



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**DEBATES**

**2nd Session**

**9th Assembly**

Official Report

**MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1980**

**Pages 1266 to 1316**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1980

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

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

ITEM NO. 2: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, is it proper for me to ask an oral question if the Minister concerned is not here?

MR. SPEAKER: It has been done before and another Minister will convey the message, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: I would like to ask the Minister of Health when the information requested on the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital...

MR. SPEAKER: Would you just pause a moment? The Minister of Health is entering at the present time. All right.

Question 97-80(1): Availability Of Various Studies, Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MR. PATTERSON: My question is for the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know when the information requested on the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital including the Clarkson report and other documents will be available to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 97-80(1): Availability Of Various Studies, Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I gave the Member, I think on Friday, some material that dealt with the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Proposal. I expect that it was given out to other Members. If it has not as yet been done, I will make sure it is today. I will give the Member a copy of that. There are three other documents: Department of Health Comments on the Clarkson Report; An Assessment of Hospital Services in Yellowknife Including Observations on Health Services in the Northwest Territories, done by Dr. Clarkson; and the Mackenzie River Area Health Services Study, as it relates to the health services as well. So I will be tabling those documents. I would have tabled those under tabling of documents together, as I indicated with a copy of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Proposal that I gave to the Member on Friday.

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

Question 98-80(1): Hostel Students Returning Home For Easter Holidays

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Education. In view of the fact that the students attending high school here from the Keewatin have presented a petition requesting that they be sent home during the Easter holidays, I wonder if the Minister has any response to that. Further I understand that the hostel staff has been signing up students here to see if they would prefer to go to Edmonton for a short trip and I wonder whether in fact this has been done due to the fact that the expenses are quite large as compared to being sent home. I would like to have answers to these questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 98-80(1): Hostel Students Returning Home For Easter Holidays;  
Question 93-80(1): Keewatin Students; And Question 63-80(1): Easter Vacation,  
Sir John Franklin High School

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I said that I would respond today to the Member's oral question of last week on this matter. I have investigated in some detail the concern raised by the hon. Member for Keewatin South regarding the petition of the Keewatin students to return home during the spring break. At the present time no such policy exists which would permit students to return home at government expense during the Easter break. As no such policy exists, the funds have not been budgeted, designated or approved for such an expenditure. Obviously if permission were granted to Keewatin students taking their studies at Sir John Franklin, students accommodated in other territorial hostels would understandably request and expect a similar service. During this investigation I was informed that the staff, recognizing that time hangs heavily on the hands of students during a break like this, have been making plans or have made plans to take the girls to Edmonton for the week. I believe that alternate arrangements are in the works to offer the boys left in the hostel to go to Camp Antler. I do not know where Camp Antler is but this is what I am informed the staff was planning to do.

MR. SPEAKER: Just one clarification. Camp Antler is along the Cameron River about 25 miles out of Yellowknife. Mr. Curley.

Question 99-80(1): Subsidy To Air Fare, Keewatin Students

MR. CURLEY: A supplementary question. The fact being that the cost of air fare is quite significantly higher than the rest of the students attending high school here, would the Minister undertake to consider giving some assistance to the families who would want their kids to go home. I had a phone call from a student this morning stating that today was the deadline for signing up to go to Edmonton. I called her during the lunch hour so that she can make up her mind. Apparently my belief is that the deadline was set up so that most students would sign up to go to Edmonton rather than going home. So, would the Minister indicate whether he is prepared to provide a subsidy to the cost comparable to the Mackenzie area for the students from the Keewatin region?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 99-80(1): Subsidy To Air Fare, Keewatin Students

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, certainly that recommendation would receive consideration as would any other recommendations made by Members of this House and soon.

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

Item 3, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Written questions. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: I will save it for tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. Returns from Ministers. The Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Return To Question 83-80(1): Water Delivery Trucks

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: In response, Mr. Speaker, to Question 83-80(1), Water Delivery Trucks. Lake Harbour received a new water truck last year. Cape Dorset will receive a new water truck this sealift. Discussions will continue with the hamlet of Lake Harbour regarding which lake should be used for the water source. The present source is Lake Fundo. The hamlet council has suggested that Lake Lejo is a better source of water. According to the information available to the Department of Local Government, the quality of the water in both lakes is similar.

The reason why the Department of Local Government favours Lake Fundo are: (1) The cost of using Lake Fundo is about \$290,000 less than using Lake Lejo; (2) Since the road to Lake Fundo is also the road to the airport, the use of Lake Fundo does not greatly increase the hamlet's road maintenance responsibilities, while the use of Lake Lejo would add two kilometres of new road to their responsibility; (3) The additional road results, of course, in increased O and M funding requirements by the hamlet.

I have another return, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee, please.

Return To Question 85-80(1): Power Rates For Hamlets

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: In response to Question 85-80(1), Power Rates for Hamlets. In the Northwest Territories all levels of government, federal, territorial and municipal, pay a higher rate for power than do private consumers. This fact is taken into account in calculating the Government of the Northwest Territories contribution to the hamlets. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other returns from Ministers?

Item 4, petitions.

Item 5, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 5: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to then table the following documents:

Tabled Document 25-80(1): Department of Health Comments on the Clarkson Report.

Tabled Document 26-80(1): Mackenzie River Area Health Services Study.

Tabled Document 27-80(1): An Assessment of Hospital Services in Yellowknife Including Observations on Health Services in the Northwest Territories.

Tabled Document 28-80(1): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Proposal.

I should say, Mr. Speaker, that there are of course changes that have been made because of the passage of time since the Clarkson report that would have to be brought up to date and as well, some of the material on the Stanton Yellowknife.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file for Members' information a number of documents and they are related to a motion that my friend, Mr. Patterson, will be making I believe later today. They are a list of students who are attending technical schools in the South and higher education institutions in the South, as well as the following:

Tabled Document 29-80(1): Student's Information on the Student Grants and Bursaries Ordinance.

Tabled Document 30-80(1): 135-79, Student Grants and Bursaries Ordinance.

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

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

ITEM NO. 6: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The following is the standing committee on finance's second report to the second session of the Ninth Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

The standing committee on finance met on February 28, 1980, to review the following material:

- (1) The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1979-80. The committee recommends that the capital section of the Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance for the 1979-80 fiscal year be approved.
- (2) Territorial accounts for the year ended March 31, 1979. The finance committee has satisfied itself that the accounts are ready for a review by the Legislative Assembly.
- (3) The report of the Auditor General of Canada on the Government of the Northwest Territories accounts and financial statements for the year ended March 31, 1979. In view of the fact that the Auditor General of Canada reports to the Legislative Assembly and serves the audit requirements of the House, the standing committee on finance intends to cultivate closer contact with the Auditor General and his Edmonton representative. We have already taken the first step in this regard. It is our opinion that the Auditor General or his representatives should, in future, meet with the finance committee from time to time and that he or his representative should be in attendance in this House during consideration of his annual report. The standing committee on finance took note of the fact that some of the questions raised by the Auditor General were responded to by the administration in its return to Question 16-80(1). The standing committee on finance recommends to the Assembly that the report of the Auditor General for the year ended March 31, 1979, be accepted.

(4) It is our understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the Auditor General's management report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1979 had, quite some time ago, been submitted to the administration in draft form for comment as is the usual practice. This draft, together with the administration's response was returned to the Auditor General, but to date the final report has not yet been received. Although the standing committee on finance accepts the fact that the Auditor General's observations in respect of the fiscal year ended March 31, 1979, may very well be irrelevant to this late stage, it wishes to place on record its concern with the fact that the final report has not been placed in the hands of the committee and the Legislative Assembly.

(5) Motion 5-80(1), Excessive Expenditure Over Revenue in the Northwest Territories, 1978-79. The administration requested of the mover of this motion, Mr. Dennis Patterson, that the matter be referred to the standing committee on finance. Mr. Patterson agreed and the concerns mentioned in Motion 5-80(1), were discussed. The standing committee has been given a satisfactory explanation on the questions raised in the motion and has requested in turn that the administration provide the House with a detailed written response to the motion, a copy of which is attached to this report.

In addition, we wish to report that at this meeting held on February 28, 1980, the committee elected Ms. Cournoyea as deputy chairman.

---Applause

Motion To Adopt Standing Committee On Finance Report, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the second report of the standing committee on finance for the second session of the Ninth Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories be adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: A seconder to that motion? Mr. McLaughlin. Any discussion? Those in favour, please indicate. Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Other reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion 31-80(1): Changes To Students Grants And Bursaries

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Wednesday, March 12, 1980, I will move that this Assembly urge the administration to make necessary changes so that student grants and bursaries for vocational and higher education in the Northwest Territories will henceforth be given on the basis of financial need, having regard to the abilities of students and students' parents to cover their costs themselves. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Other notices of motion. Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion 32-80(1): NCPC Headquarters Location

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 12, Wednesday, I will move the following motion: That the Commissioner advise the Minister of Northern Affairs and the chairman of NCPC that the headquarters of NCPC be moved to the Northwest Territories as soon as possible to a location in the Northwest Territories other than Yellowknife.

---Applause



MR. SPEAKER: I thought I had heard that one before. Other notices of motion.  
Item 8, motions.

ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

Motion 30-80(1), Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to first of all ask for unanimous consent to read out the preamble because it was inadvertently left behind when I gave notice last Friday.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. Curley.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS it is the aim of this Assembly to encourage economic development in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS impetus to economic development could be given by providing opportunities to northerners to successfully tender on public works and housing projects in the Territories;

AND WHEREAS the present system of tendering and stringent bonding requirements on tenders make it impossible for many northern contractors to successfully tender for such projects;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the hon. Member for Frobisher Bay, 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: Thank you. It has been duly moved and seconded. To the motion, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would now briefly like to point out the fact that the administration did table that very short outline of the tendering policies so-called, and I have had the opportunity to look at it and it is merely one blank sheet with some guidelines in it but really it has no teeth. When you consider the opportunities for northern people to be involved in that and the fact that the small business operator really should be given protection through the House, through this Legislature because of the economic factors in the North, which surely at this time and previously have not protected them, they have a continuing handicap to bid successfully, as well as being successfully able to provide the bonding requirements of

government projects which have not allowed them to take part seriously in the North. So I would, through this motion, ask the administration to come up with a tendering policy which would really have encouragement for northern business contractors and companies incorporated in the North and principal shareholders in the Northwest Territories because it has become the practice of large construction companies in southern Canada to easily register in the Northwest Territories and therefore, with the present policy of tendering, they have taken advantage of the contracts tendered by the Public Works department and Housing Corporation.

So my motion asks the administration really to tighten up the tendering policy so that small business operators in the North will have an equal pay, preference in being awarded contracts. My motion certainly does not stipulate the southern contractors to be left out. No doubt there will be tenders the northern operators are not able to fulfil so it would be possible for them to continue to take part but I think the time has come that we are serious about providing economic opportunities for the business communities in the North, that our policies should reflect that. That motion stands and I would urge that the Members do support and give small business operators and shareholders of the contractors business in the North to have priority in being awarded the contract. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Any comment on the motion? Hon. Mr. Braden.

Northern Purchasing Policy

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in support of the hon. Member's motion and I would like to indicate to him at this time that the Department of Economic Development has just recently started working on a northern purchasing policy which would be applied, as I understand it, to the whole territorial government with respect to the goods and services we purchase. Just to give you a couple of statistics, presently the territorial Department of Public Works contracts over \$30 million worth of services annually while the government's other major purchasing agent, supply and services, which I understand it now is called Government Services, spent over \$31 million for supplies in 1977-78. I believe that we all have to recognize that the territorial government's ability to stimulate the small northern business community, and also the whole Northwest Territories economy, is quite substantial. I would just like to conclude by saying I hope to have a draft of this policy before myself and the Executive Committee, in April and I would be pleased to discuss it with the hon. Member and others at that time before making any formal decision on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mr. Braden. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this motion. This particular problem has been of great concern to the people of my area, the bonding problem. The Construction Association supports such a motion inasmuch as it had a great deal of difficulty in past years getting proper bonding for government work. So, therefore, I will support this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to second this motion because it, too, is a significant concern in my constituency. Just a word about the bonding requirements and how that has been an obstacle for northern contractors in the past. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the bonding requirements may in many instances permit a larger southern firm to meet the requirements of a particular contract but the difficulty remains to enforce the performance of that contract once the work is done. The companies, at least in the Eastern Arctic, tend to come and do the work in the summer and establish themselves in the Territories for a relatively short period of time. Then once the work is done, if there are any problems, bond or no bond, it becomes very difficult to persuade the contractor to remedy any work that was done improperly. There are legal obstacles to seeking specific performance once the contractor has left the Territories. So, in addition to that point, Mr. Speaker, it seems that encouraging northern contractors is an advantage in that there is an accountability for the work present for a contractor who continues to reside in the region or in the community once the work is completed. This has been a serious problem with many projects that I have seen in Frobisher Bay.

Encouraging Southern Contractors To Move North

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that if this does give an advantage to northern contractors it may well have the effect of encouraging more southern contractors to actually move north and incorporate in the North and involve northern businessmen and northern people in their operations. So it is not possible for contractors who want to do a lot of work in the North to take advantage of this preference. All they have to do is establish themselves in the North and show that they are anxious to take advantage of this preference. So I hope that this motion may have that effect, in addition to aiding northern businesses presently established, it may also have the effect of encouraging operations which are presently based outside the Territories to establish themselves in the North.

Part of the problem with the northern contractors, Mr. Speaker, seems to me that the present northern preference policy of the Department of Public Works, for whatever reasons I am not sure, is not succeeding in giving northern contractors their share of the large volume of work in the Northwest Territories. I have heard many complaints from northern contractors, some of whom have even managed to be the lowest bidder, that they are denied contracts either because they cannot meet the bonding requirements or in some cases they have been told they do not have the experience.

Well, there is only one way to get experience, Mr. Speaker, and I suggest that the present policy is neglecting the resources of the businessmen who are presently operating in the Northwest Territories, and the policy should be beefed up to truly give a northern preference. I think the motion exists because the present northern preference policy for whatever reason has not worked, and I hope that the administration will accept, if this motion passes, that preference is given to northern businessmen, it must be stronger and clearer. So, I urge all Members to support this motion and I am pleased to hear that the concern exists in other parts of the Northwest Territories as well as the Eastern Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I would like to state my support for the motion. I am informed that the Department of Public Works will work with the Department of Economic Development to develop the necessary policies for consideration of the same.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Butters, if you have a comment?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Really I guess it is a point of order. I wonder, sir, relative to a Member's right to direct a question to a Member, would it be possible for me to direct a question to the Minister for Economic Development? He may be able to answer the question I have relative to this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: If relevant to the motion I will accept a question of clarification, even though in this case it is not from the mover but the hon. Minister did indicate there was some activity in this area already, so I will accept the question.

#### Bid And Performance Bonding

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I felt he may be able to answer the question as he had some paper in front of him. Is it not correct there is a current preference in the issuing of territorial government contracts in a matter of five per cent? I wonder too, with regard to the bid bonding, whether or not there is a relief from such a requirement for contracts under a certain amount?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden, are you able to answer those questions?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately my piece of paper does not have the required information for the first question asked by the hon. Member. I am aware that there is a differential that is used. However, I am not familiar with the specifics of it, nor the range.

On the hon. Member's second question, he and other Members may recall that when I was discussing the Small Business Loan and Guarantees Fund, I said we are looking at and expect to be making some changes in the provisions in the ordinance to allow the Small Business Loan and Guarantees Fund to be used as a loan guarantee on bid and performance bonding.

MR. SPEAKER: With that information, Mr. Butters, did you wish to speak to the motion?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes. I do believe there is a differential that was accepted by the territorial government as a result of the task force on northern business preference which was chaired by Mr. Len Cardinal. I would like to support the motion, I think it is a good motion. I just wish to indicate that certain progress is already being made in the direction of the objective the Member has identified. I feel there is another area which we should be looking at as well, and I believe the motion as it is worded gives us the opportunity to do this. That is the situation where, and I have put this to the Department of Public Works in the past, where the Government of the Northwest Territories might become its own general contractor, and in so doing, would be able to develop under this umbrella, a number of subcontractors who are northern based and northern staffed. I would hope and expect that when the motion passes and we look at this that we also look at that possibility.

#### Preference Rate For Northern Contractors

I have just received confirmation that there is a differential and it is ten per cent under \$500,000 and five per cent over \$500,000.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Our Legal Advisor has some information which Members may wish to know before they vote.

LEGAL ADVISOR (Mr. Lal): Mr. Speaker, I might be able to assist the Hon. Mr. Butters. The return to Question 45-80(1), sets out the northern preference policy regarding contracts and tenders and sets out the preference differentials as suggested by Mr. Butters.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lal. Is there other comment on the motion? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker. I too, am pleased to support the motion. I think northern preference is an essential step if we are to develop a viable industry, construction industry, professional industry in the Northwest Territories. Northern preference was part of my platform during the recent campaign and had Mr. Curley not brought this motion forward, I had a similar one I was going to bring forward this week. I too, have had complaints from northern contractors about their being overlooked and felt for some time that there needed to be some strong direction from this Assembly with regard to a strong northern preference policy and one which would be enforced by this Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 30-80(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. Are you ready? It has been duly moved and seconded 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. Those who are in favour of that motion please indicate by raising your hands. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Other motions.

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

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

Is it agreed we resolve into committee of the whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

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

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

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THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The committee of the whole will come to order. I believe we are on the Department of Personnel. Mr. McCallum, are you responsible for this? Have you any introductory remarks, Mr. McCallum? This is on page 5.01.

Department Of Personnel

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would simply want to make an opening statement on behalf of the department, since my responsibility is limited to simply introducing this department and it would be the responsibility of the Executive Member to come into this committee with the department's estimates, and then I would ask the committee's indulgence to have the Executive Committee Member responsible for the department as well as the director appear as witnesses whereby questions could be directed to them from this committee.

Mr. Chairman, in the department, and of course it is a service department, but its main function is to co-ordinate personnel management in the territorial public service. It provides for personnel policy. The estimates of the department provide funding for three main divisions, although within the estimates they are not set out as that, and there are in fact ten activities within the department, but the Department of Personnel's divisions are those pertaining to personnel services that involved recruitment and staffing, housing and removals, the employee benefits and employee relations. A second main division, if you like, of the department would be reclassification and compensation division made up of classification, standards development and pay research function.

A third division hopefully would come into being on the first of the fiscal year and it would involve the strengthening of the office of native employment, by combining it with the in-service training, which section was recently transferred from the Department of Economic Development and the existing staff training and development section of the Department of Personnel. There had been a number of in-service training man years, of course, transferred to this department.

As was indicated in the introduction of the estimates the Department of Personnel is charged the mandate to seek and employ as many northerners in the public services as is possible. The office of native employment was formed in 1977 in an attempt to focus on these activities, and hopefully the department would be able to develop and take the recommendations to develop a clear policy on this from the Assembly. The department is now involved with trying to bring forth terms of reference and a clear policy in the employment of native northerners as a result of what will transpire here within the committee and within the Assembly itself and, of course, will then present it to the Executive Committee.

The department's administrative section is funded within the estimates of this department, as are the benefits, such as medical transportation, leave travel assistance, removal and rental plan and of course as well, the annual assessment paid to the Workers' Compensation Board to insure the Northwest Territories employees against injury while on duty. Mr. Chairman, I would simply indicate again that the Executive Member responsible for this department is the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Pilot, and the director is Mr. Blewett. I would ask the committee's indulgence to have both these gentlemen appear before the committee as witnesses. They would respond to questions of the committee.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Is it agreed that Messrs. Pilot and Blewett be witnesses for this department?

---Agreed

All right. Mr. Pilot and Mr. Blewett, please come forward. We are now ready then for general questions and comments. The floor is open. Mrs. Sorensen.

Public Service Commission

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 58 of the Drury report, Mr. Drury states: "The Council, in this context, might consider amendments to the Public Service Ordinance that would transfer the authority from the Commissioner to either an elected Member of the Executive Committee or to an independent public service commission." It is my understanding that every province and the Yukon Territory has an independent public service commission. I wonder if you could explain to the Assembly what the public service commission is and what it does.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Gentlemen.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: We are presently looking at the positive aspects of the public service commission. Over the past year a study has been done and I would like to if I may, ask Mr. Blewett to speak to that particular question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Pilot. Mr. Blewett, go ahead.

MR. BLEWETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I think the first half of the Member's question was relating to what are public service commissions. That is rather difficult to answer because each province and the Yukon Territory have used slightly different models. In effect though, a public service commission is an independent body which manages the civil service and is answerable, normally, directly through a minister to the legislature. In our studies we have come to the conclusion that we could perform most of the activities performed by public service commissions in other ways but we really have not finished a definitive study at the moment.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: If we were to set up a public service commission it would seem to me that we would then do away with some very definite problems that I see we have in this government. One is the definite pressure from within the Northwest Territories government departments and particularly I have seen this in the past, where individuals are appointed to positions without what I would call proper notification within the civil service and without individuals in the rest of the Territories having proper notification that the jobs are available. It would seem to me that this kind of thing would be thwarted if we were to have a public service commission.

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

MR. BLEWETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is true that the regulations which control the public service commission are usually quite strict and do not allow for appointments outside of the competition procedure. It should be remembered though, that there is normally a group of positions set aside from those regulations as there are in the federal public service, Governor in Council appointments which are not covered by the normal competition procedures. I would assume that in our own organization that would be positions such as Deputy Ministers, directors, Executive support staff.

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

Hiring Of Spouses Of Executive Or Regional Officers

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I raised the point the other day to the Commissioner about my concern with the spouses of the Executive or regional officers at headquarters working for the same officers or whatnot. I am wondering whether there is any policy with respect to hiring of spouses of directors or of the chiefs of certain departments in regional offices. If not, is the Department of Personnel prepared to look into the possible conflict with that and the fact that they do take away an opportunity for local people to get into these positions?

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, that is an area which we are all concerned with, of course. All positions within the regions are put out to competition and it has been our practice that the local people be given preference in the hiring, in our hiring practices. I have a paper which was given to me just a few days ago which indicated the regional percentages of local employees and local native employees in all of our regions. It is a very interesting document. I do not know whether I should go through it at this time but perhaps have it photocopied and circulated to the Members, but it does indicate that we are making great strides in encouraging local people to work for the territorial government. We are now, I believe, in one region in particular, up to 37 per cent of our employees in that particular region are native employees. The largest employer would be our Department of Public Works and indeed, it is in the regions that we find the employees; we are concentrating on having more native employees within the public service. But just in response directly to the hon. Member's question we will certainly take that good advice and have our Department of Personnel look at it.

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

Native People In The Civil Service

MS. COURNOYEA: I think in part you have skimmed over some of the answer to the question I was going to ask you, but perhaps in your reply you probably took into consideration contract work and short-term employment. I would like to ask, in your opinion how would you rate the success of involving native people within the civil service? This is at the regional and head office level in regard to full time employment and this does not mean short-term employment. I mean full time employment.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, as a personal observation I would say that we have not been a tremendous success. We attempt and encourage the employment of, long-term employment of native people. We have developed the office of native employment within the Department of Personnel. Their terms of reference and their mandate are now being developed and will go before the Executive Committee for full consideration very shortly. I believe that the strength of that office is going to be in working with the other two functions that are within that particular division, and that is the staffing division and -- what is the other one? Pardon me, staff development. I think that utilizing those two particular sections that are in the Department of Personnel will strengthen the department or the section of native employment. I believe that we have, this new department is an encouraging or exciting new department in the Department of Personnel and giving very concerted effort to have natives employed on a longer term base.



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

MS. COURNOYEA: Then what you are saying is that you have identified a problem area in terms of employing native people in full time jobs at the regional and head offices? You have set up an office so you must have set up an office with certain things in mind because you have identified certain problems or one or two main problems. Could you explain the rationale to me as to how this office is going to help and what the reasons were behind it that would make you think that an office would help involving people in full time employment?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like the director of Personnel to respond directly to that if I may.

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

Native People At The Management And Executive Levels

MR. BLEWETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is true that we do feel that there is a problem related to native and northern employment. To put it in the simplest terms, we have I think an adequate and encouraging number of natives and northern people at the lower levels of the organization. We are having great difficulty, however, getting what we consider adequate numbers at the management and executive levels of the government. The solution to that we feel is through in-service training, trainee positions, upgrading and what is commonly known as affirmative action, the setting of goals for each department in relation to the number of native people who should be and must be applied to each department. These are the focus of our staff development division.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I realize I did recognize that you would be looking into the problem of hiring regional staff and presumably trying to better reflect the community residents' preference in terms of job openings, I am still concerned about the fact that the common practice in the regional offices is that the regional director is normally used as a reference by certain individuals' spouses applying for the job, so it becomes a very easy thing to use him as a reference for a particular position. So often I do not think the jobs in the communities are well advertised for competition. I think Mr. Bob Pilot, as a former regional director, would know very well that a friend of his has a lot easier chance of being selected for either a clerk's job or a file clerk or a secretary in the regional office, particularly when that spouse who has a permanent position, is a common social friend or whatnot. I think these have been very much a factor in getting those people into those positions because I know in Rankin Inlet when a new person comes in, within a couple of weeks or so you see his wife or spouse working in the same general facilities in the same building. So I wonder, you know, it would seem to me when a new person comes in that the circumstances would be a little more tough, to give a reference to the regional director or his friend.

I am wondering in light of what you said, of the fact you were looking at it, perhaps you could explain to the committee exactly how you would want to go about tightening up the job opportunities in the civil service positions in the regional offices given to the long-term local residents.

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

Large Turnover Of Staff At The Clerical Level

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not a very easy question to answer. I believe, and I may be wrong in this, that the jobs that are being referred to here are the jobs at the lower level. We find in advertising in the community that there is no difficulty in getting the local people employed, or offering them the positions at the clerk, or I guess you could call it at the clerical level. I suppose what happens in some of the regional offices is that there is a high turnover, and I do not have the percentage in front of me, but there is a high turnover at that clerical level. What would tend to happen is that when someone new comes into the community, whether they are from the other communities within the region or from the South, an offer is made to them for employment. I can only surmise on this. I always believe and have believed that we have followed the fair practice of employment in the government public service, and if a position is open that we do go to advertisement and hopefully the local people will be encouraged or will apply. However, I have found in my experience in the region and in the communities that there are only a few people who want to work at the clerical level and some of the jobs can be very dull and very discouraging for people to work at. Therefore, there is a large turnover of those particular positions, and in those particular positions.

I would suggest that we will ask our Department of Personnel to correspond with the regions and to initiate a practice whereby the positions are well advertised throughout the region and the particular area in which the position is available, and that the new office of native employment also be advised when there are positions open, so they can work with the region in encouraging local people to take the positions rather than having spouses or wives of employees taking the jobs. I think there is something that can be done and I think it can be done through the office of native employment and through the Department of Personnel working with the regional offices encouraging them to advertise more widely for the particular positions that are open.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I did not seem to hear Mr. Pilot use one of the centres like the Manpower centre as one of the areas where they could possibly help to locate those people interested in those government jobs. Do you see any difficulty in sending a list of job opportunities through the local Manpower?

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, there would be no difficulty with that at all. We do do it in some areas and we will certainly encourage it at the regional level.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering, is the Department of Personnel responsible for allotting training positions within all the departments of government?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I guess we are getting into a specific department but go ahead and answer that now please, gentlemen.

MR. BLEWETT: Mr. Chairman, we are now, as Mr. McCallum mentioned in his introduction, we have recently taken over the in-service training program from the Department of Economic Development and as of that time we became responsible for allocating trainee positions throughout the government.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Perhaps any more detailed questions could be saved, Mr. Sibbeston. Are there any more general questions? Mr. Stewart.

Mandate For Employment

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In part of the aims and objectives of this department it says the department is actively engaged in complying with the mandate of employing as many native northerners in the public service as reasonably possible. Could you tell me whether or not this includes, that is, others that were born in the Northwest Territories or is it strictly on a matter of racial background?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, I am just going to look through my book here to see if we do have the terms of reference or a copy of the terms of reference which we have developed for this office. Mr. Chairman, the terms of reference or the mandate we are developing for the office of native employment is primarily designed, as the name suggests or the title suggests, for the native peoples of the Northwest Territories, that being the Inuit, the Dene and the Metis people. Of course, we are concerned as the hon. Member mentioned with the others and we feel that the others have an equal or even greater opportunity to enter into the public service. One of the mandates given to the Department of Personnel was the development of an office for the encouragement of more native participation in the Government of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. STEWART: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. The problem we face in certain areas such as Hay River and in close proximity to provinces, we have a great many of our population which come from either Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba and would qualify along racial planes as being native northerners after a few years residence. Is this the intent of this to include these people? I am trying to find out where we start and where we stop and where there is an equalization between the people who are actually born in the Territories. There are more and more of them all the time, it was not very complicated a few years ago, but now in the 1979-80 period there will be quite a few of them. I am trying to relate and see where they fit in the picture and that is my problem. We have a great many people who are getting the same treatment relative to being called native northerners who may, indeed, only have lived in the Territories for five years and were born elsewhere.

Policy To Encourage More Participation By Native Northerners In The Public Service

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concern expressed is one which we have taken into consideration in the development of this particular policy. The policy has been developed, or this particular policy we are referring to, which will go before the Executive Committee for consideration, is a policy that was derived, or the mandate was set out from the task force on government administration. What we are trying or attempting to do in this policy is to encourage more participation by native northerners in the public service of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The others of the Northwest Territories, the southern Canadians, the Euro-Canadians have a full opportunity to enter into the territorial public service through the competition system. What we are trying to do is encourage more of the local people to participate and in the requirement of encouraging the local native people to participate in government, we felt an office should be developed. It is only a very small office at the present time, of two people, which travel to the various regions and areas and communities and will meet with the people of the various communities and explain to them what is available within the government, what positions are open, and seeking their participation and encouraging them to apply for positions within the government. I believe that

people, the other people within the Northwest Territories can read the competitions that are available and enter into the public service without having any particular division established to seek their employment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Any other general comment? Mr. Stewart.

People Born In The N.W.T.

MR. STEWART: One supplementary and my last one, Mr. Chairman. If an offspring of another is born in the Northwest Territories and not by right of birth a native northerner, pray tell where is he a native of what? I think it is a birthright; if you are born somewhere, you are a native of that area and the terminology should either be changed to indicate exactly what you want to do or else include those who are born within the Territories.

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

MR. STEWART: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman. Certainly I think they deserve more recognition by the territorial government than people who are imported from outside the Northwest Territories who come in and they qualify under this particular term after they have been here two years, and yet a child born in the Territories may not qualify. It seems to me that something must be wrong when we have a situation of that nature.

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, I believe the answer to that would be that we are attempting to equalize the number of native employees within the public service. As I say this policy is still under development and will be tabled with the Executive Committee for consideration, and at that time if there are any changes I am sure they will be made to the policy before it is formalized for full development.

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

Recruiting People Through Manpower

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I too, am very concerned about the fact that many jobs go staffed or are staffed through the Personnel department, without people in the community and local people and people who may be registered at the local Manpower centre, ever knowing about it. Notwithstanding the fact that jobs may be advertised there is a real problem in the appearance of wives, girlfriends, being recruited into the public service without competitions being wider and attracting local people who might be eligible, if they were invited to compete.

In other words, I guess what I am saying is that it seems that a lot of recruiting for positions in the public service seems to be done through internal mechanisms and internal connections. I am not suggesting that people are necessarily excluded who would be eligible, but I am just suggesting you are not tapping the pool of local employees who are available. I am wondering, rather than simply advertising jobs through Manpower, I am wondering whether the Deputy Minister might consider the possibility of actually recruiting people through Manpower. In other words, having some kind of a policy whereby the recruits must be channelled through or registered through Manpower before they can be hired. In that way you would guarantee that local people who are unemployed and probably who are collecting unemployment insurance would be considered as a matter of course and apply for positions in the public service. Can I have some reaction to that idea?

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: If I may I would like the director of Personnel to respond.

MR. BLEWETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We certainly are prepared to consider the hon. Member's suggestion. In fact we have already given it active consideration and as a trial we filled all our summer jobs last year using the Canada Manpower centre in Yellowknife and we plan to do the same this year. There are some technical problems related to the Public Service Ordinance to filling...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Mr. Blewett, we have had a warning that you should slow down for the interpreters.

MR. BLEWETT: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Technically only the Commissioner can fill positions in the public service so we could not have Manpower appoint people to our positions. However, screening of applications and identification of candidates is certainly something which they can do for us and have been doing for us in headquarters. I will chat with our regional officers to be sure that they are following a similar practice.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Any further comments? Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the department officials could file that policy paper that you mentioned regarding, I believe, native employment, that you talked of submitting to the Executive Committee? Would you be prepared to file it with us now so we in turn can have access to it and give direction to the Executive Committee?

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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, there is no difficulty with that. As I say it is just a draft paper but we would be pleased to have it made available to the Members.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Curley): Any further general comments? I understand the time is almost ready for coffee break, so we are going to take that opportunity but I would just like to enlighten the hon. Member from Hay River that if he is concerned with the term "native", maybe he ought to move a motion that we do away with that term and use the terms "Inuit", "Dene" or whatnot and maybe that way we could know a little bit more about who we are talking about when we are talking about natives of these Territories. We will take a 15 minute break for coffee.

MR. STEWART: Agreed.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The committee will now come to order please. We now have a quorum. Perhaps I should remind the Members who are here that the break is 15 minutes and it is only 15 minutes. Do we have any general questions on the department before we move into the divisions? Any further questions or comments? If not, is it the wish of the committee to enter the divisions beginning with the directorate?

---Agreed

O And M, Directorate, Agreed

All right. That is on page 5.02 the operations and maintenance budget is \$1,005,000. It is agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Systems And Administration, Agreed

All right. The next division is systems and administration. The first vote on that, operations and maintenance money is \$146,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Systems And Administration, Agreed

It being agreed, we will move to capital, \$22,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Staffing And Housing, Agreed

That item is agreed. The next division is staffing and housing, total operations and maintenance budget is \$781,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Classification And Compensation, Agreed

The next division is on page 5.05, classification and compensation. The operations and maintenance amount is \$270,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Office Of Native Employment

The next division is office of native employment, operations and maintenance, \$85,000. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I understand that there are presently no terms of reference for the person responsible for the matter of native employment in this government. I wonder is this so? If there are in fact, terms of reference, whether they could be filed with us here immediately.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Gentlemen.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, the terms of reference are included in the paper which I referred to earlier and that will be given to the Members as requested earlier.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to hear from the officials here whether in their opinion the present program, the people they have employed and

their mandate or terms of reference, whether it is an effective group, and if it is not as effective as it could be, how in their opinion could this be improved? They could perhaps consider a reporting change or perhaps more staff.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Gentlemen.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, it is my opinion and the opinion of the director of Personnel that this is a very effective group. There are only two in that particular section at the present time. However, it will be expanded in the near future. It also has the benefit of working within a new division, the staff training and development division and the in-service training section so it will have the resources of those other sections to draw on and, as I said earlier, it will be expanded in the very near future.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Do I understand that the person who has the job of native employment is not a native person? I understand at the time the position was being advertised and interviews held that there were, in fact, a number of native people who applied for the job but the job was eventually given to a non-native. I wonder if something could be said about that, as to why this decision was made. I find it a bit ironic that the position is held by a non-native.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Gentlemen.

Staff Of Office Of Native Employment

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, the individual presently occupying that particular position was born in the Northwest Territories and has worked all of his career, working career, in the Northwest Territories and through the board which convened to select the person for that position, they found him the one most suitable to occupy the position.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am also aware that there are only two persons employed in this area and one of them is a non-native and one of them is part native. I understand that there are no Inuit and I am just surprised at your statement that you think the group is effective. I just wonder how you can say that, considering that you do not have any Inuit employees. How do you deal with Inuit people?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Gentlemen.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, the Personnel department is represented in the four regional offices and there is an individual in the Baffin region, at this particular point in time, who is working in close relationship with the office of native employment. We hope that through our expansion program, they will be able to employ more native northerners in the regional Personnel offices to work on this particular program that we have coming forward.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, is the official suggesting that as an example, in the Fort Smith region we would have someone associated with the office of native employment in Fort Smith or someone in the area who is going to help out that office?

Decentralization Of Office Of Native Employment

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, I believe this is the direction that we will be going. If we are going to decentralization, we will be decentralizing in our Personnel function also and the office of native employment should be situated as close to the employable area as possible, so I imagine this will be one area which we will be looking at.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I have gained a certain amount of information from a government official who suggested to me that oftentimes when a certain position is advertised and when there are in fact, native people who come forward and are being interviewed, oftentimes the decision as to whether or not they would hire a native person or not comes down to whether the official thinks that job is a very important job. I have heard from a source that sometimes when the government thinks that the position is an important job, then a native person does not get that job. Are you aware as to whether there is any truth to this allegation or this information?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of that. That is the first indication I have had of that particular situation. It is not, of course, the policy or the direction of this government or administration, on jobs of importance, to hire a particular person for the importance of the job, but whether he is capable of doing the job.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear the opinion of the officials as to whether it would increase the efficiency of the office to have the office report directly to the Executive Committee, rather than at the moment where the office reports to Personnel officials.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: At this point in time it would be too early to make a qualitative reply to that. I believe that with the resources available to this section in the Department of Personnel, it would be best served in that area at the present time. It is a section in which we are attempting to encourage more northern natives to work for the Government of the Northwest Territories and having it attached directly with the Department of Personnel could assure that progress is made in that particular direction.

Possible Resistance To Employment Of Native People

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, what I am concerned about is that sometimes there may be resistance, there may be resistance by certain departments to employ native people. I am wondering what happens when persons from the office of native employment, when they come up with situations like that, what recourse does the office of native employment have, how can they insist or really encourage or demand that certain departments employ native people?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, the terms of reference for this new office will spell out the authority of that office. What I believe, and I have not read the second draft of the terms of reference, I have gone through the first draft, but it did allude to an audit being required. This audit, by the office or by the Department of Personnel, would be the checks and controls and the area in which we are able to determine whether a department is, in fact, following the terms of reference or following the mandates we have given for the employment and equalization of native employment within the public service.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, one of the areas I really hope that native people become employed in, is that of Justice and Public Services, because I have been involved as a lawyer in the administration of justice. Oftentimes it occurs to me there is really no reason why native people are not employed as clerks, for instance. I am advised that part of the reason why the Department of Justice and Public Services is not able to hire people is that there are no training positions with that department at the moment. Is that true?



THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Excuse me, but I think your question properly comes in the next category, staff training and development. Can I ask, then, if there are any more questions on the office of native employment and if not is the item \$85,000 approved?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Can you correct me perhaps, Mr. Pilot, is this office of native employment concerned with creating training positions?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, not directly, no. It is under the in-service training which is page 5.11.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I see. In that event, Mr. Sibbeston, I am going to ask you to defer your question, your question about Justice until we get to in-service training. Are there any more comments on the office of native employment? Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion That Officials Of The Office Of Native Employment Report Directly To The Executive Committee

MR. SIBBESTON: I would like to make a motion and it is: I move that the Executive Committee seriously consider having the officials of the office of native employment report directly to the Executive Committee rather than the officials within the Department of Personnel.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): All right. It has been moved that the Executive Committee seriously consider having the officials of the office of native employment report directly to the Executive Committee rather than to the officials within the Department of Personnel. To the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that I, as a Member of this Assembly, am very concerned about the whole matter of this government hiring native people. It comes down to the fact that if people are going to see this government as their government they have to have native people really involved in the civil service. At the moment it is not bad within the communities, but I do feel that in headquarters and probably in the regions there just are not as many native people employed as there could be. I am quite shocked and surprised that there are only two persons involved in the office of native employment. It seems that the task is big and yet you only have two people in there. I am a little bit disappointed that you do not have a Dene person, a native speaking person in there to deal with, the people in my Dene areas, I would think that the Inuit people must wonder why there are no Inuit persons working in this office.

I just really think that in order to seriously deal with the present situation of having to increase native people within the public service, you have to have the office of native employment reporting directly to the Executive Committee because if you do not, then the office has no standing. It cannot be as forceful as it should. So, for all these reasons I think that we have to have the office of native employment report directly to the Executive Committee which in turn, is responsible to us. I for one, am very serious about the matter of native employment and I want to make sure that the office does have the amount of people necessary and the amount of authority necessary, in order to bring about a situation where in the next few years you will see many more native people working for this territorial government.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The question has been called. I will read the motion again: I move that the Executive Committee seriously consider having the officials of the office of native employment report directly to the Executive Committee rather than to the officials within the Department of Personnel. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion That Executive Committee Consider Expanding Staff Of Office Of Native Employment

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I have one more motion and it is simply this: I move that the Executive Committee consider greatly expanding the present number of employees within the office of native employment and to report on their decision at the next Legislative Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): All right, it has been moved by Mr. Sibbeston that the Executive Committee consider greatly expanding the present number of employees within the office of native employment and to report on their decision at the next sitting of this Assembly. To the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I think that of all areas of government this area, this group of people who work for the government in promoting the employment of native people in the government, must have the capability of speaking in the native languages. I am aware that the two staff members presently do not have that capability, they cannot talk with a Dene or an Inuit at the moment and we have got to hire people who in fact, speak the native languages. Only in this way do I see them being really effective in dealing with the native people of the North. I just think that the task is large and just having two persons in this area is not enough. I would offhand see them as having, maybe, at least six persons.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I think that Mr. Sibbeston's point is well taken. However, I think I would only support the motion if the office of native employment had some new ideas on how to approach this program of involving native people. I would think that if you fought your way through all the different levels of territorial and federal government you will find out there are probably more people employed trying to put native people into the government services than there are natives in the government services. It seems to me that the basic problem is the lack of imagination on how to approach and give incentives to people of the value of being in the different government departments, especially in the regional and head office area. I see very little merit in building up a head office structure because I do not believe that this is the answer to the problem.

Need For Incentives To Attract Native Employment

I certainly could support the motion if it means there should be more incentives and more dollars given to the idea of getting native people involved, but certainly I would think if they are reporting to the Executive Committee that the Executive Committee should be sure that the policy and

plan of action is a valid one and one that warrants more stimulus in the monetary sense, to bring it about. However, I see very little, I guess I would see very little need in just giving more money so you have more people sitting around monitoring what other people are doing or not doing. So, I would only support this motion in the sense that the ideas and the ways of putting people to work, or seeing that they find it attractive to be involved with the territorial government, that these ways are not the same old standard thing of people trying to sell something that people do not want in the first place anyway.

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

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand the hon. Mr. Sibbeston's first motion if it is put into place, you have created a new department within the government. Before we expand on that department surely we should have policy papers and information as to exactly where this new department is going before we start enlarging it. I think that has been our downfall in the past. We get running before we have learned to walk and get things expanded and then find out we have not really got that much use for them. I would much prefer to see a development of a paper as to exactly where we are going with this department if it is put in place, because with that last motion that is exactly what took place here, a new department was created. So, I cannot support the motion at this time and I could if I had further information down the line that showed me why we need more people and what they will do.

Motion That Executive Committee Consider Expanding Staff Of Office Of Native Employment, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other comments? Are you ready for the question? Are you ready to vote? All right. The question has been called. The motion is that the Executive Committee consider greatly expanding the present number of employees within the office of native employment and report on their decision at the next sitting of this Assembly. All in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

O And M, Office Of Native Employment, Agreed

Any other questions on this division of native employment? The operations and maintenance amount is \$85,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Staff Training and Development

All right. The next division is staff training and development. Operations and maintenance, \$298,000. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, one of the things that I have noticed regarding government training programs is that trainees are placed with an experienced person, with a government official, usually for two or three years. Part of the reason I think that it has not worked out as well as possible, is that there are no provisions for the person taking over the person's job. I do think what has happened in the past is that someone is being trained and the person training him sees that he is going to, if he properly trains this person, he is going to be, eventually, without a job. The person training him is going to end up without a job. I am just wondering if this has resulted in the program not working as well as possible because it just stands to reason that if a person is going to

be replaced, that he is not likely to be as enthusiastic and sincere about training the person. I wonder if the officials would comment on that and see if there is a possibility around that.

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

MR. BLEWETT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If this situation that the hon. Member has just described were the case I think it would be a problem. I can think of very few, if any, instances where we are asking a person to train someone to take his job. Normally, we ask somebody to train for a position subordinate to them so that the people are not going to be forced out of a job if they do a successful job of training the trainee.

O And M, Staff Training And Development, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other questions on staff training and development? The amount is \$298,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Employee Relations

There being no capital, we move to page 5.08, employee relations, total operations and maintenance, \$104,000. Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: I wonder if it could be explained about this activity, developing employers' collective bargaining position with employee associations. I do not quite understand that.

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

MR. BLEWETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Members are aware we have two employee associations, the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Northwest Territories Public Service Association and the terms and conditions of employment under which the employees in those associations work is arrived at by collective bargaining. This small unit within our department is responsible for conducting that bargaining when they do the research and the administrative work involved in deciding what the government's aim will be in relation to the employee benefits package.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: These two employees who are working would be developing the government's position when the negotiations are under way with the association for increases in salaries and benefits, is that true?

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

MR. BLEWETT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

MS. COURNOYEA: Then these two people are employees of the territorial government and they would benefit in terms of how well the bargaining units do, like they develop the position and if the Public Service Association was able to negotiate say, for instance, a dental plan, then these two employees here would benefit from the bargaining position, would they not?

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

MR. BLEWETT: That is true, Mr. Chairman. The employees share the benefits that are negotiated by the associations. The same goes for all other senior level staff in the government who also receive the benefits.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Yes.

Approaching Effective Bargaining

MS. COURNOYEA: It seems to me that it puts a couple of people in a very bad situation when in fact, they are creating positions for the government which is a protector, say, of the public purse. At the same time they are trying to establish positions for the government to protect that public purse where they, in fact, benefit from whatever the opposition or the bargaining unit gets. It just seems like it is a lopsided way of approaching effective bargaining.

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

MR. BLEWETT: Mr. Chairman, just to clarify any misapprehension, these employees develop the research material which is provided to the Commissioner and in fact, the decision is made at the Executive level as to what is, in fact, the government's position. These employees are not making the decisions and the actual negotiation is conducted by a consultant, a negotiator hired by the Executive to conduct the negotiations. So in fact, no employees are put in the position of hypothetically being on both sides of the table.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: I appreciate your answer, but I feel that it is not such a good position to be in and I think other ways of creating this kind of body would probably be more effective.

0 And M, Employee Relations, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other comments on employee relations? The operations and maintenance budget is \$104,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M, Pay And Employee Benefits

The next division is pay and employee benefits, operations and maintenance, \$247,000. Is that item agreed? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question concerning what is called "present incumbent only". What is the policy concerning "present incumbent only" right now?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like the director to respond to that.

MR. BLEWETT: Mr. Chairman, the term "present incumbent only" is a term which is used to refer to an employee whose salary is frozen at a higher level than the salary of the position in which he is currently employed.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Say he goes into another position and his salary is frozen, what is the time limit on that?

MR. BLEWETT: There has been no time limit on it. An employee whose position is downgraded, for example, stays at his salary level and is allowed to proceed to the maximum of that salary level and stay there until he is put in another position at another level.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance discussed this during our meetings in December and I have a motion to put forth now on this issue.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Please go ahead.

Motion That Executive Committee Review Policy Of "Present Incumbent Only" Status

MRS. SORENSEN: The standing committee on finance recommends that the system of paying salaries on a present incumbent only basis should be reviewed; the feasibility of establishing some time limit to be investigated. In addition, an incumbent who refuses an alternate government position offered him at the same pay level should lose his present incumbent only status in the position he continues to occupy.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): It has been moved by Mrs. Sorensen that it be recommended to the Executive Committee that the system of paying salaries on a present incumbent only basis be reviewed; the feasibility of establishing some time limit to be investigated. In addition, that an incumbent who refuses an alternate government position offered him at the same pay level should lose his present incumbent only status in the position he continues to occupy. To the motion. Yes, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you. It was our feeling that, if for instance, a civil servant was demoted to a position which had a lesser salary, we felt a time limit should be given whereby he would accept that lesser salary, the time limit being, say, six months, time in which he could look for another job and move on to other things if he felt that he could not accept the lower salary. We felt there should be a time limit there. If he refused an alternate government position at the same pay level that he was receiving, we felt that he should automatically lose his status of present incumbent only because he had been given a chance to have an equal salary.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other comments on the motion? Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I will read the motion again: That this committee recommend to the Executive Committee that the system of paying salaries on a present incumbent only basis be reviewed; the feasibility of establishing some time limit to be investigated. In addition, an incumbent who refuses an alternate government position offered him at the same pay level should lose his present incumbent only status in the position he continues to occupy. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

0 And Ms Pay And Employee Benefits, Agreed

The operations and maintenance budget for this department is \$247,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Employee Assistance Programs, Agreed

We next move to employee assistance programs, page 5.10. The total operations and maintenance budget is \$5,005,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, In-service Training

Then we move to page 5.11. In-service training, total operations and maintenance budget, \$1,597,000. Mr. Sibbeston, your question should be asked here concerning the Department of Justice. Maybe you should ask it again, please.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, as of now are there any training positions available with the Department of Justice, particularly in the area of court clerks and that type of work?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, all of the positions, the training positions are filled at the present time. However, I have been informed that the next available position that has been requested will go to the Department of Public Services.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: You are making a distinction are you, between Justice and Public Services?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: I meant to the department, it will go to I believe it is the Department of Justice within the Public Services, Justice and Public Services.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I think we are talking about the Department of Justice and Public Services. I think that is how it is known.

Motion That Department Of Personnel Make Appropriate Number Of Training Positions Available To The Department Of Justice And Public Services

MR. SIBBESTON: I will make a motion, not that I do not believe the officials that this will happen, but just to provide support to them, in fact, if they need it: I move that this Legislative Assembly urge the Department of Personnel to make an appropriate number of training positions available to the Department of Justice and Public Services after consultation with that department.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Sibbeston, I take it you mean training positions available?

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Then it has been moved by Mr. Sibbeston that this Legislative Assembly urge the Department of Personnel to make an appropriate number of training positions available to the Department of Justice and Public Services after consultation with that department. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Sibbeston. Are you ready for the question? All in favour of the motion that this Legislative Assembly urge the Department of Personnel to make an appropriate number of training positions available to the Department of Justice and Public Services after consultation with that department? All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

O And M, In-service Training, Agreed

Now, in-service training, \$1,597,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

So, we will approve the department as a whole on page 5.01. The total operations and maintenance budget is \$9,538,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

Total capital, \$22,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

That concludes the Department of Personnel. Thank you, Messrs. Blewett and Pilot.

Financial Management Secretariat

The next item on our list is the Financial Management Secretariat on page 3.01. This is called the Financial Management Secretariat. Who is going to steer this department? Mr. Butters. Have you some opening remarks?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I have some very brief remarks, Mr. Chairman. I would ask the indulgence of the committee that we invite the Commissioner and Mr. Eric Nielsen to attend when we examine the estimates in detail. But, I would just like to say that the motion of the committee of last Friday that a greater degree of responsibility be taken by elected Members of the Executive Committee is a most welcome one and I think I speak for all Members of the Executive Committee. The first motion of that committee requested that type of responsibility be decentralized or devoluted, to elected Members I think I also can assure the committee that we will move in the direction that you have recommended, and which the Drury commission has pointed out, would be most valuable to us.

The second thing I would like to say is that as you are aware, on reading Mr. Drury's report, that there has been a number of changes already in the direction of a greater degree of fiscal autonomy and responsibility. The Financial Management Board, now in its terms of reference, has clearly and explicitly stated a determination to develop a communication between the political levels of government, that is, whenever federal and territorial representatives are discussing fiscal matters. So, there has already been a change in the last few months, and that is that fiscal matters will now be discussed at a political level, as well as at a senior official level.

That too, was a major recommendation of the Drury report. We too would like to see recommendation 6.4 contained on page 124 which speaks of that, more formalized government-to-government negotiations. I feel quite sure that the Members of the Executive Committee will again move in that direction with all possible and reasonable haste to ensure that the fiscal responsibility for the programs of this government are truly in the hands of elected people. That is about all I would say at the present time. My appointment, or my position as deputy chairman of the Financial Management Board is just that, I am in a subordinate position to the Commissioner and I think recognizing that situation, the committee would be well advised to permit the Commissioner to join us with Mr. Nielsen.



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

---Agreed

O And M, Secretary To The Financial Management Board

Please come forward, Mr. Parker and Mr. Nielsen. The first item then is secretary to the Financial Management Board. I am sorry, are there any general questions and comments first? Mr. Parker.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I have some notes on financial matters in general, in a general sense; that is, remarks I think that apply to both the Financial Management Board, the Financial Management Secretariat and financial matters in general. I am in your hands. If you wish me to proceed with this overview I am satisfied to do so and if you would prefer to go immediately to the individual votes I would be equally satisfied.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): What is the committee's wish? Do you want a general overview first or do you want to proceed? Do you want to proceed into these detailed votes? Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Let us, why not, get right into the general vote? I do not see too much in here that will raise too many concerns and maybe we will just be bored with more quotes from Drury report and not enough of our own initiative. I would suggest we move right into it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Is it agreed then that we go into the divisions? Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I have just one question. I do not understand why we have these two different departments, one for the Financial Management Secretariat and the other for the Department of Finance.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Parker or Mr. Nielsen.

Workable Division Of Financial Matters

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, when these matters were studied by the task force on administration, and then latterly by the Executive Committee itself, it was concluded that a more workable division of financial matters could be achieved if we were to bring together, under a chief financial officer who is Mr. Nielsen, a reporting relationship to an Executive Member and to the Executive Committee for all financial matters, and we moved in that direction. The Financial Management Board, which is a board consisting of all of the Members of the Executive Committee, chaired by myself at the moment, but with a deputy chairman who is Mr. Butters, considers financial policy. It is supported by the Financial Management Secretariat which is an outgrowth of our earlier budget and fiscal planning group. Now, the budget and fiscal planning group has always been the group that puts the budget together, and that is a very major process, and it monitors the spending of that budget. Their work is expanded slightly under this new arrangement and the work of Finance, the former Finance department has been narrowed very considerably. The policy consideration for instance, falls to the Financial Management Secretariat and the Financial Management Board.

It also has to be borne in mind that we have taken the services to government, and we are proposing to put them into a separate department which will be the Department of Government Services on the first of April, and that will draw together the computer operations, the total purchasing operations, the POL operations, petroleum, oil and lubricants program, and transportation and communications. We have achieved this, and in fact I think there is a net reduction in manpower but with an increase in efficiency of operation, at least we are looking forward to that.

We took some guidance from the report that was prepared by the Lambert Commission for the federal government which gave some very broad and important guidelines to governments in general but to the federal government in particular.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: That is good. Thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): So we will now go into the office of the secretary to the Financial Management Board. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Secretary To The Financial Management Board, Agreed

The operations and maintenance budget for that office is \$191,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Secretary To The Financial Management Board, Agreed

The total capital is \$12,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Secretariat, Agreed

All right. The next activity is the secretariat on page 3.03 and the operations and maintenance vote is \$344,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

All right. There is no capital in that department and therefore you are finished, I guess, except for the total vote of 3.01. The total operations and maintenance is \$535,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

The total capital is \$12,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

The Department Of Finance

We now move to the Department of Finance which is at page 7.01. I think we have time for brief introductory remarks before coffee. Is it your wish, Mr. Butters, or anyone to introduce this department?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I have no remarks. Possibly the Commissioner may. I am not sure.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the question that I put earlier was meant to apply to both the Finance department or what remains of it and to the Financial Management Board. I could expand on the past history of the finance operation if you wish, or proceed to the item by item. Perhaps the one thing I should say is that in forming a Government Services department and drawing a good part of what used to be Finance into that department, we are not totally finished with our design. We are sufficiently well enough advanced, of course, to proceed but there will be in the first months of operation perhaps a few design changes that we will come up with and if we then find that we need to change slightly the activities we would come back, of course, through supplementary estimates with a full explanation of what we would do.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): So is it the committee's wish then to go into the item by item activities?

---Agreed

0 And M, Administration, Agreed

All right. The first subject or first activity on page 7.02 is administration and the operations and maintenance budget for that activity is \$136,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Administration, Agreed

Capital, \$15,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M, Comptrollership, Agreed

Comptrollership, page 7.03, total operations and maintenance budget, \$1,653,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Comptrollership, Agreed

It being agreed, we go on to capital, \$5000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M, Financial Systems And Training, Agreed

The financial systems and training activity, page 7.04, total operations and maintenance, \$532,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M, Funds And Investments, Agreed

There being no capital, we go on to funds and investments, page 7.05, total operations and maintenance budget, \$523,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M, Amortization, Agreed

All right. It being agreed and there being no capital, amortization, page 7.06, total operations and maintenance expenditures, \$3,225,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Liquor Control System, Agreed

All right. Liquor Control System, page 7.07, total operations and maintenance budget is \$1,364,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

We will just consider the estimates for the Department of Finance as a whole on page 7.01. Total operations and maintenance, \$6,069,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

Total capital, \$20,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

There is not time really, but I will draw Members' attention to the next department which is Government Services on page 8.01. We will now rise for 15 minutes for coffee, and 15 minutes only, please.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The committee will come to order. Before we get into the Department of Government Services, I would like to ask Members' advice. Due to unfortunate personal circumstances Mr. Bob Overvold, who is to make the Dene Nation presentation scheduled for Wednesday of this week, has asked that the date be moved ahead to tomorrow afternoon. He has personal family obligations in Fort Resolution on Wednesday. Is it agreed that the Dene Nation presentation be moved ahead to Tuesday afternoon, tomorrow, instead of Wednesday as planned? Agreed?

---Agreed

Department Of Government Services

All right. The Department of Government Services on page 8.01. Does anyone have any general introductory remarks? Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we think that by bringing together these services under a new department we will gain certain efficiencies of operation and remove from the department the sort of policy questions that ordinarily would be in here and move them to the Financial Management Board. The elements that remain therefore, are very much service units, service that is, to government and to the public in the form of the petroleum operation. I have not got any other remarks to make at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Thank you, Mr. Parker. Any general comments or questions from Members? Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this the department that is responsible for payment of accounts for the materials and services rendered to the government?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, no. The current design calls for payment of accounts to be in the Department of Finance.

0 And M, Management, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other general questions? If not, we will move into the first division. It is the activity called management, page 8.02, total operations and maintenance of \$222,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Management, Agreed

Capital, \$7000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M, Administration, Agreed

Next is administration, page 8.03, total operations and maintenance budget is \$274,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Systems And Computer Services

There is no capital in that activity. Next is systems and computer services, total operations and maintenance \$1,697,000. Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, is this the computer system that the department was to institute throughout the Northwest Territories?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, this is the home of the financial information system which is a computer based system.

MS. COURNOYEA: Could you once again state how much has been spent on the computer system and what is left to be spent?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we have spent in the last two fiscal years, 1978-79 and 1979-80, \$1,148,000 and we have yet to spend in the fiscal year 1980-81, \$100,000 to complete the system.

MS. COURNOYEA: So the whole system that has been incorporated in this program really at this stage of time, if we did not agree that this was an expenditure that we really could afford, it is rather late to say anything about it, is that right?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. I had been going to say that we had gone through two financial reviews, one in 1974-75 and another in 1977-78. These were reviews conducted by external people. In each case a financial information system of this nature was recommended as being absolutely essential.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I suppose I could say a lot more about the particular system of which you talk but certainly if I were involved with providing services of this nature I probably would not agree with you, but I think it is kind of late for me to spend the time on that particular subject.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Dennis Patterson.

No Need For High Technology Processes

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I do feel somewhat similar to the hon. Member from the Western Arctic that this system is now well in place and in effect probably was put in place by a previous Assembly to ours. I will say for the record briefly, that I was very sceptical about this sort of investment, particularly in the regions, when I first heard about it. Since I came to Yellowknife I have had a chance to get a briefing from the experts and I am now a little less sceptical, but for the record I would like to register my concern that generally we do not need high technology processes in the Northwest Territories simply because, wherever possible we need to produce jobs which can be handled locally. We need to use equipment which can be prepared and maintained locally. I am satisfied that so far at least the type of equipment that is being proposed for the regions can be mastered without a great deal of skill. I am told that the computer systems that have been installed can be repaired in Frobisher Bay from Montreal by telephone. Maybe I am old-fashioned or out of date, but I find these things somewhat hard to believe.

I was also told, and I hope that it will be borne out, that in fact the investment in this system will allow the regions to have greater autonomy and will pave the way for regional control of finances and will make the setting of capital priorities and the management of regional operations, it will make decentralization an easier process. So, all I can say is that I hope that works out, that this is not a huge white elephant as some critics have said. I suppose computers and technology will always be a controversial subject, but I do hope that this system lives up to its expectations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any further comments?

O And M, Systems And Computer Services, Agreed

We are dealing with O and M, \$1,697,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

He says I can go.

---Laughter

Capital, Systems And Computer Services, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The capital is \$50,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Supply Services, Agreed

The next item is supply services, total operations and maintenance budget, \$1,910,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Supply Services, Agreed

The capital vote for supply services is \$130,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Petroleum Products, Agreed

Page 8.06, petroleum products, the total capital is \$5,065,000. There is no operations and maintenance budget. Is that amount agreed, \$5,065,000? Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Telecommunications, Agreed

The next activity is telecommunications, operations and maintenance, \$972,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Transportation

Finally is transportation and the total operations and maintenance budget, there being no capital, is \$2,850,000.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. CURLEY: My question applies to all the transportation, the sealift supply or what is this thing? And I have a supplementary question. In the Keewatin area there has been quite a controversy with regard to privately owned longliners to haul freight from Churchill, Manitoba to points in the Keewatin communities. I am wondering why the government has not been in support of privately owned freighting services other than the federal crown agency like NTCL, Northern Transportation Company Limited. Could the Commissioner explain that, please?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, a number of years ago as a result of complaints from the Keewatin that the service that was being rendered to the Keewatin from Montreal was not as good as a service would be if it were based out of Churchill, because that port is open a bit earlier in the summer, and as a result of the western economic opportunities conference which was a federal-provincial conference, the federal government instructed Northern Transportation Company Limited to move in to Hudson Bay and subsequent to that, a vessel was built and a number of barges were put in there to provide the service.

In the last two years there has been pressure from individuals, that is individual businessmen in the Keewatin, particularly at Eskimo Point and Rankin Inlet, to get into the freighting business with existing longliners or peterheads. In fact, there was one proposal where one businessman was going to purchase a vessel. The federal government and the territorial government looked into these proposals and in fact, the territorial government was reasonably supportive of the developing of a local service. The problem was that the federal government had made this major investment and there was enough capacity in the one tug and barge situation to handle all of the freight that was there, and in fact the federal government was putting in a fairly major subsidy each year in order to provide shipping into the Keewatin on a slightly more reasonable basis than might have been the case otherwise.

Support For Developing Local Freighting Capability If Necessary

The cost estimates that the businessmen were working on tended to be the subsidized rate that NTCL was offering. This put the government in a very difficult position and it put us in a difficult position to offer freight to other companies, when the government was already subsidizing costs in an operation that they thought had been needed. I think that if there is a requirement for further capacity in the future, I would personally be most supportive, and I think other people in the government would join me, in supporting the development of a local freighting capability.



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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, a further supplementary. Mr. Chairman, there has been a tremendous concern expressed in the local communities with regard to NTCL and their hiring practices or non-hiring practices. They do not hire locally. The fact that the sealift is the biggest annual activity for the communities when the supplies are delivered and at the moment NTCL, regardless of how successful it might be, it is just not providing employment to the local community. It has taken employment completely away from the people who used to have the job of unloading the barges and whatnot. On that basis, I am wondering whether or not this government would be prepared to change the policy that only NTCL be allowed to deliver onshore and even at that the deliveries in the communities could be handled by local contractors to the site. I wonder if the Commissioner would be willing to express any desire to that, and if so, whether he requires a motion to that effect.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I think that is the direction in which the matter should go. I support the hon. Member in his contention that the onshore delivery should be done by local persons, that is, local contractors. The service started as an all-inclusive service because that had been NTCL's practice in other areas, and it had been very well received. Initially, the capacity did not exist, that is other individuals did not have the kind of equipment that was necessary to make these deliveries right to the door, that is to say in the Keewatin. That capacity has been developed now, and I think without the benefit of a motion our administration would be pleased to see if we cannot negotiate with NTCL to change this practice.

#### Delivery Methods Have Improved

Initially too, the former practice of the goods being delivered just to the dock had meant that there was a great deal more breakage and a great deal more loss. I am now speaking of between five and ten years ago where the ship from Montreal would take things ashore by tender and they literally were dumped on the shore. At that time, five years ago, it was a step ahead to have delivery made right to the door. I think that purpose is no longer necessary, I think that service should no longer be served by NTCL and as I say, we would support the Member in that effort.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I recognize the fact that it has been more convenient for administration to see the goods delivered by a well established company like NTCL, but I would wish to assure the Commissioner, or remind the Commissioner, that this practice has alienated the local community from a very important source of pride that used to exist as well as providing local employment. Long before NTCL came along, sure the goods, they always managed to get to the local store or the Hudson's Bay Company or whatnot, and I think that through that exercise that even the morale of the community was a lot better than today. It was expressed recently in Rankin Inlet, this summer, that the Local Government department was pleased with the way Northern Transportation Company Limited operated and when he said that a local Inuit man standing beside him remarked and said, "But there is no Inuit labour." He was unable to explain further but just walked away and that kind of attitude does exist.

I want some assurance from the Commissioner as to whether or not I should accept a gentleman's agreement on that, that we will attempt to change it. How soon will the Commissioner attempt to really change that policy that NTCL will be allowed to deliver onshore and when does he expect that to come into effect?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we will commence work on that immediately. My only hesitation in saying when it can be achieved is we will have to look at the matter of signed agreements, whether there are signed agreements that call for NTCL to deliver to the site, but there is no question about agreement with the hon. Member. I agree with him entirely that the time is well past when this work should be done by NTCL. It should be done by the local people and we will go to work on that immediately.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any further comments? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I just want assurance whether or not a motion to that effect would not be a guiding factor to the House to state so, Mr. Commissioner?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: I think my undertaking would carry the same weight as an approved motion, but that matter is in your hands.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any further discussion, Mr. Curley?

Motion That Administration Develop Terms Of Agreement To Allow  
Local Contractors To Deliver Freight From Offshore

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the administration be asked to redefine and rearrange the terms of the agreement to allow local contractors to deliver freight from offshore rather than NTCL delivering completely to the site, to that effect, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. STEWART: I would rather have the Commissioner's word than a motion.

MR. CURLEY: We can vote on it. Take a vote on it and argue it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Mr. Curley, is your motion concerning Rankin Inlet?

MR. CURLEY: No, the whole of the Keewatin, the Keewatin region. I did not state the Keewatin, but wherever NTCL operates might be a problem. My main concern was the Keewatin region.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): All right. This is a motion we have put together to try to put your desire into effect. It reads: That the administration be asked to attempt to redefine and rearrange the terms of its agreement with NTCL to allow local entrepreneurs to undertake delivery of supplies from dock or beach to destination. Is that what you wanted, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is what I wanted.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Perhaps on a point of clarification, is there an agreement presently existing between this government and NTCL? Is it an agreement with NTCL that we are talking about?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I am not certain if we have an agreement or not. I just cannot say.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): We will call it an arrangement. The motion now reads: That the administration be asked to attempt to redefine and rearrange the terms of its arrangement with NTCL to allow local entrepreneurs to undertake delivery of supplies from dock or beach to destination. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to indicate to the Commissioner that this will be his guiding factor as he discusses it with the Minister of Indian Affairs and officials of NTCL.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Question being called. Ready for the question? I will read the motion again: That the administration be asked to attempt to redefine and rearrange the terms of its arrangement with NTCL to allow local entrepreneurs to undertake delivery of supplies from dock or beach to destination. All in favour of this motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

O And M, Transportation, Agreed

Any further comments on transportation on page 8.08? The total operations and maintenance budget is \$2,850,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

All right. The total vote for the Department of Government Services for operations and maintenance on page 8.01 is \$7,925,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

The total capital vote is \$5,252,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Now we move to page 4.01, the Department of Information. Who is going to introduce this department? Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Department Of Information

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Again I would just be responsible for taking it into the House. Members will know that the department comes under the Commissioner as the Executive Member responsible for this particular department at the present time. I am not sure whether the Commissioner would want to have the director with him or not but, if so, he would be able to indicate that, Mr. Chairman. I think maybe the Commissioner does have some comments of a general nature that he would like to make.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: The Council Ordinance requires me to declare the nature and extent of any pecuniary interest in the matter being voted on, which is the Department of Information. I wish to advise the House that my husband is the director of this department and as such I will not be taking part in any of the debate, nor will I be voting on any of the estimates for this department.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, first of all could I ask the director of Information, Mr. Sorensen, to join me?

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

---Agreed

Mr. Sorensen, please make yourself at home.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I have some brief remarks which I could proceed with describing in a general sense the activities of the Department of Information if you would like me to do so.

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

---Agreed

Please go ahead.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Information provides translation, public affairs, audio-visual, printing and design services to all government departments and to the Legislative Assembly. Two of its main programs are the interpreter-translator corps, and that accounts for about one half of its total staff years, and the Northwest Territories communications program that is providing satellite fed radio and television services to all northern communities with populations between 250 and 500. Further development of the interpreter corps is dependent upon the direction received from this House with regard to multilanguage usage.

We have members of the interpreter corps stationed in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Frobisher Bay. The bulk of the work done by this corps is for government and the Assembly, but the corps also undertakes major assignments in simultaneous work for the Baffin and Central Arctic Regional Councils, for the Housing Corporation, the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities and other organizations.

#### N.W.T. Communications Programs

The Northwest Territories communications program began two years ago and since that time satellite-earth stations have been provided to the communities of Fort Norman, Fort Liard, Pelly Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Arctic Bay and Coral Harbour. The department's estimates for 1980-81 call for provisions of service to Holman Island, Snowdrift, Hall Beach and Sanikiluaq. The stations provide CBC northern television and radio networks over ten watt FM transmitters. The system in use also provides for the use of equipment by local broadcasting societies. The department has a matching current program to assist existing community radio broadcast stations and has begun a project to purchase advertising time on community radio stations as another means of support.

The department through another major project produced a film on alcohol prohibition and controls in the Northwest Territories which will soon be shown throughout the North and will be available in Loucheux, Slavey, Dogrib, Inuit and English languages. Acting as a service agency for all parts of the organization that department produces a variety of publications including reports, the Northwest Territories Gazette, legislation booklets, brochures and posters. The department's budget reflects two additional man years. The positions resulted from transfers from other areas of government and are located in Rankin Inlet. I think, Mr. Chairman, those are all the remarks of a general nature that I would wish to make.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any general questions or comments from the Members? If not, is it the wish of the committee -- Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I have only one question of Information. I wondered why the "Eastern Arctic caucus" was not stated so in the official legislative report that came out recently. It just stated "Arctic caucus" which we have not stated that it is, an Arctic caucus but rather an Eastern Arctic caucus. Could someone explain why that was done?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the booklet was produced very quickly after the election of Members and I think the use of Arctic caucus rather than Eastern Arctic caucus was simply an oversight.

MR. CURLEY: Supplementary to that, did it not occur to the government, in the government's view that the Eastern Arctic caucus in a sense would promote a division of the Territories? Was that not a factor at all, rather than just excusing it as an oversight? I do not think you would do things just on an ignorance of reality.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, that never crossed our minds. Until the hon. Member raised it this moment, I had not known of the use of those terms.

O And M, Directorate

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other comments or questions of a general nature? If not, we will move then to the first activity known as directorate. This is operations and maintenance, its budget is \$231,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: On the publications area there was some attempt to see whether or not the Department of Information would contribute advertising to the Ottawa based, government supported publication called "Igalaaq".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Excuse me, Mr. Curley, but if I am not correct your question properly belongs in -- perhaps Mr. Commissioner you can correct me -- but does it not belong under public affairs?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the question really can fit in either spot so we would be prepared to look at it right now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Please do.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: I understand the Member's concern or perhaps desire, that the government place advertising in Igalaaq which is produced in Ottawa by a firm. We have simply left it up to individual departments within our government as to whether they felt this was a useful medium for advertising copy. I do not know at this stage whether it will be used or not.

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

Motion That Information Services In Inuvik Receive One Additional Inuvialuititu Speaking Person

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that the section on Information services in Inuvik is hopelessly inadequate I would like to present a motion: That the Information section in Inuvik be evaluated with a view to adding one additional person who speaks Inuvialuititu.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): It has been moved by Ms. Cournoyea that the Information section in Inuvik be re-evaluated, or be evaluated, is that what you said? That it be evaluated with a view to adding one additional person who speaks and forgive me if I say this wrong, is it Inuvialuititutu?

MS. COURNOYEA: Inuvialuititu.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Pardon me. To the motion?

MS. COURNOYEA: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the director of the Information services is aware that the person who is employed at this time in Inuvik can hardly keep up with the general requirements of people from the communities coming into Inuvik seeking information and trying to understand the government system. She speaks Loucheux herself and she does a very good job at communicating with other people even though she does not speak the other languages in the area. However, just on general information and on general requirements that are made of her she can hardly keep up. I believe if we are going to have more understanding from among the people on what this government system is all about, and how they can take advantage of the various programs that are set in place for them, that we have to provide people who are mobile and able to speak and relate to the people of the various regions.

I know the budget is not as large as it should be, but in our area the person who is employed is required to do many, many more things than just translate and there are others who come into the area other than government personnel who relate to the territorial government, and the need to know what is going on by the people of a general nature, this need is just not met at this time and this particular situation has been brought up time and time again. I think that until we meet it head on and say that this service is required that all you will do is strain the person who is presently on staff and you will have one less native person you can count as a statistic in the government native department, Personnel.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): It has been moved that the Information section in Inuvik be evaluated to a view to adding one additional person who speaks Inuvialuititu. All in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

O And M, Directorate, Agreed

Operations and maintenance, the vote for the directorate is \$231,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Directorate, Agreed

Capital, \$3000.

---Agreed

O And M, Public Affairs, Agreed

We then move to public affairs, page 4.03, and the operations and maintenance budget is \$355,000 and the details of grants and contributions are found on page 4.06.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

---Agreed

Capital, Public Affairs, Agreed

The capital budget is \$309,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Publications And Production, Agreed

The next item is publications and production, page 4.04, total operations and maintenance budget of \$534,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Publications And Production, Agreed

A capital vote of \$25,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M, Interpreter-translator Corps, Agreed

The next item is the interpreter-translator corps, total operations and maintenance budget, \$636,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital, Interpreter-translator Corps, Agreed

The capital is \$4000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

That concludes that department. The total O and M vote is \$1,756,000 on page 4.01. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

The total capital is \$341,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Thank you, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Parker.

Department Of Justice And Public Services

Next we race along to Justice and Public Services page 6.01. I do not see the Minister of Justice.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Is there anyone to sit in on this in the witness chair or are there any general comments?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would be grateful if the Deputy Minister of the department, Mr. Victor Irving was invited to join us.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Is it agreed that Mr. Irving come forward?

---Agreed

Mr. Butters, have you anything to say?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any general statement to make at this time. I believe that Members may wish to address themselves with comments and questions in the general area and I would be quite happy to move into that aspect of the budget debate.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Page 6.02, operations and maintenance, \$302,000. Mr. Butters, have you anything to say?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I would suggest if we started on 6.01 that would cover many of the general comments that Members may wish to make or general questions they may wish to address, because as Members will notice, it summarizes the major responsibilities of the department in the first paragraph. I suggest we could possibly start there.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Let us go then to 6.01. Are there any general comments? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the first thing I would like to ask, and this may be a matter of convenience for the people involved, is would it be possible when the police agreement is being considered, the Police Services Agreement is being considered, and I realize we will not likely get to that today, but would it be possible, I would like to ask the Minister if we could have the benefit of a witness representing the RCMP to assist us in considering that department.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Mr. Butters, any comments?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the current police agreement expires on March 31, 1981. However, I recognize that any changes in the agreement should begin to be put in place very early on. With that in mind I have already, on a very informal basis, approached the commissioner of the RCMP, Commissioner Simmonds and indicated to him what I believe to be a very major concern of the Members of this Assembly which is the new police agreement which we will be negotiating in the very near future. So, I would hope that we could have probably in the fall an opportunity to have attend with us someone who could speak to the agreement that will be coming effective on April 1, 1981. It is my intention of having a very senior official of the RCMP to come and sit with us and discuss and answer questions of the Members relative to the current service we are experiencing and the type of service we would expect from the force during the life of the new agreement.

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

MR. PATTERSON: I was not quite clear from the hon. Minister whether or not he was referring to the fall session or this session? My preference would be that while we are discussing the Police Services Agreement budget even for the coming year and during this session we have a witness with us at that time.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I did anticipate that the committee would wish to speak with the senior ranking officer available to them and addressed a letter to his office some five weeks ago. While I have not received a reply, I believe the response was orally made that a senior member of the force would be available to discuss matters raised by the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay. I think you will recognize that the committee has moved very quickly in the last two hours over some of the budget items and although a phone call was made to the office of Chief Superintendent Buttler apparently it was too late to catch him before he left the office. My expectation is he will be available tomorrow or somebody will be available tomorrow.

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



Conflict Of Interest

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, another matter that I should bring to the attention of the committee is that I have an indirect or direct interest in the estimates of this department as they relate to the Legal Services Board and legal aid in the Northwest Territories and also with whom I have presently a contract for providing legal aid services in the Baffin region and also with respect to Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik in Frobisher Bay, the legal services centre with which I was an employee and have an association with. I will not participate in discussions relating to those items but still will participate in other discussions of other activities.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, just to recognize the hon. Member's comment, I would say, as the committee knows, Mr. Patterson serves as an associate minister with Justice and Public Services and I would be grateful if he wishes to direct to me now some of the general questions we have been discussing over the last weeks and months.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Do you understand, Mr. Patterson?

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I may make some general comments before we get into the detailed estimates.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Go ahead.

Location Of The Crown Prosecutor's Office

MR. PATTERSON: May I do so? Generally, Mr. Chairman, my concern with the Department of Justice and Public Services would be to try to give them some direction as to what we consider our first priorities and the most important priorities. I am aware that the previous Assembly in its position paper on land claims and constitutional development recommended strongly, among other things, among other federal powers, that the federal crown prosecutorial power be transferred to the Northwest Territories, that is, that the Northwest Territories government take over prosecutions. Mr. Chairman, my belief is that while transfer of powers should take place in the long run, I have at the present time some very serious reservations about that being a first priority of this department.

Generally, Mr. Chairman, the first thing I would like to say about that is that this is one case where I think remoteness of administration is a big advantage. In other words, at the present time Ottawa and the Minister of Justice, who is Attorney General for the Northwest Territories, have control over prosecutions in the Northwest Territories and the crown prosecutor's office which is located in Yellowknife, is basically answerable to the Attorney General for the Northwest Territories in Ottawa and administered from Ottawa. The function of prosecutions is a vital part of the entire justice system and it is vital because prosecutors must remain independent from all influence of government. In this case I think it is a great advantage that the administration of the crown prosecutor's office is remotely located in Ottawa because in effect, there is far less opportunity and interest in such a remote administration seeking to influence the course of conduct of prosecutors in criminal cases. This is highly desirable. I think a condition precedent to the Territories taking over prosecutions, taking over the delicate function, Mr. Chairman, would be building in certain guarantees of independence and assuring that the Minister of Justice was in fact, devoid of any other responsibilities than the Justice portfolio and ensuring that his Deputy Minister was highly paid and of sufficient experience that he would be able to conduct his duties without any possibility of being influenced in any way by this administration.

I think we need to study what has been done by other jurisdictions, particularly what other governments in smaller places such as the maritime provinces of Canada have got, to see what sort of safeguards we get built into our Department of Justice before this step be taken. I also believe, Mr. Chairman, quite strongly that there are other important priorities we could give to the Department of Justice and Public Services before we concentrate on transfer of the prosecutorial function. I would also suggest that there seems to be no problem with the present system of prosecutions and no complaints of undue influence from Ottawa, so there really does not appear to be a need from that point of view to making this transfer.

#### Involvement Of Native People In The Justice System

As far as other more important priorities, Mr. Chairman, they will become evident in our deliberations but I am very interested in urging the Department of Justice to become more active and develop a capability in law reform. I also would like to urge the Department of Justice to pay increased attention to the role of justices of the peace in the system of justice and to increase, pay more attention to train and provide in-service training to justices of the peace. I am also -- I share this with other Members of the House -- concerned about improving the native quotient of employees in the Department of Justice and Public Services and I would like to see us begin to find ways of encouraging native persons to become involved in the administration of justice which at present is woefully misrepresented by that segment of the population even though they come into contact and sometimes conflict with the justice system to a far greater degree than any other segment of our population.

I think that my concern about the policing of the Northwest Territories has the same thrust in that I think there are far too few local persons involved in policing in the Northwest Territories. The same concern about the Department of Justice and Public Services would apply to the police and I trust this Assembly will be working together to develop a northern police force. Perhaps I have overextended my time, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to ask the Minister of Justice particularly what his reaction would be to my strong belief that there are other more important things to do than worrying about transferring the prosecutorial function to the Territories at this -- I stress at this point in time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Minister.

#### Transfer Of Responsibilities For Mining Safety And Justice

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I took advantage of looking at the Drury report and it would appear that the recommendation that is contained in that report at page 102, number 5-22, was pretty well summarized or restated by the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay. I personally share his attitude and reflection on this transfer and I believe as he does that there is a number of other priorities that probably should be fulfilled and attended to, before we proceed with seeking the prosecutorial function which is currently carried out by the federal government. This was why, Mr. Chairman, I referred Members back to page 6.01 because you will notice that the last paragraph of written material on that page says: "Negotiations are continuing with the federal government to transfer the responsibility for the administration of the Mining Safety Ordinance and the prosecution functions of justice." With regard to the transfer of the latter responsibility I understand it is at a standstill and there is nothing proceeding toward that objective at the present time.

With regard to the first mentioned matter, the transfer of responsibility for the administration of the Mining Safety Ordinance, that has proceeded to the extent that the recommendation was on the Hon. Hugh Faulkner's desk on May 22, 1979. I understand that the recommendation is still on the desk of the Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further discussion about Justice and Public Services? Does this committee wish to go clause by clause?

---Agreed

O And M, Directorate

Operations and maintenance on page 6.02, \$302,000. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get some explanation from the Minister as to what our participation is in the development of the Police Services Agreement. For example, there is a concern in the Baffin region about the question of the location of police detachments. Assuming a particular community or a region feels that police detachments should be placed in different locations than they are being placed without affecting the total manpower in the region, do we at present have any say in questions like that through this agreement?

Does this Assembly have any influence on these kinds of questions, and, if not, what changes would be required in order to give the people of the Northwest Territories some say in the allocation of police resources?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, The present agreement section 7, subsection (1) states "Numbers and locations of detachments shall be mutually agreed to by the territorial Commissioner and the commissioner." So, I believe, in practice the answer to the Member's question is that at the present time we have no direct influence or very little. The practice has been, as I understand it, that on the direction of Members or the committee, communications have been made to the RCMP, but it is not necessary that they respond to the directions or the suggestions. I would hope that the agreement to be negotiated would be a little bit more precise and reflect to a greater degree than it does now on the direction that this Assembly could give to the force that serves the various communities.

As I mentioned, the department reflects and refers the concerns and requests of the communities, and I am looking at correspondence here dated October 21st, 1978 from Chief Superintendent Buttler relative to policing at Broughton Island and it says in part "In my letter of March 21, 1978 to you, I pointed out that the opening of a permanent detachment at Broughton Island was not supportable on operational or economic grounds." That letter was addressed to Mr. Irving who I believe was acting at the direction of the communities and Members. I would trust that we can hold this item open and possibly questions relative to the type of service the force is currently providing under this agreement might be addressed directly to whomever comes and sits with us tomorrow.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you understand, Mr. Patterson? Have you anything more to say?

Law Reform Activities

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if this is the right place for this question and perhaps you can correct me if I am wrong, but I would like to ask about the law reform activities in the Department of Justice. Would this be part of the directorate?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, yes, it is. I thank the hon. Member for advising myself and Mr. Irving that this matter was going to be raised. There has been developed a response to that general question. I can read it if Members wish or I can have it typed and circulated.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Circulate it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Is there any further discussion? What the Minister has stated, would you like the Minister to read what he stated he has? Do you agree?

MR. PATTERSON: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I heard only one person agreeing. Do you want Mr. Butters to read what he stated he has?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Go on, Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, legislation is kept up to date through the following methods:

(1) By attendance at the uniform law conferences. The chief of legal services and the legislative counsel attend the Canadian Uniform Law Conferences every fall. In addition, material is circulated to all members of the conference including the Northwest Territories throughout the year. The purpose of the Uniform Law Conference is to achieve uniformity of statute law throughout the provinces and the territories of Canada.

(2) Areas are identified by affected departments. Where a particular territorial department identifies a situation but needs a legislative change, legal services division examines the proposed change, assists in the preparation of a legislative proposal and gets the wheels for such a change in motion, leading up to bills being introduced into this House.

(3) This is through court decisions. The judiciary from time to time highlights areas where legislative change is required. This is followed up by legal services and legislative proposals submitted.

(4) There is an ad hoc committee on law reform based on information from the local bar. The chief of local services chairs an informal ad hoc committee on law reform. The committee consists of government lawyers and the private bar and reviews law reform materials received from other jurisdictions. The committee reviews the material with a view to examining the feasibility of introducing it in the Northwest Territories. In addition, members of the private bar identify areas of proposed changes by writing to the chief of legal services.

(5) There is in-house examination. The lawyers employed in the division identify areas where a change is required and make the necessary proposals to the subcommittee on legislation.

(6) Areas identified by the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly, through motions, directs and recommends legislative proposals and draft legislation to be submitted. Motions and resolutions of the House are then carried out.

Those are the ways that are currently being implemented or employed. I do not say they are the only mechanisms or approaches that may be used, but those are the ones that are currently the most active.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Patterson. Is there any further discussion? Are there any other discussions?

Police Answering Services

MS. COURNOYEA: Further to the set-up at the various communities, the concern was on providing an answering service in communities when there are not enough staff or supposedly not enough staff. Does this department intend to do anything about this concern as the answering service generally requests an individual to contact the operator to get through to the office on the basis of a "JL" number? It is very difficult to understand for a lot of people who require help and I am wondering if the department will be doing anything about that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the police are aware of the concern raised by the hon. Member for the Western Arctic. The answer tabled in response to her question I realize was not very satisfactory, but it would appear that the police feel that that procedure is common and current throughout Canada and it would be acceptable at Tuktoyaktuk. I would suggest that if the Member would wish to direct that question to the RCMP witness we may be able to have here tomorrow that he might be in a better position to respond than I.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Ms. Cournoyea, would you rather direct the question to the officers?

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I will do that but I would like to say, just as a comment, that it is not satisfactory to the people in Tuktoyaktuk because the complaint came from them. The issue is that it may be fine in the South but it is very difficult when you pick up a phone and are asked to contact the operator and go into a process of going through a mobile number. It is just not practical up here. What is good in the South is not necessarily good up here. However, I will raise it again whenever the RCMP witness comes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) The concern, that concern will be brought up tomorrow when the RCMP officer comes in, I take it. Before I go to Mr. Patterson, does anyone have any concerns; anyone else? I guess there is no one. Mr. Patterson, proceed.

MR. PATTERSON: I was just going to suggest, or move if necessary, that the directorate be deferred until we have a chance to address questions to a representative of the RCMP. I think that would be the best way of proceeding so he can have the benefit of any concerns Members have about that area.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) What do the other Members think about the concerns regarding the RCMP officers? The RCMP officer cannot come in right now and will not until tomorrow. Would you like to continue or stop? Would you like to defer the subject until tomorrow? What do the other Members think? We can move on if you want to to page 6.03.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Progress.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Someone just said defer it until tomorrow and report progress. Is that agreed?

---Agreed

So, the committee of the whole will report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, the committee of the whole has been considering the appropriations for 1980-81, and we wish to report progress.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in room 303.

ITEM NO. 10: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, March 11, 1980, 9:30 o'clock a.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Oral Questions
3. Questions and Returns
4. Petitions
5. Tabling of Documents
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions
9. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters: Representations by the Dene Nation; Bill 1-80(1), being the remaining estimates of departments not previously completed, and Bill 2-80(1)
10. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just before we adjourn I would like to observe, since we are a branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association that today, March 10th, is Commonwealth Day and observed by parliaments, Commonwealth parliaments throughout the world. This House stands adjourned until 9:30 o'clock a.m., March 11, 1980, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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