



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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 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. Pudluk, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, 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

The hon. Mr. Curley.

Question 93-80(1): Keewatin Students

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Education. Since the Minister has had time to fairly review the petition sent by the Keewatin students attending school at Sir John Franklin High School, I wonder if the Minister is now prepared to respond to the question at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, that matter is still under review and I hope I will have a response in the very near future, Monday, at the latest.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Any other oral questions? Mr. Tologanak.

MR. TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I do not know who is responsible for the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: That would be Mr. McCallum.

Question 94-80(1): Interpretation Service, Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MR. TOLOGANAK: My question is then directed toward Mr. McCallum. I have just had very disturbing news yesterday evening after the session was closed concerning a patient who came from up north but not from my constituency. The poor old lady was hospitalized for a checkup and she could not speak a word of English. She was being fed the kind of food she was not -- she did not want any of that kind of food and she was cold most of the night. There was no interpretation service available to the patient and she was being tested, a medical checkup by the doctor and she did not know what was going on. She was quite frightened and I want some assurances that the services in Stanton Yellowknife Hospital for people who do not speak English, that these people are being properly cared for and that interpretation before services are done, medical services are done to the patients, that these people know what is going on.

MR. SPEAKER: I would just remind the hon. Member that this is not a question. I think you cannot ask for such assurances unless you were to move a motion or something, but if you intend to question the Minister of Health as to whether these things were available that would be acceptable at this time, Mr. Tologanak.

MR. TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I am asking that proper interpretation, translation and interpreting services are available in Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

Return To Question 94-80(1): Interpretation Service, Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry to hear of the incident. I have not heard. I will have officials of the department look into the situation. At the first opportunity if the Member would give me some more pertinent information which I do not expect now, but I will talk to him subsequently on it and I would assure the Member that we would do all within the department to try to alleviate that kind of situation. Interpretation, of course, in the hospital is necessary. We have talked about this many different times. The question has arisen time and time again about indicating to patients as they come into the hospital that they know what is going on. I know it is a traumatic experience for people but I would assure the hon. Member, Mr. Speaker, that after discussing this further with him I would take every step within my power to ensure that there is no repetition of that particular incident again.

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

Question 95-80(1): Royalties From Mining Companies In N.W.T.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the deputy chairman of the Financial Management Board. On two occasions when caucus met with the Chamber of Mines and with Cominco I heard references made to the fact that the Northwest Territories does, in fact, collect royalties from the mining companies operating in the Northwest Territories. I wonder if Minister Butters could please explain where one could find reference to these royalties in the main estimates and, if this government in fact does collect royalties, how much and from what industry has this money been collected.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 95-80(1): Royalties From Mining Companies In N.W.T.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. Member for notice of her question. The results of my investigation have determined that the territorial government does not receive the royalties that accrue from the oil and gas industry currently operating in the Territories. For interest's sake, I just might point out that the royalty figure is not a pure figure. It includes not only royalties but it also includes leases, fees and rentals and various other aspects of the industry for which money is tendered. For example, in the year 1978-79, the Member will have heard the hon. Minister yesterday mention that a figure of some \$17 million had been generated. Just to give some indication of what that would mean in royalties, of that \$17 million it is estimated that three million dollars in royalties would have come from the mining industry and four million dollars in royalties would have come from oil and gas, so that only seven million dollars of that total \$17 million is a royalty figure.

The previous year the figure amounted to ten million dollars and in this year it is expected that the royalties and fees and rentals and leases will amount to between some \$20 and \$30 million because of the excellent year that the mining industry has had in the Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mrs. Sorensen.

Supplementary To Question On Royalties

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mining industry, Minister Butters, is under the impression they are paying royalties. I wonder if you would be prepared to meet with them to clear this matter up because if they have led us to believe that, then obviously they are leading others and they are under the false impression that we are receiving royalties.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to meet with them. I would just say that the mining industry is paying royalties but not to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other oral questions?

Item 3, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

The hon. Member from Frobisher Bay. Mr. Patterson.

Question 96-80(1): Class "B" Guiding Licences In N.W.T.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, this is a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. What are the names and occupations of current holders of class "B" guiding licences in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Other questions. Returns from Ministers. The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 68-80(1): Rules And Regulations, Four N.W.T. Student Hostels

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I have a return related to a question asked by the hon. Member for Frobisher Bay on the policy of this government relative to hostels and I will table that document. I regret I do not find the number of the question but I will table the document in response to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Are there other returns from Ministers?

Item 4, petitions.

Item 5, tabling of documents.

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

The hon. Member for Keewatin South.

Notice Of Motion 30-80(1): Tendering Policy For N.W.T.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday the 10th day of March, 1980, I shall move the following motion: Now therefore, I move that this Assembly recommend to the administration that it develop an appropriate tendering policy which will give residents domiciled in the Northwest Territories and companies incorporated in the Northwest Territories whose principal shareholders are resident in the Territories, preference in awarding contracts for public works and housing projects; and further that bonding requirements for them be either reduced or alternatives to bonding be provided wherever possible, to enable such northern based contractors to successfully tender for such projects in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other notices of motion?

Item 8, motions.

ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

Motion 29-80(1), NCPC Headquarters Location. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: I find myself in a bit of a dilemma. It seems that I may be in a conflict of interest in respect to this motion inasmuch as I am a director on the board of NCPC, at the request of this House representing the Northwest Territories.

Motion 29-80(1), Withdrawn

So, these types of things get to be rather difficult inasmuch as I know I would be in a conflict of interest sitting on the board of NCPC voting on any location in the Northwest Territories and I certainly would have to abstain from that but how can I not have the right to do anything in this House puts myself into a very, very awkward position. I will have to consider my position and I would at this time like to withdraw Motion 29-80(1) and decide if there is another recourse other than resigning from the board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Other motions? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Stewart just blew my chance at a fantastic speech.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Make it anyway.

MRS. SORENSEN: I was all prepared.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other motions? Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a point of order or privilege. Regarding this motion, I take it from the tenure of the motion that the present thinking of the NCPC board of directors is that it ought to be in Yellowknife and I take it that the motion is an attempt to...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, there is no motion to deal with. He has withdrawn it, Mr. Sibbeston. So, if you wanted to check privately with him about the circumstances and so on, you are welcome to do that and if the motion appears again you would be welcome to talk to it but at the moment there is no motion. Any other motions?

Are we ready to resolve into committee of the whole? The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Did we pass second reading of bills, sir? I was asleep if we did.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I was asleep, Mr. Butters.

Item 9, second reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 9: SECOND READING OF BILLS

You are correct. Bill 19-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Labour Standards Ordinance. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 19-80(1): Labour Standards Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, sir. I move that Bill 19-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Labour Standards Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to change the minimum hourly wage.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for that motion? Hon. Mrs. Sorensen. I would remind Members that at this point it is possible to debate the principle of the bill but not any details. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour of second reading of Bill 19-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Labour Standards Ordinance, please raise your hands. Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Are we ready now to resolve into committee of the whole? Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Item 10, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and other matters.

ITEM NO. 10: 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 items listed on the order paper, with Mr. Tologanak in the chair.

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The committee will come to order. This being my last day, I will be heading up to the great Central Arctic for a conference, so let us get on with business with the Executive Committee and we have the Commissioner and Mr. Moore at the witness stand. We were on general comments and questions. Are there any further general comments and questions regarding the Executive, or can we go to the estimates? To the estimates, is it agreed?

---Agreed

The Executive, O And M, Commissioner's Office

That appears in the front of the book, page 2.02, Commissioner's office, \$612,000. Any discussion? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, does this include the salary for the Executive Committee Members?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, no, it does not. The salaries for the Executive Committee Members are on the next page under Ministers' offices.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Have you any further questions? Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In discussing this portion of the estimates yesterday, the Commissioner's office, the question arose, brought up by the hon. Member for Keewatin South, that at one time there had been a proposed motion to seat the Commissioner in formal session. The hon. Member rather unkindly and inaccurately I would say, suggested that it was not brought forward because the proponent had lost the courage to do so or something like that. The fact is that I was at one time considering bringing forward such a motion and did not do so more because I found that it would be a rather divisive matter.

I am interested to note, Mr. Commissioner, that in the meantime, since I have had discussions with you, you have changed your mind about some of the things we discussed and as a matter of fact, I would say that in a sense I have as well. When I was proposing that motion I had considered your position in a kind of theoretical way and advanced arguments that I thought were sound but I realize they were theoretical arguments and they were done without a great

deal of practical experience in this House. Having had more of that practical experience, I am willing to acknowledge that I was probably wrong in asserting that as I did, not wrong, but I see that it is still possible for us to have access to you in this House, such as we have right now and that is what I was largely concerned about.

Commissioner's Position On Executive Committee

Although I did not bring forward the motion and although I concede that I am not as concerned as I was about this matter at one time, I would say that I still do have a concern and it is similar to Mr. Curley's. I notice a recommendation in the summary of the Drury report, Mr. Patterson referred to some of these yesterday, and one of them says that once the Commissioner has divested himself of all his portfolios and he seems to be urging you to do that very soon, he would no longer be a member of the Executive Committee. Now in a moment I would like you to comment on that because that does kind of disturb me. I see that if that were to happen, that if there was not a federal representative on the Executive Committee of the Government of the Northwest Territories that in a sense responsible government would have come to the Northwest Territories. This government would become a responsible government. It would be a kind of fait accompli and in a sense it would mean the entrenchment of this government as the Government of the Northwest Territories and all along I have been concerned about that.

In other words, I say that at this time when there is a great deal of concern among significant portions of the Territories' population as to whether or not this government can represent them, I would not want to see such a fait accompli take place. In other words, again after more thought and more discussion I might see it slightly differently, but the way I see it now it would not be desirable for you to perhaps turn over the portfolios. That is not my main consideration although there is the practical problem of getting people to accept those portfolios. I have seen that difficulty. My main concern is that if you no longer had any of those portfolios that you would follow the advice of Mr. Drury and no longer sit with the Executive Committee. Now I am saying that I would find that alarming, that it would not be a desirable thing in the light of the total political situation in the Northwest Territories at this time. Can I have a comment from you? How do you see it?

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

Timeframe For Commissioner's Withdrawal From Executive Committee

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Drury does suggest a timeframe in that regard and that is that I should divest myself of departmental responsibilities within the life of this Legislature, that is, within four years. I think that can be accomplished in that period or perhaps sooner. It does though, give some period of time before I would be pressed to not be a member of the Executive Committee and I would think that during that time a number of other matters will have been advanced. The hon. Member's unity committee will have had some period of time for its work. Further discussions will have taken place on Mr. Drury's work and so I would not prefer to say anything more at this time. Speaking pragmatically though, there is great value in me being on the committee for some period of time in order for us to maintain very good and close communications, but I do think that we have a period of time which perhaps is two to four years, during which other events will take place which will give further guidance.

THE CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Parker.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I just have one other comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The timeframe you suggest seems reasonable to me. I appreciate the fact that you would not disregard the work that the unity committee will be doing in the meantime and waiting to hear the results of that and also discussion on the Drury paper and so on. The reason I am concerned and I know it may seem strange to some people, is that I do see in this time of some confusion and uncertainty as to the political direction in the North, that no matter how cynically it is viewed by a number of people and it is viewed cynically by a number of people, there is a federal government trust, a trust that they have responsibility for and that is the native people of the Northwest Territories. I see that until we can in the North, come to some agreement among ourselves as to what we ought to be doing that you have to exercise that trust and it is important for me at any rate to see that you are not sort of squeezed out of the way in this process. That it is important to maintain that trust. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Hon. Mr. Braden.

Implication Of Commissioner Giving Up Portfolios

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find the hon. Member's remarks a little bit disturbing. Perhaps he could indicate to us whether or not he would be alarmed if the Department of Information were transferred from the Commissioner's jurisdiction to one of the elected Members. Does he see that as a major constitutional threat in the Northwest Territories? Similarly the Department of Public Works, the Department of Personnel and a number of others which are currently under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner. I find that he is being a little bit overreactive to a gradual change which is taking place whereby an elected person is accountable for decisions which are being made. There are some fairly high profile departments which we are talking about in addition to some which are not so high profile. I just would like him to respond on that and tell me what his major concern is. I see that the whole concept of accountability or the principle of accountability is a question here and if I become the Member responsible for Public Works and I am doing a lousy job I can be removed by this House.

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

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: All right. As I did say in the body of my comments, it is not specifically the portfolios that I am alarmed about. I can accept that and even favour that as a matter of fact, but the suggestion is made that he should not be on the Executive Committee at all. That is where perhaps I overestimate the power that the Executive Committee has, but I do not think so. As long as I do, as long as my appraisal of the importance of it is correct and maybe I could stand to be corrected there, I just feel that the Commissioner's presence as the federal agent holding a trust for large numbers of people in the Northwest Territories, that his presence is important until we as a whole can agree on the direction or directions that we want to take and then that trust should be surrendered immediately.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The Commissioner's office, \$612,000. Is the vote agreed? Mr. Patterson.

Detail Of Grants And Contributions

MR. PATTERSON: Can I have an idea, Mr. Chairman, of where this grants and contributions money went, \$183,000, where that was spent last year? I would like to know what sort of groups were assisted in the past. It says social and educational development. Can I have some more detail on that, please?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the grants and contributions that are voted under the Executive offices are made to a number of organizations whose programs do not appear to fit under any departmental vote. Over half of the money has been provided for the last several years to the Northwest Territories Metis Association for core funding of its local organizations. We agreed to do this some time ago because the local organizations were not receiving any consideration from the Secretary of State and so they received, in the past fiscal year just over \$103,000. The remaining funds went to such organizations as these: The Boy Scouts of Canada; Canada Week committee; the Federated Women's Institute of Canada; the Dene Nation's history project; Canada West Foundation; ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, as an assist for travel of their delegates to their annual meeting; Northwest Territories Mine Safety Association; Inuit Cultural Institute history project; Interchange on Canadian Studies; Consumers' Association of Canada; Native Women's Association and a small amount to the Northwest Territories pipe band.

Mr. Chairman, a number of those that I have mentioned in the budget which is under consideration will now be found in departments. Our cultural grants made to native associations will come under Justice and Public Services in the new budget.

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

MR. PATTERSON: I am also curious and pleased, Mr. Chairman, that other O and M from the Commissioner's office has dropped a staggering half a million dollars. Does that reflect a little less flamboyant style than your predecessor, Mr. Commissioner?

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

Explanation Of Other O And M

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, it is due in large measure to the reorganization that has taken place. The office now is defined as containing only my staff and the Deputy Commissioner's staff. We have moved out some of the money, as I mentioned, for grants and contributions into departmental budgets. In addition some of the money which previously had been spent from this activity is spent from the next one you will look at, under Ministers' offices. Therefore, it does indicate a certain level of restraint, but basically it is a transfer to other functions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I want to also add, Mr. Patterson, that the departure of our offices as well, was all due to a decrease in this amount, in the overall Executive budget, the departure of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly offices. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I would like to ask the Commissioner if he would be in support of an immediate transfer of his Department of Public Works responsibility to one of the Executive Committee Members if the Assembly were to ask him to give up that portfolio during this session.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: The Department of Public Works now reports to the Deputy Commissioner. One of the reasons for that is because of the need to distribute the workload among Executive Members. It would be possible for that department to come under the purview of an elected Member. It would be a matter that I would want to discuss with the Executive Committee Members, again from the standpoint of workload.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to know the amount of the grant given to the Metis Association this past year. I know in 1978-79 it was \$100,000.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: The amount was \$103,464.44.

MR. SIBBESTON: As far -- I think that also this amount is given to the Metis Association with the idea of funding some of the locals in some of the communities; is this right?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Funding Of Metis Association Locals

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, as far as I am aware, such places as Fort Simpson, the Metis Association locals never did get any money, never did get any of this money to set up a local office. I am just wondering whether you asked the Metis Association to account and see whether the moneys given were used for the purpose they were given.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we receive from the Metis Association an audited financial statement on an annual basis, and in addition we seek from them quarterly operating statements. Our review of their last audited statement indicated that they had, indeed, passed the money directly to their locals as had been our agreement. I cannot speak without having the file in front of me to the number of locals they funded but the money, according to the audited statement, did go to their local organizations.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if you could file a report on this matter from the Metis Association to find out precisely which locals in the Northwest Territories received funding.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we will make that information available to Members.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: One more matter and it has to deal with the matter of moneys given for a particular purpose. For instance under the Commissioner's office or the Ministers' offices is it my understanding that once certain moneys have been allotted for instance for the Commissioner's office, that it is not possible to spend that allotment of money any other way in that particular year unless you come to us in the supplementary estimates?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we have the authority to transfer funds between activities within the Executive vote, but we cannot transfer funds from the Executive vote to another departmental vote, for instance, without seeking approval through a supplementary.

MR. SIBBESTON: One more, sir, and it is to deal with the forecasts or the money given in 1979-80 for 14 man years. At what point in the year did this change to a total of six? Do you presently still have 14 man years in the Commissioner's office?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: No, Mr. Chairman, we have six man years. Just going from memory I think the final reduction to the number of six would have taken place in perhaps November or December, I guess the 1st of December perhaps would have been the date.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. The Commissioner's office, \$612,000. Mr. Curley.

Motion That Commissioner Be Seated In Chamber During Question Period To Reply To Questions On Departments Under His Responsibility

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have very much of a concern and I would like to move the following motion with respect to the Executive section: I move that this Assembly request the Commissioner to be seated in the legislative chamber during question period to answer questions related to Public Works, regional operations, Financial Management Board, and as chairman of the Executive Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Could you send a copy up to the table here, please? To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: My concern is I do not think the previous Legislative Assembly was very wise in letting the Commissioner, with all the responsibilities on his shoulders, letting him walk out without assigning those very important and most expensive departments on his shoulders, and not leave a Member to be directly responsible to answer questions that are very important to the constituencies and to the Members here. So, if I may just give some figures here, the Executive Committee's budget is \$25 million, which the Commissioner is the head of, and that certainly includes his responsibility as head of the Executive Committee. Then, if we go down to the Public Works department, this department is a \$63 million operation and Information, which is a responsibility of the Executive, is also in the amount of one million dollars. Regional operations, that certainly is a very large operation that affects every corner of the Northwest Territories.

More Responsibility And Accountability To The People

I would ask the Members to ask the Commissioner to be present during question period only and if there is any tension between the Executive Members as to their status, or if they feel so inferior when the Commissioner is present, I would hope they would be able to work that out prior to answering certain questions with respect to these departments. So, on that basis because the Commissioner is head of the government with direct department responsibilities such as the Financial Management Board, regional operations and Public Works, it totals roughly over \$100 million, that much in operations, I do not believe the last Assembly made a wise move in sending him away and not leaving those responsibilities in the direct hands of an Executive Member. On that basis, I am only asking the Commissioner to be present during question period and not making this motion in an attempt to bring more powers to the Commissioner, but in effect more responsibility and accountability directly to the people we serve. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson, to the motion.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the sentiment of the motion. I just want to make clear with the mover that his motion only refers to the question period, the daily question period at the opening of each session. Is that correct?

MR. CURLEY: That is correct, and the motion states so.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): That is correct. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I disagree with the motion for the simple reason that we have five elected Ministers on this committee who I know at this time are new to the position or the portfolio, but I do not think it will take them too long to get back in and find out the answers for us. I think the answers are better coming from our elected Members rather than from the Commissioner. For this reason I will vote against the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion? Mr. Butters.

Giving Ministers Previous Notice Of Questions

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that even if the motion were passed, there is no guarantee that the Commissioner sitting in the House directly representing those departments that the mover referred to, that the Commissioner would be able to respond immediately. The type of response that the Member is referring to is a response to an oral question and I think you will find that even if the Commissioner were reseated he would have to take many questions as notice. One of the ways I suggest to Members, if they wish an answer to a question that they pose on any one day, that they use the procedure of the courtesy of advising the Minister responsible, or a Minister who may not be responsible, but just saying "I have a question I will ask today and would like a reply to this question", and I think if that procedure is followed Members would find their questions are answered frequently and regularly when asked.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion? Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I will vote against the motion because I think that it was proper to make the basis for membership in this Assembly on an elected basis. Questions that are addressed to the administration are usually addressed in a written form and only oral questions of a pressing, or of that kind of nature, are supposed to be asked during the oral questions according to the rules of this House.

I do not think, and I should say as Mr. Butters has indicated, that when written questions are asked it is in the rules that written responses are given. I do not believe that there would be any reduction in the time which the answers to the written questions are given. I do not believe that the elected Executive Committee Members feel threatened, no more so than anybody else does but I say again, the Legislative Assembly is for elected people and, as we want witnesses to appear in this House we ask for them.

The Assembly Is For Elected People

The Commissioner, and I want to make it perfectly clear, Mr. Chairman, I am talking about the position, sits in this House during committee of the whole. If there is a seat for the Commissioner during the question period, be it oral and/or written, the Commissioner, the seat should be there for the Commissioner for all purposes. I am not for that. I believe this Assembly is for elected people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: The Executive Committee can take questions that are written and provide answers and, as I say, that is what the rules are. So, Mr. Chairman, I am not in favour of seating or having a seat for the Commissioner in an elected Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: So, I will vote against the motion.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: I do not support the motion because I for one, do not even think the Commissioner should be in with us during committee of the whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIBBESTON: The present system of asking Ministers questions I think is the best way and puts the onus on the elected Ministers to respond. If we do not like their answers or they do not seem to be doing the right thing we can kick them out, but with the Commissioner we cannot. As the Prime Minister says, the Commissioner will not have us to kick around any longer. I do think that if we let the Commissioner back in here that many of the questions will go to him rather than the Ministers and this would in a sense downgrade the role and responsibility of elected Ministers.

---Applause

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

Power Of Elected Members

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think we are all too concerned with appearances here and ignoring reality. The reality is and until it changes I am going to be in favour of this motion. Maybe having the Commissioner here, even if it is somewhat of an embarrassment to some of our Members, will remind us all that the key ministries are still in his hands and until that changes he should be here to remind us that elected Members do not have a significant...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame!

MR. PATTERSON: ...power or significant power as they should have. If the Commissioner decides to divest himself of these powers as he suggests he will, even during the life of this Assembly, then there will be no more need for him to sit to answer these questions, but at the moment he has the responsibility. The other Executive Committee Members do not have responsibilities for those departments. They may have some knowledge, but they are not accountable for decisions taken in the area of Public Works, for example, and therefore we should recognize the reality as it now stands. Those are his responsibilities. Therefore he should be here to answer the questions on the spot. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I will read the motion once again: I move that this Assembly request the Commissioner be seated in the legislative chamber during question period to answer questions related to Public Works, regional operations, Financial Management Board and as chairman of the Executive Committee. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, thank you. I would just like to clarify. On the Eighth Assembly he was always in the session whenever I was here. I probably never have understood why the Commissioner was not seated in the Assembly in the last session, last fall. He was not seated in the Assembly any more. I would like to know why he is not seated during committee of the whole any more and I was wondering after I heard the Eighth Legislative Assembly. I am sorry because I had never understood, when I was elected. I did not like the idea. A lot of times we had to wait for the Commissioner to answer us in the Legislature. Some of us could get answers right away and a lot of times we had to wait. Concerning this problem I would like to support the motion. I would like the Commissioner to sit with us during the meeting.

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

Commissioner Should Sit In Chamber

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the motion. I would like to support the motion concerning the Commissioner. He is very helpful for the Executive and also for the regional operations and for these elected Members, four of the boards are very important and have a lot of responsibility for it. I would think the Commissioner should sit with us during the session. Some of the Ministers cannot answer the questions and we could get an answer to them during the session. These four major boards that belong to him, he is not against them and a lot of times he has to respond to the questions during the session here and I feel that if the Commissioner should not sit during the committee of the whole, I think our operations here would be very slow when he is not here to answer the questions.

The first Legislature before, I am not trying to go against them in any way. I think that if the Commissioner will not sit here and also he belongs to other committees, I think this would be a mistake. Also I think that the Legislative Assembly, he is the Commissioner for the Northwest Territories and he has powers in the Legislature here and we have responsibility towards our constituencies. I do not think we would be helping anybody in the Legislature if we are not communicating properly about the responsibilities. It would be a lot slower. We know that the Ministers of the departments have responsibilities to carry on their roles and I do not think it could be run by each Minister if we do not have the Commissioner to help them out.

Also a lot of people do not agree with the Commissioner's views and this is the same everywhere in Canada in the legislatures. A lot of the responsibilities are quite heavy and we know that we have given him a lot of important things to carry on and directed to the regional operation, the responsibilities are quite heavy. Also if he would sit with us during the Legislative Assembly I would agree that we could think about it. Thank you very much.

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

Suggestion That Motion Changes Rules Of The House

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if this motion is in order. We are dealing with the budget and the motion essentially is to change the rules of this House. I just question whether this is the place to debate the question or whether it should come in by way of the regular notice of motion and come in that way. It seems to me that this is a budget debate and essentially what the motion asks for is a change in the rules.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Stewart, as chairman of the committee this motion is in order. Any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Question being called. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: If I may ask, if the motion were passed and yet the rules of the House indicate something different, could we have an opinion from the procedural experts as to what would be the procedure in that case, then?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Chairman, in my view if the motion were adopted it would then be necessary in order to implement it to bring in certain changes to the rules for approval by this Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any further discussion? Hon. Mr. Braden.

Position Of Deputy Commissioner

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I am sorry. I was not clear on whether it would just be the Commissioner who would be in during question period to answer questions concerning specific departments or whether it would be the Deputy Commissioner who would be in as well, because as I understand it, the Commissioner right now just has responsibilities for the Executive Office and the Department of Information. So would we want to have the Deputy Commissioner sitting in here as well?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Braden, the motion reads: The Commissioner and the departments mentioned, Public Works, regional operations, Financial Management Board and as chairman of the Executive Committee. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the hon. Member from Hay River that we are dealing with the budget and the motion has been on the floor. I think we have called the question a couple of times. Let us deal with the motion and if we have to go through rules later, let us go through rules later but let us get to the motion now. Question.

Motion That Commissioner Be Seated In Chamber During Question Period To Reply To Questions On Departments Under His Responsibility, Defeated

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. I move that this Assembly request the Commissioner to be seated in the legislative chamber during question period to answer questions related to Public Works, regional operations, Financial Management Board and as chairman of the Executive Committee. All those in favour of the motion please indicate by raising your arm. Opposed?

MR. FRASER: It is up to you, dad.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Abstentions? The motion is defeated, nine to eight with three abstentions.

---Defeated

We are at the Commissioner's office, O and M, \$612,000. Any further discussion? Mr. Curley.

Motion To Delegate Further Departmental Responsibilities To Elected Executive Committee Members

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion I would like the committee to consider. I move that this Assembly urge the administration to delegate the following programs; the Department of Public Works, regional operations, Financial Management Board and the Department of Information, to elected Executive Committee Members of the Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): We will have to check that out, Mr. Curley. The motion reads as follows, and I have been informed it is in order: I move that this Assembly urge the administration to delegate the following departments; Public Works, regional operations, Financial Management Board and the Department of Information, to elected Executive Committee Members of this Assembly. To the motion.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this motion is similar to the one that was defeated which calls for responsibility and accountability, that it be brought back to the people we serve. I do not think it is fair for the Members of the Assembly to act symbolically only and have the head of the government as though he has no power and whatnot. I think that kind of action has been practised for a little too long and I think these particular departments could be easily delegated to the Executive Committee Members and the accountability through this Assembly should be in the hands of the elected representatives, and therefore questions related to the program could easily be dealt with in the House. So, I will go no further.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The question being called. All those in favour of the motion please indicate by raising your arm. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman.

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

Motion That Eastern Arctic Members Accept Responsibility By Filling The Two Vacant Executive Committee Positions

MRS. SORENSEN: I have a motion as well and the motion reads: In view of the additional responsibilities incumbent on elected Executive Members arising from the motion that has just passed in this Assembly, I move that this Assembly strongly urge the Eastern Arctic Members to accept some responsibility for the running of this government by filling the two vacant positions on the Executive Committee now held for them.

MR. PATTERSON: When?

MRS. SORENSEN: As soon as possible; ASAP.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): We will have to adjust your motion. To the motion, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I think the point has been made, Mr. Chairman. No doubt if the earlier motion is accepted by the Commissioner and the Executive Committee, the workload will be much heavier. Our five Executive Members have to date not shirked their duties, they have welcomed the responsibilities this Assembly has put on their shoulders. Other Members of the Assembly have also accepted extra responsibilities and so I think the time has come for our eastern Members to look seriously at these two vacant seats, particularly in light of Mr. Curley's motion, and get on our Executive Committee as soon as possible and take on these responsibilities they have just given to our five elected Members.

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

MR. CURLEY: To the motion, in light of the defeat of the previous motion, the responsibilities could have been easily handled by the existing Members but they failed to accept the previous one and now the responsibility has to lie on the elected representatives. No doubt the Eastern Arctic people will contribute to selecting a Member and we have done that and each one of the Members, and I think Mr. McCallum would appreciate the fact that someone changed their mind and he got in but I will not call the number, so we have contributed very much to the appointment of the Executive Members and I think we should be complimented for the fact that we have put you guys in that responsibility. I think you rather enjoy being in there because it is sort of a prestige thing.

MRS. SORENSEN: It needs help.

Role Of Eastern Arctic Caucus

MR. CURLEY: I will ask that the right of the individual is the fact that a Member has the right to approve or refuse and the Assembly could not impose the fact that the privilege of Members should be done away with, the fact that the motion calls for the Eastern Arctic specifically. I do not think it is fair. I think the Assembly has all along called forward the fact that it is a single government responsible for the whole territory and I will vote for that but I will vote for it on the basis and on the fact that the Eastern Arctic caucus will definitely be instrumental to who should be the additional Member of the Executive Committee Members. Thank you.

MRS. SORENSEN: Speech, speech!

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

MR. PATTERSON: I too, am somewhat flattered that the motion would specifically refer to Eastern Arctic Members, since I have said before and I say again that if there is an urgency to appointing more Members to the Executive Committee and no Members from the Eastern Arctic are ready to take on those responsibilities tomorrow, then let the appointment come from whomever is willing to take on those responsibilities. I would like to say that the Eastern Arctic Members are seriously considering their responsibility to participate at the Executive Committee level.

Last fall we also seriously considered that responsibility and publicly announced that for many reasons, in some instances pressure of current duties and in other instances unfamiliarity with government, for those reasons we felt that at that particular time none of us would want to come forth and actually take responsibility for a department. However, we wanted to participate and I think we have attempted to actively participate in the role of assistant ministers, and I hate to use the word because it is a bad one, but shadow ministers, and this role has provided many of us with the opportunity to learn more about these sorts of problems and challenges that an Executive Committee

Member actually faces. I would hate to see that experiment, which I personally find to be most worth while from my point of view, I would hate to see that experiment early on dismissed as a failure, even though there have been some difficulties with it, mostly I think due to the fact that it was an unwritten, unstructured, informal idea.

However, I would like to say that personally I expect that by the fall session I will be in a position to give the idea more serious consideration. I am still interested in negotiating conditions for participation on the Executive Committee.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

Condition To Participation On Executive Committee

MR. PATTERSON: I do not want to be coy or unreasonable or expect any kind of special status, but our initial reservations about the Executive Committee were that if residency in Yellowknife was required it would unduly strain the links between ourselves and our constituents. I would like to say now publicly that one condition for my participation on the Executive Committee, and this might apply to many of my colleagues, and I say this because I have had a chance to discuss it with some of my constituents and this is their position, is that particularly if the designation was as a minister without portfolio or as a minister for regional operations, something along the lines of the new ministry suggested by Mr. Drury, I would insist that the office for that ministry, and this is something that perhaps the Executive Committee can consider, but the office for that ministry need not be in Yellowknife.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: Again, I too, will vote for the motion. I think the existing Members of the Executive Committee probably have a significant workload and maybe it is unfair to keep those two seats open for an undue length of time, but I do not think that one year out of four is a long time to be preparing for this sort of change. Personally I think that by "as soon as possible" if you mean by the coming fall, that is within the range of the discussions, the discussions the Eastern Arctic caucus themselves have held. We are really looking at the whole situation and discussing ways in which we might participate, ways which have never been tried before, and I think in view of our remoteness from Yellowknife that it is not unreasonable for some serious thought to be given to new definitions of the Executive positions as they might affect us. So, I will vote in favour of the motion but I do again want to make it clear that if the present committee feels or if the Assembly feels at its spring session which may occur, that the burden on the present Members is too great I will not stand in the way of someone other than an Eastern Arctic Member, or even two people being appointed for those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I will just read the main part of the motion: That this Assembly urge the Eastern Arctic Members to accept some responsibility for the running of this government by accepting any additional Executive Committee positions established. Mr. Curley.

Style Of Government Should Be Reorganized

MR. CURLEY: I would just like to add a factor, that it will not change my position that the government has to reorganize its way of operating in the North. It is operating in a southern style way and with the kind of Territories we do have, the present Executive Members do find it is very difficult to operate and run a department on a departmental, ministerial basis. Even though the motion calls for Eastern Arctic direct involvement in the Executive Committee, any notion of my involvement would have to be on the basis of a clearly redefined way of running the government and the programs in the North. We have called for Eastern Arctic ministries, we have called for regional ministries and these positions will in no way at all alter our position as far as this motion is concerned, nor in my mind will that prevent me from recommending someone from the other areas to take responsibility if they so wish. Thank you.

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

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like briefly to say that the two positions on the Executive Committee were allocated for the Eastern Arctic and I think that maybe it is time that they appointed somebody to these positions. Then we can get away from the white shadow and his cabinet for a while. If we get two Members from the East to sit on the Executive Committee, I think it is very important that we have full membership. We are only dealing with five Members. We are allowed seven and I think it is time for the Eastern Arctic, if they have the time, to get in and get some of the cake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. I will read the preamble of the motion as well. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, if I understood this clearly I thought the motion stated that they want somebody from the Eastern Arctic. What would be the purpose of this? I thought it was open that there would be five to seven seats for Ministers. There are five right now, five Ministers. Should there be just five? I am not against it or anything, but it seems like we are not having very good communications with the constituents when they have work to do in their position. Maybe if there is somebody from the Baffin region and somebody became a minister from the Baffin region they could run the government. I would think the two positions should be deleted.

Motion That Eastern Arctic Members Accept Responsibility By Filling The Two Vacant Executive Committee Positions, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): In view of the added responsibility incumbent on the elected Executive Committee Members that would result from implementation of the motion just adopted, I move that this Assembly urge the Eastern Arctic Members to accept some responsibility for the running of this government by accepting any additional Executive Committee positions established. Question being called. All those in favour of the motion please indicate by raising your arm. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We are on the Commissioner's office, \$612,000. Mr. Patterson, did you have some questions regarding this amount?

MR. PATTERSON: I have a motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson, we will now break for tea for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The committee will come to order. Order, please. We are on the Commissioner's office, \$612,000. Mr. Patterson.

Motion That Executive Committee Select A Chairman Other Than The Commissioner

MR. PATTERSON: I would like to make a motion that this Assembly urge the Executive Committee to select a chairman of the Executive Committee other than the Commissioner and that progress be reported at the next session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I will read the motion: That this Assembly urge the Executive Committee to select a chairman of the Executive Committee other than the Commissioner and that progress be reported at the next session. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I feel that it is only consistent that if this House is going to urge as it has just urged, that the present responsibilities that the Commissioner has for a number of key departments be transferred to elected Members, that it is only consistent that the Executive Committee should then also transfer the important role of chairmanship of the Executive Committee itself to an elected Member. Again I am sure I do not need to say this. We are talking about positions and not people, offices and not people and this is certainly no reflection on the present holder of the office of Commissioner, but, Mr. Chairman, this is a key position.

The chairman of the Executive Committee sets the agenda for the meetings and this important function should not be left with the Commissioner if, at the same time, it is the wish of this Assembly that the important portfolios discussed in the previous motion should be removed from him as well. The only other point I wish to make, since I think most Members of this Assembly will support the motion, otherwise they would not have supported the motion to transfer the departments to elected Members, the departments which are presently held by the Commissioner, the only other support I will give for the motion is to say that this is not a radical idea or a strange idea.

Change Is Suggested By Drury Report

In fact Mr. Drury recommended that such a change take place in his report and the Commissioner yesterday, in response to some questions I asked, indicated that he was generally receptive to the directions recommended by Mr. Drury as far as his position being phased down. I think it is fair to say that the present Commissioner is in an impossible position in many ways. He is on the one hand, a representative of the federal government and ultimately responsible to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs for his actions and yet at the same time he has responsibilities to this Assembly in his capacity as being responsible for various departments and being chairman of the Executive Committee. He himself, recognizes that these responsibilities have to be...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson, slow down, please.

MR. PATTERSON: He himself, recognizes that these responsibilities in the long run have to be decreased, although I suspect that his timing is longer range than the wishes of many Members of this Assembly. He indicated the other day or yesterday I believe it was, that he was waiting for a suitable leader to emerge from the Executive Committee. Well, I think this motion, if it passes, will certainly encourage that process. It will certainly encourage the identification of a leader from the five good men that we have nominated to sit on the Executive Committee. This motion also indicates that this Assembly is not willing to wait forever for this to happen and in fact, that we do not think it is unreasonable that some progress should have been made by the time the next session meets. It is a motion that I think we cannot

but fail to support since the Commissioner himself and Mr. Drury, whatever else we might think of the rest of his report, these are recommendations that I think are obvious and urgent. So, I urge Members for all those reasons to support this motion in order to speed this process up and move us toward responsible government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): To the motion. Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Role Of Ministers On Executive Committee

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to indicate that I recognize that this is, again, a recommendation of the recently arrived Drury report. I think that it has been the aim of this Assembly and certainly the aim of the previous Assembly that this particular move would take place. I would like to just indicate to Members that, in point of fact, the present Executive Committee Members do have input and do set agenda items for Executive Committee meetings. The Executive Committee do make recommendations to the Commissioner and it has been my experience so far with this particular Executive Committee, as with others, that the Commissioner, regardless of who is in that particular position, took the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The present Commissioner has indicated, of course, that this is the direction that he would like to move as well, and, as Mr. Patterson has indicated, time is the question. I am not sure that I would agree with Mr. Patterson that the present Commissioner has a different time sequence. I do not think the present Commissioner, and I do not presuppose to speak for him, is of the opinion that the time will be toward the end of the present life of this Assembly. That is, I do not think he is thinking in terms of the fourth year.

We in the Executive Committee have moved toward this kind of goal in that we have an elected Member as deputy chairman of the Financial Management Board and the direction that we would see that going is in fact that the elected Member would take over the chairmanship of that particular agency. As well, of course elected Executive Committee Members are chairmen of various subcommittees of the Executive Committee, the legislation priorities and planning. I do not think that it would be difficult for Members to agree that since the motion recommends to the Executive Committee to move toward this and to bring a report or report progress at the next session, that that places any difficulty among present Members but I think that we have heard the present Commissioner indicate that in point of fact, he does see this occurring. So I do not think we would be going against anything that has not only been recommended but has, in point of fact, been stated by the present Commissioner. I believe, as I would hope all Members would, that the elected representatives of the people should be making the decisions and then having them vetted by the Commissioner in his particular position and I would see this occurring well within the life of the present Assembly. So, I have no difficulty accepting the motion as a recommendation to the Executive Committee to bring this forward.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Hon. Mr. Braden.

Working Towards Responsible Government

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall that on election night last October, flushed with victory I was talking to a reporter from the South and I indicated that one thing that I would work toward as an MLA was immediate responsible government. It has been about four or five months since election night and we still do not have responsible government. I recall further, that in my campaign platform I thought that given our existing responsibilities in this government we could have, for an interim period, a condition where we had responsible government and that this would not prejudice the evolution of different institutions in the future.

So, at this point in time I will have to say that I must support this motion, and given the rather lengthy discussion here this afternoon about responsibility and accountability, perhaps this is a very logical conclusion.

I have just one further comment to make, and perhaps this is where our Legal Advisor could again give us some advice and perhaps the Commissioner as well. How would a decision on the part of the Commissioner to step down as the chairman of the Executive Committee sit with our friend the Minister in Ottawa? I am just wondering if there are any implications resulting from the Northwest Territories Act that we might have to contend with here.

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

Commissioner's Obligations Under N.W.T. Act

LEGAL ADVISOR (Mr. Lal): Mr. Chairman, under the provisions of the Northwest Territories Act, the Commissioner has the obligation to administer the government of the Territories under instructions from time to time given by the Governor in Council or the Minister. If the Minister were not to agree with the intent of this motion, and instructed the Commissioner not to carry out its intent, I am afraid the Commissioner would be bound by the provisions of the Northwest Territories Act and would have to follow the Minister's instructions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Braden,

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I recall that clause, but I think there is no mention in the Northwest Territories Act of the Executive Committee of the Northwest Territories.

MRS. SORENSEN: That is right.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: It was set up in 1974 or 1975, as I recall by the then minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Jean Chrétien. So, if the Commissioner were to step down, it is simply stepping down from one of the structures within the Government of the Northwest Territories. He does not lose his status as the Chief Executive Officer, that still remains in the act. Could we have some reaction to that, Mr. Chairman?

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

LEGAL ADVISOR (Mr. Lal): Mr. Chairman, while it is true there is no mention of the Executive Committee in the Northwest Territories Act, by an ordinance passed by this House, the Council Ordinance, the Executive Committee has been given statutory status in that section 4 of the Council Ordinance specifically states that: "There shall be a committee, styled the Executive Committee, to aid and advise in the government of the Territories." Under section 5 the Commissioner has been given the power "...from time to time name Members of the Council who are to be Executive Members." Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the question. I do not think it would be a good idea if one of the elected Members, or if one of the Members becomes the chairman, one of the elected Members. I agree in part with the motion. Maybe if they are going to elect after four years that would be more appropriate.

Problems With Having Minister As Chairman Of Executive Committee

For those who are our new Ministers, if the Commissioner will not be the chairman and after four years they are elected again, how will this be set up? Will there be a new chairman and a new Minister becomes the chairman? I think this could become a problem. I can see that. If that new Minister became a

chairman right away and the new chairman and the new Minister had to start working right away considering all the communities in the North, but I think we would have to get somebody to become a chairman and look at the organization itself. That was my question. After four years are they going to get a chairman and have a new Minister become a chairman right away? That is my question, will this be set up like that? If so, I cannot support it.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think that the motion, while it gives direction I do not think it can be acted upon with any degree of haste. The Northwest Territories Act, section 4, says "The Commissioner shall administer the government of the Territories under instructions from time to time given by the Governor in Council or the Minister."

I believe, and the Commissioner can confirm or deny what I am about to say, but I believe that the present structure under which this government is managed was provided to the Commissioner by way of a letter of instruction, and that has been the manner in which the Yukon has evolved over the last ten years. At certain periods of time the Commissioner of either territory has received a letter of instruction or direction in which these various mechanisms are established. Certainly the Executive Committee does not exist in the Northwest Territories Act but it is referred to in the letters of instruction received from the Minister or the Governor in Council. I just wonder if the Commissioner might just confirm that he has in his possession...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Butters, could you slow down?

Commissioner's Letter Of Instruction

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Commissioner might just confirm that he has in his possession such a letter from the previous minister establishing the Executive Committee as it operates and functions today.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Any further discussion? Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will oppose the motion because I believe it is premature. I think that it is all right to say that, theoretically, if he gives up the chairmanship and all of the portfolios that he is still the Chief Executive Officer of the government, but what I think would happen if he were to do that would be that the Commissioner would simply become a nonentity in the Executive Committee but as I said...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I know, and I am very much aware that many of you believe that to be a desirable thing at the moment, but it does not please me. I explained partly my reason earlier, which is that until we can come to complete and general agreement that this is the government that ought to be the government for all of the people of the Northwest Territories, and we certainly have not come to that agreement yet, that the Commissioner as a representative of the federal government, which has a special responsibility for native people, must have a significant role. I would not want to see it just disregarded entirely. I feel if he were to surrender that -- first of all I would call on him not to, even if the motion passes.

Commissioner Co-operative With Assembly

He has indicated a great deal of willingness to co-operate with this Assembly and has told us very sincerely that in almost all things he will be guided by the will of this Assembly and the Executive Committee, except when matters of great consequence occur. I would suggest to him that this would be a matter of great consequence and he ought not to surrender it even if he is called on to do so. The suggestion is that if he were to surrender that position, that another leader would arise in the Executive Committee. I suggest that that would be a leader without any particular mandate to be the leader of this government and therefore not entirely acceptable to all Members of this Assembly or to all of the people of the Northwest Territories. So, I just think that it is premature. I see it as desirable after certain other things have taken place. Until they take place I am not prepared to accept that motion.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in support of the motion because of the fact that I do not believe the Commissioner should be, he should not be responsible here and could not be seated here and at the same time have a very important authority with the financial and Executive Members, their daily business affairs. On that basis, I think the time is ripe that the Executive Committee should have its own chairman. I would go further and suggest, and I think I shall later, that the immediate transfer of the Financial Management Board, that role should be given to the finance committee chairman and I think, I do not believe...

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: I do not think that responsible government should only be looked at by Ottawa and interpreted by Ottawa as to how responsible government should be. Some Members have been calling for responsible government and some of us have been looked at as trying to ignore responsibility but not so, we want to try and correct the way that the responsibilities are handled at this time.

Responsibilities Should Better Reflect The Regions

I think they should reflect better the regions and the kinds of special problems they have with regard to culture, the economic base being different, certainly from some parts of the North and so on. On that basis I am all in favour of the Executive Committee being given the chairmanship of the Executive Committee. I think that would again bring about a closer understanding and accountability once again directly into the hands of the public and it would be able to be assured exactly what the intentions are as far as planning and making or preparing priorities for the government's operations. So, I will be voting for the motion. Thank you.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you for allowing me to speak again, Mr. Chairman. I think we are going a bit too fast concerning development in the North. We were just elected in October and I think we are pushing too much towards responsibility and we are going a bit too fast on this. Now we did have the Conservatives as a government for a while and considering this is going a bit too fast and then we had to elect again. I think we would also have to elect in the North at the present time, for the Legislative Assembly, even though the four years are not up. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. I recognize in the gallery the Hon. C.M. Drury and his staff.

---Applause

Any further discussion? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I found the debate most interesting and I think most important. I would like to address a couple of points that were brought up by speakers including the Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. MacQuarrie said, among other things that it really does not make any difference whether or not we remove the Commissioner from chairmanship of the Executive Committee since he has already said he will be guided and follow the advice of the Executive Committee in virtually all matters. Mr. Chairman, I say to Mr. MacQuarrie that if it really does not make any difference, that if the Commissioner virtually has surrendered his powers as he says, to the Executive Committee, then this motion will simply recognize what is in fact a reality.

Problem Because Commissioner Is Not Elected

I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman, that again we are speaking of an office and not a man. The only problem with the Commissioner being Chief Executive of the Government of the Northwest Territories is that he is not elected. We have no say whatsoever in his appointment and if we are to seriously evolve toward responsible government, whatever form that government might take, I for one, feel that the present form will be ancient history in a matter of even a decade, but whatever form of government we are to evolve toward it will feature responsibility being given to elected Members, representative of the people. If those who oppose this change, this change of chairmanship of the Executive Committee, oppose this motion on the grounds that it would be irresponsible that the Commissioner has a trust by virtue of his position as a federal agent which he carries on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, it should also be noted that we also, we elected Members also have the trust of the people of the Northwest Territories as determined through the democratic process.

Mr. Chairman, since the Hon. Mr. Drury is here I feel it particularly appropriate that I should read what his report has to say about this very question and I am reading from page 58 of the report, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

Quote From Drury Report On Constitutional Development In The N.W.T.

This is Mr. Drury's report on constitutional development in the Northwest Territories: "In order for the territorial Council to assume effective responsibility for territorial affairs, the Commissioner's role in the Executive Committee should also be progressively reduced. During the last Council, the Commissioner along with the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners, held the central departments of government, including the Executive Secretariat and the Finance department, and all the service portfolios, except for Public Services, which was briefly assigned to an elected Executive Member. While the Commissioner assigned the six program portfolios to the three elected Members, their authority was limited by the instruction in the Executive handbook to keep the Commissioner informed at all times as to activities in all departments. All government boards and agencies reported directly to the Commissioner. Moreover, the Commissioner, in his capacity as chairman of the Executive Committee, established the agendas, called the meetings and decided their duration. In his absence the Deputy Commissioner played this role.

"It is increasingly hard to justify the concentration of such all-encompassing Executive responsibilities in the hands of appointed officers in the Northwest Territories. To some extent, this has been recognized by the elimination of the position of Assistant Commissioner and by the increase in the number of elected Members of the Executive Committee.

"If this progress towards accountable government is to continue, the Commissioner should be instructed to divest himself of all his remaining departmental responsibilities..."

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I am getting a request to slow down, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. "If this progress towards accountable government is to continue, the Commissioner should be instructed to divest himself of all his remaining departmental responsibilities and transfer them to elected Members of the Executive Committee during the life of the Ninth Council. All government boards and agencies should report to the appropriate elected Members. Any new responsibilities devolved to the Government of the Northwest Territories should be assumed by an elected Executive Committee Member.

"There appears to be little reason for the Commissioner to continue to act as chairman of the Executive Committee. An elected Member should chair the committee and the Executive Secretariat should report to him rather than to the Commissioner. The Commissioner, however, should remain as a member of the Executive Committee as long as he continues to be responsible for any of the government departments."

Waiting For Responsible Government

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that if the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs is concerned that a step which would appear to deprive the Commissioner of some of his responsibilities as Chief Executive Officer would divest the Commissioner of a power that he holds, or a trust that he holds from the federal government, then the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs would be indicating a lack of trust in the democratic process in the Northwest Territories which has produced this Assembly and elected Members of the Executive Committee to those positions. I would be personally delighted if the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs were to veto or express regret at any action taken by this Assembly or the Executive Committee in this direction, especially in the face of his own -- of the Prime Minister's own special representative's report which is clear. Now I think we have been waiting a long time for responsible government in the Northwest Territories and I do not think we fear rushing into this process. I think I have confidence in our Executive Committee Members and frankly, Mr. Chairman, I myself will be much more interested in participating in an Executive Committee if these changes and when these changes take place.

---Applause

Until then it seems like the so-called Ministers are not real Ministers, that the real power reposes in the Commissioner and that this government is not truly a responsible government. If there are legal obstacles in the way in the form of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, let us test the confidence he has in this Assembly and our elected Members. Let us proceed to make these changes and let him try and stop us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. ROBERT H. MACQUARRIE: The hon. Member from Yellowknife North professed astonishment.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: I do not know if I have the right but may I raise a question of privilege?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Is it agreed?

---Agreed

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Just to correct one thing, Mr. Chairman. Contrary to what the hon. Member reported, I did not say yesterday that I proposed to surrender my powers. I said that I would accept the advice of the Executive Committee. It is a very fine point perhaps, but it is not within my power to surrender them. That has to be the choice of others. Thank you very much.

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

Concerning The Eighth Assembly's Position Paper On Constitutional Development

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It appears to me the Hon. Mr. Drury may be astonished that we have already implemented one of his recommendations which was that we sit from time to time as a constitutional convention which seems to be what we are doing right at the moment. At any rate, speaking about astonishment, the hon. Member for Yellowknife North professed himself to be astonished at something that I said earlier today. We are dealing with a very complex matter and so I suppose that can occur but I have in turn to profess myself astonished at what the hon. Member for Frobisher Bay has said. I think I have not heard a better defence for the Eighth Assembly's position paper on constitutional development if he believes everything he said today. That is essentially what I think the Eighth Assembly was saying and I simply could not agree with that position then and I cannot agree with it now. One thing we must not forget about the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, appointed, yes, but appointed by a government elected by the people of Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER: Southern Canada.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: A government has a trust. I agree with the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay that each of us has a responsibility...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Order, please. Would you slow down for the interpreters?

Mandate And Responsibility Of Members

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you for reminding me. Each of us has a mandate and a responsibility to speak for a certain portion of the population of the Northwest Territories. There is no party system. There was no major party platform that was supported by a majority of people in the Northwest Territories and so none of us has a mandate to speak for all people of the Northwest Territories. I will repeat that, until we can come to some kind of agreement as to how we are going to handle things in the North, that the federal government does have some important role to play as a protector of the rights of various groups of people in the North and that the Commissioner is their agent in doing that. I think that it is an important role and I think that it should not be lightly regarded and discarded.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I do not support the motion because of the main reason that I do not want to see this government get more power. I say this because until all native people see that this territorial government is their

government, then I do not feel that I could support further powers to this government. I feel that the powers we have are sufficient for the time being, and as I said a number of times let us do a real good job with the powers we have now.

Now, I just want to make a comment, that sometimes I get impatient and think that with elected people, and sometimes with Dene people in there, that we ought to expect real, real significant changes in this government, or we should have already. Sometimes it is disappointing to see that things have not really changed that much and I sometimes feel that what the native people presently on the Executive Committee say is to a large extent the thinking of the bureaucracy. However, I am prepared to be patient and wait for the next fall or for a year until the people of the Executive really take full control of their responsibilities, and the hope is that we place elected people in there, and some of the native people, and then they ought to reflect -- we should see real changes and not just the same old story from slightly different people.

---Applause

I just wanted to say too, that I do not feel I could support the motion because of the establishment of the unity committee which will likely help in finding out, as well as possible, the general direction that this government should go. I think hopefully this unity committee will point out some of the major changes that will need to be made. I know the people in my area, the Dene people will accept this government as their government.

Not Supportive Of The Drury Report

I just also want to state that the CBC in the last day or so has given the impression that most of the Members here support Mr. Drury's report. I just want to state that I for one do not fully support Mr. Drury's report. The ITC and the Dene Nation apparently also do not. Perhaps I should not go into great details as to why I come to this view however, I just want to say again that I do not support the motion because I think the present elected Members on the Executive have been given a certain amount of responsibility and we ought to give them time in order to develop and to really take over full responsibility of the department. As to the Commissioner, I am satisfied with the Commissioner continuing to be the head of this government for the time being. Thank you.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Let us note the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay in quoting the Drury report has just pointed out the fact that that is one good part we want but we do not want all of it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Support Of The Executive Committee Members

MR. McLAUGHLIN: As to what Mr. MacQuarrie said, I think that the federal government in the provinces protects the rights of individuals and upholds treaties and obligations and other federal responsibilities. They can continue to do that in the Northwest Territories through another means other than the Commissioner. When I was elected, I was under the assumption that this Assembly was going to work toward more responsibility in the Northwest Territories. Now, how we devolve that out, is to be decided later by this Assembly, but I think the Executive Committee Members, the people who were elected to it were not elected by parties or anything like that, as he pointed out, are not acting as parties right now. It is a misapprehension by some Members who think that the Executive Committee is in the role of the opposition because they are not. As I said before we elected them and we said we would support them and I am in favour of this motion because I think it would be one of the major ways we can support the Executive Committee. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion or can I call the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: I just have one quick comment and that is that I must say that I cannot believe that this is happening. I am overwhelmed. I cannot wait to vote on the motion. I support it wholeheartedly, but I really wonder if Members really realize what is going on here. We have gone from trying to bring the Commissioner back into these ropes which is ten years backward, to...

MR. CURLEY: For questions.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: ...divesting the Commissioner of his program responsibilities and giving elected Members more responsibility, which is super, to suggesting that the Commissioner step down from the chairmanship of the Executive Committee which would advance us at least five years and, Mr. Chairman, all these suggestions have come from the eastern caucus.

---Applause

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

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

Checks On An All Elected Executive

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, just to speak one more time in support of this motion, Members should recognize that there are all kinds of checks remaining within the Northwest Territories Act on what an all elected Executive could do. The most obvious one is the Commissioner named as the Chief Executive Officer of the Northwest Territories. I cannot find the exact clause in the act right now, but we are required, as I understand it, to get the approval of the Department of Indian Affairs on some of our legislation before it gets into this House. I think we have to recognize as well that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development could veto something which has come out of the Executive Committee if it is so abhorrent to the federal government. Finally, we have a Governor in Council which is the federal cabinet which has the right of disallowance on anything.

So, Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of checks on anything an elected Executive would be doing. Further, on the business of presenting money bills, look back to section 21 of the act which reads: It is not lawful for the Council to adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue of the Territories, or of any tax or impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended to the Council by message of the Commissioner...

So, this is further evidence that just because the Commissioner is not chairing the Executive Committee, the rights of groups and individuals are going to be taken away. This is just one small step in changing this antiquated act to something that is of more benefit to the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Transferring Responsibilities To The Regions

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a point of clarification. Any motion that we do put forward from the Eastern Arctic, normally we do not attempt in any way to bring back the performance of the Assembly to 100 years back or ten years back because we are concerned that the accountability should remain in the chamber, rather than letting an official go without having some form of guarantee as to how he will respond to the questions and concerns that the constituents have. As far as the hon. Member's suggestion, she seemed to suggest that the Eastern Arctic Members have not been contributing to anything and I would suggest that if we were given the opportunity to run the department by transferring some of the responsibilities to the regions and so on, I think progress would be a lot quicker.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): That this Assembly urge the Executive Committee to select a chairman of the Executive Committee other than the Commissioner and that progress be reported at the next session. All those in favour please so indicate by raising your arm.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Recorded vote.

Motion That Executive Committee Select A Chairman Other Than Commissioner,
Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): A recorded vote has been requested and shall be. All those in favour of the motion, please stand and remain standing until your name has been called.

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE (Mr. de Vos): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Arreak, Mr. Patterson, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Stewart, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Noah, Mr. Curley, Mr. Butters, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden and Mrs. Sorensen.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): All those opposed, please stand and remain standing until your name has been called.

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. MacQuarrie.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Abstentions?

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Pudluk, Ms. Cournoyea and Mr. Nerysoo.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Did I interrupt your calling the results of the vote?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Yes.

---Laughter

The motion was carried 14 to three.

---Carried

Mr. Butters.

Commendation Of Hon. Bud Drury

HON. TOM BUTTERS: This morning an Executive Committee motion was passed which requested that the committee indicate to the Hon. Bud Drury that while we may

not, and obviously cannot, make a statement with regard to his report at this time because much consideration will have to go into the many recommendations it contains, the Executive Committee felt that we should by letter, indicate to him our recognition and our gratitude for the dedication and the responsibility with which he accepted the commission given to him by the Prime Minister and the people of Canada and also on his willingness to speak with all the residents wherever and whenever the opportunities presented themselves. We recognize too that on many occasions, with personal inconvenience and physical discomfort, he visited the people of the North in their homes, in their communities. He drank gallons of tea and coffee with them and listened with patience and understanding.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Hon. Mr. Butters. Your point is well taken. We are on the budget, Commissioner's office, \$612,000. Mr. Curley.

Motion To Examine Feasibility Of Establishing A Ministerial Office With Responsibility For Community Government And Regional Operations

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a last point and I would like to move that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it examine the feasibility of establishing a ministerial office with special responsibilities for community government and regional operations in the Northwest Territories and report the outcome of such study to this House at the next session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Would you pass the motion up? To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the points that have been raised already with respect to the remoteness of some communities in the Northwest Territories and the fact that it has become very difficult for Ministers with departmental responsibilities to fairly represent the whole geographic size of the land we have in this part of the North. So, I would think that before the motion that was approved to appoint Eastern Arctic Members is carried out, a very thorough study should be done to attempt to really fill all Executive Committee membership of the Assembly. My motion merely calls for a study and that a report be made at the next session so that those who would consider joining the Executive Committee membership from the Eastern Arctic would have a fair chance of getting it if a proper study was made and the conditions they had a strong feeling about were met. So I would urge the Members to just vote in favour of the motion. Thank you.

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

MR. PATTERSON: I would like to speak in support of the motion and I would also like to say that the best thing about Mr. Drury's report in my view, although I was disappointed that more attention was not paid to the option of division, the best thing about the report was the way he dealt with regionalism, if you like to call it that. I have maintained probably ad nauseam that this government has utterly failed to understand the strength of regional feelings in the Northwest Territories and for this reason Mr. Drury recommended what I think is a virtual dismantling of the Department of Local Government through decentralization and the creation of a new department of community government and regional operations. It seems to me that, again to use a phrase referred to by Mr. Drury, for short-time incremental changes as opposed to long-term changes of the sort envisioned by the Nunavut proposal this kind of devolution and recognition of regionalism is an essential step. We have discussed the fate of the government's efforts through its devolution committee now dead to achieve some progress in the area of devolution. That committee largely failed, but that movement should not and must not fail and I think this direction and the establishment of this ministry will give a new impetus to that direction.

Devolution To The Regions

I think another important point, Mr. Chairman, is that while there is a department of I think it is regional operations which we will be considering in the estimates for the Executive later on, it is unfortunate that that operation at present reports to the Commissioner. I think an earlier motion of this House would have that function transferred to an elected Member. I think many Members of the Eastern Arctic particularly have challenged the Executive Committee to make progress in the area of devolution to regions. I myself, like the hon. Mrs. Sorensen, do not think it is a strange idea to have the entire Baffin regional operation delegated, devolved to the Baffin Regional Council. In the near future, I think the Baffin Regional Council will be coming forward to this Assembly in its life and in fact in the next session with legislation which would permit, flexible legislation which would permit this to happen. Mr. Drury has suggested that this should happen.

A key to all this would be the establishment of an elected Member responsible for community government and regional operations. I have always felt, especially since being elected, and before, that the regional directors have been in an impossible position. They are responsible for co-ordinating programs in their regions yet at the same time their superintendents report to directors in Yellowknife and those regional directors must report to the Commissioner. Now, this motion, if it results in the creation of a new ministry would give those regional directors reporting responsibility to an elected Member. I think it bears study because Mr. Drury has recommended that those regional directors should be key figures in negotiating devolution between the communities and the government.

Devolution Process At The Community Level Has Been Limited

Right now I think one of the reasons that the devolution process at the community level has been so limited and I think Frobisher Bay and Fort Liard may be the only examples in the Northwest Territories where a community has requested transfer of powers, is because there is nowhere the communities can clearly go to negotiate such devolution. Now the establishment of this new ministry and clarification of the roles of the regional directors would surely do a lot towards speeding this process up. In the Baffin region I think we would be ready to make significant progress particularly in the field of education and health and social services which the Baffin Regional Council has identified as priorities, but this Assembly and other regions have also strongly called for devolution in the area of wildlife management. This is where the Minister could play a key role so I am strongly in favour of the motion and I urge other Members to support it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. It has been moved by the hon. Member from Keewatin South that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that they examine the feasibility of establishing a ministerial office with special responsibilities for community government and regional operations in the Northwest Territories and report the outcome of such study to this House at the next session.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Wah-Shee.

Selection Of Regional Superintendents Of Local Government

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to clarify some things that were mentioned by the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay. The regional superintendents of Local Government are selected jointly by the Deputy Minister

and the regional director and their selection, of course, is done to the satisfaction of the regional director because the regional director has to be satisfied that the candidate can effectively operate within the regions and that he is qualified to do so. The regional superintendents, once they are selected, are accountable to the regional director and the regional director in turn is accountable through the Deputy Minister to myself regarding the effective delivery of Local Government programs. As well, the co-ordination of other programs and the accountability for these programs by the regional director is done through the regional operations, in turn to the Executive Committee. So, I just want to point out that this is in fact the way that the structure is set up and the accountability. This is just the one point I wanted to clarify, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion To Examine Feasibility Of Establishing A Ministerial Office With Responsibility For Community Government And Regional Operations, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Question being called. I move that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it examine the feasibility of establishing a ministerial office with special responsibilities for community government and regional operations in the Northwest Territories and report the outcome of such study to this House at the next session. All those in favour please indicate by raising your arm. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

O And M, Commissioner's Office, Agreed

We are on the Commissioner's office, \$612,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

---Applause

Before we go on to page 2.03 we will break for tea for 15 minutes and I would like to invite Mr. Drury and his staff to join us in the Members' lounge for tea and coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The committee will come to order. We have completed the estimates for the Commissioner's office.

0 And M, Ministers' Offices, Agreed

We are now dealing with the estimates for the Ministers' offices on page 2.03 of the main estimates. The operations and maintenance vote for the Ministers' offices is \$564,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Is that amount agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M, Executive Committee Secretariat

We will now move to the Executive Committee secretariat on page 2.04. The total O and M vote is \$1,155,000. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During our December meeting, the standing committee on finance inquired with respect to the Edmonton office and what the Executive Committee had planned to do with the Edmonton office, and in fact we had discussed the need to beef up the Ottawa office. Have there been any conclusions reached by the Executive Committee on that measure?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we have not concluded our review of those two offices as yet. I suppose we would have, had we not been preoccupied with this session, but we certainly will have those reviews completed within the next month or two.

MRS. SORENSEN: I wonder if you could explain to the House the reason for having a visibility in Edmonton?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the Edmonton office has been in existence for many, many years as an Education office. It has also fulfilled an expediting kind of role which has been very important to us. From the Education standpoint, it has been the centre for processing and giving guidance to students taking post-secondary education and as such has served an essential, or rather fulfilled an essential need.

Three or four years ago we added one more senior person to that office as a result of a visit to the Northwest Territories by Premier Lougheed, and at that time he indicated that he was going to establish a northern desk within his intergovernmental affairs department. As a measure of support from our side, we agreed to raise the level of our office in Edmonton in order to smooth out any difficulties in trade and to establish a good liaison with our close neighbour. The premier did establish that desk and we have had some communications with it, but I think on balance the total system has not proven to be as valuable as we perhaps would have thought it would have been and that is the reason for the review we are conducting right now.

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

MR. CURLEY: Can I have your permission to ask a question related to the Ministers' offices because I was under the impression we were dealing with the capital of the other section and it is only a question, unrelated to a motion or anything?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Location Of Ministers' Offices

MR. CURLEY: My question with respect to the Ministers' offices is, I wonder when I walk in there why the Ministers did not have their offices in the department because as a person walking into the city which is foreign enough, and then walking into the big sixth floor Commissioner's office trying to find the Minister, an ordinary person gets very little and gets a bit uncomfortable trying to weave through all that Executive atmosphere. Have you any plans to transfer the Ministers' offices to the department so that ordinary people inquiring can have an atmosphere that is common to their own style?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I would not think that the atmosphere in the departmental structure would be very much different. The Minister would need approximately the same size of office and the same staff. The reason that Executive Members were housed on the same floor was because Executive Members need to have a good deal of interplay back and forth. To act as committee Members, there is great value in the regular contact. The day-to-day administration of the department is the responsibility of the Deputy Ministers or directors. In other jurisdictions, particularly Ottawa, the Ministers have two offices, one in the building that houses each of their departments and the other an office centrally located in or around the parliament buildings. We did not feel we could enjoy the luxury of two offices, nor did we see a requirement, and hence the decision to have them put together centrally. It is a subject that we could review. I would certainly think that a visitor to government offices, seeking to meet a Minister might well find that he had business with other Ministers and his work, or his task would be made much easier because of them being gathered together. However, it is a matter that we can review.

Morale Of The Staff

MR. CURLEY: Supplementary. I underlined when I said that, I said it was uncomfortable for the ordinary person and I did feel that way, and I may not be an ordinary person, but I always see myself as an ordinary person.

---Laughter

The atmosphere to me was not healthy as far as I was concerned and I feel inferior in there. What I am trying to get at is the fact that I would think it would be very important for the Ministers to have their offices in the department for morale purposes, to boost the morale of the staff, that they do have a Minister who is accessible to all the staff within headquarters. I realize that it is convenient, it is more convenient to have all the Executive Members there when you want to approach them but I would think this kind of set-up, having the Ministers in one central place, I think it is only required when there is a party system within the Legislature where you have to continually plan strategy for the opposition plans and whatnot. I am not too sure how frequently Executive meetings are held but I for one, if I were a Minister, if I had been an Executive Committee Member, I would not have agreed to being in that office and I would have had no choice but to remain in there and be stuffed in an atmosphere I do not particularly enjoy. I would like you to respond to that, and the further concern I have is what are your feelings about having the Minister setting up, at least, offices in the regions so they would be accountable and have a place where people can see and reach him when he does visit regions.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: The Minister, any Minister when visiting a region, has the right and ability to call on the use of the regional director's office or one of his offices for the duration of his time in the regional headquarters. I would not think you would want us to go to the expense of retaining identifiable offices for the time they would be required.

With regard to the other points, I do not believe I can say anything more. I would feel badly if the hon. Member feels uncomfortable visiting the floor on which the Executive offices are located because I can assure him that the people there are very friendly and their only desire in life is to make him feel welcome.

---Laughter

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

Setting Up Ministers' Offices In The Regions

MR. CURLEY: One supplementary I have, one more, the last one. We just gave direction to the administration for the Executive Committee to study the offices of Ministers at large and whatnot in the eastern regions and how do you feel about them having that kind of set-up in the regions, to have a Minister for the region or Minister for Nunavut if you want to go to the extreme, and have them set up offices and just be travelling from time to time to Yellowknife. How would you respond to them setting up offices in the regions?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: In that case I think it would be a wise move for us to establish an Executive office for a Minister who might be serving from the East, or a Minister without portfolio or with special regional responsibilities. It would make sense for him to have an office that he or she could use part time and, in addition, a call on an office in Yellowknife.

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

MR. CURLEY: One last point. Mr. Commissioner, would you be willing to guide all of the Members of the Assembly through your Executive offices? It might be the best place in town, but so far many of us have not been there. I would just like you to respond to that last point.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: For the way to my office you take the stairway to the right of the elevator.

---Laughter

MR. CURLEY: Give us a map so we can find it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): You do not want the Members to use the elevator, Mr. Commissioner? There being no further comments on Ministers' offices and that item having been approved, that total expenditure of \$564,000, we will move to the Executive Committee secretariat. Are there any questions or comments? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: One comment I have with respect to the Executive Committee secretariat. I think my question would likely be more appropriate when we are studying the regional operations and so I think I will defer that to regional operations. Thank you.

0 And M, Executive Committee Secretariat, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The amount for operations and maintenance is \$1,155,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): It is agreed, is it?

---Agreed

Capital, Executive Committee Secretariat, Agreed

Capital, \$24,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe this capital expenditure is for replacing furniture and so on. I was just given the impression by the Commissioner he thought the Executive offices were very well organized and they are shipshape. I wonder why they would have to go through spending that type of expenditure. Compared to the other executive departmental offices the furniture is probably pretty good. I am not sure all this expense is required to purchase new furniture.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: We have no intention of replacing any existing furniture, but rather to have the ability to provide furnishings for additional Executive Members if they are so designated.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further comments? Capital, \$24,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Land Claims Secretariat

Land claims secretariat. I will have to get a list here. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, could we start off with an indication of how many staff there are presently there and what their particular areas of expertise are?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, first of all it is quite clear that the responsibilities of this unit are likely to change. In answer to the question asked, the number of persons involved is five. The people occupying those positions have had a very considerable number of years of management and administrative training including, in most instances, university training which is appropriate in government administration. Also two of the members have had considerable field experience outside of Yellowknife. We have a wildlife renewable resource expert, a person with a legal and constitutional background, another person with ten years of field experience, managing government programs and one of the positions is secretarial. Of the non-secretarial positions the number of years of service in the North total 39.

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

MR. PATTERSON: That expert on renewable resources, what sort of experience has that person had? Is that a hunter or what are the qualifications of that person?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the incumbent in that position is a graduate wildlife officer.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask, partly in jest I guess, that we should also check the philosophical positions of these people that you have because it just seems to me that it is important to have people, you know, who are open, who have had experience and contact with native people and perhaps the 39 years of service in this government is actually a detriment to a person in that position. Have you checked their philosophical views as to whether they can see beyond this present set-up for instance?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: The kind of people in this unit have had very considerable experience in dealing with all northern peoples and I am fully confident and I am sure my colleagues on the Executive Committee are similarly confident in their very positive attitudes towards native peoples.

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

Future Work Of The Land Claims Secretariat

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, what are these people in the land claims secretariat presently doing and what might they be doing in the next few months until perhaps this fall when we do deal with land claim matters and we do decide there is a certain amount of work to be done?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we have within the Executive Committee structure reduced our number of people available for research and constitutional work. With our new design perhaps we have reduced the number a bit lower than we should have. I believe that the people in this unit will be fully occupied with constitutional matters, with the kind of research that has been asked for today, working in close conjunction with Mr. Moore, and in reviews of the report of Mr. Drury. In addition to that there is a continuing responsibility for us to be knowledgeable in the areas of claims and rights negotiations. Clearly the role we play in that is different than when the unit was set up, but the Executive Committee must be knowledgeable in that field.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, if these people do not have too much to do, seriously I was going to suggest and see whether it is possible to have one of these persons come to Simpson and work for me, work in the Simpson area on a number of projects. People in that area have stated an interest in setting up the Liard Valley authority, like a small regional government. Someone could be occupied for quite a number of months working on that. There are also some steps being taken recently in Simpson by the village council and the band council because there is recognition, because there is acknowledgement that the village council does not represent everybody in town and likewise the band council only represents the Dene people. We were going to see if it was possible to come up with the answer, one body who will satisfy everybody in town, you know, just generally on information to the communities on all that is going on in the matter of constitutional and land claims matters, so do you think it is possible to have one of your land claims people come to Simpson and work there for the spring and the summer until you really need him here in Yellowknife?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the existence of this very small pool of talent and ability means we are probably in a better position to respond to the hon. Member's requests and suggestions than if the unit did not exist. Whether the individual members from that unit would be the appropriate ones to offer that kind of service that has been suggested, may or may not be the case -- they may or may not be the right ones, but from somewhere within the government resources I am sure that work could be done and by the existence of this unit other duties covered also might be a trade-off. I am not too sure.

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

Assignments Of Land Claims Secretariat

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Commissioner since there are various native organizations that have interests with respect to land claims, could the Commissioner explain exactly how these five individuals are assigned responsibility? Would you be able to tell me whether you have one person assigned to ITC, one to the Dene Nation and one for the Metis Association? Are they assigned specific areas of concern as they carry out their work?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, in the past that was the case but given new directions from the Legislature and having had debate on the Executive Committee's paper on aboriginal rights, it is a little more difficult for me to say specifically how these officers are assigned. We have had for instance, one officer assigned as the person who is knowledgeable as to the Nunavut claim and to observe the negotiations in that area. Similarly an officer has interested himself and kept himself up to date on the Inuvialuit claim.

MR. CURLEY: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. The reason I have no real support at this time for the land claims secretariat is the fact that the Assembly the other day just deferred discussion on the ITC proposal and on that basis I am not sure whether that type of secretariat is really required. It could possibly be accommodated through other existing staff within the department. I am just not sure whether the kind of set-up is really absolutely vital when in fact there are other areas that are short of money and so on. Could the Commissioner maybe explain whether in his mind this section is vitally important to the administration?

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

Land Claims Secretariat Section Is Essential

COMMISSIONER PARKER: I believe the section is vital to the Executive Committee support structure even though their duties are in a state of change. Mr. Wah-Shee has been working in the area of establishing better relationships with the native associations and he may wish to say something to you in that regard, particularly with regard to the kind of back-up support that is required. But that is one area and, as I have noted, the Drury area is another one. The whole constitutional question and specifically the constitutional question, as it affects those matters that have been moved on today, demand a very high level of work, and immediate work, to be done.

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

MR. CURLEY: One more point I have. Although I recognize that the administration seems to feel that land claims secretariat is important, why then did the administration not put any reference to the constitutional role in, because as far as I am concerned this secretariat seems to be only interested in the land claims side of the whole exercise with respect to native claims. So I would question whether this group would have to be the appropriate group having an overview on constitutional development. In fact, when the unity committee was considered early last fall there was an indication there was a lack of funds there for even that group because there was no staff to carry out the constitutional fact finding mission in the Northwest Territories.

I am not convinced this group, the land claims secretariat, should be the group to deal with constitutional affairs. Surely they should be doing some work for the Executive Committee on the land claims side of the program but on the constitutional side, I think that should be thoroughly debated by the Assembly and the fact that the Assembly just deferred the discussion paper on the ITC and was not willing to give support to it, I will not vote that this committee will have anything to do with the constitutional side of the issues in the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Wah-Shee, would you care to respond to that?

Direction Of The Assembly Is Necessary

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I would like to comment with regard to the land claims secretariat. I think deferring the sessional paper on aboriginal rights and constitutional development has more or less delayed the mandate that we were hoping to get from this Assembly, and the paper, as I understand it will be reintroduced at the next sitting of this Assembly. In the interim period, the general feeling is that once the sessional paper in the next Assembly is dealt with and a mandate comes about at the next session, then you would require people and resources to implement the mandate that would be forthcoming. That is the reason why I think that we require the resources to be packed into this particular unit. Once the sessional paper is discussed, you will have a group of people who have the resources to implement and carry out the direction of this Assembly.

In the interim period I think that we certainly welcome the direction of this Assembly in areas where they feel this unit can be best served. Our feeling, at least the feeling of myself and my colleagues, is that the people within the land claims secretariat could probably concentrate on constitutional development matters which may include the Drury report which we did not really have any chance to really look into in detail. So, I think that the resources will be required at the next session, and I think that if the resources were taken out at this time, then you know what it will do is, you take the resources out but then it goes back into the general pot. It would be premature in any case to sort of consider such a move at this time since the sessional paper was not really dealt with and it was deferred.

The other reason of course, and I think it has already been debated, the reasons why the motion regarding ITC was deferred, and I think it was fully debated, and the reason of course is because I think that this Legislative Assembly really has no position with regard to aboriginal rights, it really has no position with regard to constitutional development. Until such time it would be inappropriate for this Assembly to consider alternatives and that is the reason why it was deferred. That is essentially the comment I would like to make, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Ms. Cournoyea.

Motion To Review Performance And Staff Of The Land Claims Secretariat

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the other day I tried to pass a motion to save us some money but I was not very successful. I thought that many of the arguments I put forth for the support to save money were legitimate but I was told I was going the wrong way. I would like to place before this committee a suggestion and a motion concerning the land claims secretariat. The motion is that this committee recommend to the Executive Committee: "That the land claims secretariat's performance and staff be thoroughly reviewed, and that if required steps be taken to eliminate unnecessary staff to allow funds to be made available for specifically identified technical support only when there is direction and when

something is going on that requires work to be done in specific areas ..."
I would eliminate a couple of words in the motion I passed around, to drop out "aboriginal rights and". I have taken that out and it now reads "... requires work to be done in specific areas of constitutional/political development in the Northwest Territories."

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

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe that everyone knows my position in terms of spending money needlessly. I suppose the bureaucracy in itself can always justify to the general public and to people like myself why they should stay and continue to be paid. I can take many hours of talking about the concern of the people who are employed in this particular area but I will not do that, because if this motion is passed I will take the responsibility of supplying to this Assembly many specific areas, if they wish to hear about it, when this group of people have slowed down the progress of the claims put forward by the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic. One question was asked about the mental outlook of these people in terms of their job, were they open or were they protecting this Assembly's position and the bureaucracy of the Northwest Territories. I can bring you details which would support that notion.

This particular secretariat brought forth to the national body negotiating land claims the idea that tourists and sports fishing held a priority over subsistent use of fish. It took the organization known as COPE, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, two weeks to bring forth the arguments to support that subsistence fishing comes first priority in terms of the use of this resource. I believe there is no one in this Assembly who would ever have supported the notion that tourists and sports fishing come before subsistence and that is just one example.

Need For People Experienced In Land Claims

I believe that this area of concern is very important to this Legislative Assembly and when we have a department that is giving and taking advice, and analysing positions, they must be the kind of people who have the experience and the openness to deal with the issues that are placed before them. At this time, we do not have a position in this Legislative Assembly and the general support is that the issue is between the native people and the federal government in terms of land claims. There is no policy and there is no direction for these people to follow. This motion I am placing before you is not to vote out the funds of this particular department or decrease the amount, the motion can say that the funds stay there. I do not really care who handles this particular department, but whoever it is must have the best advice and must be able to secure their technical people according to the issues that are before them, and right not I can clearly tell you that the people in this department are not capable of providing advice on the issue of constitutional/political development.

Now, I do not feel myself that any person should hold a position when he is protecting a particular area that he feels must be forwarded. The people in this committee are only resource people to work with whomever is in charge of that department and a great deal of trust is put on those particular people to provide an objective analysis of positions and issues put before them. The demonstration of their ability to do so -- our meeting with the Executive Committee some time ago showed many areas where the position of even the Executive Committee was not put forth. Perhaps we can have a lot of confidence in Mr. Moore and I am sure he can read the Drury report himself and create his own review without spending \$254,000 to do so.

---Applause

I do not want anyone to feel that the people who were involved with the land claims secretariat in the past, according to my motion, are totally no good, they are just not good for this department, that is all. Thank you.

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

Native Organizations Have Lost Confidence

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I concur with the sentiments of Ms. Cournoyea and I would like to say at the outset that it is very difficult when you are talking about personalities to avoid giving offence by suggesting that the personalities are wrong. Somehow, I am going to try and avoid giving offence but suggesting, quite bluntly that there is a serious credibility problem with the present staff of the land claims secretariat. The problem is not a credibility problem with me personally, in that I recognize the service and experience of most of the staff members but I feel impelled on behalf of my constituents, many of whom are members of ITC, to advance the view of that organization which is, and it has been stated publicly, that they do not have confidence in many of the personalities in that secretariat.

Now maybe ITC and COPE have been unfair to those individuals. Maybe in the area of the land claims negotiations they expected too much but the fact is that there is a lack of confidence in those personalities and the reasons that have been given are, first of all that it seemed to the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada that public servants or those public servants had an inevitable tendency to protect their own positions and the status quo of the government. The organizations have said that they do not wish to negotiate and meet with civil servants and these civil servants in particular have lost their confidence. ITC also believes, I think, that such persons may have no real business or expertise in the area of aboriginal rights and I think the area of wildlife may well be as good an example of an area where the views of the native organizations might stray far from any of the views expressed by civil servants who might work in the Department of Renewable Resources.

I guess I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that with all respect to the people in that secretariat and perhaps because they were not held back in the past, there is a lack of confidence. There is a crisis of credibility and I do not want to eliminate jobs. I trust that this government, as it has done in the past, can find other places for such long-time civil servants, but I think that just as the withdrawal of the previous Assembly's position on land claims and constitutional development was an act of good faith on our part and an attempt to destroy some of the bad blood that existed between this Assembly and the native organizations, so this Assembly must listen to the native organizations when they say there is a lack of confidence in personalities. I am being very candid when I say that. That is the concern of the ITC, I think, and I have heard it stated publicly.

Aboriginal Rights Should Be Left To The Native Organizations

I would say also that I agree with Ms. Cournoyea that there are indeed many projects which that secretariat could work on. I myself have jotted down some ideas that I think are appropriate areas for their involvement including, for example, a cost benefit analysis of the Nunavut proposal and any other options that may exist. The constitutional implications of Nunavut. Personally I think that until we discuss the sessional paper that aboriginal rights should be left to the native organizations and I do not think it is their desire to meet with civil servants, either in the context of negotiations or other meetings, to discuss aboriginal rights. They have confidence in elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories but they do not have confidence in civil servants. Whether that lack of confidence is fair or not, it is a reality and I feel safe in saying that that is the present problem that this Assembly must deal with.

So I have tried to be candid with my reasons for supporting this motion but I would like again to stress that it is not that the previous staff have necessarily done anything wrong, but the fact is that whatever they do they do not have the credibility of the native organizations. It means that we have to make a fresh start and this motion would appear to give us an opportunity to do so. For that reason I will support it and either after the motion or some time later I would like this Assembly to give that secretariat, perhaps reduced in resources until the land claims sessional paper is discussed, I would like an opportunity to give that secretariat specific direction but I would again stress that a real problem, I think, is the need for new blood. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Constitutional Development Will Be A Long-term Development

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Talking about new blood, I think I have got a nose bleed. I do have. Mr. Chairman, my concern with the motion is that I am not too sure exactly how we are going to give that proper direction to review and take steps to eliminate unnecessary staff. I think maybe the Member should explain a little more exactly how we could probably eliminate unnecessary staff so that funds are saved. My concern is the fact that I think the political development is taking place in the Northwest Territories in spite of the deferral of these proposals, that the question of the political and constitutional development is happening in the Northwest Territories and the fact that the aboriginal rights are being negotiated between these native groups and the federal government presently. It brings up the whole aboriginal rights issue and political development. I think it is a number one problem that we have. We cannot agree to find an appropriate group to deal with this subject so I am not convinced at all that the land claims secretariat should be the group that should be dealing with the constitutional affairs of the Northwest Territories. Although there are political aspirations of the native organizations, it is a much broader issue than just aboriginal rights. There are many people and this Assembly itself -- which in my view is not only an aboriginal claim of the native people -- which has an interest in the constitutional development and it has a continuing interest to be given more power and whatnot from the federal authorities. But the way we are associating the political and constitutional development through the claims secretariat I think is not very good and as a result I think we are confusing a very important area. I think constitutional development will be a long-term development, but to associate it with the aboriginal rights question only, I think is a problem that we really cannot get out of and unless we continue to take steps to properly address the two issues differently.

There Is No Short-term Solution

My further concern is the fact that the Minister responsible for Local Government was assigned the responsibility, these heavy responsibilities. The Local Government department is a very big department itself. You know, the budget the other day approved for that, signified the fact that it is a very important department and the daily affairs that he must carry out require him to be a full time Minister for that department and now to take on the other responsibility of aboriginal rights and constitutional development, I just cannot see where this Assembly is at all taking the issue seriously. If they did take it seriously, I think the Assembly should consider appointing other Ministers to deal with these two main areas, aboriginal rights and long-term constitutional development. I do not believe we are looking at a short-term solution when we say that the constitutional development is a vital part of land claims. I hope that we are not looking just at the short-term view when the day would arrive that the native associations, native groups are finally going to settle the aboriginal rights with the federal government. So, I think in my mind that that has to be addressed a little more broadly than just a short-term patch-up solution to the difficulty with the claims secretariat. Maybe the Commissioner or whatnot, the Minister responsible for that could possibly enlighten us as to how they view the long-term strategy as opposed to a short-term solution. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, the motion calls for a review of the land claims secretariat staff, the performance of the staff and I think that I can support that motion. I appreciate the need of those who advanced the motion to also advance arguments in order to demonstrate why they felt the motion was necessary and in advancing those arguments there is some measure of condemnation. I would simply want to say that if I supported a review it would be very clearly on the basis that those remarks must not stand as a judgment on the people in that secretariat. The purpose of the review is to evaluate the performance and I would hope that there is not a determination ahead of time as to what the level of that performance was.

The Concept Of Democracy

As a long-term public servant, I think it is important for me to say something about what has occurred here. The whole concept of democracy is that elected people will set policies and elected people must return again and again for a mandate to govern. What it means is that from time to time there are different elected people setting policies. Public servants are in the very difficult position where they have at one time to try and devise and administer policies or give advice on policies and administer them once they are determined for one particular group of legislators. Then a few years later they are caught in the very difficult bind where they are being told to advance policies which are opposite to the ones they had in the previous, or for the previous Assembly.

Now, it is important for people who are evaluating that kind of performance to understand that these are professional public servants who are sincerely dedicated to that concept of democracy, and who sincerely and to the best of their ability try and do what the government of the day asks them to do, much the way I would say that a professional hockey player can play his heart out for Boston tonight and be traded tomorrow to Toronto and play his heart out for Toronto tomorrow night, because he is a professional hockey player and tries to do his very best in that area.

Now, I hope that if there is a review of staff, that is kept in mind. The last Assembly had a particular position on constitutional development and land claims and these public servants in the land claims secretariat were trying to serve that Assembly as they were hired and requested to do. I honestly do not know whether they did that effectively or not but just on a personal note I know at least one of the members in that land claim secretariat and I believe that person to be extremely intelligent and competent and sincerely dedicated to fulfilling and carrying out directions that are given to him by the elected Government of the Northwest Territories.

Fair Treatment Of The Staff

I would only hope then that in this evaluation, because these people were associated with a point of view that was asserted by another government, and since repudiated by us, that they will not find themselves in the very unfortunate position of having been used and then tarnished, at least tarnished in the eyes of certain people and then discarded. Now, that certainly is not fair if that is what is going to occur.

On the other hand, I completely accept the fact that a review can look into whether or not in fact, they did do what they were asked to do or whether they went beyond that, and it is possible that the people in the area really should not be there because of personal characteristics. As I say, I only know one and I am sure that that is not the case with that person and the others that I do not know. However, at any rate, I sincerely hope that consideration is given to the fact that these are people who are trying to do a suitable job. If they have been tarnished in the eyes of native groups in the Northwest Territories, whether justly or unjustly, then I would have to agree that that may be a reason why they should not carry on in this particular secretariat. It would be unfortunate if it were unjust, but at any rate I would have to confess that they should not carry on in the secretariat, but they should still be respected, if this proves to be the case, as decent, honest and hard working public servants and find commensurate jobs in other areas. Thank you.

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

Unnecessary Funds Being Spent

MR. TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no problem with the motion, being a past land claims co-ordinator and being involved in negotiations previously with the federal government and having the territorial sit beside us, not beside us but beside the federal government. Some of you may remember the federal negotiator who was involved with the Inuit negotiations, and how those were handled. Most of the negotiations were done by the federal government official and while he was sometimes okay, most of the time he was not. However, the involvement of the land claims secretariat of the Northwest Territories certainly did not contribute as much as it could during the negotiations. When they were asked questions that was it and as for comments and that, they were limited. However, the federal negotiator has now been replaced, and I note that the last minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, in the process of negotiations with the Yukon Indians had an elected official negotiating on his behalf in the Yukon.

All too often the civil servant negotiators have to report back to their superiors and all too often that takes time and money. It takes time to travel to certain areas and then back again. I support the recommendation that this whole secretariat be reviewed and I also support the motion wholeheartedly in saving funds where funds are unnecessarily being spent. Also, Mr. Chairman, that is my support for the motion but with the unanimous consent of the Members I would like to say a few words because I will be leaving and will not be back for the duration of this session.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Is it agreed? I guess you wish to speak on something other than a motion? Is that it? Is it agreed?

MRS. SORENSEN: Do you mean we would take a vote on this, or set it aside?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Tologanak, I think wants to address a few words to something other than the motion and wishes consent to do so. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Mr. Tologanak's Closing Remarks

MR. TOLOGANAK: Thank you. I will be leaving for the Central Arctic to attend the Central Arctic area conference and I must say this has been a very rewarding experience, especially being a chairman of committee and Mr. Patterson, I wish you luck next week.

---Laughter

I had hoped we could get down the list of the departments, and I am glad I had a chance at least to speak a couple of times on the various departments and especially today. If we do have a spring session I hope to see you all if I am not out on the land and I hope that I will be able to travel with some of the Ministers some time in the Central Arctic. I look forward to the education of that especially. I would also like to thank the interpreters for doing such a tremendous job and having the patience with some people who speak too fast and also the staff upstairs and also at the table. So, in closing I would like to thank the Members for such a rewarding experience in getting to know one another and I hope to see you all again. Thank you very much.

---Applause

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I think Mr. MacQuarrie said what I basically wanted to say but I will summarize it for you and some of you might have gotten lost. I just felt concerned that the people were basically following a mandate or direction taken by the former Assembly and should be given all the opportunity unless there is an extreme case of having to take direction from this Assembly. I just assume that in its normal executive performance the Executive Committee would make sure there was no unnecessary staff in any of the departments, especially in the Executive offices where they would see it every day. So, I can support this motion but only on the assumption that you are not going to clean house for the sake of cleaning house. The motion says it will be reviewed, and the role of the civil servant as being a person who is supposed to perform his duties on the direction of the elected people, that you take careful consideration that that was in fact the case. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Sibbeston, I believe you spoke. Mr. Butters.

Responsibility For The Secretariat

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Speaking to the motion, Mr. Chairman, I can certainly support it, the recommendations to the Executive Committee to review and I think this can be done very efficiently and fairly. I would just like to, though, affirm and confirm and reinforce what the hon. Member for Yellowknife Centre said. These people who make up this group are civil servants. They take direction and they do what they are told by some other individual. For the period of time from June 21 to November 30, I take full responsibility for the actions of all members of that committee.

MRS. SORENSEN: Bravo!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I was the Minister responsible for that and will answer to anyone anywhere with regard to the decisions of the land claims secretariat during that time. I think as the hon. mover of the motion has suggested there are many things which could be discussed and might be discussed, but I think in effect it could be a waste of our time because I feel there is a new departure, a new direction and a new optimism in the Northwest Territories today and for the months ahead. I feel that the paper that Mr. Wah-Shee put forward and developed will be discussed at some length in this chamber at the next session. I believe that land claims matters and constitutional matters will be discussed here and I think this is the forum in which such matters should be discussed. To suggest that land claims are only of interest to native people is shortsighted and incorrect. Land claims, the final resolution of land claims, is going to have the greatest impact the North has ever seen on whites and natives alike, the residents of this Territories will be interested in what occurs as a result of this resolution. So, as I say for the period of time that I mentioned nothing should fall on the shoulders of any of these people but it should be directed to myself. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you.

MRS. SORENSEN: Go on, Mr. McCallum, you too.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. McCallum, are you reaching for the microphone?

Direction From The Last Legislative Assembly

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: You have got it, dad. I am not going to make much of a speech but I would simply indicate as well, that for the time I was responsible on behalf of the Executive and Legislative Assembly of the last House that I had never said mea culpa, mea culpa to anyone in terms of putting forth their particular position. I would expect to accept any kind of responsibility to be questioned by anybody, as I have in the past in terms of what direction that particular group had. I have no hesitancy in indicating that to this House or to anybody else. In the past they did have direction. I had direction and I assumed that direction, or took that direction from the last House and from the last Executive Committee and hopefully I transmitted what was being said then to the secretariat. Members may have their own opinions of what went on in the past and I think that we should learn from the past. Others obviously had different opinions, but I think that now we are attempting to get new direction. We are contemplating that kind of direction so that the secretariat, if it should stay in whatever form, will be given new direction and to go over again what has been so well said by other Members simply prolongs it.

I see nothing wrong at all with accepting the motion in any way, but do not be under the misapprehension that I am a chicken to stand up and say that I did not have anything to do with it. I will tell you in case anybody does not know that I did, but I took direction from the last Assembly. That is what I was placed in the position for. I had my beliefs, as others have theirs. I had indicated from where I sit now and where I will sit in this House for the rest of it, as to the role the government should be taking in this total question, but the status quo, to maintain what was going on was at the direction of the last House. We have indicated differently now. It obviously had some question of credibility with certain people in the Territories, but it did have credibility with others and as far as I am concerned we should call the question. I am for taking a total review of it, if it is done in the spirit that I think has been indicated here. But I make no apologies for what went on in the past. I was in a position of putting forth what was being indicated

by the House as surely as the individual who will be responsible this time will have to put forth the views of this particular House.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

Motion To Review Performance And Staff Of Land Claims Secretariat, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Are you ready for the question? I will read the motion again: That it be recommended to the Executive Committee that the land claims secretariat's performance and staff be thoroughly reviewed and that, if required, steps be taken to eliminate unnecessary staff to allow funds to be made available for specifically identified technical support only when there is direction and when something is going on that requires work to be done in specific areas of constitutional/political development in the Northwest Territories. All in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

O And M, Land Claims Secretariat, Agreed

Any further discussion on operations and maintenance, land claims secretariat? Agreed?

---Agreed

All right. The amount of \$254,000 is agreed. There being no capital, we will move to regional operations.

O And M, Regional Operations

The total amount of operations and maintenance funds in this vote are \$2,186,000. Details of grants and contributions are found on page 2.09. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Commissioner can answer this question. In terms of regional operations my understanding is that Mr. Moore is the co-ordinator for regional operations. I wonder maybe could you tell me exactly who is the officer directly responsible for regional operations and what kind of staff has this regional operations director?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Rod Morrison. He is the director of regional operations. His role is very much that of a co-ordinator. He has the responsibility of working with the regional directors and with the headquarters directors, headquarters Deputy Ministers, in order to co-ordinate the activities in the regions and between regions. In addition to that he serves as a liaison and a source of information to Ministers. He is supported by a secretary and has under his direction the capital planning group. We think it is very important that this capital planning group have a regional connection. The capital planning group I think consists of three people.

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

MR. CURLEY: Supplementary to my question, I believe no doubt that the position is very important to guide the Executive Committee with information with regard to the regional operations. Somewhat related to that I have a concern, Mr. Commissioner, and maybe you can answer this one. As Members of the far eastern area there are many of us who have very little access to the headquarters in Yellowknife. It so often is very difficult to get hold of a Minister and if he is absent we are left without having any other person to deal with us,

or to inform us or even to pass information about a matter that we are concerned with. Could this position be expanded to be able to liaison directly with the Members of this Assembly who are not directly involved with the Executive Committee? Would you see any problems related to that? If so, would you be prepared to accept a recommendation from the House that the Members of the Legislature be provided with a liaison officer similar to this position that Rod Morrison has?

Director Of Regional Operations Available To The Assembly

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I believe Mr. Morrison can serve the function that has been outlined in what I might describe as functional areas or non-political areas. He is available and readily available to Members who wish to contact him either for information or in order to seek some action. He would not necessarily take the action himself, but he would be a very good person to co-ordinate a response. His phone number is 873-7900.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Did you get that number, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, I did. Would there be any kind of difficulty with him in matters that might be confidential to the Executive Committee Members, information or material that could not be released which was pursued by us? Do you see any possibility of conflict with the oath of secrecy some members of the civil service have or, if not, then I would think that kind of an arrangement would be very favourable to us. I believe if that were possible I think the Commissioner should write a letter to us or the Minister responsible for regional operations stating the fact that this person will be available to us for any information required or to act as a liaison with various departments. If that could happen we would be very grateful. Thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I think that could be done. I would want to speak with other Executive Committee Members, but it seems like a reasonable approach and unless I hear views to the contrary I would propose to do that.

O And M, Regional Operations, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other comments on regional operations? The O and M budget is \$2,186,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Yes, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the regional operations I have a concern that was expressed to me a number of times by people in the region, particularly within the regional offices. Maybe the Commissioner can undertake to take a look at the situation. It involves the employment of the staff of the regional offices. It seems to have become a common occurrence in the region whenever a position is available in a civil service job that either one of these policies, the regional officers or the regional director's office or the staff in that office normally immediately again hire the spouse, either of the spouses, that is unemployed and therefore that has become a problem in the communities. Job opportunities are being taken up by the spouses of these people working in the regional offices. It has been reported to me many times now at Rankin Inlet that there should be some guidelines to try and ensure that local people have the priorities in the casual job opportunities rather than hiring your next best friend's wife or something for secretarial or administrative clerk type of jobs. I wonder if you are aware of this problem and if this is a problem maybe you could attempt to do something about it.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I realize that this is a problem from time to time and now that the hon. Member has drawn it again to my attention I will take some action or give some advice.

Capital, Regional Operations, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): We have approved the operations and maintenance budget for this area. The capital expenses are \$1,498,000 and the detail is found on page 2.10. Is this amount agreed? Did you have your hand up, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: I have one question with respect to buildings and office complexes in the Keewatin region. There has been some interest of the local private businessmen, and in fact there are offices being constructed, but my understanding is that there are no tenants for this proposed building that is pretty well completed now. I am wondering why, whether or not the regional directors or their staff will not be able to move into that and save some money in terms of other complexes. You are probably not building a complex, or if you did not I think you could possibly rent space from the new office complex that is being built by a private company in Rankin Inlet.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we have no plans for building government buildings in Rankin Inlet at the present time. I do believe we are entering into rental agreements with local contractors.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The amount for capital is \$1,498,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): That amount is agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Audit Bureau, Agreed

Next we move to the audit bureau, operations and maintenance budget is \$619,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

That covers the department as a whole, there being no capital expenditures. The Housing Corporation has already been covered. So, we go back to 2.01 and approve the total Executive budget. The operations and maintenance is \$25,253,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

The capital expenditures are \$7,469,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

That completes the Executive.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Progress.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I hear calls for progress. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

The committee will rise and I will report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come to order. Mr. Patterson.

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

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the committee of the whole has been considering Bill 1-80(1), and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Announcements, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the proposed trip to Fort Smith this weekend has been cancelled because of the limited number of Members who are available to go. For Members' convenience, if I may, perhaps a rundown on the committee meetings scheduled for next week would be useful.

For Monday, March 10th, a caucus meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Katimavik A. Standing committee on finance, 11:45 a.m., room 303. For Tuesday, March 11th, standing committee on legislation, 9:00 a.m., Katimavik A; Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, 10:30 a.m., Katimavik A, and that is open to all Members of the Assembly and lunch will be provided. Wednesday, March 12th, I have been asked to book a tentative caucus meeting 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A. Thursday, March 13th, rules and procedures committee, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A.

MR. SPEAKER: I will mention that Monday at caucus we may propose other extended hours for the session next week depending on where we are. Orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

ITEM NO. 11: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Orders of the day, March 10, 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 30-80(1)
9. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters: Bill 1-80(1); the estimates of the Departments of Personnel, Financial Secretariat, Finance, Government Services and Information
10. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., March 10, 1980, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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