



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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BAKER LAKE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1980

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): The hon. Member for Yellowknife South.

Objection To June 13th News Of The North Article

MRS. SORENSEN: On a point of privilege according to section 38. I have a complaint to the Assembly re a press report referring to me personally. I shall read the press report which was taken from the Friday, June 13, News of the North. It was beside a front page picture of the Hon. James Wah-Shee the Minister of Local Government. The press report is as follows: "The first ever government leader will probably be the Minister of Local Government James Wah-Shee, Lynda Sorensen said Saturday. This statement ties in with indications from her on Wednesday that a government leader will probably be selected while Territorial Council sits in Baker Lake during the next ten days. Wah-Shee is being groomed for the job, she said. In part his native background makes him a likely candidate for the government leader's post. Otherwise, George Braden would be the most likely person to lead the seven man ex-com, she said."

MR. PATTERSON: What about Arnie and Tom?

MRS. SORENSEN: "Braden is the strongest..."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hurray.

MRS. SORENSEN: "...but he too supports the notion that a native person should head up the Territories' government. Native people occupy the majority of seats on the 22 man Territorial Council and also make up the majority of the Territories' population."

Mr. Speaker, the discussion which took place between myself and the News of the North reporter on Saturday, June 7, in Yellowknife concerned the appointment of a minister responsible for aboriginal rights and constitutional development. It did not centre around the appointment of a government leader. I did not say that Mr. Wah-Shee was being groomed for the position of government leader. It is my opinion that only horses are groomed. I did however say that the sessional paper tabled during the last Assembly identified the need for a Minister of the Executive to be designated as the person who would provide the linkage with the native associations and that it appeared Mr. Wah-Shee was already identified as that person because he had been signing letters in that manner. He was also identified as the Minister of constitutional affairs.

I indicated to the reporter that if that was the case, if Mr. Wah-Shee was to be instituted as a Minister of aboriginal rights and constitutional affairs that I approved because it was my opinion that an Inuit or Dene Member of the elected Executive Committee would be a natural person to take on that responsibility, particularly because of the credibility with both the federal government and the native associations because of the very sensitive positions that native people and the federal government have with respect to the settlement of land claims.

With respect to the comments about Mr. Braden, I wish to indicate that at no time did I ever discuss the position of government leader with Mr. Braden. Therefore, I do not know his opinions with respect to who should be the government leader, and at no time did I say that he is the strongest or the most possible leader. I was asked particularly about Mr. Braden and I said he is a strong and talented leader. Had I been asked about Mr. Butters, for my opinion of Mr. Butters I would have said the same thing and said the same thing about Mr. McCallum and Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. CURLEY: What about yourself?

MRS. SORENSEN: Of course.

MR. FRASER: How about me, how about me, dear?

MRS. SORENSEN: I have much more diplomacy than that.

---Laughter

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I wish it on the record that I strongly object to being quoted as having said things I did not in fact say. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your point is noted. Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen.

Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Are there further replies? The hon. Member for Keewatin South.

Mr. Curley's Reply

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say for my native colleagues that I would like to welcome you here and also those people who come from the far away settlements. I would like to welcome them here and say that we must co-operate together in this Assembly. I would like to make a short statement mostly concerning the Keewatin region. As we all know in the Keewatin with this government, we are progressing to a regional government as the communities are strong. I would also like to touch on another area which is of great concern in our region.

Perhaps before I go into it I would really like to mention that I would like the Executive Committee to pay closer concern or to pay closer attention regarding air transportation in the Keewatin region. The Keewatin people are very dissatisfied with the operation of the regional carrier and they have found out that it is very inconvenient, particularly in Baker Lake as there is no terminal building and you probably would be angrier had you come in on a day when it was raining. Baker Lake is one of the bigger communities in the Keewatin and probably second only to Eskimo Point and the government seems to be taking their time in responding to the request to have the airstrip and terminal buildings upgraded or even built. I would now like to speak in English for those who did not quite understand my point.

Speaking English, I welcome the hon. Members from all parts of the Northwest Territories, and we may not sound as though we are hospitable in this chamber from time to time but we do welcome you here to this region to learn a little bit about our characteristics in this region as I think they are different from the western part and so on. I really appreciate the Members from the High Arctic for coming here to take part in the debates because we do need their support and we hope that your stay in the Keewatin will be successful and enjoyable. Mr. Fraser here seems to concur with that. Anyway, I would just like to go through a few items that I have in my notes. I did not make a speech because I spent the time in the hospital before coming up here and came back to Rankin Inlet on Friday and I had to come up here Monday so I have not prepared myself for a fight in this chamber but I hope there will not be any.

Development Of Local Government In The Keewatin

Anyway, the Keewatin I think is better developed. I will not refer to the Western Arctic or the Mackenzie district, but in terms of local government the Keewatin is pretty well on its way to self-determination in determining the aspirations of the local people. You can see that with the people of Baker Lake. Baker Lake people have done a lot in the last few years without any real help from the federal government in terms of their problems with the mining exploration and the right to hunt and ensure that part of their living in the future. You see the traditional economy is still very much part of our lives. I can understand many of the Members, Executive Members and territorial officials whose economy is based on a wage economy and so on, but the traditional economy I think is still important to many people. It puts the kind of people in the kind of leadership positions when they are more actively involved in their culture and experience on the land. So I am not saying that this program has spent a lot of money trying to develop renewable resources programs, but I say it contributes to the well-being and to the leadership of the people in the future. I think you can see that comparable to French Canadian people who did not accept the status quo of the Canadian system. They in fact went back to their roots and culture and our fellow Canadian, Mr. Bernard Loiselle, sees how determined Inuit people are to see they are not let down in their own communities. I am proud of that. I am proud to be part of it.

---Applause

You know, I have some points I would like to pursue. The reason I wanted to mention that part of the cultural identity and so on is because it means something to the people. It is important to the people and it is important that this Assembly recognize the fact that people must be able to carry on their livelihood in the Northwest Territories with the kind of identity they want to have. I recall many times the last Assembly used to leave the native people so low; the only priority of the previous Assembly was that economic development was the only route and the only answer for the future of the North. I would amend that to say that it is only a part of the development of the people in this society in this part of the North. I would say I think it is very important now to face the real problems we are facing today in terms of political stability. I think we should concur and recognize the fact that the territorial system today is very unstable. I do not want to be contributing to the instability of the political situation in the North, but I think today that we can rightly so, point out the fact that we have a political instability. Therefore our people in the Northwest Territories are getting anxious and I think they are getting to the point of being fed up with the fact that we have not quite settled the political problems in the Northwest Territories.

People Are Ready To Take Course Of Direction

People here are ready to take the course of direction. The case of Nunavut is not just a dream. I think it is one we would like to see actually happen because we now see real evidence of the kinds of problems that we have faced throughout the history of being a minority in this part of the region and not having the support of the whole Assembly that had existed before this one. I read in the newspaper the other day that Members of Yellowknife centre were hollering and saying that the Eastern Arctic people do not love them and the fact that there are only three of them compared to 19. You know, I used to feel there was only one of me in this region, about ten or so councillors in the region when I was trying to develop the people in terms of leadership. Now I can understand what kind of situation Lynda Sorensen and the other hon. Members are facing in Yellowknife. We will not be unreasonable unless the other Members wish to be. We will respect them and listen to them.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: I do not know if we can make a deal with them but we can make a deal once in a while.

MRS. SORENSEN: For a new hospital?

Air Transportation Problems In The Keewatin

MR. CURLEY: We will discuss that later. Anyway I would just like to go on and go through some of the problems that I see today. Air transportation, as I said in the last Assembly was one that was very much part of the lives of the people in this region because it is the only means for people to get around. It is the only means to get the supplies for a small businessman and it is the only means for people up here to be able to interact with the other communities, but we have transportation problems immediately, particularly the Calm Air schedule up here and the fact that the administration...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Curley. Mr. Fraser, would you please put your cigarette out? Thank you.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. In my mind the administration has not effectively as of yet supported the people in this region in their case and their dissatisfaction with the air transportation. We have asked them to dig into that to see if they can put their support to Ottawa last October but so far we have not received any word whether in fact they have done anything. I would like to say today that the problem still exists and we are approaching more problems today with the need with changing of the routes and schedules to the communities which are due to come. If I may, I would just remind the Members if they were to rely on the present system that we have for transportation you would not be able to get to Yellowknife after leaving Baker Lake for about four days. In the space of four days. That is how difficult it is. The people have to face that. William Noah has to rough it very hard at this time because he is having difficulty in getting into Yellowknife.

So these are the kind of problems we have. New freight rates are due to come into effect some time next month and small business representatives have approached me and they are asking me to support their case through this Assembly. The freight rates are due to be increased by about 60 per cent or so and I do not think that is really fair to the people in this part of the North who have no real support in terms of subsidy, subsidy by any government, whether it be federal or territorial. I will be tabling a document today, an intervention jointly prepared by the Chambers of Commerce of Rankin Inlet and Churchill and that should enlighten some of the Members and the government representatives to see what kind of problem the small business communities and the people in this region are facing. They only want one final thing, they want a fair chance to be heard. They want the Air Transport Committee to come up here and hold public hearings and that is not too much for this Assembly to support and the territorial government.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: We are hoping you recognize the fact there are problems and it should not be a problem because transportation should be one thing that is enjoyed by everybody. I believe the people in the Mackenzie district have quite a good relationship with their air line and there is no reason why we should not enjoy the same things up here.

Executive Committee Membership

So I said I was not going to go too long but I would like to bring up my last two points, dealing with Executive Committee membership. More and more, as I see the Executive Committee and their performance, I am not sure if this is the fair way to represent our people in this region. I was brought up to be the spokesman for the people and I have a close relationship with the people I think and I hope they do with me too, in this region. When I look at the kind of performance I see happening -- to my mind you pretty well have to give up your birthright to be able to effectively be part of the government system. I am not sure that I am prepared to do that. My people, the minority people, the native people, the Inuit people in this region, they require someone to be able to represent them and I am not sure and have not been convinced that joining the Executive Committee is the best thing at this time. So that leaves a question and I am not convinced today that I could effectively take part in that even though the decision will not be made until some time in the fall.

Lack Of Recreational Facilities

Now, I would like to go on to another problem I see up here and that is the lack of attention that I have observed for years in this region with respect to the young people and the lack of recreational facilities to be able to compete and take part in sports such as we see the rest of the Canadian people enjoying. I have seen lack of attention for years and years for the families in the communities whether they be non-Inuit or Inuit; lack of facilities like the people in Yellowknife and Frobisher Bay enjoy, to be able to take part in that. I think it is about time that this Assembly will have to review the whole question of recreational activities and the sports programs that the young people should enjoy; make a definite recommendation and policy, give direction and have them laid out so that our people, the young people and the families involved would be able to benefit from that.

We hear more and more today the fact that health problems exist in the North, and I believe lack of recreational facilities for young people to enjoy and for the families, is a part of that problem. I do not think we can attribute the problem only to the lack of health facilities, I think it is part of an overall lack of recreational programs and facilities in our area. So I will be attempting to come up with some recommendation that this Assembly should set out goals and objectives in terms of recreational sports programs so our people will not be left out of that area.

A Nunavut Government

I have not really got anything else, but finally I would just like to state the fact again that the case for Nunavut I think is a very important one, even though we may be a few years from seeing the reality of a Nunavut government in this region, but I think it is becoming really clear today the fact that Yellowknife, Yellowknife is having difficulties in effectively governing the Eastern Arctic. When I read some of the reports I referred to earlier I see that there are frustrations in the Eastern Arctic. We have for years been frustrated with Yellowknife and the fact that it is demanding responsibility, and it is putting a burden on the representatives of the government. We feel that the Nunavut case would bring the relationship with the rest of the Territories and with the Government of Canada into a very much better atmosphere. I do not think we need to polarize our people further by continuing to support the status quo or the present system which the people at this moment, the three different levels of population we have, are not totally satisfied with.

I would just like to again put to you that the earlier we deal with the case for the Nunavut proposal, perhaps just as support to the possibility of it becoming a reality, and do not worry about the colours and whatnot, the minority becoming the majority in their own government, sooner or later we are going to have to recognize the fact that they have been living in this territory for generations. I do not think they will ever be extinguished to the point that they will have to become white men. I do not think that is possible.

So I would urge the Members of the Assembly to support anything that calls for Nunavut to become a reality and I will leave it to you. I just wish to close by again reminding you to enjoy your stay in Baker Lake and I hope you will always remember it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there other replies? I will remind Members then that that item will be dropped.

INTERPRETER: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker we are getting interference from the satellite service.

MR. SPEAKER: Interference from the satellite service.

INTERPRETER: The technician is currently speaking on the satellite.

MR. SPEAKER: We will just pause for a moment until we sort that out. All right I gather he is behaving himself now. Are things all right now for the interpreters?

INTERPRETER: Yes, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right then we will proceed.

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO.3: ORAL QUESTIONS.

The hon. Member from Mackenzie Liard.

Question 55-80(2): Electrical Power At Kakisa Lake

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Local Government. During the last session I wrote to the Minister about the people of the Kakisa Lake wanting to get electrical power to their settlement. I wish to know whether the Minister has considered the request and if so what is his decision?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I would like to take that question under advisement, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Mr. Sibbeston, another?

Question 56-80(2): Highway Maintenance Between Fort Providence And Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, one question sir, to the Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works or the Commissioner. During the last Assembly session the possibility of the territorial government taking over the highway maintenance between Fort Providence and Simpson was raised. I am just wondering whether the government has considered that possibility and if so, whether the decision can be made public?

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Minister prepared to respond? The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I would like to take that as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Other oral questions? The hon. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 57-80(2): Petition From Nahanni Butte Re Alcohol In Community

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, sometime during December the people of Nahanni Butte sent a petition regarding alcohol in the community to the Commissioner and I am wondering what has happened to this petition, whether the government has acted on it or whether the government intends to act on that petition?

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any Minister prepared to speak to that?
The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to take the question as notice and in view of the fact that I did not have notice with regard to the question being placed, I suggest that possibly the Member might put it as a written question, a request I am permitted to make under the rules of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Mr. Sibbeston, if you would put that as a written question.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. I would take the position that it is a matter that a government official can deal with and it is a matter of urgent concern. I feel that the answer could be made by a government official if he or she knew the answer immediately and so there is no need to put it in the form of a written question.

MR. SPEAKER: You did say, Mr. Sibbeston, that the petition had been filed in December.

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: It does under Rule 41(9) state that whenever a petition is tabled the appropriate Minister shall take note and report at a subsequent session unless immediate action is taken. I would rule that Mr. Sibbeston's question now as to what happened to that petition is a legitimate concern and whichever Minister is responsible may indicate that he can not answer now and would take it under advisement but I would agree that the question not be submitted as a written question. The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the petition I would expect would be put to the Northwest Territories Liquor Licensing Board and I would expect that it would take some time to get a response from that body. So I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters.

MR. SIBBESTON: A further supplementary?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 58-80(2): Commissioner's Response To Petition From Nahanni Butte

MR. SIBBESTON: The petition I am referring to is a petition under the Liquor Ordinance and a petition made to the Commissioner not the Liquor Control Board and perhaps the Minister who responded was perhaps unaware of the provisions of the Liquor Ordinance on this matter. So I assume that the petition is in the hands of the Commissioner and I would request a response from him as to what has happened to the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. I think that is understood and the Minister said he will take it under advisement. Other oral questions?
The hon. Member from the Western Arctic.

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, just on a point of clarification on oral questions. The hon. Mr. Stewart advised me last evening that on oral questions when they are placed before this House, if the Minister did not answer at the time that the oral question was placed that he was not beholden to answer questions further, as they were not recorded. So I wonder if possibly you could clarify the rule on oral questions and exactly what it means in terms of receiving answers. If that is a fact, I would like some direction on putting forth again the questions I asked under written questions. If that is the case, I would like clarification on that point.

Clarification On Oral Questions

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. I will give you that in a moment, Ms. Cournoyea. All right. Rule 40(2) and (3) states that once an oral question is put the Executive Member may forthwith answer the question (b) state that he takes the question as notice and answer it orally on a subsequent day under the same order of business (c) state that in his opinion the question should be put in writing and in which case a judgment will be made with respect to that opinion. It would be my opinion that if a Member asks an oral question you must expect that the Minister who is going to answer can only answer within his competence at that moment and if you are willing to risk that kind of an answer, then you put an oral question. If you feel that he has not quite answered it fully, you are entitled to ask a supplementary question. If you feel that the matter has not been dealt with adequately, it could be because you are maybe expecting too much from a Minister right at that moment and perhaps your question should be put as a written question and, of course, it is incumbent on the Minister that a written question is returned with a written answer, a full written answer.

So I am merely suggesting for Members who want complete answers it is better to submit written questions. There is the matter as well, our rule does say that oral questions should be matters that relate to public affairs and that are of sufficient importance to require an immediate answer. As I said the other day, it is difficult for me to judge what is of immediate importance to you. I simply say to you that if you insist on putting oral questions you might reasonably expect that the answers will not be as full and detailed as if you put written questions. Does that explain the situation, Ms. Cournoyea?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker...

MR. SPEAKER: I asked a question of her first.

MS. COURNOYEA: Just for you to clarify once again, on the second part of the question. If the question is not answered in that day and the Minister or the person responsible for answering has not directed you to write a written question or he has not said he would take it under advisement, would I take that to mean if he does not reply on the second day that we probably would not be receiving a reply at all?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think you could necessarily make that assumption. Hon. Mr. Butters, do you have comments to make about this discussion?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It is a question of privilege I have on a point of order if that is possible. I think that I would hope that Members of the House recognize that as the hon. Member mentioned we are meeting at Baker Lake and...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. If you are rising on either would you state immediately what it is and then perhaps explain, Mr. Butters?

Necessity Of Departmental Officials At A Field Session

HON. TOM BUTTERS: On a point of privilege. I think hon. Members realize we are meeting at Baker Lake and I think they also recollect that we were requested that we not bring our departmental officials with us. I may say this is the last time I will ever come to a meeting away from Yellowknife without the senior officials of my department. That is one of the reasons that it makes it so extremely difficult to respond to questions and other matters of detail that Members require.

One thing that would be helpful is that if Members would use the mechanism of courtesy to just indicate to the Executive Member a few hours or a day or so beforehand the type of question to be asked, I am quite sure that a satisfactory response could be given the Member. I suggest that if the questioners would be a little tolerant and understanding they might be a little more satisfied with our replies. Speaking of replies, I have a return to the hon. Member's question, the hon. Member from Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this an oral question that was asked of you earlier?

Return To Question 57-80(2): Petition From Nahanni Butte Re Alcohol In Community
And Question 58-80(2): Commissioner's Response To Petition From Nahanni Butte

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, it was, sir. The Commissioner has approved the holding of a plebiscite and placed it in the region's hands to meet with the community and gather information required such as dates, enumerator, returning officer, etc., and the work in question. The Commissioner is expecting this information back in a day and he will then order a plebiscite.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mr. Butters. The Minister's point is well taken. If you expect a full, detailed answer you must give notice and probably a written question is going to be your most effective means. Are there other oral questions? The hon. Member for Keewatin North.

Question 59-80(2): Community Service Complex In Baker Lake

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Local Government. Whether I ask it of the Commissioner or the Minister of Local Government, I would like to get an answer. We have asked for an office to be used by the hamlet and we have written before on this matter and we have not had any answers. We have not had any response yet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee. Are you clear what the question is?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you repeat please, Mr. Noah? I did not quite understand the question either. Would you please repeat?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) The hamlet of Baker Lake...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Noah, they are mixed up as to what you are saying. Just go back a way and perhaps we will get it.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) I am asking a question, to the Commissioner or to the Minister of Local Government. I think the people, the residents in Baker Lake have prior put a request for a complex and the hamlet has written a letter. The question is: I would like to get a clarification and an answer as to whether the Local Government or the Commissioner are prepared to give an answer to my question as to what is happening to the community service complex that has been requested by the community of Baker Lake and I would like a clarification and an answer as to what the status is on the community service complex.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take that as notice and give a reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Are there other oral questions? The hon. Member from Frobisher Bay.

Question 60-80(2): Keewatin Region Medical Facilities

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Minister of Health. In view of the total lack of progress to date on even beginning talks for planning a Keewatin regional hospital and in view of the urgent need for first hand medical services as a result of chronic and continuing transportation problems in this region is the Minister of Health willing now to make a commitment to take immediate steps to use territorial funds to induce a doctor to locate in the Keewatin?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 60-80(2): Keewatin Region Medical Facilities

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, first I would simply like to suggest that there are some steps being taken as regards the medical needs, services and facilities and practitioners within the Keewatin. It may not be as quickly as some Members would want to see it under way or moving along. Nevertheless there has been some start.

At the same time I would indicate to the Member and to other Members of the House that I have already begun to have departmental officials inquire into the availability of a doctor or medical practitioner at the present time, both in the Keewatin, and in the Central Arctic and the Baffin. The Member knows that doctors are sent from the Churchill hospital into the Keewatin but I would say that after I have looked into it and departmental officials have given me the information on the availability of medical practitioners in this area, I am prepared at that time, if it is necessary that a doctor be placed permanently within the Keewatin or the Central Arctic, then I am prepared to push within the Executive for that kind of service and to have that kind of service funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker. There is a hospital and more than one doctor in the Baffin region.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I realize that.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other oral questions? The hon. Member for Great Slave East.

Question 61-80(2): Snowdrift Co-op Storage Space

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Minister of Economic Development. Can the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism advise this House of the progress being made to assist the Snowdrift Co-op in providing more warehouse space to store their resupply?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 61-80(2): Snowdrift Co-op Storage Space

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the hon. Member for giving me some notice on this issue. We have had a chance to discuss it. The department is working with officials of the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion and have come up with what I would call

a short-term solution to the lack of warehouse space in Snowdrift and we hope to have arrangements finalized in the near future. However, I would also like to point out to the hon. Member, Mr. Speaker, that I consider this to be an interim solution and I certainly will have my officials go into Snowdrift and really discuss the problem there. An example of the problem that this is occurring in Snowdrift, as my department informs me, is that the co-op has canned orange juice at a cost of 94 cents. Its landed cost value from Edmonton, in Snowdrift is \$2.27. This results in a suggested retail price of \$3. I think that this shows the severity of the situation. I will do my utmost to have my officials follow this up not only for an interim solution, but also to come up with something which is long term.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Other oral questions. The hon. Member from the Central Arctic.

Question 62-80(2): Dental Care Program

MR. TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. The Minister will recall at the last session I raised a question concerning dental care, and also providing services perhaps with arrangements with the dental care program to gain experience in the field. What is the status of this question and can the Minister reply at this moment?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 62-80(2): Dental Care Program

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member is referring to the dental therapist program in Fort Smith. It is my understanding that the people who are taking that particular program, part of their work is in the field and I think the graduation of this years group is just completed or is very close, that date is very close to being met. I would expect there would be graduates of that program who would now be hired by the federal Department of National Health and Welfare through their medical services branch for the Territories and be placed in areas in the Northwest Territories whereby they can now contribute to the total dental health of people in the Territories.

I would take the concern of the Member and get in touch with the school to ascertain whether or not there is a dental therapist contemplated for hire in his particular area. I should say, Mr. Speaker, in dealing with the program itself, it is my understanding that National Health and Welfare are going to take that program out of the Northwest Territories and place it in one of the other provinces within a year.

MR. SPEAKER: Other oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Tologanak?

MR. TOLOGANAK: This is another question.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

Question 63-80(2): Study Of Medical Facilities In Central Arctic Region

MR. TOLOGANAK: My last question is directed to the Minister of Health. At the first of the session I asked a question and I do not believe I received a positive answer, or an affirmative answer as to the funds that were committed in the budget to do a study, a feasibility study of what kind of medical facilities would be available in the Central Arctic. Can the Minister assure me or reply what time the study will be done and by who?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 63-80(2): Study Of Medical Facilities In Central Arctic Region

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would simply indicate in an even more positive manner if I may that I will have departmental officials contact people of the Central Arctic either through KIA, Keewatin Inuit Association or through the various communities to attempt to set up a board of management who will, if they agree, who will come together to establish terms of reference for a consultant to be hired, if again we can agree to that individual or individuals. I would be prepared to do that on my return to Yellowknife, notwithstanding the weather, as soon as we have recessed or whatever from this session, to take a look at the medical aid facilities which are needed in the Central Arctic. If we do then agree to have the consultant, between the communities or KIA or whoever, we as a government will then be prepared to fund this study and as a result of this study then I think we should be in a position to then recommend what kind of a facility.

Again as I answered the Member from Frobisher Bay I would say to the Member from Central Arctic at the same time again I have had my officials looking into how often a medical practitioner is available in the Central Arctic and if after a review of that information, and it is determined that a doctor should be placed permanently in that area, then again I say that I am prepared to push to have this government hire a doctor, place a doctor in the Central Arctic and have that doctor's salary funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. COURNOYEA: Do it now.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other oral questions? The hon. Member from Keewatin South.

Question 64-80(2): Keewatin Region Hospital

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Health. In view of the fact that the federal government and the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada have come to an agreement to review health delivery and to specifically look at whether or not there should be a hospital in the Keewatin region, could the Minister tell this House what type of support the Minister is giving to support the people of the region for a hospital to be built in this region?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 64-80(2): Keewatin Region Hospital

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to indicate to the Member or Members of the House that I would want to put any undue influence on the kind of study that has been going on. We as a department have indicated to National Health and Welfare and support the study that is going on at this time. In fact, the department has had some role to play in establishing the terms of reference and the report at the end, or the conclusion if you like of the study, and the report will not only be made to the Minister of National Health and Welfare but this government has insisted that a report be made simultaneously to this government through its Minister of Health and to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. So I would suggest we are very much in support of identifying the needs, the kinds of facilities, the kind of medical practitioners, everything related to health that should be in the Northwest Territories. So I would suggest we are in support of what is going on and are playing a role.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other oral questions? The hon. Member for Hudson Bay.

Question 65-80(2): Alcohol Control In Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) I have one question to ask. Last fall I asked a question of the Minister of Health but I never got an answer on it and I am not sorry. I am sure he has a lot of work to do, and this is the question I tried asking. The alcohol committee of Sanikiluaq would like to get some financial assistance and will they be paid an honorarium? We are trying to set up a system so that alcohol can be controlled but it is very hard. Also we make rules but they are not usually followed. I know now that next month alcohol discussions will take place and I want to be able to set up something before the discussions begin. After I have these translated I will give the Minister of Health a letter and that is the only question I have. Also Mr. Speaker, if I could ask another question, can you hear me?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

Question 66-80(2): Funding For Recreation Committee In Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you. The recreation committee in Sanikiluaq would like to get some assistance also. What they are trying to achieve is on fuel costs and any financial needs that are required, they would like to be assisted. Also they have never at any time been given any financial support by the government. Also the hamlet secretary has to run recreation due to lack of funds, in order to run their own recreation committee and this will be translated as a letter and given to the Minister of Local Government. Those are the only two questions I had. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The second one first, the hon. Minister for Social Services, could you respond?

Return To Question 65-80(2): Alcohol Control In Sanikiluaq

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure so I will not come out and say, I cannot say, I suppose, that this is gospel, but it seems to me that when this question did arise I tabled a reply to that question, concerning honoraria for social services and various other committees in communities. However, if the Member does not have that I will make sure he does get a reply to his question concerning honoraria for the local alcohol committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum and I think the second was for the hon. Minister of Local Government. Would you have a response Mr. Wah-Shee?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that as notice and provide the answer at a later date to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there oral questions?

Item 4, questions and returns. Are there written questions?

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

The hon. Member from Yellowknife South.

Question 67-80(2): Amendments To Canada Oil And Gas Act

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development. Debate is expected to take place this fall in parliament concerning amendments to the Canada Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act. Although the form and content of these amendments are not known, it can be expected that they will reflect the statement of policy on this matter of May of 1976. The goal of the new Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act at the time was stated as the promotion "of an early assessment of Canada's frontier and gas resources through incentives to explore". In view of the seriousness of this matter I would ask the Minister of Economic Development what steps he and his department plan to take to review these amendments and to provide representation to the appropriate federal standing committee concerning this very important set of regulations?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The hon. Member for the High Arctic, a written question.

Question 68-80(2): Burial Of Northerners In Montreal

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Health, Mr. McCallum, if he is aware that sometimes when the people from the North go south to Montreal to the hospitals and die there, they are buried there as well. The records of their burials are kept for only ten years and then the records are destroyed and the body is dug up and another body replaces it in that same grave. People in the North are not aware of this. I would like to ask the Minister could he check into this situation and let the people of the North know about it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Other written questions? The hon. Member from Frobisher Bay, do you have one?

Question 69-80(2): Nanisivik Mine Study

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question for the Minister of Economic Development or the Commissioner. I am not sure. The territorial government was a participant along with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development several years ago now on a study done by the Baffin Region Inuit Association on the socio-economic impact of the mine at Nanisivik. Now that the study is complete why has it not been made public?

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

Question 70-80(2): Baffin Classroom Assistant Training Program

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Education. How were the instructors for the Baffin classroom assistant training program selected? Were the positions publicly advertised? If not, why not? What are the dates of the training course this summer? What are the fees being paid to the instructors? How were these fees set? Is there training being offered in instructing in Inuktitut? If so, do any of the instructors have fluency in Inuktitut?

Question 71-80(2): Tabling Of Information Re Public Servants In N.W.T.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Executive. When will the information requested by this House during the second session of the Ninth Assembly asking for names and positions where both spouses are public servants in the Northwest Territories be tabled in this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Other written questions? Returns from Ministers. The Hon. Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 49-80(2): Use Of Canada Manpower Lists By Personnel

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return for the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay which concerns the Northwest Territories government Department of Personnel and the Canada Manpower Centre. The question asked if the personnel office of the Northwest Territories government was using Canada Manpower Centre lists of persons available for work in recruiting for government jobs. What I have to report today indicates that the Department of Personnel lists all job vacancies with the Canada Employment Centres through the TERIS, Territorial Employment Record and Information System, office of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. As well information on all job vacancies is transmitted to regional Manpower development offices.

Return To Question 45-80(2): Personnel Working On Drilling Authority Agreement

The second return I have, Mr. Speaker, is in response to a question or a supplementary question asked by the hon. Member for the Western Arctic on Dome-Canmar and the memorandum of understanding. My return states that the 1980 draft memorandum of understanding between Dome-Canmar and the Government of Canada has been reviewed by the resource development committee working group of our government. Changes have been recommended and at present we are waiting the company's reply. For the information of the hon. Member the members of the resource development committee working group are as follows: Mr. Lorne Matthews from the regional operations section of the Executive, Mr. Don Wiesbeck, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Dunbar from the Department of Social Services, Louise Vertes from the Department of Local Government and John Donihee from the Department of Renewable Resources. Once the company's response is received the memorandum will then be reviewed by the resource development committee which is a committee of all Deputy Ministers or relevant Deputy Ministers of our government. If we feel that more changes are desired, then, as I understand it, the Northwest Territories government still has an option to pursue changes with the company and with the Government of Canada. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Other ministerial returns? Before we leave the item are there written questions or returns from Ministers?

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The hon. Member from Keewatin South.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document which I mentioned earlier: Tabled Document 9-80(2), Intervention to the Canadian Transport Commission in the matter of Calm Air International Limited, prepared jointly by the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce and the Churchill Chamber of Commerce.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Other documents to be tabled?
The hon. Member for Hudson Bay.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you. This petition was signed only by me but I wrote it down so that it would be more understandable. If it is translated into English I could give it to the House. Tabled Document 10-80(2), a request from the hamlet council of Sanikiluaq, which has been asking for a bigger school for the community for these reasons. The reasons are given that the students who have to take higher education in Frobisher Bay...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. In tabling what is written there do not read the whole thing now but tell us what it is about, a particular matter and then give it to the Clerk to have it tabled and it will be tabled.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The next petition -- I also have a petition from Sanikiluaq...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. Is it a petition signed by many people? Then it seems to me it may be a document that you do want all Members to see and to read so you would simply table it, just tell us briefly what it refers to, then give it to the Clerk and again it will be distributed to all Members.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Tabled Document 11-80(2), a petition concerning the power generator at Sanikiluaq. It is a request to remove or relocate the power house.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Other documents to be tabled?
The Hon. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 12-80(2), A Joint Government of the Northwest Territories, Dene Nation and Metis Association Position Paper on the Norman Wells Pipeline Expansion Project.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents: Tabled Document 13-80(2), Report to the Legislative Assembly. The Commissioner and Executive Committee, Changing Roles.

Tabled Document 14-80(2), Report of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories on the Ninth General Election, October 1, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Other documents to be tabled?

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 1-80(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, 1979-80

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June 17th, 1980, I shall move that Bill 1-80(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st day of March, 1980, be read for the first time. While I am on my feet, if I could also...

MR. SPEAKER: Before you do, Mr. Butters, this is June 16th. Did you mean on the 18th you would move such a motion?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, sir. I meant the intention would be tomorrow which is the earliest date and my expectation would be I could move first reading tomorrow. It is not a motion. It is a bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, could I ask which rule you are referring to that you feel you can give 24 hours notice rather than 48 hours notice to move the motion?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, as far as I know the practice in the House has been that you can give notice and even move first reading on the same day when it is a government bill. Possibly one could check with the Legal Advisor to determine whether that belief is correct.

MR. SPEAKER: It would be a question of procedure, I feel, according to our House rules and I will check with the Clerk. Yes. I read Rule 42(1), 48 hours notice shall be given of a motion (a) for leave to present a bill or resolution, and I believe that that amount of notice is required. If you feel it is not and choose tomorrow to attempt to make the motion, we will deal at that time with the question as to whether it can be or not but notice is being given today. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Speaker. I will not ask for unanimous consent for tomorrow. I will put forth the notice of the bill, as you have set forth it to be acceptable; and to make it legal as the rules require. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June the 18th, 1980 I shall move that Bill 1-80(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1980, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, have you another notice of motion?

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 2-80(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1, 1980-81

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do. I give notice that on June 18th, 1980, I shall move that Bill 2-80(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year, be read for the first time. I regret these were not in earlier because we could have moved them last week had I known that I would be prevented from bringing them forward in 24 hours.

MR. SPEAKER: The rules are available to all. Are there any other notices of motion for first reading of bills?

Item 9, notices of motion. However, I see it is coffee time so before going on to that I will first of all say that for those who need to reshape their planning, this House will sit at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow and I would remind Members that we have been requested to caucus at this time; immediately. We will recess for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I recognize a quorum and call the House to order again. Just before we proceed with the orders of the day I believe the Minister responsible for House planning, the Hon. Richard Nerysoo has an important public announcement to make. Mr. Nerysqo.

Hon. George Braden, Chairman Of Elected Executive Committee

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. A decision was made by the elected Executive Committee Members today that we have chosen ourselves a chairman for that committee and the person designated to hold the chairmanship of the elected Executive Committee has been made, Mr. George Braden.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: As Speaker I would like to announce that that decision was affirmed and fully supported by Members of the Assembly. We will now proceed with House business.

Item 9, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 9: NOTICES OF MOTION

The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Notice Of Motion 16-80(2): Referral Of Tabled Document 12-80(2) To Committee Of The Whole

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of motion to move that Tabled Document 12-80(2); A Joint Government of the Northwest Territories. Dene Nation and Metis Association Position Paper on the Norman Wells Pipeline Expansion Project, be considered in committee of the whole at a time to be set by the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: You are giving notice of motion.

Notice Of Motion 17-80(2): Referral Of Tabled Document 6-80(2) To Committee Of The Whole

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I am. I give notice of motion to move that the Tabled Document 6-80(2), Principles for Development of an Energy Policy, be considered in committee of the whole at a time to be set by the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Are there other notices of motion? The hon. Member for Keewatin South.

Notice Of Motion 18-80(2): Calm Air Freight Rates

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 18, 1980, I will move the following motion: That this Assembly urge the administration to make representation by filing intervention to the Canadian Transport Commission to refuse to grant proposed freight rate increases by Calm Air International Ltd., until the commission has held public hearings with respect to air services in the Keewatin region.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Nerysoo, can I clarify? Are you intending to ask for unanimous consent on the motions to go ahead with them?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other notices of motion? The hon. Member from Pine Point.

Notice Of Motion 19-80(2): Appointment Of Deputy Chairman Of Committees Of The Whole

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. I would like to give notice that I will be seeking unanimous support at the appropriate time to move the following, that Mr. Ludy K. Pudluk, the Member for the High Arctic be appointed a deputy chairman of committees of the whole of this Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other notices of motion?

Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

We have certain motions to be brought forward today. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the House for unanimous consent to consider the motion to have the Speaker set a time to deal with the development of an energy policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Does he have consent?

---Agreed

Please proceed with the motion.

Motion 17-80(2): Referral Of Tabled Document 6-80(2) To Committee of the Whole

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS a document entitled Principles for Development of an Energy Policy was tabled in this House on June 14;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the Tabled Document 6-80(2), Principles for Development of an Energy Policy, be considered in committee of the whole at a time to be set by the Speaker.

Motion 17-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for that motion? Seconded by the Hon. Mr. Braden. To the motion. The question is being called. Are you ready for the question? Those in favour please indicate by raising their hands. Down. Opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I would like to have unanimous consent to put forward a motion to have a document, A Joint Government of the Northwest Territories, Dene Nation and Metis Association Position Paper on the Norman Wells Pipeline Expansion Project, to be considered or to be part of...

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for the motion?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I need unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Please proceed.

Motion 16-80(2): Referral Of Tabled Document 12-80(2) To Committee Of The Whole

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS a document entitled Government of the Northwest Territories Position Paper on the Norman Wells Pipeline Expansion Project, was tabled in this House today;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the document entitled Government of the Northwest Territories Position Paper on the Norman Wells Pipeline Expansion Project, be considered in committee of the whole at a time to be set by the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? The Hon. Mr. Braden. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 16-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. Are you ready for the question? Those in favour please indicate by raising their hands? Down. Opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent regarding my motion to appoint a deputy chairman of committees of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Please proceed.

Motion 19-80(2): Appointment Of Deputy Chairman Of Committees Of The Whole

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

WHEREAS this Assembly recently created a second position of deputy chairman of committees of the whole;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that Mr. Ludy K. Pudluk, the Member for High Arctic, be appointed a deputy chairman of committees of the whole of this Legislative Assembly.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 19-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All those in favour please indicate by raising your hands. Down. Opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Motions. Are there others seeking unanimous consent? I have on the order paper Motion 9-80(2), Property Tax in Nunavut. Mr. Curley.

Motion 9-80(2): Property Tax In Nunavut.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the administration proposes to levy property taxes on the residents of Rankin Inlet for the current fiscal year;

AND WHEREAS insufficient advance notice of the proposed tax was given to the residents of Rankin Inlet;

AND WHEREAS the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada is in the process of preparing for negotiations with the Government of Canada leading up to the eventual conclusion of the land claims settlement;

AND WHEREAS such negotiations may result in the establishment of Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS the properties in respect of which the administration intends to levy taxes will in all probability fall within the boundaries of Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS property tax and property users' tax will have serious effects on residents and small businessmen;

AND WHEREAS land ownership is still unsettled in the area of Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS this property tax legislation is unacceptable to people in the area of Nunavut;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the hon. Member for Keewatin North, that this Assembly recommend that property taxes in all areas of Nunavut, as defined in ITC's Nunavut proposal, be held in abeyance until after the settlement of land claims and the establishment of Nunavut.

MR. SPEAKER: Duly moved and seconded. To the motion, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The taxes have already been brought up and that is a very big concern and when you have to pay tax on property after very short notice...

MR. SPEAKER: Would you hold it? They are not coming through with the interpretation, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Therefore the property tax -- what I mean is if you have a house, your own house, then you have to pay for the land, the fuel and besides the rent you have to pay when you own the land. The proposal states that if you own your own land and if you are using a house you would have to pay for the land on which the house is based on according to the government rules.

The Minister indicated the other day that the property taxes could be paid within a period of two years, but it is really a burden, more of a nuisance than anything else because property taxes as was indicated yesterday, for instance in a place like Nunavut and like at Nanisivik Mines, the territorial government is only gaining a fraction of the taxes from the mining community. So I am urging the Members of the Assembly to get rid of this thing and carry on with the establishment of a better system which would serve the people with a much better attitude and a much better response to these kinds of things. It may not be very much of a tax and I also call it an incentive to those mining companies who want to invest money and provide employment. So let us take that tax proposal, the property users' tax out of the territorial legislation as defined by ITC's Nunavut proposal and if you do that you would be doing a great deal of service to the people and justice to those of us who live in this part of the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Other debate on the motion? Mrs. Sorensen.

Amendment To Motion 9-80(2)

MRS. SORENSEN: I move that this motion be referred to committee of the whole to be the first item of business in committee of the whole, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by Mrs. Sorensen that the matter be referred. Is there a seconder for that motion? The Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee. To the motion to refer, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Simply, Mr. Speaker, that there are very grave ramifications to the passing of this motion and committee of the whole presents the situation where Members can have free debate back and forth and I feel that in view of that it would be much better to have it in committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Other debate on the motion to refer? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, proper notice has been given to the Members to digest and present their case during this formal session with the Speaker in the chair. I think the agenda is so full of orders of business that we have to deal with, that I think it is an appropriate time to deal with this during this sitting now. I will vote against the motion to refer it to committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Other debate on the motion to refer? Hon. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am in support of this motion and I second it.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Noah. The only debate I will allow now is as to whether this motion should be debated immediately here or whether it should be referred, as Mrs. Sorensen's motion suggests, as the first item in committee of the whole.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) The motion of Mrs. Sorensen I do not support. I do not want to refer it to committee of the whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Other debate on the motion to refer? Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MRS. SORENSEN: I would like a recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Recorded vote being asked. Mr. Clerk, would you please read the motion of referral? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I move that this motion be referred to committee of the whole to be the first item of business in the committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the issue we are going to vote on. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour of the motion to refer as a first item of business in committee of the whole please indicate by raising your hands.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Did you say a recorded vote?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. A recorded vote was requested. Those in favour please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Stewart, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden, Mrs. Sorensen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Those who are opposed to the motion to refer please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. Noah, Mr. Curley, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston.

Amendment To Motion 9-80(2), Defeated

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are abstaining please stand. The motion is lost.

---Defeated

Other debate on the motion? Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the property tax, in short I would like to say it is my thought that in the Keewatin this is completely opposed to the Nunavut settlement. I was in Coral Harbour and the people of Coral Harbour were completely opposed to this idea. More importantly, they are the same in Baker Lake. I think that the cost of living is very high and the cost of living is still going to go higher than communities in the South. This Motion 9-80(2) I am in favour of and I would second it. The people will have to start paying taxes who own properties and I do not like this; so I am bringing it up in this Assembly, to take away the property tax prior to the Nunavut proposal settlement. The reason is that oil and gas are very expensive and last winter in Coral Harbour they were asking how, in what way was there a possibility that the oil and gas could be lowered, the price could be lowered. Not only the oil but also food and in the small communities if you have to pay property taxes this is going to hinder a lot of people who are trying to operate their own business. It is going to be difficult with respect to those people who are in business. I would like support from this Legislative Assembly not to go ahead before the land claims settlement. This is my comment. I would like your support. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Other debate on the motion? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am not quite aware of this and it has not been brought to me and I have just at this point heard about it now concerning this resolution. I would like to support it but also personally I feel it has not been brought to my attention in my constituency. I feel also that in these communities they are not prepared for this situation and they are also aware that they through getting village status -- I feel at this time if this were to be passed there would be people hurt by this motion at this time.

High Cost Of Living

Concerning the thought that the cost of living is high already, I know we are paying twice and a half for various things and if you include the property tax it would be just too much for anybody to handle in this part of the country including property tax. I understand the situation completely and it goes directly to the community, but for people like myself I am very worried about it. At this time I feel very worried and I would like to have some support from this Assembly for this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. Other debate on the motion? The hon. Member from the High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also rise in support of this Motion 9-80(2). This is about the property tax. I do not think it really applies. I do not think we are prepared at this time to get into this type of situation. For example, you can see there are many facilities down on the beach. The things that are there are facilities which are necessary; a place to put their canoes, and people will have to pay out of their pockets for them. For this reason, nobody is prepared to pay things like this so I support the motion. At least maybe some house lots, if people were to live with them, the individual, this really affects equipment and you would have to try to keep them on that property. So it would cost something and I support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Other debate on Motion 9-80(2)? Hon. Mr. Patterson.

No Consultation With Local Taxpayers

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure that I know how my constituents feel about this issue since the private home owners and private businesses in Frobisher Bay, and there are not all that many of them, are already extremely upset about rising property taxes. The reason they are upset, Mr. Speaker, is that this government has implemented massive public works projects without properly consulting the citizens who are in the long run going to have to pay for those projects and I have spoken already perhaps ad nauseam about some of these gargantuan projects and their effects on local assessment rates and local taxes. The utilidor project, for example, in Frobisher Bay on which millions have already been spent and on which millions will be spent has been planned and managed in Yellowknife with no plebiscite for local taxpayers, no significant consultation with local taxpayers. It has already resulted in huge hookup costs and drastic increases in assessed values of properties and property taxes. As a result many of my constituents are saying that anyone who builds a home in Frobisher Bay is crazy. This has been such a significant disincentive to private home ownership and private businesses that I feel that my constituents would want me to vote in favour of this motion.

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that some will say that residents affected should know that they will be foregoing revenue from taxes on government properties, but I also feel, Mr. Speaker, that this is a decision which will affect those communities and if representatives of those communities are willing to vote to forego this revenue, then surely that is a decision that they should be prepared to live with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any other debate on the motion? The question being called. Are you ready for the question? The Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify the reasons why the Department of Local Government has recommended that the Keewatin region pay their property taxes, like the communities in the West, in particular the Mackenzie Valley. It is rather unfair in my opinion to ask that the people in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Inuvik continue to pay their taxes to contribute to their particular programs in their own community. I think regarding property tax we all as citizens of the Northwest Territories have a responsibility. I think we have been fair in our approach. We have indicated to the region concerned that they do not have to pay their taxes this year but I think they should be prepared to pay their taxes next year, which will include accommodation of either paying this year or having to pay next year.

Low Level Of Taxation

I would say that this is not new legislation by any means, as it has been in existence or was prior to the issue being brought forward. I would say that the level of taxation is very low compared to properties in the tax based communities in the Northwest Territories and most other communities in Canada. This is shown by the following figures that I have for a standard three bedroom house. In Eskimo Point they would be required to pay \$100 for a three bedroom house. For a similar three bedroom house in Yellowknife they would be required to pay \$800. That seems to me to be quite a difference in terms of percentage that we are dealing with here.

Also, to give you an example, a hotel for example in Rankin Inlet, the Rankin Inlet hotel which has a square footage of 16,952 square feet, the taxes would be \$2563 in comparison to the Twin Pines in Yellowknife, the Twin Pines hotel which I am sure most of the Members are aware of, has a square footage of 14,784 square feet, which is smaller than the Rankin Inlet hotel and yet they are required to pay \$15,584.

Another example, the Fort Simpson Hotel which is 17,040 square feet, which is again the largest, is required to pay \$6166. A delay or one year extension of the taxes as planned would result in a loss of revenue to the territorial government to the tune of \$300,000 and for the information of the MLA's, the estimated breakdown of taxes payable is approximately as follows: the federal government pays 70 per cent, the territorial government 20 per cent and private home owner and business pay ten per cent.

A Unified Approach Needed

Some additional information is that the private business property tax can be charged as a business expense on their income tax return. So therefore I feel as Minister responsible for Local Government, having to deal with property taxes is not tied down to basically the question of aboriginal rights. I think it deals with the fact that if anyone in the Northwest Territories who owns property, and there has to be a fair arrangement between the East and the West. Under the present arrangement, even though we get criticized from the Eastern Arctic, we do provide similar services in most areas at least in Local Government.

There are some disparities, we realize that, but I think with the property tax we have a responsibility to contribute and if the arguments I hear that we ought to wait until the question of aboriginal rights is decided, and the question of Nunavut, I think that this is asking the property owners in the Mackenzie Valley, perhaps they should not contribute until the whole question of aboriginal rights is settled as well. I think there has to be a unified approach. I am not suggesting I will support such a proposition but that seems to be the argument I hear.

Now, in comparison, the property taxes in question is of low percentage compared to the Keewatin region, compared to the communities in the Mackenzie Valley. So I think we are approaching the question of taxation in a fair manner. I can not see how I can really be persuaded to approach it otherwise; otherwise you will have differences of opinion, that some areas and regions should not pay taxes and other areas should. I do not think to my mind it is fair and I do not think it is a fair proposition you are proposing. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. You have already spoken to the motion, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: An amendment, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. I will accept that later. The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I also have an amendment but I have not spoken yet.

MR. SPEAKER: I was going to recognize her first and I thought you were going to raise a point of order.

Amendment To Motion 9-80(2)

MRS. SORENSEN: I wish to change clause four of the "whereases" to say "And whereas discussion in this Assembly and in the North may result in the establishment of that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal", and I have further amendments wherever Nunavut is mentioned in the "whereas" clauses. Do you wish me to go through them?

MR. SPEAKER: Just a moment while I check that one out. I understand that each place where Nunavut appears you would like what words to appear in its place?

MRS. SORENSEN: "That part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal."

MR. SPEAKER: I think -- Mr. Clerk, can you manage that without her specifically pointing to each spot?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. So the motion to amend is that wherever the word "Nunavut" appears, that it state instead "that part of the Northwest Territories which is described as Nunavut..."

MRS. SORENSEN: I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to get the wording correct. Wherever the word "Nunavut" appears you would want it to read "in that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in ITC's proposal"?

MRS. SORENSEN: The ITC Nunavut proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I understand that includes the heading of the motion, all the "whereases" and the resolution part of the motion itself, Mrs. Sorensen?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I think we have the proposed amendment clear. Is there a seconder to that motion to amend? No seconder? The Hon. Mr. McCallum seconds. To the motion to amend. Mrs. Sorensen.

To Be Decided In The North By Northern People

MRS. SORENSEN: With respect, Mr. Speaker, to my amendment to replace the words "such negotiations" with "discussion in this Assembly and in the North", it is my feeling, and I feel the feeling of the majority of Members here in this Assembly, that Nunavut, as it is proposed in the ITC proposal, is public government and therefore the peoples of the Northwest Territories rather than the federal government should discuss and determine whether Nunavut should in fact become a reality. In other words it should be decided in the North by northern people.

Mr. Patterson, in fact yesterday, in his reply to the Commissioner's opening Address stated passionately that he looked forward to a debate on Nunavut in this Assembly in Frobisher Bay, probably beginning October 22nd, and no doubt there will be some historical decisions made as a result of that debate and recommendations to the federal government. I believe of course that negotiation for Nunavut should take place in the North, as I have said, and that is the reason I have put forth the amendment to remove those particular words.

With respect to replacing or adding "that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal", it is simply to my mind, a matter of legalities, in that Nunavut as yet is not a properly instituted government in the Northwest Territories. It is not a legal entity. It may not be a legal entity if we can come up with some means of keeping us together. However, it is a viable alternative to the governing of the North by this Legislative Assembly and therefore I feel that those words should be added wherever Nunavut is described.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I have been in my community we have gone from an area where everything was paid for by the territorial government as an administration area...

MR. SPEAKER: On the amendment which concerns particularly the word "Nunavut". You wanted to speak to the motion?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I will wait for the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: On the amendment. Ready for the question? Mr. Clerk, would you please read the proposed amendment, the second part, being a general designation? I think that is understood by Members so that there is no doubt what we are voting on please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. In the fourth "whereas" clause, the fourth word, that is, "negotiations" would be deleted and in its place the following words would be substituted, "discussion in this Assembly and in the North". Wherever throughout the motion the word "Nunavut" appears it would be replaced by the following words, "that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal".

MR. SPEAKER: Those in favour -- on the amendment, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am not clear on the fourth line whether or not she has completely deleted the word "negotiations". Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER: I understood that word in the amendment is deleted. Mr. Curley.

Negotiations Must Take Place

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, then I have a problem supporting that motion. I did not have any problem with that amendment as she proposes it. I would have gone along with supporting her amendment if she had included that word and just added "and discussion". I think the negotiations will have to take place in attempting to come up with a Nunavut proposal. Discussion alone, that is no way to come up with any bargaining position. She can continue to discuss the matter with her husband but it will never become a reality. I will not support the motion in that respect because discussions alone do not get anywhere. I can discuss the matter with my colleague Don Stewart there but unless we negotiate the problem we will never resolve it, so on that basis I will vote against the amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen, you can explain it then.

Motion 9-80(2), Reworded

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Curley is quite right and I would again amend my amendment...

MR. SPEAKER: Alter your suggestion.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...to say "negotiations and discussion".

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Is that agreeable to your seconder, Mr. McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. The amendment would read: "such negotiations and discussion," etc. Further to the amendment. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Amendment To Motion 9-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are in favour of the amendment as proposed by Mrs. Sorensen please indicate by raising your hands. Down. Opposed? The amendment is carried. To the motion as amended. We have already had Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Wah-Shee speaking to that motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I started to say before, in my community I have lived there while we have gone through a process of being under an area administrator where the government paid all the costs in the town and nobody who owned property in the town had to pay any taxes or contribute toward anything that was in the community. Since then we have gone through the status of being a hamlet and a village and a town. With each of those progressions of more autonomous self-government in the local area we were able to go ahead on our own with our own projects and decide what we wanted to do with our own money. The main reason we were able to go ahead and do the things first in our community that we wanted done first was because we paid some local taxes and because we were paying the taxes the government went along with us when we decided we wanted an arena or to pave the streets or build a ball diamond or anything else we wanted because it was our money that was paying for part of the project.

I think that if the Members from the area in which Nunavut is involved will look at the situation in a long-term situation the money is not really going to be permanently leaving your community. It is just that the government is asking that you pay for a portion of the costs of operating the facilities in your community and the fact that you pay those taxes then gives you power to demand that you get facilities and services you want in your community because you are having to pay for them. I seriously and earnestly believe that the Members from the communities will only in the long run be doing damage to their communities by supporting this motion of Mr. Curley's because you are taking away an opportunity for yourselves. You say, "Look, this is our money you are playing with and we want it spent this way." I think it is a really backward step that you would be taking. There are already communities in the area like Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay which are in areas where the ITC and COPE, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement have land claims and these communities are presently paying taxes. I think it probably helps those communities a bit to have a say in what is going on if they decide they want a fire hall or an arena or whichever thing they want first for themselves. That is all I have got to say, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: One moment, please. Yes. Other debate? The hon. Mr. Patterson.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(2)

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I propose an amendment to the motion. The amendment is on the last paragraph of the motion. Simply the addition of the word "private" in front of the word "property" and after the word "property" put "and business", the addition of the word "and business taxes". So that the final motion would read: "Now therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. Member for Keewatin North, that this Assembly recommend that private property and business taxes in all areas of Nunavut as defined in the ITC Nunavut proposal..." or however Mrs. Sorensen's amendment affects that word "...be held in abeyance until after the settlement of land claims and the establishment of Nunavut." Or its description according to her amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The amendment proposed is to include the word "private" in front of "property" and the words "and business" immediately after. Is there a seconder for that amendment? Mr. Sibbeston. I would caution you, Mr. Patterson, you have already spoken to the motion. Therefore you must strictly limit your comments to the proposed amendment.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I move this amendment because I think this Assembly should give recognition to the fact that this motion basically is concerned with the effects of property taxes on and I am quoting from the "whereases" the "property users, residents and small businessmen". This motion should be seen as an incentive to those private property owners and those businessmen. It is not an attempt to avoid their responsibilities. It is an attempt to preserve their very existence in these remote parts of the Northwest Territories where costs are so prohibitive. So that is why I am moving the amendment, to specifically focus on the real concern of the motion which is to give an incentive through tax relief and this is not uncommon in this country.

Mr. Speaker, for example our federal government has deferred payment of royalties by Cominco on its Arvik Mine proposal for eight years. I am sure that any large corporation, multinational corporation would love to have such a huge interest, such a huge deferment on royalties in these days of high interest rates and what we are saying here with this motion and with my amendment is in effect the same thing, that these taxes should be held in abeyance to recognize the tremendous cost of living that private persons and businessmen face in the area north of the tree line and there is a difference between the area north of the tree line and the other areas that have road connections and railway connections and the rest of it. So, Mr. Speaker, those are the reasons for my amendment and I would ask Members to accept that the amendment is well within keeping with the spirit of the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment to include the word "private" in front of "property" and the words "and business" immediately afterwards. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Native People In The West Pay Taxes

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, to the amendment, property taxes and business taxes. As far as I am aware, property taxes go to the territorial government and the government in turn distributes the money to the hamlets and the settlements according to their budget. So we are talking about this on a territorial basis.

The other thing I would like to indicate to you is regarding property and business taxes. The treaty Indian and Metis people who own property and who also operate businesses are not excluded from paying their taxes in the West. They are like everybody else, and the question of aboriginal rights has not been settled in the Mackenzie Valley as most of you are aware, but they have no protection from making their contribution. So we have this situation. I say we have a responsibility to contribute to some degree and I think we will all agree that we should contribute, we should really pay our way, we can not continue to live on handouts and welfare from the federal...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me but I think you are getting back a bit to the points you were making earlier and specifically whether those words should or should not be included.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, this is in reference to property taxes and business taxes and I have restrained myself...

MR. CURLEY: To the amendment.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I cannot really support the amendment because it does not really make any changes to the original proposal that was made by the hon. Member from Keewatin South.

MR. CURLEY: I think so.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I still feel the same. The amendment has not really changed the intent. I think the intent of the original motion is still there but I would like to emphasize that native people from the West are also paying taxes.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Is there debate on the amendment? It has been moved and seconded that the word "private" be inserted in front of "property" and the words "and business" be inserted immediately afterwards. All those in favour of that amendment please indicate by raising their hands. Down. Those opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended. The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I seem to be always a shit disturber but I am going to plow ahead anyway.

MR. CURLEY: Sit down.

MRS. SORENSEN: I wish I could, my knees are shaking. There are three reasons, basic reasons why I feel the people of Rankin Inlet and the people of that area designated as Nunavut by the ITC proposal should not be exempt from property taxes.

Number one, I feel that this would serve to isolate the people of this area from full participation in government in the Northwest Territories, a government which they are now a part of, by virtue of a collective exemption from contribution to government finance. I have heard Mr. Curley expound on the need for recreation facilities, on the need for doctors and health facilities in the Keewatin. I have heard the same from Mr. Patterson concerning the things he wants for his area, and certainly as chairman of the finance committee I have got to say that municipalities have a responsibility to provide at least part of those funds that we will be doling out to the four regions in the next coming years and months.

I certainly accept that costs are high. In my previous job I came in contact with the prices all across the North on a constant basis and they were high. We in the Legislative Assembly have a responsibility to raise some of our money. We cannot raise it all and are working on that, but some of the \$300 million which we spend in the Northwest Territories must be raised by ourselves. That is the road to responsible government and that is the road Nunavut will take if it becomes a reality. Again I say the cost of living is high and I realize that but it is high all over the North. We have a proposal before the Executive right now. It is contained in the task force on housing and it concerns a property tax rebate which will provide relief for the property owner, for the home owner. It was a campaign promise of mine and I was happy to see it coming from the task force on housing. I have not brought a motion forward dealing with relief to home owners because I know that that housing task force has not been fully discussed in our Executive.

However, that property tax rebate was a means by which all the home owners in the North, not just those who live in Nunavut or Rankin Inlet, could see, could have or experience some relief. It did not discriminate between the East and the West. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do not feel it is only the East that needs relief, it is not only the East that has high costs; it is not only the East that needs people to own their own homes so they can have some esteem in the North.

Tax Exemption Would Create Anomalies

It is certainly very much an issue in my riding and I know in the ridings of all the Members here. There is another reason why I feel we should not allow any exemption at this time. Exemption would create anomalies no matter how that exemption would be defined and it would be difficult to administer equitably. What about the communities in the Eastern Arctic which are already collecting property tax and using those taxes through grants and proud of that, the fact that they are collecting that tax?

As Mr. McLaughlin says, and he has left, but as he said, what about those individuals and communities in the West which are already paying tax? Are they now going to feel they have been discriminated against in Tuktoyaktuk and in Inuvik and Fort Simpson and indeed in Yellowknife? As Mr. Wah-Shee said, what about treaty Indians and Metis who own property and who are required to pay taxes in the West already?

The third reason is that I feel that exemption for small business, and indeed larger businesses in the Eastern Arctic, would create an abnormal situation in the private sector in terms of the economics of running a business, since the prices and returns calculated for other enterprises have to reflect tax costs. If you are a business you show your taxes through the price which you charge for your service or product. So while the exemption might be of initial benefit to the small business in the Eastern Arctic, it could eventually be counter-productive to the development of small business by sheltering inefficiencies from the pressures to improve performance in the free market. These businessmen in the East would be the elite of the North since they would not be paying the same tax and would not have the same responsibility to pay tax as all other businesses in the Northwest Territories now must do.

As I said before, the natural progression in development towards responsible government is the right and the ability to pay your fair share of the expenses to run that government, and I admit that we have lots of problems in the running of that government but we have also experienced a lot of change since we have come into power, so to speak. Again I say it is discriminatory and unfair treatment when people in other parts of the North have to pay and perhaps others will not have to pay their fair share. What will happen is that money which might have been used for a project somewhere else in the North will have to be directed towards Rankin Inlet and towards other areas in both the Baffin and the Keewatin and that is not fair either. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. If there are other people who wish to speak I will recess first for coffee. We will recess, someone has indicated they wish to speak.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Having a quorum we will now resume. I have been given an indication that Mr. Nerysoo would like to speak to the motion. Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have found it I guess somewhat difficult to say. I do not necessarily support all increases of taxes either because I thought that I would at least have the opportunity to make suggestions as to alternatives. Obviously, the idea that was brought up today like the rebate to the home owners was probably an idea that nobody really had an opportunity to talk about. That idea is sort of going to be thrown out it seems now. We are not going to increase any taxes or find any alternatives to increases in taxes. I guess the Legislature here will more than likely vote in favour of it and yet I see myself caught.

Caught In A Predicament

People in my constituency have the same problem. They are not really in favour of increases in taxes either, but what has happened is that I have really not been given the opportunity to present any kind of, as I said before, alternatives to this House. I am caught in a situation now where I do not disagree with the concept of the motion and I do not disagree that I should not support Mr. Curley. As I said, I am in a situation now where I am caught not knowing really whether or not if I support this, what my constituents will say or what people in the Western Arctic will say, especially the Dene. You say you are not presenting any ideas for them, but you have not given us an opportunity to talk in committee of the whole on ideas that I think the Dene would like to have discussed here. Rather, as I said, you put me in a predicament now where it seems to me that rather than trying to put forward legislation that respects the rights of all people, we are now dividing the House and I really do not feel it is necessary on an issue of this nature.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion. Hon. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: My little red light did not come on over here so I did not think I was hooked up yet. We have a very difficult problem to deal with. It is part of the responsibility of being a legislator to be part and parcel of assessing taxes. It is a job nobody likes to do, particularly at the municipal plane and in this day of high inflation municipalities are having to raise their taxes and many municipalities are getting to be pretty high. However, it is a necessity, whether you like it or not. There are two things certain in this world. One is death and the other is taxes.

So, I think we would be remiss as legislators to arbitrarily say, "Wipe out the whole tax structure." I think there has got to be some combination in there that could be worked. I am not pleased basically with the overall tax structure of the whole Northwest Territories because there are a lot of injustices under the present system, even in the Mackenzie district area because there is not a unified type of taxation structure in place. If the hamlet ordinance was here, of course, this particular motion may be in a great deal of difficulty because in the hamlet ordinance as such, we are dealing with one specific place, Rankin Inlet, that is I understand a hamlet and part of the hamlet ordinance as we know it and as it has been used over the years is partly on a tax structure base and they have definite responsibilities.

Difficult To Read Motion

Another part of the motion that has been amended that frightens me in part is it is difficult reading this motion to know whether or not it is going to do it because there are some "whereases" and the "therefore" which do not necessarily agree. We name one specific place, Rankin Inlet, and by the time we are down to the "therefore" it is the whole of the area. But I suggest to you the way it is amended, that the mining industry and I understand there is a mine in this area, would no longer have to pay taxes. I understand that you are not pleased with the amount of taxes that is coming out of that particular mine, but certainly something is better than nothing. What you have done now is to say, "Okay, the mine can operate free. There are going to be no taxes." Certainly that cannot be right. The basic principle of part of this motion I can support but there is part of it that is very, very difficult and I think that the motion can be worked on and brought in here in a manner that we can support it. Too often we sit down and come out with motions that are written rather in a hurry and the intent is fine but when you get all the words put down together sometimes they really do not say what you want them to say. I suggest this may be the case with this motion. Certainly I am sure you cannot as legislators, tell me you are going to relieve a mine that is making money of paying taxes and that is what you have done with the introduction of "private property".

So, Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that it would be a good move on the part of the East if you like, that we have a second look at this and maybe clean it up a little bit. Maybe then we can all agree with it. But as it stands now there is no way I can possibly support it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. To the motion.

MRS. SORENSEN: I have a point of clarification.

MR. SPEAKER: Go ahead.

MRS. SORENSEN: I wonder if the mover of the motion could tell me whether he meant -- I guess it would be the mover of the amendment -- whether he meant to add the words "and business property taxes" with the amendment?

MR. SPEAKER: Could you clarify that, Mr. Patterson?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I understand it was your intention to have the words "private property and business property taxes". Is that what you are suggesting?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Was that understood by whoever seconded the amendment? I think it was Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Just pause a moment here, please. I believe it is such a critical word that I think we cannot just assume it was intended. If somebody would like to move an amendment that that word be inserted, I would entertain that but I would not assume it was meant to be there. Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(2)

MS. COURNOYEA: I will make that amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: You would like, I understand then the word "property" to follow the word "business"? Then it would read "...recommend that private property and business property taxes in all areas...." Is that correct, Ms. Cournoyea?

MS. COURNOYEA: That is correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for that amendment? Mr. Tologanak. To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Those in favour of the amendment please indicate by raising -- Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the addition of the word "property" after the word "business" I suggest, Mr. Speaker, now brings more importance to the question Mr. Stewart laid before the House. That is in terms...

MR. CURLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I understood Mr. Patterson to have already moved an amendment which was voted on which precisely Ms. Cournoyea has attempted to do. I do not think we can allow confusion to be brought up at this time because...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Curley, I disagree. Mr. Patterson's amendment had particular words in it. They were approved, but Ms. Cournoyea has amended the motion so that an additional word is added and that is what we are discussing now. I find that Hon. Mr. McCallum was on the topic. Please proceed, Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think as I indicated that that brings again to the fore the actual point that Mr. Stewart brought up. That is, that we are talking now about business property, not just business taxes, but the business property as well as private property and that means obviously that there is one kind of property left. If we are saying as a group that we want to be able to determine our self destiny and at the same time saying, we are not going to take any kind of responsibility within particular areas by not wanting to tax private property and business property, you know, there are not very many trees left in the orchard to go pick the money from.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you are getting away from the topic now, Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The question that must be entertained is whether we are talking about business taxes generally or business property taxes and as long as you stick to that subject you will be in order, Mr. McCallum.

Three Property Taxes Levied

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is what I was doing and I fully intend to refer in these remarks to that concept of business property tax. When we have a particular levy of taxes in any particular area, there are very few particular taxes that one can levy. Private property, business property, the government -- what else in terms of property taxes? Those three. We have excluded two out of those three. To then say it becomes the property tax whether it is a grant in lieu of tax of the federal governments property or the property of the Government of the Northwest Territories, you tax those two properties. You do not tax the private property, you do not tax the business property and I suggest that those are the only three trees in the orchard. You have cut out two

of them from which the forbidden fruit can be plucked. We are going to have difficulty trying to find enough out of the government property taxes and I would not vote in favour of this particular amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I find it very, very surprising that representatives of the Executive Committee of a government who were involved in decisions leading to capital contributions to the Nanisivik mine totalling almost \$14 million, which are costing us currently according to Information Item 31-80(2) just under \$2 million per year, are now turning around and telling us that this motion is significant because it will exclude that mine from paying what was last year \$67,000 in property tax. We have to subtract that \$67,000 projected \$75,000 for the coming year from the \$2 million we are plowing into that mine to provide it with community and social services.

I find it very ironic that Mr. McCallum, for example, who I think bears some responsibility for this huge continual cost that we are now bearing as an administration should say that that mine should be taxed. I do not think that compared with the revenues we are getting on property taxes the amount is all that significant, although I realize that \$67,000 is \$67,000. So I am interested to hear those comments but I think they have to be taken in proper context, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? It is moved and seconded that the motion should include the word "property" after the words "and business". All those in favour -- Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: A recorded vote please, Mr. Speaker.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour of that amendment please indicate by standing. The word "property" included after "and business". Please stand, those in favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. Noah, Mr. Curley, Ms. Cournoyea and Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are opposed please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Stewart, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden and Mrs. Sorensen.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who abstained please stand. No abstentions. The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion. You have already spoken to the motion, Mrs. Sorensen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden has not spoken yet. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make just a few remarks with respect to the motion and the concept of revenues generated to the government, if that is in order. I want to indicate to the Assembly that I anticipate that the next fiscal year will be another one where we will be under somewhat difficult financial terms, and we are going to have to look within the Northwest Territories to generate revenues that are required to provide programs and services to the people of the Northwest Territories who operate the government.

I see that the hon. Members from Keewatin South and Frobisher Bay have brought up some relevant points about the high costs of living in their particular constituencies. Nevertheless, I think that the tax structure which has been proposed for the Keewatin in particular, reflects the fact that costs are higher. I would just caution Members that we are looking at voting on a recommendation which -- speaking for the Executive -- would significantly reduce the revenues that will come into the Government of the Northwest Territories. It will also present a situation where private home owners and businesses in the West will be demanding similar concessions. This, I suggest, could really result in a financial crisis for the Government of the Northwest Territories, particularly as far as revenues which we generate are concerned. Now, I do not want to speak too much for my colleague Mr. Butters but the message I get directly through him, from Ottawa is: Well, if you want to assume more responsibility you have to assume the costs of that authority and responsibility.

Finally, I guess just as a question I have, and maybe some of the MLA's from the area designated as Nunavut could answer this. I am wondering what the Baffin Regional Council, the Central Arctic area council conference and the municipal leaders in the area designated as Nunavut have suggested on this topic. I wonder what they all have to say generally about such a proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. I take that as a rhetorical question. If someone who has not yet spoken would like to provide that information fine, but otherwise perhaps it could be delivered to Mr. Braden privately. Mr. McLaughlin has not yet spoken.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(2)

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I would like to amend the motion and change the word "private" to "residential" and "business" to "commercial".

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion to change the word "private" in the phrase "private property" to "residential property" and to change the word "business" in the phrase "and business property taxes" to "commercial property taxes".

MR. CURLEY: It is the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for that motion? Mrs. Sorensen. To the amendment. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I made the amendment is that in most municipalities and areas of taxation, the zoning of the area is into residential, commercial and industrial.

MR. CURLEY: That is Yellowknife.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The taxing in that case, the private would fall under the residential and the business would fall under commercial and yet still industrial complexes, which may or may not be located within municipal or area boundaries of a municipality or settlement, would still then be liable to taxation. My purpose in making this amendment is to allow to happen what the mover wants. The people who are taking on houses in a community like Baker Lake or Rankin Inlet who have just taken on the burden of the costs of water and municipal services and the maintenance of their own homes, they will be safe from the burden of taxation for the time being and also commercial businesses trying to set up, but still industrial complexes like a mine and its facilities and mills would still be liable for taxation.

Further Amendment To Motion 9-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment. Are you ready for the question? It has been moved and seconded that the word "private" in the phrase "private property" should be replaced by the word "residential" and that the word "business" in "business property taxes" should be changed to the word "commercial". Those who are in favour of the amendment please indicate by raising their hands. Those who are opposed to the amendment please indicate. The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended. Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have to vote in favour of this motion. In the area which I come from, we had increasing difficulty in competing in business. We do not have much incentive in terms of capital support for our own people to establish themselves independently. It may seem that we should all be competitive but I suppose that when I am talking about our area I could very well be meaning any area in the Northwest Territories but I would never presume to speak for them.

People Should Be Independent

For many, many years we have talked about the need for the government to support people to be independent, not to rely on the federal government or the territorial government, and all we have received is continuing programs that bring the opposite result to the status which we wish to be in. Now when we present to you a motion that will allow us to be competitive in the independent sense, and this may not make sense to you, but there are precious few people in Nunavut, including the Western Arctic and the place I come from that have the capital and the ability to compete because it is a new thing for us to come into this new world called wage economy and a new society. All we have is our land and we are having a very difficult time claiming title to that. We have the animals and the wildlife and in trying to establish some kind of base which we can operate from so we can be competitive, we are having a very difficult time.

I have brought forth the position of the socio-economic agreement between the federal government and Dome-Canmar many times for the specific reason, I feel the way the development is going, the Western Arctic region is the only one who is bringing forth a strong voice saying things are not well and we have that experience. We have to compete with a major industry which is getting an incentive that puts every local businessman at a disadvantage and we compete with a large corporate body that is backed by the federal government and all we get is a ten per cent incentive on our local businesses.

I have to support this motion because we have many local native people who have been in business and who have been wiped out. We have no recourse because public agencies such as banks say we are poor risks. We have nothing. We have nothing to compete with. In the area where I come from there are no roads. We depend on barge service. In Tuktoyaktuk the area there has some facilities and they are beginning to have more and better transportation but yet we have this competitive factor of Dome-Canmar, who continue to be supported by the federal government in the national interest. I do not dispute that, but the fact is they are there and the fact is they get the incentives, they are beginning to take over more and more of the businesses that have been offered locally such as transportation, such as supply and demand. To say that local businesses in our area should not have the incentive, that is not even closely equal to what the large corporate bodies are getting. It is unfair and I believe that if the territorial government and Executive Committee Members are going to Ottawa this motion will certainly serve to give notice that we are not happy with the kind of deal we are getting.

Local Businesses Cannot Survive

The local businesses are having a difficult time to survive and so are the home owners because when there is a desire to raise taxes we are the ones who are hit, not the corporate bodies. The deals that are made between the federal government and the corporate bodies are not adequate to allow the local people and local businesses to compete and we have the statistics to show that. We have the cries from the local businessmen to show that. All we have got in our area from our efforts to secure more business to local people -- when I say local, I mean right there -- the business has been given to Yellowknife and southern firms. I do not object to this, but I wonder what we are getting out of this in the Western Arctic region. I do not object to the whole Northwest Territories being supported and I do not mind people riding on the kind of political support we can get, but I would like to see something in our area particularly because we are facing that development and we are going to suffer the consequences of that development if it proves out in the end that there is nothing there. We will continue to push for more incentives for private and local businesses and people who want to be independent, and we have the same right as large corporations to have those incentives without being blackmailed to say we are not going to give you a few other little goodies on the side. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion as amended. If there is nothing further, Mr. Curley would like to speak again. If I recognize him that will close the debate.
Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to use this opportunity to state to the Members here again the fact that this is not the end of the road to levying taxes to the private businessman and residential property owners in the Northwest Territories, nor in the Nunavut territory as designated by ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. It says clearly in the motion at the end that these will be held in abeyance until after the settlement of land claims and establishment of Nunavut. So the harder you work to support the land claims settlement, the harder you work to help the creation of the Nunavut government, the quicker it is going to be for the time to levy taxes on the people in the whole of the Northwest Territories. I do not want to have you say, this is a day that is the end of the taxes that will ever be levied in the Northwest Territories. This is just a temporary support to the people of this part of the North and certainly many businessmen are in favour of this motion so I urge you to support this motion unanimously. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: That closes the debate. I will ask the Clerk to read the motion as amended if he has been able to keep track and we will then vote, a recorded vote being called. Please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Whereas the administration proposes to levy property taxes on the residents of Rankin Inlet for the current fiscal year;

And whereas insufficient advance notice of the proposed tax was given to the residents of Rankin Inlet;

And whereas the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada is in the process of preparing for negotiations with the Government of Canada leading up to the eventual conclusion of the land claims settlement;

And whereas such negotiations and discussions in this Assembly and in the North may result in the establishment of that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal;

And whereas the properties in respect of which the administration intends to levy taxes will in all probability fall within the boundaries of that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal;

And whereas property tax and property users' tax will have serious effects on the residents and small businessmen;

And whereas land ownership is still unsettled in the area of that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal;

And whereas this property tax legislation is unacceptable to people in the area of that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal;

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. Member for Keewatin North, that this Assembly recommend that residential property and commercial property taxes in all areas in that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal, as defined in ITC's Nunavut proposal, be held in abeyance until after the settlement of land claims and the establishment of that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are in favour of the motion please indicate by standing.

Motion 9-80(2), Carried As Amended

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. Noah, Mr. Curley, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are opposed to the motion please indicate by standing.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Stewart, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden, Mrs. Sorensen.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who wish to abstain please indicate by standing.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Motion 12-80(2), Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion 12-80(2): Amendments To Liquor Ordinance

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the Liquor Control Board does not presently have the authority to close liquor outlets in a community on the request of community governments or organizations;

AND WHEREAS there is need for liquor outlet closures when community government or band council discuss important community concerns and wishes large public participation;

AND WHEREAS some communities in the Northwest Territories have some citizens who have serious liquor problems and therefore have difficulty to attract these citizens to its public meetings when liquor outlets are open;

AND WHEREAS the principle that liquor should not be readily available on occasions when important public business is being considered is affirmed in the closure of liquor outlets on election days;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly urge the administration to bring forth suitable amendments to the Liquor Ordinance for the fall session this year enabling the Liquor Control Board to have the authority, upon application from a settlement or municipal government or band council, to close all liquor outlets in a community during the period when public meetings are being held to discuss matters of important public interest or concern to the community.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for that motion? The hon. Member for Keewatin South. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

Closure Of Liquor Outlets During Meetings

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the reason for making this motion is that recently the Dene Nation held a regional meeting in Fort Simpson for three days and approximately ten days prior to the meeting, the chief of Fort Simpson, Jim Antoine, requested the Liquor Control Board to close all liquor outlets in the community. The Liquor Control Board stated that it sympathized with the request but due to the present legislation it could not do so. They said under existing legislation, under the present Liquor Ordinance it did not have the power to close liquor outlets. Mr. Speaker, the Liquor Control Board and its legal advisors referred to a decision back in 1975 when Judge Morrow of the supreme court decided that the Liquor Control Board did not have power to close down liquor outlets in a community.

The Liquor Control Board stated that the only way that it was possible to have the liquor outlets closed during the time of a meeting was if the liquor outlet people, in this case the liquor store owner and the two bar owners in Fort Simpson, closed voluntarily.

The chief of Fort Simpson did ask the liquor store owner if she would close. She did decide to close for two days of the meetings, and I must commend her for doing this. However, when the chief asked the owner of the hotel bar and the other bar in town to close, they said no. They said "If you pay us \$1000 a day, we are prepared to close." As a result of this, during the time of the Dene Nation meetings in Simpson the two bars were open. I must say that this created a lot of trouble because people instead of going to the meetings, a lot of them ended up in the bars just drinking. I know that on the first day of the meeting, Thursday, the meeting was supposed to start in the early afternoon but did not get going until late in the day and just for a brief period. That night the bars were open and a lot of people went to the bars. On Friday, the meeting was supposed to start at 9:00 a.m. I know I was down at the community hall and so were a number of the chiefs and we were quite anxious to begin the meeting but there were not enough people around to start. We took a ride down to the hotel to check and see if there were some people in there and sure enough, there were quite a few people who had just begun sitting in the bar and started drinking.

I appreciate that asking to amend the Liquor Ordinance so the Liquor Control Board can have the authority to close bars is not the best way to deal with this matter but I do think the best way would be if people just decide by themselves not to drink. That would be the best way but this has been tried and has failed. The situation is that when a meeting is held in a place like Simpson where liquor is available, it is usually people from the outlying settlements that come into Simpson. A lot of these people, when they live in their home towns are sober and upright citizens and there is no problem with liquor, but when they come to Simpson it is like hitting the bright lights. There is a tendency to have a good time and drink and invariably some do end up being taken away. These are the people from the small communities. They get involved in drinking while away from their homes and communities, or to the people of Simpson itself I think it is common knowledge that there are a lot of native people who drink and instead of being at meetings, they end up sometimes in the bars or buying liquor and drinking at home.

An Important Move For Future Meetings

So Mr. Speaker, if this motion is supported it will help the Dene leaders in my part of the North very much because in the next few years there are going to be lots of meetings. The Dene Nation I know has recently been funded by the federal government to settle land claims. I know there will be lots of meetings down the Mackenzie Valley and I know it will make their tasks much easier if, when they have a real big meeting in a community, if they want, the native leaders can ask that the liquor outlets be closed. This request is being made by the chiefs of Fort Simpson, Fort Wrigley, Fort Providence, Trout Lake and Nahanni Butte and I have been asked by people at the meeting to make this request to the Assembly, in the hope that this fall the Liquor Ordinance can be changed so that the band council or even the municipal government, when they have a big meeting in their community and want lots of people to attend, they can ask the Liquor Board to in fact close liquor outlets.

You will note that I have restricted the people who can ask the Liquor Control Board to just the municipal government and the band council because I think that these two groups are the most important bodies in a community. I certainly do not think that organizations like the Chamber of Commerce or the curling club or any other organizations could shut down the liquor in the whole community. So it is restricted to these two important bodies and I am sure they will make the request only when very important meetings are being called.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. The hon. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I support any initiatives by democratically elected representatives of local people to take steps to control alcohol problems that they may perceive in their communities, so I will vote in favour of the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would briefly like to speak to the subject. I fully support the aforementioned motion. I have seen the natives whenever they go to other areas for conferences. Sometimes due to excessive drinking they do not attend the conferences and when these meetings have great importance to the public, and they miss their important meetings. When they get back to their respective communities, their responsibility to inform as to the outcome of the meeting, they have not got a clue what to tell their respective communities when they have been drinking and sleeping when they were supposed to be taking part in the conduct of the business that has reflections on their respective communities.

For this reason, I feel a little ashamed myself when seeing the native people because of excessive drinking. I do support the motion and when these important meetings are happening in the communities, the outcome of the meeting is so important and I do see the problem of excessive alcohol consumption when the meetings are supposed to be taking place.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 12-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. We have a motion duly moved and seconded, that this Assembly urge the administration to bring forth suitable amendments to the Liquor Ordinance for the fall session of this year, enabling the Liquor Control Board to have the authority upon application by the settlement or municipal government or band council to close all liquor outlets in a community during the period when public meetings are being held to discuss matters of important public interest or concern to the community. Those who are in favour of the motion please indicate by raising your hands. Down. Those who are opposed please indicate by raising your hands. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: On a point of privilege, I would like the Debates to record that I did not vote or debate on the subject as I may have a conflict of interest in this area.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. You neither commented nor voted on the matter.

MS. COURNOYEA: Tut, tut!

MR. SPEAKER: We have a third motion for today and it was brought forward by Mr. Fraser. He excused himself earlier saying he was not well and in accordance with a ruling I made in the fall, or perhaps at the January session, this will mean it still remains. He has duly given notice and on his first opportunity when he returns he will be allowed to proceed with that motion. Other motions? I think that must be it for motions.

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

Item 13, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and other matters.

ITEM NO. 13: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND OTHER MATTERS

With respect to that I would wish to make a brief statement and it is that Members will have noticed that in accordance with directions received from the caucus, I have had a television monitor installed in the House to permit when desired the appearance before this House of witnesses by means of a satellite link, who are in fact in Yellowknife. With regard to the procedural rules of this House, I intend to apply them to all proceedings involving witnesses appearing on the monitor in exactly the same manner as I would if those witnesses were physically present in the chamber. Is that agreed by Members in this Assembly? Is it agreed? Is there no dissent? Let the record show that that has been unanimously agreed to.

---Agreed

Would the House planning officer indicate how he would like government business to proceed in committee of the whole?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker we will proceed with the sessional paper on aboriginal rights and constitutional development tabled at the last session.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. This House will now resolve into committee of the whole in order to consider Sessional Paper 1-80(2), Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, with Mr. Patterson in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Sessional Paper 1-80(2): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, with Mr. Patterson in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER SESSIONAL PAPER 1-80(2):
ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The committee of the whole will come to order. We are considering the Sessional Paper 1-80(2), tabled at the last session by Mr. Wah-Shee, entitled Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Wah-Shee, do you have some opening remarks and then I will open the floor?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make it clear that we are dealing with the sessional paper that was previously tabled and that is the only paper that the Executive is submitting for consideration. I believe the reasons were already given for deferring the paper and that is to allow the native organizations in the Northwest Territories to discuss the paper, to see what their reactions were and also to give an opportunity to the MLA's to discuss the contents of the sessional paper with their constituents.

Through this sessional paper we hope that the Legislature will give a mandate to the Executive regarding our working relationship with the various native organizations. I think the sessional paper itself is straightforward and I think that most of us have had the opportunity to look at the paper. So with that I look forward to the comments of the Members of the Legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): The floor is now open for comments. There being no comments, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I must commend the Minister for coming forth with this paper as he has done and I must say in my view, most of the recommendations have been followed and put into effect to date. I also commend the Minister for doing this. I suppose one might say they should have waited until we had considered the matter and given firm direction, but I personally feel that the action that has been taken by Mr. Wah-Shee and the other Executive Members in regard to their association or their contacts with the native groups in the North, I think the actions are excellent and I know they have the full support of myself and the people I represent. I must say that things have never looked so good. You know, when you compare the situation with a year ago, it seems the native organizations and this territorial government were just at great odds and constantly fighting and bickering. When you consider that atmosphere compared to now, I think we have made tremendous progress and I think it has definitely helped a lot with the new attitude, positive attitude that the Executive Members now have who are running this government.

One matter that I wanted to find out a bit more about is that dealing with the proposal to have a Minister responsible for aboriginal rights and constitutional development. I am just wondering what has happened to that recommendation. Has the decision already been made in the Executive that a certain person is so designated? If so, how does that affect the person's other responsibilities?

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

A Temporary Mandate To Initiate Further Contracts With Native Organizations

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the specific role and function and mandate which my colleague Mr. Wah-Shee has been assuming, it is my understanding that in our discussion of this item in the last House, he was given a temporary mandate to initiate further contacts with native organizations and that he would prepare himself further and also prepare other Members for debate on this particular sessional paper when we got back into the House. It is just like other Ministers in the government, Mr. Chairman, additional responsibilities are added to those which they were given right at the outset and we try to cope.

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

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the discussion in the committee of the whole from time to time I will offer suggested amendments. I would want it to be clearly understood that that is not an attempt to subvert what Mr. Wah-Shee is attempting to do because I will state here and now that I support his objective and what he is attempting to do. I simply feel that these are important statements and I would want them to be put as precisely as possible and there are perhaps one or two areas where I maybe do have a difference of opinion. I would ask then that in the consideration when we are going through the recommendations that we do so one at a time, discuss each one thoroughly, decide upon it and then move on to the next.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I asked a question the other day which I believe is connected to the Minister responsible for aboriginal rights, the fact that the grant policy business the Minister of Local Government has announced here. In fact will that contribute to the resolution of fair and without prejudice negotiations? Would he be prepared to comment on that because I do not believe his mandate in respect to the aboriginal rights involvement of his department could really be achieved fairly by leaving that right to other government institutions, such as the hamlets and municipalities in the Northwest Territories. I think this is related to that part. I would just like some clarification on that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee, are you prepared to comment?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I have a bit of a problem hearing the hon. Member. Either the speaker is not working up on the wall there -- that is why I was trying to get him on the right channel in English.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I have been listening to the English on my earphone as well to aid me. It is channel four. Mr. Curley, could you repeat your question, please? It was not heard.

Grants To Municipalities To Seek Independent Legal Advice

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. Can you hear me now? My question concerns the government's policy with respect to a \$20,000 grant to municipalities to enable them to seek independent legal advice. I believe this paper dealing with the aboriginal rights negotiation attempts to resolve the problem of this administration with regard to land claims negotiations. Could the Minister maybe once again try to clarify as to how he sees those government branches of this administration, the municipalities, their rights or their role in resolving the aboriginal rights issue? I do not think that would be fair and I think it would prejudice the negotiations that are being conducted by the federal government and the territorial government with native organizations.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I believe, Mr. Chairman, the issue will be dealt with in the supps which will be considered in committee of the whole and right now I think we are dealing with the sessional paper, so I would like some direction in that regard.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Does anyone wish to comment on what Mr. Wah-Shee said? Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I am just wondering whether the Minister could at least indicate at this time the philosophy behind giving moneys to municipal councils to research aboriginal rights. Offhand it seems to me that it is a matter for native people only and particularly in view of the fact that there have been some municipalities that have been at great odds with native people in their area. I wonder at the basis or reasoning behind funding these municipal organizations.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I think Mr. Wah-Shee has raised what in effect is, an objection to discussing the issue at this time and I must rule that discussions on this specific issue of the grants to municipalities is a matter that comes within the order paper in the discussion of the appropriations bill which is before the House. Rule 20(f) says that a Member may be called to order by the Speaker if he or she anticipates any matter already on the orders of the day for consideration and Rule 69 requires that speeches must be strictly relevant to the item under discussion. I think I will rule or agree with Mr. Wah-Shee, that specific discussion about the municipal grants policy is not relevant to the discussion of the sessional paper. I think we are on a general discussion now and we can permit some latitude, but that is too specific an item to deal with now. Ms. Cournoyea.

Initiatives Have Been Taken

MS. COURNOYEA: In view of the fact that several initiatives have been taken in the field of aboriginal rights and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, I wonder perhaps if we are going to be refused questioning on some of the directions that have already been taken according to the paper that is being presented.

I realize it is a wish of Mr. Wah-Shee to just deal with the paper as it sits, but there are certain initiatives which have already been taken. I am wondering if possibly we can explore some of those initiatives because it would be in relation to this paper in terms of what amendments they made, or whether some of the initiatives would not really be receptive to a person such as myself, in the position I am in.

Certainly the discussion on some of the initiatives that have been taken are very relevant to the paper we are discussing because it seems to me that our job right now is to offset the paper to omit some areas that we feel are really not necessary or some things that could be more clearly stated or accept the paper in totality. It seems to me that there are initiatives that have been taken and I would like to have the opportunity of asking questions about those initiatives as they relate to the paper. I wonder just how much or how clear can we be on some of the initiatives that have been taken as it relates to what we are discussing now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I will rule on each question that comes up Ms. Cournoyea. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Just to say, sort of a response to that, I feel that recommendation number four does open the way for discussion on the kinds of things, the initiatives that have already been taken. So I think the opportunity certainly exists.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Is that item number four on page three Mr. MacQuarrie and if so which of that item do you think makes this discussion relevant?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: When it refers to an informal dialogue initiated by the Minister identifying areas and processes whereby outstanding issues relating to aboriginal rights and constitutional political development could be resolved and there perhaps are some initiatives which have been taken in that area which might be a subject for discussion here.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I think you have a point, Mr. MacQuarrie. So I will now entertain any questions and rule on their relevance and I will bear in mind recommendation four paragraph (d) on page three. I might ask now does the committee wish to discuss the recommendations of the paper clause by clause and that might be a way of having some order.

---Agreed

In that case are there any comments on the introduction to the paper on page one? Mr. Curley.

Breaking Down Components Of Aboriginal Rights

MR. CURLEY: Yes, I continue to have a real problem in looking through this. The administration is definitely breaking down components of the aboriginal rights of the native peoples. As far as they are concerned the aboriginal rights issue, according to the native organizers are not separate, but even as I deal with the introduction it says "The purpose of this paper is to suggest ways to begin implementing the principles, expressed by the first session."

It was not suggested at that point that this government would introduce a fourth level and I do not see how it can separate that problem when they discuss this area. I may have to ask the Commissioner himself to explain that because he is involved in formulating an aboriginal rights policy. He has already issued a policy paper, or program based on the aboriginal rights of the native people. Could I get instructions to ask questions relevant on that to him?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): I think I agree that it is relevant to our discussion of item number four on page three but I prefer we wait on those questions until we have reached that point, Mr. Curley. Are there any other comments on the introduction? If not, shall we move then to the overview on page one. There are four clauses there. Are there any comments on the overview and the four points there?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. CURLEY: I have a problem with number three and I would refer to part of that paragraph where it states, four lines from the bottom that development of co-operation and mutual trust between this Assembly and native organizations can best be assured, but I have a problem with that, with the way the present policy of the government has been initiated. So again that grant policy I think would fit in that, where because the harmonious resolution has not been created at this time since the last session as a result of the Commissioner signing a policy paper based on aboriginal rights. So that particular area -- could someone explain this how they have in their minds recognized the harmonious resolution within the Territories, can that be achieved through the development of co-operation and yet that policy has not created that goal, the co-operation between the native organizations on that.

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

Grant Policy A Recommendation From Executive

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: It would appear that the hon. Member from Keewatin South is hung up on that but we will try and clarify that for him in a very simple way. The grant policy to municipalities is a recommendation which has come forth from the Executive and before any action can be taken to initiate or carry out that particular recommendation they will have to go through a special supp. In other words we do not have the money to implement that and I think that if the hon. Member from Keewatin South disagrees with the grant to municipalities then he has every opportunity to say "I disagree. I do not think public funds should be spent in that manner." So at the present time it is a recommendation as far as I am aware.

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

MR. CURLEY: That makes a difference because for a while I thought the administration was trying -- I really commented on that because we assume in item number three here it states development of co-operation and mutual trust must exist between this Assembly by the fact that the administration has come up with a possible policy and has created at this moment a mistrust. I was merely trying to get some indication whether in fact they were just playing words or if this was a real issue. Thank you.

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

Native Organizations And Government Co-operating

MR. SIBBESTON: I would just like to hear from the Executive on this question. It would seem that as a result of the meetings in the last few weeks or months there has been quite a bit of co-operation between the Dene Nation and the Metis Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories. This is certainly a move away from a position of perhaps six or seven months ago when the Dene Nation did not recognize the territorial government and would not even dare be in the same room, building or on the same street or in the same town.

Like I said, things have progressed to the point where there is quite a bit of co-operation and I would be interested to know has there been any major concession by the Dene Nation or the Metis Association stating that they do now recognize the territorial government, that they are prepared to have the territorial government as the basis of a future government, if in fact major changes are made? I would really be interested to know what has happened in this area. Why all of a sudden are they co-operating and being kind and nice to one another?

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

Problems Of Credibility

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, as all the Members will be aware, this very Legislature and institution, as well as the territorial government and the Executive Committee, we all appear to have some problems regarding credibility; never mind the people outside this institution, people who also ran and got elected and are now part of the very ancient institution. So at the present time, I think we have experienced credibility problems and I think this is one of the reasons we feel that we have to sit down and meet and discuss matters of mutual concern with the native organizations.

So I am not saying that the Dene Nation has come to recognize this institution. I think what they want to do is find ways and means how this Legislative Assembly could give support to the Dene Nation and in turn give support to this Legislature, but it is not really a question of recognition. I think we are

going through a period at the present time trying to keep the Northwest Territories together, but there are issues that do have to be addressed and the only way you can do it is by all groups keeping lines of communication open and to try and come to some sort of a position where we can get mutual support. I think this is the period we are in. I would say we are in an interim period between now and when the claims are settled and also when the question of Nunavut is addressed. I think we will simply have to operate in limbo I suppose, but I am sure the hon. Member understands the problems we have.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other comments on clause three on page two? If not -- Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I just noticed here the words co-operation and mutual trust, and the word "mutual" to me is very important. I would always be concerned that our government secure co-operation from others in return for the co-operation and trust that it is willing to give to others.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Patterson): Any other comments? If not, then we will go on to the recommendation section at the bottom of page two. I did hear a call for progress. Is it the wish of the committee that I recognize the clock and report progress?

---Agreed

The committee of the whole will report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House is reconvened. Mr. Patterson.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF SESSIONAL PAPER 1-80(2): ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Sessional Paper 1-80(2) and I wish to report progress.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): The standing committee on finance will be meeting immediately after adjournment of the House. At 7:30, the Members' Services Board will be meeting in the small committee room on the lower level of the school and at 7:30, the education committee will be meeting in the caucus room.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, June 17, 1980, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Kamanituak School.

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 for First Reading of Bills
8. Notices of Motion
9. Motions
10. Introduction of Bills for First Reading

11. Second Reading of Bills

12. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters: Sessional Papers 1-80(2) and 3-80(2); Information Items 1-80(2), 2-80(2), 4-80(2), 5-80(2), 6-80(2), 18-80(2), 26-80(2) and 29-80(2); Tabled Documents 3-80(2) and 4-80(2); Report of the Standing Committee on Finance; Tabled Documents 6-80(2) and 13-80(2)

13. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I would ask Members as a courtesy to remain for about five minutes as soon as we adjourn. There are four members of our interpreter corps who have graduated after 12 months of training. They are going to receive their diplomas from Commissioner Parker. So I would ask you to remain that length of time as soon as we adjourn. This House stands adjourned until 9:30 o'clock a.m., June 17, 1980, at the Kamanituak School.

---ADJOURNMENT

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