



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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Speaker: The Honourable Robert H. MacQuarrie, M.L.A.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SPEAKER

The Honourable Robert H. MacQuarrie, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2895
Yellowknife, N.W.T., X0E 1H0
(Yellowknife Centre)

The Honourable George Braden, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 583
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0
(Yellowknife North)
(Minister of Economic Development
and Tourism)

The Honourable Thomas H. Butters, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1069
Inuvik, N.W.T.
X0E 0T0
(Inuvik)
(Minister of Education and of Justice
and Public Services)

The Honourable Arnold J. McCallum, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 454
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
X0E 0P0
(Slave River)
(Minister of Social Services
and of Health)

The Honourable Richard W. Nerysoo, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0
(Mackenzie Delta)
(Minister of Renewable Resources)

The Honourable James J. Wah-Shee, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 471
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0
(Rae-Lac la Martre)
(Minister of Local Government)

Mr. Kane E. Tologanak, M.L.A.
Coppermine, N.W.T.
X0E 0E0
(Central Arctic)
(Deputy Speaker)

Mr. Dennis G. Patterson, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 262
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.
X0A 0H0
(Frobisher Bay)
(Deputy Chairman of Committees)

Mr. Tagak E.C. Curley, M.L.A.
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
X0C 0G0
(Keewatin South)

Mr. Ludy Pudluk, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 22
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.
X0A 0V0
(High Arctic)

Mr. Moses Appaqaq, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
X0A 0W0
(Hudson Bay)

Mr. Mark Evaluarjuk, M.L.A.
Igloodik, N.W.T.
X0A 0L0
(Foxe Basin)

Mr. Robert Sayine, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.
X0E 0M0
(Great Slave East)

Mr. Joe Arlooktoo, M.L.A.
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
X0A 0N0
(Baffin South)

Mr. Peter C. Fraser, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 23
Norman Wells, N.W.T.
X0E 0V0
(Mackenzie Great Bear)

Mr. Nick G. Sibbeston, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0E 0N0
(Mackenzie Liard)

Mr. James Arreak, M.L.A.
Clyde River, N.W.T.
X0A 0E0
(Baffin Central)

Mr. Bruce McLaughlin, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 555
Pine Point, N.W.T.
X0E 0W0
(Pine Point)

Mrs. Lynda M. Sorensen, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2348
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0
(Yellowknife South)

Ms. Nellie J. Cournoyea, M.L.A.
Box 1184
Inuvik, N.W.T.
X0E 0T0
(Western Arctic)

Mr. William Noah, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 125
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
X0C 0A0
(Keewatin North)

Mr. Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1877
Hay River, N.W.T.
X0E 0R0
(Hay River)

OFFICERS

Clerk
Mr. W.H. Remnant
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0

Clerk Assistant
Mr. P.F. de Vos
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0

Sergeant-at-Arms
Major D.A. Sproule, C.D. (SL)
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0

Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Captain H.L. Mayne, C.D. (Ret'd)
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0

LEGAL ADVISOR

Mr. S.K. Lai
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X0E 1H0

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1980

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Arreak, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Curley, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. Stewart

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): Please be seated.

Item 2, continuing replies to Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 2: CONTINUING REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Are there further replies? The Hon. Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Noah.

Mr. Noah's Reply

MR. NOAH: Mr. Speaker, Members of this Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to be in this Assembly. I would like to say at this present time what I have mentioned before regarding the airports in our communities. In Baker Lake we have been requesting a hangar for quite some time, a terminal. Ever since 1963 and at that time they said in three or four years they would be able to make a terminal. Years have passed and nothing has happened yet. In Baker Lake the weather is very cold and the winters are long. The people who are arriving, the Inuit and the white people to Baker Lake and the people leaving, always have to wait outside. I do not really like this business at present, especially the people who are leaving Baker Lake, if the flight has been delayed, they have to wait outside. Mr. Speaker, you know what I am talking about, so I will not elaborate on it too much. We would like support from the territorial government and from the federal government and from the Legislative Assembly. If they are not going to make the terminal, they tell us that they would be making it around 1980, that is what I have heard.

We met with Ministry of Transport last year and they told us that in 1983 they would start the project, but I heard again this year that they would make it in 1986. We have been promised a lot of times that we would get it this year and also, during the cold weather when the plane arrives sometimes one propeller is going. The Inuit people and the white people who are over at the airport stand on one side of the plane. If Ministry of Transport is not going to build a terminal in the near future, there is going to be an accident one of these days. That is what I wanted to express first.

Native Hunters In The N.W.T.

The second point is to do with the hunters, the native hunters. The hunters do not have steady employment. When they make the laws for Canada, they are included in the laws, or international laws. We, in the Northwest Territories, are not very happy about the situation. The native people hunt to make a living. They do not have to make money out of it. They just hunt for a living. They do not have any steady employment. The cost of clothing and food and skidoo parts is very expensive and they cannot get help. If they get lost during the hunt, the hunters and trappers organize themselves to find the hunters that are lost. I would like you to think about this, how the native hunters can be helped in some way. When they make an international law, I would like the people that make the law to think about the native hunters and include them in this also.

In southern Canada, the southerners hunt to make a living when they hunt big game. They only think about making money when they hunt in southern Canada. Our way of living in the Northwest Territories is quite different from southern Canada. The native people of the Northwest Territories when they hunt, they hunt to keep themselves alive. The native people who hunt in the Northwest Territories hunt whether it is bad weather or good weather. They only think about their survival. They do not think about the hours of the clock. They only think about their survival and the need for food. When he hunts, he thinks about himself, his family and his children, to provide food for them. We have been living in the Northwest Territories here for over 4000 years now. We are going to keep on living in this part of the Territories. In part of the Baffin region maybe you have heard about a guy charged because he had something to do with breaking the game laws. The reason why I said this is because I want more people to understand how much hard work it is to try to survive by hunting alone.

Going Back To The Land

Thirdly, I would also like to talk about the native people again. I would very much like to see the native hunters going back to the land because I know that they can live on the land providing for themselves from the land. I also know of a place where there is plenty of fish and other game. The things I am expressing today are very important and they are all true, very important. I know that the native hunters in the Northwest Territories have a way of living through making carvings, prints and other handicrafts, but it is very hard when everything, the cost of living is very, very high. If the territorial government or the federal government could somehow provide some money, I would really like to see a new land where there is plenty of game and plenty of places to get fish.

I see the people in my communities could go out on the land, but they have to stay in the settlement and it just seems that they are prisoners. They are being told how much game to catch and when they can hunt. They say that you can only get sea mammals but if you want to get land animals, you have to get so much. They seem to be trying to erase the real Inuit way of life. If they break a game law, they are going to be charged with violating the game law without being told exactly what they have broken and I am not going to be supporting this.

I also know in the southern part of Canada some of the animals are being destroyed by oil spills and I also heard that they are not allowed to get any of the bowhead whales all over the world. The Inuit people of the Northwest Territories are even included in this law without thinking about our traditional way of hunting and without thinking of unemployment among the native people and without thinking about the high cost of energy, clothing and food. I would like you to think about this.

Help For Lost Inuit Hunters And Trappers

I know that if the government people would help the Inuit properly then the Inuit would help the government too. If they go back to their old way, to the camp, then they would make more money on trapping. Maybe they could go out on the land in the summertime and return to their settlement in the wintertime. I also know that many people would want to go back to the land and that they would even be happy to do it and on the other hand the hunters and trappers could get a grant or be given some money and that money could be used to rescue the people who are lost when they are hunting.

Right now the RCMP and the Armed Forces are the people who go looking for the hunters who are lost but then again if the weather is bad and depending upon what time they are supposed to be looking for the lost hunters, that is the procedure. That is okay for the non-native people, but it is not the way that the native people want it. There have been many times when these hunters that were lost have died because the police, the RCMP in the communities were waiting for the plane to rescue the people who were lost. If the hunters and trappers were given some money they would act much faster if they had to go looking for people who are lost who are out hunting. I am not saying that the RCMP and the Canadian Armed Forces are not doing their job properly, I am just trying to say how much more effective it would be.

During a snowstorm or a little bit of bad weather the RCMP cannot go out looking for the hunters who are lost. I know that the hunters and trappers would be able to go looking for the people who are lost out hunting even though there is a little bit of bad weather or it is in the middle of the night. I would like you to think about this, the Legislative Assembly and also the Government of the Northwest Territories, on how it could be more effective.

Education In The North

Right now I would like to talk a little bit about education in the North. I got a letter from the Fort Smith, AVTC, Adult Vocational Training Centre, because some of the people who come from Baker Lake go to school over at Fort Smith at AVTC. They told me that the allowance that they get over at the school is too small and they cannot always get what they have to live with. I will not elaborate on this too much because we have a Member from Fort Smith and he should know quite a bit about it. What I am going to say right now, it would be better if I did not say it but I want to say it because I would like some answers.

Here in the Northwest Territories there are beginning to be a lot of single parents who live by themselves and there are getting to be more every year. This business of so many single parents, I think the Legislative Assembly would have to start facing it a little bit more. They must be aware that we could get something started or maybe there is an alternative that we could use, because there are a lot of things that are not right. They have to start to find their own accommodation and after living with their parents they are no longer wanted in the family's household. Again too, if there are too many people in the house then it is more dangerous for health reasons and there could be more communicable disease.

I know there are a lot of young girls who get pregnant but whoever got them pregnant does not want to marry them. It would be much better if they got married or just lived together because of the high cost of accommodation. I am thinking about the high cost of food and clothing. I am thinking about the dangers of communicable disease, or I am even thinking about the way people can get along together in a family situation and sometimes they are not always given proper housing. There is the high cost of utilities and fuel and I want to say a little bit more about what I would like you to think about.

Support For Single Mothers

If they were to make a law here in the Northwest Territories so that the people who get the single parent pregnant, they would be able to support the woman or be forced to pay a certain amount or put them in jail for a certain number of days. I am talking about this because I would like you to think about it and I know that Mark Evaluarjuk is worried about that same topic also. I am not saying that I am better than the people who I am talking about or that I am better than them. I think there must be a way of finding a solution to this problem.

I am going to talk about this last thing that I want to say. My four constituencies have expressed to me that they would like the hunters and trappers to be assisted. There must be a way somehow for the hunters and trappers to be given some funding; for the large communities \$6500 and for the smaller communities \$4000. If the money can be located somehow I am going to be introducing a motion on that topic. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah. The Hon. Member from Mackenzie Liard, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Sibbeston. We are not getting any translation.

MR. SIBBESTON: I will speak in English today because there are a lot of technical things that cannot be interpreted. Some people would not like it. Also I would like to speak English because otherwise there may be misinterpretation. Therefore, I want to speak English today. Mr. Speaker...

MR. SPEAKER: Would you just pause a moment while the Inuit translation is made?

Mr. Sibbeston's Reply

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, this being a budget session, it provides an opportunity to review the powers of this Legislative Assembly as regards the budget and to tell you some of the things I will be raising during this session. We will be dealing with the budget for 1980-81. In fact, we have been given a thick book. Do we now just look through it and pass it? Just how much power do we have to change things and get the things that we want for our constituents in the budget? I know it is a natural reaction that when you go to a meeting, somebody shoves a bunch of papers in front of you and the natural reaction is to begin looking at it and dive into it. Now, before we deal with this budget, I would suggest that it would be a good thing to review and know what our powers are. I know that many people sometimes talk about the territorial Legislative Assembly and they say, "It is just an advisory body. It does not really have any powers." While this may have been true at one time, I think that this is no longer true, that this Assembly really does have some powers. In my view, the Assembly's power lies firstly in its power to pass ordinances and this is provided pursuant to section 13 of the Northwest Territories Act. The budget comes to us in the form of an ordinance which we must pass. That is the first power; and we do not have to pass the budget, if we do not want. So that is the first and real power that we have.

Power Through The Executive Committee

Now the second way that this Assembly has power is through the Executive Committee. The Northwest Territories Act in sections 3 and 4 makes the Commissioner the Chief Executive Officer and gives him power to administer the government on instructions from the Minister. Section 4 of the act is sufficiently broad that the Minister can establish an Executive Committee with elected persons on it, which he has done. Now, the Minister in doing this has obviously decided that the Commissioner should not be alone in exercising the executive powers in running this government.

The Minister has decided in effect that the Commissioner must share his power and authority so in law, looking at it on a technical basis, according to the Northwest Territories Act, the Commissioner is still the sole Chief Executive Officer, but in reality the Minister has decided that the Commissioner must share his powers with elected Members. So, in my view, the Executive Committee Members are more than just advisers to the Commissioner. They have real powers.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIBBESTON: The powers that we, therefore, have are through the Executive Committee. We elect or suggest to the Commissioner that certain persons should be on the Executive Committee and if ever it should happen that the Executive Committee Members do not follow this Assembly, do not follow the wishes of the Assembly, then we can kick them off and get someone else. I think this should never be forgotten by the Executive Members.

Powers Of The Commissioner

Now, what about the powers of the Commissioner? Is he the supreme ruler in this great land? Can he be controlled by this Legislative Assembly? Can we, in fact, make him accountable to us? I have pondered the matter and thought about this, and looked at the Northwest Territories Act and have come to some conclusions. Now, I think in the North here we are fortunate that Mr. Parker appears to be willing to co-operate with this Assembly and the Executive Committee, but if ever it should happen that there is a major disagreement between this body and the Executive Committee, then what are the avenues that are open to us? What could we do? Do we have any way of getting rid of the Commissioner or forcing him to agree with us? I do not think technically and legally we have any way of doing anything or removing the Commissioner, but I think that there are a number of ways which we could use to put pressure on the Minister of Indian Affairs to make the Commissioner comply with our wishes, or we can simply ask the Minister to fire the Commissioner. If things should come to this, what would we do?

I think the first would be to simply make a motion asking the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to order the Commissioner to do a certain thing or to, in fact, ask for his resignation. The second possibility, the second way of dealing with the Commissioner, is to refuse to pass any ordinances at all. You will remember that the money that comes for the government comes to us in the form of an ordinance, the main estimates, the main Appropriation Ordinance. If we want to, we could refuse to pass the ordinance and in this way, we could, in effect, bring this government to a halt because they would have no money to function. If we were to do this, then I guess it would be considered almost a national crisis and the federal government would have to provide interim funding so that the government could operate until the dispute is resolved satisfactorily, to our satisfaction. Then, we would pass the ordinance permitting the money to run the government. So, in these two ways, this Assembly does have power and I say we are more than simply just an advisory body.

---Applause

So, I do not think anybody should really be too frustrated. I notice Mr. Curley and I still hear comments about maybe things the government should be doing, or what they are not doing, some unhappiness about the government. If we used these powers, really we should be able to make this government do anything we want. I think that is the idea of this Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Conflict Between Elected Members, Government And Civil Servants

Of course, as long as it is a reasonable thing to do, it would be all right. Often there seems to be conflict between elected Members and the government and civil servants and it is, I suppose, because government or its civil servants think that things should be done in a certain way and we, I guess, as elected Members coming from the people have our own ideas of how things should be done. So, up to now, I hate to say it, but it is the white southern people who have won. What they have thought, said, that is the way things have gone up to this time and what they have said and thought have been more important up to now because they are in positions of power because most of the time they have more education than us and so forth and we think they must know what they are doing.

I would like to think that times are changing and some serious consideration must now be given to the views of native people, groups like this Assembly, so the government or white people should not be surprised if a native person's view is a bit different from theirs. A good example to illustrate this point is the matter of having native game wardens. The simple truth of the matter I think, is that to be a good game warden you do not have to be a university graduate or a biologist or anything like that. All you need mainly is common sense, the ability to speak with the people that you are dealing with and to be able to work with people. To me these are the most desirable qualities.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

New Era In Government

MR. SIBBESTON: Up until now that has not been the criteria the government has wanted. You had to be, you know, quite educated, and you had to be able to follow government thinking and see things the government way. If you did not, then you are suspect. There is a suspiciousness about you, so you do not fit into the government. So, I would like to think anyway that times have changed. We are entering into a new era where there will be more native people in government, and that you are not denied the opportunity because your thinking is not exactly like Mr. Parker or some of the white bureaucrats that run this government.

Now, when I was talking about the government being able to do things the way that this Assembly wants, it is not all that simple, like for instance, if I were to say the government should be putting \$400,000 into a training program for native game wardens and the Executive or the Commissioner says, "No," that there is either no money, or they do not agree with us, then I would still have to get the support of the Legislative Assembly to take these extraordinary measures that I talked about like refusing to pass the budget and so forth. Or, if I were to make a motion suggesting that a certain Executive Member be removed or else, even that the Commissioner ought to be removed, well then, I would still have to get the support of all the other Members in order to bring this about. Because we have a consensus-type Assembly, it could still be very frustrating unless we support one another. Unless we support one another, I think we could all be frustrated.

Party System Of Government

The way the people in the South and in the Yukon have successfully dealt with this is by establishing parties. Members run, as you may know, members run on a party system, and if their party wins most of the seats on the Assembly, then you do things in the Assembly as a group. You set your own policies and act together to obtain certain goals. In this way, as a party, you are assured of getting support to pass motions and legislation. So, in my view, this is the next step that we must make in order that we could effectively control this territorial government. In fact, there has already been one attempt years ago in trying to set up a northern party in this House, and my colleague, Mr. Butters, back in the early 1970's spoke of a bush and barren land party which had such notable characters as himself and Mr. Lyle Trimble. Of course, the immediate reaction to that was that a group was started up and headed by David Searle and a number of urban-based members. It was kind of like Tom Butters and those guys way up in the bush and the barren lands were immediately opposed by people from the cities or large centres. I remember that while the two groups used to have vigorous fights in the House, used to argue back and forth, I remember Willie Adams who is now the senator, he and I decided to be neutral and would not be part of any group and we just voted on the merits of each issue. I guess we were like the New Democratic Party or the Social Credit and sometimes held the balance of power. I was going to say fortunately the government did not fall as a result of our voting.

So, knowing the powers that we have I do believe that we can make changes and we can really get these things that our constituents want and we really want, if we give support to one another.

Assembly's Role In The Settlement Of Aboriginal Claims

Now, this brings me to a point which was raised by the Commissioner in his Address, that of the role of this Assembly in the process of settling aboriginal claims. Now, I look forward to seeing the paper that is eventually going to come to us and offhand I have an open mind as to what is going to be proposed, but I think that it is absolutely fundamental or essential that this Legislative Assembly does not try to take part in the actual negotiations which I think must take place between the native people and the federal government. I think we have no business in the negotiations, except to support it in a general way the aspirations of native people. In fact, I feel that this Assembly should no longer stand idly by due to the fact that negotiations really are not progressing at all. I appreciate that at the moment or these days it is very difficult for the federal government with all of the elections and uncertainty to seriously begin or conclude land claim negotiations, but this will be a completely different situation six months from now when the new government or the same government will have gotten in again and there has been some time to consider and deal with the matter of native land claims in the North.

I know that the Dene Nation in their recent Fort Franklin meeting were very critical of the federal government in not taking their land claims negotiations very seriously. The federal government just seems to be hedging and not taking the matter of land claims in the North very seriously. So I am of the view that we should not just stand idly by and I feel that we should become involved not only in a general way. I say that we have an interest in this situation. We should do whatever is necessary to get serious negotiations underway again. We could pass motions and I suppose we could even bring down this government if we really wanted to, to show our support for the various native groups in the North here.

Assembly Must Show Support Of Native Groups

I do not know whether you think I am too extreme or a little bit crazy in talking like this when I talk of maybe bringing down this government just to support our native groups, but I do know that political changes do not just happen by writing nice letters and just by speaking quietly to one another. The government seems to move sometimes only after very drastic measures are taken. I know that the federal government bureaucrats in Ottawa and a lot of people are saying, "Look how all the natives in the North are doing. They are now the majority in this Assembly." You know, native people are really in there and to an extent they are using this argument to suggest that the self determination or ideals or goals of the Dene Nation, ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and even COPE, Committee For Original Peoples Entitlement, are no longer valid. So I think it is our responsibility to show the federal government at the appropriate time, maybe six months from now or maybe one year from now, to show them that we are serious about this whole matter of land claims, that we support the native groups that are really trying to get a good deal for the people. If we do something I think it will go a great distance to support the native people. It would say a lot to tell a government that it is not just a bunch of radicals that are trying to get all they can from the federal government, but that the native groups do have the support of a great deal of the population and even right-thinking people which hopefully we are.

Having said all of this I would just like to get down to the business of what I hope to accomplish during this Assembly session. The first thing I would like to accomplish in this session is to change the name of that museum down the hill there and I think that a more appropriate northern name should be given to it. Call it the "Dene-Indian Cultural Centre" or even "The Stu Hodgson Museum". He has been up North ten years. Why not pay him some respect instead of giving it some name that a lot of people are dissatisfied about?

Geographic Names In The N.W.T.

The second thing I hope to accomplish is I would like to begin the mechanism to change some of the major geographic names in the North here. I have learned that geographic names throughout Canada, including the Northwest Territories are dealt with by a federal committee known as the Canadian permanent committee on geographical names. The committee was apparently established by a federal order-in-council back in 1897 and the committee has representatives from various departments and that at the moment there is a Mr. Lyle Hammond of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in Ottawa who has the responsibility of representing us here in the North on that committee. Now, I was thinking that when Mr. Epp was going to meet with us or a new minister when a new government is formed, that we ought to see whether it is possible to have someone here from the North on that committee and someone who is basically sympathetic with the idea of changing some of the geographic names.

---Applause

Frankly, I think it is only a matter of time before there are changes to the major geographic places in the North and if we do not take the lead I think that it is going to happen anyway eventually through the whole land claims process.

The third thing that I would like to accomplish during this session is try to set policy, establish policy with the idea of getting more native people in the territorial civil service.

---Applause

Likewise, I would like to see whether it is possible to get more natives up in the higher levels of government. I remember dealing with this subject years ago when I was on Council. This would be the constant talk, more native people in government and I remember telling Mr. Hodgson, "Get a little colour up on the sixth floor, you know," but unfortunately this was never done and this has to be one of Mr. Hodgson's major failings in the North, that he was never able to get native people as part of government.

The Native Employment Division

In dealing with this matter of native people in government, I intend to pay particular attention to the native employment division. As you know, a couple of years ago in response to the idea of getting native people in government, a small group was formed called the native employment group or division and it has been in operation for a number of years. I understand that the group really does not have specific or definite terms of reference and I think that we ought to review this situation and in trying to make it more effective seeing whether the group might even report to this Legislative Assembly. We should make it directly responsible to this Assembly. In this way they can have a great deal of power in going to various departments and questioning whether they are hiring native people and at times having to instruct some government officials to definitely hire native people, because I think that there are some civil servants and there are some white people in this government who are absolutely resisting any attempts -- they are just resisting all attempts to have native people work as part of this government. There are some of them that are like that and we need to have a native employment group that can deal with these characters and just bloody well tell them that; "You are going to hire five per cent or ten per cent this year." If this group has this kind of support then it might be possible to get more native people in government. Otherwise I think we are just going to be hearing the same speech from people like me in four years or ten years from now. So, this is all I have to say. This is all I wanted to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, could you just wait a moment? The translation is not in place.

MR. SIBBESTON: That is all I can tell you people. Maybe you will agree with what I am trying to say and it makes sense with a lot of you, I do not know. If you have the same idea as I have I would be quite happy about it. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have an Inuktitut translation for the last few remarks? Thank you. Other replies?

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

The Hon. Member from the Western Arctic, Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, this question will be directed to the Ministers of Local Government and Economic Development. As I understand the policy in the past of the Legislative Assembly and the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the development of non-renewable resources, that the Territories should benefit by the developer adhering to the principle of maximizing involvement of local business and labour. In communities outside Yellowknife this meant promoting native business and employment. This government has always paid homage to this principle as a justification for promoting development opportunity. It has also been used as a political argument by developers at the time of proposing a development. In my opening address I questioned the performance of the developers and this government with respect to this principle and I also questioned the wisdom of the development which does meet this principle. In the past, Canmar, who is one of the major operators in my constituency has been required by the federal government to take positive steps to ensure local participation in economic benefits and in the first year Canmar did a lot of local hiring and spread a lot of money around to local and territorial businesses.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea, do you have a specific question?

MS. COURNOYEA: I am leading up to it if that is possible, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I will say we will allow you to conclude this but immediately following it I will point out the requirement with respect to questions, if I may, so you may carry on.

MS. COURNOYEA: Canmar was also subject to this government's social and economic review which incidentally I have said previously has been misleading and inadequate. We have seen a trend in the Western Arctic, Canmar is making it more and more difficult for local businesses to participate and are moving toward self-sufficiency, thus not requiring local businesses and contracts and I understand that Canmar is planning to make many significant changes for the next season to drop contracts they have with local and territorial businesses and do it themselves. An example of this is the airlines. In summary Canmar bought their way in, now they are accepted as a fact of life, they are cutting the Territories out.

Question 2-80(1): Large Developers In N.W.T.

Question: Is it prudent for the government to not accurately monitor the performance of large developers and what steps can this Legislative Assembly take to reverse the trends we see with respect to Canmar's economic policies and what steps can this Legislative Assembly take to ensure that we do not experience repetition of this behaviour for the new developments such as Arvik mines?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Partial Return To Question 2-80(1): Large Developers In N.W.T.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. Member's first question, is it prudent for this government not to monitor the activities of large scale developers, I would just have to say, no, it is not prudent. However, in response to the other questions and points which she raised, I would take them under notice or advisement and I would report back to this House tomorrow with more details on the issues and questions which she has raised.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. If I may refer to the section of the rules on questions. This is a learning situation for all of us and it is important to note this because certainly Members have an opportunity to express opinions and so on at other times. Rule 39(1) "Written and oral questions may be asked seeking information relating to public affairs from the Executive Members; and in putting a question or replying to it, no argument or opinion shall be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain; and in answering a question the matter to which it refers shall not be debated." So, it is essentially an information gathering opportunity in session and I would ask that you all attempt, so far as possible, to abide by that rule. Mr. Patterson.

Question 3-80(1): Paper On Northern Policing

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Mr. Butters. Can the Minister tell us when the long awaited paper on northern policing which was promised by the administration for tabling before the House in this session will be tabled?

Return To Question 3-80(1): Paper On Northern Policing

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. Member for giving me the courtesy of notice of his question. The answer is that, no, at this time, I cannot give you the exact date that paper will be ready. My expectation is that it will be ready before the end of the month. There are still examinations being carried out on the situation in Quebec and the Yukon with the Ojibway and I believe one other jurisdiction. I am hopeful that all of this information will be compiled and available to the House and to Members within the timeframe I have indicated.

MR. SPEAKER: Other oral questions? Mr. Patterson.

Question 4-80(1): Teacher Training Program, Frobisher Bay

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, another question for the Hon. Mr. Butters, this time in his capacity as Minister of Education. The opening paragraph describing education in the Northwest Territories in the 1979 Annual Report of the Government of the Northwest Territories on page four states: "A two year pilot project was begun to train teachers in Frobisher Bay." Will the Minister tell this House if the TEP, teacher education program, in Frobisher Bay is an ongoing program or not?

Partial Return To Question 4-80(1): Teacher Training Program, Frobisher Bay

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, again I thank my associate minister from the Eastern Arctic for the courtesy of notice of his question. In view of the importance of the subject, I will see that a reply is filed in a written sense. But generally the Executive gave approval for a pilot teacher education program in Frobisher Bay in March of 1979. It was called a pilot project since many Keewatin and Baffin students indicated they may not wish to go to Frobisher Bay. It was called a pilot project because there was uncertainty about the numbers who would attend. The department was asked to develop an in-service or field-based program. If this route were made available, it was uncertain what impact it was to have on the continued TEP program in Frobisher Bay.

The program in Frobisher is going very well and the department intends to strengthen the program, especially the Inuktitut portion. There will be a new intake of students in September. The department will continue with its plans to develop an in-service route which could have an impact on both Fort Smith and Frobisher Bay in terms of numbers who wish to attend for full time instruction at those places. But briefly, yes, the program is recognized in Frobisher Bay to be very successful and a continuation is contemplated.

MR. SPEAKER: Other oral questions? Mr. Curley.

Question 5-80(1): Allowances, Fort Smith Teacher Education Program

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education. In view of the fact that the submission was made to the department by the students attending teacher education programs in Fort Smith with respect to the unsatisfactory system of allowances, will the Minister indicate to the House what steps have been made to adjust the allowance so that the students may afford to pay for room and board, clothes, books, some medical costs and some entertainment?

Return To Question 5-80(1): Allowances, Fort Smith Teacher Education Program

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, again I thank the Hon. Member from Keewatin South for the courtesy of notice to this question. I believe that all Members of this House received a similar letter and brief to the one that Mr. Curley is referring to. It indeed was received by Members, the five Members on the Executive Committee. As a result of the brief which was a very excellent brief by the students at AVTC, the TEP, teacher education program students, it was introduced to the Executive Committee early in January and the decision was made at that time to increase allowances on an interim basis. The reason that there had been a diminishment of the allowances was that the allowances paid to Northwest Territories students were tied to the Canada Manpower allowances and when Canada Manpower dropped their allowances, ours were dropped as well. As a result of the Executive Committee decision in January, allowances were increased and I will just, if I may, read them to you and then I will present you with a paper, Mr. Curley. For a student living at home, the allowances went from ten dollars to \$25. For the single student, they went from \$60 to \$70. For the student with one dependant, they went from \$80 to \$90. Students with two dependants went from \$95 to \$100. Students with three dependants, \$110 and the student with four dependants remained the same also. This action was retroactive to January 2, 1980. The other request of the Executive Committee was that the whole matter of student allowances in all areas be examined and re-examined in light of the concerns which the hon. Member has just raised.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Question 6-80(1): Student Representation, Higher Education Advisory Board

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question with respect to this submission and I direct it to the Minister of Education. In the same brief the students from Fort Smith also presented and requested the department to ensure that the proper representation is maintained. A particular request was that there was no representative on the higher education board. Will the Minister indicate to the House and to the students what steps or what assurance can he give the students so they may be properly represented on the higher education advisory board?

Return To Question 6-80(1): Student Representation, Higher Education Advisory Board

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the Executive Committee did not consider that particular aspect of the question but it did recognize that student involvement in this would be most beneficial and I was directed by Members of the Executive Committee to inform department officials in the Department of Education that when carrying out the study they would involve and consult with representatives of the student body at AVTC and possibly other student representatives.

MR. SPEAKER: Other oral questions? Ms. Cournoyea.

Question 7-80(1): Dental Situation, Inuvik Region

MS. COURNOYEA: This question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The question is what has the Northwest Territories government and his department done in aiding with the dental situation in the Inuvik region?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 7-80(1): Dental Situation, Inuvik Region

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the department and I as well as other Members of the Executive have received a communication from the town of Inuvik regarding the status of dental care in the community, but specifically we received the letter from the Inuvik town council and that has been replied to in that this government would do all in its power to attract dentists to that community so that there would be dental care provided to the inhabitants of Inuvik.

MR. SPEAKER: Other oral questions? Mr. Curley.

Question 8-80(1): Patients In Transit, Keewatin Region

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In view of the fact that there has been unnecessary confusion for many years with regard to outgoing and incoming patients in the Keewatin region, could the Minister assure the people of the Keewatin as to who is actually responsible for co-ordinating the patients going out and coming in? The reason I ask that question is there has been confusion particularly with patients not knowing who is the agency responsible for it. Will the Minister assure the people in the Keewatin whether or not he is prepared to put one agency in charge of the patients going in and out?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

Partial Return To Question 8-80(1): Patients In Transit, Keewatin Region

HON. ARNOLD McCallum: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member and other Members that the department officials from those departments under my care will make sure that his particular question is answered and to direct that there is in fact a responsible department for the movement in and out of patients of the Keewatin.

Mr. Speaker, if I may at the same time reply to a question Mr. Curley asked on February 1, 1980. I was under the impression that it was a written question and I have been looking today and I note it is not there. It must have been an oral question and I wonder if I may have the indulgence to simply reply to him at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly. I thought it was a written question that had been submitted as well, but if it was oral by all means answer it at this time.

Return To Question 1-80(1): Medical Problems, Keewatin Region

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the question that Mr. Curley asked centered around when the study for the guidelines of the Keewatin regional health centre was begun. I would simply like to say to him that this government through the Department of Health recognized that there was a requirement for a further investigation into the Keewatin regional health centre and Eastern and Central Arctic health services in general from a study that was instituted and started in 1977.

Recently the federal Minister, that is the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Epp, was there and indicated that he would do something and talk to his colleague the Hon. Mr. Crombie about a review of health services in the Keewatin. The terms of reference have been drawn up to which I have given both the Members from the Keewatin, North and South, a copy and in this case we are attempting now to determine whether there should be any change to those terms of reference. A study is supposedly to be completed by January of 1981 with the results forwarded obviously to myself if I am still a Minister or to the Minister responsible for Health in the Northwest Territories and to the federal minister as well as ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada.

So I expect the study will be in very shortly and hopefully it will be completed a year from now with the desired results which people in the Central and Eastern Arctic would like to see it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Other oral questions? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Question 9-80(1): Remuneration For Hamlet Mayors

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my question about the native community government. At the Eighth Assembly I moved a motion about the hamlet, that since the mayors in the hamlet settlement were to be elected and they said that this came into power this year. So the mayors of the hamlets could have more power just the same as the village and town mayors.

My question is their indemnity should be increased. I would like the money that the mayors of the hamlets make up a little bit higher. The reason why we ask, it is hard to employ a mayor. Maybe if we could get more money, if the hamlet mayor could get more money they would be able to do a better job.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of my colleague the Hon. Minister for Local Government I would take the question as notice and ensure a reply is filed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Other oral questions? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions is to the Hon. James Wah-Shee, Minister of Local Government and the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Minister responsible for Renewable Resources.

Question 10-80(1): Dam Construction, Yellowknife Sewage Lagoon

I am in receipt of a letter from the Hon. James Wah-Shee concerning the deferral of the necessary moneys to complete the dam construction of the sewage treatment lagoon system in Yellowknife. Since this system is in direct response to an order by the Northwest Territories Water Board I would ask if consultation has taken place with that body concerning its order and the delay which will take place and if our own new division of environmental services has been consulted regarding the consequences to the Yellowknife environment of such a deferral?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo, would you attempt...

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I must apologize to the Member, the Hon. Member for Yellowknife South, but I have not in fact read the document that you are referring to, but I will take the question under notice and advise and seek a further answer.

MR. SPEAKER: If I may interject here. I have a feeling that a number of questions that are being asked properly should be considered written questions rather than oral questions. I will just briefly read the section of the rules that deals with oral questions: Rule 40(1) "Upon the order of business 'Oral Questions' being called questions relating to public affairs and of sufficient importance to require an immediate answer may be put without notice. (2) An oral question shall be concisely and clearly put and shall refer only to a matter which may reasonably be assumed to be within the present knowledge of the Executive Member to whom it is directed". And presumably all other questions would be written questions. Are there other oral questions? I think then we will take advantage of a little break to recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: There is now a quorum so we will resume.

Item 4, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

This would be the time when you would submit written questions, the type which you would not ordinarily expect that a Minister or an Executive Member would have an answer to right at hand. It is one he would have to return to his department to have some of his staff find the information that is required. Are there any written questions? The Hon. Member from Frobisher Bay, Mr. Patterson.

Question 11-80(1): Installation Costs, Utilidor

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Department of Local Government. In view of the high cost of building in Frobisher Bay and the high cost of hooking up to the utilidor by private home builders in Frobisher Bay and in view of the territorial government's stated commitment to private home ownership in the Northwest Territories, has the Department of Local Government instituted a plan which will allow this high hook-up cost to be amortized over the years of a lease for private home owners rather than being incurred as a lump sum expense at the time construction is taking place?

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I do have another question for the Department of Local Government.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, Mr. Patterson.

Question 12-80(1): Impact Of Water And Sewer Capital Projects, Baffin Region

MR. PATTERSON: In view of the grave concern in Frobisher Bay and other Eastern Arctic communities about local jobs which will be lost to technology when utilidors replace trucked delivery of water and honeybag pick-up by truck and in view of the predicted loss of some 20 jobs in Frobisher Bay if the utilidor system as planned is completed, have either the Departments of Local Government or Public Works studied the impact on local employment of their water and sewer capital projects in the coming year in the Baffin region?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact I have accepted responsibility for filing a reply on the previous question on Local Government, I will do the same for these two that have been addressed to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mr. Butters. Other written questions. The Hon. Member from the High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Question 13-80(1): Polar Bear Quotas

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Department of Renewable Resources. There is an island near Resolute Bay called Melville Island. On that island the quota for polar bear is 12 per year. In 1978 Pond Inlet people took the quota and in 1979 Arctic Bay took the quota. My question is in 1980 who is going to get the quota?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Other written questions? Mr. Patterson.

Question 14-80(1): Devolution, Increase In Staff

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, again to the Department of Local Government. Is the Department of Local Government committed to devolution of its programs to the regions? What is the proportion of staff in the department's town planning and lands division in headquarters compared to the number of staff in the regions? When the Department of Local Government's airports division transferred man years to the regions some three years ago, did the headquarters staff increase or decrease? If the headquarters staff increased, then why? Since the devolution policy was first announced by the Government of the Northwest Territories some three years ago, has the proportion of headquarters staff to regional staff in the Department of Local Government increased or decreased in each of the last three years and in what numbers?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I similarly will handle the question as the others will be done.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Other written questions? The Hon. Member for Keewatin South, Mr. Curley.

Question 15-80(1): Game Advisory Council Appointments

MR. CURLEY: My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources concerning the game advisory board. In view of the fact that the first term of appointments I believe expired this year for members of the Game Advisory Council and since strong recommendations have been made by the Keewatin Inuit Association and local hunters' and trappers' associations, will the Minister assure the hunters in the Keewatin that he will appoint a new member and that he is prepared to accept their nominee?

MR. SPEAKER: Other written questions? The Hon. Member for Frobisher Bay, Mr. Patterson.

Question 16-80(1): Overexpenditures, Department Of Finance

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you for bearing with me, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the territorial Department of Finance. In view of the responsibility of the territorial Department of Finance for controlling expenditures of territorial funds and in view of the reported overexpenditure by the Department of Finance of \$609,000 in the fiscal year of 1978-79 according to the recent Annual Report and in view of the fact that such an overexpenditure was apparently not authorized by law, according to the report of the senior Deputy Auditor General on page 43 of the 1979 Annual Report, will the Department of Finance tell this House under whose authority these overexpenditures in the Department of Finance were made and if the expenditures were not authorized, has any disciplinary action been taken and/or have any controls been put into place to prevent this from happening again?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and ensure that a reply is filed as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Other written questions? Mr. Patterson.

Question 17-80(1): Apprenticeship Wildlife Officer Training Program

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, this is to the Hon. Minister of Renewable Resources. Will the Minister provide this House with details, including entrance requirements and timetable for implementation, of the apprenticeship wildlife officer training program being developed by his departmental officials as primarily an on-the-job training alternative to the renewable resources training program being offered at AVTC in Fort Smith? If the outline for the program is not complete now, will the Minister tell the House when it will be ready for presentation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, I will take note of that question and provide a reply as I will do to the other questions that have been asked.

MR. SPEAKER: Other written questions? Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 18-80(1): Land Site, Junior High School, Yellowknife

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. At a recent meeting of the Yellowknife city council, discussion took place concerning negotiations for the purchase of a land site for the new junior high school. Could the Minister advise as to the status of the negotiations, indicating a time as to when a conclusion of these negotiations is anticipated?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question as notice and file a reply. I do not know the specific details relative to the points raised by the Hon. Member from Yellowknife South.

MR. SPEAKER: Other written questions? The Hon. Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Noah.

Question 19-80(1): Fuel Costs, Coral Harbour

MR. NOAH: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Department of Local Government. The price of fuel in Coral Harbour is very expensive; the residents are dissatisfied. They would like to see a system whereby the price can be cut for the consumer. Is there any possibility of a satisfactory arrangement?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and file a reply at a convenient time.

MR. SPEAKER: Other written questions? The Hon. Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Noah.

Question 20-80(1): High School Graduates, Keewatin Region

MR. NOAH: Mr. Speaker, this one goes to Education. By 1980, how many students from the Keewatin will have graduated from the high schools in Frobisher Bay and Yellowknife?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will obtain that information for the hon. Member and file a reply as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions? Mr. Patterson.

Question 21-80(1): Soapstone Mining

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have, I should warn you, three written questions for the Department of Economic Development. First, has the Department of Economic Development studied the feasibility of the Community Development Corporation model as it might be applied to the urgent problem of mining soapstone in the Baffin and other regions of the Eastern Arctic?

Question 22-80(1): Departmental Projects, N.W.T.

Secondly, if I may, does the Department of Economic Development have an action plan for its departmental projects in the Northwest Territories? Specifically, what, if any, policies have been developed to dispose by sale to interested persons or corporations of departmental projects which have a prospect of profit making?

Question 23-80(1): Government Of The N.W.T. Capital Investments, Nanisivik

Thirdly, in view of the very low rate of employment of Northwest Territories residents at the Nanisivik mine on north Baffin Island, will the Minister of Economic Development provide details to this House of the total costs of Government of the Northwest Territories capital investments at Nanisivik to date, including the cost of schools and other public works and the preparation and construction of a townsite? Will the Minister of Economic Development or the administration also provide this House with details of all territorial program costs incurred on a yearly basis at Nanisivik in recent years, including its share of police costs, social service and education costs? Would the Minister of Economic Development or the administration also provide this House with details of tax revenues which accrue to the Northwest Territories government from Nanisivik, including revenues from local assessments and the territorial portion of income taxes paid by residents, as well as any other revenues which accrue directly to the Northwest Territories government as a result of the operation of the mine or the town of Nanisivik? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 21-80(1): Soapstone Mining

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the hon. Member's first question about a community plan reflecting the mining of soapstone, no, we have not examined such a plan nor conducted a feasibility study. However, we would be prepared to sit down with the Member and other interested Members from the Eastern Arctic and discuss this concept further. I believe we have some ideas which we would like to test out with you.

Return To Question 22-80(1): Departmental Projects, N.W.T.

With respect to the Member's second question on our commercial enterprises and an action plan, I would say to this House that an action plan was drawn up and approved earlier this year. The critical point or focus of the plan is to restructure our government projects away from their present situation where they are functioning merely as an arm of government. What we would like to see done is to have these various projects develop into businesses which will function in the market place as private businesses. Criteria have been developed which will categorize the developments in the following groups; potentially profitable enterprises, employment generating enterprises and essential services.

I will stress again the ultimate goal we have is to develop the enterprises to be self-sufficient at which point they would be turned over or sold to private ownership. In order to accomplish this goal we are presently in the process of developing normal business bookkeeping, accounting, management and financial systems which will be implemented prior to the end of this fiscal year and we are hopeful that with these changes combined with training programs to develop management skills of enterprising personnel that we will produce the long, sought-after goal of success in this program. I might just say that the concept that you introduced in your first question relating to a community or as we are now looking at it, a regional program for the mining of soapstone could be entertained in terms of a community or regional private business which is viable and in the private sector as opposed to something which is connected with government.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the third question, I will just say now that I will take it as notice but if the hon. Member will realize that he is asking questions which cover the whole scope and the whole range of government activity in Nanisivik it will take a little time to get together the information and I will report back to the House in my capacity as the chairman of the planning and priorities committee on this particular issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Will Mr. Patterson be able to expect a written response to the first two questions as well since they were written questions?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Pardon me, but I was under the impression that if I was able to give a verbal response that that would be sufficient. Am I incorrect in assuming that?

MR. SPEAKER: I was just discussing the matter with the Clerk and I must confess that I am uncertain myself as to what has been the practice in the past. The way I would read it and perhaps Members can consider this and if some feel that it is not the right approach they are certainly free to voice their opinions. The way I read the question section is that at any time that you have a question that seems to be very pressing and you have some right to believe that a Minister should be able to answer it immediately, that under our order item, oral questions, you would ask that question and if the Minister is able to make an immediate response he would do so at that time, a verbal response. However, it is possible that he feels that he cannot give an adequate response, in which case he has the right to take it as notice and he will return at the soonest possible time with the possible response.

When we move to questions and returns it seems to me that Members in giving written questions recognize that a Minister may not at all have the necessary information. It seems to me that it is not at all necessary for a Minister to respond, other than as a courtesy and say, "I hear your question and I will take it under advisement." But if the Minister has the knowledge required, such as you had for that question, then I am not sure whether the Member is still entitled to a written reply. I would say that he is, that is the way I would look at it. However, if there is a disagreement with that I am certainly willing to consider it.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am willing to provide a written reply to all three questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. So unless there is disagreement with that then, Ministers at the time that written questions are submitted need not feel obliged to respond. They simply take note of the question and the Member will expect that in as brief a time as possible he will receive a written response to it. Are there other written questions? The Hon. Member for Great Slave East, Mr. Sayine.

Question 24-80(1): Fort Resolution Liquor Prohibition

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, I have one question for the Department of Public Services. I think that is the right department. In view of the fact that the settlement of Fort Resolution will be voting again on liquor prohibition this summer, the settlement of Fort Resolution would like to know how much money went into fines relating to the Fort Resolution liquor prohibition and whether or not some of this money could go back into the community perhaps in the form of a recreation grant?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, if I may take the question as notice and file a reply at the earliest possible opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. In response to the earlier problem that we were dealing with, the Clerk has pointed out to me that where any written question, this would be Rule 39(3), "Where any written question is directed to an Executive Member pursuant to sub-rule (1) that Member, shall without any unnecessary delay read his reply in the Assembly and file it with the Clerk..." so it would seem that a written reply is required to a written question. Other written questions? The Hon. Member for Mackenzie Great Bear, Mr. Fraser.

Question 25-80(1): Water Transportation Service, Fort Franklin

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, my question is for Social Services I believe. Now that we do not have an administrator sitting in the House I do not know who to direct the question to, however, somebody could give me an answer. Could someone please tell me whether or not the NTCL, Northern Transportation Company Limited, will continue to give water transportation service to Fort Franklin? If not, what is the deadline for operating on Bear River?

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a Minister who feels that that would be a question that they could properly answer? Mr. Butters, you will look after that?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I do not see anyone here who may be able to reply immediately. Therefore I will take the question as notice and see that Mr. Fraser has a response to that query.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Other written questions? Returns? Do any of the Ministers have returns from earlier questions? Petitions? I am sorry, were there other written questions?

Item 5, petitions. Mr. Curley.

ITEM NO. 5: PETITIONS

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to present to the Assembly, Petition 1-80(1): Immediate Requirement Of Medical Services.

This is a petition concerning medical services from a citizens' group in Rankin Inlet and I believe that that petition has already been presented to the Minister of Health. I think it is our responsibility, all of us, to ensure that we are well informed and for this I am pleased to present the petition from Rankin Inlet.

MR. SPEAKER: With respect to petitions, the Member apparently is required to indicate the number of signatures attached to it and the material allegations it contains and to reading the prayer of the petition. So if you could just give us slightly more information about the substance of the petition and the number of names attached.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, this petition is presented by the citizens' group in Rankin Inlet concerned with the status of medical services, particularly with respect to eye specialists and dental services. This petition contains 152 signatures and it is not sent in by any corporation and I do not believe -- I may not have to go through the prayer of the petition, but I will present it to the Clerk as he advises me.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Other petitions? Tabling of documents. The Hon. Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition to present from the Keewatin area.

MR. SPEAKER: A petition as well, yes.

MR. NOAH: This is Petition 2-80(1): Television Service, Repulse Bay. It is pertaining to asking for a television and a radio station and the number of people who signed were 100. It is in Repulse Bay.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah. Any other petitions?

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Hon. Member for Mackenzie Liard, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file Tabled Document 1-80(1): Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Departmental Directives, Principles and Procedures of Geographical Naming.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Other documents? Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 2-80(1): 1978 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. Other documents?

Item 7, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

The Hon. Member from Frobisher Bay, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice that I will make a motion on Wednesday, February 6th and it reads: "Whereas the Annual Report of the government..."

MR. SPEAKER: You need not read the preamble here, just the resolution part of the motion is necessary at this time.

Notice Of Motion 4-80(1): Tabling Of Detailed Territorial Accounts

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you. Mr. Speaker: Be it resolved that the administration undertake to table in this House the detailed territorial accounts to give Members of this House an opportunity to obtain a more detailed explanation of this significant change in the government's fortunes.

MR. SPEAKER: Other notices of motion? Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion 5-80(1): Excessive Expenditure Over Revenue In The Northwest Territories, 1978-1979

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, sir. I wish to give notice of a motion that I will make on Wednesday, February 6th. It reads: Be it resolved that the administration seek to make the chief auditor available to appear in this House this session to answer our questions as to how this significant overexpenditure was allowed to occur in the fiscal year 1978-1979.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion? Mr. Sibbeston.

Notice Of Motion 6-80(1): Translation For Major Native Languages

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker: Now therefore, I move that the Executive Committee be requested to provide funds in the 1980-81 government budget to purchase translation equipment such that the Legislative Assembly can have the capability to have simultaneous translation in all of the major languages in the Northwest Territories. He is going to talk about it. That means the day after tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. That would be taken as notice of motion. We will wait a moment for the Inuktitut translation. Other notices? Mr. Sayine.

Notice Of Motion 7-80(1): Attendance Of Members Of Water Board

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on February the 6th I will move the following motion: That the Speaker request all members of the Water Board to attend at this Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Other notices of motion?

Item 8, motions.

ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

The Hon. Member for Mackenzie Liard, Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion 3-80(1): Attendance Of Director Of Northern Services, CBC

MR. SIBBESTON: The motion is I move, seconded by Robert Sayine as follows:

WHEREAS the CBC has the mandate to provide radio broadcast services to residents of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS a majority of the people in the Mackenzie Valley are of Dene ancestry;

AND WHEREAS the Slavey speaking Dene of the Mackenzie Valley are not presently being adequately served in their language;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the Speaker request the director of the northern CBC services to attend at this Legislative Assembly to deal with this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Could we have the Inuktitut translation, please? It has been moved and seconded that the Speaker request the director of northern CBC services to attend this Legislative Assembly or the following Assembly to deal with this matter. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. Would the interpreter begin making the translation?

MR. SIBBESTON: I am going to tell you not long ago the Native Communications Society...

THE INTERPRETER: Mr. Sibbeston, excuse me. It just cannot be done.

MR. SIBBESTON: All right. Recently there was a meeting of the Native Communications Society at Rae dealing with things like communications with native people in the North and a part of their discussions dealt with the CBC and it was their general impression that as far as native languages went in the North, particularly the Dene language, the CBC were not doing enough. They were not really doing a very good job so the Native Communications Society was quite critical of the CBC and also years and years ago we had trouble with the CBC. They were not doing very much for the Dene speaking people in the valley and we had the head of CBC come here to Yellowknife. We had quite an exchange and we talked things over and as a result of this things got a little better, so my hope is that we could get the head of CBC here, talk with him, tell him about the problems and see whether they could do a better job for the Dene speaking people of the Mackenzie Valley.

Native News Broadcasts

Part of the problem is that at the moment the only news that Dene people get is that really made by non-Dene people, by the white reporters. All the native people are doing really is translating that news and I feel that this is not good enough, that CBC should have native Dene reporters in two places at least, in Fort Simpson and in Fort Norman and these people should be fully paid reporters who send news in Slavey daily to the headquarters here and it is sent over the air. This way, it would provide a better service to the Dene people and the native people would be happy because what the Dene people figure as news to them may not be news to the white people and likewise, white news is not of great interest to the Dene people. All summer and fall you hear of Canmar up there. Nobody in our part gives a shit about it. So, I think we should have this out with the CBC boss and see if we can resolve it.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I think it is a good idea to have at sessions such as this representatives from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The last time that the northern director appeared before this Assembly was, I think, four years ago when we met in Rankin Inlet so that I certainly support the Hon. Member's motion. However, I would add an amendment to that motion and the amendment added will indicate that we would like to talk with the director on many aspects of the service that CBC is currently providing northern communities as well as the one that has been identified in the Member's motion.

Amendment To Motion 3-80(1)

My amendment then would be, Mr. Speaker, to follow at the end of the motion where it would say: "To deal with this matter and other northern broadcasting responsibilities related to CBC's national and territorial mandate."

MR. SPEAKER: Would you repeat the amendment more slowly, please?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: "... and other northern broadcasting responsibilities related to CBC's national and territorial mandate."

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for that motion to amend? Mr. Patterson. To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, just briefly, coming from the Eastern Arctic, I am not particularly concerned about CBC radio programming. I think they do an excellent job and as this House may know, well over half of the programming originates from CBC Frobisher Bay and much more than half of the programming comes from Rankin Inlet and is Inuktitut programming. However, we are concerned with their abysmal performance in delivering Inuktitut television programming and for that reason I supported Mr. Butters' amendment because I believe it allows us to question the director of northern services on their performance on northern television service as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion now reads: I move that the Speaker request the director of northern CBC services to attend at this Legislative Assembly or the following Assembly to deal with this matter and other northern broadcasting responsibilities related to CBC's national and territorial mandate. You are reminded that the vote is on the amendment only. In other words, if you can accept that the original motion should be amended as Mr. Butters and Mr. Patterson suggested, then you will vote in favour. If you cannot accept that amendment, you will vote against it and perhaps still vote in favour of the original motion. This is only on the amendment.

Amendment To Motion 3-80(1), Carried

Those in favour please indicate by raising your hands. Please keep them up. Opposed to the amendment? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

I would ask you when you are voting, I was reminded by Mr. Evaluarjuk after the last session that I should pause a moment to make sure the translation has caught up and that is why I ask you when you are voting, keep your hands up for a period of time because they are just getting the message that we are taking the vote. All right. The motion as amended. "I move that the Speaker request the director of northern CBC services to attend at this Legislative Assembly or the following Assembly to deal with this matter and other northern broadcasting responsibilities related to CBC's national and territorial mandate."

Motion 3-80(1), Carried As Amended.

Are you ready for the question? All those in favour of the motion as amended, please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Motion 2-80(1), Mr. Curley.

Motion 2-80(1): The Hon. J.A. Epp's Invitation To Appear Before The House

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce a particular motion and I will read the following motion:

WHEREAS partisan campaigning by all of the federal parties is in full swing;

AND WHEREAS the federal Minister may present a policy announcement mainly to gain political points for the Progressive Conservative party;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly delay the invitation of the Hon. J.A. Epp, Minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to appear before the House to announce policy matters until March or after the federal election.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder for the motion? Mr. Patterson. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, this particular motion, I think it is only appropriate that the two other parties, the New Democratic Party and the Liberals may not be given a chance, the same opportunity to appear before the House and according to the news reports through News of the North, Mr. Epp's primary visit to this area is to campaign on behalf of the Progressive Conservative candidate and, therefore, I think it is only appropriate that this Assembly not take a partisan role and, therefore, should delay the invitation until we can get all of our business as a priority. Therefore, I would ask the Members to support this particular motion, because it would be construed that we are mainly dealing or interested in one particular party. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Other debate? Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. By the way, we do not know indeed that Mr. Epp is going to be there after the election. Do you really not mean the minister of the day to be invited rather than leaving the name of the person involved? I think it is just a procedural correction which you might wish to make.

MR. SPEAKER: Did you wish to speak to the point of order, Mr. Patterson?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I would agree with Mr. Stewart and move an amendment that the motion read: "Now therefore, I move that this Assembly delay the invitation of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to appear before the House to announce policy matters until March or after the federal election." It makes good sense to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart has raised what appears to be a legitimate point of order and I must deal with that first. Is there any other basis for the point of order? I understand at least, Mr. Patterson, if you would agree there is a legitimate point of order raised. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: A point of order, Mr. Speaker, we are having technical problems and we are not hearing your comment and maybe you should check that first.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, can you hear me all right now? Fine. Is there any other discussion on the point of order that was raised by Mr. Stewart? All right. I would agree with the arguments that have been advanced, that it is not clear specifically which invitation was made. To my knowledge there has not been a specific invitation made, although I understand, Mr. Curley, that some Members certainly had the intention of perhaps doing so and would you agree to amend your motion in such a way that the problems pointed out by Mr. Stewart no longer exist?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Any Member may wish to so amend the motion that we only deal with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, that would be appropriate for me.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you suggest a wording that would be appropriate or, Mr. Patterson, was that your intention?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do so.

Amendment To Motion 2-80(1)

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move an amendment to the motion. The last paragraph: "Now therefore, I move that this Assembly delay its invitation to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to appear before the House to announce policy matters until March or after the federal election."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I am kind of confused on this motion. If there was an invitation sent or received why is it not tabled in this House and why are the other Members not aware of this invitation? I would like to see a copy of it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I would have to agree, Mr. Fraser, that the wording that was suggested by Mr. Patterson still does not get around the problem that was originally raised. May I suggest the wording, Mr. Curley, and if it is agreeable to you it go forward? "Now therefore, I move that this Assembly do not invite the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to appear before this House to announce policy matters until March or after the federal election." Is that wording acceptable to you, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, it certainly is. It is my understanding during the caucus meeting that the Minister has been invited and because of that understanding I undertook to introduce that motion and if he has not been invited your suggestion is appropriate for me.

MR. SPEAKER: I will just confer with the Clerk for a moment to see whether that understanding is correct.

The Clerk seems to agree that in caucus there was an intent to have the Minister but it was never cleared. There was a difference of opinion as to whether that should be to invite him to speak to the caucus or invite him to appear before this House. With that difference of opinion in mind I believe, Mr. Curley, that more of the Members here would feel that the motion was appropriate if you did state specifically that this Assembly do not invite the Minister. That is just a suggestion. You may still deal with it as you wish of course. Mr. Curley.

Amendment To Motion 2-80(1), Reworded

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, if you would give the consent for me to move that motion: "Now therefore, I move that this Assembly do not invite the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs before the House to announce policy matters until March or after the federal election."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, do you accept that as seconder?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment? Mr. McCallum.

Amendment To Motion 2-80(1), Further Reworded

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would go along with the attempt, but since we are only one Assembly could we keep it in the singular, "the Assembly does not"?

MR. SPEAKER: As one teacher to another I appreciate your correctness, Mr. McCallum. Is the grammatical change acceptable to mover and seconder?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment? Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

Amendment To Motion 2-80(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: That the motion be amended to read: "...the Assembly does not invite the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs..." All of those in favour of the amendment please indicate by raising your hands. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

The motion as amended: "Now therefore, I move that this Assembly does not invite the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to appear before the House to announce policy matters until March or after the federal election." Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 2-80(1), Carried As Amended

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: There is one other motion. Rather than dealing with it at this moment and seeing that it is nearly coffee time I think we will recess now and return to it afterwards.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. It has been brought to my attention that some hon. Members are concerned that each time I call a vote I do not call for abstentions. To the best of my knowledge I am following a practice that has been long established in this House and I will continue to follow it. On ordinary votes I will simply call for those in favour and those opposed. If a Member wishes to abstain and feels it particularly important that that be noted, the Member may simply rise on a point of order and say, "Mr. Speaker, may it be noted that I abstained?" and of course, in saying, that it is noted immediately.

If for any reason a Member wants even greater formality than that, I remind you that the rules allow for any Member to call for a recorded vote and immediately when that call is heard by myself I am obliged to have a recorded vote, in which case I will ask for those in favour, those against and those who abstain. So that is the procedure that I will follow in the future. We will return to motions now. Motion 1-80(1), Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, that motion was intended to be dealt with on February 5th.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, will you see that that is included in the orders of the day for tomorrow?

Item 9, introduction of bills for first reading.

ITEM NO. 9: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS FOR FIRST READING

I have a note from Mr. Braden indicating that it has been recorded incorrectly. It should read -- this is Bill 18-80(1), Loan Authorization Amendment Ordinance. It should read February 4th for purposes of first reading. Hon. Mr. Braden.

First Reading Of Bill 18-80(1): Loan Authorization Amendment Ordinance No. 1, 1979-80

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill 18-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1979-80, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder? Mr. Butters. Those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Item 10, second reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 10: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 2-80(1), Hon. Mr. Butters. As these are read, moved and seconded I would remind Members that each of them may be debated in principle at this time should a Member choose, but not in any of the details whatsoever. Hon. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 2-80(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1979-80

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-80(1), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for additional expenditures for the public service for the current financial year and to permit deletions from inventory of certain obsolete, surplus or unserviceable articles.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder? Mr. McCallum. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour, please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 3-80(1), Financial Agreement Ordinance, Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 3-80(1): Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1980

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 3-80(1), An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to authorize the Commissioner to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada providing for the payment of operating and capital grants to the Government of the Northwest Territories and related matters.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Hon. Mr. McCallum. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour, please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 4-80(1), Loan Authorization Ordinance, Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 4-80(1): Loan Authorization Ordinance No.1, 1980-81

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 4-80(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds from the Government of Canada and Make Loans to Municipalities or Other Persons in the Northwest Territories During the Financial Year 1980-81, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to authorize the Commissioner to borrow funds for the purpose of making loans to municipalities or other persons.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Hon. Mr. McCallum. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 5-80(1), Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance,
Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Second Reading Of Bill 5-80(1): Northwest Territories Housing Corporation
Loan Ordinance, 1980

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 5-80(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to Borrow Money, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to authorize the borrowing of funds by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation for the construction or acquisition of public housing projects, or both.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Mr. Fraser. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 6-80(1), Tobacco Tax Ordinance, Hon. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 6-80(1): Tobacco Tax Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 6-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Tobacco Tax Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to increase the tax on cigarettes.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder? Hon. Mr. Braden. Ready for the questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 7-80(1), Income Tax Ordinance, Hon. Mr. Braden.

Second Reading Of Bill 7-80(1): Income Tax Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 7-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Income Tax Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure that the tax base on which income tax is computed is not reduced should new federal legislation providing for federal tax credits for individuals be introduced and to provide for a schedule containing commencement and transitional provisions and repeals.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder? Hon. Mr. Butters. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: In favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 8-80(1), Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 8-80(1): Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 8-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purposes of this bill, Mr. Speaker, are to provide for the conversion of the rates set out in the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance from imperial to metric units of measure and to increase the rates.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder? Hon. Mr. Braden. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 9-80(1), Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance. Mr. McCallum.

Second Reading Of Bill 9-80(1): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services
(Amendment) Ordinance, 1980

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 9-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purposes of this bill, Mr. Speaker, are twofold: (a) to treat health facility employees as public servants and (b) to enable the Commissioner to make regulations in respect of boards of management of health facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Hon. Mr. Braden. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 10-80(1), Pharmacy Ordinance, Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Second Reading Of Bill 10-80(1): Pharmacy Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I move that Bill 10-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Pharmacy Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Pharmacy Ordinance to make it illegal without a licence to append to one's name or use the title pharmacist or herbalist or, without a licence, to use any similar title.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Mr. Butters. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 11-80(1), Defamation Ordinance, Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 11-80(1): Defamation Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 11-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Defamation Ordinance, be read for the second time. The main purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to overrule the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the case of Cherneskey v. Armadale Publishers Limited. This case went far towards abolishing the defence of fair comment in defamation actions based on the publication by publishers and broadcasters of the opinions or comments of other persons. The right of free expression has been thereby restricted. The legislation would re-establish the fair comment defence. The other purpose is to give the same protection to fair and accurate reports of proceedings in the territorial Council as are given in respect of all other legislatures in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Hon. Mr. McCallum. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 12-80(1), Legal Questions Ordinance, Hon. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 12-80(1): Legal Questions Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 12-80(1), An Ordinance Respecting the Resolution of Legal Questions, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide a means for the obtaining of legal opinions from the supreme court of the Northwest Territories which will have the force of judgments.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Hon. Mr. Braden. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 13-80(1), Arbitration Ordinance, Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 13-80(1): Arbitration Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 13-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Arbitration Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to remove the fee schedules, providing for fees payable to arbitrators and umpires, from the Arbitration Ordinance and to enable the fees to be established within the arbitration rules. The fee tariff could thereby be amended from time to time in a more flexible manner.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Hon. Mr. Braden. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 14-80(1), Creditors Relief Ordinance, Hon. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 14-80(1): Creditors Relief Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I move that Bill 14-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Creditors Relief Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to extend the life of a writ of execution.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Mr. Fraser. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 15-80(1), Exemptions Ordinance, Hon. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 15-80(1): Exemptions Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 15-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Exemptions Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to exempt the earnings or a portion of the earnings of an employee from attachment by garnishment and to equate the exemptions for all employees, whether or not members of the public service.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder? Mr. Arreak. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 16-80(1), Various Ordinance Amendments, Professional Fees, Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 16-80(1): Various Ordinance
Amendments, Professional Fees

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 16-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend Certain Ordinances with Respect to Professional Fees, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to facilitate the process of increasing annual registration and licence fees paid to the government by certain professionals.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder? Mr. Fraser. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Item 11 on the order paper, consideration in committee of the whole.

ITEM NO. 11: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND OTHER MATTERS

Would the Executive Members please indicate what they would like to have considered and in what order? Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, with respect, we might go into committee of the whole to discuss the main appropriations, if that is acceptable to Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will now resolve into committee of the whole to consider Bill 1-80(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81, with Mr. Patterson in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 1-80(1): Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81, with Mr. Patterson in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-80(1):
APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1980-81

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The House will come to order. Mr. Butters, you are introducing this legislation. Do you have any introductory remarks?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, very much so, Mr. Chairman. I ask the indulgence of Members because the introductory remarks are fairly extensive, but I believe that everything which I will put before you will be important. I hope that Members will pay attention to what is said and question not only myself but witnesses who I would ask later that I may call from the Department of Finance and other senior members of this government.

Before going into my remarks, sir, I would just like to say had I been present to speak to second reading of this appropriation I would have indicated that I recognize the responsibility that I have in presenting this bill to the House. My good friend from Mackenzie Liard pointed out that the tenure of Executive Members in this House depends on confidence of the Members of this House and they could lose that tenure by a vote of non-confidence. Also, sir, if this is a responsible government one may find themselves in the position where they would have to submit their resignation on the basis of recommendations they have made to Members and in presenting this budget I feel very much in that situation, because I am presenting to you today what for the first time to my knowledge is a deficit budget, a budget in which we are short some \$13.9 million, a budget which determines the spending requirement for that money but contains no guarantees that the federal government in the coming fiscal year will provide the supplementary funding we need.

I have one glimmer of hope to offer to Members and that is that on the 7th of February I believe I can say that our supplementary estimate for some \$3.8 million is going forward. The bulk of that money would cover overexpenditures, unanticipated expenditures in the area of energy costs. So that if that submission receives the approval of Treasury Board on that date, a precedent has been established and I would expect the supplementary estimate submitted for next year would also be approved. Again I apologize for the length of this statement, but, I do not apologize for its content. I think it is most important.

Deficit Financial Position Of Federal Government

The 1980-81 main estimates for the Government of the Northwest Territories which we will be examining during this session must be considered in light of Canadian economic circumstances and federal-territorial government financial relations. The Government of Canada is in a serious deficit financial position. Substantial budget cuts are being made in many federal programs and the Northwest Territories must expect to be affected accordingly. Increased costs for petroleum products, for stove oil, for gasoline are a reality which must be faced. The handout atmosphere which has been denounced by Members of this and previous Assemblies must be turned around.

Resource development to create more jobs is needed to generate additional revenues to meet the substantial demands of northern communities. Canadian inflation is running at over nine per cent. Industrial wage settlements in 1979 have been averaging over ten per cent. Clearly we are in the midst of a new era of government economic restraint. I expect that government patterns of expenditures will start to change. The direction of that change and the priorities established will in a large measure be determined and

suggested by the debates and the decisions occurring in this chamber. In the past the federal-territorial budget process has been arbitrary and unilateral. I am pleased to report that your Executive Committee has taken the initiative to start negotiations to develop a new relationship for financing this government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Ways are being sought to permit the Government of the Northwest Territories to generate increased revenues. Methods which will be sensitive to northern conditions and costs, and arrangements which will move away from unilaterally determined rates of growth, a process which will get us into the federal economic development envelope rather than one of social assistance.

---Applause

A formula which will facilitate three to five year financial planning yet be flexible enough to make allowances for unusual circumstances in the short term.

Categories Of Government Income

The proposed expenditures of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year 1980-81 will be financed through four major categories of government income. Revenues are Government of Northwest Territories generated sources of income not directly related to services delivered; that is income tax, tobacco tax, liquor profits and petroleum products tax, etc.

Two, recoveries. Recoveries are sources of income related to goods or services provided generally of a non-program nature; for example, from employee housing and for the sale of goods and services.

Three, transfer payments. Transfer payments are intergovernment receipts, that is Government of Canada payments to the Government of the Northwest Territories and are generally related directly to government programs; for example, hospital and medical care, highways maintenance.

Four, direct government capital and operating grants to the Government of the Northwest Territories. The budget for the Government of the Northwest Territories for 1980-81 provides for revenue estimates of \$40.6 million from government-generated sources, including income tax \$23.8 million, tobacco tax \$1.3 million, petroleum products taxes \$3.9 million, liquor profits \$5.2 million, investment income \$2 million and a number of smaller sources such as fees and licences. Additionally the government has budgeted to recover \$11.7 million from employees and others to offset costs incurred for services provided such as housing accommodation and for sales of goods and services. Transfer payments from the federal government account for \$36.9 million to administer such programs as hospital and medical care and highways maintenance. The total of all of these sources of income is \$89.6 million, or approximately 28 per cent of the total capital and operating expenditures of this government.

Alternative Sources Of Revenues

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this government's budget is that \$215 million or over 70 per cent, 70.7 per cent of the total income for operations and capital is funded by direct grants from the federal government. One of the major considerations of Members, therefore, must be to demonstrate our preparedness to increase alternative sources of revenues. However, by taking such a responsible attitude and decision Members must have assurance from the federal government that the Northwest Territories will not be penalized with reduced federal funding when Members act in this financially responsible manner.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: During the 1980-81 fiscal year, territorial revenues will be thoroughly reviewed by the administration to ensure that fees and taxes are appropriate in relation to the services provided and relative to the average of rates charged in provinces. During this session Members will be asked to increase the rates of tax on some petroleum products and on cigarettes to bring them more in line with those currently charged by provinces. The Executive Committee is committed to the exploration of alternative ways to increase government income such as, one, resource revenue sharing in the long-term and short-term recognition of resource revenues in apportioning federal grants. Two, negotiation of changes in federal income tax laws to ensure that appropriate allocations of income taxes to the Government of the Northwest Territories are made. For example, (a) individuals who earn income in the Northwest Territories but who are non-resident at December 31 in a taxation year do not now pay a territorial income tax and, (b) corporations doing business in the Northwest Territories and other parts of Canada pay territorial income tax based on a formula utilizing employee gross earnings and corporate income allocated to the Northwest Territories. In both these cases I suggest to you that the Government of the Northwest Territories is not receiving its due share of income taxes.

Financial Agreements And Procedures

In the area of federal-territorial relations, the federal grants, some \$215 million to the government of the Territories, are budgeted by the Government of Canada under the umbrella of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Because of the size of the grant the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development must have assurance that an appropriate level of funding is provided to the Government of the Northwest Territories. This assurance he obtains from staff members of his own department in the main. Over the past ten years the financial agreements and procedures by which funding has been determined have changed significantly. Prior to 1978 an interdepartmental committee was in existence with federal government membership from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the federal Department of Finance, the Treasury Board and from the Government of the Northwest Territories and at that time I believe the Commissioner represented the territorial interests.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Butters, excuse me, I feel obliged to draw to the House's attention, your ten minutes is up but is the House agreed to allow Mr. Butters to continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Members of the House. The committee's objectives at that time were to recommend changes to the federal-territorial financial relationship and to advise the Minister on funding levels. In 1978 the role and posture of the committee changed to one of an intergovernmental committee on finance with the expectations that this government's position in the negotiations would be enhanced and that its requirements would be determined not by a detailed item by item federal audit as in the past but rather through a global, fiscal framework negotiation process.

Funding Levels Determined By Federal Government

Unfortunately, the negotiation portion of the process has been severely limited and funding levels over the past few years have been arbitrarily and unilaterally determined by the federal government. The growth percentage assigned for the 1980-81 fiscal year was seven per cent and as in prior years attempts to negotiate required increases have resulted in demands for detailed financial information. For example, a reversion back to the departmental audit relationship. In a financial sense then this government has effectively remained as an arm of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development so that while we are expected to perform as a government we are recognized financially as a federal government program.

During the past year the Executive Committee has been developing terms of reference for its finance subcommittee and established a financial management board shortly after the new Executive Committee was formed in the fall of 1979. The financial management board is responsible for overall financial planning and management on all matters which have financial implications to the Government of the Northwest Territories. To recognize that the negotiation process will likely escalate to the political level, the terms of reference of the board provides for the Ministers of the Government of the Northwest Territories to deal directly with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and other federal ministers when intergovernmental committee negotiations do not appear to have provided funding for this government to carry out its mandate at an adequate level.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Assembly Determines Priorities

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The development of a budget for the Northwest Territories generally takes place over a period of approximately 12 to 18 months. The process starts with the Legislative Assembly priorities being determined and developed through debate and discussion in this House. The standing committee on finance of this House picks up these directions and priorities and ensures that they are built into and included in the estimate projections of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The administration must develop and identify these priorities in its budget planning exercise which takes place approximately one year in advance of the budget year. These priorities are then translated into government programs and accountabilities and overall government funding requirements are developed, that is, our total fiscal framework which is then reviewed by the standing committee on finance before negotiations occur with the intergovernmental committee on finance.

Following this process of budget development new objectives and new revenues can be identified and programs cancelled, where appropriate, or to redirect funds to new priorities. When priorities become firm and funding resources are determined, guidelines are issued to departments for development of the main estimates. In the case of the 1980-81 fiscal year, the priorities were developed by the Legislative Assembly in 1978 and translated into program issues by the Executive Committee during the summer of 1979 just prior to the issuance of guidelines to departments. Understandably, because of the territorial election and the period of political transition in 1979 the 1980-81 main estimates may not reflect all of the priorities of the Ninth Assembly, but it should be remembered that if this Assembly decides that there are major issues of priorities which have not been reflected in the main estimates, that this Assembly may adjust the emphasis accordingly.

---Applause

However, the expenditure framework has been finalized. Decisions taken to fund new programs must be offset by deletions of spending authority from other programs in the estimates.

Capital Side Of Budget

I would like to just refer to the capital side of the budget for a few moments. This years capital estimates of \$54,664,000 reflect a three per cent nominal growth over last years capital estimates of \$53 million. However, in terms of real dollars, considering the inflation, this years capital estimates reflect a real decrease of approximately ten or 12 per cent. A significant part of this decrease results from a recommendation to transfer some \$4.5 million of our capital grant to the operation and maintenance budget. Another major element of this years capital estimates is a \$3 million total appropriation for energy conservation. This capital investment recognizes the need and significant benefits to be derived from retrofitting buildings and other conservation techniques.

A number of other general aspects of this years capital estimates are: one, a \$4.5 million appropriation to upgrade and expand POL, petroleum, oil and lubricants program, bulk storage. This appropriation recognizes the vital aspects of secure oil products in our communities. Two, an \$18.7 million appropriation in Local Government representing a decrease of 17 per cent from last years estimates of \$22.5 million. This decrease is consistent with the government's long-range capital plans of improving facilities in our communities. Over the past few years a large investment has been made in these facilities. Three, the Health Department's capital estimates of \$1.9 million show an increase of 16 per cent above last year. However, a more important consideration than this years appropriation is the future years anticipated cost of some \$14.6 million. The Education Department capital estimates of \$5.9 million show a decrease of 29 per cent from last year. This decrease reflects relatively small front end dollars connected with the planning stage of a number of large capital projects. It is again necessary to emphasize future years anticipated costs of \$14.1 million.

Review Of Main Estimates

The main estimates for each government activity have been subject to a detailed and comprehensive "accountabilities" review by the policy and financial management secretariats, the financial management board and the standing committee on finance whose report has been tabled by the committee chairman. With few exceptions, each budget presented to you in the main estimates reflects severe reductions in real growth and a number of significant budget cuts. The 1980-81 budget is a "maintenance" budget. There are no significant changes in programs from prior years, but it does incorporate corrections to historical funding imbalances; for example, where programs have been budgeted at an adequate man year level but inadequate salary funding has been provided, or where regions have had an excess of funding in some programs and inadequate funding in others.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Excuse me, Mr. Butters. The interpreter needs more time. She needs more time to catch up.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Okay. Thank you, sir. This Assembly may alter priorities in the estimates as presented. To do so, however, decisions should be based on a thorough review and full understanding of the implications and consequences. The procedure for the development of these main estimates has been thorough and major changes may make it impractical for government managers to carry out their responsibilities.

Funding For Priorities Inadequate

The establishment of priorities and their translation into dollars and cents assumes that adequate funding levels will remain for those programs that have been operating at an adequate level but which have not been identified as priorities, and also assumes that major uncontrollable expenditure items such as utilities costs will not impact on other program funding. Unfortunately, this has not been the case, and it has simply not been possible to adequately address all priorities, fund all programs at minimum levels, meet the costs of all uncontrollable items and at the same time to "balance the budget".

The budget presented to you, therefore, provides for an operating deficit of \$13.9 million which is fully attributable to the estimated excess in costs of utilities over the seven per cent growth guideline. Exceptional utilities cost increases were incurred in 1979-80 and a submission was made to the federal Treasury Board to obtain supplementary funding. Our initial indications are that this submission will be favourably received and it is my hope and expectation that the submission will receive Treasury Board consideration on February 7th.

The Hon. Jake Epp, Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, is aware that this government is proceeding with a deficit budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year. He has indicated that his government would be receptive to a special energy submission. When more definite cost and volume information is known in the fall of 1980, this government will submit a request for supplementary funding to fully cover the excess of utilities costs. Alternatively, this government is expected to receive special consideration in a national energy policy which may incorporate direct subsidies or provide for recognition in this government's negotiated funding levels.

Budget Structure

To close just with some words on the budget structure that you will be examining over the next four weeks. The main and supplementary estimates are divided into expenditures, expenditure "votes", page iii of the main estimates. Vote one is for operation and maintenance. This vote provides the funding for expenditures required for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of government programs. Vote two is for capital. This vote provides the funding for expenditures required for the construction or acquisition of buildings, works and equipment. Vote three is for loans. This vote provides the funding for expenditures required to make loans to municipalities.

Additional information provided in the main estimates but which is not voted includes, one, work performed on behalf of third parties which relates to work performed by the Government of Northwest Territories generally on behalf of the federal government which also provides funding. Two, sources of operating income are summarized in each activity. Three, summaries of man year requirements are also filed for each activity therein.

The total of the expenditures in all programs make up the total vote in each category. For example, all operating and maintenance expenditures for all government programs are contained in vote one. Each program is divided into activities. The estimates contain individual pages describing each activity summarizing the main categories of expenditures. This Assembly will be asked to review and approve the expenditure levels for each activity and to vote on the level of funding provided for each program.

Highlights Of Budget

Here are highlights of some of the expenditures that you will find within the budget document for this year. The 1980-81 estimates reflect the requirement for the Government of the Northwest Territories to spend an increasingly high proportion of its resources to cover its costs for fuel and electrical power. The Department of Public Works pays all of the government's utility bills. The estimates have allocated to DPW an increase in expenditure of 28.2 per cent over the 1979-80 estimates for O and M. This increase is directly attributable to the increase in utility costs. The estimated increase in utility costs is 105 per cent more than the amount estimated for 1979-80. In activities other than utility expenditures the department is budgeting a 2.6 per cent decrease. High costs for utilities are also reflected in the estimates of other departments which fund programs having utility costs as a component of the total cost of their programs. Similarly, the O and M budget of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is increased 22.5 per cent to cover the extra costs for electrical power and fuel for its housing programs.

Estimates Reflect Priorities

The estimates reflect the priorities identified by the previous Assembly. In recognition of the priority of constitutional development, the budget for the Legislative Assembly has increased by 54.9 per cent. The Department of Local Government has an estimated increase of 2.8 per cent to meet priorities in training and community development. The priority of economic development is being recognized in a process of planning and reassessing objectives. Economic Development and Tourism has been allocated 7.5 per cent fewer resources than in the 1979-80 budget, but 8.2 per cent more than the 1978-79 actual expenditures.

It should be noted that the rate of inflation is approximately 9.7 per cent. Departments receiving small increases in their budgets are incurring real reductions in funding, thus Social Services with a 6.1 per cent increase and Health with a 7.8 per cent increase are barely able to meet the costs of their programs at the 1979-80 level of service, let alone the 1980-81 level. In education the increase of 15 per cent for the Department of Education is necessary to meet the costs of salary agreements with Northwest Territories teachers and to ensure that past levels of service in education are not eroded. The current cost to the government for educating students in northern institutions is over \$4000 per student.

Generally, the government support departments: Personnel, Government Services, Finance, will incur the greatest real reductions in funding. These departments will be operating at a marginal level. At this level of funding the services provided by these departments may be significantly impaired and affect the responsiveness and efficiency of the government as a whole in providing programs and services.

The estimates plan for a decrease of 80 man years compared with the 1979-80 estimates. The Legislative Assembly 4.5 man year increase and the Department of Health 19.4 man year increase are the only departments allocated significant additional man years. The increase in the Department of Health is attributable to an agreement with the Department of National Health and Welfare to perform certain functions on its behalf on a contract basis. The Government of the Northwest Territories is being reimbursed for these costs.

Conclusions On Estimates

In conclusion, the 1980 estimates reflect: one, the demand on government resources to pay for steadily increasing energy costs; two, the need to maintain programs such as education, social services and health at a traditional level of service and, three, the need to recognize the priorities of previous Assemblies and I would say this Assembly as well. The deficit; the 1980-81 estimates propose a deficit of \$13.9 million for operation and maintenance expenditures. This is directly attributable to the escalating costs of energy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your patience and the patience of Members. I would be very grateful if I might call to assist as a witness Eric Nielsen if he is in the House and possibly Mr. Gary Burch to join us if we are to continue in a general questioning approach.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Is it the wish of the committee that the witnesses be called now? This is a general discussion at this point and I was going to invite the Members to make general comments on the speech, the budget speech given by Mr. Butters, but is it the wish of Members to have the witnesses come forward now?

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): In that case I will invite the witnesses to come forward. I should let the committee know that I am informed we are not quite prepared for this in that a microphone will have to be hooked up. However, while that is being done I will invite Members to make any reply to Mr. Butters at this time. Are there any replies? The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

An Historic Moment

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would, simply maybe in a moment such as this, because I think it has been a fairly historical moment in terms of the Territories in that we have a budget speech presented by an elected Member for the first time. I think if you follow precedents of other jurisdictions, the Member who introduces that speech usually has some new footwear and I wonder what kind of footwear the Hon. Mr. Butters is wearing. In terms of Mr. Crosbie at the federal level, he introduced the moccasin budget and I wonder in the North whether Mr. Butters has. If he has not I wonder if we should not go on record and possibly get the cheapest form of ore, get whatever boots he has got on and plate them because we will keep them somewhere because it has been a very historic moment.

---Applause

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I accept the remarks of the hon. Member with interest. I must admit I thought of that, but as our budget is such a Raggedy-Ann budget I have come in my old, second best shoes and until we can see our situation develop so that we can negotiate with the federal government the funds that will reflect the needs of our programs, I think that I will continue to come with holes in my pants and holes in my shoes. But when we do negotiate on a jurisdiction to jurisdiction basis then I think the person presenting the speech at that time should be wearing new shoes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Are there any other general comments on the speech? Yes, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to remark that I think as far as I am concerned, in spite of the historic significance to Mr. Butters' speech today, and we commend him on that, but I would just like to state that it may not be such a desirable thing to practise the kind of experiment that we have seen in the federal parliament where the Finance Minister is attempting to wear mukluks down there, because it had a very bad impact on the Canadian people. I would suggest that we take a new course of significance up here maybe by suggesting to this Assembly that anyone who is presenting a budget should not wear any shoes at all.

---Laughter

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Yes, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Availability Of Information Beforehand

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, since this is precedent setting and unquestionably will continue as the years go by, that is, an elected Member presenting the budget speech to the rest of us, there are a couple of things that I would like to see. One of them is that much of the information that is going to be contained in the budget speech be available to Members beforehand and at the very least, that copies be available for Members while the speech is being read so that we may have a better opportunity of commenting on it immediately afterwards.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Yes. Are there any other replies? If not then, Mr. Butters, is there any particular sequence in which the administration wishes to consider these estimates?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would think that the Members may have some questions of a general nature and I doubt that maybe I could respond to these. This was my thought when I suggested that Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Burch attend us. You have asked for comments and maybe questions of a general nature would be forthcoming at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Butters. We will proceed. I should explain that I am informed that before we plug in the witnesses' mike, the entire sound system will have to be briefly shut off. Let us not go anywhere, it will only take a short time, but once that is done we will open the floor to general questions of the witnesses. So, we will not recess but there will be a short technical delay without recorded music.

It looks like we are hooked up now. Mr. Nielsen, would you come forward and Mr. Burch? We will now entertain general questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Non-resident Income Tax

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I notice in the budget speech a reference to something which has concerned me in the past, but I did not see any easy answer to it. That is the fact that there seemed to be significant numbers of people who earn rather large incomes in the Northwest Territories yet live elsewhere and pay their income taxes elsewhere. As I say I put my mind to that problem for some time but did not see any easy answer to it. I noticed a reference to it in the budget speech. Could you tell me what plans you do have to pursue that matter? Could you give me some indication of how much money we do miss each year because of that, or perhaps you do not have that kind of information at the moment? Are there implications the opposite way, in other words, surely there are people from the Territories who earn incomes elsewhere and what sort of a trade-off is there?

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, the amount of money, first of all, we have not been able to determine, primarily because we are very new in the income tax field and have never had access to income tax records until this year. In fact, we have asked the federal government to provide us with some details on corporate taxpayers hopefully with a view to examining those within the next few months.

With respect to individuals, the law presently provides and this is a federal law, that individuals pay income tax on the basis of the province in which they were resident on December 31st of a taxation year. It is very difficult for us to determine who earned the income unless we were to have some method by which employers were able to or required to provide information on where that income was earned.

Income Tax Allocation Committee

There is an income tax allocation committee which is presently chaired by the federal Department of Finance. We have membership on that committee. There are a few provinces that feel as we do that perhaps there is income tax revenue accruing to us which is not being received. On the other hand there are a few provinces who really do not care very much about it because the amount is negligible.

Presently we are negotiating, I would say at an administrative level, to see what we can do. I think that once we have a few more facts and figures in our hands, if we are unsuccessful in promoting a change in that legislation at an administrative level, we will provide those figures to the Executive and I expect it will escalate to a political level at that time. As far as the amount is concerned on the basis of present gross incomes in the Northwest Territories I suspect if there is an amount, and again it is very, very hard to determine, it would be unlikely much more than a million dollars, but that is a very, very shot-in-the-dark kind of estimate.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I understand it is quite possible for instance for someone to have lived in the Northwest Territories for the bulk of the year, perhaps at an Esso driven rig or something and even be on site on December 31st, yet maintain that he has a residence elsewhere and therefore pay all of his taxes elsewhere. Is that the way it would work?

MR. NIELSEN: That is correct. The interesting one would be, of course, the individuals working on offshore rigs which offshore is presently the jurisdiction of the federal government, so they obviously would be not a Northwest Territories resident at December 31st. Generally speaking, however, it is advantageous for an individual to be a resident of the Northwest Territories with the exception of the province of Alberta. The province of Alberta is the only province in Canada that has a lower provincial or territorial income tax rate than the Northwest Territories so it is presently advantageous, in all other provinces, for an individual and I would suspect most individuals would prefer, to declare themselves as residents of the Northwest Territories if they had the opportunity.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Just one other question if I may. Something different from that. In view of the fact that I believe Mr. Butters said that when we put aside energy there is, I think, a two point something per cent reduction in the expenditures of the government this year, would you call it a budget of restraint apart from the energy problem that we are facing?

Decrease In Real Growth

MR. NIELSEN: The figure of 2.6 per cent that was quoted was a reduction in the Department of Public Works budget and I think that is an indication of the restraint that has been exercised throughout government. As was pointed out by Mr. Butters in his speech, almost every department has taken a decrease. In fact, every department has taken a decrease in real growth and recognizing that there has been inflation of approximately nine per cent, we are faced with a seven per cent restriction on funding increase in our overall fiscal network. Obviously real growth in this government should have been in the neighbourhood of something in excess of nine per cent even excluding the additional costs for utilities, so I would suggest that in fact every department in this government has exercised significant restraint and in fact those were the guidelines that were given by the Executive Committee to all departments. In order to meet targets with one or two exceptions I would say that every department has been forced to take -- if not drastic -- severe measures in making its initial presentation to the budget.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Nielsen. Any further questions of the witnesses? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: In his speech the Hon. Member from Inuvik mentioned that he was prepared to resign if the anticipated money was not forthcoming to serve this huge deficit. Perhaps other Members will see the need to do the same, but that would not necessarily serve our immediate need which is to pay the bills. At what point in the budget year do we begin to become concerned if the Treasury Board chooses to ignore or delay its decision concerning extraordinary funding for the utilities and what immediate measures would need to be taken if the money is not forthcoming? I am talking about the 1980-81 budget.

Supplementary Funding Presentation

MR. NIELSEN: With respect to timing there are three or four major indicators. The first indicator, of course, was pointed out by the hon. Member introducing the budget and is the case of what happens if the supplementary funding presentation that is being made to Treasury Board on February 7th -- I think that is the first indicator. The second indicator obviously will be the mood and I suppose the atmosphere that is created by the new government, whichever government that is. That will be the second indicator. The third indicator will be the definite changes in the pricing structure for petroleum products. The main estimates that we have presented we feel are not going to be, certainly not going to be exceeded in the pricing structure and volume of fuel and petroleum products and power costs. So we feel that in fact there could be less cost accruing to this government, again depending on what government changes are made between now and the time that we buy our fuel and the time that Northern Canada Power Commission buys its fuel as its requirements increase. So I would say that is the next indicator.

Following that, when we have a better indication of what the prices are, and I suspect this will not be generally known until at least the summer and perhaps September of next year, we would then be in a position, fairly close to being in the position of preparing a supplementary estimate. At that point in time there are two or three things impacting on the budget which may make it possible to still proceed and in fact be able to come fairly close. Even though we may have a small deficit, it may not be the total amount that is in the budget. The first one, as was identified in the budget presentation, the total of the money available for capital has not been allocated to capital expenditures so there is in excess of \$4.5 million being held back as a possible transfer to the O and M budget. The other indicator, and this is one that we find it very, very difficult to get a handle on, is that of the area of revenues. We have had our estimates on income tax, for example, out by as much as \$6 million. The federal Department of Finance makes estimates on income taxes based on prior years and in the current fiscal year the estimate for revenues from income taxes increased \$2.5 million just in the last couple of months. We would anticipate on the basis of mineral prices and certainly on the basis of the initial profit figures being reflected by the mining companies in the North that we would anticipate significant increases in our corporate income taxes this year. So I think all of those things have to be combined and perhaps by September or October of next year we would be in a far, better position of identifying whether or not some severe restraints could be exercised.

Budget Adjustments

I think adding all of those things up that if the revenues come in in increased amounts as we anticipate, if the capital budget transfer is made -- then a final point which I did not mention is the case of the increased revenues for petroleum products tax and tobacco tax. If all of these things are taken together, I think we would be very close in terms of our budget for the total year. So even though we are going in at the present time with a \$13.9 million deficit position, I think we are in a position of being able to finally make adjustments to that budget by about October of next year.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other questions? Mr. Parker.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to add one thing further to what Mr. Nielsen has said in this regard and that is this. The Executive Committee will be engaged in the exercise of seeking clarification with regard to our proposal that we receive special attention for our energy costs. We would be seeking that clarification very early in the new fiscal year. In fact the matter, of course, is under discussion even now and I would not think that we would go beyond two or three months into the new fiscal year before putting ourselves in the position to decide whether we had to apply further restraint measures or not. Mr. Nielsen has outlined the situation to you very well, but I would not think that the Executive Committee would let the matter go until the fall of the year. I am confident that we will have a decision on the manner of treating our energy costs well before that time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Are there any other questions or comments? Yes, Mrs. Sorensen.

Transfer Of Capital

MRS. SORENSEN: With regard to transferring capital into O and M, are we sure that we have the permission of the federal government to do this yet?

MR. NIELSEN: For the 1979-80 fiscal year we have definite assurance that this can be done. This was negotiated on the intergovernmental committee and agreed to by the Minister.

MRS. SORENSEN: Do we have that in writing?

MR. NIELSEN: I believe we do. We have it in the minutes of the intergovernmental committee which were provided by DIAND.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Anyone else? Yes, Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MACQUARRIE: Mr. Nielsen, supposing the special funding from the federal government does not bail us out and yet we feel that we have restrained departmental programs as much as is realistically possible. We have juggled money and increased taxes and there is still a shortfall. What would the situation be with respect to the Government of the Northwest Territories taking a leaf out of every other jurisdiction in the world, I think, and run into borrowing money to finance its programs? Has any thought been given in that direction at all? Where do we stand legally and so on?

MR. NIELSEN: Obviously when borrowing one must incur debt charges which accrue the following year and must be paid. Clearly I think over a period of years we would anticipate having something that balances. We have had occasions in past years where we have not spent all the amount of money that we anticipated spending. If we incurred a deficit this year then presumably action could be taken next year which would alleviate that situation.

Just on the point that I identified, in the case of revenues, of capital and income taxes as an example, we could be out by as much as \$9 million. I should say we could provide deficit funding up to an amount of approximately \$9 million if that was required. We have in the past as a government exercised restraint of \$3 million and \$4 million during the course of a year; that has not been unreasonable. It has been a hardship but it has been accomplished and I would suggest that the same sort of thing could be accomplished in this year. As the Commissioner pointed out certainly if the indicator was there early in the year that we definitely were not going to get this additional funding then severe action could be taken if it is not too late for that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Yes, Mr. Curley.

Signing Of Agreement

MR. CURLEY: Yes. My question concerns the last fiscal budget, 1979-80, where we experienced a very difficult financial situation in the fact that in my reply to the Commissioner I stated in the Inuktitut language but I do not think it was translated, the experience that we had with the Commissioner signing, as a matter of fact, a deficit, I would think a deficit agreement with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association. He signed the contract without having any funds assured by the Assembly or by the whole Government of Northwest Territories fund.

As an officer in charge of the financial control could you assure us or what steps could you ensure that we not practise the kind of practice again whereby the Executive Member or the Commissioner would sign such an agreement without having any financial or money in our pockets? Could you ensure or at least reassure that you have taken some measures and if so what steps do you expect could be made by the Assembly to prevent such further spending without authorization? You know, one particular example, there was an example that the contract was signed with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association without any money or not knowing where the money was going to come from. What I am trying to get at is what measures have been taken to ensure that this kind of practice is not carried on again?

MR. NIELSEN: That is a loaded question. I am not really sure that I am in a position to answer the political aspects of that question. I can answer the philosophy and that is that negotiations with unions are done in good faith on behalf of the employer and the employees, the association that is being bargained with. Those negotiations take place within a climate of financial responsibility. There are guidelines that are provided to the negotiators and it is expected that if those guidelines are exceeded then obviously there would have to be a decision taken as to whether or not the government would be prepared, as an employer, to negotiate further or increase its offer or alternatively to go to arbitration.

I think at this point, in terms of the decision to go to arbitration or not, is the point at which I would really like to defer to the Commissioner, if you would agree to that, because I think that is where the explanation has to come from, particularly in the case of the last year where in fact arbitration did take place with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association.

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

Agreement Not Illegal

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I believe that Mr. Curley's basic premise is wrong in that I took no illegal action. I did not sign any agreement for which there was not money. There may have been inadequate funds within the activity for salaries within Education, but within the total amount of money voted for education by the Legislature and within the total budget of the Government of the Northwest Territories there was sufficient money. In order to meet the increased salary costs reached through negotiations it may well have been necessary for us to take very stringent measures, but in fact we are able to transfer money from our capital vote to our O and M vote to cover those expenditures, so I did not sign any agreement for which there was not money.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you. Are there any other questions? Yes, Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I do not have a question, but is it in order for me to make some comments?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I think so.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you. Over the last few minutes you have heard from our Deputy Minister of Finance and, to a certain extent the Commissioner, on how we could possibly deal with a future situation where we do not receive the necessary federal deficit financing to cover off the deficit in our budget which we will be considering in this session. Now, I would urge that Members recognize what the officials of the territorial government can do. However, I would also urge that we all give serious consideration to our political responsibilities in the Legislature and in the Executive branch to pressure the federal government about our case and our particular needs.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

Financial Relationship Antiquated

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Now, I think that Mr. Butters has stated rather mildly the current condition which exists between ourselves and the federal government. Our financial relationship that we have with the federal government is antiquated, it is out of date and I think that they recognize it at that level as well.

I would say that in the first instance this relationship must change and if we in the Legislature and if we in the Executive Committee have to pressure, publicly, the federal government, I think we have to accept that responsibility. We cannot look down the room here to Mr. Nielsen and say, "Well, how can you bail us out of this bind now?" We have got to force the federal government to recognize that they have to deal with us on a government to government basis and I will not go into the technicalities of all of that, but the problems that we are experiencing now with our 1979-80 budget and our shortfalls are the product of a process which has gone rotten, the product of a process where officials, with all due respect to the hard work that people in finance have done, where officials have not been able to sort out a good working relationship where things can get done, so that we know in October that our submissions to the Treasury Board will indeed get to the Treasury Board.

In the second instance, on the business of our rising utility costs, I think that it is the responsibility of everyone here to not only preach conservation but also to make the case, publicly if need be, to candidates who are currently seeking representation for Nunatsiaq and the Western Arctic riding, that we in the Northwest Territories deserve some special consideration.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

Special Consideration Needed For N.W.T.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: We cannot have down in Ottawa a situation where the Minister of Finance proposes to Canada surcharges on a product which is a necessity in the Northwest Territories without having him say, "There are special provisions in my statement for the people of the Northwest Territories." We have to, ladies and gentlemen, continue to pressure the federal government so that all these contingencies that our Deputy Minister has brought up will not be upon us in March or April or May or in the fall. We have to pressure them to recognize that we deserve special consideration. Thank you.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Yes, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, just as a footnote to what the Hon. Member from Yellowknife North has said, one should not take from that that the existing Executive Committee has not done that at some length and with some continuing energy. I agree that what we would like from this Assembly is a statement, a motion of support for us to continue the pressures that we are already carrying out. I think that the fact that our Treasury Board submission is going before -- if it goes before -- Treasury Board on February 7th, is a result of a lot of hard work and pressure on the part of Mr. Braden, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Wah-Shee and myself. So I just wish to say that we are doing this and I pledge that we will continue to do this to obtain the objectives that Mr. Braden has so succinctly described.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Hon. Mr. Butters. Are there any other comments or questions? Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: I would just like some clarification. The request to this Legislative Assembly is that we vote a deficit of \$13.9 million, is that right?

MR. NIELSEN: That is correct.

MS. COURNOYEA: The supposition is that as the year passes by, additional funds should be coming in in terms of, say, a lower rate on estimating income tax. Is that right?

Revenue From Taxes

MR. NIELSEN: The supposition I think, first of all, is that we will receive the first full \$13.9 million and more in terms of utilities supplementary funding. The question remains if that does not or if that is definitely not going to come forward, then what alternatives are there? What would be the likely year end deficit and that would depend on other factors. The amount of revenue as an example that is presently shown in the main estimates does not include the proposed increase on petroleum products tax, mobile petroleum products and the tobacco tax. It does not include what I suppose I would have to categorize as a supposition on my part, that the income taxes this government will receive over the next year will be larger than we have in the main estimates. It also does not demonstrate a \$4.5 million transfer from capital. So we are simply suggesting that if the \$13.9 million is not forthcoming, that there are alternatives and the case is not quite as bad as having that full amount and no alternatives. There are a few alternatives remaining if that \$13.9 million is not forthcoming.

MS. COURNOYEA: Would it be safe to say that if the \$13.9 million in the first case and the second case is not recovered -- what status does that put the territorial government in? Would the federal government, as it does in relationship to other agencies that receive federal government funding, put them in a deficit state of not receiving funding in the next year until their financial paperwork is balanced?

MR. NIELSEN: At the present time we are funded on the basis of what is called a fiscal framework which is an overall or global estimate of the amount of funding required. As has been pointed out, this unfortunately has deteriorated to a straight percentage increase allocation on a previous global fiscal framework amount. To date there has not been a suggestion that any surpluses be returned or any deficits be recovered. In fact we have been working on that global fiscal framework from period to period, so assuming that a deficit budget went forward, then the next years fiscal framework would be based on -- let us say the growth would be based on the base fiscal framework which has been established for this year which is not the same amount as is voted in the main estimates.

Fiscal Framework

I think this might be somewhat confusing but I should point out that there are two major amounts, two dollar amounts that are used, one of which is a very global revenue and expenditure estimate as to how much we think we need and we will set a figure of, say, \$300 million. Then that is an external amount determination. That is with the federal government. Subsequently the Executive reviews the priorities and the requirements of programs on an individual basis and they vote an amount of money. That amount of money may be more or less than the original fiscal framework which was negotiated with the federal government and to some extent the amount that is voted depends upon revenues and the estimated amount of expenditure that it is felt will actually be spent. Normally we might vote \$300 million but in any fiscal year we very, very seldom spend that much money. We usually lapse two or three per cent. That means we would probably only spend \$290,000 or something of that nature, \$295,000. It is very difficult to determine the exact amount

of expenditure because the original programs again are budgeted programs. They are estimates of what program people think they are going to do during the course of a year. The budget is not and should not be considered to be a fixed plan. It is simply a plan and during the course of the year it could very well be that some other priorities vary slightly and there are programs that are not proceeded with and therefore the total amount of money is not spent.

MS. COURNOYEA: May I ask my question again? We are being asked to allocate a \$13.5 million deficit. If we as an Assembly vote the institution of the Government of the Northwest Territories to spend that, we are endorsing that deficit. Now in the interim in negotiations with the federal government we only come up with, say -- we are short \$6 million and I will place this question in relationship to hamlet councils, settlement councils who run into a deficit and try to reallocate funding. After a certain time the territorial government normally shuts down the council and goes in and deems them incapable of handling affairs. If we follow this same line and we are short with all the action that is taken, would the federal government of Canada deem us incapable of handling our budget?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, if I could be permitted to make a comment or a partial response to the Member's question, I am afraid that there is not a simple yes or no answer to that question because of the complexities of the budgeting process. The federal government in my view has never -- it is my understanding -- has never had to move in on the territorial government, as it were, to correct any errors or shortfalls in their fiscal approach and I think with a responsible Executive Committee this will not happen. As Mr. Nielsen has explained, it is impossible within the limits of a \$300 million budget -- remember that is over a quarter of a billion dollars -- within the limits of that very major amount of money it is very difficult to fine tune it closer than two or three per cent. We will always have an element of doubt on one side or the other of the line and with the kind of actions that are possible under a budget of that size it is possible for us to say as an Executive Committee, we will not let our affairs slip into a position whereby the federal government would have to either take punitive action or move in on our financial administration. I suppose it simply becomes a matter of trust in the Executive Committee that this would not happen.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. The hour being 6:00 o'clock, I would suggest that the committee rise and I will report progress if it is agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-80(1): APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE, 1980-81

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the committee of the whole considered the main estimates and I will report some progress was made.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Clerk, are there any announcements?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The meeting of the Members' services board at 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning in Katamavik A and the unity committee tomorrow morning, Wednesday morning at 9:00 o'clock in Katamavik A.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I would just remind Members there is no meeting in the boardroom of the Legislative Assembly offices which is being used as a typing room for the transcript so there is a change of location.

Item 14, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Orders of the day, February 5, 1980, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Continuing Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions: Motion 1-80(1)
9. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 18-80(1)
10. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Others Matters: Bills 1-80(1), 2-80(1), 3-80(1), 4-80(1), 5-80(1), 18-80(1)
11. Third Reading of Bills
12. Assent to Bills
13. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 5, 1980, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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