

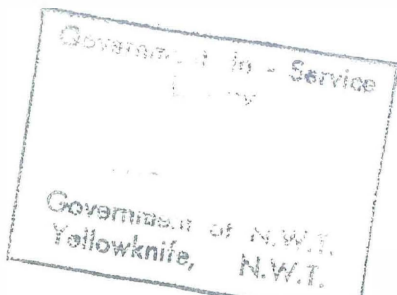


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

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Official Report



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1980

Pages 779 to 829

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1980

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, 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. Sayine, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Tologanak, Hon. James Wah-Shee

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): Item 2, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 2: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Patterson.

Question 76-80(1): Psychiatric Treatment Contract

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister of Health, Mr. McCallum. My question to Mr. McCallum is: Having heard his indication that the Yellowknife hospital would be contracting to provide psychological services to persons who have needs in this area, in view of the absence of the psychiatric services in Yellowknife, I would like to ask the Minister, have those contractual arrangements been made and, if not, what can be done about people in this area who have urgent need for psychological counselling and treatment?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Return To Question 76-80(1): Psychiatric Treatment Contract

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, on the 20th of February, the Department of Health was authorized to make the necessary arrangements for a contract to provide psychological services or to handle psychiatric referrals from medical practitioners in the Northwest Territories. The intention was to have payment made through a program to be developed by the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. The program was to include a psychiatrist as well as psychological services. The Stanton Yellowknife Hospital was informed. The hospital has undertaken to retain a psychiatrist on a part time basis until a permanent doctor can be recruited. The first visit of a psychiatrist is scheduled for three days next week, for that psychiatrist to come from Edmonton.

In addition, the hospital is to fulfil its psychological component of the program by either recruiting or through contracting out the service to a private psychological firm. Since it is a hospital program, the local hospital management board wishes to review what is planned and to give its opinion as to whether the hospital should go this particular route at this time. The board is to meet this Thursday, that is two days from now, to make this kind of decision.

In the interim period, Mr. Speaker, and until Stanton Yellowknife Hospital can establish its contract and its program, the Department of Health will pay for expenses incurred for psychological services, that is, the assessment and treatment performed by a qualified psychologist for patients referred by a medical practitioner. The department will either reimburse the patient or pay the bill outright and this will continue until the hospital board has determined or developed, if you like, and established its own program. I have the concurrence of the hospital, the president of the Northwest Territories Medical Association and the medical staff at the Yellowknife Stanton Hospital to be involved in this total program. I hope, sir, that will then fulfil the question that the Member has brought forward. Nothing has changed in terms of what I gave as a response earlier, that we are as a department looking at that on an interim basis only until we can come to terms, if you like, until the Stanton Yellowknife board comes to terms with it and I think that that would suffice in the meantime. As you recall, I indicated I did not want to propose a change to the THIS, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance at this time, rather to put some kind of an interim policy together and have the local hospital add those services to its regular program.

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

Question 79-80(1): Policy On Northern Preference Regarding Contracts And Tenders

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, my oral question is directed to the administration. It is in response to the return provided by the Minister responsible for Local Government, Question 45-80(1) regarding northern preference on contracts and tenders for northern residents. Could the administration provide the entire policy to the Assembly so that we may be able to review it rather than just a summary of the policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Braden, would you be willing to respond to that?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice and provide more detailed information for the House and for the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Other oral questions.

Item 3, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Written questions. Mr. Noah.

Question 80-80(1): Thelon Game Sanctuary

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, this is directed to renewable resources, the Minister of Renewable Resources. It concerns the Thelon Game Sanctuary. Could the Minister of Renewable Resources please inform this House if he has any plans to rescind wildlife regulations to holders of general hunting licences to hunt caribou, wolves, musk-ox and for fishing and trapping in that area?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah. Mr. Stewart.

Question 81-80(1): Fort Smith Group Home

MR. STEWART: Would the Minister of Social Services advise this House, as to the home, town and number of children occupying the receiving home and the two group homes in Fort Smith for the months of November and December, 1979, and January, 1980?

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

Question 82-80(1): Fees And Disbursements To N.W.T. Lawyers

MR. PATTERSON: This is to the Minister of Justice. I am not sure if I should declare any particular interest in this matter or not, but I am a lawyer practising in the Northwest Territories who has received payment for legal aid services. Nonetheless, I still think this question is proper, although I recognize that I might not be able to vote on such matters.

My question is; what is the total amount of fees and disbursements paid to lawyers in the Northwest Territories in the last fiscal year for providing legal aid services and how much was paid to each lawyer? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Are there any other questions? Returns from Ministers. Are there any returns?

Item 4, petitions. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I may not be able to find it. Mr. Speaker, I will leave it until tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there any other petitions?

Item 5, tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM NO. 5: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document. Tabled Document 19-80(1): Proposed Renewable Resources Technology On-the-job Training Program, prepared for myself as Minister of Renewable Resources by the Departments of Personnel and Renewable Resources.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Are there any other documents to be tabled? Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, Tabled Document 20-80(1): Research and Development in Canada, Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to the Minister of State for Science and Technology, dated August, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other documents to be tabled?

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 23-80(1): Extension Of Sitting Hours Of The Legislative Assembly

MS. COURNOYEA: I would like to give a notice of motion in which I will be asking for unanimous consent when it comes up on the timetable here, a motion seconded by the hon. Member from Keewatin South: Whereas a considerable amount of business remains to be completed at this session...

MR. SPEAKER: It is only necessary to read the resolution part of the motion, please.

MS. COURNOYEA: Now therefore, I move that this Assembly authorize the Speaker to extend the regular sitting hours, if required, by providing for morning and/or evening and/or Saturday sittings to the extent necessary.

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

Notice Of Motion 24-80(1): Special Committee On Education

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion that on Thursday, February 28th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move that this Assembly establish a special committee on education with support staff to inquire into all aspects of educational problems in the Northwest Territories and interim report of its finding be tabled during the fall session in 1981 and final report and recommendation be made by the beginning of 1982 and the size and nomination for membership be made by the striking committee of this Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other notices of motion?

Item 8, motions. Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: May I have unanimous consent to deal with this motion today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea is asking for unanimous consent to deal with a motion to extend sitting hours. Does she have unanimous consent? Did I hear a nay? Mr. Fraser has said nay. I am sorry you do not have unanimous consent. Are there other motions? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I may be wrong about the motion. I thought I would be able to comment on that motion that was made about meeting mornings and evenings or maybe there will be a debate on that motion and I would like to make a few comments on that motion if you do not mind, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: We will be debating the sitting hours on Thursday afternoon, Mr. Evaluarjuk, and you will be welcome to make your comments at that time.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I will not be around on Thursday so I would like it to be discussed right now. Is it then possible for perhaps me to make a comment today, for me to make a comment right now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Laughter

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: That is what you are there for.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. I would have to say it would be very much out of place to contribute to a debate on a motion that was not yet on the floor and unanimous consent was not given to deal with that motion today, Mr. Evaluarjuk, so I will not allow comment on that matter right now and I would ask that you perhaps leave some written comments with one of your colleagues so your ideas will be expressed on Thursday afternoon. You can have someone else bring your thoughts forward at that time.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Other motions? Is it agreed to resolve into committee of the whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 9, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and other matters.

ITEM NO.9: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND OTHER MATTERS

This house will now resolve into committee of the whole to consider those matters listed on the item paper. For the first item, Sessional Paper 1-80(1): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Patterson is willing to be in the chair. However, when Education comes up again, he would like someone else to take the chair at that time so that he can address certain questions. Mr. Curley, I would appreciate it if you would take the chair for a while later on in the afternoon. Thank you.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Sessional Paper 1-80(1): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories; and Bill 1-80(1): Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81, with Mr. Patterson in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER SESSIONAL PAPER 1-80(1): ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES; AND BILL 1-80(1): APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1980-81

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The committee will come to order to consider Sessional Paper 1-80(1): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Wah-Shee do you want to open up the discussion since it is your paper?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I think I gave some very brief remarks when I tabled the document so I do not really want to comment any further on it. I think I have pretty well given my remarks when I tabled the document so I would just like to leave it at that, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any comments on the sessional paper on aboriginal rights? Perhaps we could start off with general discussion. We are dealing with a paper entitled "Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories" which was tabled by Mr. Wah-Shee last week and at that time he made some general remarks about the paper. Does anyone have any general comments? Is it the wish of the committee to discuss this paper now? Mr. Curley, is your hand up?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, just for the Page.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): You are just passing a note, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before getting on to the final decision with respect to the role of this Assembly with aboriginal rights and constitutional development, maybe the Minister can answer some of the questions that I have with regard to the role of this Minister, who would consult with the communities and consult with all the native groups and at the same time be responsible for daily routine administrative responsibilities of his department. I wonder to what extent the Executive Committee has looked at it with regard to the amount of time that this Minister would have in conducting the constitutional consultation?

Undermining Role Of Unity Committee

Specifically my concern is, that it would seem to me that this Minister responsible for aboriginal rights and constitutional development would, in effect, be undermining the role of the unity committee, which this House has given its mandate to do the kind of work that this Minister, it would seem to me, would be doing. So maybe he could explain as to how these two are defined. Particularly I am concerned with the role of the Executive Committee. It seems to be a very confidential and secretive one. If this Minister is going to be dealing with the constitutional matters in the present way in which the Executive Committee operates, I just do not see how effective public consultation could work and at the same time this Minister, as I read the paper, would make a report to the Assembly and to the Executive Committee. So in effect, where does the unity committee stand in all of this?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Curley, I think you are talking about recommendation four on page three of the paper which is fine, but I had wanted to open with general discussion and then move to each recommendation point by point. I am going to allow the Minister to respond, but I would ask Members to make their remarks at this time of a general nature and when we get into the recommendations we can ask questions about each recommendation.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, the reason I asked the question is because I do not think unless the paper is approved by the Assembly or the committee of the whole, I am not sure whether we are even going to have time to go through it point by point.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Submission Open To Changes

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes. I would probably suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we have a general discussion first and then get into the paper section by section because I think that the hon. Member's questions might be coming up in one of the sections in the paper. I think that just as a general reply, one of the reasons why we left the paper very general is that we wanted to have a good discussion in this committee so that everyone would contribute and make suggestions and recommendations or changes or whatever. I think that is the reason why the paper was submitted in the first place. The submission was made from the Executive Committee and it is purely a recommendation at this point in time so there is nothing in there that cannot be changed. I think changes can be made and the hon. Member, if he has got some suggestions in that regard, then I think that this is the kind of discussion we want.

The other question is in regard to the added responsibility. I think that various Members on the Executive Committee have been given additional responsibility in the past. Some Members are responsible for three departments. Others are responsible for two and at this point in time there are three of us on the Executive who are responsible for one department so I think that would be my reply to the hon. Member from Keewatin South.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Further general discussion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say first that I appreciated the Hon. Minister, Mr. Wah-Shee having shown me a copy of his paper prior to the time it was brought forward to the House. As chairman of the unity committee I appreciated that and tried to look at it from the point of view not so much of the substance of the paper but rather of the impact that it might have on the unity committee. I said to Mr. Wah-Shee at that time and still feel this way, that I approved of the fact that the Executive Committee wanted to take initiatives to try to improve understanding and communication between itself and the native associations in the Northwest Territories which I believe is a very desirable kind of thing.

Confusion As To Definition Of Roles

I did raise a question at that time, I wondered whether native associations might be confused by a second approach, that is, one approach from the unity committee and one from the Executive Committee and I still have that concern. I am not quite clear yet as to the definition of roles. I think that there ought to be a definition of roles so that there is not the kind of confusion I am concerned about. Because of the time limitation and the amount of business I had on my plate I did not get a chance, then, to address the substance of the paper and I have subsequently had that opportunity and just in a general way I note that the paper calls for this Assembly to recognize the concept of aboriginal rights. I personally would have no difficulty at all in doing that, simply because aboriginal rights are recognized in Canadian and indeed American and British courts of law. The principle is well established, I think, and reaffirmed recently in the case raised in connection with mining exploration in Baker Lake where Justice Mahoney indicated that there were aboriginal rights, that the Inuit had aboriginal rights in that area.

So there is no problem in my agreeing as a Member of this Assembly, that the Assembly should recognize the concept of aboriginal rights. That does not intimidate me in any way at all, but the question would naturally arise as to precisely what it was that we are recognizing, because I think even in Justice Mahoney's paper there is that question. There seems to be an understanding or at least a conclusion on his part, that an aboriginal right is not a proprietary right but nevertheless it is not precisely clear as to what kind of a right it is. That is, it is not defined absolutely precisely.

More Precise Definition Of Aboriginal Rights

Another thing that apparently he concluded was that aboriginal rights, though they exist, could be diminished or extinguished by federal legislation, and federal legislation which would not specifically have to aim at distinguishing aboriginal rights. So, at any rate, it would not be precisely clear what we are agreeing to if we agree to recognize aboriginal rights, although it would not be a foolish thing to say that we recognize aboriginal rights. We could at the same time support the idea that a more precise definition of aboriginal rights might properly be negotiated between the parties most vitally concerned, which would be the native associations or the native people, let us put it that way, of the Northwest Territories, and the federal government. As a Member of this Assembly I also would acknowledge very readily that it is the federal government which has the major responsibility for native people. It is quite clear to me when I read the British North America Act that that is the case.

The one concern that I might have is that there will be a number of amendments that I would like to introduce if the paper is to go through, in order to try to sharpen up the concepts. Aside from that, there is one concern that I would like to assert, though, and that is in the question of political and constitutional development and aboriginal rights and claims settlements. I would like to assert the interest of a government organization if government is not to be vested in and be deemed to be synonymous with the authority of native political organizations. That is, if there is eventually to be a government somewhere in the Northwest Territories, or more than one government, whose jurisdiction exceeds the present sphere of authority of any single native organization, I would say that the interest of such a government has to be considered at the time that negotiations are going on so that that government in question will not find itself being impotent, following the settlement of any claim. I would suggest that such interest could best be represented by this government either on its own behalf, should it continue in existence following any claims settlement, or on behalf of any subsequent government or governments which might replace it. In other words, what I am saying is that I do believe

there is a role for this Assembly to play in the claims settlement process. I acknowledge immediately that it is not a principal party but it does have a vital role to play and it should in some way be apprized of what is happening and in some way should have the opportunity to submit input into the negotiation.

Distinction Between Executive And Unity Committee Roles

As I said earlier, I could affirm support for a fair amount that is in the paper but I would want to make some amendments in order to sharpen the distinction between Executive Committee initiatives and the dialogue which this Assembly has already agreed on to be undertaken by the unity committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Are there any other general comments? Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: My understanding of the relationship, and maybe that can be clarified, but the discussion paper was submitted to the native organizations. The basic idea behind it was, that it appeared that the daily business of working in a relationship with numerous people who would be asking questions and government works that would be going on, these questions would be raised in terms of how that relates to the land claims negotiations or with the aboriginal rights negotiations, or whatever you want to call it. It would appear from our earlier discussions that we did agree that these claims processes will be going on with the federal government and the native associations, and that somewhere in there there was a need for this government, in their daily works, to talk with the native organizations. It was on the basis it seems of this need that the paper was put forth from the Executive Committee.

The unity committee, from my understanding, is a process of soliciting information from native groups and/or other people, and the role of the unity committee was one of a fact finder, rather than assuming positions before the unity committee got on its way. The process of the unity committee would take a lot longer in terms of actually coming to any position or submission as they would have a certain format to follow in talking to different people in the Northwest Territories. In the meantime, it appeared there was a need for an ongoing process, not one that made decisions and not one that established positions. This paper in my feeling is not to establish positions but to continuing the daily ongoing relationship that appears to be necessary. I would think there was such a need.

However, it may be that many of the Members would feel uncomfortable to discuss this particular paper right at this point in time because of all the other business we do have to go through in terms of the budget. I feel, my general feeling about it is, that there is a need but I am wondering if it is this time we should be talking about it with all the other pressures we do have?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. Mr. Curley. First is there anyone else who wishes to make a comment? Mr. Noah.

Aboriginal Rights Should Be Left To Lawmakers

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Concerning this topic I do not have very much to say. I have my own thoughts though and I would like to make some comment. I am not criticizing this paper, I do not want to criticize this paper or anything like that, but the way I understand it, the way I understand this paper, it is not quite clear to me. The territorial government and the territorial Legislative Assembly, I feel, have no affair in talking about this subject of aboriginal rights, or anything to do with land claims. They can support the concept of aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories government

but I feel we should not really be discussing it, this paper, it is between governments and not the role of the territorial Legislative Assembly because we have a lot of other things we must deal with. The business of aboriginal rights is not very easy and perhaps it could be dealt with by the lawmakers in Canada. I feel that for things such as land claims, they should be dealt with by the native people and the territorial government and by the lawmakers of Canada. I think it should be dealt with by those people and this is how I understand it. I would like to make one last comment, that Patrick Mahoney recognized the people have aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories and I do not see how that could be put any other way under the law of Canada. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Noah. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to go on to my general statements. At this moment as I observe the reactions of the native organizations, it seems to me that they have not jumped at this opportunity to put enthusiastic support behind the position of the Executive Committee in releasing this paper. I think the reason is that the negotiations with respect to land claims are a direct responsibility of the federal government. I do not think they are at the point yet where they need a critical position, or a critical area that they are in need of such urgent support by any other assemblies because it is a direct federal concern, settling the native settlement. On that basis I believe the native organizations are reluctant to put complete support to the position paper, although a lot of references have been made to it.

Federal Government Gives Rights To Natives

My concern is this, I think this Assembly will not make any major changes by stating that we do recognize aboriginal rights because I think we are far from the federal government's work, because they have been conducting negotiations with the various native groups. They are working towards redefining the Indian Act so that the native people can play a greater role, but that the federal government itself is the only one who can give that right and that power to them, not this Assembly.

Although I recognize the importance of this Assembly being involved in supporting native claims, I think it would be premature to do so without the final agreement in principle, or the final agreement being arrived at, because it would give an opportunity for those who are against the land claims, the various associations, and one is actively lobbying with this government to look, or saying to this government "Support us in our land rights, support us to retain this land, so we can prosper with a business", I think that would give them a successful case recognized by this government prior to settling the agreement in principle or the final agreement with the federal government. That is my concern.

My other major concern is I think the federal government, even before this Assembly says so, in recognizing aboriginal rights and attempting to work towards this constitutional settlement, the federal government has a direct stake in those two major areas. So, this leads me to another concern with the other priorities that this government should be doing. You know, we in the Eastern Arctic have been known to complain about anything in the East and I say that I think the priority of this government should be devolution. Let us start giving power to the community level, let us start giving the regional areas the responsibility to transfer the centralized government and let us act to do the things we have the mandate to do rather than try and take the theory of aboriginal rights, which is a direct responsibility of the federal government, away from them.

Establishing Credibility Of Assembly

I think by doing so, by doing the things we ought to be doing first, and not jumping into something, something that is pretty far from being arrived at, we would build the credibility of this Assembly by setting up and establishing a unit in the government to transfer and carry on the devolution work that the Members in the remote areas have been asking for for so long. I think by focusing attention to our jurisdiction first, we will only reassure the people in the North that this government is not fooling anybody around and I think it is about time we start doing it. The way I read this paper, although I will support it, after the final agreement has been reached, at this time it is premature for me to put complete support to it unless I have been given an opportunity to report to my constituency and give them time enough to review the whole situation themselves and then going back and elaborating on it and debating on it again in this Assembly. But to try to put support to it after having rejected the position as the land claims secretariat, would be **undermining** the effectiveness of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I am going to let Mr. Wah-Shee reply first, Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I am very happy with the remarks that the hon. Member from Keewatin South has made because I think there is no disagreement with regard to the decentralization, working toward more regional responsibility. So, I am happy that he did give full support to that whole thrust.

The other thing is in regard to the role and function of this government in relation to aboriginal rights and to constitutional development. My view is that this Legislative Assembly does have an interest with regard to constitutional development in the Northwest Territories and we have an interest with regard to the Territories as a whole. At the present time, the Northwest Territories is one unit and this Assembly also has an interest with regard to aboriginal rights because if I read the positions of the various native organizations in the Northwest Territories correctly, aboriginal rights also include constitutional development in the Northwest Territories.

Land Claims Affect Everyone In N.W.T.

Now, if I am not correct in that assumption, then I would hope that someone would set me straight in that area. So, land claims do affect everyone in the Northwest Territories. Land claims negotiations in the Northwest Territories will have a very profound implication for the Northwest Territories government, for this legislative body. The other assumption I am making is that Ottawa and the federal government, in negotiations with the native organizations, I would assume, that if any area of discussion that is relating to the constitutional development which Ottawa will engage in discussions with the native organizations, then I would assume that the federal government would discuss this matter with the territorial government, would want to discuss the matter with this Assembly and that is another assumption I am making. So, although the negotiations of aboriginal rights are between the federal government and native organizations let us not for one minute assume that this administration will not be implicated because we will be implicated. I suppose the intent and purpose of this paper is to establish a meaningful dialogue between this Assembly and native organizations, which in the past has not really existed and I suppose this is what the intent is. There have been a number of remarks made in the past that we ought to establish a working relationship with the native organizations and that in their negotiations of land claims, rather than having the administration be put into a confrontation position between the federal government and native organizations, we felt that it is best that we assist and support the native organizations rather than being in the way or at odds.

Recognition Of Rights By Assembly Is An Act Of Good Faith

I think that in recommending to this Assembly that this Assembly recognize the concept of aboriginal rights, it is an act of good faith on our part. I can recall that certain major native organizations have been requesting that acts of good faith be performed so that dialogue can be meaningful and that we can proceed. So I do not feel that if this Assembly were to recognize the concept of aboriginal rights it is not really in order. I think it is. I think it is a very essential element in this paper and I think that is one of the areas where native organizations have been discussing this matter with the federal government and that if we do come forth and recognize aboriginal rights that will mean that we are giving our support to native organizations and that -- I think we have got to start somewhere. At the present time, the territorial administration does not have any policy in regard to land claims or constitutional development and this is what we are working towards. That is basically the intent of the paper. Thank you.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think that one of the things that we have done for the last while is that we have completely tried to fool ourselves in the sense that we do not have a role to play. I think that every one of us, for the last two sessions, has at one time or the other made statements of support of ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Dene Nation, COPE, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement. We have made those statements of support and that we have, in fact, pushed various positions within this House so we are playing a role. An important element is in fact one that Mr. Wah-Shee spoke of and that is that there is a need to get consistency between those parties who are negotiating the issue of aboriginal rights and to be continuously aware of possible transfers and devolution of authority rather than, I guess, issues whereby we are going to be confronting one another. I think that, as important as the protection of the aboriginal rights is, we also have to recognize that there are other people who are living in the Northwest Territories who have some interest that we are, in fact, not negotiating in Ottawa and that has to be recognized.

---Applause

Need For Dialogue Between Groups

I have been playing quite a very important role, over the last few years, trying to negotiate the aboriginal rights of the Dene Nation. I still support their position and I will continue to play a role in that position and I have also supported the position of Nunavut in the interests of the Inuit as well. I think it is important that we recognize there is a need for dialogue and a need to work together to at least try to straighten things up out here rather than having the federal government use us as a method of confronting the various native organizations.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Hon. Mr. Nerysoo. Other comments? If there is no more general discussion, then I would suggest we get into the meat of the paper. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I obviously have not brought the paper forward so I am not in a position where I am going to advocate that it be accepted. I will leave that to the Members of the Executive Committee who brought it forward. I take a more neutral position I guess. As I have already said, I feel that the unity committee is going to undertake some of the things that are mentioned in that paper and the two things that I do see of importance in it are that the Executive would try to make informal contacts with native organizations and improve understanding and co-operation, a commendable goal. The question of aboriginal rights, as I say, it could be done very easily and if it constitutes an important act of faith that was seen by the native associations as being something significant, then that would be worth while as well. But at the same time, from the comments I heard earlier from Ms. Cournoyea and Mr. Curley, there seems to be a reluctance or at least that is the impression I got, to proceed with it and I certainly would not want to proceed if there is that kind of reluctance. Can it be -- I do not know -- stated more specifically or do some of these Members not want it to go ahead? I do not know. I am a little bit confused as to the response and I would just like that clarified a little more. If there is very good reason why we should not go ahead with it, maybe the Executive Committee would reconsider it. I do not know.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, when I spoke of the other priorities that this government could do like, for instance, devolution of authority to the local regions that is certainly in the constitutional area where the government has a role to play. As a government of all the people, I think no doubt it has the responsibility to consult with the native groups and whatnot whenever, not only by dealing with the aboriginal matter. It has a constitutional responsibility to consult with the people of the North and no doubt it has the right to consult with the native groups whenever there is a common interest, whether or not it is specified by this or approved by this Assembly. These are the kinds of things that I think have to be looked into.

Meaning Of Recognition Of Aboriginal Rights

The other thing is when I looked at the concept of aboriginal rights I would be interested in exactly what you mean by recognizing aboriginal rights. Does that mean that this administration is now going to support the hunting rights of the native people of the Northwest Territories? Does that mean the Minister responsible for renewable resources is going to rescind some of the regulations regarding polar bear and musk-ox and so on, so that the people in the Northwest Territories can take a role in preserving their livelihood? These are the aboriginal rights questions. So then, in fact, I want to see if this House is going to give support to that.

I would prefer to have it in detail rather than just approving the concept that the Assembly recommends that the administration establish that unit so there could be a bunch of civil servants who have their jobs hanging in the air and could be reinstated, and the budget could be approved so they can exercise that. What I am interested in is, you know, with regard to the aboriginal rights issue and the specific areas that concern us with it, such as hunting rights and the other rights that the native people are supposed to have. I would prefer to have them spelled out a lot more clearly before I would go ahead with approving it but I would need more time, at this time, because I think the unity committee has been given the mandate to deal with these areas and I think our constituents have the right to be consulted further before getting on to the final vote on this paper. Thank you.

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

Not Enough Thought Given To Information

MS. COURNOYEA: Just to clarify Mr. MacQuarrie's statement I suppose what I feel about the paper, I feel it is a very good one and it is not that I do not feel it is a good paper. I would ask to make some modifications as well to it, but as this is a very vital issue, we did not address ourselves to it in any length, in terms of putting it as a priority with all our other papers that we have got in front of us. Since it is such an important part of what we have set ourselves out to do, I feel, just from talking to other people and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that there was not enough thought put into it or digesting the information that is in the paper. That is basically why I felt that perhaps it is premature to deal with it because we have not talked about some of the concepts that are in it, which are very good. But until such time as we sit down and say, are my interests really protected or is some body really trying to give the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories some kind of mandate to talk about aboriginal rights with the Minister, which he can do anyway I understand, we have not really looked at it. I do not think any of us have thought about it enough at this point in time. It is not that it is not a good piece of paper. It is good and it says good things, but it is just that I myself have spent some time with it and I feel confident about it but I am also, so I am told time and time again, responsible to a greater power than that which I am used to. It is just that we have not had the time to digest it and I think all the comments we make are sort of peripheral things because we have not taken the time to look at it and sit down with some people we know or the native organizations which we are involved with. Not myself personally but others have not and I know that and that is the only reluctance that I show in terms of adopting this paper at this time.

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

Debate May Be Premature

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: As someone who is in a sense kind of in a neutral position with respect to the paper, in other words, I am not opposed to accepting it and yet I am not the advocate of the paper, I just would not want to be put in a position where I am sort of foisting something on quite a few Members who may not want at all to deal with it. A couple of times I have heard the word "premature" used with respect to it so I am wondering and I will ask very specifically: Are you suggesting that we defer debate on this matter until some future time?

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last fall this House set aside the four principles concerning land claims that had been developed by the previous Assembly and it was my understanding, and unfortunately I cannot refer to a specific motion or recommendation, that the government and the Executive, were to examine the role of the land claims secretariat within the Government of the Northwest Territories. Now, over the past few months, the process of examining that role necessarily involved an examination of some concepts and some principles, and the last six or eight years of frustration, confrontation, and the problems which have existed in the Northwest Territories because of the inability to resolve outstanding aboriginal rights of northern people.

No Direction From Assembly At Present

Now, there may be problems, questions and so forth with this paper, but I believe we have to come to some kind of conclusion or position at this point in time. We have a new government in Ottawa, the Inuvialuit, the Dene Nation and the ITC are pushing for a resumption of their discussion and negotiations on settlement of their outstanding aboriginal rights, and I can see if the government in Ottawa is receptive they will start up shortly. We are sitting on the sidelines with no position as an Assembly. Within the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Executive and the administration is sitting there with no direction from this Assembly on its role, if any, in the negotiations. Further we are faced continually, on an almost daily basis, perhaps I am exaggerating, but at least on a weekly basis, with issues that involve some measure of constitutional reform or change or modification, whatever you want to call it. I, as a Member of the Executive am in a position where I have no direction from this Assembly on how I can start a consideration of decentralization of the headquarters function to the regional office or, in working with all Executive Committee Members, devolution of responsibility down to a community level, or to regional associations such as the Baffin Regional Council.

Assembly Will Be Sitting On Sidelines

This paper presents some principles which I think establish the position of the Legislative Assembly and it also gives the government and the Executive some direction. Right now we do not have any. I realize it is a heavy duty issue but I do not think we can afford at this point in time to defer it. I know and I respect that we still have a lot of work to do with respect to the budget, but if we do not come to some decision on this issue at least by the end of this Assembly, we are going to be sitting on the sidelines. I think there are some very positive recommendations in here which can, if worked out properly with native organizations, the federal government and other interested parties in the Northwest Territories, contribute to a settlement of outstanding aboriginal rights of people in the Northwest Territories.

So, to conclude, Mr. Chairman, I would encourage this House to give serious consideration to this paper and to have some decision on the substance and recommendations within the paper by the end of this Assembly. Thank you.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, I think that first of all the continuous criticism that the Executive Committee have received over the last while for not trying to play a role in preserving the aboriginal rights of people, the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories, is in fact, because of the lack of direction over the last while as to what kind of support this Assembly is in fact giving that issue. It is not a matter that I myself, as Minister of Renewable Resources, will not transfer authority to regional bodies, regional councils or the hunters' and trappers' associations, but we have not really given the Executive Committee any kind of direction to follow. I think it would be important that rather than being critical and to bicker about why did not one minister do this or why did not another minister do this, that we try and find out a direction so in fact, we can work to that position.

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

Position Would Have To Be Defended

MR. TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I came in a little late but I think I have gotten the gist of what the general comments are all about. I have looked at this paper and the paper is good, the paper is important. The Executive want some kind of direction. I am not going to bicker or argue or give the Executive a hard time but I have to say that I am responsible to the people I represent. For me to approve this paper at this time would be impossible. I hate to see the same mistake that was made before, previously, in giving ourselves a position and then having to defend it later on as the hon. Member from Yellowknife remembered in our negotiations with the federal government where he had to sit and where the territorial government had to sit and what bickering and arguing they had to receive. I would like to see the paper deferred until a later date, until we have had more consultation with our constituents and the native organizations that we represent.

I realize the importance of the time factor for the Executive and that it will probably take another six months to realize where they are going to go in this direction until we know who the minister would be. Mr. Chairman, I would myself, like to see this paper deferred until later.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Tologanak, I did not quite get the end of that. You said deferred until when?

MR. TOLOGANAK: Until a later date.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mrs. Sorensen.

Executive Seeks Guidelines

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the easy thing to do is to do nothing, to avoid the two outstanding issues in the North is to, in my opinion, neglect our responsibility as territorial legislators. I believe that this paper with amendments that might come out of our discussion, and it might take more than just one day, will reflect our stand on these issues. Right now we have nothing as Mr. Braden said, we have absolutely nothing, we have no position. We have had no position for several months now. We complain bitterly that our Executive Committee has not been responsive but when they ask for direction and guidance with some perfectly acceptable guidelines...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Curley, would you please refrain from interrupting the Member?

MRS. SORENSEN: We are afraid to discuss it in detail. We want to defer it, we want to put it on a shelf and hide it away.

MR. CURLEY: Consultation.

MRS. SORENSEN: We have had this paper for several days now. Some of us have had it for even longer, and some of us have been consulted on it, and some of us have consulted with our peers in the region.

MR. CURLEY: By the schedule.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Excuse me, Mr. Curley, but you will have your chance to speak. I know this is an emotional issue but let us try and avoid a shouting match as Mrs. Sorensen has the floor.

MRS. SORENSEN: I will not be shouting, Mr. Chairman.

---Laughter

For over ten years now the North has been in a state of stalemate. We keep playing this waiting game, wait for this and wait for that and I do not think we are any further ahead now than we were ten years ago. I do not think the Northwest Territories can afford to keep waiting forever until the whole world marches past us. You know the old saying "Time goes on and time changes but time will not stop for you and it will not stop for me", no matter how much we say we need more time. I think the world is passing us very quickly by and that is because of the energy crisis and that is a very real crisis in the world today. Some are saying, so what if it takes 20 or 30 or 60 years? I think the only ones who will suffer if we wait very much longer, are the people in the North, not the people in the South.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: There will be northerners from all regions who will suffer, whether it be the East or the West or wherever. I do not think we can seriously think that southern Canada and Ottawa really cares about what happens to us up here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame!

MRS. SORENSEN: I think they only care when it affects them.

MR. CURLEY: Shame, shame!

MRS. SORENSEN: It will only bother them when it affects energy and when they need energy they will march across the 60th parallel and take it.

MR. CURLEY: Clark did.

Putting Off Will Not Remove Problem

MRS. SORENSEN: We will still be waiting to make a decision we need to make. I would urge my fellow Assembly Members not to get carried away with unrealistic and philosophical daydreaming and useless rhetoric. Let us be honest and let us be realistic. In life as well as in this Assembly you cannot keep putting off until tomorrow or the next day or the next month in the hopes that the problem will go away because it will not go away.

MR. CURLEY: Devolution.

MRS. SORENSEN: We must be wise and must face what the situation is in the North. We have to offer solutions because we are a body that can do that, we represent the people of the North and have been duly elected to do that. I think we should stand up as an Assembly and be counted. I think we have a duty to our constituents to solve these northern problems, no matter how difficult or how complicated they are and we have to make some decisions. I think the North has been in a stagnant state long enough. I think unity is important but if we are only united in doing nothing, then we will never do anything. I am willing to co-operate in any unity scheme that will really help the North but I think that we need a position and we need it quickly on land claims and constitutional development. We need to give direction to our Executive Committee to follow through and we need a plan of action.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Future Problems Might Arise

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, thank you. I do not have very much to say on this and I do not really understand what is being talked about. It would be okay for me if the aboriginal rights and the constitutional development were more for the people under the tree line. I do not really care on the subject. If we keep deferring the business that we have to be dealing with I am not going to support this. We are really concerned because we have to help the people of our constituencies. We are told by the other Members that we are elected, an elected body and we have to work for the people. We want support from the people from our constituencies and our constituencies might not be very happy about us if we do this. I would like to defer this question because I would like to consult the people of my constituency first.

I do not find any problems here at the present time in this paper, but maybe the problems might arise in the future. That is why I want to get a reaction from the people, from my constituents, because we make mistakes sometimes. I know that here in Yellowknife, the residents of Yellowknife, the people who voted for the Yellowknife constituency, if you want to talk to them and meet with them it is very easy for you, but for us people who live in a very far place, we have to have meetings, it is very expensive and hard to meet with them because they are very far away. The business that has to be dealt with in the House is quite numerous right now. Maybe we could just sort of defer this to the bottom of the list that we have to talk about and talk about it later on. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just listening to different Members' views on the paper, everyone says it is a good paper, very important and I cannot see any reason why we cannot deal with it. If in the case that we have to defer it, maybe we should be looking at other native groups who have put in land claims and have those deferred until the Assembly has had more input into it, but to leave this paper, there was a lot of work went into it. We are looking for some direction. I take it the Executive Members are looking for some direction from this Assembly and we are going to have to start sometime sooner or later, to give them some direction on the issues that come up in the House. This paper was put before the Members to deal with and I think that maybe we should be dealing with the paper and quit passing the buck, deferring it. We could have had it finished by now if we had dealt with it. Mr. Chairman, I say again to keep deferring business of the House is not going to get us anywhere and we could extend our hours and sit all day and all night if we want to but we are still not going to get anywhere if we keep deferring stuff. I feel that this paper on aboriginal rights is important and I will definitely agree to deal with the paper now and have some questions answered if the Members are not too sure of it. I am sure Mr. Wah-Shee or one of the Members of the Executive Committee could answer any questions that the Members have, but I am concerned about deferring it until a later date. I think that if it is that important to other Members and if it is a good paper, let us deal with it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think that on behalf of other Members on the Executive Committee I can extend collectively our thanks to the hon. Member for Yellowknife South for the most eloquent way in which she addressed the question and indicated the choices that we faced as your representatives on that committee. We felt we had been acting in accordance with your bidding and that one of the objectives of this group of people from many walks of life,

many areas of the Territories is to bring people together and I cannot say it any better than the hon. Member from Rae-Lac la Martre when he introduced the paper. He recognized what they recognized in Alaska in the 1960's, that land claims and their eventual resolution could be good for every resident of the jurisdiction of Alaska and when those land claims were negotiated between Alaska and Washington there was a unity of approach and a unity of direction in which the native organizations and the state of Alaska hand in hand, went to Washington and collectively and as partners worked to resolve and did resolve the land claims problem that faced that territory or that state.

Paper Does Not Suggest Statement Of Position

I think this is what is being said in this paper, that a new approach must be forged, a new direction must be identified and determined. The paper does not in my understanding and my reading of it suggest a position. There is no position here. It is a process that is being offered to the Members, a process by which a position can be developed. It is a process of dialogue, a process of consultation, an exchange of views which, as the hon. Member from Lac la Martre who introduced this paper said has not occurred before. I think this is what the Executive Committee has tried to do and has tried to provide for you. Not a position but a process in which we can identify with one another and work co-operatively to achieve a mutual objective.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Hon. Mr. Butters. I should have stopped you perhaps, because we are a little late for our coffee break. The committee will rise for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Committee of the whole will come to order. Are there any further comments? Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think that by and large most things have been said regarding what is being attempted in introducing the paper to the committee on aboriginal rights and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. We have had members from ITC here speaking to us on Friday and they indicated to us that after a number of difficult years they have been able to make a statement that land claims without political change or the matters of aboriginal rights, land claims and political change are now widely accepted and it is as well, accepted that these interconnect. They come together. I think that when we talked or Members spoke after that presentation all were agreed or all recognized first of all that the terms were connected.

Secondly, that the land claims and political change had to come together. As well, if I recall correctly, back in November when we discussed previous Assemblies' work we talked about the reason to try to come together. I think, as has been stated, this particular paper is to suggest ways to begin anew, to begin putting forth principles as expressed in that first session of this Assembly, trying to promote co-operation, constructive dialogue with respect to the fundamental issues of aboriginal rights and political development or political change. I would hope that we would be able as a group to come together to discuss these things, that we recognize that ITC have said to us, what has been said by other native organizations and what in effect I believe is being said by this Assembly. I think that we can begin anew. We can bring forth particular new and fresh approaches and begin to come to work together for the benefit of the total number of people in the Northwest Territories, for the benefit of them, something that will add to what is already there and in fact in some cases replace what is there, so that we can all pursue a way of life of which we would be proud and which we would want future generations to enjoy.

Time To Address The Political Situation In The North

I think what we have attempted to do as an Executive is to place before the committee, the House, a beginning of the direction in which we should go. If the direction of past Houses was wrong, this is a beginning to try to move in the correct direction. I think that Members should go through the paper, should read it and, if there are changes to be made, then obviously the changes can be introduced, but I think that we should be able to address the question, the concept of aboriginal rights and the political change that we all want in the Northwest Territories. We cannot continue to delay it. We have to come to grips with it. Whether we come to grips with it now today or whether we come to grips with it some time down the road, nevertheless we are going to have to answer the question. We are going to have to put forward if we are going to be sincere in working together.

In the past it has been indicated that this particular Assembly had always aligned themselves on one side of the question when in truth that has not been so. We have gone against the federal government. I think what we attempt to do here is reconcile the situation, to change the emphasis and say that this Assembly supports all the people of the North in putting forth principles concerning the aboriginal rights and political change or constitutional development. I think that we are going to have to address that political question because that is a fundamental question that faces everybody within the Territories today. I would hope that we would address it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. Mr. Wah-Shee.

The Paper Is A Method, Not A Solution

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I would like to make a suggestion in light of the reluctance on the part of some of the Members to deal with the paper. I would like to suggest that we defer the discussion on the paper and consideration but, having said that, I would like to also make a remark that the paper essentially is a method whereby we can work toward some type of a solution regarding aboriginal rights and constitutional development. It is a method. It certainly does not provide the solution, because I believe once you come up with a process or the means by which you can discuss this whole thing, then your solution will probably come forth later on. That is essentially the intent and purpose of this paper.

Also, I think if we defer the paper, we can defer it until later on, before the end of this session, or we can defer it until the next session which will probably be in the fall which will give the Members an opportunity to discuss this paper with their constituents and probably have a number of recommendations or amendments they may want to make or they may, of course, want to throw the whole paper out. Whatever the case is, I would like to suggest that. Also, if the paper is deferred until the next session in the fall, then the paper has been put together by the Executive Members, and so this is basically our thoughts, using this sort of method to come up with some sort of a solution. If the paper is deferred until next fall then we do not really have a working guideline between now and then. So, we would suggest that we would use the paper purely as a working guideline until the next time when we get a mandate from this Assembly with regard to aboriginal rights and constitutional development. That is the suggestion I would make.

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

Aboriginal Rights, A Federal Responsibility

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I have at all intimidated the hon. Member for Yellowknife South, I apologize for doing that, but I would again like to state the facts, the fact that aboriginal rights is a federal responsibility and it is directly stated so in the British North America Act. To my mind, what the territorial government is trying to do is through this paper, through the Executive Committee, is to provide to the whole exercise the federal trust relationship because the federal government is continuing to negotiate. I believe they will successfully arrive at a solution to the native and aboriginal rights question, they will. There has been no indication of any federal parties that they are going to reject aboriginal rights, that has never been stated so and they are proceeding and negotiating. The only disruption so far has been the last election. So, I am confident that it will be settled between the federal government and the native organizations, the Dene organization and the ITC. No doubt, I am confident, we will be presented with the positions they are dealing with if it comes to the point where this Assembly has to enact certain laws to be able to deal with the land rights and constitutional areas.

What I am concerned with is I would need more information provided by the Executive Committee rather than just recognizing the concept of aboriginal rights. I think there should be a clearer and more definite position stated with regard to all the judgments that the courts have continued to arrive at, and whether or not -- I think we have enough evidence about the concept of aboriginal rights, and I do not think merely having this Executive Committee, or this Assembly recognize that concept, that is not going to do anything to the processes of the federal government and the native organizations, what they have already been doing for the last few years.

Continue The Process Of Devolution

You know, there are many much more important things the hon. Members should know that we with our authority can do, and one is to continue the process of devolution. Let us try those. Let us try to transfer some of the authority, say in Education for instance, to the native groups and whatnot and really exercise what we believe we are, as we say we are, here. Unless we start doing that -- because the concept itself of aboriginal rights is not going to do very much in my mind. We will be asked what we mean, we will be asked to specify that. If I was a lawyer I could probably pursue that further but I would want more information, exactly what we are getting our hands into. It deals with the concept of aboriginal hunting rights, it deals with the concept of the ownership of Norman Wells I suppose, for the Dene Nation. I would want more information before approving this and getting on with what we are supposed to be doing. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Stewart.

Motion To Defer Sessional Paper On Aboriginal Rights

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, to try and speed this action up, I personally have no strong feelings one way or the other but I feel that it is the consensus of the House at this time to defer this paper. I would move this paper be deferred until the fall session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

MR. NOAH: (Translation) I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I did raise my hand for this motion, especially for my constituents as I asked about this written paper and they know nothing about it. Also, the federal government which is a Liberal government, I am sure they are not in their offices yet and I am sure they will not be dealing with this for a while. As a third reason, we have been dealing with the financial systems and if we can develop the land claims with the budget either in this thing or say in the fall, if we could discuss that at a later date, I think that would be better. Right now if we are going to gather all these matters together and do not handle our main subject then it will be worse. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): To the motion. Mr. Sayine.

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say a few words in support of the motion to deferring this thing to a later date. I also feel that it is premature for me to be talking about this right now, because I feel that a lot of direction has to come into something of this importance such as from the grass roots level and such as the unity committee. I think a lot of direction of this nature should come forward from a committee like the unity committee, I think also a lot of direction should be coming from the Drury report which we have not yet received. So, in light of all of that I do support the motion of Mr. Stewart that we should defer the whole matter to a later date.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other comments on the motion? Mr. McLaughlin.

Amendment To The Motion

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I understood from the motion that it would be deferred to the fall session. Because we have not made a decision as to whether we will have a spring session or not, I think it would be appropriate that it should read "to the next session", so I will amend the motion so that it would read "to the next session" instead of "to the fall session".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): All right, Mr. McLaughlin has moved an amendment to the motion which reads that Sessional Paper 1-80(1), Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, be deferred to the next session. To the amendment. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am in support of the amendment and with your permission, if it is in order, I was going to add an amendment to the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Curley, you will not get my permission until we vote on this amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Did you want to speak, Mr. Stewart?

MR. STEWART: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I oppose the amendment on the grounds that this problem, as expressed by many of our native Members, requires a great deal of research and discussion in their constituencies. It is quite possible we could have another meeting in a month or six weeks and we would be right back to square one where we are not yet ready to deal with the subject. The reason I did not say "next" was to make sure there would be sufficient time for the Members to contact their constituents and be able to come back and deal with the matter to a conclusion, so we do not spend another day and in six weeks or two months from now are right back where we are now. So, that is the reason I said "the fall session" and I cannot support the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Are there any other comments on the amendment? Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The reason I made the amendment was the possibility that at the next session, even if it is in six weeks, we may want to address the issue. So, I thought that as a committee of the whole we could bring it up and still have the opportunity to defer it to the fall anyway.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Amendment To The Motion, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The question being called. On the amendment to defer the paper to the next session of this Assembly. All those in favour? Thank you. Opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended. Are you ready for the question? Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: To the motion, I must confess myself to be somewhat confused. I heard some good arguments as to why the Executive Committee needed direction at the present time. Am I to understand that the Executive Committee is supporting deferment? If so, I certainly am not going to go against their wishes. Was there general agreement on that? Yes? All right, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): This is to the motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is the feeling of the Executive Committee, then I too will support the motion but I think it should be on record that we will lose -- if we do not discuss this until the fall and there is a chance we will not discuss it until the fall -- we will lose some eight months where we could have been finding a way to support the various organizations with the resolution of their land claims and I say support them, support them as a northern body. That is eight months in which the federal government could have had from us such profound statements as the fact that this House recognizes that aboriginal rights and constitutional development are fundamentally and perceptually interrelated. I say that particularly in light of a couple of quotes that I have here. I am quoting from a background paper that was prepared as a review of all the statements that the federal government had made on land claims since 1973. In 1978 in an address to the Mackenzie Valley all chiefs conference on January 10th, Keith Penner...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Sorry. Slow down, please.

In Support Of Groups Negotiating Land Claims

MRS. SORENSEN: As long as you do not cut me off, Mr. Chairman, I am willing to slow down. Quoting from the paper then, in an address to the Mackenzie Valley all chiefs conference on January 10th, Keith Penner, and Keith Penner is an elected Liberal and it has been mentioned that he may be our next Indian and Northern Affairs minister -- Keith Penner indicated: New political structures being proposed by native people cannot be determined through the claims process. It goes on to say: There is now a separate process which allows all residents of the Northwest Territories to present their views...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I suggest, Mrs. Sorensen, that you put your Inuktitut earphone on and try to slow down a bit, especially when you are reading.

MRS. SORENSEN: I am quoting again from Mr. Keith Penner's address: There is now a separate process which allows all residents of the Northwest Territories to present their views on constitutional development and political evolution.

I would also like to quote from a letter sent to Georges Erasmus, president of the Dene Nation from Mr. Drury of the office of the special representative for constitutional development in which he says: I would be remiss in failing to state at the outset that the Government of Canada will not negotiate constitutional development with any single interest group in the Northwest Territories. I realize that the Dene Nation does not accept this federal position. However, since my appointment in August of 1977 the federal policy has not changed, nor does it seem likely that it will change in the foreseeable future. In my estimation continued demands by the Dene Nation for a change on this issue will result in limited progress towards realization of Dene objectives.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would just sum up by saying that while I will support the motion to defer I think it is important that we realize that we will lose eight months whereby we could have supported the groups that are now negotiating their claims.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. I would remind Members that we are debating a motion to defer the paper to the next session which may not be a fall session. I just want to make that clear.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The question has been called. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question. Question.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move an amendment to the motion.

MR. FRASER: Nay.

Further Amendment To The Motion

MR. CURLEY: And the amendment is: And that the administration provide more information regarding aboriginal rights of native people of the Northwest Territories and position papers on land claims of all major organizations be tabled in this Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Could you bring that up, Mr. Curley? Bring that up here, I mean the motion. I am sorry. Could you send it up? To the motion, Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Is that an acceptable amendment?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I am going to take a look at it, Mr. MacQuarrie, right now.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: If you would. I want to speak to the main motion and not to that amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I think the amendment is in order and I will permit it. To the amendment. The motion as amended reads: That the position paper on constitutional development and aboriginal rights be deferred until the next session and that the administration provide more information re the definition of aboriginal rights of native people in the Northwest Territories and that position papers of all major land claims organizations be tabled in this Assembly. To the amended motion.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think there will be ample time. The negotiations of the native organizations will probably just have begun then. I think it is important for the Members of this Assembly to understand exactly what they are getting into and I am in favour of the Assembly supporting it, but I think without proper information as to exactly what we are getting into we could possibly get into conflicts in the future if we are not careful as to exactly what we mean by supporting aboriginal rights. I think we have the right to review all of the major organizations' positions on land claims and the Dene position on the constitutional interest in the Mackenzie area. No doubt we have the interests in wanting to understand further the positions on Nunavut by ITC and I think it is only appropriate if we are going to be dealing with the question of aboriginal rights we know what it means and we know exactly what the British North America Act states about it. I think it is also important that we have the background information regarding the decisions that have been from time to time made by the courts of the country. I will not elaborate further on that. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I want to speak to the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): To the amendment. Mr. Wah-Shee.

An Impossible Task For The Executive

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I would like to say that I will not support the amendment, mainly because trying to come up with more information in regard to aboriginal rights is not a possible task that the Executive can come up with because all we are saying in the paper is that the concept of aboriginal rights exists. What it is is something that will be negotiated between the native people and the federal government. It can be defined in two ways as I understand it. It can be defined in the courts as well as it can be negotiated between two parties. I agree that aboriginal rights as such are something to be negotiated between native organizations and the federal government. I do not think that we as a legislative body have the responsibility in the area of aboriginal rights. I agree that it is something that will be negotiated, but I do not think that at this time we can get into the detail of the paper if the general overall paper is not being dealt with. I think that I agree that the paper should be deferred so that Members would have time to digest the contents of the paper, discuss it with their constituents, but in the area of providing more information than we have it should really be dealt with after the paper has been dealt with because it seems to me that it is a premature step. You do not know whether the horse is before the cart or the cart is wherever. I was going to say behind, but I think that I would like the motion as it is just deferred and I think that later on we can deal with the paper and all kinds of recommendations can come forth. So I think that the amendment is something that I just really cannot support. I think it should be deferred and I think it should be just left at that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The question has been called. Mr. Stewart.

Sessional Paper Should Be Discussed Now

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot support the amendment either possibly for a slightly different reason. If the paper is added to, we are going to come back to deal with the paper and again the Members have not been able to take it to their constituency for advice and the net result will be, if history repeats itself and unfortunately it appears to do that quite frequently, the request again will be to defer to take the new paper back for discussion. So this little rat race if you want to call it that, can continue forever and that tactic has been used quite often in the House. If you want to defer forever, this is a good way of doing it. So, I think the paper should stand on its merits and with the hon. Members being able to amend and change the paper as we discuss and debate it, but to amend it in this manner -- what have the representatives here, the Members here to take back to their constituencies? They do not even know what they have got because you are going to change it again. So the basic fundamental reason for deferment is to allow our Members to discuss that paper with their people, and to instruct the Executive to bring back a new paper, we have defeated the whole purpose of the deferment. So, surely we have got to go down one path and stay on it or else we are going to be deferring forever. Thank you.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, could you ask Mr. Curley to clarify what he means by the motion? I took it to understand that he meant that he wanted all of the existing documents that were related to aboriginal rights to be made available to the Members, that is, the British North America Act and any court case, major court cases dealing with aboriginal rights. I did not think he intended the Executive Committee should make a definition of aboriginal rights for us. If you could ask Mr. Curley to clarify that for me, please.

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

Background Information Is Necessary

MR. CURLEY: That information is the right of the Assembly. It was sitting over at the land claims secretariat and it does not have to be reinvented. It has been around for years and, you know, if you are going to be approving a major expenditure, approving this paper would mean approving \$300,000 or more annually to carry on the work of the aboriginal rights and constitutional development through this government. The reason I asked for that information to be tabled is that if you are going to be tackling or wrestling with a giant you need information. You do not go around there with your bare hands and try to deal with a giant that you are going to have to reckon with one day. That is not in conflict with anything at all. We are going to be approving the expenditure if we approve the paper. So, why not have all the background information that has so far been compiled by the secretariat of the land claims which existed up to now even though they have been asked to be disqualified? Thank you.

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

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that explanation I would suggest that the amendment is out of order, it should be a separate motion to supply this. We are speaking of a paper and this amendment is to do something else with the paper and attach other things to it. If this information is all that is required, then surely it should be an independent motion where we ask for this to be supplied and that is quite easy and I have no problem with it. But, it is in fact an amendment to a motion on the deferral of a paper, to add an awful lot of other things to it that bothers me. The motion is not very clear and possibly we could overcome the situation if the Chair would have the motion printed and translated and we could then look at it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

---Laughter

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Stewart, I think I will stick by my original decision that the motion is in order. I think basically what it seeks to do is to defer the paper that has been presented and ask that further information be tabled, but it does not ask for the paper to be rewritten the way I see it, there is supplementary information asked for. I think for that reason that it is in order to amend the motion to defer with those qualifications. As to having the paper translated, or the motion translated, pardon me, is it the wish of the committee that the amended motion be translated before we vote on it? I heard someone say it was not necessary but perhaps I can read it slowly again to make sure that all Members understand the amended motion. I have made slight changes in the language which I hope will make it clearer.

I move that consideration of the Sessional Paper 1-80(1), Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Wah-Shee's paper, be deferred until the next session and that the administration, and this is the amendment, and that the administration table more information re the definition of aboriginal rights of native people of the Northwest Territories and position papers of all major land claim organizations. Does everyone understand the amended motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I challenge your decision that that is in order and I would like the Speaker's ruling of whether or not this is an addition. I do not believe it is part of the original motion. The original motion was to defer and the addition on that motion I think, is out of order.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you. I think you are asking me to report progress and the Speaker will make a ruling from the chair.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF SESSIONAL PAPER 1-80(1): ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES; AND BILL 1-80(1): APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1980-81

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come to order. Having been asked to rule on a matter that arose in committee of the whole, I have consulted with the procedural and law clerks and am ready to do so. The original motion that was moved, the intention was obviously to defer so that Members would have a greater chance to consider the matter that was raised in the paper that was tabled, that is the question of aboriginal rights. While it is true that Mr. Stewart raised the point that the second matter could stand by itself, it is also true that the amendment did not alter the intent of the motion at all, and therefore is an acceptable amendment, in the sense that it does contribute more to the idea that Members should have the opportunity to study further the question of aboriginal rights because the amendment calls for papers that would help them understand the question of aboriginal rights. My ruling therefore is that the amendment is acceptable...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: ...and that it may be voted on. Is it the wish of the Members? I am sorry, just a moment. I was going to ask for consent, but I guess I do not need it. This House will again resolve into committee of the whole to continue with its proceedings.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Sessional Paper 1-80(1): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories; and Bill 1-80(1): Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81, with Mr. Patterson in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER SESSIONAL PAPER 1-80(1): ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES; AND BILL 1-80(1): APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1980-81

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The committee will come to order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The question has been called. Are we ready to vote on the motion as amended? I do not know if I need to read it again but perhaps I will out of an abundance of caution. The motion as amended reads: I move that consideration of the Sessional Paper 1-80(1), Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, be deferred until the next session and that the administration table more information re the definition of aboriginal rights of native people of the Northwest Territories and position papers of all major land claims organizations. All in favour of the motion as amended? I am sorry, Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: A point of order. I did not remember you voting on the amendment. Are we voting on the amendment at this point in time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Just the amendment.

Further Amendment To The Motion, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I am sorry, we are voting only on the amendment and not the motion as amended. I stand corrected. This is only a vote on the amendment. Now, I am going to ask for a vote. All in favour of the amendment to the motion? Opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Now, to the motion as amended. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I earlier confessed some confusion as to what has taken place this afternoon and I still feel some of that with the fact the paper was brought in and then the Executive has agreed to defer. I am sure there is some irony here this afternoon which the public and press will take note of. At any rate what I would like to say is that while I am confused about what has taken place, there is something I am not confused about and that is this, that while the hon. Minister stated in his explanation as to why he would be willing to defer, he stated that the Executive Committee in the meantime would operate under the assumptions contained in the recommendations and what I am sure of is that they do not have the right to do that. If this paper is deferred, the Executive Committee could not proceed as though it had been passed. As a matter of fact, if anything they would have to perhaps do just the opposite.

In The Best Interest Of All Citizens

I would not want to hamstring the Executive and on the other hand, I would have to say that in the absence of any other specific instructions to the Executive, that they would have the right, more than the right, they would have the obligation to carry out the mandate of a government as it is traditionally understood in this country, that is, I would say, that it acts in the interest, the best interest of all the citizens under its jurisdiction. Therefore, I would assume that in the absence of explicit instruction that the Executive Committee while it need not, or ought not follow what is written down on that paper, would nevertheless I hope act to maintain good relations and communications with various groups in this society and that would include the native associations, that it would act as though this Assembly had recognized aboriginal rights. As I stated earlier, that is not radical at all and the courts of Canada have recognized aboriginal rights. I would hope that the Executive Committee from time to time would bring forward recommendations to this Assembly of any nature that it considered to be beneficial to the citizens of the Northwest Territories for consideration by this Assembly. I would say most specifically, that if the Executive Committee of the Government of the Northwest Territories find that during the interim when it has no specific instructions from this Assembly that events are taking place such as land claims negotiations which would have an impact on the citizens of this territory that the Executive Committee of this government would feel that it ought to try to have some influence on whatever took place at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): May I remind Members if they are making remarks, we are discussing the principle of deferring the paper to the next session. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I was wondering if you were listening to the question? I would like a recorded vote on this issue.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: I am going to support the motion but I would like again to say that had we proceeded without a lot of talk, I would have assumed that it probably would have been accepted a long time ago, as the reason for deferment was not because the paper was not good, it is just to take some time with it. I suppose I would have preferred seven days or something like that, but it is not to defeat it or put it down, just to be sure about it and that is the only reason that I would support that motion.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to say as a Member of the Executive Committee, I take the remarks made by the hon. Member from Yellowknife Centre, much to heart. I think he has indicated the responsibility that devolves upon us and under which we must act and make decisions. I would just like to also remark that while I will support the motion to defer, I do so with regret but with that regret I recognize that there are many Members in the Assembly who feel that to discuss it now would rob them of the chance to consult with their constituents. I do not wish to see that occur, nor do I wish to support anything that would remove from them the chance of carrying out that consultation. So, while I support the motion, I support it with regret that we will not be able to proceed at this time.

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

Role To Play In The Constituencies

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to indicate that I will be supporting this motion. Just because we are deferring it for further consideration for the constituents and more information to be provided to the Members, really is not asking very much except to be given the right to consult and have a debate. The issue of aboriginal rights and the role of the territorial government in the whole exercise is very much of interest to the people in the communities and is one that will never be thrown out. It will play a role, but you know, it is not a strange thing to ask for deferment on that and I would just like to encourage that. This is not the last chance of this government to try and get an involvement in the exercise. I am beginning to feel that every time this Assembly does not get its hands on to something that they could do, that they want to act as if they are wounded. I think in a way we are very serious in the whole exercise and I think we will come up with a better suggestion as to how and exactly which way the government will play.

I think it is not too late to begin serious negotiations. The native organizations have not actually begun yet and by the fall in my mind we will be in a better position to come to an agreement with the native organizations. I want to assure the Members of the Assembly that the role of the unity committee will continue and since then we may have some further reports that we want to present at that time about constitutional development. We may not come up with concrete proposals on aboriginal rights but no doubt will have some ideas on the constitutional issues. The Assembly will still be connected so it should not act so wounded that it cannot stand up again. Yellowknife is not the only one who can play. There is a role to play in the constituencies. There is a role to play through the unity committee that the Assembly has approved.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though I made a motion to change it from the fall session to the next session I was originally against deferring it to another session, I still believe in dealing with it at this session, later in this session, so I am going to vote against the motion because I think it is in order to deal with it at this session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Are you ready for the question? Mr. Commissioner.

A Delay Will Not Destroy The Paper

COMMISSIONER PARKER: One point, Mr. Chairman, the very reason for advancing this most important paper is to attempt to seek consensus among the people of the Northwest Territories and among the agencies and the organizations of the people of the Northwest Territories. The Executive Committee put in a very considerable number of hours of thought to the paper which has been advanced and it may well have been our desire to see it advanced rapidly. However, the debate this afternoon has indicated that there is a need as perceived by Members, to study it further and to consult with their constituents. The paper is so important and it is so fundamental, that that consultation must take place and the paper, I sincerely say, must return to the Legislature for further debate. It is for that reason that the delay of a number of months will not destroy the paper because it is so fundamentally sound.

With regard to the point Mr. MacQuarrie raised, since the Legislature has taken away the previous position which had been adopted on the whole subject of constitutional development and aboriginal rights, since that position had been taken away, I believe that it is entirely within the rights of the Executive Committee to use this paper as a working hypothesis. Because, as so many Members have said, the paper does not itself propose solutions but simply means towards solutions. Therefore, in the months ahead I am confident that the Executive Committee will use this paper to very great advantage in advancing the cause of unity and understanding within the Northwest Territories in conjunction with the work that will be done, and helping the work that will be done, by the unity committee.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Are you ready for the question? This is to the motion as amended and this is a recorded vote. Do I need to read it again? I will ask all Members in favour of the motion as amended to stand until we have read your names into the record. Please stand if you are in favour of the motion as amended. This is a recorded vote at the request of Hon. Mr. Nerysoo and I think the practice therefore is that Members who are in favour of the motion as amended should stand. Would you read the names? Does everyone understand what we are voting on?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Yes.

Motion To Defer Sessional Paper On Aboriginal Rights, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): We are now recording the votes of those in favour of the motion as amended to defer the constitutional development paper until the next session with more information to be tabled. I will ask the Clerk Assistant to read the names of those in favour who are now standing.

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE (Mr. de Vos): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlcoktoo, Mr. Arreak, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Noah, Mr. Curley, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Butters, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Will those who are against the motion as amended please stand?

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE: Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Nerysoo.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any abstentions, any persons abstaining, will you please stand?

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Fraser.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The motion is carried.

---Carried

We almost missed you, Mr. Fraser. Before coffee break I would like to recognize in the gallery, Mr. Peteroosie Qapik, the mayor of the hamlet of Pangnirtung. Would you stand up, please, Mr. Qapik?

---Applause

Perhaps before coffee I will report progress on this matter. I guess what I want to say is the matter has now been concluded and after a 15 minute break for coffee we will resume the estimates of the Department of Education.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Education, O And M, Administration

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): The committee will come to order, if you would bear with me. I am going to have some help from the people here. Yesterday we were going to continue with Bill 1-80(1), Appropriation Ordinance. I understand we concluded yesterday somewhat uncertain as to whether we were going to defer or whatnot. We are dealing with operations and maintenance. Are there any comments? The page we are dealing with is in the budget book, page 15.02.
Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, since we are dealing with the linguistic program and the subject of operations and maintenance for administration, I would like to present a motion concerning the hiring of teachers which may at first seem out of place, but it has to do with giving emphasis to teachers who have training in cross-cultural education and the like. I have prepared a motion which has been translated. This is the English and this is the Inuktitut.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, to use this opportunity while the text of the motion is being circulated to Members, I wonder if I might be permitted or if the committee would invite the Deputy Minister, Mr. Lewis, to attend us while we are discussing these estimates.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Is it the wish of the committee that we invite Mr. Lewis to appear before the House committee?

---Agreed

Mr. Lewis, get on the chair. Mr. Patterson, I believe you can proceed with your motion.

Motion To Hire Teachers With Cross-cultural And Language Training

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The motion is: That this Assembly strongly urge the administration to advertise and promote teaching positions in the Northwest Territories so as to attract teachers and give clear preference in hiring to teachers who meet one or more of the following qualifications: (1) training in cross-cultural education; (2) training in second language instruction; (3) training in native languages of the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): We have got a motion on the floor. Do you want to speak to the motion, Mr. Patterson?

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think this motion is one that everyone should be able to accept. Basically, it flows from a concern that has been expressed by many Members of the House that there should, even though we have a stated policy in our legislation to provide first language education for those children whose first language is other than English, where the local education authorities so approve, even though we have that legislation and that policy, we are falling far short of implementing the policy. There are a number of reasons. I have expressed my concern about TEP, the teacher education program, needing to provide more emphasis on training the graduates of TEP to actually have the confidence and ability to teach in the native languages as well as in English. I would like to address that subject in a later motion.

Another problem that seems to be existing in the Territories is that there is a lack, in some schools at least, of an appropriate climate for the teaching of native languages. One of the reasons in my opinion, Mr. Chairman, is that we have not been successful in attracting the kind of teachers who will have the ability to work with classroom assistants and work with the TEP graduates in their schools to accomplish this very specialized task of turning mathematics, social studies, science, into subjects that could be taught in Inuktitut or Slavey or any other language. The experts say that one needs special abilities

and training in order to implement a native language program. All this motion seeks to do is encourage the hiring and recruitment and that is why I have said in the motion "to advertise and promote teaching positions in the Northwest Territories". I have seen the advertisements for teachers that appear from the government in publications all across Canada and I do not think we are challenging them to experience the challenge of the cross-cultural learning situation. I do not think we are seeking out that special kind of teacher who has that interest and that dedication and that expertise. There are such people available. Canada sends many of these kinds of teachers...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, could you slow down, please? I think our translators are having a problem.

Moral Obligation To Teach In Native Languages

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief and slow down. Canada sends a number of these kinds of teachers every year to Africa and third world countries through the CUSO and other programs who are anxious to teach English as a second language, for example, to people whose first language is not English. But I do not think we are recruiting them and encouraging their recruitment in the Northwest Territories and I am asking that clear preference be given in hiring to them. Now, of course, some may say those teachers are not available. Well, this motion is not going to prevent the hiring of teachers who do not have these qualifications, but what it does say is that if there are teachers available who do have those qualifications they shall be hired and given clear preference. I think this is our way of telling the administration that we want the entire education system to become sensitized to this legislative and moral obligation that we have and we have a moral obligation to see aboriginal peoples of the Northwest Territories to teach them in their first language. In order not only that they retain pride in their own culture and language, but studies show that when the time comes for them to learn English, they will be able to learn English as well because studies show that they will better learn English if it is taught as a second language later on, once they have received instruction in their own language. This is the climate in all the schools that we all agree should occur and this is why I urge we emphasize these qualifications in our advertising, recruitment and hiring of teachers. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): To the motion, any further discussion? Mr. Butters.

Already A Policy Of The Department

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, just to say that the department has no problem with this motion. The initiative contained within it is the current policy of the department. Applicants who apply for teaching positions in the Northwest Territories receive printed information which indicates that the department would have a very strong preference for teachers who are skilled and qualified in the areas that are identified in the motion of the hon. Member for Frobisher Bay.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Any further discussion on the motion? Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MACQUARRIE: Before getting on to a couple of points of my own, a question arises as a result of that. If it is already a policy, it would seem that Mr. Patterson finds it is not a very effective policy and would you care to comment on why that is so?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I think if there is a problem, it is in part the same answer as I gave yesterday I think to the hon. Member from Yellowknife Centre, that it is the availability of teachers. I think I mentioned yesterday that the number of teachers across Canada who are seeking job opportunities in the North have diminished and are diminishing.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Noah, I believe.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) I would like to add to the motion that was made that it would be better if the school hours were also included in the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Noah, before I go on with your suggestion, perhaps I should ask Mr. Butters if he would respond to that.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Only to offer a helpful suggestion, I hope, Mr. Chairman, which is, if the hon. Member has a motion he wishes to make to hours of schools, then maybe it could be put in the next section and not under administration. The next section is that part of the estimate which deals with schools.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Thank you, Mr. Butters. (Translation) When we start dealing with another subject, you can go on with your comment. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Hiring Policies Would Differ In Each Community

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some school boards, of course, in the Northwest Territories such as Yellowknife, public and separate, which would have their own hiring policies and so presumably they could act independently of such a motion as this if they felt there were other qualities they wanted in their own teachers that were more important than those listed here. I absolutely agree with the motion in respect of all communities where native populations are predominant, in respect of all elementary and junior high schools generally, but I would ask Mr. Patterson for his thoughts where this motion is concerned with respect to two situations.

One would be, say, a community like Pine Point where teachers are in fact hired by the Government of the Northwest Territories and yet the pupils in the school are generally in the "other" category. Would you consider that it is still important to have a preference for this type of teacher in a school such as that?

The other question I would have for him would be with respect to high schools. Supposing there were a mathematics teacher required in the high school and the hiring authorities found the teacher was very specialized in mathematics and very competent in that area but not learned in these other areas, and on the other hand, the sort of generalist who was learned in these areas. Does his motion mean in that case that the person with this training should be preferred? Again I noticed that Mr. Patterson was busy when I made my earlier remarks and I would repeat them for his benefit, that I certainly approve of the motion with respect to all communities where there is a predominance of native students and generally in all elementary and junior high schools but these two other situations I would appreciate some further comment on.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, do you wish to respond?

Scarcity Of Teachers Interested In Learning Native Languages

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I agree with Mr. MacQuarrie when he says that the decision about the language of instruction should be that of the local education authorities. Therefore, the motion may well provide us with an overabundance of teachers with this specialty. Frankly, I think that if that is our problem, we have got an awfully pleasant problem because right now there is a great scarcity of such persons. For example, as far as the linguistic division knows, and I say this because there may be more teachers in this category than are known to the linguistic division, but as far as the linguistic division knows, there are only three teachers in the entire Mackenzie Valley who have expressed an interest in learning native languages, or Dene languages, to assist them in their work in the schools. In other words, I think that if Pine Point ever finds itself in the situation where there are no teachers to teach in the English languages, I will be surprised, but I will entertain a modification to the motion which would make it clear that we are talking about teaching positions in the Northwest Territories where local education authorities have requested first language instruction. I think that that probably goes without saying. If you think it does not, Mr. MacQuarrie, then I certainly do not object to qualifying the motion.

As to the second question, I think this Assembly, if they approve this motion, will clearly be saying our preference is to have a cross-cultural education specialist. Mr. Chairman, so far to date our serious, or the serious failings in our education system which are well known to all of us, including our Minister, such failings as high dropout rates, alarmingly low percentages of native students who make it to and through high school, a significant number of special education problems and remedial education problems among native students, stem from a failure to educate those students in their own language in the early grades. I think this motion is going to require a clear direction in the recruitment of teachers and the direction that may not have been proceeded with as vigorously as we had hoped for in the past. It may well be a policy, Mr. Chairman, but I suggest that the advertisement for teaching positions have not reflected that policy and perhaps we have failed to even attract qualified applicants before we even consider who will be hired.

Advantages In Hiring A Specialist In Cross-cultural Education

So, I would say the second concern about hiring a specialist in a particular subject compared with hiring a specialist in cross-cultural education who may be a generalist in the actual subject material is far more important because the schools where the native languages are spoken by a majority of the people, those schools in the Northwest Territories must start teaching mathematics in Inuktitut and Dene languages regardless of the quality of mathematicians and mathematics teachers that we have right now. The children are not learning any mathematics because they are being taught in a language that is foreign to them at a stage where their cognitive learning processes are being developed.

Research has shown, and I tabled the paper on the Rock Point experience with the Navajo, and there is currently in "Aurora", the teachers' publication by Bronwyn Watters, who is a linguistic or psychologist, is what I am trying to say, who has made the point about the danger of imposing foreign languages on people, children whose cognitive skills are yet to be developed. I say that this motion will clearly present a choice in that situation to the administration and I am willing to defend that choice before the House. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I think Mr. Patterson misunderstood my comment. I would absolutely agree with you that the elementary and junior high school level, I do not think that any of the subjects are so complex that a generalist could not handle them adequately and so I would agree with you that there preference should be given. My question was with respect to high school. Suppose the high school in Hay River had a vacancy in mathematics and that was the problem, although I think from your earlier comments you would say in that situation it was not a great concern, but I would just like to hear it from you specifically with respect to high schools, high school mathematics or chemistry or whatever, are you insisting that this preference be given at that level?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. MacQuarrie, I would just like to remind you that you should address the Chair as you direct your questions.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, do you wish to respond further?

A Primary Concern For Elementary And Junior High Teachers

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the Debates are consulted often by the Executive and the administration in deciding what a particular policy means. I do not want to make the motion too complicated to cover those special cases, but I think it is clear that in the high school in Hay River, where there might be a great shortage of native students and may I suggest, without knowing a lot about the high school in Hay River, that there probably should be more native students probably in the high school in Hay River than there are, none the less in those schools where there is a shortage of native students, of course it goes without saying that there is no need for creating a cross-cultural education.

I would also say for the record, Mr. Chairman, unless Mr. MacQuarrie wants to amend the motion, that my main concern is the elementary and junior levels of education where this important cognitive learning takes place and by high school, all our students, if this program works, should be fluent in both English and their native language and, of course, at least some of the specialized subjects when they get to the high school level must be taught in English. The native languages just do not have the terms sometimes to permit mathematics, for example, to be taught. For the record, if that will help satisfy your concern, Mr. MacQuarrie, I am primarily concerned with elementary and junior high level teachers, except, of course, where there may be a predominant number of native students in high school. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Are you through, Mr. Patterson?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. MacQuarrie, did you wish to add anything further?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. McCallum is next on the list. I think you were committed to asking a question or you had your hand up.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I had.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Any further discussion on the motion? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, sir, we wait for the question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Can we call the question? We will have the Clerk Assistant read the motion again so that we know exactly what it is.

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE: The motion reads: That this Assembly strongly urge the administration to advertise and promote teaching positions in the Northwest Territories so as to attract teachers and give clear preference in hiring to teachers who meet one or more of the following qualifications: (1) training in cross-cultural education; (2) training in second language instruction; (3) training in native languages of the Northwest Territories.

Motion To Hire Teachers With Cross-cultural And Language Training, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): To the motion. All those in favour of the motion, will you raise your hand, please? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. PATTERSON: Could the record show, Mr. Chairman, that there were none opposed to the motion?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): It does so with your statement, Mr. Patterson. Any further discussion on operations and maintenance? Is it the wish of the committee that the amount we have been asked to approve is \$4,509,000? Operations and maintenance.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am honestly not trying to hold up the estimates but I think before we leave this area of language, administration and linguistics program I have several motions I wish to introduce. I have made copies of this motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): You may proceed, Mr. Patterson.

Motion For Preference For Professional Development Fund Assistance

MR. PATTERSON: The motion has to do again, Mr. Chairman, with professional development of teachers. That is Inuktitut and that is English. I move that this Assembly urge that all teachers presently employed in the Northwest Territories be given clear preference for professional development fund assistance from the Government of the Northwest Territories, provided the professional development or educational leave provides training in one of the following areas: (1) cross-cultural education; (2) second language instruction; (3) learning native languages; (4) native language instruction.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is simply another way of urging our teachers to, those who are presently employed in the Northwest Territories, to take every opportunity that they can to gain specialization in the areas which are needed in order to fully implement a native language education program, as is being requested by most schools in the Northwest Territories where the majority of the students speak a native language. I think, Mr. Chairman, without wanting to be critical of what has happened to date, that these programs are faltering in the schools, that native language instruction is faltering in the schools in the Northwest Territories because the whole burden is resting on the classroom assistants and the TEP graduates. They need the support of the entire staff in the schools. If they are a classroom assistant, they need the support and understanding of the teacher they are working with. If they are a TEP student teaching in a school, they need the support of the entire staff. They need the understanding of the entire staff. This is an area that one must have training in.

Special Problems In Teaching

There are special problems with the teaching in native languages. There are special problems with teaching students whose first language is not English. There are special problems with teaching students who are what are called passive bilinguals, that is, students who understand the native language but do not speak it. There are special problems with teaching students whose second language is English who may not speak the kind of English that the teacher knows and has learned in school and even speaks in the classroom. We must begin to address these problems and the teachers in the Northwest Territories must be urged to obtain training in these areas because this Assembly considers it a first priority in implementing that language policy that has been already passed by statute, the Education Ordinance provision which the Minister read.

I am just providing this motion to encourage that any training that is given to teachers in the summer and while they take educational leave, preference should be given to teachers who are going to take training in these areas because this Assembly considers that those are important, and I think deficient qualities in many teachers who are presently working in the Northwest Territories. This is a way of encouraging a better climate for native language instruction in schools in the Northwest Territories.

I recognize that not all schools may opt for this possibility of first language instruction in a native language. I think part of the reason is that many communities are not aware that, in fact, their children will learn English better if they are taught in the native languages in the early grades and probably this policy will help signal a new awareness amongst teachers and amongst the general populace of the Northwest Territories that this is a priority considered important by this Assembly. All it says is that they be given preference. I think there is a committee which administers the professional development fund and they do have the ultimate say. I am not trying to take away any powers that that committee has to spend this money, but I think the Northwest Territories government representatives on that committee should know, if we pass this motion, that this is an area that we consider important.

I might say that I have consulted the president of the NWTTA, Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, and this motion meets with their policies and it meets with her approval, so it is just a way of giving our support for a direction that may already be in place. It is a way of emphasizing this priority. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): To the motion. Any further discussion?
Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to say, Mr. Chairman, this is a very good motion and we welcome the direction it contains.

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

Role Of The NWTTA In Determining Professional Development Assistance

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: First of all, could the Minister clarify what role the Northwest Territories Teacher's Association presently has in determining professional development assistance? Is there some contractual agreement?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Butters, do you wish to respond?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes. This relates to the question that the hon. Member raised yesterday relative to the funds that found their way into this professional development pot. I think it was one and three-quarters per cent of salary that was contributed to this area and in total I think it amounted to, as I mentioned yesterday \$245,000, \$65,000 of which is directly managed by the NWTTA themselves. The remaining \$180,000 is managed by a joint committee, which the mover of the motion referred to, on which there are two members of the NWTTA.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: With respect to educational leave is there any involvement there?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the same committee is involved.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, if I could follow up on one thing then. I am not clear how the motion would affect teachers in certain areas. This is why I am a little surprised, if the hon. Member states that the president of the NWTTA concurred with this, because I am not clear what implications it would have for, let us say, a teacher in Pine Point who applied for educational leave. Would this mean that because that teacher is not in a cross-cultural setting and would therefore not likely be taking educational leave in order to improve his or her qualifications or, let us take a teacher, a high school teacher of chemistry in Fort Smith who would not be heavily involved in a cross-cultural situation, but wanted leave to improve his or her qualifications, would this motion mean that such teachers would automatically be denied leave, that they would come behind every one else who was seeking leave for these purposes? I think that I could not quite accept the motion if that were the case.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Butters, do you wish to respond?

Preferential Consideration

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I thought the question was being directed to the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay but I would respond to say that if this motion is adopted, obviously the motion quite clearly states that preference would be given and this preference would be one of the current criteria that is associated with decisions made by the board. My understanding is that the length of service is another criterion which is considered as well, but the motion is asking for these four attitudes and attributes, that they be given preferential consideration.

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

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Would Mr. Patterson perhaps comment on the issue I raised as well, Mr. Chairman?

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

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that again I will say that I am not trying to take away the final authority of the committee which allocates professional development fund assistance. I think far too often the professional development funds are used by teachers who teach in schools in small settlements where most of the children learn to speak first languages which are not English, to provide them with courses in, let us say, educational administration, or whatever they are particularly interested in. This is simply a way to urge those teachers to take a course relevant to their employment. Now, I think it goes without saying that if a teacher happens to be teaching in a school where there is no second language, where there are no native languages being taught and where the educational authority wants the students to learn in English this would be, and should be, considered by the committee. I would feel that by this motion they are not bound to require a person in that situation to take cross-cultural education for example.

In The Best Interests Of The Children

Now, if Mr. MacQuarrie is concerned about confusion on that point, then I would certainly accept a motion that would say all teachers presently employed in schools in the Northwest Territories where language instruction is provided in languages other than English, for example, be given clear preference. That is quite in order. I do not intend to force the mathematics teacher from

Yellowknife to take cross-cultural education if he wants to upgrade his math. Perhaps if the motion is ambiguous it could be changed. But I think most teachers in the Northwest Territories will be teaching, if they are not already, teaching in schools where the local education authorities will want native languages taught. If they do not want them taught, then they should be encouraged to recognize that option because it is in the best interests of their children. Professional educators say it, and it is time we started encouraging the teachers to recognize this as well by encouraging them in those schools to take that training. Thank you for your comments, Mr. MacQuarrie, and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. MacQuarrie, have you any further comments?

Amendment To The Motion

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I would like to move an amendment so it is clear and I would move an amendment that uses the very words he used. So following "Northwest Territories", the words inserted "where language instruction be provided in languages other than English".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. MacQuarrie, to the amendment please.

Amendment Reworded

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Perhaps if I could clarify that a little better. Perhaps it should be "where language instruction is provided in native languages", and that would be my amendment. Very briefly, I would simply be much more comfortable with that and obviously the hon. Member can agree to that idea and I would feel more comfortable with it and I would ask hon. Members to approve it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): We will just have the Clerk Assistant read the amendment so we know exactly what the amendment is all about.

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE: I will read the first portion: That this Assembly strongly urge that all teachers presently employed in the Northwest Territories where language instruction is provided in native languages be given clear preference... etc.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): To the amendment. Mr. MacQuarrie, have you any further comment? No? Any further discussion on the amendment? Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Well basically, it applies to the amendment as everything else. I understand the desire of the mover of these motions, Mr. Patterson, what his intent is but the wording of them all disturbs me inasmuch as we have school committees and societies and school boards in various areas and it seems to me that what we are doing in part, is taking authority away from these people. It seems to me that all of these motions should be preceded by "We support the local school board", or whatever we have got that wants these things and say it that way because what we are actually doing is governing and saying; "This will be the policy whether you like it or whether you do not." I do not think that is what your intent is. I think all of the motions basically are at fault on that point.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Stewart, I would like to be a little clearer. Are you speaking to the amendment?

MR. STEWART: I think I was talking to myself. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): To the amendment. Any further discussion? Are you ready for the question?

MR. FRASER: Not yet.

Amendment To The Motion, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): All right. The question is being called and I am going to ask those in favour of the amendment to raise their hands, please. Those in favour of the amendment raise your hands. Once again, I am going to call those in favour of the amendment. Raise your hands. Those opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Motion For Preference For Professional Development Fund Assistance, Carried As Amended

Now, to the motion as amended, any further discussion? Are you ready for the question on the motion as amended? Those in favour of the motion as amended, would you raise your hands please? Those opposed? The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

Is there further discussion under operations and maintenance? Mr. Patterson.

Motion To Begin Research Program In Aboriginal Languages

MR. PATTERSON: I have another motion, Mr. Chairman, which I have prepared and could pass around. It reads: That the administration be strongly urged to seek funds, from the existing Northwest Territories budget or from the federal government in order to begin, as soon as possible, a research program in aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories in the following areas: (1) research in learning styles and how native children learn; (2) research to tap and record the cultural and linguistic knowledge possessed by many older native people through the device of contracts with facilitators in the Inuktitut and Dene languages and that the administration report to this Assembly at the next session on progress.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): To the motion. Mr. Patterson, do you wish to elaborate further?

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think this is an area that all Members will agree we need to do work in. The reason we need to research learning styles and how native children learn is that presently all the information that we have on the psychology of learning is information that has been gathered about southern children in southern environments. There is much research, preliminary research, which indicates that native children, Inuit and Dene children think and learn differently from children who speak English and live in other environments. Again, I would refer Members to the article in "Aurora", by Bronwyn Watters and the opinion of any linguist that in the Northwest Territories we do not yet know enough about how native children learn and how they think. We know that English children for example, have special problems with learning the difference between a "b" and a "d" but we do not know how those problems, what the comparable problems are with native children learning syllabics or other writing systems. We do not know yet how best to adapt the special psychology of the native child to our learning situations and the experts say that we should do research in those areas if we are to develop a truly comprehensive native language education program. Again this is a legislative responsibility of this Assembly because the ordinance requires that we provide native language instruction and yet we do not know how those children learn, we do not know what the teaching situation should be for them.

Recording The Cultural And Linguistic Knowledge Of Older Native People

The second point should be even more obvious to the lay Member. This is a point that was raised I think by Mr. Wah-Shee, and it simply recognizes that we are running out of time in order to take opportunity to record the cultural and linguistic knowledge possessed by many older native people. Some work has been done in this area already, Mr. Chairman. The work of Mary Cousins in Frobisher Bay and Mary Paniqqusiq who has gathered material and has had conferences with older native people and recorded their stories, legends; the work of Annie Pudloo who worked briefly under contract with the Department of Education this summer and gathered much material in Pond Inlet on Inuktitut culture and language. I am informed there are a number of experts in the Dene language we can hire to gather this information. This motion simply asks the administration to seek the funds to take advantage of this opportunity before it is lost, so that when we do come around to developing a curriculum on Dene and Inuit history, language, culture in our schools, we will have recorded and preserved forever, the wisdom of these old people, so that it will not be lost forever.

I asked the administration to report to this Assembly because I recognize that this program will cost a significant amount of money. We discussed the figure of a quarter of a million dollars the other day. I recognize that the budget for the linguistics division certainly is not adequate to support that level of research in the coming year, but I think with this resolution hopefully we will have a case to make to the federal government if funds cannot be found from our budget to say, "Look, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, you have a special responsibility for aboriginal people in Canada and in the Northwest Territories. You have provided us funds to provide an English language education system which is adequate in the Northwest Territories, but we need extra help so that we can go further and give the aboriginal students instruction in their own language as is their right and as I am convinced they will increasingly demand through their local education authorities, but the research has to be begun immediately as the awareness of those authorities increases." This will be a way of signalling our belief that this is an urgent priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): To the motion. Any further discussion? Are we ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion To Begin Research Program In Aboriginal Languages, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): I believe every one of you has been provided with a copy of the motion. Is it the wish of the committee that we proceed on voting to the motion? I am just going to ask now all those in favour of the motion to raise your hand, please. In favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Any further comments as to operations and maintenance? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, does this area include the teacher education program at Fort Smith?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, no, it does not.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Any further comments as to operations and maintenance?
Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I asked a question the other day about special education, whether or not it was a headquarters function, whether or not there was any money spent at headquarters on special education. I was told the answer was no. Is it not true, Mr. Minister, that there is at least one person in headquarters staff who is responsible for co-ordinating your special education program in the Northwest Territories?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Butters, do you wish to respond?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes. I think that is true. I think any reference or reply I made dealt with the program, not the man years associated with the program.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, does that satisfy you?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

O And M, Administration, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Any further comments on operations and maintenance? If not, is it the wish of the committee that we proceed with approving the \$4,509,000?

---Agreed

---Applause

Capital, Administration

The committee has approved the operations and maintenance in the amount of \$4,509,000. Now we are going to proceed with the capital expenditure in the amount of \$40,000. Is it agreed that we proceed with this?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Any comments? Do I hear that we approve the \$40,000? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: What is it for, please?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the money that is shown in the capital column here, \$40,000, is for resource centres. Most of the money will be spent on equipment for resource centres, that is, films and various other equipment that is used by the teacher in carrying out her classroom function.

Capital, Administration, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Is it agreed that we approve this \$40,000?

---Agreed

O And M, Schools

It is approved. We are now going to move over to the next page dealing with schools, operations and maintenance, total amount \$32,011,000. Any comments, any discussion on the item? Mr. Patterson, did I see your hand?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am very concerned about the reduction in the schools O and M budget. I have looked into, I believe it is called support services to schools, which comes out of the O and M budget. I understand that the Executive Committee decided that they would try to recover across the Territories, a sum of money which had to be cut. It had to be taken out of the budget, O and M budget for schools. I am wondering if we can have some explanation as to why school support services was the area that was cut.

The reason I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, is that for example this high school in Frobisher Bay recently complained and I should say the principal complained, that their school budget, their O and M budget has not increased for at least two years and that the enrolment in GREC, Gordon Robertson Education Centre, and inflation have resulted in the fact that their budget did not increase, giving them significant hardships. In fact, Mr. Farrow has calculated that the budget, if it were to stay the same, in effect reduced the funds they had to operate the school by around \$13,000. Now I understand the effect of this further cutback will drop their budget from last years level of \$40,000 and the Minister can correct me if I am wrong, but I understand that it will have the effect in Baffin or in GREC, considering that there are other commitments that the department cannot get out of such as the bus contract, catering contract with the hostel, this shortfall in the O and M budget for GREC will drop their budget to the vicinity of \$13,000 to \$15,000 from \$40,000 and the principal was complaining that \$40,000 was too low. This is a large school and I am just very concerned that in cutting their budget for O and M in the school we are preserving the bodies, the teachers in the schools, but we are giving them no equipment to teach with. There will be a great shortage of art supplies, paper, toilet paper. I do not know what all they are going to have to cut but I understand that they have to run their whole school from cleaning supplies to audio-visual supplies out of this budget and I am very disturbed that this is an area of all areas, that has to be cut. Would it not be possible to find the money somewhere else in the O and M budget for schools, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Hon. Mr. Butters.

Major Reduction In Each Region For Materials And Supplies

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. The O and M budget and the main aspect of that budget was materials and supplies which was reduced by the Executive Committee by some \$800,000. This reduction has been prorated throughout the Territories with each region being cut I think something in the order of 42.5 per cent. The amount allowed, then, for every student in the Northwest Territories under our current budget is \$80 per student. The Member referred to contracts with regard to the school at Frobisher Bay and I believe I am correct in advising him that the contractual obligations are covered. But it is true that there has been a major reduction in the area of materials and supplies.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, do you have further comments?

MR. PATTERSON: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister is there any possibility that in the coming year you can find a way of replenishing these sparse budgets? If there is, I think probably all Members will agree that there is not much profit in having teachers in schools if they are complaining about not having the tools to teach. Is there a possible way out of this over the year?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think so. I think when we are looking at our school program this year, that each teacher in the classroom will be required to make a lot greater use and draw upon his or her own resources to a much greater extent than in the past. I would imagine that we will be -- I do not imagine -- I know we will be keeping a monthly check on expenditures as they occur through the year and if there are cases where dire straits can be identified and a special need can be identified possibly we can find money, but for the total picture it is before you. It is pretty black. We have reduced the O and M, materials and supplies, and that is the way it is.

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

MR. PATTERSON: I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, has the Minister considered whether or not some of the areas such as busing might be areas that in the long run should be sacrificed if we are going to have to pay for school materials, if we are going to have to rob the school materials budget to bus students to schools in certain parts of the Territories? The other areas, of course, that I think is causing a great number of O and M costs is the hostel in Frobisher Bay. Is the department looking at reducing some of these costs in order to give support to the schools over the long run? I realize that there are some contracts we cannot get out of but is that whole policy being reconsidered?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Hon. Mr. Butters.

Surpluses To Be Transferred

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, we will be looking at everything we can to effect economies wherever they are possible. That is about as much as I can answer at the present time. Where such economies are identified and determined if there is a surplus I guess that money could be transferred to the areas in which there is a very urgent need. Whether that will be materials or supplies I do not know, but certainly we have very capable fiscal staff and they will be watching expenditures and running a very close check on the expenditures we are making in all areas of the budget.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, do you have more questions?

MR. PATTERSON: I am afraid I do, Mr. Chairman. It is about special education. We understand that with the exception of one person in headquarters special education needs, that is, for children who have learning disabilities and special problems learning and I gather that includes what is called remedial education for the slow learners, that program, I understand, is in the regions and it is up to the schools to implement. Could you identify, or could the Minister identify, Mr. Chairman, what sort, or what portion of the salaries and wages in his budget are going to specialists in these areas of special education? Is money allocated specifically to pay people who have talents in those areas in the regions in the Northwest Territories, and where does that show up?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I am told that the details will show you under "other expenses", the item the hon. Member is questioning, and \$62,000 relates to headquarters and that includes Sir John Franklin and Yellowknife and the data functions and responsibilities and then the other expenses as occur in the region can be seen and are shown on the detailed breakdown.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, does that answer your question?

MR. PATTERSON: What page was that?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Butters, could you identify the page?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Sure, it is in the detailed estimate book, in the Education section, as it relates to schools, page 15.03 in your support document. The last line under "standard objects" is the one I was referring to, where it says "other expenses".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, are you satisfied?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Are there other comments under O and M under schools? Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Patterson, did you raise your hand? Proceed.

Transferring Linguistic Curriculum To Regions

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is concerning curriculum development. I understand from the Minister, or I believe it was Mr. Lewis, yesterday, who said that with the scaling down or phasing down of the linguistic division transferring key positions to the TEP program. The responsibility for developing a linguistic curriculum is being sent to the schools, in other words, it is not a headquarters function. That is what I understood Mr. Lewis to say. What I would like to ask is, first of all, is curriculum development not a very specialized area requiring experts and are there funds therefore allotted in this budget to schools in the regions so that these linguistic programs can be developed? If special funds have not been allocated and it is just being left up to whoever might be available in the regions, I guess I would like to ask the Minister, can the job really be done outside Yellowknife away from the experts? Could I get some enlightenment on that point, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. The point was discussed yesterday by Mr. Lewis and I would be grateful if I might ask him to address himself to that question again as it might save the committee some time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Lewis, would you like to comment on that?

Work At Headquarters Will Be On Project Basis

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, headquarters will continue to do work in languages and it will be continued on a project basis. There is an amount of money in the headquarters budget to continue with that work. Two people however, will be assigned to strengthen language work in Fort Smith and in Frobisher Bay, but those two activities do not come under "schools" they come under "vocational and higher education" which is later on under activity 7074. So, the work on languages will carry on at headquarters but we are expanding it into teacher education programs in those other two locations. I may add that those two other programs are also headquarters activities, although the administration is mostly done out of Fort Smith.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, you may proceed.

MR. PATTERSON: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. Did I misunderstand Mr. Lewis yesterday when I thought that he said that curriculum development will be carried on in the schools, will be going out to the schools? I understood the answer to be that the work at headquarters that has gone so far will be proceeded with, work in the language area will go on at TEP, but I did not hear anything about curriculum development at the schools and out of the regions. Did I misunderstand Mr. Lewis yesterday, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the point was raised yesterday and again I would ask Mr. Lewis to reiterate what was discussed.

Curriculum Development

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, at headquarters we do curriculum development for all areas and that includes vocational training, adult education, high school programs, junior high programs, the elementary school programs, the various language projects so that when I said "schools" I was referring to the development work that is done at headquarters. That deals with all programs in every subject in the schools for which we provide some kind of guidance.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Patterson, have you any further comments?

MR. PATTERSON: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Next on the list is Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Before I place my question, this is almost like the federal government, we have TAP, TEP, TIPS and all kinds of abbreviations but I would like to ask the question and if this is not the section to do so, would you please inform me? I want to raise some questions on the teacher education program in Fort Smith and I am not sure if we are on the right section at this point in time.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The hon. Member is correct. It is not in this section. It is vocational training, 7073.

MS. COURNOYEA: I will therefore hold my question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): All right. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I would just like to mention that this is probably the allotment in which Mr. Noah's motion might be accepted.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): All right. William Noah, you had a comment?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Yes. To the Minister of Education, can he tell us how much native language, how much native language there is taught this week or within one week? Do you get it?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I regret I missed part of the question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): I believe the question was, how many hours of native language are taught within a week?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The information can probably be obtained but it would require quite a bit of communication with each of the communities in which the different languages of instruction are provided. It would mean going out to all the schools to determine just what the answer is to Mr. Noah's question in each school.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): (Translation) Any more questions, Mr. Noah?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) I do not have too many other questions, but I do have some comment. The time is coming when we will have to adjourn and my question I placed the other time was not answered and I am sorry about that, but if my question had been answered I could have made a motion about that. Thank you anyway.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): (Translation) Do you want to make a motion?
Do you want to then make a motion?

Motion To Recommend Two Hours Per Week In Native Language Training

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am now moving a motion that these people from the Department of Education are informed, the two that are teaching native languages, if those hours can be increased at least two hours in one whole week. Does everyone understand?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): I am going to ask you to read the motion again.

Motion Restated

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE: I have it as: I move that it be recommended to the administration that in the schools where students are being taught native languages the time given to native language training be increased to one hour twice per week.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): (Translation) Mr. Noah, would you like to talk to the motion?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was looking into the hours of education and it seems in the settlements they are being forgotten. With teaching in English or math or languages, the English language, the native languages are starting to be forgotten because of this and the teaching of the Inuktitut languages is not enough now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Thank you.

Elders Teaching Students Inuktitut

MR. NOAH: (Translation) These students are beginning to forget their Inuktitut languages. Right now their parents are elders and the students are being taught in Inuktitut by their elders but the parents are upset because they are using another language and they are upset about this. The teaching of the Inuktitut language should be increased and I would like it to be increased right now in the schools. Also, being able to talk in Inuktitut is a big asset to the cultural inclusion and also to the people of the North. It is really helpful for us if they can talk to us in Inuktitut and if they can be taught more Inuktitut in the future, then it will be pretty well known that if they are not Inuit or if they are with the natives they will be divided into those categories in future.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): We have a motion on the floor. Maybe the Minister would like to comment about the language program. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just a question of clarification, Mr. Chairman. Am I correct in believing that the motion as placed before the committee includes all students in the school, both native and non-native, that the mover is suggesting that where a native language is a second language, that that offer of increased instruction be made as well?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): (Translation) Mr. Noah, would you like to respond to that question?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) I am not quite sure of the question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Butters, I will ask you in simple terms to ask your question again so Mr. Noah will understand it.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I was just attempting to determine whether the motion referred to students whose first language is English, that is, non-native students who are attending schools where native languages are being taught. Is that any better?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): (Translation) Mr. Noah, do you understand the question now? Could you respond to that question, please?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I understand, hopefully. What I mean is when they have kids, if white people were also willing to have their kids, their children learn Inuktitut also, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Butters, does that answer your question?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, it does, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Thank you. Any further comments? Mr. Stewart, I believe you had your hand up.

No Consultation With Local School Authority

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can sympathize with the position of Mr. Noah but today in education, with the motions that have been proposed on this floor, to me it is a step backwards because we have authorized the local school authorities a process of devolution so that they have the authority in the communities to do these things and today by way of motions we are instructing our Department of Education to do things without consultation with the local school authority in the area. We have all wanted devolution to put the authority back into the community and that is where the authority lies now and yet we have had several motions today that have given instruction to our Department of Education without the preface on it saying, "If the local school authorities wish this, we would recommend it be done." We are saying in effect "Do it without consultation with the local authority."

We are going backwards. You cannot have devolution that is giving the power to the local community and then sit here saying what they are going to do. I think that authority has got to remain on the local plane. I agree if that is what they want in certain areas, that is what they should have, but I do not think that we should instruct the Department of Education that this become mandatory in every place because possibly there are places that do not want to do it.

Motions Have Been A Step Backwards

We have had five or six motions that have been approved today by this Legislature that are in my opinion a step backwards. We are taking away the authority that we have given the community educational people and school societies in all of the communities and we are saying "No, no, you do not have the say. This is what we want done and we are instructing our people to do it." This frightens me. It is probably a matter of wording and at least putting in as a preface or the beginning of these requests that this be done if the local authorities want it done, but we have not done that. The terrible part of a situation such as this is that the written word is in the book. These are the instructions and this is what the Education department is going to do. I do not think that is what you want done. I think we should be very, very careful of what we are doing here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): I am going to draw the committee's attention, in view of the time and the number of people who wish to speak on this subject, I am going to ask you whether or not the committee wishes to proceed or recognize the clock? Could I just have some indication from the Members please as to whether we continue?

MR. STEWART: Report progress.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): In view of the time I am going to now report progress and deal with the matter tomorrow.

MS. COURNOYEA: The "nay" is coming into the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF SESSIONAL PAPER 1-80(1): ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES; AND BILL 1-80(1): APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1980-81

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has met to consider the Sessional Paper 1-80(1): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, and I wish to report that the paper has been deferred for consideration at the next session of the House. There was also a request for additional information.

We also considered Bill 1-80(1): Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81, and in that respect I wish to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Do you have a point to make, Mr. Fraser?

MR. FRASER: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the motion that tried to get on the floor today, I would like to point out that if that motion is going to be introduced 48 hours from now then we should be thinking of getting more help for the interpreters as they are working overtime now trying to keep up with this House. So, maybe some consideration should be given to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. I am not clear which motion you are referring to although I am aware of the problem. The extended sitting hours. Yes, perhaps Members could consider that and you might stop by and talk with the interpreters and translators. Announcements, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): February 27th, a caucus meeting at 9:00 a.m. in Katimavik A, and briefing by officials of Cominco at 10:00 a.m. in Katimavik A. Thursday, February 28th, standing committee on finance meeting, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A.

MR. SPEAKER: Does that include lunch?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: That would answer someone's question. Someone asked me about that. All right, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 10: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Orders of the day, February 27, 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: Motion 22-80(1)
9. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters: Report by the Chairman of the Northwest Territories Water Board; Bill 1-80(1)
10. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 27, 1980, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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