people have been saying that they do not think so as long as it is government; it is not shaped by them and accepted by them. They may agree that it should be the repository of power if we modify this government in ways that would be acceptable to them.

The Legislative Ball

Mr. Butters, an excellent suggestion that the funds be found in those funds that were set aside for a Legislative Ball. I am not a person who is especially austere. I like a good time and I hope that in better times we will not take this as a precedent, thinking that this Assembly should never commit funds to having social occasions that also help to bring people together in the North so that certainly, in other words, next year I would perhaps want to go on with the Legislative Ball. I am not against it in principle at all but I think there are times in the lives of all people when they must put away party hats and balloons and climb into overalls and get to work. I think maybe this is the time for us to do it. I would support the funds coming from that direction this year.

To all Members if what I have said in my initial statement is true, that is, there really are groups of people and individuals who do not accept this government as it is now constituted, then we have a serious problem. I, in caucus, have proposed a particular solution which is the establishment of this committee and I am supporting it here now but I would say very frankly to anyone that if you acknowledge there is a problem and can suggest a more effective way to address it directly then I am willing to listen and perhaps support it but I am not willing to do nothing. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Mr. Stewart.

Funding For Jobs Necessary

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I had made it clear that I do not oppose this motion. I certainly was not trying to frustrate the committee but I think that unless we are to be blinded and look for a pie in the sky all the time it is fundamentally sound to try and find out how much money we will be committing to a project and where we will get the money. Just to pass a resolution or a motion really does not accomplish anything unless we give them the tools to finish the job. I am fully aware that the Assembly has its own funding but until I know how much money we are looking at here, or an estimate, I really do not know whether or not there would be sufficient in our funds to look after this project or not. If we do not have them then, of course, where do we get them?

Now, that is my only basic concern because I do not like going through the actions of passing certain things that may look on the surface to be motherhood, I do not think in this case that is the proper terminology, but there are many motions that come forth in the course of a session and we give our stamp of approval and nothing ever happens to them. The book on motions that have been passed by previous assemblies is very, very full of motions and no action has ever been taken on them because the motions were not set up properly to cover things such as money and how they would be carried on. My statement with regard to financing on this was just that I think it is important to know that if we are going to do this that we cover these things so that they can be done and not just vote for voting's sake. If I have left the wrong conclusion with certain Members I certainly was not trying to frustrate anybody but if we are going to do something let us make sure we have the wherewithal to do it and not just pass motions for motion's sake. I would be glad to look at the paper with you, Mr. MacQuarrie, and see if we can put it together in a manner where we could try and assure that these circumstances would be covered. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Is there any further discussion? Mr. Patterson.

Representation Of The Committee

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. MacQuarrie or Mr. Sibbeston to address my question. Does this committee hope to represent the Northwest Territories in its responsibility to respond to the process which is well under way to amend the constitution of Canada and will it include in its mandate the responsibilities which have been previously undertaken by the special committee -- was it called on political development or constitutional development? I cannot recall now. I would appreciate it if those questions could be addressed for my clarification at least. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Hon. Robert MacQuarrie or Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I did not quite get the last part but on the matter of making some presentation or the matter of constitutional amendment, offhand I had not given that much thought. The present way I suppose, or the present British North America Act, the way the provisions are under the BNA Act regarding our situation here in the North is the federal government has complete authority to deal with the Northwest Territories as it wishes. If you are saying perhaps we ought to recommend to the people who are amending the constitution that perhaps there should be some provision in there where the people of the North for instance, could vote themselves into provincehood then I suppose there would be some merit in that but offhand I certainly was not thinking of going to that extent.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I may to further clarify my question let me give an example. The people in the area, call it Nunavut or whatever, I believe are unhappy with this government in one respect and I can give just an example. They have received no guarantees from this government that the Inuktitut language will be recognized by the federal government or by this government as an official language; it is the language of the majority in Nunavut but it is not an official language of the territorial government, it is not the language of government.

Participation In First Ministers' Conference

If for example your committee, and I am only giving this as one example and there are many other so-called rights and many of these rights come under the heading of native rights which will be the subject of discussion at the first ministers' conference on amending the constitution, if you should determine that one way in which this government would be if their language rights, and they consider it a right, were to be recognized, then I can see this recommendation as having implications, fundamental implications in the constitution of Canada. The Inuktitut language would have to be recognized by constitutional amendment and protected by constitutional amendment and in this regard, and this is just an example, I would think that your committee should formulate a position for this government at the first ministers' conference should we be given status to participate. I have every reason to believe from what the Commissioner has told me that it is the intention of the Government of Canada to permit the Northwest Territories government, and indeed the major native organizations in Canada to participate in these discussions. Therefore I would ask, would you see your committee as therefore representing the consensus of opinion in the Northwest Territories in those discussions? Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: What you suggest was not entirely within the terms of reference of the committee as I had thought of it initially. I recognize that the concerns you have will have to be addressed by this Assembly. Somewhere we will have to try and have input at those conferences but this committee is just a committee of the House. It would have to come back with recommendations to the Assembly and I would find it hard to see how it could do that in an interval which is very short, when it was trying to carry on its work of trying to find out entirely in the North to get at what people in the North are concerned about. If at any time the House found it necessary to make representation to the South and the House got the Members of this committee together and asked where are you with it now and that sort of thing, in order to get some direction that could be done but I cannot see the committee itself having the authority as part of its initial mandate to participate in those conferences. If you feel you should of course you can make such an amendment and that would be voted on by this Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Is there any further discussion? Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you. In view of the hour I suggest we report progress.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Is that the wish of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Then I shall report.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Remnant has wound up our keys and pointed us in the right direction so both myself and the chairman of the committee of the whole know what we are supposed to do. I would call upon the chairman of the committee of the whole as to whether there is any report. Mr. Tologanak.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Motion 17-79(2), Committee On Unity

MR. TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been meeting to consider a motion proposing the establishment of a special committee on unity and wishes to report progress. The progress has been that there have been many questions concerning the formation of a committee, how it would operate. There have been many questions on where it would be funded from and how. The motion does not cover that. The motion was not questioned or voted upon at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: One of our Members has suggested the clock be recognized. Mr. Clerk, are there any announcements?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Members will recall that they agreed a couple of days ago that arrangements be made for a group photograph which has been done and the photographer is standing by in Katimavik A awaiting the adjournment of today's sitting. Mr. Speaker, I think Members are also aware that there is a caucus meeting at 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning in Katimavik A as was agreed upon by Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. There is one further announcement that I would like to make for the benefit of the public, the gallery and the press and that was that although it is not an official position in the Assembly, they might like to know that today the Honourable Member from Pine Point, Mr. Bruce McLaughlin was chosen by the caucus to be its chairman.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, the orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 15: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Orders of the day, November 15, 1979, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Continuing Replies to Commissioner's Address
3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Notices of Motion
9. Motions; Motions 2-79(2), 3-79(2), 4-79(2), 5-79(2) and 6-79(2)
10. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
11. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
12. Second Reading of Bills
13. Continuing Consideration of Business in Committee of the Whole; Motion 17-79(2)
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., November 15, 1979, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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