



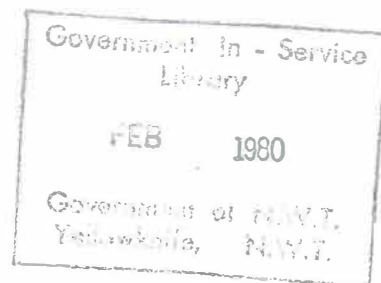
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DEBATES

2nd Session

9th Assembly

Official Report



Monday, February 11, 1980

Pages 255 to 305

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1980

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): Just a very quick comment on the matter of procedure again. I would ask Members in the future who have tidings to bring from their constituencies, either joyous or as last week very sad, I would invite you to use this period to rise to inform the House of such matters right at this moment or else at the announcements at the end of the day if you please.

Item 2, continuing replies to the Commissioner's Address and I remind you that this is the last day for replies. Mrs. Sorensen.

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

Mrs. Sorensen's Reply

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my privilege and pleasure to respond to the Commissioner's Address today and to share with you some of my thoughts concerning this government and the direction I feel that it must take into the 1980's. It has been more than one week since we began our deliberations during our second session. While debate has not always been productive, we must all agree that at least parts of it have been lively. After sitting through a particularly trying afternoon session last week a friend gave me an article called "Can governments govern?" and it is a question that aptly applies to this Legislature.

It is obvious that there are those among us today who do not believe that this Legislature is the government. They are far more comfortable divorcing themselves from this issue by preferring to continue to believe that there is a "we" and a "they". We, the Legislature and they, the Government of the Northwest Territories. I am not prepared to accept that at all, my hon. Members. As far as I am concerned the buck stops here. We are the government. It is true that at one time not so very long ago this Legislature was considered a second class citizen. Former Commissioner Hodgson more than once said "I am the government" and indeed he was, but times have changed. Many of us have commented on the openness and co-operation we have experienced working with John Parker. Even the hon. Mr. Sibbeston, so hostile at the beginning, has mellowed a bit.

Times are changing, but these will only be productive changes if we grab this opportunity which I see for us, this opportunity to set new policy, to set new priorities and to set new directions. Saskatchewan right now is faced with addressing its northern people and their special wants and needs as are many provinces in Canada. The northern municipal council in a submission to the Saskatchewan government stated and I quote: "We, the councillors of the northern municipality affirm our belief that the government should be a servant to the people and not their attentive masters. Government is not a substitute for the people but simply the instrument through which they act." Mr. Speaker, this government somehow over the years has become our master. Time and time again I have heard it cannot be done because the administration says so. However, I am not prepared to give up. I believe that this Assembly can make this government our servant. We can turn things around but it will take strength, a willingness to work hard and a determination to take charge.

Division Of Territories

Here among us, however, are those who represent people who wish to divide this land into two separate territories. Frankly, as things are in this government, few would blame them. In fact many would support their desire for division. Those Members represent people who feel they have been neglected by the Government of the Northwest Territories, who feel they have a right to run their own affairs, make their own decisions and govern in their own language. I do not see these ambitions as a threat, I see them as a challenge and I welcome that challenge for it is the wish of all of us here to be masters of our own destiny. I would prefer, of course, that the North remain united because I see strength in that union. However, I am also prepared to help take the steps towards supporting a division of the Territories if that is, in the end, in the best interests of the people of the North. What I am not prepared to do is coast into division without at least trying to find alternatives and I will come back to that in a few moments.

History Of Idea

Division of the Northwest Territories is not new. Back in 1963, Bills C-83 and C-84 were debated in the House of Commons under the Liberal government. It was said that the bills presented which called for two separate territories in the Northwest Territories were as a result of a formal resolution of the Northwest Territories Council which carried the support of both the elected and appointed members of the time. The Northwest Territories Council's resolution, according to Hansard, was forwarded to the federal government following the Northwest Territories Council session in January of 1962. The resolution for division was accepted in principle by the government of the time. I believe that it was a Conservative government. Many believe that rather than a territorial initiative, division was a scheme sponsored by those interests in the federal government who were afraid of losing the federal hold in the Northwest Territories. To divide was to maintain the federal entrenchment in the sparsely populated East.

Eventually the two legislative bills were referred to the mines, forest and waters committee for representation from northerners who presented a strong case for keeping the North together. The most forceful argument centred around the extremely small eastern population and the lack of sophistication of the eastern Inuit. To create another territory at the time simply did not make sense. Well, the bills eventually died and the Carrothers Commission was born.

Now we are into the 80's. Times have definitely changed and 15 years after that debate on division took place in the House of Commons, as predicted by one of the witnesses appearing before the standing committee of the House of Commons, a case for division is being made by the people of the Northwest Territories again. This time the eastern people. This proposal is not, at least it does not appear to be, government sponsored or initiated. It is from within the North and I for one, see it as healthy.

During the last session the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay in his reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address stated and I quote: "Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to hearing the case for unity of the Territories. I think it is time that the case be made, that the facts be given. I am anxious to consult and receive the views of the Dene, for example. What do they think of our move towards self-determination? These questions must be asked and studied in a hurry."

Inaction May Breed Division

Mr. Speaker, this Legislative Assembly responded. It formed a unity committee, a committee whose mandate it is to try to determine the terms by which a political consensus might be generated among the people of the Northwest Territories. However, Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to wait the year or two it will take for the unity committee to tell us that the Inuit want Nunavut, the Inuvialuit want the agreement in principle and the Dene and Metis want self-determination of their own before I suggest, in fact demand, changes in the structure of the Government of the Northwest Territories which are so necessary, because I believe that to remain as we are, to do nothing even for one or two years, to leave the government structure as it is will do more to heighten discontent, to breed division, to serve those interests which would see the North split into two or three independent, expensive and separate jurisdictions all depending upon the federal government than any other action we could take as a Legislature.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: I would rather try to make changes and chance failure than to coast into Nunavut doing nothing but maintaining the status quo.

I propose that we look seriously inward to our government structure once again. There are those who would say that that has already been done by the recent task force on administration. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that with the exception of paying lip service in that report to decentralization and the need to have increased authority and responsibility to achieve effective delivery at the regional level, nothing new was suggested. The task force merely reshuffled departments and bodies. It merely reinforced the southern model of responsible government, that of departmental ministerialships. It is true the task force members recognized on page 26 of their report the need for regional input and regional plans whereby regions assist in the assignment of priorities and resources in both programs and capital planning, but the task force could not address it any further.

Mr. Speaker, I submit they chickened out. Here was an excellent chance to examine a new structure, a northern-style government based on northern priorities. So what if ultimately it means regional government? Why are we so afraid of regional government?

MR. PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, we are heading that way anyway and faster than we think. I propose that the very first thing we do as a government is set aside all our southern models. For too long the Government of the Northwest Territories has been a product of the South. That, Mr. Speaker, has been its biggest mistake. Our vision has been limited by it. Our imagination has been stifled by it. We have been slaves to the southern way of government. It is now time to define a northern way of governing our own people.

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Government In North Should Be Unique

Our legislation, for example, is a mishmash of various provincial laws. Even within one ordinance one can find clauses listed from two and three different pieces of provincial legislation and from different provinces. It is like we did not have a mind of our own when we created some of our own laws. We must design our own model of government, one that fits our unique culture, our unique northern situation, a government that responds to the needs of northern people who live and work in the Territories, to the needs of the majority of residents who will not leave after two years, who will never leave because they have no place to go, to the majority of residents who have in fact no wish to leave. Our design must put the emphasis on regionalism. Regionalism is a fact of the North. We must deal with it as a legislature. One hon. Member said last week that we should stop pretending that each region has the same goals and objectives and priorities, that we should stop pretending that Fort Smith people think the same as Frobisher Bay people. Mr. Speaker, we must take those words as a warning.

The question then becomes not should we allow more regional expression, but how can we best meet the needs for regional input under one united government? Well, we could begin with the budget, why not budget by region and contract to headquarters what is better done at a federalized area.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: Put the emphasis on the region rather than the headquarters. Why not have our Ministers in charge of a regional operation instead of individual departments? Why not have a regional ministers executive committee meeting regularly as the Executive does now, but meeting in the regions as well?

MR. PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

Functions Of Regional Ministers

MRS. SORENSEN: For example, we would have a minister of the Keewatin. He would liaise with the Keewatin Inuit Association and the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. He would be kept busy studying priorities for government operation and capital spending in his region. He would be kept busy gathering together the local municipalities and settlement councils and MLA's to discuss the priorities and planning for his region, negotiating, for instance, trade-offs in capital. He would then come together with the other ministers of regional operations to set priorities for those things of common interest to the Northwest Territories, speaking on behalf of his region, promoting the goals and aspirations of the people in his region, responsible for the overall picture of his region, not simply education in the Northwest Territories or health in the Northwest Territories, but the overall picture. Then when he notes, for instance, the increasing population and the resultant number of jobs required to satisfy that growth, he will also have his finger on the pulse of economic potential in his area. He is in charge. He is in the region, not Yellowknife, and he has the ultimate control. He is close to the people. He has their advice to lean on for his decision making. He and the people of the region rather than the civil servants will set the goals and objectives. The standing committee on finance and the Executive Committee as a whole then would respond to those recommendations for priorities and transfer them as best they can into the financial planning of the government to be voted as main estimates by this entire Assembly. Many will say "What about the extra cost this increased decentralized administration will bring us?" Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, we would be better to address this question: "What will be the cost if we do not move towards a new structure, towards increased decentralization including the devolution of some programs to the regions? Towards looking positively at not only regional administration but also the prospect of regional government?"

I submit we have no choice if we are to do what must be done to govern responsibly and sensitively. We must look seriously to the regions. To refuse to do so would cost us this government. There are those that ask "Can government govern?" There are those that would respond "Not as long as they must stay in power."

One Government Created By Legislature

Mr. Speaker, I would at least like this Assembly to try for one government in the Northwest Territories. Not the government we have known, but a government that this Legislature creates because we more than any other body in the Northwest Territories today have a combination of people who I am convinced have the tools and the ability to do it. To try and to fail is better than to have been reluctant to act. My friends, even as the unity committee attempts to find a consensus in northern government let us begin to put into place those changes we know without further study must be instituted. To begin with let us authorize an emphasis on regional planning and priority setting. Let us make headquarters a service centre, the regions the focus and to turn our priorities around and let us do it now.

MR. PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Further replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Patterson.

Mr. Patterson's Reply

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Commissioner, hon. Members, first let me depart from my prepared text to congratulate and thank Mrs. Sorensen for a very inspiring speech.

Mr. Commissioner, you and the Hon. Mr. Braden and other hon. Members have recently invited, nay entreated, Members from the East to join the Executive Committee. It almost seems like you are politely telling us to put up or shut up, that we cannot really complain if we do not try to make changes from within first. This is all very flattering but with all respect, having observed your committee closely in the past few months and having given the matter great thought and having discussed it extensively with my colleagues, I wish to point out to you, Mr. Commissioner, how we ordinary Members, at least some of us, perceive your Executive Committee. I wish to point out respectfully some basic changes in the climate of Executive decision making which I believe must be made before I for one, could in conscience decide that it is in the best interests of my eastern colleagues or my constituents that I participate in what I call the inner sanctum.

There are a number of myths which are widely accepted by this government which I would ask you to scrutinize very carefully. We say, for example, that we have consensus government, that this Assembly is the maker of policy for the government and the Executive Committee carries out that policy on a day-to-day basis when the House is not in session. There are no parties or divisions in consensus government. Yet I say, Mr. Commissioner, that the myths under which the Executive Committee presently operates are forcing fundamental divisions down our throats.

The Executive Committee I have observed surrounds itself with conventions or rules which are all premised on the party system. You seem to have forgotten that there is no opposition, that this is consensus government. Mr. Commissioner, I am aware of the challenge and the responsibility that we have before us in trying to govern by consensus and without confrontation. It is a difficult challenge, yet as you know, that is the way things are always done in the Eastern Arctic. Unless we are forced into it, we are not anxious to form parties and develop us/them or East/West divisions but your Executive Committee, Mr. Commissioner, and certain of its Members in particular are forcing the adversary process upon us. I was pleased to note that the Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie in his reply to your address also observed that this Executive or at least some of its Members looks upon itself as a traditional kind of Executive Committee in provincial Canada where there are party politics, treating requests for information as attacks.

Undue Secrecy In Executive Committee

This leads me to the first problem I see with the Executive Committee and that is the undue secrecy with which you conduct your affairs. I thought that we had agreed in November that things would open up with new blood in the Executive Committee, that the inner sanctum would not be quite so lofty and exclusive. I know that the unfortunate term "shadow minister" was pejorative and suggested opposition before anything else but I thought we Members of the eastern caucus had made it clear that we would be available for consultation to give input into decisions which your Executive Committee Members in their ignorance of our regions should have welcomed. Admittedly we stated that we reserve the right to disagree but I did not think this possibility would make some of your Members so afraid to talk to us or to consult us. If we were Members of the opposition party, they should be secretive and defensive, but I thought we made it clear that unless you force it upon us we do not wish to be in opposition or even a party.

It was no party that had formed a caucus to consider how to approach certain issues and to strengthen our voices but we told you in good faith we want to share the burdens of office with you, not become your adversaries. We ordinary Members, Mr. Commissioner, are a relatively small group. In fact our total Legislative Assembly number is less than the entire Alberta cabinet. There are no radicals or communists amongst our Members. I would have thought that you could have trusted us and that you would have been smart enough to take advantage of an offer which we all made in good faith. Maybe your Executive Committee Members were simply faithfully following the oaths of secrecy or other rules you operate by, Mr. Commissioner, but I was never consulted about anything. I was grateful on several occasions to be the first to hear about a decision which had been made but my opinion was never sought in advance.

Ordinary Members Have No Power Of Decision Making

On the contrary, when I asked for the draft main estimates in early December when they were just about to be placed before the standing committee on finance I was told that the Executive Committee had decided that the main estimates would not be made available to me since they were not finalized. The Executive Committee was telling me that unless we joined the inner sanctum, ordinary Members of this Assembly cannot have any input into these decisions before they are made. If those of us on the Executive Committee were to have to follow this rule, Mr. Commissioner, we would be forced to disband the Eastern Arctic caucus and I believe that this is fundamentally wrong. You should reconsider carefully the whole climate of decision making in the Executive Committee, reconsider it very carefully before you blame us for not wanting to participate.

If I were to be a minister without portfolio on the Executive Committee, I would not want to carry the entire burden for the Baffin region solely on my shoulders. Unless it was a matter of national security or a situation on which members of the public might possibly profit I would like to be able to call on my colleagues Mr. Arlooktoo or Mr. Arreak or Mr. Tologanak and say, "The Executive Committee is considering establishing or terminating a program in your area. It comes up in the meeting tomorrow. This is a matter of strict confidence. What do you think?"

---Applause

If this were possible, Mr. Commissioner, I predict you could avoid, you and your Executive Committee could avoid a tremendous amount of flak. One of this government's biggest credibility problems is that especially far away from the capital beyond where the roads end no one knows what is coming down from the temple until the word is dropped from on high.

Look at the trouble your committee got into with the regulations which suddenly closed spring caribou hunting in the Baffin and Keewatin and delayed the opening of the polar bear season. I do not know why things like that cannot be discussed publicly or at least with the concerned MLA's. If someone had asked me or what my opinion was about the priorities you set for education cutbacks in the Baffin region back in the days when it looked like there would be massive cutbacks, I would have told you, as I did tell the finance committee, that your priorities were all wrong, that the decisions you made on a territorial-wide basis would be utterly unenforceable in the Baffin region, particularly in certain communities. Further, that there were probably other ways in which the problem could be solved.

Secrecy An Invitation To Division

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, we avoided that crisis by the device of a deficit budget but there will be equally hard decisions you will have to take in the coming years I am sure and when the House is not in session, but if your rules would prevent me as an Executive Member or potential Executive Member from discussing the subjects confidentially and in advance with my fellow MLA's from north of the tree line, provided, of course, that national security is not involved, then I would rather stay on the outside, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Braden gave me some hope the other day when he suggested that the Executive Committee is new, that they have been very busy to date and that these things will be reviewed. I do hope that you will review the need for secrecy in a consensus government, especially in this huge territory where there are significant communication problems before we even try to start talking, especially in this territory where devolution of powers to the regions was a fleeting now forgotten fad. A centralist Executive Committee in a remote capital operating with a rigid policy of secrecy is inviting and encouraging division and dissent.

---Applause

The cabinet secrecy rule comes out of the party system, Mr. Commissioner. You would not want the opposition to know if you are going to implement a new program or cancel an old one. You would never ask them for advice and you certainly would not want them to know what was in the budget but, Mr. Commissioner, there are not parties here yet. There is no Nunavut party. We came here in good faith last fall asking for a way of constructively participating in your government, day-to-day decisions where our advice might be useful, where our advice might be sought, but your Executive Committee and some Members in particular seem to think you are a federal cabinet. Even the Prime Minister told the Leader of the Opposition about the six American fugitives in the embassy in Tehran. Your Executive Committee would not let me see the main estimates. Something is wrong.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame!

Open Discussion In Eastern Arctic

MR. PATTERSON: I would like to hope that this is a new kind of government, the most representative ever, larger than ever before and that we can introduce some fundamental changes which will reflect the special diversity and uniqueness of the Northwest Territories. We do not really want to become like another province, do we, or even do the things the way they have been done by cabinets and executive committees in the past? Maybe we eastern Members can introduce to the Executive structure different approaches to the governing of far-flung peoples and far-flung regions. We have no monopoly

on wisdom, but one thing I like about the Eastern Arctic is that people like to discuss issues in public with no holds barred. The radio open line shows are fascinating. People can call and talk about anything. Everyone likes to know what is going on and requires the opportunity to express opinions. They do not want to tell decision makers what to do. They just want the dignity of being consulted.

Interestingly enough, Mr. Commissioner, your own regional government in Baffin has been smart enough and forward-thinking enough to realize this keen desire for public consultation and accountability of the Executive branch of the government. Yes, your regional administration in Baffin did actively encourage the formation of the Baffin Regional Council. It was not a plot. They simply wanted to make sure that they were serving the best interests of the people and in an atmosphere of mutual respect and congeniality the executive there finds out what it is doing right and where it is going wrong. It finds out what the priorities are. The Baffin regional executive was wise enough to realize that it could not possibly have all of the answers.

But, Mr. Commissioner, your Executive Committee has a much bigger challenge than the executive in the Baffin region. Because of the size of the Territories, your remoteness from some regions and the absence of eastern Members for the moment on your committee, if this policy of secrecy continues you are almost certain to lose touch and be open to serious criticism. In the long run the problem will be partly solved if you include Members from the East on the Executive. What we want you to understand is that we cannot participate or at least I cannot participate, if your rules of secrecy prevent us from consulting with our colleagues before decisions are made. That is the way things are done in our part of the world, Mr. Commissioner, and I think we believe more in consensus government than some of you on the Executive. We ordinary Councillors are not the opposition. We make the policies which you must carry out. You are our servants.

---Applause

Obstacles To Participation Of Eastern Members

You may be better paid than we are and you may even work harder than we do, but you are our servants. So why can you not let us know what you are doing? We can keep secrets if necessary and we can consult the public in our regions and reflect their views to you. The Eastern Arctic caucus Members from north of the tree line have thought a lot about your challenge for our participation in the Executive Committee. In a spirit of unity we made a frank and fair offer to you in the fall. We did not refuse to participate. We invited you to consult us and I realize that as the Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie says this has to cut both ways. Communication has to come from us too. I have tried my best, Mr. Commissioner, and some of your new Executive Committee Members have tried too, but I am not happy with the overall climate of your Executive Committee. We have decided to wait until you address what we see as serious problems on obstacles to our participation.

Another major problem I believe you must address before you can persuade me to consider joining is the rule of cabinet solidarity which your committee seems determined to follow for some reason. Tell me if I am wrong, Mr. Commissioner, but is that not too a convention which results from the party system? I agree that decisions of the Executive Committee must be clear and certain, but I think your Executive Committee goes too far.

First of all, there seems to be a strong current underlying your decision which says that everything must be the same across the Territories. I see your government as often seeking uniformity where there is none. You assigned adult education a certain priority all across the Territories when making cutbacks in the Education budget in the fall. Yet adult or continuing education is much more important in some parts of the Territories than it is in others. Your Education Ordinance seeks to provide equal opportunity for every local education authority to become a school board if it has the tax base, yet only the large urban centres could ever do this. That same ordinance in creating local education authorities seems to ignore that there is a regional high school in Baffin where students come from all across the Baffin and Keewatin.

MR. SPEAKER: Could you pause for just a moment? I think the signal has been lost. Mr. Evaluarjuk, are you having trouble hearing? Please proceed, Mr. Patterson.

Room For Healthy Divergence Of Opinion

MR. PATTERSON: How could a local education committee elected in Frobisher Bay properly make decisions for the running of a regional school? We pretend too often that everything is the same, especially given this manner of making decisions, this unwritten rule as it seems to me that everything should be the same across the Territories and in a government which has refused to devolve any significant powers to the regions. It seems grossly unfair to expect your Executive Members to defend all your decisions if they are to come from all parts of the Territories. I can see that it is fair to expect Executive Committee Members to be bound by majority decisions, but I cannot see why, especially when you yourself, Mr. Commissioner, said in your Address that unity does not mean that we must all think alike on every issue which faces us. I do not see why there is not room for a healthy divergence of opinion in the North. I do not see why we must defend and even support policies as Executive Committee Members which in all good conscience we think are wrong, especially in a consensus government where there are no party lines which we must follow. Surely you are turning the administration and its Executive Committee into the government and an ordinary Member into a member of the opposition if you demand that Executive Committee Members must support and defend all their policies and those of the administration. Surely there is more room for what you call a healthy divergence of opinion, even amongst Executive Committee Members.

After all they are ordinary Members too, even if some of them seem to forget it at times. There are only 22 of us. If you muzzle the five on the Executive Committee who probably know more about many issues than most of us and if they are bound to speak only in support of existing policies, then their wisdom and the perspective they bring into the government are lost to this Assembly. I will try to give you an example of what I mean, Mr. Commissioner.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, a point of order. Should the Member not address the Chair and not the Commissioner?

MR. SPEAKER: I would ask you to follow that. As far as I am concerned he is addressing his remarks to the Speaker but to Mr. Commissioner as well and I would ask for a more indirect, in other words address your remarks more completely to the Speaker if you would, please, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: I intended no disrespect to the Chair, Mr. Speaker. I will give you an example of what I mean, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: That is better.

---Applause

Minister Unable To Criticize

MR. PATTERSON: I met with a Member of the Executive Committee and concerned constituents the other day and in the course of discussions about that Minister's department serious concerns and failings of another related department were discussed. We all agreed at that meeting that something was very wrong with certain aspects of that other department. I took notes and promised to raise these problems in the House with the Minister when the estimates for that department came up, yet that Minister told me that he could not be seen to criticize that department, even though he agreed that some things were very wrong, some things which affected his department.

Mr. Speaker, I would not want to be muzzled like that, forced to be silent about or defend a policy which I personally thought was very wrong. If it was a provincial cabinet, of course, the party in power would demand that everyone toe the party line because that is what joining a political party requires, but the Executive Committee as far as I know is not a provincial cabinet and if that is what joining the Executive Committee requires then it is a restriction on my freedom of speech and a restriction on my ability to represent my constituents which I would find intolerable.

However, Mr. Speaker, if the Executive Committee reconsiders and re-examines this position of cabinet solidarity in the light of my concerns and if you were to start to recognize that in consensus government there is room for a healthy divergence of opinion, that we must not all think alike, that what is good for one part of the Territories need not be forced on another part of the Territories and that Members of the Executive Committee could dissent without challenging or undermining what the majority decided, then I could consider or perhaps my colleagues could consider participating on the Executive Committee as you urge. If these changes are not made, however, I am beginning to wonder, Mr. Speaker, if we should fill those other two positions at all since being on the Executive Committee as it stands seems to put such restrictions on the political freedoms of the elected Member.

---Applause

Unless the system of cabinet solidarity and the secrecy requirements change, Mr. Speaker, the more Members we put on the Executive Committee the more we will be eroding the responsibility of this Assembly to make policies and change policies for the Executive to put into place. By acting as a bloc without any real right to dissent against their decisions the Members of the Executive Committee in the House if they are allowed to grow in number will simply serve to preserve the status quo and block change, particularly if it goes against the grain of what is already in place.

Erosion Of Responsible Government

Mr. Speaker, some hon. Members and Members of the Executive Committee may think I am exaggerating when I say that responsible government is being eroded by the Executive Committee, but take a close look at the attitude of one of the senior Members of your Executive Committee, Mr. McCallum. It was during general debate on the budget the other day, I was questioning the Executive Committee generally on why the decision had been finally taken to go for a deficit budget when before Christmas they had been considering massive cutbacks as a way of staying within the limits imposed by the federal government. I wanted to try to find out exactly what their deliberations had been, because after all their decisions when the House is not in session, I believe anyway, are made on our behalf and on behalf of the whole Assembly and we are accountable for their decisions. But the Hon. Mr. McCallum with all his years of experience does not seem to grasp that fundamental point. He seems to feel that he alone is accountable for what his department does, that the burden is all on his shoulders and that is not the place of an ordinary Member to query or criticize because we are not accountable to the people. Only Mr. McCallum is accountable to the people.

In fact on Tuesday, February 5th in this House the Hon. Mr. McCallum said the following; discussing problems of bringing forth a responsible budget. He was referring to an idea of mine that the pupil-teacher ratio should be increased instead of cutting the budget and I quote: "That may be very easy for an individual who is not on the Executive Committee to suggest," Mr. McCallum told me. He went on to say and I quote: "I will tell you dollars to doughnuts that it comes down to the accountability to put this across and to put that particular increase in the pupil-teacher ratio across to the schools in the Northwest Territories. The guy to whom that can is going to be tied or to whose tail that can is going to be tied is the person who is going to be responsible, is our Minister of Education. He is going to be like a skunk at a garden party -- all alone."

MR. SPEAKER: If I may intervene for a moment, I got a note from the interpreters that you are going just a little too fast. Could you pace it a little better, please?

Members Have Responsibility For Decisions

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I submit that this is Executive Committee elitism. With attitudes like that everyone should think very carefully before accusing the eastern Members of creating divisions in the House or not acting in a spirit of unity. I say this to the Hon. Mr. McCallum with great respect. You, sir, must understand that when this government makes an unpopular decision you are not the only skunk at the garden party. In fact, and again with respect, most people in my region do not even know or care who you are. If something goes wrong they will go to their MLA's first. This House has a responsibility for what is done by the Executive Committee. This Assembly is the only responsible government, Mr. Speaker, not the Executive Committee. If the Hon. Mr. McCallum thinks all the weight rests upon his shoulders and we should not question your decisions because we do not have to take the flak, then his attitude is wrong and maybe he should spend some time again as an ordinary Member to remind him what it looks like from down here.

--- Applause

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that if I join the Executive Committee or whether I join the Executive Committee or I wonder whether any of us from the Eastern Arctic join the Executive Committee or any of us from the House join the Executive Committee, that the Executive Committee will take steps to reduce this unhealthy isolation which I sense beginning with this Assembly, but throughout the regions. Mr. Speaker, the Executive Committee and their colleagues should not be afraid to consult MLA's, the Baffin Regional Council and, yes, even your regional directors and superintendents before you make decisions. If the Executive Committee does not, maybe Mr. McCallum is right. He and his colleagues will be the only skunks at the garden party. They will take all the flak perhaps but only because they refused to consult with or share their burdens with the hinterland and its voices.

Burden Should Be Shared

Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand why our Executive Committee in a consensus government would not welcome the opportunity to share the responsibility. Beginning with this Assembly by naming shadow or associate Members we hope that your Executive should consult with us. We did not want to make the process formal or tied to rules. Perhaps that was our mistake. However, our experience to date has shown us regrettably that it would be difficult to get even this new Executive Committee to change from the old formulas. Mr. Speaker, we want the Executive Committee to open up so that its burdens and responsibilities which I know are great can be shared, not sheltered.

Mr. Speaker, this is true about all aspects of your administration. Your administration learned the wisdom of such a policy in Baffin, that participation of your regional executive on the Baffin Regional Council was on their part, a recognition that the burden of spending \$30 million in the Baffin region should not be theirs alone. Mr. Moore did not become unpopular when he did that. No one in our region was suspicious or felt that the regional superintendent should not take guidance from those the programs served. People only get angry, Mr. Speaker, when they feel isolated from decision makers. When will this government learn that?

Devolution Of Wildlife Management

In the field of wildlife management, for example, we have the potential for harmonious, co-operative solutions to a difficult challenge or we have the potential for widespread civil disobedience or worse. This government must consult and respect the hunters' and trappers' associations, the local authorities, try to implement their wishes even if that is not quite the way the government would do it. Mr. Speaker, a little respect for local groups goes a long way. The management of wildlife should be devolved to local authorities as soon as possible. If wildlife officers and biologists reported to local hunters' and trappers' associations you would be surprised at how strict those organizations would be in meeting their responsibilities. After all, it is their resource too, especially if hunting privileges are abused, Mr. Speaker. The anger of a local hunting and trapping association means far more to the hunter than what any southern game officer could say or do.

Devolution of wildlife management will work if it is given a chance. It just happened in Pangnirtung that the hunters' and trappers' association have been given responsibility for managing the narwhal quota and tags. When several hunters shot narwhals without tags the hunters' and trappers' association called the fisheries officer and asked him to lay charges because it was the hunters' and trappers' association authority which had been challenged by the action, not the authority of the fisheries officer or some remote office in Ottawa or Yellowknife. Your wildlife officer, Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories wildlife officer later admitted in court that he had been afraid to confront the hunters and tell them not to go out.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner spoke in glowing terms of the potential of a united Northwest Territories and I am not necessarily opposed to that prospect, but, Mr. Speaker, you must understand that this government has a very large uphill battle to convince people in my constituency and my region that it is genuinely interested in our aspirations and our uniqueness as well as what we contribute to the Territories. I have spoken before to our dissatisfaction with the territorial budget planning process and allocation of capital priorities where admittedly our regional governments have some input but must wait for the final word from Yellowknife as if it were the oracle of Delphi and we all still remember the great excitement and fanfare with which we received the news of the creation of the devolution committee and the devolution movement from former Commissioner Hodgson.

Committee On Devolution

Devolution was the word on everyone's lips for awhile, Mr. Speaker. A high-powered committee was formed. They travelled everywhere. Mr. Alex Gordon and Mr. Ray Creery and Mr. Gary Mullins were amongst their members. Do you remember? Where are they now? What did they do? Tell me if I am wrong, Mr. Speaker, but the only result of all that hoopla and fanfare was Frobisher Bay's takeover of special services and similarly the handing over of social service responsibilities to the band at Fort Liard. That is all I know about for all that energy and verbosity. Somehow I wonder whether the presence of the former Baffin social services regional superintendent, one of the few civil servants who actually had the courage to make devolution work, who is actually willing to give power to a local group, I wonder if it was not his presence which helped to get things moving in Fort Liard, one man.

Centralization, I could not agree more with the hon. Mrs. Sorensen's characterization of the lip service which has been paid to decentralization in the task force report.

Do you know, Mr. Commissioner, or Mr. Speaker, that there are people working in the town planning and lands division of Local Government in Yellowknife who are exclusively responsible for the Baffin region? I wonder what on earth they are doing drawing plans for settlements in the Baffin region, Grise Fiord and Lake Harbour, busily working over their tables here in Yellowknife. Do they not like the climate in the Baffin region? By contrast the single town planning and lands officer in Baffin has a horrendous job. Not only does he have to consult with our 13 communities on site development and town planning, but he has to try and keep in contact with his counterparts and colleagues who are conveniently located in Yellowknife -- convenient for them.

Need For Community Police

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is not the only institution which can be charged with failing to heed the growing demands of regions or of communities in regions. I have spoken about the RCMP before. I am looking forward to receiving the paper from the Department of Justice and Public Services on northern policing, but I really do not know what more the people of Broughton Island can do to get a police station in their community. The RCMP refuses to budge.

This government seems to be getting very little say in what the police do with our share of the six million dollar or seven million dollar contract. We pay but we seem to have no say. RCMP headquarters in Yellowknife insist on waving the flag to advance Canadian sovereignty in Grise Fiord while women are raped with nowhere to complain and people are literally terrorized out of town in Broughton Island with no policeman. Like Pond Inlet which I mentioned in a prior reply to the Commissioner, Mr. Speaker, Hall Beach has just briefly come up with a proposal for community police in their town which is also without a permanent police detachment. The RCMP will not service these communities Mr. Speaker, yet when the communities like Hall Beach and Pond Inlet come up with proposals for community police the RCMP seem to find grounds to object and complain that lay persons have no business doing police work.

I really do not see, Mr. Speaker, how community police can do much worse than largely unilingual RCMP working in Inuit communities. Things are so bad that recently in Frobisher Bay an Inuk woman called the police to complain about a crime which eventually led to charges of rape and because no one could understand her language she was locked up and it was not until the next day that it was discovered that she was the complainant. In the last few months I have met two corporals who were working in the Northwest Territories, the morale situation is so bad, both of them with at least ten years service, who suddenly quit the RCMP without even having any other job prospects to go to. As I say, I am delighted that the matter is being studied by the administration and I look forward to receiving their paper. I would urge that if a pilot project is to be implemented that communities in the East and West be selected for such experiment. I am also pleased to hear that the authors of the paper have looked into the experience already gained by Inuit communities in northern Quebec and native communities on prairie Indian reserves in Canada.

A New Climate For Decision Making

Mr. Speaker, what I have been trying to say is that we hope that there will be a new climate for decision making and democratic government in the Northwest Territories if we are to survive as one territory. I am willing to have a go at making it work, although I seriously doubt that it is possible to remain united as a territory for much longer and there is not much time, but the way it is now I respectfully do not want to sit on the pinnacle of power in the Northwest Territories. I would participate in an Executive Committee which would show itself receptive to the political institutions and traditions of other parts of the Northwest Territories, an Executive Committee which would consult with concerned groups and the Members of this House before making important or controversial decisions. I would want to participate in an Executive Committee which would take new directions towards open government and reassess the worth of secrecy and cabinet solidarity. I would want to participate on an Executive Committee which would show us that it will revive the now deceased concept of devolution...

AN. HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: ...Which will make further major commitments to decentralization, which will allow capital planning and budget preparation to take place more on a regional than on a territorial-wide level and, yes, I will say it too, which would not be afraid of the spectre of regional government.

I would want to participate in an Executive Committee which in the near future will listen to and respect the Baffin Regional Council, but until these things begin to happen, Mr. Commissioner, and I am hopeful that they will happen, we will wait. Please understand we do not wish to isolate ourselves, but from where I sit, Mr. Speaker, it is your Executive Committee, this Executive Committee which seems to be isolating itself. The more secretive and defensive the Executive becomes the more you will fan the fires of division. I said before that the case is yet to be made for a united Northwest Territories. With respect, Mr. Speaker, I am telling you that if a reconciliation is to be achieved in the arranged marriage of the East and West then the Executive must fundamentally change too. I have tried to tell you in a constructive way what I think is wrong and I will eagerly await your deliberations and your actions.

Fundamental Changes Needed For Unity

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Commissioner and the Members of the Executive Committee will take my concerns seriously and that you and other hon. Members will not be afraid to tell me if you think I am wrong as I have not been afraid to say what I think today. I do not want to start an acrimonious debate. I do not want to start confrontations. I only sincerely want to see change, Mr. Speaker. Without fundamental changes, and I have focused on your Executive Committee since you have pointedly invited Members from the East to join, I am afraid there is no hope for a united Territories. The more I see of the new Executive Committee, Mr. Speaker, dedicated and hard-working though they are, the more I see ghosts of the past rising and haunting us. Open up the inner sanctum. Do not be afraid to ask for advice or approval. Do not be afraid to ask the Assembly or MLA's for guidance. Do not be afraid to hand over decision making powers to areas where they are hungry for the responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, how could we in the Baffin region ever complain about the Department of Education again if a Baffin regional education board were created with strong links to the local education authorities and responsibilities for the spending of the budget as they saw fit in their region? Our regional staff would be happier too, I am sure. They cannot say it publicly, Mr. Speaker, but I believe and I know that many public servants working for the Government of the Northwest Territories in the regions, even the directors and superintendents feel just as isolated and in the dark as we ordinary Members do in relation to this Executive.

Executive Should Follow Assembly Lead

In reading Dr. Louis-Edmond Hamelin's book "Canadian Nordicity" on pages 148 and 149 I was surprised to note that that eminent former member of this Assembly too, was also concerned with the remoteness of the Executive and unnecessary confusion between this Assembly and the Executive as to which should be playing a leadership role in making policy. In looking to the future Dr. Hamelin states that: "A rapprochement at the summit of the various sectors in Yellowknife is desirable. The remoteness between Executive and legislative branches immediately comes to mind." Perhaps he said it much better than I have been able to, Mr. Speaker. He also said: "The Assembly should become the originator of most if not all territorial policy. It perhaps has too great a tendency to follow the administration which prepares or executes the programs rather than leading it."

I have charged, Mr. Speaker, that some Members of the Executive Committee seem to have forgotten that their place is more to follow than to lead. I have talked perhaps too long about the challenge you and other Members have thrown at us to join the Executive Committee as outlined by the Commissioner, Mr. Speaker, but we are seriously concerned that the climate of decision making and the outmoded myths to which you cling must change, that the secrecy rule is largely unnecessary and a bar to valuable opportunities for prior consultation and public discussion of issues of concern, that cabinet solidarity too, while it has a place, must no longer be a muzzle on Executive Committee Members preventing them from making constructive criticisms and eroding their political rights and freedom of speech.

Also, and I heartily concur with the hon. Mrs. Sorensen whose impassioned or I should say eloquent description of the need to do something and the costs of not moving towards devolution greatly impressed me, especially as it does coming from a resident of Yellowknife, I heartily concur that if you really want eastern participation in your government and indeed if you want to keep us in the Territories then the Executive and indeed this Assembly must also make real commitments to devolution and decentralization.

Meaning Of Consensus Government

Mr. Speaker, some hon. Members may think that the new Members or Members like myself do not know how the government works or should work yet and maybe we do not or maybe I do not. I should speak for myself, but perhaps this is an advantage. I see how things could be done differently in the Northwest Territories. I see how we can avoid the rancour and gamesmanship of party politics, the attendant waste of time, energy and momentum that we are seeing on the current federal scene. Mr. Speaker, I feel that at this point in time we have history in our hands. Let us use this turning point in time to hope for and work for change. Show us you have no preconceptions or reverence for the way things were done in the past for their own sake.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge the Commissioner and his colleagues on the Executive Committee to stop thinking of yourselves as a cabinet and to cast aside those models. Think about what consensus government really means. Please try to accommodate the strange new ideas of what I hope Mr. Fraser still considers the wise men from the East. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Just to elaborate a little more on the point of order that was raised by Mr. Fraser so that Members will be clear in the future as to what would be done. You do address all of your remarks to the Speaker, but you still ascribe actions and characteristics to whomever they belong to, but in the third person rather than the second, so it would be, "Mr. Speaker, I submit that our Commissioner's policies, etc." or, "Mr. Speaker, I would ask Mr. McCallum," or as Mr. Patterson most recently said, "Mr. Speaker, I challenge the Commissioner and his colleagues on the Executive Committee." So that was the point that Mr. Fraser was making and I know for some it is more important than others, but it has been a tradition and if Members would want to follow that tradition that is the way to do it.

Are there further replies? Mr. Butters, would yours be significantly longer than ten minutes?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It would be significantly shorter than ten minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: In which case I am pleased to recognize you.

Hon. Tom Butters Foregoes Right To Reply

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to forego my right to reply so we may sooner get at the consideration of the estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: That is very brief. Thank you very much, Mr. Butters. Are there further replies? Mr. McLaughlin. Again I will put the question to you, is it a very long reply?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: No, we will get a coffee break.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr. McLaughlin's Reply

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was first elected to this Assembly I came here hoping to work for my community which would be represented by its own Member for the first time. During the week long caucus session which preceded the opening of the formal session I was pleased by the openness and co-operative attitude shown by all the Members. I was also impressed by the attitude displayed by the Commissioner in relation to the aggressiveness of the Members in regard to his diminishing powers. I remember the encouragement which we all gave to Members who were elected to the Executive Committee and I was glad to be given the opportunity to serve on the finance and legislation committees. I was happy to be selected to serve the caucus as its chairman and I do mean serve as there is certainly no other way to describe that job.

I was further encouraged by the active role which the finance committee took under the hard working chairmanship of Mrs. Sorensen. The fact that we met for a week in December and familiarized ourselves with the general finances of government put us, I hope, in a good position to give this Assembly some help in getting a grasp on the problems we as a government face. I was glad to hear that the unity committee got together for a meeting. The Members of the last session encouraged the formation of this committee so that it could report back to the Assembly on the present problems of unity, especially those clearly outlined by Members above the tree line.

Administration Open To Guidance

The Commissioner's Address for this session referred to the difficulties confronting this Assembly and once again showed that he and his administration were open to the idea of this Assembly addressing these questions and finding solutions which he would take as guidance both for his administration and for the federal government. Mr. Speaker, I further would like to continue my address

mentioning what Mr. Sibbeston brought up about the power this Assembly has in relation to the budget, that we could reject the budget in its entirety which would be a fairly significant problem created. In regard to that I would like to bring all the Members back to the reality of why we are here. This is basically a budget session and Members are getting up here constantly talking about changing the direction of this government, and with complaints about what the government does and complaints about what the Executive Committee does. We are here to deal with the budget and that is the power we have to change the policies of this government and to turn things around.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

Executive Members Need Direction Through Budget

MR. McLAUGHLIN: This is when we have the opportunity to take money from here and put it over here and say "That is our policy now. That is where we want to go." That is what we should be doing. I think we are spending too much time talking generalities when we should get right into this budget and start tearing it apart and putting it back together again the way we want it. I cannot help but go back to thinking of the Executive Committee and how many of them, when they took on the positions, said to us in caucus that they were a little unconfident and that they hoped we would not jump down their throats right away and we all said we would not. We would give them a chance. I think like Mr. Clark on the federal scene, I do not think that they have had a chance yet. I think they have taken over a ship of state that has existing policies, set by a former Assembly, set by a different group of people, that we want to see changed.

Until we sit down in this Assembly and deal with this budget and meet those changes they cannot do anything different from what they have been doing in the past. When we tell them what to do through this budget, it is our main tool right now. There is a lot of legislation and things I am sure all of us would like to deal with, a lot of legislative issues but I think we have the opportunity right now with this budget to make the big push in areas we want to go; put up signs where we want to go. In our next Assembly hopefully with the unity committee reporting back, with at least an interim report, we can start dealing with legislation then, specifically change ordinances, change the manner in which we are going to guide this government or the administration of this government.

I would just like all of the Members to really think hard on this budget and look at this budget as our chance to change policies, to get things done, to move things around. Let us worry about the legislation which we all know we want to create when we have the opportunity at the next session or even at the tail end of this one after we deal with the budget, but I really think it is unfair for people to jump on the Members of the Executive Committee. I have got some criticisms. I had a member of the Executive Committee visit my constituency without my knowing it. I think they should all move off the sixth floor of the Laing Building and go down to have an office in their departments where they belong.

---Applause

But the thing is, those are items we can deal with them on as we go. Those are the new rules. Those are the things we want to see done. Let us make the policy and let us see them follow it. We have not given them a policy to follow. I call on all Members now through this budget to make that policy by moving that money where we want it and telling them how we want that money spent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Are there other replies? Mr. Nerysoo. Is it a brief or long one?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Why do we not just go for coffee?

MR. SPEAKER: If anyone has a brief reply I will accept it.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: It is pretty brief.

MR. SPEAKER: I will accept it.

Hon. Richard Nerysoo's Reply

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, we have somehow heard over the last two sessions that there is a division between the East and the West. I have a proposal to make to the East, the simple fact that in a change of policy if we recognize, if the Dene recognize their institutions of regional councils, then I think that they should in fact recognize in the Dene communities that the authority in those communities are the chief and band council. In the past the position of this Assembly or this government has been to recognize only the settlement councils, the hamlet councils and in fact did not even recognize the existence of those traditional authorities that exist. The other thing is that there is a need for this Assembly to recognize the Dene languages.

MR. PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I think that is a very important change and one that would occur in this session of the Assembly. Those are two basic things that I wanted to bring to the attention of this Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mr. Nerysoo. Any other brief replies? All right. I believe you do have a reply later, do you, Mr. Tologanak? If Mr. Patterson or Mr. Tologanak were in the chair it would be tea time. With me here it is coffee break or beer break I suppose, whatever you want. We will recess 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I recognize a quorum. We will come to order. Any other replies?
Mr. Tologanak.

Mr. Tologanak's Reply

MR. TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion as the Member from the Central Arctic making my first maiden speech as the Member for the Central Arctic. It is a rare privilege to sit amongst these people who represent the majority of the people of the Northwest Territories. I have not formally congratulated you on your position as the Speaker. I am very privileged to be here as Deputy Speaker as well. I do not have anything prepared, but I wish to speak very briefly perhaps, just to let everyone understand that I can speak in this House. So far being chairman of the committee of the whole and sitting in this House has proved to be interesting.

I come from the Central Arctic where we have basically different groups of people who represent some other areas, some other regions of the Nunatsiaq of the Northwest Territories. We have two different dialects in language, in Inuktitut basically in the East and the West, Kugluktukmiut and Talokuakmiut.

The people in the Central Arctic have been subjected to various kinds of ignorance, various kinds of autocratic ways of getting things through. People have had to start from the bottom in order for them to get better recognition. We have been ignored or bypassed not only by the governments, but by agencies and groups in the Territories. The people have had to develop themselves to understand what is going on in their surroundings and basically build themselves up so that they are in power. One of their mottoes I have been keeping in the back of my head -- you cannot beat something unless you join it. For all of the Members of the House I am saying this. You cannot beat it unless you join it. You could not beat this House for a long time but here I am today in this House.

Important Basic Development In Government

The reasons I have been elected to this House by the people of the Central Arctic, I have served them in my capacity. I have had to join the government to learn how it goes and basically bring it back to the people so the people understood and the people are the ones who are speaking today which is the most important basic development that any Assembly or anyone should understand.

We have dealt with explorations, mining and oil companies. We have dealt with companies that come up to hire from other areas who have some good and bad records of employment. The people in the Central Arctic I say, Mr. Speaker, are basically understanding and very practical in regard to what goes on in the Territories and in Canada. We have been dealing with this government for quite a number of years; specifically with Local Government, the Department of Public Works, National Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Transport, the RCMP and the churches. A lot of people give a big hurrah and whatnot for people like Hearne back in 1771 but what they do not give hurrah for is the people themselves who were already there before Hearne, for the practising of police services long before they were organized or there were judges, the policeman was the judge and the executor. The story still exists. They have yet to be documented because all too often the books that are written are from a southern point of view.

There are a lot of problems in the Central Arctic we have had to deal with in regard to the government itself. Local Government, first of all we must commend Local Government for the work it did initially until the Commissioner fired the group of people that initiated the thing with the local authorities and so on. Basically the people in the Central Arctic have developed to the point where the authorities are being more and more consulted except by some departments which are still ignorant that the people are knowledgeable as well.

Housing Corporation Co-operative With Central Arctic

The Housing Corporation should also be congratulated for the work it is now doing. The consultation with communities still has to improve. This has been shown in the last few months but they are listening to the local or regional housing corporations or housing associations and their recommendations, the basic design the local people want and have worked out, which the Housing Corporation is looking at to possibly implementing later on.

The Central Arctic is also one of the areas where communications seem to be a problem. Other regions in the Territories have a regional radio station that is not basically in their mother tongue or in the majority of the native people's tongue as outlined by the hon. Mr. Sibbeston. The Central Arctic receives radio service. First of all it had nothing, then we had Toronto, then we got Inuvik, then we got Frobisher Bay and we had Yellowknife for awhile. One-half of our Central Arctic receives service from Frobisher Bay which is already two hours ahead of us and one community receives the Inuvik service. I heard a comment the other day that the CBC does not want to take responsibility for the Central Arctic. I have been asking for regional radio services so that the people in the Central Arctic would have the same right as the other areas do in receiving regular service.

Central Arctic Waiting For Land Claims Negotiations

In regard to land claims, land claims has been a subject that we have had to inherit, to catch up on and to carry on and now the Central Arctic is basically ahead and waiting for the land claims negotiations to go ahead. We have had problems with other associations in regard to how things should be done, the Nunavut proposal for regional government, other proposals and whatnot, but basically like I said the people in the Central Arctic are a practical people and we are facing these problems and we are trying to deal with them.

The other day I was given a set of notes all in syllabics which I continually receive from ITC, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the territorial government and whatnot. Just for the record Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Bathurst Inlet and Holman Island do not read syllabics. They read Roman orthography and our dialect is a little bit different.

In regard to health, health is always a problem in every region, but one of the things that I am concerned about is dental care. Dental care, well for some reason it is not a problem for people having contracts with the territorial government, which we have no choice about. They can get air fare down to Yellowknife or wherever the nearest dentist is to get their teeth looked at and taken care of and head back home after their shopping.

Recently I asked a dentist who came in from Vancouver just exactly how much service is required in the communities, in two communities. The health services said, "Oh, there is only two weeks service here," and after looking at some of the work and after the dentist's two weeks were up I asked him, "Is there really two weeks work here?" He said, "There are six weeks of work." The local nurses and doctors cannot really have a preventive program in dental care. That has to be dental therapy, done by a dental therapist or dentist. The dental care services have to improve greatly in the Central Arctic and I would support the Hon. Mr. McCallum in keeping the dental therapy course in the Territories.

Problems With Public Works Contracts And Projects

The Department of Public Works; when we come to their estimates I will be speaking more about them, specifically contracts and projects and whatnot. We have continual problems with them. Communications may be improving now, but before the local authorities were not too involved and neither were the district or the area offices. This has to improve. There have been some good examples in the past about contracts being let in the communities. I am sure you might have read them this past summer of the problems that we had and some problems, basically in Coppermine and Cambridge Bay.

Local Government. I already commented on it earlier on, but town planning and lands, there has to be a definite improvement there. I have looked at some town plans which were approved and signed by the people who draw them up and whatnot, I looked at three of them in the last couple of months, 43, 42 or 44 lots in the same general area. There must be something wrong. The communications of this division has to improve in order for -- the communities have to be consulted by all departments and not just town planning and lands and the Department of Public Works and Local Government, by all departments. I remember when I first joined local government we had a big conference here, one of the first conferences that was held for all of the settlement councils in the Territories. One of the recommendations that was passed on to the Commissioner and he passed it on to his bureaucrats was that before you visit a community you notify the community that you are coming in and what for and to this day that policy has never been enforced. We have had to tell some departments this past summer and they have apologized, the people whom I am elected by are a lot stronger than they were before and they can no longer be taken for granted. They have to be listened to. They have to be asked. They have to be consulted.

Funding For Smaller Communities

All too often the funds which are most beneficial to a community are eventually cut or phased out or not enough funds are allocated to the communities, especially to the smaller communities for recreation or cultural programs. We talk about the alcohol problems and the health problems and the kids not going to school and whatnot, but if we provided proper funds for these, recreation, cultural or alcohol and drug programs all of these other services, like social services, would not ask for an increase.

We have had problems in transportation as everyone knows in the whole of the Territories, because the type of government, the type of communication that goes on between the bureaucracy and the communities. The communities were screaming for transportation and charter services for the Central Arctic. The communities wanted it. The CTC, Canadian Transport Commission, received all kinds of petitions and letters of support and finally in the last month the licence was granted. Talking about transportation, the air service that we have been receiving -- well, perhaps I can address that some other time but we do have a problem in that area where the services are going down the drain and the services that the company have tried to improve are not improving.

I hope to deal more with that area of transportation and communication a bit further on, but other government departments do not rest because I want to talk about the Department of Public Works and Local Government and I will be dealing with the other government departments later on as we go through their estimates.

Education. Because I am able to speak in English I am educated, so people can understand me, so this Legislative Assembly can understand me. Now we have interpreters who can speak two different dialects in Inuktitut. I have had to learn English through education, first under the Alberta system. I spent nine years in a hostel system in Inuvik, nine years being away from my family, just going home for two months out of the year. The hostel system still exists today. For the Members of Yellowknife North, South and Centre,

I have students who are from the Central Arctic who come to me here with problems within the hostel. We have to deal with it from our own area and the only ones who have been able to help us are the churches in Yellowknife, but I will be addressing this problem more later on when we come to Education. I will be dealing with this with the Minister of Education, the Hon. Mr. Butters. I also would like to recognize Mr. Butters who is not a professional teacher but being a professional parent, on being a Minister of Education. This has never happened before.

Basically, Mr. Speaker, I am here to represent the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Central Arctic and in some way if I can contribute to this House I will try my best, but I can only say again you cannot be something unless you join it and work out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. Other replies to the Commissioner's Address? I would remind Members that this item will be dropped from the order paper after today so this is your last opportunity. Are there other replies to the Commissioner's Address? Mr. McCallum.

Hon. Arnold McCallum's Reply

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take very much time in dealing with a reply or speaking to the motion of appreciation to the Commissioner's Address, but I do want to make a few comments in what I can indicate to you and other Members of this Assembly are some of the concerns that I have in relation to the total government and of course some of the concerns that I have in relation to my own constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into any kind of acrimonious debate with other Members, because I believe Members are honourable people and I do not want to get into that kind of debate. I, at the same time, of course, will take into consideration some of the other comments that I think have been made as to the manner in which some Members of the Executive respond to particular questions and in increasing the loudness or in trying to bring about a more effective response to some of them. That is not the purpose of it, but I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I think we have to come back to part of the fundamental difficulty that we have within this government. I want to speak primarily in terms of the basic difficulties that we have at the present time. In my way of thinking it is only one and there may well be others, communications, obviously. I want to comment upon, to a degree, what the Commissioner has talked about in bringing about particular change to the Territories and the direction we should be going.

Financial Dependence On Federal Government

As well, Mr. Speaker, I would want to comment very briefly on our colleague's budget. I pretty near said my colleague, Mr. Butters, the Hon. Mr. Butters, but I mean our colleague, Mr. Butters, because after all he is with all of us. It is our budget. I think that basically Mr. Butters presented his budget as a deficit budget and he brought forward the difficulty and the rationale for that and he indicated, of course, and identified the difficulties as to why he should do so as such and that is the high cost of utilities. Such a high cost, Mr. Speaker, that we now have had to go back hat in hand and in fact mug in hand and ask for another subsidy from the federal government. This time again we were very fortunate and they did recognize it, but I believe, Mr. Speaker, that that is the major deficiency in our territorial self-government, the financial dependence on annual federal subsidies to finance the delivery of services to citizens of the Northwest Territories. A national objective I think of most national parties is to devolve to the territorial government, but to devolve it in such a way that we are still financially dependent upon the federal government.

As long as the federal government continues to pay for our programs and our services when in fact we should be ourselves, we will continually have to go back to them. We will continue this dependence on the federal government and I do not think there is an individual here who wants to continue that dependence upon them, who does not want to have government in the North regardless of what that government does. Mr. Butters has indicated to us we generate only 28 per cent of our total funds and as we go back to the federal government for more moneys that increases that dependence upon them. I think we have to reduce that dependence and there are various different ways that we can go about it and we can talk all we want about resource revenue sharing, the amount of resources or the revenue from our resources at the present time, using facts and figures of the past for four or five years it does not produce very much money.

Fundamental Changes Needed

I think that there are fundamental changes that have to be made not only in the negotiations of our deficit grants with the federal government but fundamental changes in the kinds of legislation that we now have. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to other Members that it is possible for us to do that because in dealing with lands under the Northwest Territories Act, Mr. Speaker, properties, and there were four particular areas of those properties which "are and remain vested in Her Majesty in right of Canada, but the right to the beneficial use or to the proceeds thereof is hereby appropriated to the Territories and is subject to the control of the Commissioner in Council; and any such lands...may be held by and in the name of the Commissioner for the beneficial use of the Territories". I am quoting, Mr. Speaker, from subsection (d), section 46 of the Northwest Territories Act and I bring that to your attention and the attention of Members of this House because we are talking about the beneficial use or the proceeds thereof "appropriated to the Territories and subject to the control of the Commissioner in Council".

As my learned friend Mr. Sibbeston indicated last week when we were talking about the power that this particular Assembly has, we should take that into consideration because that is our power, the Commissioner in Council. I would like to refer you as well, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House, to the Territorial Lands Act, section 8, mining rights, the leasing of mining rights in which it says that "The Governor in Council may make regulations for the leasing of mining rights in, under or upon territorial lands and the payments of royalties therefor, but such regulations shall provide for the protection of and compensation to the holders of surface rights."

Federal Acts Stop Unity Within N.W.T.

Those are the two particular sections in the two acts, Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that are stopping us from bringing together unity within the Northwest Territories. Those are the acts, Mr. Speaker, that I suggest to you and to other Members that will lessen our dependency, our financial dependency on the federal government. Those are the acts, Mr. Speaker, and other Members, are the acts that deter us from funding programs that we should be, as a government, funding so that there are particular industries, marginal though they may be, that we can continue in the Territories. If there were to be subsidies paid to people, residents of the Territories, that can be done if we were to derive the benefits of the intent of those particular sections. It is very easy for us to begin that.

There is a territorial ordinance called the Commissioner's Land Ordinance, An Ordinance Respecting Lands in the Northwest Territories Subject to the Control of the Commissioner in Council, and the application of that ordinance in respect to lands, public lands, roads, streets and "land acquired by the Territories pursuant to tax sale proceedings". This ordinance applies in those areas "but does not apply in respect of any mines or minerals under or within such lands". We can very easily change that particular ordinance, the Commissioner's Land Ordinance by simply deleting that last phrase or clause that I read "but does not apply in respect of any mines and minerals under or within such lands." However, we would gain very little because the other two acts, the Territorial Lands Act and the Northwest Territories Act would prevent us from going any further, but I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, again that we have to actively pursue changes in those two acts, federal acts though they are. I do not believe that resource revenue sharing will do what we want it to do.

New Approach To Financial Self-sufficiency

Regardless when there are settlements made on claimants for particular lands, in all cases we are not asking for ownership of these lands. What we are saying or what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that while people continually come into the Territories and take from the Territories we gain very little by the time we set up the mechanism to tax those things that we are capable and able to tax by legislation at that rate these kinds of things, these fly-by-nights will be in and gone. There are a couple of cases in point, Camlaren is one. The development that will be going on there I suggest, Mr. Speaker, may have a life expectancy of about 12 to 14 months. We are not going to get very much. There may not be very much there but we are able I think, Mr. Speaker, to begin to look into that kind of a situation, to begin to attempt to lessen our dependency in a financial way on the federal government. I do not expect that we would ever get away from it. There are very few other jurisdictions in Canada that are totally independent of the federal government, but we should be able to begin towards that. We have to change those. We have to press for those changes. We have to develop a new approach and until we do attain a greater degree of financial self-sufficiency we will not be able, as an Assembly, to significantly alter the course of this government in the future in determining the level of services and the delivery of programs for the North.

There are other particular aspects that I should and maybe will go into, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to talk about the various programs for which I am responsible to the House, not that I am totally responsible for, but which I report to this House on; the Housing Corporation, we are going through that, and Health and Social Services. There are particular changes we must have in there. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that some of the things we should be looking toward in Health are that given that there should be a transfer of those responsibilities here, until such time as that transfer is properly funded, until such time as that transfer is recognized by the people in the North and agreed to by the federal government we should stop this bits and pieces. We have to in dealing with health in the Northwest Territories become more involved with preventive medicine, preventive health. We should be encouraging local groups to develop preventive and health programs.

MR. PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

The Total Operation Of Health Services

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: For example, even in the past year or two we have through our Department of Health involved various groups, the Rae-Edzo Native Women's Group being one, the awareness group. There is a great deal of concern over health in general in all aspects, but the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that there is very little in terms of health services devolved by the federal government to this government and we continually go on against one another and in some cases directly opposed, but until we are able to get a definitive statement from the federal government maybe it is time we looked at the total operation of that.

I want to very briefly indicate that in Social Services and again I have to say that it was a decision that I took in terms of the final action after consultation, after listening to other Members on the Executive and in some cases Members of the standing committee on finance, but I recognize that is not everybody, Mr. Speaker, but it gave me a pretty good cross section that we in the Department of Social Services are moving toward a new philosophy in terms of the provision of welfare services. We have started with younger people in terms of the provision of children's welfare services. When we get into the debate or the discussion on Social Services I am sure that that particular philosophy or the move toward that particular philosophy will be questioned by certain Members, but I did not get consensus of everybody. I got input from a number of people and we had to make a decision. I recognize that on Friday in the local News of the North, I guess it was page three, maybe it was page five it said, "Arnie, why aren't you talking to us?" I hear that because I have been here at times for nearly 23 years with my wife and children but it is "Arnie, how come you don't talk to us?" I appreciate that people will say that outside of the government and I appreciate that there are people in here who say, "Arnie, why aren't you talking to us?" In a lot of instances, it is not possible to talk to everybody all the time but that does not mean that I do not talk to particular people. In some instances we even transfer particular bits of information on pieces of paper with one another so there is some kind of communication.

Constituency Concerns, Slave River

Mr. Speaker, I very briefly want to deal with three particular constituency concerns because I believe that I have to bring those concerns to this Assembly. I do not want to depend upon the administrative set-up within my particular town to bring those concerns here because I think that that is the kind of thing that the people elected me to do and those concerns, Mr. Speaker, are in the area of new and different forms or expansion of present forms of energy and I refer obviously to hydro energy, hydro power along the Slave River.

As Members may or may not be aware and again it is not my place to bring that to the attention of Members because the Alberta government I think are doing that, but there is a large development going on and in point of fact I think that the Government of Alberta has received answers to particular tenders that they have put out for the development of hydro on the Slave River, hydro I think that tied in with the existing situation we have in the Northwest Territories which really I do not agree with through NCPC but that is another story, that could go a great deal toward providing hopefully cheaper energy. Not necessarily, but hopefully it will provide cheaper energy and energy that may be more reliable. But that is a concern of people in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, that this government does support the kind of development of that hydro potential because, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it perfectly clear to Members here that that has the support of people in my constituency, not just the town council, which Members here may be not aware of, but which is now made up of five-eighths native people, to use that particular term on our town council, but by the local Dene chief who again is concerned and supports the development there as long as it is done with the utmost of environmental concern and the least environmental impact.

That kind of river, Mr. Speaker, is set out for a great deal of new and technical usage of that kind of technical expertise that is there and constituents in my area, Mr. Speaker, would like to have the support of this government in dealing with that kind of development. It is going to have an impact on the Northwest Territories, not just in Fort Smith and in my colleague's constituency of Pine Point and then my other colleague's constituency of Fort Resolution and even in Hay River, but all around the lake I would suggest to you, sir.

Difficulty With Telecommunications

A second difficulty that we have in my constituency, sir, is in the area of communications, by that I mean telecommunications. Telecommunications have been difficult in and out of Fort Smith for a number of years and with the added difficulty that my constituency has experienced over the last year and the fires that razed the area in and around Fort Smith and Pine Point and Fort Resolution and that particular business of communications, if we experience any kind of forest fire season such as last year it will be even more difficult. The Northwest Telecommunications, NorthwTel, has recently informed the federal Forestry department that its service would be downgraded for next year. Forestry had been notified that they would not be able to use the weather circuits used in the past to transmit weather conditions throughout the North to the head Forestry office in Fort Smith. I need not go into any great detail about the devastation and the difficulty that people have had and are now experiencing with a forest fire situation in and around my area, but suffice it to say, sir, that if the planned action of NorthwTel continues we will have an even greater difficulty in combating those fires, which brings me, Mr. Speaker, to possibly the last concern I think that people in my area have which is in the area of firefighting.

I do not want to go into what has been said up to now with a panel or what has been going on in the past. I think it is sufficient to say, Mr. Speaker, that in and around my constituency there is considerable expertise in fighting fires. Federal Forestry officials for some years have been fighting fires and I will suggest that we will always have to fight fires. I think with the expertise that is there that if this particular responsibility, for one, were transferred within this government and I am not suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that we do away with all people or any who are now involved at the federal level in fighting fires, let me make that perfectly clear, but if that were one responsibility transferred to this government I think we then could take steps to utilize that firefighting expertise that is in and around that particular area. We could utilize the local air entrepreneurs who could

then on a guaranteed basis of always having a certain amount of money to put into fighting fires, who could then go to the lending institutions and look for bigger and better aircraft by which they would be able to combat fire and it would mean, Mr. Speaker, that more and more people in and around the community would be able to provide that particular service in the Territories. In point of fact, Mr. Speaker, if that were transferred to us maybe, just maybe we might be able to set the zones by which the responsibility for fighting fires was set in the first place, but I think there is that kind of expertise in and around my particular constituency, Mr. Speaker, and I think that that is one of the areas that this particular Assembly should pursue, the transfer of that kind of responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take any more amount of time. There will be other particular questions that will arise as to the responsibility that I have for reporting to this House on various departments and I would leave further remarks to that time. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Other replies to the Commissioner's Address? That item will then be dropped from the order paper.

Item 3, oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM NO.4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

MS. COURNOYEA: I have two questions, written questions and I do not know who to address this to so whomever is responsible:

Question 43-80(1): Effects Of NCPC On Tuktoyaktuk

I would like to know what action the Northwest Territories government is taking to resolve the short and long-term effects and impact of NCPC, Northern Canada Power Commission, on Tuktoyaktuk residents. Short-term; the cost to individual businesses, home owners, constituents, as a result of continuing problems with inconsistent power flows and shut-downs, failures. Long-term; (a) what has to be done to upgrade the power line feed from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk, (b) upgrading the power plan in Tuktoyaktuk and (c) upgrading for the long term, the NCPC plant in Inuvik which feeds Tuktoyaktuk.

Question 44-80(1): RCMP Telephone Answering Service, Tuktoyaktuk

The second written question: Is there a policy to allow RCMP detachments to have their telephones to be hooked into an answering service? If there is not, then why, during certain times of the day is the Tuktoyaktuk RCMP detachment using this device?

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

Question 45-80(1): Northern Preference Regarding Contracts And Tenders

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Public Works. Could the Minister tell this House what the policy of the government is regarding northern preference in awarding of contracts for major Public Works and Housing Corporation tenders for northern owned contractors and corporations?

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

Question 46-80(1): Senior Citizens' Home, Eskimo Point

MR. CURLEY: The second question I have is for the Minister responsible for Social Services. In view of the urgent need of a senior citizens' home in Eskimo Point, will the Minister tell the House what steps he has taken to resolve this problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Others? Are there any returns from the Executive Members? Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 33-80(1): Facilities For Juvenile Delinquents

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Question 33-80(1), asked by Mr. Curley on February 7th, 1980, concerning facilities for juvenile delinquents. I was given this particular reply. For the past few years the Fort Smith centre has had the purpose of serving the needs of youths who were brought into care as neglected children under the Child Welfare Ordinance as well as children adjudged as juvenile delinquents under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

As the result of an examination of the needs of young persons in care and in response to concerns expressed by members of the judiciary, the Department of Social Services has initiated steps to have the Fort Smith centre specialize in the assessment and care of children who are before the courts, or who have been found to be juvenile delinquents. Because of the sporadic nature and frequency of delinquencies committed by juveniles in the Northwest Territories, it is virtually impossible to provide specialized facilities for juveniles in several locations.

MR. SPEAKER: Other returns?

Item 5, petitions. Mr. Arreak.

ITEM NO. 5: PETITIONS

MR. ARREAK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here, Petition 3-80(1), from Clyde River requesting a school gymnasium complex and I have 49 signatures on this petition.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Other petitions?

Item 6, tabling of documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Sibbeston.

Notice Of Motion 10-80(1): Amendment Of Policy For Department Of Education

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on February the 13th I will move the following motion: That the present Department of Education policy be amended by adding the following: that where local education committees in consultation with the regional superintendent of Education approve the closing of a school for in-service activities that an additional period of time to a maximum of one day be permitted.

MR. SPEAKER: Other notices of motion?

Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

I will vacate the chair at this time to Mr. Tologanak, not because I particularly wish to speak to this motion, but because it deals with the terms of reference of the special committee on unity and I will leave any rulings with regard to the motion to Mr. Tologanak.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Tologanak): We are on Item 9, motions. Mr. Fraser.

Motion 9-80(1): Special Committee On Unity, Terms Of Reference

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, Motion 9-80(1):

WHEREAS this House, by motion adopted on November 16, 1979, established special committee on unity to try to determine the means by which a political consensus might be generated among the peoples of the North;

AND WHEREAS this committee has met twice to consider its modus operandi and establish for itself such terms of reference as it feels are required for the committee to be able to carry out its assigned task;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the hon. Member for Inuvik that the following terms of reference be adopted:

Membership

The special committee on unity shall be composed of five Members: Tagak Curley, Peter Fraser, Robert MacQuarrie, Robert Sayine and Nick Sibbeston, with Mr. MacQuarrie serving as chairman. In the event that a vacancy occurs it shall be filled by appointment by the striking committee.

Mandate

The special committee on unity is empowered to try to determine the means by which a political consensus might be generated among the people of the Northwest Territories, and to make recommendations concerning this matter to the Assembly.

In order to carry out its mandate the committee may visit the leaders of Northwest Territories native groups, and other interested parties, in order to discuss the following: the political positions of these groups; the possibilities of maintaining a united political jurisdiction in the Northwest Territories; the modifications which might be necessary in order to make a single government acceptable to all people in the Northwest Territories; alternatives to a single political jurisdiction if the latter seems impossible to maintain; and other related matters. It may also schedule meetings, initiate other activities, or enlist any help which it believes will enable it to carry out its mandate effectively.

Term

This committee will continue in existence until it has fulfilled its mandate. It will then submit a written report, with recommendations, to the Assembly. Tentatively, this report should be ready by the spring of 1981.

Budget

This committee will submit its budget to the Members' services board for approval.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I might just mention that all Members have a copy of these terms of reference and you might wish to bring it into committee of the whole for further discussion if you so wish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Mr. Fraser, do you wish to speak at this time? You have the right to speak first.

MR. FRASER: I thought I spoke enough, Mr. Speaker, but I will just briefly speak to the terms of reference. Maybe some of the other Members might wish to elaborate on the terms of reference. We had two meetings so far and from what we can gather, Mr. Speaker, it is going to be quite a job. We are going to have to do a lot of travelling if we are going to fulfill this task that we have taken on, to complete it by the spring of 1981.

Plans Of The Committee

We are planning now to visit larger communities in the North, meet with native groups, native leaders, settlement councils, hamlet councils. Our chairman, Mr. MacQuarrie is going to have a lot of work to get things prepared to see if these organizations and native leaders would accept us in the communities. Up to now we have not done too much. As a matter of fact we have only had two meetings. We cannot do too much until these terms of reference are approved by this House. Once the terms of reference are approved we can get the wheels rolling and find out whether we can reach the mandate for completing this survey by 1981.

I am not going to speak any more to the motion on the terms of reference, Mr. Speaker. There might be other Members who wish to ask questions or speak to the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. The hon. Member from the Western Arctic, Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I might call for just a clarification on this. This is the first time we have seen the terms of reference for this committee and I am wondering if possibly there is another method of handling it rather than in the Legislative Assembly by moving it to committee of the whole and perhaps some time could be given to the Members to look at this piece of paper. I do not know whether we should move it in right now and discuss it, but it seems to me that at this point we have just received it, so I think in this instance it should be moved into the committee of the whole.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It could be moved that it be taken into committee of the whole and it would be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

Amendment To Motion 9-80(1)

MS. COURNOYEA: I make that motion that the terms of reference of the special committee on unity be moved into committee of the whole.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do we have a seconder? Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: That was not to second the motion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen. It has been moved by the hon. Member from the Western Arctic that the terms of reference be discussed in committee of the whole and seconded by Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Sibbeston.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(1)

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make an amendment to that motion so that it states "and that the terms of reference be dealt with as the first order of business during the committee of the whole."

DEPUTY SPEAKER: There has been an amendment that the terms of reference be discussed in committee of the whole as the first order of business in committee of the whole. To the amendment. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order I would just like to ask you whether or not this motion is in appropriate order. I believe any motion before it can be debated normally has to have unanimous consent of the House. I was just wondering maybe you should check with the Clerk of the House and see whether or not this motion is appropriate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a motion to refer the discussion to committee of the whole and there was an amendment that the discussion take precedence over the ones that are already listed for discussion under committee of the whole. We discuss the amendment first. To the amendment, Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: The reason that I made the motion to move it to committee of the whole was so that the Members would have time to look over the terms of reference and have time to think about it, possibly think out any changes they would like to see. In order to accommodate Mr. Sibbeston who suggests that it be dealt with right away that does not take care of the original amendment because the idea to move it into committee of the whole was to allow the time available and his amendment would not allow that time available.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. Your point is well taken. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I think we had this out once before. This motion is not on the orders of the day and therefore I agree with Ms. Cournoyea that the terms of reference maybe should be left until it comes on the orders of the day at a later date to be determined by the Speaker so that Members may have time to look it over. There are quite a few "whereases" and clauses in this paper and to deal with it now in committee of the whole when none of the Members have had a chance to look at it and think it over, furthermore, Mr. Speaker, it is not on the orders of the day to be dealt with today.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(1), Withdrawn

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I was going to withdraw my amendment and make another one replacing it. If I am permitted to do so, sir, I would propose a whole new amendment that the matter be dealt with at the committee of the whole meeting tomorrow. That is as the first order of business tomorrow.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me for a moment while I consult with Mr. Clerk.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to again withdraw the amendment I made and try once more.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(1)

The amendment would be that the matter of the terms of reference of the unity committee be considered in committee of the whole as the first item of business on February the 13th, 1980.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have a seconder? Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: If I may speak in favour of the amendment, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out the main reason why we want it dealt with reasonably soon is certainly not to try to ram anything through the Assembly, but simply to have the terms of reference, if they are going to be approved, be approved at an early enough date so that we can begin to make arrangements for meetings in Yellowknife with the Metis Association and the Dene Nation before our Members leave at the end of this session and then we have to pay to bring them back again. We have that consideration in mind. But one other point with respect to the amendment, I will say that notice of motion was given on Thursday. The motion was typed up and it was available to all Members on Friday, including all of these terms of reference, so it is not anything that is being sprung on you as a surprise today. You had access to it over the weekend. The motion is on the order paper for today but notwithstanding all of that, I am perfectly happy to support Mr. Sibbeston's amendment that it be the first item of business in committee of the whole on Wednesday.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Amendments To Motion 9-80(1), Carried

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour of the amendment? The amendment as it reads is that Motion 9-80(1) be considered in committee of the whole as the first item of business on February 13th. All those in favour of the motion please indicate by raising your hand. Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The motion as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 9-80(1), Carried As Amended

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion as amended please indicate by raising your hand. Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: I see that the time is nearly 4:00 o'clock so just before we turn to committee of the whole we will take the 15 minute recess for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

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

Item 10, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and other matters. Is it the wish of the Members that we now resolve into committee of the whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: This House will now resolve into committee of the whole to consider those items on the order paper, with Mr. Tologanak in the chair.

ITEM NO. 10: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND OTHER MATTERS

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The committee will come to order for consideration of Bill 1-80(1). We were in the process of making amendments to the recommendations of the standing committee on finance. Is it the wish of this committee to ask Mr. Forrest and the Minister, Hon. Mr. McCallum, to sit in as witnesses? It is agreed. Mr. McCallum and Mr. Forrest. We were on the report of the standing committee on finance, page nine, item 7(c). We had adjourned on Friday and Mr. Stewart was about to make an amendment to the following: That this Legislative Assembly recommends that a concerted effort be made to encourage and, if necessary, enforce lower energy consumption by tenants of all housing under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Mr. Stewart had wanted to add the word "excessive", but the clock was recognized before the actual amendment came out. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The finance committee apologizes for the poor wording of this recommendation and we would like to withdraw it and replace it with a new recommendation if that is possible.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The motion has been withdrawn by the mover.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Would it not in this case since it is not merely a notice of motion but an actual motion that has been made with a seconder and an amendment -- or pardon me, there would not have been a seconder in committee of the whole -- and no amendment. Has that amendment been approved already?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Yes, the amendment was approved.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: And voted on and when you say "approved" is that merely for consideration?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Just one moment while we check the record.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: At any rate, Mr. Chairman, I did not want to get into any procedural wrangle, but it just seems to me that at least the person who moves the amendment would have to consent to its withdrawal as well.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The motion as amended on Friday was voted upon and carried. If this motion is going to be rescinded it has to be done by a motion and voted on by the Members. Mrs. Sorensen, do you wish to make a motion?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do, but I just want to be sure it is legal.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): We are all amateurs here. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have been advised that what I would like to do is really a further amendment and not a new motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Go ahead, please, Mrs. Sorensen.

Further Amendment To Motion To Encourage Lower Energy Consumption

MRS. SORENSEN: I recommend that this Assembly recommends that a concerted effort be made to curb excessive energy consumption by encouraging and if necessary enforcing reasonable energy consumption by tenants of all housing under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): It has been moved by the hon. Member for Yellowknife South that this Assembly recommends that a concerted effort be made to curb excessive energy consumption by encouraging and if necessary enforcing reasonable energy consumption by tenants of all housing under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. To the amendment? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to review what we talked about at great length on Friday, the reason that we have felt that this is a necessary policy statement to come from this Legislature is that we have been told that our deficit is because of increased costs of utilities and we are in the midst of attempting to obtain extraordinary funding from the federal government to pay for these increased costs.

The finance committee felt it important that this Assembly seem to be doing all in its power to ensure that power and fuel is as wisely used as possible in all of our government housing. We feel that if this government is not doing everything it can to conserve energy then as far as we are concerned the federal government could point to that as one reason for questioning the amount of our utilities deficit.

We have also suggested that what we would like to see done is have the Housing Corporation set an acceptable standard of consumption and institute a policy whereby any consumption in excess of such standard would be paid for by the tenant. I might add that we have suggested a similar solution or a similar recommendation in respect to staff housing.

Educational Program On Energy Conservation

We now have a situation where in Housing Corporation houses utilities are funded it seems with no questions asked. We feel that the time has come to set some limits so that, in the words of Mr. Stewart on Friday, we are not heating the outdoors. Above all we feel that people in territorial housing must realize what utilities are costing and so along with education as a part of energy conservation so too must come enforcement, but these enforcement measures and the policies that would institute enforcement measures must be as a result

of community input and, as I said, in conjunction with an educational program. I think it is quite obvious that energy conservation must become a way of life in the Northwest Territories and that all citizens of the North must participate in energy conservation. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Any further discussion to the amendment? Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I am in favour of the energy conservation program that places a little bit of responsibility on the residents of housing to conserve electrical and fuel consumption. But obviously from the descriptions that we have had in the previous few days, a lot of these houses have substandard insulation in them and, therefore, you cannot expect the residents of the house to be all that responsible. So that I am in favour of such a thing on the condition that when it is put into policy that it would have to reflect that there are minimum standards of insulation that have to be in the house before the occupant would be responsible for excessive costs of fuel in those houses. In other words, the Housing Corporation will have to upgrade the insulation in these houses before you can expect the occupants to be responsible for the amount of energy lost from those houses.

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

A Straightforward Recommendation

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I guess just in listening to the debate on this particular item, I am a Member of the standing committee on finance and we discussed this at length in one of our meetings. I did not think it was going to cause so much confusion or otherwise we maybe would have dealt with the matter a little bit more. I cannot see any big deal here. The motion is on the floor to conserve energy and why not let the Housing Corporation come up with some way of conserving energy and come back to the House? We have been sitting here for a week now trying to go through Bill 1-80(1) and I think we have just opened the first page. It looks like we are going to be here for two or three months if we do not get going on this particular bill.

I know it is a very important matter, but what can you do? You can tell people to put out their lights or shut their stove off or go haul in another load of wood or whatever, but this one particular motion seems to be stopping us, holding everything back and how many times it has been amended and nothing has been done about it. I think we should get on with the bill itself. The recommendation is straightforward and like I said I did not think it was going to cause this much confusion. I would like to see something happen as far as the budget is concerned so that we can get along with it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Your points are well taken. Anyone else to the amendment?

MRS. SORENSEN: The question.

Further Amendment, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The question is being called. I will read the amendment: This Assembly recommends that a concerted effort be made to curb excessive energy consumption by encouraging and if necessary enforcing reasonable energy consumption by tenants of all housing under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. To the amendment. All those in favour please raise your hand nice and high. Opposed? Abstained? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Motion To Encourage Lower Energy Consumption, Carried

To the motion as amended. All those in favour please indicate by raising your hand again. Opposed? The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, if I could just ask a brief question to the persons over there and it concerns Nahanni Butte.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): One moment, Mr. Sibbeston. Is this of a general discussion nature?

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): We had finished general discussion the previous few days. Is it the wish of the Members here that we give Mr. Sibbeston this opportunity to ask a brief question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Go ahead please.

Housing In Nahanni Butte And Kakisa Lake

MR. SIBBESTON: It is regarding Nahanni Butte because in Nahanni Butte a number of times this fall and winter the housing in the community is just the worst I have seen anywhere in my constituency. The houses were built 20 years ago or so out of logs and the bottom part of the houses are rotting and just generally the houses really need upgrading. I am wondering can the department say at this time whether they could make money available this summer to either repair some of those houses or else help them build their own houses? That is one question.

The second matter regards Kakisa Lake. I was there again a number of weeks ago and the people have fine houses, but they do not have power to the community and they need to have a power line built to their community which is seven miles off the highway. Is that something again that the Housing Corporation is responsible for or could help with?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would just briefly comment and ask Mr. Forrest to go on from there, but at the present time in both of those communities the Housing Corporation has no -- there are no houses under its jurisdiction in those areas. Perhaps Mr. Forrest can go from there though.

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Chairman, following Mr. McCallum's remarks, the responsibility of the area that the Member spoke of is properly that of the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association and we are aware of this problem and we sit as co-chairman on this committee with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. A senior member of the Housing Corporation attended with the Commissioner to Nahanni Butte three weeks ago and is aware of this and we will take it under advisement.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you.

MR. SIBBESTON: What about Kakisa Lake and the electrical matter?

MR. FORREST: I am not aware of that, Mr. Sibbeston, but that will be brought up also for discussion. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I would remind Members once again that if they have any further questions rather than going back into back and forth discussion that they address the Chair.

Mackenzie Valley Housing Association

MR. SIBBESTON: I take it what you are saying, Mr. Forrest, is that anything regarding repairs is handled by the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association and that you give the \$207,000 that is shown in the estimates for emergency repair programs. Is that the money that would be given to the Mackenzie Valley association for this sort of thing?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, the answer to that is no. The Mackenzie Valley Housing Association is directly funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. However, from time to time under dire need the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation does in fact assist the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association, to bridge finance them.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Was that the only question that you had?

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, perhaps this is not the appropriate place to deal with these things. I do not know, but I just think that I want to deal with this matter of repairing houses in Nahanni Butte and I want to find out who is responsible to see if something can be done. Otherwise we will not give any money to your Housing Corporation. Mr. Chairman, if I may just ask again...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The last one was under general discussion. Go ahead.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, can you tell me, can anything be done at the moment? Is it within your jurisdiction to help out the people of Nahanni Butte in order to improve their housing?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, at this moment there is not, but we would appreciate a communication to this effect directed either to the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association or the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. We then may table it at this joint management meeting to be held this Thursday as a matter of fact and if this could be presented to us then I will certainly introduce it and respond back to this Assembly through the Minister. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. We have closed off the general discussions. Is it the wish of the Members to get into the facts and figures?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Housing Corporation, Total O And M

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I refer the Members to this colourful book here, 1980-81 estimates, page 2.08. I refer you to the operations and maintenance, total O and M and the figure is \$19,863,000. Do any of you want details on that? You go into the page 2.08 in the blue book. The meeting is already open for discussion on the O and M of the Housing Corporation. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask what the difference is between duty and other travel. Also what the corporation's policy is concerning charters in the region, if there is a policy and whether any guidelines are set out to avoid abuse of chartering in the Baffin region.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would ask Mr. Forrest to reply to those kinds of questions within the administration of the corporation itself.

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Chairman, duty travel is for each of us, including myself, on official business basically within the Territories, to conduct the business. This year with a decrease of 26 per cent on our projected travel need plus the inflation as of today will represent a 40 per cent reduction in duty travel. Most of our travel is done by scheduled airline and the only charters that are used is when it is less expensive to charter due to the number of people or where there is no scheduled service.

The other one you mentioned is for moving staff from point A to point B which is an estimated amount, for travel assistance on vacation, which is from here to Edmonton and it also includes an estimated amount for medical evacuation from our different districts. Pardon me, Mr. Patterson. I do not believe I can recall your second question.

Control On Charter Abuses

MR. PATTERSON: Control on charter abuses. Perhaps I should explain my question in a little more detail, Mr. Chairman. I seem to get the impression that your manager in the Baffin region has flown around a considerable amount in the last year at least on two occasions I am aware of, in near-empty Twin Otters when a scheduled flight was available the next day and I guess I am asking: Do you have controls and checks to avoid this sort of practice? I realize the cut in your budget may be the biggest control in the coming year, but is there some kind of review of charter costs and this sort of thing or policy guidelines requiring accountability of the regional managers to the board to justify charter expenses and to show how it was necessary to spend money chartering when scheduled flights are available as they are in the Baffin region even if you might have to wait a day or more in the community before you get home? That is my question if that helps clarify it.

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Charters can only be authorized by myself and on these particular occasions that you have mentioned they were on my instructions due to the urgency of the problems. For some time the communities in the Baffin were not properly serviced by senior staff of the corporation and in order to hold what we would consider and we must consider to be a successful conference in the latter part of last year, I felt it was necessary on that particular occasion -- I believe one of the occasions you are mentioning I was also a passenger, but the aircraft was full. We had on board the aircraft both the deputy mayor from Fröbisher Bay and the chairman of the housing association not only to view the training projects that we are building in Pangnirtung, but also to address their housing association and the 12 trainees at that time. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson, did you have further questions?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I might ask another question. Can you tell me, Mr. Forrest, please, or Mr. Minister perhaps I should address this question to, how successful you have been in recruiting native northerners to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation staff? That is in permanent positions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson, I believe that is general rather than what we are dealing with in the corporation budget.

Employment Of Native Northerners

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am looking at the salary item which makes up the component of operations and maintenance and my question is in reference to the salaries. I guess really I am asking what portion of that is spent employing local northern native persons. Is that not relevant?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson, I am sorry.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would refer the Member to -- I beg your pardon. I guess that is not involved in the material that was passed out. I was going to refer the Member to a section. There were 87 people in the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation that make up the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation personnel. Ten are native people, 63 are northern-hired, 73 of the 87 are either native people or hired in the North. Mr. Chairman, there were 46 housing associations, each having ten elected members. Those members come from each of the communities. There are five housing authorities with six appointed members. They again come from the communities so you have a total native involvement, if you like, within the housing associations and housing authorities of roughly 490 people. There are 46 housing association secretary managers, 72 maintenance mechanics, 46 general maintenance personnel. Of those salaried employees which make up approximately 165 people together with other salaried employees there were approximately 70 per cent of the people native. There are managers in the housing authorities, other maintenance people in housing authorities and a secretary in each of the authorities for a total of 35 people again, in this case about 50 per cent of those people are native people. Native people of the total number involved with housing in the North, they number approximately 650 out of approximately 750.

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

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am impressed by that answer by the way may I say. I want to know, the board of directors honorarium, I presume, has gone up significantly and where is this money going? Is this going to housing associations or is that going to your own board or how is that money split up? Can you give me an idea of what it works out to, please?

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

Per Diem Stipend For Board Of Directors

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the per diem stipend for the board of directors is \$100 a day. That has been in existence for the past two years. There are eight paid members on the board of directors. Those are people from the communities. They have six meetings a year. Four of those six in the past have been meetings in Yellowknife where these members come in for a day, two days and in some cases maybe more depending upon their agenda. Two of those meetings are held in communities, two meetings a year.

The next board meeting, for the information of the Member from Frobisher Bay, will be held in Frobisher Bay and I think it is early June or some time in June. Now, I am not sure whether that in fact answers all his queries, but I have given you an indication of how long the per diem rate has been in effect, what it is, the number of directors, the number of meetings held per year and where those meetings are held. I should add, Mr. Chairman, that within the board itself there are not a number but one or two subcommittees which in most cases meet in Yellowknife.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Are you finished, Mr. Patterson?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is related to this very high figure I believe of \$19 million for the contribution to the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies. Could you explain maybe exactly what kind of contribution do you expect from them, whether or not this large figure is actually justifiable? It is on page 2.09.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Curley, perhaps we can finish off with the operations and maintenance to the tune of \$19,863,000 and with the back-up information on this other book. Perhaps if you could deal with this first and then go on to page 2.09 later.

MR. CURLEY: Good.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Just while we wait for Mr. Curley, Mr. Patterson.

Housing Corporation Salary Increases

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask did your staff get a salary increase last year and, if so, was there an average increase?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the personnel of the Housing Corporation, those 87 I referred to in the beginning, received an increase similar to that of other Public Service Association personnel of roughly eight per cent. I should not say roughly, I think it was eight per cent.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder and just to go back to the question Mr. Curley raised, is he referring to -- the only contribution on page 2.09 dealing with the Housing Corporation is that large figure which of course is the total amount of the grant on page 2.08. Those others have nothing to do with the Housing Corporation.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Yes, I was going to clarify that, I am sorry I did not. Any further discussion on page 2.08? Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, if I am out of order please tell me. I am trying to follow the discussion. The question in terms of operations and maintenance, you said you were on 2.08 or 2.09?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Page 2.08, page 2.09 is the Executive Committee.

MS. COURNOYEA: Okay. In terms of the money that is spent for operations and maintenance, does that accumulate, the rental charge or the community charges that are brought back into the corporation but left at the community level?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Did you want any further explanation or questions, Ms. Cournoyea?

Housing Corporation Training Programs

MS. COURNOYEA: No, that is a very clear and concise answer. Another thing I would like to know in terms of paying for salaries and wages and I do not know if it comes under this category but the training programs that are made available, one of the areas that seemed to be amiss in this program is the training of people for oil burner mechanics. I am wondering does that come under something else or is there a reason why this very important area with the Housing Corporation is not delegated any money for training for this kind of maintenance to housing?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, on page eight I think it is of the blue book under the operation and maintenance and it talks about "others" in the left hand column. The second from the bottom in that particular group and the first group is the YWCA single persons and the last one is housing association training, \$240,000 is there.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I would just like to indicate to the Member that the corporation through the managing director, Mr. Forrest, has just recently concluded negotiations with CMHC to have that doubled in amount, so that is just recently and perhaps Mr. Forrest would like to comment to some degree on it.

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Chairman, that additional funding of a quarter of a million dollars will be used specifically for the training of tradesmen in the fields of carpentry, drywall, electrical, plumbing and the heating trades with also a part of this money being for the beginning of a training course for businessmen to be able to manage their construction affairs.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Ms. Cournoyea.

Training For Oil Burner Mechanics

MS. COURNOYEA: A supplementary to that question is that in the preamble in the blue book that we had given to us it does not mention the area of training for furnaces. The reason I bring this up is because it is very difficult at this period of time to get anybody to work in communities in preventive maintenance on furnaces and the number of people who are in business in that trade are limited as well. I did not see anything in the preamble that identified that this area of concern was taken care of.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, housing maintenance courses such as burner mechanics, as the Member suggests, that has been a program that has been carried on not only at the vocational centre at Fort Smith but through instructors going out into communities in various locations across the Territories. At the present time we have graduated as journeymen in total housing maintenance service personnel, 39 people and in two other courses in terms of apprenticeships, together with those 39 journeymen there was a total of 132 people. I think, Mr. Chairman, if I may, Members were I think given a publication put out by the vocational centre in Fort Smith. I have seen copies around. It shows at least two of the instructors who carry on this program, as I say not only at the vocational centre in Fort Smith but in other communities. That is a program that is actively being pursued and we as a corporation are involved with that as well. There are six communities involved in training here.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Well, all I was asking really is why it is not in this book. I realize that the courses have been offered in the past and in view of the circumstances in the communities many of the fires that are caused are from improper maintenance of furnaces. I am just concerned that I do not see within my area these people available and I am not faulting or criticizing the corporation. I feel that the Housing Corporation should be active in promoting training programs and I just did not see it within the Housing Corporation's budget. Now, maybe somebody else budgets for it, I do not know, but it was not identified and I still do not see it but that is fine.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, within the total budget of \$240,000 that is in the blue book, part of that \$240,000 goes into the training of people involved with the burner mechanics people, that course is involved with that \$240,000. We did not break the \$240,000 down into various categories of the different trades.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Does that satisfy you, Ms. Cournoyea?

MS. COURNOYEA: It is all right. I realize that there is a certain amount of money for training, but the identified training programs are in construction and I am just wondering where the support is for these specialists in furnace repair, but that is okay. It is not in here.

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

Proposed Increase In Man Years

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, with respect to the salaries on page seven of the blue book, a question dealing with man years and salaries -- the increase. First of all, may I ask what the actual expenditures for salaries was in 1979-80 rather than just the main estimates; do you have that information? Can you not provide complete information on that yet? What is the proposed increase in man years from last year to this year?

MR. FORREST: None.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, may I ask Mr. Forrest to comment?

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Chairman, we are not increasing man years in the corporation for this year and in fact there will be a decrease of seven people so that will be from 93 downwards.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: So the increased salaries would be due to increases in negotiated contracts and so on, is that the idea?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, that answer is correct, yes.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Of the seven reductions in staff how many of those are headquarters staff and how many are native staff?

MR. FORREST: There is an increase in native staff and a decrease in headquarters staff. Fifty per cent of our staff are dedicated to the field at this time and that figure is increasing proportionately as headquarters is devolving into the communities.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: What then is the actual reduction in headquarters staff this past year?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, this has not fully taken effect but it will be in effect by April.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: And the number?

MR. FORREST: The number will be a total decrease in our total personnel of seven.

Number Of Housing Units

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, if I may pursue another area for a moment, I am a little confused as to the number of units that will actually be built in the coming year. When I read the preamble on page three it would appear that there are 107 units being built. A specific or explicit number of 101 is stated on page 12, but then again when I read the bottom of page eight that indicates the number of units I am thrown into a little confusion again by the figures that appear there, so could the Minister or the managing director, Mr. Chairman, please clarify for me just the number of units that are being built in this coming year?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. MacQuarrie, can you tell me where you are getting your figures from? Are you getting them from the estimates?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Page 103 of the blue book there is a parenthetical expression which says "seven 1980 units will be 55 per cent more energy efficient, 40 units will be 50 per cent more efficient and 60 units will be 45 per cent more efficient." Which I total as 107. The other figure of 101 units was on page 12 and then on page eight right at the bottom of the page it is obviously a different kind of figure but it does confuse me somewhat.

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may answer this, in fact we are building 101 public units and we have just made this determination to build either six or seven experimental houses under another section of the National Housing Act that has just come into being. I am sorry for the confusion. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Are those all the questions you had?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: No, Mr. Chairman, if I may.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Go ahead.

Significant Increase In Public Housing

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: On page eight I notice under the item public housing S.43, public housing S.40, that there are very significant increases from the 1979-80 estimates to the 1980-81 estimates, \$4.8 million in the first case and \$4.25 million in the second case. Could you first of all decode the items for us so that we are very clear on what those items are and secondly explain the very significant increase?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Forrest can go into greater detail, but public housing S.43, the S.43 refers to section 43 of the National Housing Act and S.40 in public housing refers to section 40 of that act. Similarly with the units under senior citizens.

MR. FORREST: That is correct.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Forrest may be able to go further on the significant increase as the Member has indicated.

MR. FORREST: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, but I do not really understand that question. Could it be rephrased, please?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Well, it would appear to me -- I will take it each step and you can confirm. It would appear to me that in your operations and maintenance budget that in the 1980-81 year under section 43 of the National Housing Act, housing has been allocated \$13,964,200. Is that to operate that type of housing during the 1980-81 year? Is that correct?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, this includes fuel, power, amortization and maintenance in that figure. These units are built under two sections of the act for capital and they are maintained under the same two sections of the act under operations and maintenance. The distribution of that amount is on the next page.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: A further question then. Is all of the increase \$4.8 million in the case of S.43 housing attributable to increased -- rather, what percentage of it is attributable to increased energy costs and what percentage to new housing units?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, on page nine the Member could see that in point of fact it is about \$4.6 million, the increase in power and fuel and \$200,000 if you like, is roughly for water and sewage, so on page nine you have the 1979-80, the difference in those figures the Member is using I believe, relating those to 1980-81. The Member would recognize that there are increases, the total increase from 1979-80 to 1980-81 in public housing as well as the northern/territorial rental housing but under those three we would have to break it down even further. It is roughly about 42 per cent for fuel and 50 per cent for power, that is by volume. There is an increase in the prices that approximates 30 per cent calculated by community. Does that answer the question, Mr. Chairman?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Yes, it clarifies it for me. Thank you. I have a couple of others if I may.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Go ahead, Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: With respect to page seven, the rentals and leases item under administration, is that headquarters costs alone or are there other rentals and leases that the corporation is involved in?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, that would be for not only headquarters but districts as well.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: That is district housing association offices?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes.

Non-cash Items

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Housing Corporation. Further to that if I may I do not understand and again I am just asking for clarification, I do not understand on page eight there is something called, under revenue, non-cash items valued at \$3,371,300. First of all what would non-cash items be in the budget? Secondly, I do not quite understand how non-cash items reduce the operation expenditure in the budget. Could you clarify that for me, please?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the non-cash items would be in terms of amortization and depreciation where in actual fact there is no cash required, that having been paid in previous years. In actual fact, Mr. Chairman, we are talking about book entries in terms of balancing or attempting to put forth a financial report. These have to be reported for cost sharing purposes with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: If I may say further then, it may very well be some bookkeeping item that I do not understand and I will not ask you to give me a course in bookkeeping right here but it is just that the total amount that would be required to run the operations of the Housing Corporation as I understand it, these would be cash items it seems to me. There is maybe where I am wrong. It amounts to \$30,663,100 and yet that figure I understand there is rental revenue, recoveries from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation which I understand, but I do not quite understand the last. As I say, if it is some complex bookkeeping thing perhaps I will ask you at another time but maybe can you give one more sentence that will enlighten me on that?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would simply indicate that in order to cost share programs with CMHC one takes into account depreciation of units and the amortization of capital of these particular units. I cannot go into any great details because I think I suffer from the same malaise as the Member in that I am not that up, if you like, on accounting procedures and practices, but I am sure the Member would be able to get that kind of information from personnel within the department if he wanted. If there were others who were of the same mind, perhaps Mr. Forrest could answer a little bit more.

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. This is indeed an accounting practice and maybe I could simplify it by just stating that this is a reporting mechanism in comparison to our budget and it requires to balance out with our annual audited statements. These items do not require cash outlays this year. Money was provided in the past under capital funding so this is a carryover of previous capital fundings to the cost shared now with CMHC. So it includes amortization, pay-backs, depreciation over a period of 50 years, so therefore no cash is required.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I thank you for that attempt and it is my dullness that is preventing me from understanding. I know Mr. Verhappen and I will talk to him later.

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

Other Services

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, on page seven I have a question with respect to the item called "other services". I can understand the previous one, "consultants", and the \$49,200, but could you explain to me a little bit more exactly what "other services" in the amount of \$68,400 really is all about?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, we include under that caption special studies that we are presently conducting, studies that we anticipate in the future will be in our programs area. Also included in here is janitorial services in our head office and in our six district offices, so some people would refer to it as miscellaneous but we prefer to call it "other services". Also these are audited by our internal auditors and the Auditor General under about 20 divisions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: I have one question on the total budget. I will explain why I am asking you this question. In the beginning what we were told is that this money is brought into the Northwest Territories from the federal government coffers. Now in turn if it was an ordinary home owner the home owner would be required to pay back a certain mortgage payment. That means every month a person who owns a house would pay back. But since the Housing Corporation admits to the fact that no revenue is collected that is not going to ordinary repairs at the community level, at what point in time does the federal government come in and say to the Northwest Territories, "Over the years we have given you so much money for housing", or it could be CMHC? Is that an accumulated debt with the federal government? I just do not understand that because as a private individual borrowing from CMHC the capital moneys have to be paid back and there is an interest on that capital money given. Now, I do not understand what position the Housing Corporation is in if no money is ever collected to pay that capital back. I do not understand where we are, you know, over the number of years that we have borrowed money to build houses, does it keep piling up until somebody says, "You owe us this many million dollars," or where is it?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, we pay back our loan under amortization under section 43 of the National Housing Act, so, therefore, we are incurring debts on a yearly basis. Under section 40 then that is a partnership and that is done by outright grant. We have assimilated many millions of dollars of indebtedness on mortgage pay-back, so this corporation is treated the same as a private home owner, in that it must pay these amortization costs each year, at the beginning of the year. For the Member's interest, our indebtedness by mortgage is about \$40 million at this time.

Experimental Homes In Tuktoyaktuk

MS. COURNOYEA: A second question: From the estimates I see no new units for Tuktoyaktuk and I was wondering if you have designated the areas where you will be building experimental homes and if this community can be considered for that?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, I did not catch the name of that community.

MS. COURNOYEA: Tuktoyaktuk in English.

MR. FORREST: Thank you. I would prefer not to respond to that question until about a month from now. We will be building one experimental house in that geographic area this year.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the indebtedness that was just mentioned, \$40 million, probably I could find the information elsewhere, but if Mr. McCallum or Mr. Forrest could enlighten me right now I would be very pleased and that is: How does this government stand in relation to that indebtedness? Do we undertake to guarantee payment or is it entirely a corporation debt?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, one of the other pieces of legislation that we will have, I think it is Bill 18-80(1) is the Loan Authorization Amendment Ordinance No. 1, 1979-80, which contains as the Member has indicated -- it comes in under that.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: So am I correct then in understanding that the corporation itself never undertakes indebtedness but always comes to this Assembly for permission to borrow; is that correct?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. Our borrowing power is that of the agent of the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, so, therefore, that is right, yes.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to mislead the Members. I said Bill 18-80(1) and Bill 18-80(1) is the amendment ordinance. The Loan Authorization Ordinance is Bill 4-80(1).

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any further questions? Yes, Mrs. Sorensen.

YWCA Single Persons Program

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page eight there is an item under "others" called "YWCA single persons". I notice that you have gone from \$88,500 to \$140,000 to \$112,000 over the last three fiscal years. Can you tell me what the YWCA single persons program is and are we to expect the YWCA to be after the three Yellowknife Members because their funding has decreased?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, in relation to the last part I would suggest, yes. In relation to the change in it, it would hopefully be suffice to say that we are contemplating trying to do something to bring it to at least the previous years level if we can see our way clear of it. Other Executive Committee Members and myself have been in consultation with the YWCA group on this particular matter. I cannot without doubt indicate that we have resolved the issue, but I think that it does look fairly positive.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other questions? Yes, further, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. McCallum and Mr. Forrest some questions concerning the debate which took place, the questions and answers which took place last Thursday and Friday. Mr. Forrest, you mentioned that there were several units built between 1974 and 1978 that were going to be rehabilitated and that you would begin a concerted effort to do this during 1981. Can you tell me how much money is going into the rehabilitation of these units? Are these what are known as the Weber units and how could such poorly designed houses get past your engineers?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Excuse me, Mrs. Sorensen, if I am not correct. You are talking about capital expenditures and I am going to ask you to hold off until we get through O and M. Are you not on page 11, rehabilitation, and is that not outside our scope? I think so. Any questions on operations and maintenance? You can think up your answer for that one, Mr. Forrest or Mr. McCallum, but I am going to hold off on that one for now. Yes, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Number Of Housing Units

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Just looking at page eight, Mr. Chairman, you maybe realize that one of my earlier questions was not answered and I will put it again. The number of units, down at the bottom of the column 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81; what precisely does that refer to because the difference between 1979-80 and 1980-81 is 354 units, but what units are being referred to here? I must be misunderstanding something.

MR. FORREST: If I may, Mr. Chairman, they are referring to the number of completed housing units in our stocks.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other questions on operations and maintenance? Are you satisfied, Mr. MacQuarrie?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Not quite, simply because I thought the completed housing units, not just public housing, but all other types of units; because if they are just 101 more public housing units, are the rest other types?

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

MR. FORREST: These, Mr. Chairman, include work in progress. For the first time in 1979 we designed, built and occupied the majority of our houses in one building season, but usually they go over two building seasons depending upon the location. In the Eastern Arctic when we have sealift coming in in September we begin our construction in September and then stop it usually in December and then pick it up again usually in April so it is spread over two years. So that is why our figures always have a carryover of incomplete units and we do not record them until they are completed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Further discussion? Yes, Mr. Wah-Shee.

Maintenance Of Low Rental Housing Units

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. Is it the responsibility of the Housing Corporation in regard to maintenance of low rental housing units, is that the responsibility of the Housing Corporation?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): A supplementary, Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Could you tell me the difference between the regular maintenance of the low rental units and the extraordinary maintenance?

MR. FORREST: Extraordinary maintenance which we do not have this year is for buildings that require more effort and more money expended to bring them up to a sanitary, inhabitable form and we had to reduce our capital planning in this area with grave reservations. We have somewhat picked it up in our rehabilitation program but we are still short. On standard maintenance, that is, for such things as furnace repair, windows that have been broken and damaged to be replaced, similarly with doors, water systems and all mechanical apparatus to keep the house functioning on a standard day-to-day basis; whereas extraordinary maintenance is new roofs, new floors, new chimney, new cladding etc.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any further questions? No questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Housing Corporation officials whether it might be of some help to begin a program of advising all the rental house tenants of the actual costs of operating the housing units that they live in.

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, this is an ongoing program. However, in the past we only informed the housing associations. Now in our drive for energy and power conservation we are involving the tenants directly in this knowledge of what the costs are in power and in fuel and in the general maintenance of their individual homes.

Rental Arrears

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, also would it be a desirable thing do you think to attempt to obtain payment of all rental arrears that are owed by individuals renting rental houses in the Northwest Territories? If so, whether such steps have been taken in the past and if you would indicate the success or lack of success in attempting to recoup rental arrears?

MR. FORREST: Yes. Rental arrears is a bad problem. We have \$1.2 million in arrears that go back over 12 years. We are currently developing a policy to present to our board that addresses that question, but it is the feeling of this administration and we will project this to our board that there comes a point in time over a long period of time when the collection of rental arrears is not possible. We are developing a formula whereby to discuss with individuals who are in this position as to what they can pay to make up their rental arrears and certainly they will not be able to make up 100 per cent in 100 per cent of the cases. So this is currently under discussion by the administration. We have discussed it with our board. We will be presenting a position paper for a hopeful policy on the arrears in question but it will follow the format that I have just discussed.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: It is all right.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Does anyone wish to speak before I let Mr. Patterson? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: I suppose it would be your agents, the housing associations -- have they ever to your knowledge sued tenants who obviously have the means to pay but have not paid rents in your units? Have you ever sued anybody?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, yes, we have, but only under dire circumstances and the same with eviction, only under dire circumstances. This is again the responsibility of the housing associations. We have and will continue to have our solicitors speak directly with housing associations that find themselves in this problem of not knowing when or how or by what legal means. We have recently concluded that in several communities of the Baffin.

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

MR. PATTERSON: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. With what success?

MR. FORREST: Oh, about one-half of nothing I would say, Mr. Chairman.

Effective Means Of Collecting Debts

MR. PATTERSON: A further supplementary. Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that there is a relatively cheap and effective means of collecting debts in the Northwest Territories and in the small claims procedure it only costs a couple of bucks to initiate a proceeding and it is not complicated, it does not really take a lawyer to do it. Have you given any thought in cases where it seems people are refusing to pay even though they have the money? Have you given any thought to providing legal advice to housing associations in the Territories to encourage them to use the small claims do-it-yourself procedure to collect not rental arrears, but simply monthly arrears where they could sue on a monthly basis or several months basis for relatively small amounts of money but have some power to take some action rather than having to throw up their hands when the tenant laughs in their face which they seem to do?

MR. FORREST: Mr. Chairman, yes, we have, but we have always felt very lonesome in this endeavour and if we would have the support of this House, then we would be quite frankly more aggressive in this area. The non-collection of debt has a twofold effect, not only the loss of revenue but a complete breakdown in the responsibility of the individual. We often find ourselves on the horns of a dilemma when we implement these measures and we do not receive support from anyone else. So it is we are simply asking for your support in that manner.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Recognizing the clock, do Members wish to continue or shall we report progress to the Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Report progress.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I will report progress to the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tologanak.

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

MR. TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has met to consider Bill 1-80(1) and I wish to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Announcements. The standing committee on legislation will meet tomorrow morning, Tuesday, February the 12th at 9:30 a.m., in Katimavik A.

ITEM NO. 13: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, February 12, 1980, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Oral Questions
3. Questions and Returns
4. Petitions
5. Tabling of Documents
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions
9. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters: Bills 1-80(1), 2-80(1), 3-80(1), 4-80(1), 5-80(1), 18-80(1)
10. Third Reading of Bills
11. Assent to Bills
12. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House now stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 12, 1980, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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