



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DEBATES

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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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 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. Pudluk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Tologanak, Hon. James Wah-Shee

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

--Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): Orders of the day. Item 2, oral questions. Item 3, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Written questions from Members. The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 82-80(2): Review Of Edmonton And Ottawa Offices

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the administration. Has a review of the Edmonton and Ottawa offices taken place and have any decisions been made with respect to that review?

Question 83-80(2): Consideration Of Transferring STEP Program

I have another one, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister of Economic Development. During the second session the finance committee recommended that the administration consider transferring the STEP, Subsidized Term Employment Program, from Economic Development and Tourism to Social Services. What progress has been made with that recommendation?

MR. SPEAKER: Are there other written questions? I am sorry.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Was that an oral question or a written question?

MR. SPEAKER: It was a written question, Mr. Butters. Are there other written questions? Returns from Ministers.

Item 4, petitions. I would ask the Deputy Speaker to take the chair for petitions please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Fraser): Item 4, petitions.

ITEM NO. 4: PETITIONS

Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce a Petition 5-80(2): Re Budget Cuts in Fort Smith. It was sent to me by 71 residents of Fort Smith and concerns the termination of a contract of Duane Hendricks, who is a music teacher, and specifically the petition is requesting the government to answer a question: At this time of budget cutbacks and restraints, why was \$20,000 plus spent to secure Mr. Hendricks' immediate resignation, May 1st, when he was quite prepared to stay until the end of the 1979-80 and, indeed, the 1980-81 school year?

As I say, there are 71 signatures on the petition and I would indicate to the Minister of Education that I will ask some questions concerning this matter tomorrow or perhaps the day following.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Butters, Item 4.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: A point of order. I thought the Chair ruled yesterday that petitions, when introduced would be just put on the table and a brief summary given of the material contained therein. The hon. Member read from the body of the petition and yet I recollect the Speaker yesterday, suggested to the Member from Hudson Bay that this was not the procedure that should be followed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Clerk. Just to read the rule on petitions, 41, Members to endorse: "A Member desiring to present a petition shall endorse his name thereon and present the same to the Assembly during the daily routine of business, confining himself to the statement of the parties from whom it comes, the number of signatures attached to it, the material allegations it contains and to reading the prayer of the petition." I do not see where the Member did other than that. He gave us the number of names and the reason and a statement of the parties from whom it comes. So I will accept the petition as presented.

Item 4, petitions. No further petitions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, tabling of documents.

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

Notice Of Motion 27-80(2): Home Owner Property Tax Relief

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to serve notice that on Friday, June 20, I will move the following motion: Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly recommend that the Executive Committee consider options for providing some property tax relief to home owners in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Other notices of motion. The hon. Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 28-80(2): To Increase The Number Of Members Of The Special Committee On Education

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be seeking unanimous consent at the appropriate time for the passing of this motion relating to the rules: Notwithstanding Rule 75(1a) that the number of Members of the special committee on education be increased to six Members.

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

Notice Of Motion 29-80(2): Terms Of Reference Of Special Committee On Education

MR. CURLEY: I give notice that on Friday, June 20, 1980, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move that the special committee on education's terms of reference, appendix A attached, be presented to this House for adoption.

MR. SPEAKER: I was just inquiring as to whether the attachment has to be read with the motion. Apparently it does not but any Member who would like to see that attachment will have the opportunity to do so. Other notices of motion. The hon. Mr. Sibbeston.

Notice Of Motion 30-80(2): Deferral Of Norman Wells Pipeline

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Friday, June 20, I will make the following motion: That the Assembly urge the Executive Committee to co-operate with the Dene Nation and Metis Association of the Northwest Territories to explore with the federal government, the possibility of delaying the construction of the Norman Wells oil pipeline to Zama, Alberta, until the following conditions are met:

1. That aboriginal rights negotiations between the Dene Nation and the Metis Association and the federal government are started and sufficiently under way and the Dene and Metis people give approval to pipeline construction;
2. That an overall long-term plan for the development of non-renewable resources in the Northwest Territories is formulated;
3. That a northern based authority is planned or in place which can effectively control and regulate the development of non-renewable resources and which is able to represent and protect the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories;
4. That arrangements are concluded for receiving an identifiable share of the revenues, royalties and corporate taxes generated by the development of non-renewable resources in the Northwest Territories;
5. That guarantees are made such that, with the depletion of northern energy resources, energy supplies will be available to northerners in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Other notices of motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 31-80(2): Alberta/Saskatchewan Anniversary Of Provincehood

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice at the appropriate time later today I will be asking for unanimous consent to move the following: That the Speaker of the House convey our message of congratulations to the provincial legislatures of Alberta and Saskatchewan on the occasion of their 75th year as provinces and further that the Speaker also convey this Assembly's hope that the aforementioned provincial legislatures will understand our aspirations for self-determination and recognize the right of the people of these Northwest Territories to take our rightful place in the confederation of Canada.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Other notices of motion.

Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Unanimous consent required. Mr. McLaughlin, are you seeking unanimous consent?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent at this time for my motion regarding the special committee on education.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed?

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion 28-80(2): To Increase Number Of Members Of Special Committee On Education

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

WHEREAS Rule 75(1a) sets the number of Members of any special committee at five;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Keewatin South, that notwithstanding Rule 75(1a), that the number of Members of the special committee on education be increased to six Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Duly moved and seconded. To the motion. Question? Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 28-80(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Those in favour of the motion please indicate by raising your hands. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Is there another unanimous consent, Mr. McLaughlin?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I would also like to seek unanimous consent at this time for my motion regarding the 75th anniversary of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed?

---Agreed

Please proceed.

Motion 31-80(2): Alberta/Saskatchewan Anniversary Of Provincehood

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan will celebrate the 75th anniversary of their provincehood on September 1st, 1980;

AND WHEREAS both of these provinces were a part of the Northwest Territories, previously the Districts of Alberta, Assiniboia and Athabasca;

AND WHEREAS the people of the Northwest Territories wish to establish responsible government within their homelands;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the Speaker of this House convey our message of congratulations to the provincial legislatures of Alberta and Saskatchewan on the occasion of their 75th year as provinces;

AND FURTHER, that the Speaker also convey this Assembly's hope that the aforementioned provincial legislatures will understand our aspirations for self-determination and recognize the right of the people of these Northwest Territories to take our rightful place in the confederation of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? The Hon. Mr. McCallum. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Just an item of information for the Legislature. During the first week in July, the Government of Saskatchewan as part of its celebrations will re-enact at the Battleford fort which was the site of the government during the late 1800's and early 1900's, the sitting of the first Legislature of the Northwest Territories, Battleford fort being the seat of government for the entire Northwest Territories as it was defined in those days. Battleford, Saskatchewan is my home town. It is the area where I spent my youth and my early childhood. I would ask the Legislature that it convey its congratulations and perhaps send a message to the Government of Saskatchewan concerning that re-enactment of the first Legislature of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion, Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I think that that item of information is of some importance to this House and while the suggestion is not included in the motion I think it would be most fitting and apt, sir, if you in person might appear at that historic re-enactment and represent the Northwest Territories of today. I feel that all Members of the House would probably support and second that suggestion.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, although I concur with the Assembly deciding to send congratulations to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, I am not too sure whether I agree with the way it is worded because not all the people in the Northwest Territories at the present time would like to be supported with one territory as a consideration so I wonder if the mover would explain a little bit more clearly whether or not he is trying to put in support from the provinces for one territory through this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Curley, I will read the second part of the substance of the motion in that area and you will notice I was very careful not to say provincial status. I made sure I said "these Northwest Territories" to make it clear that it was the people of these Northwest Territories, not any particular unit or body. The wording is: That the Speaker also convey this Assembly's hope that the aforementioned provincial legislatures will understand our aspiration for self-determination and recognize the right of the people of these Northwest Territories to take our rightful place in the confederation of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. An amendment, Mrs. Sorensen.

Amendment To Motion 31-80(2), Carried

MRS. SORENSEN: I have an amendment then, Mr. Speaker. It is to follow the body of the motion or the "be it resolved" and it would say: And that this Assembly be represented by the Speaker at the re-enactment of the first Legislature of the North-West Territories to be held in Battleford, Saskatchewan.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: How about Louis Riel? He should get to go too.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment. Pardon me, is there a seconder for that amendment? Mr. Butters. To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Those in favour of the amendment please indicate by raising your hands. Down. Opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended. Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: You have spoken already. To the motion as amended. Ready for the question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 31-80(2), Carried As Amended

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour of the motion as amended please indicate by raising your hands. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

That is it for the unanimous consent motions. We have a motion on the order paper for today, Motion 18-80(2), Calm Air Freight Rates. I believe that was Mr. Curley.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS Calm Air International Ltd. has asked for approximately 60 per cent increase in freight rates;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly urge the administration to make representation by filing an intervention to the Canadian Transport Commission to refuse to grant proposed freight rates by Calm Air International Ltd., until the Commission has held public hearings with respect to air services in the Keewatin region.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for that motion? Mr. Butters. To the motion, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, it has become very clear in this region and to all the people in the region, as I indicated last October, that there were high freight rates in the Keewatin with respect to commercial air services. This has really not improved since my last motion in the first session held in October in Yellowknife. So I am asking again this time for the Assembly to support this motion to try and get some intervention brought to the Canadian Transport Commission. The people in the region have tried through their various organizations, including Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Chamber of Commerce representatives, but they have not succeeded in getting the commission to hold public hearings to allow the people in this region to take their case to the commission. So today I ask two gentlemen, who would be prepared to appear to make some of their feelings known, two businessmen, one from Rankin, Mr. John Todd and Bill Davidson, who is just coming in now from Rankin Inlet, to have an opportunity to respond to this motion. I would urge someone, anyone, to assist me in getting this into the proper place so these two gentlemen could actually explain the profound problem they face with respect to possible freight rate increases and the kind of problems they have in dealing with the Canadian Transport Commission. Mr. Speaker, with your concurrence I would ask anyone, any Member to maybe move this into committee of the whole for further consideration as the first item of the committee of the whole discussions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Amendment To Motion 18-80(2), Carried

HON. TOM BUTTERS: As seconder of the motion, Mr. Speaker, I think that all Members of the House understand the concern that the Member has raised and would be very happy to accede to his request that it receive further discussion in committee of the whole. Such being the case, I would therefore move that the motion be referred to committee of the whole and considered as the first item of business in that place.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Noah. To the motion to refer.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Ready for the question. All those in favour of the motion to refer please indicate by raising your hands. Down. Opposed? That is carried.

---Carried

Other motions?

Item 10, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 11, second reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 11: SECOND READING OF BILLS

The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 1-80(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance,
No. 2, 1979-1980

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I 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 second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for additional expenditures for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st of March, 1980.

While I am on my feet, if I may give second reading...

MR. SPEAKER: We will get a seconder for that motion, Mr. Butters. A seconder for Bill 1-80(2). The Hon. Mr. McCallum. I would remind Members that the principle of the bill is debatable on second reading but not the details. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All those in favour please indicate by raising their hands. Down. Opposed. Carried.

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 2-80(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance,
No. 1, 1980-1981

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-80(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for additional expenditures for the public service for the current financial year.

MR. SPEAKER: A seconder for that motion. The Hon. Mr. McCallum. To the motion, principle only.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 12, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and other matters.

ITEM NO. 12: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND OTHER MATTERS

We have a motion of referral which will obviously be dealt with first. Would the Minister responsible for House planning indicate how he would like to proceed with government business following that? The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to proceed with discussion on the hospital issue after the discussion on freight rates.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot hear you.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: We would like to discuss the hospital issue after the discussion on the freight rates.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Nerysoo. This House will now resolve into committee of the whole to discuss the Calm Air freight rates, the motion, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Sir, just a point of procedure. I believe that witnesses would be requested, I suggest, for this discussion and I do not see a witness table available. Might we recess for a couple of minutes to put such a device in place?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: There were preparations made earlier for a table and microphone, so it would take just a moment. In the meantime, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd from Rankin Inlet is on his way to Baker Lake now and has not yet arrived. Although I would like to have this motion dealt with as the first item, I do not think it would be possible until he gets here. So I would be prepared to go along with any other committee of the whole items until he has arrived.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Tomorrow.

MR. FRASER: Never mind tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, with respect to that I will leave Mr. Fraser to deal with that once we are in committee of the whole. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I cannot find in the rules any satisfactory coverage for the Speaker to leave the chair and be replaced by the Deputy Speaker except in his absence or illness. Possibly I could be informed where there is provision for the Speaker to leave the chair and join us on the floor during official session.

MR. SPEAKER: Of course there would be the possibility of an interpretation of the word "absence", but that is not the reason that is given for this procedure. The rules do not specifically cover that point and the rules do state that where points are not specifically covered, that precedent in the House will guide what is done. I had the precedent of the former Speaker, the first Speaker of the Eighth Assembly, stepping down from the chair in order to reply to the Commissioner's Address, and furthermore in a session earlier since my accession, I had done it in order to make a reply and in order to give a report for the special committee on unity. It was challenged at that time and my action was upheld by this House, and indeed that was one of the conditions upon which I accepted the position and which at that time the caucus agreed with.

I did state at that time, that should it ever come to the point where a majority of Members disapproved that it would require no more than a simple motion of want of confidence and if it were to pass I would cease to be the Speaker of this Assembly. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I personally do not object to anything that has been done here today but I think we have had plenty of opportunity to change the rules so they are incorporated and so that the will of the House can be abided by, by a rule rather than a state of real flux which could cause a great deal of argument.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Perhaps that has not been done because there is an intention for a major revision of the rules beginning probably -- I think the rules committee as a matter of fact, intends to meet this summer to get that revision under way and this is one of the things that would be considered. Possibly it has not been done separately because it is acknowledged that if the status of this House should ever change to one that has political parties, that it might thereafter be impossible for the Speaker to do that sort of thing. So at any rate I agree with your point. It ought to be clearly covered and I think the rules committee will address themselves to that when they undertake the revision.

This House will then resolve into committee of the whole to consider Motion 18-80(2) and those other items that are listed on the order paper, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Information Item 26-80(2): Health Care Delivery System, Accountability; Information Item 29-80(2): Area Hospital, Cambridge Bay, Regional Hospital, Keewatin; Tabled Document 3-80(2): Planning Priorities Within the System of Four Levels of Care; Tabled Document 4-80(2): A Scheme of Levels of Care for the N.W.T.; and Motion 18-80(2): Calm Air Freight Rates, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER INFORMATION ITEM 26-80(2): HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM, ACCOUNTABILITY; INFORMATION ITEM 29-80(2): AREA HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE BAY, REGIONAL HOSPITAL, KEEWATIN; TABLED DOCUMENT 3-80(2): PLANNING PRIORITIES WITHIN THE SYSTEM OF FOUR LEVELS OF CARE; TABLED DOCUMENT 4-80(2): A SCHEME OF LEVELS OF CARE FOR THE N.W.T.; AND MOTION 18-80(2): CALM AIR FREIGHT RATES

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. The Chair has mentioned that we will now go into committee of the whole to study Motion 18-80(2) and I understand Mr. Curley has witnesses on the way. Do you wish to defer this motion to a later time, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would go along with that and I will indicate to you when they have arrived because being businessmen they have to get back to their respective businesses, one in Rankin and one here in Baker Lake. I will let you know when they have arrived and perhaps we could make a proper arrangement. I would be very happy to see that happen.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Is the House leader prepared to give us any further instructions? Mr. Braden. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, on the order papers there were two information items dealing with health and hospitals, Information Item 26-80(2) and Information Item 29-80(2), and I understand that these two have been requested to come before this committee. I would be prepared to deal now with those two information items and then move into the two tabled documents, Tabled Document 3-80(2) and Tabled Document 4-80(2).

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Is it agreed that we move Information Item 26-80(2), Health Care Delivery System, Accountability? Is it agreed? I only hear one agreed.

---Agreed

Thank you. Then we will move into Information Item 26-80(2), Health Care Delivery System, Accountability, and that is found in the stiff binder. Mr. McCallum, would you care to give us some opening remarks on the information item?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, that information item comes to this committee in reference to Question 29-80(1) asked at the first session and it gives the accountability of respective jurisdictions, specifically the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Health, in the delivery of health care.

Now, it is tied very closely to Tabled Document 3-80(2), and also Tabled Document 4-80(2), which deal with the priorities within the levels of care, a system of four levels of care and the scheme of the levels of care. So I would be prepared, sir, to attempt to respond to questions that may arise dealing with Information Item 26-80(2) in relation to the tabled documents as well. I think all four to some degree are intertwined and refer primarily to health care, the system of health care and the plans on health care of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. Are there any questions to the Minister on Information Item 26-80(2)? If there are no questions, how do you propose to deal with this item?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Progress.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, did Mr. McCallum suggest that these items be dealt with along with the paper on hospital care or the paper that has been tabled? Do you propose that these items could be discussed at the same time? The simple reason is that I believe that some of the information that is contained and is questionable in the information items can very well be dealt with at the same time because we will be going into the matter of your paper that has been presented on the table as it relates to the information items. If we begin to talk about these information items, we will begin to talk about the paper which the Minister may say is going to be tabled at the next round of business and he does not wish to discuss it at this time. So maybe we should have a format and put the three items together with the health care paper.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. I am at your disposal. How do you wish to deal with this? Do you want to defer it...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I indicated that I would be prepared to deal with the information items and since those information items are intertwined with the tabled documents I would be prepared now to discuss any aspect of health. I do not have a further paper to table. I have tabled these earlier in this session. Members have had this material for some time, in terms of the background material for those tabled documents, and for the information items, Members have had that since the last session, so I would be open to any discussion on it in any manner that you would like to deal with them.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion To Consider Information Items And Tabled Documents Together, Carried

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion then. I move that we consider Information Item 26-80(2) and Information Item 29-80(2), along with -- whatever "TD" stands for -- Tabled Document 3-80(2) and Tabled Document 4-80(2), which is next on the order paper.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. We have a motion on the floor. Mr. Curley, to the motion.

MR. CURLEY: I would go along with that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mrs. Sorensen, could we have a copy of your motion, please? I recognize the clock as 10:30 and maybe we could stretch and have a coffee break for 15 minutes and decide how we are going to proceed.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. There was a motion passed just prior to breaking for coffee that we deal with Tabled Documents 3-80(2) and 4-80(2), Information Items 26-80(2) and 29-80(2). I just wonder if the Minister would care to comment a little further prior to going into questions. Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure whether I have any further comments. I think it would be best if there were questions that I would attempt to answer. As I indicated to you, Members have had a great deal of information concerning the total concept of health care including, as I had indicated earlier, these various studies done by outside consultants, consultants hired by National Health and Welfare and others for some time. The motion that brings about most of this material arises from, as I had indicated, the second session, Thursday, March 13th, in which it had been indicated that the committee would approve the capital budget for the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services and strongly recommend the planning for the proposed referral centre be deferred until we had developed priorities for planning for primary, secondary and tertiary facilities in the regions in the Northwest Territories and had presented this report to the House for discussion. I have then tabled those documents on planning, developing priorities and as well the levels of care and I do not have anything further. Members, as I say, have had that material and have had it now within this session and in the past. I would be prepared then, to attempt to answer the questions that would be given.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Any questions on the Information Items 26-80(2) and 29-80(2) or the Tabled Documents 3-80(2) and 4-80(2)? At this time I am not quite sure how the Minister plans to go through these documents, if he wants to deal with them one at a time or just jump from one to the other. Do you want to go through them item by item? How do you wish to deal with this, Hon. Mr. McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think we recently passed a motion that indicated we would discuss all four. However, let us go to Information Item 26-80(2). If there are questions on Information Item 26-80(2), I will answer them.

Information Item 26-80(2), Health Care Delivery System, Accountability

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. We go to Information Item 26-80(2), Health Care Delivery System, Accountability. Any questions? Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Hon. Mr. McCallum, in reference to the total package which I thought we had agreed to discuss with everything mixed up because it is all interrelated I would like to approach my questions and my thoughts according to the information, all the information that has been submitted if you would not mind if I do that. I would like to know one specific answer. In the calculations on the submission on the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital the projected final figure was \$40 million. Now in your re-evaluation and with the feelings of this Assembly to the requirements of other regions and the needs of other regions, have you readjusted that figure to possibly look at another option other than what was exactly proposed and supported by the documents? Have you adjusted that figure and re-thought out a plan that would possibly cut down what was projected for the Stanton Hospital?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the figures that were presented to the House for the planned facility at Stanton Yellowknife have not changed in total because of the kinds of services that we would want to continue, because of the kinds of services that we believe that kind of a facility should provide people. There is one particular alternative I guess, maybe two, but one that may be considered to be an alternative and that is to expand or to upgrade, if you like, the existing facility. The problem with that is that the submission to the Treasury Board specifically deals with a new site and the only capital funds that are available to this government would be under the conditions that there would (a) be a new site and (b) that there is no expansion, if you like, to the present facility. Those are the conditions of the present Treasury Board and the approval of the two federal ministries involved which are Indian Affairs and National Health and Welfare.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. McCallum, what I am really asking you and maybe I did not get my question clear, but one of the options was possibly, you know, it would not be unreasonable for Yellowknife to have a regional hospital, something that would serve or replace, in the same manner, what they have already but possibly on a new site. I wonder if you have even explored that option rather than continuing to fight for a referral centre that would cause the other regions to be affected by it. I mean much more than the Yellowknife area. So I am just asking you if you had explored that option and, if you had, what would be the comparative costs between building a new regional hospital for the Yellowknife region as opposed to subjecting the rest of the Northwest Territories to a referral centre?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. Hon. Mr. McCallum.

A New Facility Should Be Built

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, what is being proposed for the new Stanton Yellowknife Hospital is effectively a regional hospital to continue to provide the services that are already there and have been there for some time. Not all of them are in place and not all of them have been there for X number of years, but certainly the kinds of services that we would like to see provided in that particular region. A large number of these have been in place at the present facility. To continue to provide those to an ever expanding number of people requires that there be a new facility built. The present facility is not capable of continuing to provide the existing services to an expanding number of people at the present time. If we were to continue to provide those services, we would look for 65 or 75 per cent occupancy and there just is not enough space to be able to do it.

The alternative to not providing those means that more patients will have to be referred to southern hospitals to receive those services at an ever increasing amount. The alternative is not very attractive, that being the alternative. Now, if the Member is asking me, did we take a look at providing a lesser amount of service to people in the Territories, we did and that is what we have come up with. It would be more reasonable to provide those services in the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Curley.

Information Item 29-80(2), Area Hospital, Cambridge Bay,
Regional Hospital, Keewatin

MR. CURLEY: With reference to the Information Item 29-80(2), Mr. McCallum admits that he has not contacted the federal government yet and did he not know he was instructed last fall to start and at least try to put support to the regional interests of the people, to start at least putting some government initiatives into a regional hospital. In that information item you also state that you have planned to meet with the people in the region in early June. Obviously you have not met with them and I would just like to get some idea as to when he is going to start his consultation with the people in the region. I will have a further question with respect to the hospital proposal in Yellowknife.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I understand you are dealing with Information Item 29-80(2), am I right?

MR. CURLEY: My understanding is we are dealing with all the Information Items, 26-80(2) and 29-80(2) at the same time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, but just for the information of the rest of the Members, Information Item 29-80(2) refers to a question asked. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, Information Item 29-80(2) was in reply to the area hospital and the regional hospitals in Cambridge Bay and the Keewatin. I think I indicated earlier in this session, I could get the date, Monday possibly, in reply to questions that were put forward to me during oral questions I think from the Member for the Central Arctic and I think the Member for Keewatin South at that time, that I would be prepared to go back the same as we returned to deal with this particular problem, to set up consultation with the people of Cambridge Bay and other communities within the Central Arctic to develop a study.

I indicated as well that I know that National Health and Welfare have contacted ITC to do the study within the Keewatin. This particular reply of course was prepared before I answered those questions from the Members concerned, but it is a reply because it had to be prepared and put before this House when we came over to assemble here. Let me assure the Member that I anticipate as I indicated in reply to the questions that as soon as we return I will make sure that in fact we, have things under way whereby we will consult with the people of the Central Arctic to determine, and if they agree, to determine terms of reference for a consultant and again to agree upon a consultant or consultants to do that study.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Have you a subsequent question, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: I have further questions on the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital itself, the proposed new hospital. I have difficulty understanding clearly the fact that you seem to indicate that this is going to be a referral hospital and yet some Members are arguing that this is really the Yellowknife hospital. I wonder if you could help me try and understand clearly when you talk about it. In some instances you make reference to the fact that this is an area hospital or regional hospital or referral hospital and some Members say this is really a Yellowknife hospital. Could you tell me what area you would see the new hospital serving? Perhaps you could be a bit more specific as to what area it would really be serving and then perhaps we could approve the funds that have been requested.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. McCallum.

Area Being Served By The New Hospital

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the hospital that we are contemplating building in Yellowknife will be obviously located there and so to some extent you can refer to it as a Yellowknife hospital. However, a large number of people who are treated at that hospital come from other communities other than Yellowknife. Obviously those who are treated, to a greater extent come from the immediate area around Yellowknife; some of the smaller communities, for example. As well, people from around the lake, Great Slave Lake, are sometimes referred to that hospital and so you can call it, if you like, within that area, within that region. However, because they are referred to it then you obviously must consider it to be a referral hospital as well. Basically the area that this particular hospital will serve would be around Great Slave Lake but because, as in the past, people will be referred by nurses or other doctors from beyond that immediate area, then it serves a larger area.

Over the past number of years, the services provided by the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital have been open to anybody who has been referred to it. In some instances it may be people from the Keewatin who are in Yellowknife for a particular reason and become sick and obviously they then go to that hospital. People from anywhere could obviously take advantage of the kinds of services that are available at that hospital. So primarily what we are saying is that in the total planning of our hospital system, that we consider that the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital will be able to continue to provide those kinds of services that have been demanded of it in the past. In point of fact because of the openness of institutions or health facilities in the South, because it is being curtailed, then we would want to be able to provide people of the Mackenzie, if you like, people of that area with the services that could be done there, by the attraction of various kinds of physicians and medical practitioners.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mrs. Sorensen.

Increasing Number Of Sick People

MRS. SORENSEN: I have two questions and later on, of course, I will have more. Mr. Chairman, Mr. McCallum mentioned that this expansion of the Yellowknife hospital was as a result of increasing demands of sick people. I think he also explained that the sick people would not come from the whole of the Northwest Territories, but would come from the area around Great Slave Lake and might perhaps come from an expanded area, perhaps further north.

Now, the increasing number of sick people is what interests me. Does this reflect an increasing number in population around the Yellowknife area and/or in addition to that, does it also result from Stanton's extension services, in other words that of providing travelling doctors to these areas who are providing early diagnosis and therefore people are coming into the hospital before they are more seriously ill? Could you expand on that a bit please?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if I could expand or expound. I do not want to go on too long, but the expansion of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital will not detract from the expressed needs in other areas, or mean that the department and the government will not work less hard, if that is a proper phrase, to bring these expressed needs out.

The Stanton Yellowknife Hospital as it now exists and has existed for a period of years, serves a large number of communities in the Western Arctic. The fact is as Mrs. Sorensen mentioned, not only are they legitimate in terms of the need to build a new hospital, but because of the facilities' condition, obviously because of the need to serve more and more residents in that area, the Fort Smith region, the need to develop some paraprofessional programs, but there is that increased pressure on these services brought about because, as the Member has indicated, the hospital in Yellowknife has been able to attract more medical practitioners of an ever-expanded field. They then meet and diagnose and because they are able to administer assistance to these people, more and more people become aware of the kind of services that are available. There is then obviously an increasing awareness of it and a demand for those services. So I would say, Mr. Chairman, that the Member is correct, as she has indicated, those factors are a reality and they all go together to put pressure on the government to meet those expressed needs and for this then we require the new facilities.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. Have you a subsequent question, Mrs. Sorensen?

Attraction To Set Up Private Practice In Yellowknife

MRS. SORENSEN: Have those physicians been attracted to Yellowknife because of the size of the population there? What is the attraction to set up private practice in Yellowknife?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would say yes, that obviously is a factor. It would seem to me that a doctor would set up a private practice where there is a sufficient clientele for his services. They would be attracted to larger areas where they would be able to administer to more people. You know, that is an option and if the Member is asking for an opinion I do not have the data to suggest that. I do not know whether I would be able to answer on behalf of a particular individual practitioner as to why he or she would want to set up a practice in Yellowknife, but I would suspect that that would be because of the number of people involved.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. I have Mrs. Sorensen. Do you have a subsequent question?

MRS. SORENSEN: I have one more and then I will have others after, but in the discussion that Ms. Cournoyea had with Hon. Mr. McCallum, Mr. Chairman, she mentioned a figure of \$40 million over the long term for the construction and probably equipping of this new hospital. But it is my understanding that the Stanton board had been using the figure of \$25 million. Could you explain the discrepancy in numbers there?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure what figure the board has been putting about. I recognize the figure that Ms. Cournoyea referred to has been referred to within the total concept of the information that was provided in the past. I do not know what the figure is, that the present board has been talking about. I am sorry that I cannot respond to that. Certainly the figure as I said that Ms. Cournoyea talked about, was talked about in the last session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. A subsequent question, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I am still not clear, Mr. Chairman, in respect to what figure we are dealing with; \$25 million or \$40 million.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, again the only answer I can give the Member is, I am not sure what figure the Stanton Yellowknife board are using. The figure that I know has been put in in terms of the total facility. I know because I referred back in the comments of the last session and there was a figure of \$40 million. The total figure that I have on a paper that we put in on the Stanton Yellowknife in March was a capital construction cost, a total cost that I have here would be \$25,052,000. Now I know, as I say, the figure of \$40 million that Ms. Cournoyea is referring to came about I think from the discussion in terms of the last session and I cannot quickly give you the reference to it, but I recall reading in that the particular figure of \$40 million. Perhaps Ms. Cournoyea could give some light as to where her reference is, to the figure of \$40 million. I know the figure we placed, in March of 1980, indicated a total cost of \$25 million.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. I recognize Ms. Cournoyea to answer that.

Final Projected Cost Of Hospital

MS. COURNOYEA: In the budget estimates on the projected long-term five year forecast it was \$40 million and the \$25 million was the first phase of the program as it was projected. But the final cost would be \$40 million. Taking into consideration the fact that the present facilities serving the area as opposed to what it would cost if you provided all the facilities for the extra referrals which in the last session were talked about, referrals from all over the Northwest Territories, that would be the final projection of \$40 million.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. I have Mr. Stewart next on the list.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is generally recognized that the present Stanton Yellowknife Hospital is not up to the standards that we should expect and I would hope that I would have been able to say that and stop. However, Mrs. Sorensen has found it appropriate to do a little goading so I think probably I will have to continue. The matter of population; the Chamber of Commerce of Yellowknife has indicated there is a drop of 3000 to 4000 people, yet the hospital is telling us there is an increased requirement for hospital beds. Generally there is a relationship between the population and bed requirements.

The second uncertainty as I see it today is the settlement of the aboriginal claims and a possible further drop in the Yellowknife population of government people, whether they be the same ones that are in Yellowknife today or new ones, who will not be there. So you can see the possibility of a very significant drop in the population of Yellowknife. So if you want to play games with population figures, then let us put them all out on the table and have a real good hard look at them. We have got two facts. The information issued by the city of Yellowknife and by the Chamber of Commerce of Yellowknife says Yellowknife's population dropped between 3000 and 4000 and there have been many bankruptcies. Second, we have the proposition, as many people here have indicated under the aboriginal claims, that it may be very soon there would be a great change in the make-up of the Northwest Territories and maybe Yellowknife is not the place for this hospital at all. It may be some place else. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. I have Mr. Tologanak next.

Number Of People Admitted To Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MR. TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Thank you, Mr. Chairman of the committee of the whole. My question at this time after discussing with some of the other members of the lobby group two days ago, and I will not mention their names, but I would like some more information regarding the percentage figures that were given concerning the numbers of people who do go into the Yellowknife hospital from outside of Yellowknife. We seem to be restricting the discussion and trying to butter it up a little bit around Yellowknife, around the Slave area and so on. I would like more representative figures and percentages and whatnot, let us say the Mackenzie Delta, Central Arctic and High Arctic. I would like the figures broken down because every person who is going to the hospital is registered and tagged on the arm and I am sure those figures should be readily available somewhere. That is all I ask, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. I wonder if the Minister could give him that information or will it be available some time before we complete discussion on this item?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, in the material that each Member has there are a number of graphs that have been provided. On graph six of that material it would indicate to you the utilization of hospital services at Stanton Yellowknife by place of residence, Yellowknife and outside of Yellowknife. It will indicate to people, the inpatient care, adults and child, newborn care, outpatient care, the days of stay, the percentage of those days of stay, percentage of separations, percentage of visits to the hospital. Under inpatient care 42.2 per cent of the days of stay are from Yellowknife; 57.8 per cent of the days of stay, inpatient care, are from outside of Yellowknife. Those figures are there. If I cannot readily put my hand on it, I may possibly be able to give it to you. It seems to me though, that material has been passed indicating exactly where people come from in terms of the utilization of services at Stanton Yellowknife.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Mr. McCallum. A supplementary, Mr. Tologanak.

A Drop In The Number Of Patients

MR. TOLOGANAK: I would conclude then that if the regional hospitals were to be approved to the point where they should be and expanded to the point where they should be and the studies are properly done and carried out, then those figures of patients from these graphs would indicate that there would be a drop in the number of patients going into Stanton Yellowknife Hospital or Yellowknife hospital or whatever you want to call it or just refer to it as hospital. Would that not be so, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not necessarily see following, that in order to provide services that various people would require in a hospital, that in point of fact you would have to be able to have the practitioners and the clientele in a particular locality where they would be attracted to come. Now, if areas had larger hospitals there would be a certain number of services that you could provide for people in a smaller location or smaller area. But people would still have to be referred for certain other services that could only be acquired and could only be there where people who offer these could be attracted. There are smaller hospitals in parts

of the Territories that can do a certain number of things, or obtain certain services, but to provide a third level of care in a large number of communities in the Territories, I would suggest to Members, and to the Member, that it would be very difficult to do this.

In terms of population figures which have been referred to or figures that have been talked about concerning the city of Yellowknife, I cannot dispute, and I would like to see that kind of figures, but I am not confident that the population of Yellowknife has dropped that much. We have to at the present time refer a great number of people outside, and as I indicated to you, in order to provide services to people now a new hospital has to be built. The present one as I indicated is obsolete. In order to provide even the services that are being offered now, there has to be a new facility. We would continue obviously to press again for facilities over the Territories, as I indicated to this House during question period.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. I recognize the clock as 11:30 and we will recess until 1:00 o'clock for lunch.

---LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. I believe earlier this morning we were waiting for some witnesses on Motion 18-80(2), Calm Air Freight Rates. Mr. Curley, are your witnesses in the gallery?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, they are here.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Does the committee wish to proceed with Motion 18-80(2), Calm Air Freight Rates?

MR. TOLOGANAK: Absolutely.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Report progress.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We will stand down the items we were dealing with, Information Items 26-80(2) and 29-80(2) and Tabled Documents 3-80(2) and 4-80(2) and proceed with Motion 18-80(2), Calm Air Freight Rates. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Motion 18-80(2), Calm Air Freight Rates

Mr. Curley, do you wish to have some witnesses brought into the chamber?

MR. CURLEY: I do, Mr. Chairman, Mr. John Todd and Mr. Bill Davidson. They are here and would prefer to respond or give the kind of experience they have had with the airline, the problems they are facing with respect to the service that this airline provides and they are going to be facing some increase with respect to freight rates. I would like to give them an opportunity to outline the kind of support this government has given or not, so I would appreciate it if they would come to the witness table and explain a little bit about the problems they are facing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it agreed then that the witnesses appear before us in the chamber? Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Mr. Todd, I believe and Mr. Davidson. Am I right?

MR. DAVIDSON: That is correct.

MR. STEWART: A point of order.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Stewart, your point of order.

The Motion Should Read "Intervention" Instead Of "Intention"

MR. STEWART: "Now therefore, I move that this Assembly urge the administration to make representation by filing intention." Should that be "intervention" instead of "intention"? I think there is an error in the wording, that is all I wanted to clarify.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. I have not got a copy of the motion but perhaps Mr. Curley could make a few opening comments.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, I will. Earlier this morning I indicated the fact that I attempted to get the government to support the people in the region. With the kind of confusion we have had with respect to the airline, not only is the airline not meeting the passenger airline requirements of the people in the region, but air freight has continued to be a problem to the small business community. It is placing a tremendous burden, according to their Chamber of Commerce report which I just received from them. They have urged the government as well, to try and make representation to the Canadian Transport Commission to hold public hearings in this region so a fair chance can be given to the people in this region to resolve the problem.

I should say at the outset that we are not trying to kick the airline out of the way, but I just do not believe that the small businessman and the residents in this region have been given a proper and fair chance. Lack of support really has been so evident from the administration that I would just like them -- Mr. John Todd, the president of the Siniktarvik Company which owns the hotel in Rankin Inlet and very much depends upon the airline to provide the services he has to provide to the community, as well as the other regions. So from there I would like to get on with that and let them explain the kind of experience they have had historically leading up to now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Todd, are you prepared to make a few opening comments?

History Of Calm Air In The Keewatin

MR. TODD: First of all I am here representing both Siniktarvik but also the Chamber of Commerce which is a regional Chamber of Commerce, in which 85 per cent of the businesses in the Keewatin are members. If I could take a few minutes just to perhaps outline the historical events that have taken place with respect to the present carrier, some time last year there was a transfer or takeover of Transair by Pacific Western Airlines and at Air Transport Committee meetings at Churchill and Rankin, they indicated they were no longer interested in running turbo-prop service into any of the settlements and that they were preparing to discontinue service into the Keewatin.

At that time they indicated they were negotiating with Calm Air for the transfer of the licence. At that initial time both the Chamber of Commerce and a number of the hamlet councils, ITC and a variety of other people put in interventions to the Air Transport Committee asking for a hearing to be held so that both the region and the people in the region, the principal consumers, would have the opportunity to express their concerns, etc., with respect to this transfer. Also at the same time an opportunity would be provided for whoever the successful carrier was going to be to outline what kind of service he was going to provide and the associated costs.

It seemed at the time we were involved in it there was a real inability to get any kind of positive response from the Air Transport Committee. We also at the same time drafted a letter to the territorial government seeking their support in us calling for the hearing. I do not have the evidence here today that some of the ITC have but there were certain irregularities with respect to the transfer of the licence from PWA/Transair to Calm Air.

In our opinion, there was insufficient opportunity for the people in the Keewatin and the carrier to outline the concerns they were going to have, principally costs, level of service, etc. We felt at that time that this carrier did not have that particular expertise to run, and I forget the level of licence but it is one step up, in terms of what he was delivering before. We felt that he had to outline what kind of infrastructure, what kind of management he was going to have to ensure the standard of service would remain the same as Transair or if not a wee bit better. I think the frustration everybody felt and they still feel, was the inability to move the Air Transport

Committee to hold these hearings, even with the kind of evidence we felt as laymen, the evidence and interventions that we felt were sufficient evidence. We also felt to some degree that the government, the territorial government should have been perhaps a little more vocal in supporting the position we took because we all know the transfer took place.

Chamber Of Commerce Regional Meetings

There was a Chamber of Commerce regional meeting in March and Mr. Norberg, the president of Calm Air was asked to be in attendance along with the Transair people at that meeting. Mr. Curley was there, our MP, Peter Ittinuar, and a variety of other people as well as a majority of the Chamber of Commerce delegates.

We once again outlined to Mr. Norberg our concerns and outlined to him we were looking for some kind of assurances that the service would continue. Also we were looking at costs because prior to that they had made a declaration around the settlements, assuring people the costs would be the same if not lower than Transair, and this was well documented, and also that the service, where possible, would improve. The Chamber of Commerce I think has carefully documented this in a small report I think they have handed around and we said we still felt that a hearing should be held to review both the original transfer and now, with the problems associated with respect to scheduling, costs, etc., the Keewatin regional carrier service.

There was a subsequent meeting in Churchill between the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce and the Churchill Chamber of Commerce where again we outlined what our concerns were and again drafted a telex or correspondence to the Air Transport Committee once again asking for a hearing, not necessarily just on the Calm Air issue but on the whole issue of regional transportation in the Keewatin. During the March meeting of the regional conference it was announced to us by the government that they had given the freight contract to Calm Air although in a public tender other freight movers had, in fact, bid lower than the Calm Air operation. It was our contention that Calm Air had somehow convinced the federal government that without the freight contract that the regional service would be jeopardized and so would the service in the settlements.

A Monopoly Position

In the original transfer of licence, again we contend that Calm Air knew the conditions when they were getting into this regional service and there was in fact a competitive market with respect to another carrier. It was our feeling that at the time and perhaps merely through frustration we felt, I believe some of the delegates used words like "betrayed". Perhaps that is a little strong but there was genuine concern as to why the government had not given the freight contract to the lower bidder. Our concern was that we wanted to make sure there was not a monopoly position out of Churchill with respect to transportation. We felt that if the Calm Air operation had managed to sufficiently tie up most of the freight then he would be in a position where he could be, as we all know with the recent announcements, in a position where they could boost the freight rates to whatever suited their fancy, I suppose.

During all these discussions we had we tried, and I think we have to keep the communities as much involved as possible through ITC, the business community, the hamlets, etc. It is our contention with this latest announcement on July 2nd where Calm Air has announced the rates will go up 60 per cent is a classic example of exactly what we have been saying and in the intervention to the Air Transport Committee which I have brought here they are using the argument that they must have route protection. Otherwise the regional service is in jeopardy. Our contention is that the regional service is in jeopardy and if they knew the facts and did not manage to make this a financially viable operation there are other equally, if not better, regional carriers who are prepared to move in and

take the regional service. Therefore, after many months of frustration and letters we would like to come to this Assembly as we have been doing with the individual MLA's, etc. We must call for a hearing. There must be a hearing. Not only just on the recent announcement of the 60 per cent freight increase but you are going to pay one dollar a pound in Repulse Bay, that is what tomatoes cost you. The people in this region have got the democratic opportunity to outline their concerns with respect to transportation. If the airline carrier needs not come before public scrutiny with respect to the service and the associated costs that he is delivering, in our opinion he is trying to circumvent the proper hearing procedure. That is it in a nutshell.

Inadequacies Of Calm Air To Operate A Regional Service

Right now we do not have it all put together, but we have taken on the task, the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce has taken on the task of documenting individual situations with respect to the service that is delivered and the shipping position, to be ready very shortly. It does not take very long with the inadequacies presently around to present evidence to the Air Transport Committee to show that in our opinion this carrier does not have at the present time the infrastructure or the management ability to operate a regional service.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Todd. We will before we hear Mr. Davidson's opening remarks -- he indicated to me earlier they might need an interpreter. I understand now why he indicated they might need an interpreter, but everybody seems to be doing okay. Mr. Davidson, please.

MR. DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Assembly. I would like to outline some of the problems that have happened in the Keewatin especially in Baker Lake, regarding Calm Air. One of my main concerns is basically as a hotel manager we would like to increase the volume of tourism in this area. As an example, since the announcement of Calm Air taking off the flight between Yellowknife and Baker I have lost a reservation for 16 people coming to Baker. I have documented this with my passengers and I would like to go over some of this. We lost many people because of the number of stops and mix-up in baggage. The mail comes only into Baker Lake twice a week with the new schedule and it is very important as we do run a business with accounts receivable.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Davidson, would you please slow down for the interpreters? They are having trouble keeping up with you.

Difficult For Tourism

MR. DAVIDSON: It now takes three and a half days to go to any other part of the Territories unless you want to go south and then back up. I remember at the very beginning of the Assembly there were remarks passed on unity. Really this is one of the important things if anyone wants to do any business in Yellowknife with a three and a half day travel time.

Another point is Calm Air will only accept reservations as far as Winnipeg, so you have to travel to Winnipeg not knowing if you can continue your journey. It is a known actual fact you can only go to Winnipeg and they will not confirm flights to Toronto or any other place at all. This makes it also very difficult for tourism. It is almost impossible at the present time to institute a tourism package because of the air carrier and the uncertainty of times; arrivals and departures.

The thing that really concerns us as well is the monopoly. For example, I have now to fly in freight from Winnipeg and under the new rates it will cost me one dollar a pound. The company is looking at rates increased by 30 per cent. Basically we are a small company, tourism is moving into Keewatin and I feel very, very strongly that unless we get a reasonable regional carrier it will be very difficult to continue and develop tourism in this area. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Davidson. Are there any questions of the witnesses please? Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: I am just wondering if one of the witnesses could tell me, where is the home base of Calm Air and where are the major stockholders in that particular company?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Would one of your witnesses care to answer?

MR. TODD: The main base is operating out of Lynn Lake and have a subregion out of Churchill and operate the Keewatin schedules out of Churchill right now.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: So Calm Air is a southern based firm and southern owned firm. Is that correct?

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

MR. TODD: Calm Air has a very limited involvement in the North and they had a small charter service out of Rankin for a few years but they have been situated in Lynn Lake, northern Manitoba for a number of years.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Todd. Are there any further questions? Mr. Braden.

Response From Air Transport Committee

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the witnesses for providing their views and opinions and some facts on the quality of air service in this particular region of the Northwest Territories. I am wondering first, Mr. Chairman, if either of the witnesses could indicate if they have had any kind of positive response from the Air Transport Committee with respect to their request? I am not suggesting a formal written response but some understanding and a positive attitude toward a hearing. Then I have a second question, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: I think the frustration we have all felt, and I am sure a number of northern carriers are feeling, is the inability to get to the Air Transport Committee. We understand if you are not part of the club you cannot get in and we have had a very difficult time trying to get some response. We are now even at the extent where we have been very fortunate in having the ITC lawyers assigned to this particular issue because that is how strongly we feel about it. It is all carefully documented and we are prepared to provide that documentation to the Assembly, the correspondence between E.J. Benson, the chairman, and ourselves and also the ITC, but it is extremely difficult to get anything done. They have a very, very busy schedule and I think from our understanding, although we have no evidence, they do not seem to see our intervention seriously and perhaps the lobbying we are trying to do. It is more of a frustration rather

than a comprehensive sort of intervention, and we have no concrete evidence to that effect, but from discussions we were treated in a very flippant manner and we want to be treated...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Todd, could you please slow down. The interpreters are having trouble keeping up with you.

MR. TODD: We feel that we are not being treated seriously in our interventions. We feel that the government should have taken a position and supported at least the necessity for a hearing. No one is asking the government or anyone else to take a position with respect to the carrier, all we are asking for and it is documented, is that the government support calling for a hearing. We felt and still do to this day that it was both in the interest of whoever the carrier was going to be and also certainly in the interests of the people of the Keewatin that there be some formula for debate. What has happened is the situation has escalated and now the only guys getting rich on this are the lawyers.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Todd. A subsequent question, Mr. Braden?

Authority To Establish Public Inquiry

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps legal counsel could provide us with some information. I understand that we have our own Public Inquiries Ordinance and subject to further action by the government, the Air Transport Committee, if it continues to refuse to hold an inquiry into matters relating to air transport in the Keewatin, does the Government of the Northwest Territories have the authority to establish its own public inquiry, subpoena witnesses from the region and also from the air carriers involved and to seek the kind of forum that Mr. Todd was referring to in order to investigate this matter and produce our own conclusions and reports which could then be passed on to the Air Transport Committee?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. I do not believe there was a question there, it was a comment.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: It was to the Legal Advisor.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Lal, would you comment?

LEGAL ADVISOR (Mr. Lal): Under the Public Inquiries Ordinance the Commissioner is given the authority to cause an inquiry to be made into any matter of public concern. However, air transportation falls within the jurisdiction of the federal government, so that while an inquiry could be held, in my opinion the Commissioner or this government will not be able to put into effect the findings of such an inquiry due to the fact that air transportation falls within the realm of federal jurisdiction. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Lal. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think on behalf of the government at this time I will make a commitment that we will very soon very strongly urge the Air Transport Committee to respond directly to your requests and further if they continue to refuse I will give a commitment that we will very seriously investigate the possibility of instituting our own inquiry into this matter.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Routes And Schedules

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did pass a motion at our last session expressing dissatisfaction with proposed routes and schedules that were going to come into effect. Could I first ask the witnesses whether they noticed any beneficial effects from the passage of that motion?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: With all due respect I think the effect was minimal because in fact, the transfer has taken place, the regional carrier is now in place. There is an announcement we understand, and we have to check it out today, that the Air Transport Committee has approved the 60 per cent increase in freight rates. So I do not see it as a question of the Keewatin; I think it is a question perhaps of the Assembly also.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I am pleased in light of that information that you have sufficient confidence to come back to the Assembly for another motion. I can state very definitely right now that I am in sympathy with the motion advanced by Mr. Curley. I recall that when I first moved to Baker Lake in 1966 the very first issue that our residents' association addressed was the issue of freight rates at that time which were exorbitant and seem perhaps to be moving in that direction again.

So I definitely would support the motion and further, I would support the initiative that the leader of the elected Executive seems to wish to take in this matter and that is if you do not receive satisfaction from the passage of the first motion, that we seriously consider holding our own inquiry.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Commissioner.

Government Support To Have Hearing

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make it clear that we indeed supported the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce and the Legislature's motion to have a hearing held. I have to say that the Air Transport Committee has yet to pay any serious attention to the territorial government or to the Legislature and it is not from any lack of trying on our part. In fact, we placed ourselves in the position a few years ago where the Air Transport Committee let out indications that they did not like the territorial government trying to run or take positions on air transport in the North. Now, that has never deterred us. We have continued to attempt to bring forward the true concerns of both carriers and residents but there is no way that I can say that we have been very successful.

I would just like to add one other thing and that is this, that we have from time to time shown a reluctance in taking the side of one carrier against another. We have been very cautious in that area. However, that does not apply in this instance.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make clear when I asked what had happened after the last motion, I did suppose that our Assembly and our government had done what it was supposed to do. I believe and you have confirmed that, that it was simply that that commission is not taking this Assembly seriously. It is for that reason that I would certainly concur with an initiative such as the one that Mr. Braden suggested, which would be open to us even if legally in the end we could not compel any changes. It certainly might have a very beneficial effect anyway.

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

Government Involvement With Calm Air

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a question related directly to the Commissioner. I am interested in finding out exactly what form the Commissioner or the administration made regarding the last motion that the Assembly passed last October. Did he send a letter or did he file an intervention in the form of an intervention to the Air Transport Committee or did he merely just pass on the motion in the hope that the commission would take notice of it? I am interested in the specific kind of representation that the administration did make and I will be convinced whether or not they had taken a strong position in attempting to represent the Keewatin.

I also want to ask, what I hear from Mr. Todd he has just indicated the territorial government contracted things to Calm Air in terms of freight from Churchill, Manitoba. That is a form of support to the airline. Could he indicate to me as to why that kind of arrangement could be viewed as not support to the airline? It is support to the airline. Why did he do that in the first place when there was so much obvious evidence that the people in the Keewatin in the business community were objecting to this particular airline?

The third question is -- I have forgotten about that one. I will come back to it but it is related to the government's involvement in the airline.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, when the Legislature passes motions then the administration accepts the direction in those motions, such as the one regarding the air services in the Keewatin at the November session, and provides the motion and the debate to the parties concerned. That is our responsibility. So we certainly did that. We did not file an intervention because we rarely intervene as a government. What other steps we took I would have to search the record. I could not say what other steps we took.

Now with regard to the matter of support for Calm Air in contract work, I do not know the details of that. I just cannot help you there. However, as a general comment I would have to say that once Calm Air was licensed to be the carrier in the Keewatin, then I would presume that that is the organization that we felt we had to do business with.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Curley, a subsequent question?

Government Awareness Of Increase In Freight Rates

MR. CURLEY: A subsequent question in relation to the rate increase the Air Transport Committee has approved that Mr. Todd mentioned, 60 per cent increase in freight rates. Was the administration aware or was it made aware by the airline that it was going to be seeking an increase and did not the government feel this was unfair to the people in that region because obviously they have some interest with respect to the airlines and they no doubt should have been made aware of it long ago? Were they aware of it?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I can only assume that we received the notification of application for rate change the same as any other organization would receive it. I do not know if it was the kind of notification that made it possible to protest it or not. I was not aware of it until I came to Baker Lake so I am sorry I am of no great assistance to you in that area. If indeed the increase is 60 per cent, that certainly sounds to be excessive, but I cannot discuss that because I do not have the details.

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

MR. CURLEY: This is the last one I have. The Commissioner should be very well aware of the kind of regional carriers that exist in northern Canada because it is a region that he would very much like to govern. Another point is the fact that in this region Lambair has been involved in delivering freight. I think the business communities have a satisfactory service in terms of freight rates as well as the amount of volume they can carry to parts of these communities. Mr. Todd just mentioned earlier that there were other carriers who bid lower than Calm Air but were not taken seriously and Calm Air did not bid lower in terms of its freight rates but were given a contract. Maybe he should investigate that now that we have this increase in freight rates of 60 per cent.

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

Government Review Of Freight Contracts

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, on the urging of the Member I will certainly be anxious to review any freight contracts that we have called and I will make myself fully aware of them. All of us at the Executive level would like to keep as up to date as we possibly can but when it comes to freight and passenger increases all over Canada, including the North, they seem to have been coming forward at such a rate, about almost every month, that it is almost impossible to keep up with them.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Any further questions? Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The main comment I wanted to make in this area is that this whole thing with PWA/Transair and the joining together of the two companies and then the subsequent sloughing off of the service in this area, is just a complaint that we should make in general. It is felt in other parts of the North as well that when the Air Transport Committee gives lucrative southern runs they also usually take into consideration that these companies are also carrying another run somewhere else that is not so lucrative. In a case like this it looks like they allowed them to slough off the run where they may not have been making as much money and yet keep the area of runs where they are making a lot of money. That is a general complaint we as an Assembly should have, about that type of a situation arising and the consequences that it could have in other areas either now or in the future in the North.

Going back to the area that Mr. Curley brought up on the government freight rates that I did not understand from Mr. Curley or maybe the witnesses could make it clear, the government just started using Calm Air. Were they using Transair before or were they using another company and, if so, why did they choose Calm Air? Did they have a cheaper freight rate or more expensive freight rate or what?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Todd.

Monopolizing The Freight

MR. TODD: This is the crux of our argument, in that when Calm Air asked to negotiate the licence they negotiated knowing the situation was a competitive situation. The principal freight carrier in Churchill is Costa Carriage and they have been carrying into the Keewatin for ten years and in the opinion of myself and the opinion of many others, they have provided a good service to most of the customers in the Keewatin and also to the government. It is our understanding that the government handed out this contract. It is our understanding that Costa Carriage was in effect the low bidder and it is our understanding that Mr. Norberg has somehow convinced the government that he required this break and is trying presently to get into the Hudson's Bay and everything else. He requires the freight for his business to be viable. Our contention as businessmen in a competitive community is that he knew the conditions when he got into it. If in fact he monopolized the freight, then what happens to the small person or even the large person who may wish to use the other carrier? He would then be in a position where he could boost his rates to whatever he wants, but there are also two levels of freight, what they call a volume rate which is given to people like the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Hudson's Bay and the large volume movers and there is also just the citizen as well.

The rate differential between the volume rate and the consumer is substantial. The volume rate, for example in Rankin Inlet, to the larger organizations like The Bay would be somewhere in the region of 26 or 28 cents. I suspect they will still get that volume rate with the increase but the rate to the average guy on the street is going to be 44.8 cents on July 2nd. So our concern is that if in fact Calm Air was not prepared to operate in the competitive community and was placed in a position where it had negotiated both the co-operative rate and the territorial government rate and substantially reduced the freight rates out of concern about what was going to happen to the other carrier. Fortunately that has been the position of many of us and The Bay who have managed to sustain the other carrier which is Lambair and that is what the crux of the problem is. If we are placed in a monopoly position where are we all going to be?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Todd. Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like very much to give strong support to whatever this Assembly can do. I as a representative of the Western Arctic certainly did not get very much support from this government with our problems with the Western Arctic transfer of the carrier service there. Now, I was just wondering in the placement of events, if in fact Calm Air is applying for a class II rating.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. Mr. Todd.

Situation Should Be Open To Competition

MR. TODD: If it sounds like there is a bit of panic in my mind, this is the position we have filed with the Air Transport Committee asking for route protection into the Keewatin region which would theoretically eliminate any kind of competition. My understanding of the situation is if Calm Air was unable to move freight or passengers they would then go to the second carrier, the charter carrier Lambair, but I as one who requires service cannot directly go to Lambair; under route protection you must go to the existing carrier.

Our position has been clear right from the beginning that we wanted the situation in Churchill to be open and to be competitive. We are just as keen although it may be naive and foolish of us but we are keen to see an efficiently running regional carrier which moves people and freight or whatever, serving us, and there is, at least I feel, an almost sort of negative approach with the Calm Air International Ltd. operations. They feel they are being unfairly picked on, unfairly being accused, etc.

I think we have carefully documented our position from the beginning. If these two dockets are approved by the Air Transport Committee, my understanding of it is, and I am not a lawyer, but that will place them in a route protection position which would not allow the flexibility of whoever wants to serve us, those who want to use the other operator without first checking with the regional carrier.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: It seems to me that the position here is very similar. Just to explain, when you see a class II classification and route protection, the airline that is supplying the service or which has a licence, can object and not permit anyone to even charter within a certain hour, within 24 hours of when they have a scheduled service and in fact it gives them a monopoly.

In our area we were able to catch the intervention and apply for hearings and we have been favourably treated at this time. However, the whole play on all these routes that are being rebid for is very complicated and the regions who are depending on air carrier service really need as much political push from any area as they can get. The Air Transport Committee is a very powerful agency and runs all across Canada and there is nothing anyone can do about that because it applies to the provinces as well because it is governing air movement.

A Political Position Is Very Important

I believe that the political position is very important from several levels to get recognition in these remote areas because the Air Transport Committee has very little time to recognize the attempts of small remote areas like ourselves and where we are living and they really need that push to even know what is going on. I know that we are a small group of people. The Keewatin is in the same position but we need that political push because the politics that are being played in the Air Transport Committee and the interventions at the Ottawa level are very complicated and the kinds of business transactions between major companies who are going out of business, claiming bankruptcy and rebidding interminably is very complicated. So the politics and the thrust of really getting the message across politically is very important and the other people who are doing the actual job of trying to get the kind of services to their area they want can take care of that concern but the politics is very important.

I think that we as a Legislative Assembly can play those politics -- we have an MP and the provinces do as well -- by demanding that when the licences have expired or when the companies have gone bankrupt all these small rules that are very important to governing the airways are not used for someone who has the expertise and the bucks to get into the game and to play with, and basically that is what is happening in the North. They really do not pay much attention to that and do not support the concept enough about air carriers and people and companies within the Northwest Territories providing them with that political push to get involved. That, in the Air Transport Committee is really important because it is complicated. That political push means very, very much and it needs not just one motion in Assembly, then everyone goes away and has a nice sleep until the next Legislative Assembly takes place and someone makes another attempt to report.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Could you slow down? The interpreters are having trouble.

MS. COURNOYEA: I think that we did not do the job we should have after the last meeting. I think the institution that is set up to serve this Assembly probably did not realize the importance of that particular motion. I know they did not realize the importance of the motion I put forward. We had to end up doing the politicking ourselves but it happens that we were in a little more powerful position because certain things had not happened or had not been extended to the point where you could not pull them back. The Air Transport Committee really requires a lot of political push to get it moving or even for them to recognize the problems that are up here and this is where this Legislative Assembly has to take some kind of position and has to continually follow it up. That follow-up is very important, and I find that is where almost everything we do here, the follow-up is not there.

Being Recognized In The Federal Institutions

I think we have neglected the Keewatin in this area and I guess I could cry a little bit for my area but we took care of our own problems because we were not in such a critical position I suppose. I do not know, Commissioner Parker, what I do not know is how these kinds of things can be put at a priority or a political priority level. I know when you are sitting in a centre where there is not much problem with transportation, and I know there are a lot of things going on, but how people at the regional level like the Central Arctic and ourselves, how do we move this body to carry on and follow up in the politics of being recognized in the federal institutions?

We cannot say and use the argument that is a federal responsibility, the Air Transport Committee, because that is a committee set up for all of Canada. We cannot use that argument because we will never regionalize it as no one regionalizes Air Transport Committee. How can we get you people moving in the government, the daily government, to carry on this kind of politics and push and thrust to move politically the aspirations that we put forward like this particular situation we are talking about? What kind of direction do we have to give you?

You see, I fail to understand why the continuity of carrying something through is always so difficult. That is where I think these people in the Keewatin suffer and we suffer. We end up having to do it ourselves anyway. I wonder why I am sitting here or why bring it to this table unless we can get something out of it. So I think it is a higher level and I think the territorial Assembly does have some political entity, but it has to be placed in a way where the politics is played appropriately and effectively. Maybe you can say what you feel is amiss or what direction you want us to give you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. Mr. Parker, do you care to respond?

Positions Of The Territorial Government Over The Years

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, what the hon. Member says is true. One of the things that we are supposed to understand and believe is that the Air Transport Committee is a committee set up to be outside of political influence. I am not prepared to say here today how well that works. However, on the administrative side I think that if we were to research our history you would find that the positions that the territorial government and administrations have taken over the years have been many and strong positions. It is an area in which we are constantly working but we do not always show results and we do not very often have an opportunity to say anything about it.

I remember within the last two years there was an application in Frobisher Bay on behalf of one carrier for route protection and we felt that that would be detrimental to the services in the Baffin. We intervened on that subject and were successful. Two years ago or a year and a half ago we intervened in the Keewatin, in fact with Calm Air when they were seeking route protection at that time for one certain class of service. Now, whether it was our intervention or local intervention I cannot say, but in any event it was successful. Those are just two instances. We are attempting to stay on top of it. I think that what Mr. Braden has said, we have to take a higher profile in all of this, is true, and I agree with him entirely. We will certainly do that.

Now, turning to the political side, that is an area that the Ministers of the territorial government may now turn to and I think that they must take whatever positions they can with the federal Minister of Transport and other political persons who have an effect on giving instructions to the Air Transport Committee. I think that is the area where we can perhaps make some further headway. I would just close by saying that there are some very powerful people all over Canada seemingly trying to sway the Air Transport Committee so we are not the only ones who do not show immediate successes. Thank you.

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

Of No Importance To The Federal Government

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any arguments on this to the government, but maybe it would have been better if the Calm Air manager or the head of Calm Air were here. Maybe we would have a better understanding of this and have a better argument or if there was somebody here from the Air Transport Committee maybe that would have been a lot better. I do not think they would come anyway even if we asked them because they look at us from a very low position, the Air Transport Committee and the federal government.

If I recall correctly maybe in 1978 there was a motion put on the floor from the Central Arctic, the air carriers that made up the Central Arctic wanted to go and in the Baffin region we asked to get Nordair but on that application nobody came in, so it is clear now that this is not a bit important to those people, what we are discussing. I do not know who the witnesses are. Are they from Baker Lake or Rankin Inlet? Most of the time managers or people who are looking after things, if I recall correctly I think last month I heard on the radio on the Keewatin region radio that there was in Rankin Inlet maybe the general manager. On that radio program I thought to myself maybe the air carriers would be increased within those regions because they also said they wanted to have a polar meeting in this region but they will not be able to accomodate the people who have to come in. They said that if there is to be a meeting that particular area can bring the people into that community and the high prices in this region resulting from those meetings.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. Mr. Todd, I believe, for the Members' information, Mr. Todd is from Rankin Inlet and Mr. Davidson is from Baker Lake. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: I think there was a follow-up meeting of the hamlet council itself earlier this month and I have not had a chance yet to talk to John Tinashlu from Repulse Bay but again their stance was similar to the one we have outlined. I think perhaps the point that the hon. Member is making is the fact that without comment they feel it seemingly does not carry any weight or has a limited influence both on the carrier from Lynn Lake and with the Air Transport Committee. The evidence is there. The carrier from Lynn Lake did attend the regional conference of Chambers of Commerce but only after we told him that Tagak Curley and Peter Ittinuar would be there.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Stewart.

Motion To Accept Motion 18-80(2)

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recommend that Motion 18-80(2) be accepted by this committee meeting and the views expressed be forwarded to the Canadian Transport Commission in the strongest possible terms.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): There is a motion on the floor. Mr. Curley, to the motion.

MR. CURLEY: I have been speaking to the motion ever since it was opened. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to state that I recall quite a few years ago, I believe it was the Ontario government did not hesitate to intervene against certain airlines which were not going to be serving the best interests of its people in that region. This motion is calling and urging the administration to intervene and I will go along that we urge the administration to intervene against the proposed rates. They have already been approved I hear, but I do not think it is too late for the government to intervene against it and urge the commission to hold a public hearing. That is what the motion calls for and I would prefer to move along with it, but I would not be satisfied with the government sitting on it because it specifically asks that in itself the government intervene as well.

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

Worst Airline The Keewatin Could Have

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, we have been discussing this problem for a long time now concerning the giving of the licence to Calm Air and the problem with the costs. Whether there is a solution or not, I do not think it is going to get any better in the Keewatin at all. Calm Air has had many problems in the past and I heard through the local radio station in Baker Lake that they found out and talked to various people about the problems we have been having such as considering Calm Air. This airline it is not a large airline. It seems we are getting the worst airline we could possibly get; flights are supposed to be coming in and they come in later and later. It is not a good service to the people of the community.

It is going to be very difficult to find any solution anytime because it is a small airline, not a big airline, a monopoly. I would like to ask this question to the Commissioner. Are you in strong support of getting any degree of support for the people of the Keewatin? We realize now that Calm Air International Ltd. will be the subject of discussions now. I do not think we will be coming up with solutions in the very near future, whether we try very hard or not. I feel that maybe we could just scrap this air carrier altogether and find a new airline. Maybe I am not speaking to this, but the subject will be coming up in our discussions at the sessions. I am getting a little bit fed up talking about the problems and not getting anywhere. Mr. Chairman, I am sorry about this but I am really frustrated just discussing this and not getting anywhere at all. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Noah. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion To Accept Motion 18-80(2), Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question being called. All in agreement? Down. Contrary? The record shows that the motion was carried unanimously.

---Carried

Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: On a point of order, I think it would have been appropriate for the Clerk to read the motion so that we know exactly what we are voting on for the benefit of those who clearly normally do not understand the English language. I think it would be good for the Clerk to repeat it. Do you have it?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley, we will read the Motion 18-80(2). Mr. Clerk.

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

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley, what we just voted on was support for the motion so we will read the original motion.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Whereas Calm Air International Ltd. has asked for an approximate 60 per cent increase in freight rates; Now therefore, I move that this Assembly urge the administration to make representation by filing an intervention to the Canadian Transport Commission to refuse to grant the proposed freight rates by Calm Air International Ltd.; until the commission has held public hearings with respect to air services in the Keewatin region.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Everybody has heard the motion. Do I hear question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 18-80(2), Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Do I hear question? Question being called. All in favour of the motion raise your hands. Down. Contrary? Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously.

---Carried

I would like to now thank the witnesses for appearing before the House. You did a very fine job, thank you.

MR. TODD: Thank you very much.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): After that session could we perhaps take a ten minute coffee break and stretch our legs and then come back and get into business again? I am sorry, 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): This committee will come to order. The motion on Calm Air is completed. Is it the wish of this committee to continue with the discussion on health?

---Agreed

I have four people on my list and I think the Minister of Health would like to make a comment before those four people.

Cost Of Hospital Project

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a few comments in relation to some of the things we were discussing this morning, and in point of fact, I was not able to respond at that time. One of them deals with the issue of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, and the total cost that project involved. Members will remember that on the document I tabled in March on Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, the capital costs are listed on page five of that particular document, and the capital construction costs are \$21,425,000.

Involved with that of course, would be certain renovations that would have to be made to the old facility to continue to use it. So the total capital we are looking at, the total capital construction costs are \$25,052,000. Of that amount, National Health and Welfare contribute its share, 25 per cent. That brings the amount of money, capital costs to this government, to \$18,789,000. There is a health resources fund grant if the project is approved and the grant amount spent of \$462,000, which brings the capital cost to this government for the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital to \$18,327,000.

Now, the figure was mentioned and referred to on a number of occasions of \$40 million. That figure comes from these components or parts. It is a five year capital plan that Ms. Cournoyea was referring to and in actual fact it is not five, it is a three year capital plan. These are moneys spent in 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 and in some cases the moneys brought into that are from moneys spent in prior years. The \$40 million is made up of administrative costs and this governments share of health services, the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, the Hay River hospital, the Cambridge Bay proposed hospital and the Keewatin proposed hospital.

In the case of the latter two, the federal government through the Department of National Health and Welfare pays roughly \$9.6 million of the cost when these go ahead. So Ms. Cournoyea's figure of \$40 million is made up of administrative costs of \$41,000 over a three year period, and the government share of health services of \$1.6 million over three years, the cost of the proposed Stanton Yellowknife Hospital of \$25 million, the Hay River hospital of \$1,500,000 over three years, the Cambridge Bay and Keewatin hospitals totalling \$12 million. I think if you add those up you get \$40,300,000. That is where the confusion arose over that figure.

I have to impress upon Members that we are talking about a total capital cost to Stanton Yellowknife of \$25 million. This governments share is \$18,300,000. Over the next three year period capital expenditures projected for this governments projects will total just under \$25 million or approximately \$25 million. The rest of that money comes from the federal government.

Increase In Hospital Admissions

I would as well, Mr. Chairman, if I may just very briefly refer to the concept of population figures and indicate to you that within the last two years, there has been an increase in admissions from Yellowknife of approximately 275 patients from 1978-79 and 1979-80. Nearly 1300 admissions in 1978-79 and over 1550 in 1979-80. Admissions to Yellowknife hospital from outside

communities in 1978-79 are just over 1000, but in 1979-80, admissions from outside communities were approximately 1350. So you have an increase of approximately 350. You have a total increase, notwithstanding that the population of the city of Yellowknife may be decreasing, you have an increase in the admissions of approximately 580 patients.

As to the number of people who are being referred to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital from other areas, I think Members should know that of that number that would be referred to Stanton Yellowknife from various communities, and let me just take the communities for example of Holman Island, Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Bathurst Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay, Pelly Bay; in 1978-79, and those are the figures I have from the Stanton Yellowknife people, approximately 260 patients have been referred to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Of those patients, 70 to 75 per cent were referred there because there were specialists in the fields of ear, nose and throat, ophthalmological work and pediatrics. Had there been a doctor in Cambridge Bay, those patients would still have to be referred for those particular services.

Care Provided To All Residents Of N.W.T.

Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to wrap this statement up by saying that it is not the intention of the government to draw patients from existing hospital facilities. Our goal obviously as has been stated, and I indicated, is that we want to provide the highest quality of care to all patients in the Northwest Territories. With the material that I have passed out, with the facts and figures that are contained within those, Members will see that that hospital has a great deal of usage. It provides services. We would like to be able to continue to provide those services in the Northwest Territories and if we continue to do that, if we are to meet that goal, we need a new facility.

It is not just Yellowknife, it is not just a city of Yellowknife hospital, it is a Government of the Northwest Territories hospital serving a great number of people from many areas. We believe we will have to continue to do that. If Members would like, and Mr. Chairman it should not require any difficulty to pass this paper out because it simply indicates the communities and the number of admissions in the years 1978-79, people can see where these patients came from to that hospital and if we are to continue to provide the services to the people, the Dene people, some of the Inuit people in the various regions, you would find that approximately 97 per cent of the admissions to that hospital came from the Fort Smith region as it presently exists. So Mr. Chairman, I would like then to have this passed around so Members could see where the admissions are from. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. On my list is Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I would like to ask the Minister is there a possibility that once the question of aboriginal rights and constitutional development has been settled, is there a possibility that Yellowknife's population may increase?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yes. I would say yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Next on my list is Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice that the basic discussion generally has turned to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. I really do not wish to rush things but we do have to expedite the business of the House, and I think maybe to provide a focus for further discussion I will move a motion at this point. It is a point at which we must arrive at some time and I guess this is just as good a time as any. So could I have the Pages please distribute copies of this motion?

MR. TOLOGANAK: Is it translated?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Yes, it is.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: We just wanted to make sure Louis Riel could read that.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: If I may, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Just hold on a second.

MS. COURNOYEA: I have not finished asking questions. The motion on the floor will really restrict me in asking further questions on just what other things have been done in terms of the discussion we have had in the last Assembly. I think it is a play on the part of the Yellowknife representative to push a motion forward in an attempt to get a decision without full discussion on the topic.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I will accept that. There are a few people who have not spoken yet on this subject. Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Debate Not Restricted

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I would say, Mr. Chairman, a motion is in order at any time and I really feel this does not restrict debate. Anything that is in the "whereases" that includes the papers that are brought before the House, people are entitled to ask questions on, so I certainly do not think it restricts debate and I do submit it is in order.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think as the Member from Yellowknife Centre indicates, a motion is always in order, but I think your responsibility as chairman is to determine whether you feel that the debate has gone on to the full extent and every Member has had a chance to be heard. I think if it would appear there are Members who still wish to discuss the matter further, then to accept the motion at this time would prevent them from making their points. Although it is in order, it is your discretion whether to accept it at this time or not or wait until debate is fully completed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think that I can accept this motion at this time and there are still some people who would like to comment. I can take comments after this motion is passed. I am now going to accept this motion at this time and later on if anybody else would like to make a further comment they may. Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie, please proceed.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really do feel in committee people can speak as many times as they want and ask questions. I sincerely do not believe it will restrict discussion at all. Whereas the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital has had demands placed upon its services greater than its capability of providing those services; and where it urgently requires...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Ms. Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: This motion does restrict, because as I understand when a motion is on the floor you have to speak to the motion. I would like to have more information from the Minister to clarify some points to see if in fact the direction and the questions we asked were looked into, and on what basis he has proceeded to continue to promote this venture at the Yellowknife hospital, in maybe neglect of other things, to promote it further. It does not give me an opportunity to ask questions because the motion in itself restricts that because you have to speak to the motion and what the motion contains.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): On a point of order, Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the Member makes a statement that I am promoting the hospital. I was asked by the last session specifically by one motion to come in with documents concerning our planning priorities and a document or a paper if you like about the levels of...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Hold on. Are you going to speak to the point of order which Ms. Cournoyea made?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking to a point of privilege.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): There was a point of order first. Now you are speaking to a point of privilege. Is there anyone else who wants to say anything on the point of order? I guess not. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: On the point of order, I believe that the discussion will not be restricted in any way. In the fourth "whereas" clause the documents have been named that have been tabled and therefore anything that discusses "Planning Priorities Within the System of Four Levels of Care" and "A Scheme of Levels of Care for the N.W.T." can be discussed as well as anything concerning the hospital. So this motion covers the whole area of health care services as the government has defined it in the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The motion is very wide in terms and therefore I will permit the questions that Members wish to ask even after this motion is defeated. The motion is in order. I believe everyone has a copy of this motion.

MR. TOLOGANAK: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If I remember correctly, I think we were just past the first "whereas" when he stopped reading the motion. I do have a set of questions that do not exist in the tabled document and I wish to ask more questions of the Minister regarding some of the concerns I have concerning this whole topic.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I myself already accepted this motion. Can you hold on a second? The Clerk is going to explain my ruling.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Chairman, the motion is stated in extremely broad terms and consequently it would be permissible to accept questions covering all aspects of the matter that was referred to committee of the whole including questions relative to the papers which are referred to in the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: To the point of order, this was earlier on. I do not recall or I do not see anything in there that the motion instructs the Minister at the last session, that funds be spent proportionately in the regions. I do not see it listed in the paper he has tabled and I think this particular motion would put a closure to the kind of questions I would need. I think Mr. Speaker is trying to take advantage of the kind of delegation we have at this time.

MR. FRASER: Shame!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I do not think that was a point of order.

MR. CURLEY: It does not say anything about it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. MacQuarrie, did you have a point of order?

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: No. If you agree, I will proceed with my motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): All right.

Motion To Release Funds For Proposed Hospital

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I will begin again so that the record is all in one place: Whereas the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital has had demands placed upon its services greater than its capability of providing those services;

And whereas it urgently requires expanded facilities which would include chronic and psychiatric care and increased radiological capabilities to meet those demands;

And whereas the funds for the proposed Stanton Yellowknife Hospital have been deferred pending the provision of information concerning priorities for planning for primary, secondary and tertiary facilities;

And whereas the Government of the Northwest Territories has tabled documents entitled "Planning Priorities Within the System of Four Levels of Care" and "A Scheme of Levels of Care for the Northwest Territories" demonstrating that the government does in fact have priorities for primary, secondary and tertiary facilities;

Now therefore, I move that this Legislative Assembly recommend that the administration release the funds allocated and proceed with the planning and building of the proposed Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion, Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to reiterate the many arguments that have been already advanced and advanced capably since this issue first arose. I would simply like to respond to a couple of questions that were raised this morning and then make a brief statement.

The first is with respect to the question of population statistics raised by Mr. Stewart. In fact the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce and myself have not agreed on a number of issues and if he has information from them that the population of Yellowknife has declined 3000 or 4000, I must disagree with him once again. I have information from our department of statistics which are valid as of December 31st, 1979 that in 1977 there were 9987 people in Yellowknife. In 1978 there were 9981, and in 1979, there were 9918. So what it shows is that there has been some decline in the Yellowknife population and I would admit that the decline is serious and there may be more again this year. So there is an economic problem in this city, but that decline has not significantly affected the demand on the services of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital as any decline in Yellowknife has been offset by a growth in the population of communities nearby that are making use of that facility.

Demonstrated Need For Hospital

The second point that I would like to raise and I urge Members to consider it seriously because I think it is worthy of very serious consideration, is that we are talking about a capital expenditure of \$25 million. That is a significant amount of money. I do not want to make light of that, but I do want everybody to consider it in context, to consider it in comparison to other kinds of things. I know that the Executive Committee recently and without any fuss in this Assembly has decided to go ahead with the building of a new school for Rankin Inlet. My purpose of raising this is not to show that that should not be built. The other one burned down. There was a demonstrated need and so it is going to be proceeded with and I certainly am not going to try to obstruct it.

That facility will cost nearly ten million dollars. That is for a facility to serve children of a community of slightly more than 1000 people. That is ten million dollars compared to the \$25 million we are asking for here. What is it that is being asked for here? A medical facility that will serve not only the children of a community but all members of a community of 9900 people, many times larger and yet not proportionately larger in cost; and not only members of that community but members of other communities who have placed demands on that hospital over a period of time.

I want to stress it is not because of a specific government policy which channels them there, it is simply a case of a hospital trying to meet the demands of reality and the reality is that many people have come to that hospital over the years who are not from that community. So compared to the other, ten million dollars for the children of a community of 1100 or so people, which is fine with me and I will not try for one moment to try and obstruct that, and here we have \$25 million for the medical services of a community of 9900 plus others, and as you can see from Mr. McCallum's statistics, many others who are placing demands on that hospital.

Now, I will say nothing more except that the proposal was put forward to meet a demonstrated need. A lesser proposal was not put forward because there is this greater need. It is a proposal to meet a demonstrated need. Now, if Members of this Assembly feel that by denying what is obviously needed in this area that somehow they are going to help somewhere else, then I am sad about that because I am sure it is wrong. I would just ask all Members to consider the need and to vote on that basis. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion, Mr. Sibbeston.

Concerns Of People Should Be Considered

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I think we are at a stage in the discussion where we do not need further facts and figures and arguments about the merits of Yellowknife getting a new hospital. I think we have gone through that. It is not a matter of logic any more. There are strong arguments, or some arguments for having the Yellowknife hospital, the new hospital, but that is not the issue.

It seems to me what we ought to do now is consider the concerns that are raised by those persons who obviously feel that their case is not being satisfactorily dealt with. That to me is what we ought to be talking about now. It seems to me we should explore possibilities or ways that in the next few months the Minister responsible, Mr. McCallum, what can he do in the next few months to see about turning things around so -- is a hospital needed in the Central Arctic and if there is a need for a hospital in the Keewatin, and both of those can be built. It seems to me that is what we ought to do.

If we are satisfied that there seems to be some solution on the horizon, well maybe one would be tempted or one would, we could vote for the motion as it is but I do say that I think that anybody who is bothering with facts and figures is frankly wasting his time. It is not a matter of logic any more, it is a matter of trying to deal with some of the very issues that other Members are concerned about.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. For this motion I have a list on my paper here and Don Stewart is the next speaker.

Problems In Other Communities

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Relative to some of the information that has been provided, for example total admissions, admissions without patient days is really not of much value. An admission could be for 24 hours. It would appear that if we were to take the admission sheet as a criterion of whether we should build any hospitals you would have to question it, because if you take Fort Smith with a hospital, 84 admissions, Hay River with 60 admissions, Fort Smith with 86 admissions, and Inuvik with 38. Now, if we take the list of admissions over places that do not have any hospitals at all, we find there are fewer in number. So what do these figures really mean? Not very much to me.

Another part of the motion I have a great deal of difficulty with is including chronic care. Now, chronic care to my idea should be close to the residence or the area of the person. If you take old people and put them into Yellowknife or the Charles Camsell Hospital, what is the difference? I have sat on the Assembly and when we went through the Charles Camsell Hospital debate we were told Edmonton was the only place the hospital could be built to get doctors to look after the people of the North. That was the argument then. Now, we have progressed to the point where Yellowknife now is evidently large enough to have a hospital that they can staff. Personally I do not believe that the technical ability to staff is dependent on the location as much as it is on the facility that is available and the number of patients to be dealt with. I do not think that the size necessarily is the only criterion.

So on the chronic situation, Hay River has developed over the past few years a request for chronic care which was agreed to in principle. However, because there is lack of funds and so on, this project is not part of the list. You still have your problems with Cambridge Bay or Coppermine or a hospital in the Keewatin. Again we are putting all our eggs in one basket, Yellowknife.

Certainly I admit that to begin with, that first statement that the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital needs to be upgraded and something done with it is fine, but whether or not we are justified in spending this type of money, putting all of the facilities there, then I do not think there is enough information provided on breakdowns to be able to justify that decision. I have no argument at all that Stanton needs something done with it but I do not believe that it is a \$25 million project that should be proceeded with immediately when there are a lot of other areas without any hospital facilities of any other kind.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. The next speaker...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a reponse to Mr. Stewart. In point of fact we have taken, that is the government and the department have taken direction from the request of the town of Hay River in terms of a nursing home policy. I would be very pleased to make that available as well to Members.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. The next speaker is Mr. Fraser.

Difficulties In Getting Professional Staff

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From listening to some of these comments of the other Members, I would feel that it is well and fine to build hospitals all over the Territories. You could build a \$50 million hospital in Baker Lake

but could you get the professional staff to work and staff this hospital? I think Inuvik right now are experiencing difficulty in getting professional help. I know they have been trying for some time to get dentists to work out of the hospital. We have a nursing station in Norman Wells and they are talking about putting a doctor in there but the only way they can get one is if they can get him through Imperial Oil. Maybe they can find one because the government cannot seem to find one.

I think sometime at one of the sessions last fall, there was a motion made by someone to try and conscript more doctors, professional people to come north in order to have some attraction for these people to come north. Now, to do that there must be some facilities or some means of attraction that will make them stay in the community. I cannot see any other place they would be attracted to but Yellowknife.

I myself, now am not from Yellowknife and I would not particularly want to live there, but I have three children who are in Yellowknife and I have grandchildren there and I know that I will vote for the motion. But I would just like to point out to Members that in order to get the professional people to come to a community to work in the hospital they have to have the attraction, the facilities for them to stay.

Now, if you do not have the professional help in the Territories, you are going to have to send patients outside for treatment which in fact they could be getting in Yellowknife. I think we have got to think strongly about that and any of the other places like Hay River where they might be attracted, as they can get out. They have a highway out to Edmonton where they can maybe drive out in seven or eight hours from Hay River, and that might attract them. They can drive out from Simpson, but we have to have more than just a road to attract these people.

Now, like I said I am going to vote for the motion but I would like to just stress that it is not just a building of the hospital we are talking about. They need the facilities to accommodate people from the Northwest Territories. We could build one in Rankin Inlet but you would not get a doctor, maybe a witch doctor, but no professional doctor.

MR. CURLEY: We certainly will not get your kind.

A Need For Use Of Yellowknife Hospital

MR. FRASER: This shows 1292 admissions into the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital in 1978-79 so there must be a need for a hospital in Yellowknife. Now, if this list is right, there could be overnight patients but they could be two or three weeks. We do not know but the Minister says he has that information for us, but even if it were overnight there is still a large amount of people who have to use the Yellowknife hospital. Let us face it. It is not just because it is the only hospital around. They have hospitals in Cambridge Bay, they have hospitals in Inuvik, they have hospitals in Pine Point and Hay River but 38 patients from Inuvik went to Yellowknife because there are no doctors in Inuvik to accommodate them. They have to go to professional people. They have a nice hospital at Hay River but 60 patients were admitted to the Yellowknife hospital. Why is that? It could be overnight patients. Maybe people who did not want to be treated in Hay River for some reason or another. Pine Point had 27 patients, Coppermine had 85 patients, Cambridge Bay had 80, and they have a big hospital in Cambridge Bay. Why are the people going to Yellowknife? Why are they admitting them to the Yellowknife hospital? There must be a reason. There has got to be a reason.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order, please.

MR. FRASER: I would say that there is a need for a new hospital. I have had my doubts about the hospital in Yellowknife for certain reasons. Maybe I will bring it out right here. There is a definite decline of people in Yellowknife, and you can see by reading the paper that there are vacancies, apartments and houses for sale every week, but the hospital that they are planning in Yellowknife, I do not think is primarily for the people in Yellowknife alone. They are looking at more referrals from the Northwest Territories, other communities that depend on this hospital to have treatment, not only the Yellowknife people. Next year when you get the admission list you might find that there are less people from Yellowknife being admitted and more from the settlements, but this hospital is not going to come in overnight. I assure you that it would take two or three years to complete and if in two or three years we find that we need the facilities and have not got them, then we will say, "Well, we should have maybe built the hospital in Yellowknife."

I say again I will vote for the motion and hope the rest of the Members will think a little bit before they vote against it because there are a lot of things on these four documents that have been passed around. If you look at them closely, they are not just a piece of paper that was put up overnight. There is a lot of work went into it to give you facts and figures of why this hospital is required.

MR. CURLEY: Was it translated?

MR. FRASER: No, it was not translated and I could not read it, Mr. Curley. I support the motion and my friend Mr. Curley I am sure, will go along with me.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Fraser.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): There are still many who wish to speak on the subject and I am going to ask only two to speak at this time, only those two people. The Minister and the mover can speak to us. If there is a point of order or a point of privilege, then those people can speak.

MS. COURNOYEA: Clarification?

MR. CURLEY: Did you change your rules?

MS. COURNOYEA: On this motion, you are limiting us to speak twice on this motion?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): After everybody has spoken then you will have a chance to speak again.

MS. COURNOYEA: Your ruling is you will allow a couple of questions and we can continue to speak on it?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Only the Minister and the mover. Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Chronic Care Not Available

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to respond. I responded I think to Mr. Stewart's concern about chronic care very briefly by indicating that we have taken what the town of Hay River has proposed, and the government has developed a policy as to a nursing home which I indicated I would table. I would like to say one other thing in regard to chronic care and that is in the present facility in Yellowknife there is no chronic care service available.

In point of fact, people from that area in Yellowknife have to be taken and placed in other places. In terms of chronic care people in Fort Simpson, they were taken from a distant place, taken out of St. Ann's Hospital in Fort Smith; the same way in terms of Yellowknife. So we are asking to have people who require chronic care, rather than being sent elsewhere, to remain in Yellowknife.

Admissions Relevant To Length Of Stay In Hospital

As to the question, Mr. Chairman, or the point Mr. Stewart indicated about admissions and the number of admissions, it is really irrelevant unless you know the length of stay. I cannot break down 1979-80 figures into communities but I indicated to Members in the very first chance I had that 97 per cent of the admissions to Stanton Yellowknife Hospital in 1979-80 came from the Fort Smith region. In the Inuvik region, there were 56 inpatients. They required 273 days, which works out to about four days plus for each patient if you averaged it. In the Keewatin, there were 15 people who required 162 days of stay. In terms of newborn the number of patients from the Fort Smith region was 334 days. They required 2050 days of care. Of the visits made by outpatients at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, 97 per cent of the people were from the Fort Smith region.

So, I cannot break down the admissions by particular communities and indicate to him that on the 1978-79 figures the length of stay. I can in terms of the length of stay for the number of patients who came from various regions in 1979-80, that is, to have particular services. I indicated in the Fort Smith region there were over 2800 patients from the Fort Smith region who required nearly 18,000 days of care. Again you can with a little bit of simple arithmetic, determine the average length of stay and it is only average but it gives you the amount, some idea. So maybe the simple fact of giving you where these people came from to get particular services at Stanton Yellowknife, I can give you again some idea of the length of stay but again 97 per cent came from the Fort Smith region.

Finally, in relation to what Mr. Sibbeston indicated about now we should try to determine what can be done in other areas, I indicated to the House that we were fully prepared to move ahead with medical facilities in the Keewatin and in the Central Arctic. I indicated that I was prepared upon a review of the availability of medical practitioners in those areas to push for this government to hire doctors at this government's expense.

---Applause

I indicated that to Members in the House in response to questions.

MR. CURLEY: It does not matter. Words.

Consultation With Central Arctic

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Maybe so, Mr. Chairman. It may be just words, but I am telling you that I am prepared to do more than just pay lip service to it and it is not just words. I indicated when I was going to do it the last time when I responded to the question; as soon as we get back from this session. I indicated that we would prepare in consultation with people in the Central Arctic when we would get together. If people in the Central Arctic will work with us we are prepared to do that. In fact, I think I indicated that I would as far as this government is concerned, we would involve the Keewatin Inuit Association in the same manner as National Health and Welfare and this government have involved ITC in the Keewatin studies.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes. With respect to Mr. Stewart's point about patient days, I think Mr. McCallum has covered it. There are also patient days in the information that was tabled in the House, graph six, if Mr. Stewart would like to check with that to give himself more information.

With respect to Mr. Sibbeston's point, explore ways of meeting demands in the region, my goodness, I fully agree. I remember during the first and second sessions pushing through the finance committee motions that said, "Let us deal with feasibility studies for the Keewatin and Cambridge Bay areas." I fully accept that there is a need for further health services in all areas of the North and if Mr. Sibbeston is willing to amend the motion or make motion afterwards to say just that, I would support it as no doubt everyone in the House will support that. In fact, Mr. Wah-Shee at lunch today suggested, "Why does the finance committee not commission health services studies in all the regions to address the whole area of health services and facilities?" And I thought that was a really good idea. If Mr. Sibbeston is willing to make a motion concerning that I would second it.

Now, I could go over all the reasons why Stanton Yellowknife Hospital should be built, but I think we have really done that to death. I just want to say again the studies, the need studies that have been done reveal that there has to be an increase in the size of this hospital to cope with the patient load and demand now. So those things have been done. To replace what is already there, as some Members have suggested in conversations I have had, will not address the very urgent requirement for these expanded facilities to meet those demands now.

With respect to chronic care, Yellowknife at this point does not have any chronic care. That is why there is a need for chronic care in the new hospital. We have people who have strokes in Yellowknife. We have native people in Detah and Rainbow Valley who retire there and need chronic care in a hospital situation during the initial stages of illness. So the chronic care facilities are a requirement of the Yellowknife area.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Nobody else has it either.

Access To Professionals Needed

MRS. SORENSEN: The existing building we know cannot economically be expanded. It has been the federal government that has determined that. We have all said that we want the delivery of services as close to the people as possible but the kinds of services that we are talking about are bringing health services closer to the people. They are bringing some of those services into Yellowknife and that is closer to the people.

We need a facility that can respond to the Assembly's already stated wish, I believe it was Mr. Patterson's motion, for paraprofessional training. In order to train nurses, X-ray technicians, lab technicians, professions like that, you need access to professionals. You need access to specialists, and that is what would be in the Yellowknife hospital.

There is another very, very important thing that I think some Members should consider and that is if there is no expansion of beds the Yellowknife board is going to have to consider limiting access to that hospital to Yellowknife residents. Then we are going to be faced with what to do with patients that could legitimately be served in the North who come from Rae, who come from Snowdrift, who come from Lac la Martre? What are we going to do? They are going to have to go south. These are people who need access to a bone specialist, for instance if they have a skidooring accident and need operations that require intensive care over a period of several months.

I have not found that people coming from Rae, Lac la Martre or Fort Simpson would rather go south than go to Yellowknife. I do not think that statement is true. Now, I have nursed them so I know. These people like to have the visits of the other Dene and the other Inuit people. They like to have their people come visit them and it is much easier to visit a friend in Yellowknife from Rae than it is in Edmonton. Some of these people are in hospital for a long time and they like the fact that the Department of National Health and Welfare will make an effort to bring a family member in on a regular basis.

I can give you an example from a time a few years ago when I was nursing in the hospital. We had a man who had severely injured his leg in a skidoo accident. He was from the community of Snowdrift which is a few hundred air miles from Yellowknife. Because Yellowknife had the services of an orthopedic surgeon, a bone specialist, this young man came to Yellowknife instead of going to Edmonton. Because of the nature of his injuries, his stay in hospital was more than two months. It would have been two months in Edmonton as well. During that time he had many visitors, people coming into Yellowknife on business or for other reasons who visited him. His young wife and his child were given travel assistance every two weeks and assisted with room and board to come to Yellowknife and to stay in Yellowknife for a couple of days to spend time with this young man.

Surely Members have to agree that had he gone to Edmonton, he would have been isolated from his family and he would have been alone. Perhaps National Health and Welfare would have provided assistance for his family to visit him once but I assure you it would not have happened more than that. As far as his injury was concerned the medical care was excellent, the bone specialist at that time was a Mayo Clinic specialist who had come to Yellowknife to live and work and that young man recovered. I have seen him since on the streets of Yellowknife walking -- with both legs.

Mr. Chairman, as I said I am a nurse and have nursed in the hospital or did from 1970 to 1974 and again in 1978. My patients were Dene and Inuit and I can give you example after example of similar incidents. Mr. Tologanak there, was a patient who came down from Cambridge Bay who was seriously ill, he had a serious illness, he had had a stroke. He could not have been cared for in a small hospital in Cambridge Bay because it would require the services of not one but three or four doctors to get him through that initial stage of crisis. The very fact that he came to Yellowknife saved his life because had he been on the plane going to Edmonton, he may not have survived and I can document that.

Government Prepared To Take Responsibility

Now, with respect to the concerns again about the regions there is no doubt that there is a serious concern about the provision of health care in the Northwest Territories, but the fact remains that this government does not have total responsibility for the delivery of health care in the Northwest Territories and we seem to be avoiding that in this debate.

MR. CURLEY: Speak about other regions.

MRS. SORENSEN: This government has been prepared for some time now to take on this responsibility and in fact it created for that reason, a separate Department of Health so the devolvement of health care could come to the territorial government and could come under elected Ministers and the elected Assembly, so that it could come under the direct direction of the people in this House today.

We would have had our hospital in the Keewatin, we would have had our hospital in Cambridge Bay because this Assembly would have made sure that that would have happened.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hurray!

MRS. SORENSEN: It was not that the federal government did not want to devolve to the Legislative Assembly the responsibility, and it was not that they did not feel the territorial government could handle that extra responsibility.

MR. CURLEY: Only in Yellowknife.

MRS. SORENSEN: The reasons were far more complicated. The reasons for the delay lay with the aboriginal claims.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Boo!

MRS. SORENSEN: I lived in Yellowknife at the time when the debate was taking place concerning the devolvement of health care to the government and I remember very distinctly the Native Women's Group, the Dene Nation reporting on the radio and interviews that they were not prepared to allow any further devolvement of health responsibilities to the territorial government because of their land claim settlements and their hope for political change. Because of that strong lobby, because aboriginal claims had not been settled and constitutional and political matters had not been settled, this government was not given that responsibility.

I hear from time to time, and I hear time and time again, the legitimate need of people representing people in the Keewatin and Central and High Arctic concerning the need for expanded medical facilities in those regions. I have also heard our Minister and our government give us assurances that because the federal government has the responsibility for the people in these regions, because the federal government has refused to do what is needed in these regions, to provide the health services that are required, then we as a government are prepared to do it. If we can find a doctor, and we will, we will put doctors in these regions. We will begin, and it has already begun through this Legislature, the very strong lobby that is required in order to convince the federal government, a government down there in Ottawa isolated from us to convince them that we have got to have the health facilities close to the people in the region.

Again, and I know I am just about running out of time, but there is one more point and that is the fact that the territorial government has had the responsibility for others. You cannot say that they have not done one hell of a good job. That has been their responsibility. They have fulfilled their mandate for health care of others. We have three very efficient and well run hospitals, Government of the Northwest Territories hospitals and we now have the federal government interested in turning over, contracting out to us the running of their hospitals because they can see what we have done and I have been part of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital and I know it is an efficient operating hospital. The federal government responsibility is for 39 nursing stations, for four federal hospitals...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): You are out of time and I would like to ask the committee if you can continue.

MR. CURLEY: Nay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: A point of order. Could I ask at what time Mrs. Sorensen began?

MR. CURLEY: At 15 minutes to 4:00.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: If it is uncertain, I would suggest she be allowed to continue.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): It was 11 minutes ago. At this time it is 4:00 o'clock so let us take 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this committee will come to order. I would like to call as the next speaker the Commissioner himself who would like to make a comment.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to enter the debate as such, but I think that having been sitting back and listening to the debate with very great interest it might be helpful if I were to make a statement which is a clarification perhaps of the basic policy that is being proposed here. That statement is this: In advancing the proposals that Mr. McCallum has been advancing the government is not proposing, I underline that, is not proposing to build in Yellowknife a Northwest Territories referral hospital. I have heard Mr. McCallum say that, but I felt it was only fair to underline that fact. The word "referral" I suppose came into the discussion because there are now certain referral patterns that have built up and it is not the governments intention to extend those referral patterns but simply to provide a facility which has the blessing of the Treasury Board in Ottawa and the federal Department of Health and Welfare, to build a hospital which will accommodate the present patterns of hospital service. There is no intention of providing a hospital in Yellowknife which will serve the people of the Keewatin, the people of the Baffin, unless one or two or very small numbers elect by their own choice to go there. There is no intention of draining patients away from the Inuvik area. In fact I find that the 32 people who came from Inuvik to the Yellowknife hospital was because the Inuvik hospital was on strike. So the present patterns of referral do not now include the Inuvik area.

Doctors For The Keewatin And Central Arctic

There have been firm commitments given on behalf of the territorial government to go out on a limb and to provide, if it possibly can, doctors or a doctor for the Keewatin and for the Central Arctic.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

COMMISSIONER PARKER: That is a commitment that has been given and will be fulfilled if it is physically possible to do so. I would simply close by saying that we are not proposing a Northwest Territories referral hospital, but we are proposing to spend the money in a fashion that has been recommended to us by people in the field, experts in the field, in such a fashion that we will have a good hospital providing services for the immediate area and one of which I hope we will be proud, and one which will be cost effective, that is, we do not wish to throw good money after bad. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the fact that the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital is a territorial hospital like the one in Hay River and Fort Smith and that therefore it is the responsibility of the territorial government to do a good job operating that hospital and I appreciate the needs that have been identified for something to be done in that hospital. The Executive Committee wants to improve the facility in Yellowknife as part of doing a good job and I can go along with the idea that they are correct in taking that line, but when you look at the report on the levels of care and you look at the primary level of care, it is one area where the services just are not adequate enough under the existing system in my community and nearly all the communities in the Keewatin and Baffin. There are nursing stations but there are not enough regular doctor visits which is addressed partly by the Minister's promises to make large efforts in that area as far as hiring doctors goes. It is also not adequate in the area of cottage type hospitals which address the chronic care situation in these small communities like Baker Lake.

Doctors Can Be Attracted To The North

The next thing we jump up to is secondary levels and the problem that concerns me is that the jump is too big to go from just a nursing station to the secondary level where maybe two or three or four doctors are operating. I propose the second level should be nursing station facilities that have very frequent doctor visits and other nursing station facilities that cater to chronic care. Possibly a doctor could be stationed at a place like Baker Lake for example and service some of the small communities north of Baker Lake with visits. I hope that is what the Minister is going to address in his attempt to hire these doctors. I do not contend or go along entirely with the contention that because you do not have a big enough population base and a big enough facility or modern enough facility you cannot attract doctors. I think doctors can be attracted to the Northwest Territories just as teachers are attracted to the Northwest Territories, primarily by the fact they are paid a heck of a lot more than teachers down south.

The situation with Charles Camsell Hospital in Edmonton maybe justifies a response by this government. I think people in my constituency are concerned with the Charles Camsell Hospital which was built by the federal government to serve its obligations to treaty Indians and Eskimo people in the Northwest Territories and northern Alberta and now it is going to be turned over to the provincial government. What is being done to make up for this is the expansion of the Yellowknife hospital following hand in hand with this thing or it is just coincidental. We all know that people with severe illnesses, heart problems for example, whether they live in Yellowknife or anywhere else, are still going to have to leave the Territories. Where are they going to go? Will it cost more when they go to Edmonton than it does right now? When I am finished I would like the Minister to advise us on the Charles Camsell Hospital situation if he is able.

Other Areas In Need Of New Facilities

The other thing I would like to go in is I guess myself and the Members here from the Keewatin and Baffin and Central and High Arctic, Western Arctic areas, I guess we must all be from Missouri because I think what we are saying is seeing is believing. We have seen Yellowknife get all sorts of stuff in the past and not the other places. Mr. MacQuarrie made an example of the school burning down in Rankin Inlet and it was replaced and that was a sign of a real response just as I believe that the response of rebuilding the school in Pine Point was a response to a fire and it was a good response to a need that was there, but there is a big difference between replacing a school when it burns down compared with building a hospital that was not there in the first place and that is what we are looking for, the primary facility put there in the first place. I have no problem with seeing Yellowknife replace a hospital that may be out of sorts as to its size, its age, plumbing, heating, stuff like that. I realize there are problems and I have been in that hospital so I would have no problem agreeing to such a hospital going ahead but only if I could see that something was really done in the other areas first or in time with that.

I would also like in that area to ask the Minister why, if this hospital is not going to be a referral centre or the expansion is only to provide what is there and a little bit more than what is there, why -- I guess he is the chairman of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital -- did Nelson McClelland, when he appeared before city council in Yellowknife say that an additional 50 to 60 positions will be brought into Yellowknife with \$1.5 million in wages. That always seems to be the bottom line for Yellowknife, that they get out of serving the rest of the Territories. I would like to know what these 50 or 60 additional people are going to have to be doing if all they do is put up the new facility to replace

the existing facility and doing a little bit better job of serving people from outside the community. The two questions I want answers to, are on the Charles Camsell Hospital and on the additional number of people who are going to be required at the Stanton Hospital. If I could get a response from the Minister then I would like, Mr. Chairman, to be able to come back because I have an amendment to the motion but I would like to get a response first.

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

Requirement For Additional People

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, let me take the first question, how Mr. McClelland, the hospital administrator got his facts and figures on that. I do not know how he did. I cannot answer for what he said. I was not there -- I think I was here when he said it at a meeting. In the proposal that I tabled dealing with the expansion of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital in March of this year, I indicated at that time to Members, if I may refresh their reading skills and other things of Members, that the benefits were listed on page six. I indicated a possibility of 74 new positions and \$1.5 million of salaries and benefits to Yellowknife and to the total tax base of the Northwest Territories. As to why Mr. McClelland said 50 or 60 I do not know, but the Member again, if I could refresh his reading skills and others to the graph on page eight, there is an increase of 43 beds in that hospital and 20 chronic beds. With 63 beds to a unit of 135 total beds, it is obvious that you are going to require more people, not only in the direct delivery of medical services, but also the maintenance and other kinds of services that will be necessary. Again because within the total proposal there are to be other particular people hired to provide those services, as has been indicated in the studies I tabled in the past, then obviously there will be more people to operate the total facility.

I would say in relation to the second question, Mr. Chairman, that the government and the department became aware that in point of fact Charles Camsell Hospital would be turning over or there was a deal being made with the Government of Alberta, and I would suggest Mr. Chairman that the Government of the Northwest Territories and the department would be less than responsible if it did not try to plan for facilities whereby these people could be given those services in the Territories as much as possible.

Referrals To The Charles Camsell Hospital

I indicated I think on a number of occasions that people at the present time from the Northwest Territories in the Mackenzie area go out to Charles Camsell and again I would refer Members to the graphs and the materials where it indicates what the cost is of health care purchased outside the Northwest Territories by people in the Mackenzie area, that is from the Inuvik and Fort Smith regions. It is broken down into amounts of money and the cost of it.

Our concern is as I said that it is now costing us approximately \$85 per day for patients at Charles Camsell because it is a federal hospital. I indicated as well I think that at the present rate in Alberta hospitals it will cost about twice that and the very high probability that it may go as high as \$200. Now, as to whether it was coincidental or planned we learned or at least I learned last year about Charles Camsell and the proposal for Stanton Yellowknife has been around for three years or more. So Mr. Chairman, I guess those answers must satisfy the Member. He is onto something else.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. I believe Mr. McLaughlin is to make an amendment to that motion.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: A point of order.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I thought you ruled that everybody would have an opportunity to speak on the motion once around and I do not know if everyone has had a chance to speak to the motion once around.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Point of order.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: While I was speaking I deferred to the Minister and said that I wanted to come back or else I would not have deferred without his agreement.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I know the hon. Member deferred but I do not think all the Members have had a chance to speak to the motion and now you are accepting an amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): According to my ruling earlier I was saying that everyone could speak and I would let them speak again after everyone speaks. So I cannot accept your amendment right now but maybe I could do it later on. Mr. Braden.

Placing A Major Institution In Jeopardy

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the outset I do not deny that the process for the development of the concept of what we are dealing with here, an expansion to the Stanton Yellowknife, has its faults. I have maintained that I would hope to see people in the referral region saying, I want to go to Yellowknife, to the hospital there for care that I cannot receive at a primary or secondary facility in my community.

Now I think that the debate in this House, and our government's proposal and the work we have been doing over the last three months since we discussed this in our budget session, has indicated that we are sensitive to this issue. We are also sensitive to the fact that other communities want improved health care services. I believe that because of the apparent opposition to proceeding with expansion of the existing facility as proposed by the government, we are placing one of our major institutions in jeopardy. I think we would seriously risk losing the level and extent of service now available, not only for Yellowknife but for communities in the referral area.

It is pretty obvious that I support the government proposal and the motion as presented by the hon. Member from Yellowknife Centre, but I want to indicate that if Members choose to reject this motion and propose something else in terms of upgrading the existing facility we are going to have to come back to this House in the fall with supplementaries because we do not have the money in our budget now. We are going to lose \$18 million of federal money that has been committed and if we are not successful in renegotiating another Treasury Board submission for the improving or upgrading of the existing Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, we are going to have to use territorial money to reach this objective. So we are really talking about a case here where we have no idea of what the cost is going to be to approve or upgrade Stanton Yellowknife.

Quite frankly I am amazed that the hon. Member from Pine Point and the hon. Member from Hay River who are Members of the finance committee, sit here and say "Well yes, it would be very nice to see Stanton Yellowknife improved or upgraded but not to the extent possible when they have no idea of what the cost is going to be." Mr. Chairman, I really feel that if Members who oppose

this motion think of this as a shot against the capital city, then I want you to consider the consequences in terms of what this will do to territorial revenues and the way they are allocated. We could be spending an incredible amount of money over the next few years to attempt to upgrade and improve the existing facility. We risk losing some of the services that are currently available, not only for residents of Yellowknife but also for residents of the referral region. When we lose those services either on a short-term basis, or while construction is going on or while maintenance or upgrading is occurring we are going to have to ship people to the South.

Implications If Expansion Not Approved

Now, there is a second point I want to make. We are going to have to come back in the fall with supplementaries to increase the budget of the Department of Health because we are going to have to be spending more money to ship people outside. So Mr. Chairman, in this time of obvious financial constraint I will introduce this factor into the debate for what it is worth. In conclusion, I do not know if there is much more I can say. The arguments have been made by Mr. McCallum and Mr. Fraser and others here, and no doubt there are a few more Members who will speak in favour of this proposal, but I would urge that Members consider the implications to this government of refusing to go ahead with the expansion; implications in terms of provision of long-term health care, implications in the interim in terms of health care, the development of our whole health care system and finally the costs to this government. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I guess the situation is that I have no choice I guess but to support the construction of a new hospital. I think basically because it will improve health services to the largest group of the Dene Nation, and that is the Dogrib tribe. I think that even though it is only in one region I have publicly stated in Yellowknife that I do not support immediate construction of a hospital until certain conditions were made to the Eastern Arctic and the communities in the Western Arctic.

It seems that one of the things that we are failing to address is that we have a very limited amount of authority in the area of health and the federal government still assumes a lot of the authority that I think we at times wish we had, but we do not have it. I think that the best way to address that issue is to give the Executive Committee the direction to maybe look into obtaining that authority. We may be able then to in fact carry out a lot more of the things that we want to carry out. So with that I sort of have to say that I am in support of the construction of a new Stanton Yellowknife Hospital with certain conditions. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

Federal Government Cannot Avoid Us Much Longer

MR. TOLOGANAK: I have been waiting for the chance to say a few words to the motion giving everyone a chance to speak, those people who did not make a motion, to give them a chance to reply. I guess we do have a problem in the Northwest Territories concerning health delivery and facilities and whatnot. We talked around the problem of attractions, who will come here and who will go there, the Executive not being recognized by the federal government and whatnot, some of the changes that are happening like this with this Assembly here and our changes are drastic in a sense on the direction this Assembly is taking. I am sure the federal government is not going to avoid this much longer and especially after yesterdays discussions and motions that were passed before the end of yesterdays session.

The hon. chairman of the Executive Committee named off people in the finance committee. I am part of it. Ms. Cournoyea is part of it. Mr. McLaughlin is one. That is four out of the seven and the concerns are there. So far the people have not said they are not against. The real concern there is what we are talking about. I appreciate Mrs. Sorensen's naming myself as a patient some years ago when she was a nurse, but when I say this, if the doctor was in Cambridge Bay and they do exist at the moment and someone tried to take me off a boat as an intern we would have to charter all the way up to Cambridge from Yellowknife in order to pick that up and it would take twice the time. If the facilities had been properly studied and looked at when the doctor was placed or even an intern, as some people have said they would like to provide, then the charter would be one way and the doctor could possibly be flown in. We talk about facilities in the regions and we talk about facilities in big centres where things are going down in the economy and population-wise and that. I think what we are really talking about today is we have to take the total outlook at how much facilities are required in all the regions, not just in one area to take the overflow of what is happening. I would really go along with this if there were perhaps a bit more research rather than the one-sided research on what is happening before we vote on this motion. The hon. chairman of the elected Executive Committee said we are going to lose some money. Which is more important, the betterment of the people in the Territories or the betterment of the holy dollar in the pocket? Thank you.

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

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I guess I myself am a very suspicious person.

MR. CURLEY: No!

Yellowknife Has An Advantage Over The Other Areas

MS. COURNOYEA: I agree a lot of times that people say things and what is written is not exactly what is said, but when we are considering setting priorities within the system of the scheme of levels of care in the Northwest Territories we approach a higher level of care for the Northwest Territories. To my feeling all that has been said it was sort of advocated for the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. I guess I do not even have very much trouble with that because I think it is within their right but what bothers me a lot is that we always seem to be getting the short end of the stick. You say, "Well, let us go along with this because we may lose some money and jobs," and I guess I am wondering why there are going to be so many more jobs if there is an effort to replace what is there with a few more little things added.

The unfairness of the situation we are in right now is that -- not that I do not like people in Yellowknife, but I think they have an advantage over us because they are right there with the seat of the government and it is easier for these people who are working in the government and I think there is a tremendous lobby to have that hospital in Yellowknife from people in Yellowknife. I do not remember ourselves in the Western Arctic being consulted about higher levels of care and where it should be. As a result of that lobby you are able to secure from National Health and Welfare a commitment to build a hospital and an extension to the hospital in Yellowknife. Congratulations. But to me as a representative of a group of people in an area to the North, offshore, we have a lot of problems in just basic care of people and preventive medicine and it seems to me that those areas are not really thought about very much and the options to how you ever give primary and secondary care and preventive care, those ideas are not explored. What we are doing is talking about buildings and the need for more buildings and spending money on more capital structures.

Areas Outside Of Yellowknife Have Been Sold Out.

I guess I am not against that either, but I would like to defend the question and the notion of aboriginal people saying that the Charles Camsell Hospital and the turnover and the discontinuation of that should not be done until the settlement is made. The reasons for that are the same arguments that were presented right now because we do not know what we are going to get for it in exchange. We want to be able to work with our people and be able to move where maybe we do not need hospitals. Maybe we can have a standard of living that we have good health habits and we understand what we are eating and we have an understanding of what is good and what is not good, but I resent certain things and I think one of the things I resent -- I do not think there was any bargaining put forth in terms of the Charles Camsell Hospital. I think we sold out on that, maybe from neglect, because it seems to me one option that could have been presented, if the Alberta government were going to get the hospital for one dollar I think National Health and Welfare put much more than a few million dollars into that thing.

Certainly we probably could have bargained in exchange for very minimal rates in all the hospitals in Edmonton, I would think if the negotiations of the people who were involved had maybe a broader perspective, but it seems to me that a channel was made, a big long gulf was built and everybody focuses on one way, how to get some more stuff in Yellowknife. I do not think the other options were put forward in terms of how you could spend money on an equal basis to do the best job possible. I do not think that we have had the opportunity or even the right of input and I think we have been sold out because whoever promoted this idea really did not take into consideration other options of medical care for people on a broader range and maybe at another level.

Staffing Problems In Hospitals

Now you say Yellowknife has a problem and the area has a problem. Well, that may well be, but what is it in Yellowknife that is going to attract more doctors, better doctors, better people to work and provide their expertise to the people? Are you saying as well that in Yellowknife, it being so attractive and having so much to offer...

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes.

MS. COURNOYEA: ...so in that consensus have we been sold out further? I am wondering really what is going on behind the scenes. I am on the board of the Inuvik General Hospital and I am wondering if possibly there is a little scheme going on to discourage doctors from going farther than Yellowknife. We did not have the...

MRS. SORENSEN: Shame, shame!

MS. COURNOYEA: We did not have the problem of staffing the Inuvik General Hospital a number of years ago but in the last three or four years it seems like all the emphasis and all the promotion is what can be put in Yellowknife and how good it is going to be, but what has been traded off? Who has been trading off what? Have we already been traded off? In putting a facility of that magnitude does that mean that the federal government when you negotiate for more money will say, "Look, we already put all that money in Yellowknife and that is a great facility so you should use it. Try it anyway for a while because you might find out it is good for you"? Later on the crunch of not enough money is still there. I do not understand another thing. Mr. McCallum's deliberations and argument for the hospital, he said six million dollars would

be the federal government share and \$18 million would be the territorial government share, but yet I am told that we do not have that money so that must be the federal share as well but it is coming indirectly to the territorial government. So in fact all of the money comes from the federal government and that is what appears to me from the discussion that we are talking of.

Western Arctic People Will Be Pressured To Use The Yellowknife Hospital

I cannot see why we are not intelligent enough to renegotiate something with the federal government to try to take care of the needs and allay the fears that I have that in the end we are going to be traded off further for this facility. I have never spoken against Yellowknife having even a new hospital, but it seems to me in your planning priorities, that Yellowknife is still to become a referral centre and that people from the other areas such as the Western Arctic region will be pressured to use that hospital in order to justify the expense.

Now I cannot support the motion as it is, mainly because the people I represent when they become very ill want second and third opinions on their illness. I know that a majority of those people would prefer to go a few more miles where they can get the opinions that they need on the medical care that they probably will be getting and very seriously. So I do not know what is really going on and I guess maybe we have been traded off at a lot of different levels and maybe there is no going back.

In terms of Charles Camsell Hospital I think the native associations have made representations to delay that. It was supposed to happen some time ago. The only reason that it was not turned over as quickly as one anticipated was because of that representation. Now I see nowhere that the territorial government has made equal representation and negotiated some kind of formula because that money was spent primarily for the use of the native people of the Northwest Territories.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: On a point of order.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Your time is running out, Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Has Ms. Cournoyea's time expired? I move we allow her to continue speaking, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does this House agree? Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sure. Agreed.

---Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We have agreement. Go ahead, Ms. Cournoyea.

Should Be No Problem In Hiring Professionals For Any Area

MS. COURNOYEA: You messed me up. I will just recheck that. We had that basic problem in Inuvik hospital area where we were wondering what those trade-offs are because there are a lot of crazy things happening. I think that each community and each area has something to offer and it is really upon the people who are doing the hiring to sell that area on its merits, and I think professional people will come wherever they feel they are really wanted or they feel they are getting a good deal.

Now, I will tell you one thing that is wrong with the present system and the complaint of the medical profession that some of the hospitals do not really respect the desires of medical people to take part in southern conferences. The doctors find it very hard to continue upgrading themselves unless they are

able to take off and join in with their colleagues who have a specific interest in medical care. Now, until we solve that problem at the various levels to allow them that privilege it seems to me that the problem is not with the facility but with how we handle the people we hire. So therefore I do not totally agree that the reason professional people do not move to various areas was because they have paved highways or paved sidewalks but because of the deal they are going to get.

I would like to think that in our deliberations on this motion, and I am sorry the motion came so soon, we think of how we can assure people like myself that in fact what the planning priorities mean is not a referral centre, and you can call it anything you want, but when we are talking about all those extra bodies and the fact that several positions from National Health and Welfare have already been transferred to the territorial government, it appears to me that the motion is already in place to build up this hospital in Yellowknife to something more than an area hospital. I have not read anything, I have not seen anything that really takes away that basic idea and fear. I realize we have all tried to say that is not so but we are moving in that direction and the fear has not been taken away from me and I cannot support the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. Mr. Butters.

Dialogue Of The Deaf

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, this is the first time I have ever participated in a "dialogue of the deaf". There would seem to be two very clear positions, one is a majority position on which everybody agrees that that is that Yellowknife desperately needs a new hospital. My colleague to the left of me said to me it is not that desperate but I am not sure whether the Executive Committee Member has told you, but we have already spent \$700,000 of the money set aside because of urgently needed repairs and requirements at that hospital. It is an antiquated box and unless you have been in it and seen it and visited people in it and been treated in it, you cannot realize how much it is in need of refurbishing and rebuilding.

I think that the other position too is that there is a real fear and a real concern that what will be built at Yellowknife is a territorial referral hospital to the detriment and to the diminishment of health care services in other parts of the Territories. Those are the two positions.

I think the only voice that I have heard in these last four hours is the one of the Commissioner and he made a personal practical commitment that as far as he was concerned, the new hospital being proposed for Yellowknife is not a territorial referral hospital.

---Applause

I as a Member of the Executive Committee will also make the same commitment and promise. I think that if the other Members would say the same thing the motion we have here could pass. It could be accepted. I suggest to the other Executive Members that you do that when you have an opportunity to speak. Two of you have spoken, two of the Members have spoken since the Commissioner spoke but neither one gave that indication.

False Impressions Of The Inuvik Hospital

I would just like to use a few minutes of my time to correct maybe some false impressions about the Inuvik hospital. I know that my good friend from Mackenzie Great Bear suggested we have no dentists, we have no doctors and just about no service is being provided from that centre at all. Well, we have at the present time two dentists assisted by the Hay River Dental Clinic so dental care is being provided in that community. We have five doctors at the present time practising and it is expected in the fall there will also be five doctors practising out of that hospital.

Interestingly in the same year that was given as a comparison in the report when Yellowknife admissions I think numbered something in the order of a few thousand or a little less than 3000, Inuvik admissions numbered 1200 which is not bad for a community of one-third the size. In patient days we reached something in the order of 11,500 which is not bad in comparison with Yellowknife's almost 19,000 patient days.

So the concern I think we have where there are facilities or hospitals and nursing stations is that they continue to perform the same level of service they are currently providing and if possible that that level be increased and expanded to serve the smaller communities to a greater extent than is now the case.

I would suggest that I share the hon. Member from the Western Arctic's paranoia, and it is not very often that Ms. Cournoyea and I are on the same side of the fence possibly, but the reason I do this is because as a Member of the Executive Committee I recollect this program being brought up in 1978 after I had been an Executive Member for about four months. I recall at that time saying that I would like the document tabled and a discussion take place on it. The document never came back and then I became Minister of Health and I did not assume anything was going ahead on it because it would have had to come back to the Executive Committee.

After I ceased to be responsible for that portfolio I found out it had gone to the federal government during the time I was Minister. Somehow I was unaware of this document proceeding. So it does seem to me that there has been an inordinate haste to push this through and I can understand the suspicion and possibly the paranoia that there is something unnatural here in this proposal. After hearing the Commissioner, I feel that I can now support the motion and I will support the motion and I suggest that should the other Executive Committee Members give the same guarantee to the House that we could all support the motion because none of us, not one of us have I heard suggest that the health facilities in Yellowknife should not be improved and expanded.

Member Of The Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board In The House

I am quite surprised to see a member in this House of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital board sitting in the House and not being called to the witness table. I think that his presence before this committee would be most valuable and I am surprised to see Mr. Dalton still sitting in the gallery and not contributing to the discussion and not having been invited to contribute to the discussion. So I say with the Commissioner's commitment I can now support the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, that motion, I do not really think that it has helped. I do not think that I can support it. We would like hospitals, larger hospitals closer to the settlements. If it were going to be in the Keewatin I would support it but I do not think I will if it is going to be in Yellowknife because it is too far away from the communities. I am just looking at the pictures and if it were going to be around Resolute Bay or somewhere closer to the settlements, closer to these people then I think it would be of more assistance to the people, to the people in the tundra area but I do not think it will really be of too much assistance to have it in the other area where the other hospital already is. The people of Lake Harbour, only six people from Lake Harbour went to the hospital in 1979.

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

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions for the Minister and then I will say something after that. We have two different points of view about this hospital, we are talking about a hospital in Keewatin and a hospital in Yellowknife. There are two different suggestions here. I would like clarification. Who is going to take the burden of paying for the regional

hospital in the Keewatin? Will the territorial government or the federal government pay? Could you please clarify that, and Mr. Minister, if they were to build this hospital in Yellowknife who would take the burden of paying for the building of the hospital, the federal or the territorial government?

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

Cost Shared Arrangements

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, hospitals in the Northwest Territories are built on a cost shared arrangement which means that the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories share the costs. In the case of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital the federal government share is 25 per cent of it and the share of the Government of the Northwest Territories is 75 per cent. In the case of the Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Chesterfield, wherever it will be, in the case of the Keewatin proposed hospital, Health and Welfare Canada will pay 76 per cent and the Government of the Northwest Territories will pay 23 or 24 per cent. Now, the reason for that is because of the populations and the ethnicity or the racial background of the people being served because the responsibility, as has been said, for treaty Indian and Inuit is with the federal government. Those are the percentages Mr. Chairman.

Now there is no denial that the funds primarily come from the federal government, as has been said, but this government has a capital requirement that is approved yearly, a capital grant from the federal government for the operation of the Government of the Northwest Territories as well as a deficit grant arrangement in its total financial dealings with the federal government. So if in fact the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital goes ahead the cost to this government would be \$18,379,000 or thereabouts and the cost to the federal government would be six million dollars, so many hundred thousand. The cost to put the Keewatin hospital in is not determined in total because the proposal is now being worked out by a study but when it is determined what kind of a facility is required by the study then, of course, there will be architectural drawings, etc., that would then determine how much money would be required but the federal government would pay 76 per cent of that.

I would like to say as well, Mr. Chairman, that I have indicated that we are not attempting to draw patients from other institutions. I have indicated on different occasions in speaking to this particular topic that the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital is not a territorial referral hospital and I would like to indicate as well that we have in fact had to expend approximately three quarters of a million dollars on the existing institution to do something about the ventilation system. Otherwise it would have been closed down this fall. Part of that money came from moneys that had been voted by past Assemblies so that the board of management had built up a certain amount of money. There was as well an expenditure approved by the Executive to improve the X-ray apparatus and this money has received approval for it but it is not the money in terms of moneys that have been set aside specifically that we are now voting on.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I thought I indicated earlier each Member would have a chance to speak and after each Member has a chance to speak then somebody else can have a chance to speak again. Mr. Curley.

Should Not Delay The Building Of Future Hospitals In The Regions

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize this is a complicated motion that we are facing. I would call it a selfish motion but considering the importance of it I would like to see the strongest recommendations put in that the other regions through the department to the administration -- on that basis I realize there is a strong concern from the other regions but what the Minister associates with justice is what we should accept. I think if he had put in a condition that dealing with hospitals should not be unduly delaying the building of future hospitals in the regions and I think that would have done justice to it. I think the attitude here would have been very good.

I support the principle of the hospitals in all the regions and I think it is important to know that we are not trying to minimize health care delivery systems in the Northwest Territories. I would merely point out for the first time that the regions have never really been taken as the first priority in dealing with health delivery or whatever public service institutions are required in the North. So on that basis I would have to see it demonstrated here this afternoon the fact that this has been long overdue in our region.

I believe in Yellowknife you have a hospital. I believe in Yellowknife you have a good transportation system. At least you do not have those kinds of airline problems that we have been having in transporting sick persons. At least you have a doctor you can call 24 hours a day in the case of emergency. Here in Baker Lake for instance you are allowed to go to the clinic only in the morning. After that you have to wait until the next day to try and get there.

I remember one case in Coral Harbour of a sick lady. She was so sick she could not even walk, could not even recognize who was speaking to her. We phoned the nursing station and they said, "Bring her over." She could not walk. They said, "Bring her over." We had to find a way of getting her out of there. These are the kinds of things we experience. In Yellowknife it would be a crime for Mr. McCallum to be treated in such a way. They would not dare accept the fact he would have to get out of bed and be delivered to the nursing station. At least in Yellowknife you have a doctor you can rely on and there he is a family doctor. Here there is no such notion to the people in Baker Lake or other communities to have a so-called family doctor. They have never had that opportunity.

Hospitals Should Be Number One Priority Institutions

Let us talk about the hospitals. Hospitals I realize should be number one priority institutions in the Northwest Territories and I think the Minister should darn well represent us. I am prepared to help him if he puts his case to Ottawa and I hope he will continue to give me a regular monthly report of the kind of progress he is making in fighting as hard as he can for Stanton Yellowknife Hospital as he will for the regions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: Then I will support him wholeheartedly, whatever he pursues. I do not say I will not differ with him. I will probably always differ with him in his approach to the problem but in that case it will balance because I will be on the other side watching him.

---Applause

I have no real major problem, Mr. Chairman, with the motion as it is and I prefer to support the motion. I think on that basis I would just like to indicate to the Minister that we want assurances that he is going to have to now demonstrate the kind of representation that he will give us in this region as hard as he has in presenting his case for Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

I have two questions on the hospital proposal. I would like you to answer me as to whether in fact or not you can improve the translation services when the patients do come, if and when the hospital in the Central Arctic is built quickly there will no doubt be some patients coming in and out from that region. I would like to have some assurances from the Minister whether or not he will fight just as hard as he is putting his case today in getting support for the hospital, to put some translators and interpreters in there, as well as a proper receiving home if that is required so that patients coming in will not unduly be living in a foreign atmosphere, the kind of atmosphere that is different to their culture. I would like him to respond to these types of things, but I am not putting this support by way of giving up the case for the hospital in the Keewatin. I am doing this because I think it is important that the kind of health care facilities in any region be not unduly delayed because of the other areas. We have to have priorities and I think it will be important in my mind for the Minister to respond with assurances to report progress of the medical services that are being conducted. I do not think we should put it there and let the study be conducted without territorial input through the Minister of Health or his officers in Ottawa. If he would be prepared to respond to some of my points I would gladly consider giving support to the Minister. I am ready to indicate that and I hope there will not be any reason to change this or evade the question.

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

Translation Services Provided To People In The Hospital

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would say first of all that very definitely in terms of translation services to people -- I wanted to wait because the Member wanted me to respond to him, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make sure he heard me. As far as translation services are concerned in the proposed facility, Mr. Chairman, quite obviously and I think it has been said before and in the proposal for the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital that particular topic is addressed. I have indicated before, that part of that facility will deal with places whereby people can get counselling during and on leaving, in their native languages, where there will be translation services provided for people. I can indicate to the Member again, as I had in a communication by letter to him, and I am pleased to hear his reaction because I have not received a return communication regarding the direction the department is going. What we would want to do in attempting to press for greater services not only in Yellowknife, because as the Member for the Western Arctic and the Member for Inuvik have indicated, they have a paranoia about things. Let me tell you I come from a town that is noted, I am sure by past Members and present Members, for the paranoia of centralization of government. We have been for many years very much concerned about the centralization of things in the capital of the Government of the Northwest Territories. So I can well appreciate what they may think in putting things together but I want the Member from Keewatin South to know that I fully intend to press, as I indicated to him in a communication, to wrest from the federal authorities as much and more if possible as we can possibly get in terms of total health services.

I am very pleased Mr. Chairman, that I can go along with that. There may be a concern about how far, but I am very pleased to hear he will support that, that move to fight as hard for the Central Arctic, the Keewatin, the Baffin and in fact the Western Arctic to have those services taken by this government so we can in fact give a greater amount and provide through this government, not the federal government, the care that the Member has indicated he would want to see. So there is no question I will keep him informed as to how far I will go as I will with Members when I deal with Members in the Baffin as I have talked to people in the Baffin about it, and as I have transmitted that communication.

Better Health Facilities For All The N.W.T.

The Member from Yellowknife South earlier indicated that we are attempting to take over by contract arrangements a good deal of the work, not only administrative contracts but the maintenance contract in terms of Baffin and I indicated that to not only the Baffin Members but to the Keewatin Members that that is exactly what we would want to do and I solicited their support. I have received some or at least one letter from a Member and now from the Member from Keewatin South. So I have no hesitation in saying that as long as I am here that I will attempt to get more and more control, more and better, better and better facilities for health in the Northwest Territories, not just in Yellowknife, because that is not my home. My home is in Fort Smith, and as I would be able to get for any other place, and as well as getting things for various particular areas or certain particular locations that is not my particular responsibility just to get for one; my responsibility I recognize is to get those kinds of facilities, those kinds of services for everybody in the Northwest Territories. I would indicate that I am prepared to continue as I have for the past four and a half years to work towards that and I welcome the assistance of the Member from Keewatin South in trying to bring this off.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I have no comments, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Pretty well everyone has spoken on my list. Mr. Sibbeston is first.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I cannot support this motion because like Ms. Cournoyea I am suspicious that if we go ahead with the Yellowknife hospital at this time it will be a long, long time before the other regions get what they want which is essential, a hospital. I think it has become clear that this issue is a major issue and in fact it is perhaps a greater issue than the matter of aboriginal rights we have discussed in the last few days. Certainly it is taking more time. It seems or it should be obvious that there is a lot of resistance to the idea that Yellowknife should get a hospital at this time. As I said I do not oppose it because I do not think it will be good to have a new hospital in Yellowknife. It will benefit my area but I do think there is a time when you must put your own interests aside and decide what is best for other people in the North.

In this regard, in my area in Fort Simpson we do have a hospital and we do have a doctor and it bothers me. I do not think it is right that people up in the Western Arctic do not have a hospital and a doctor and in the Keewatin here they do not have a hospital and a doctor. We are here today but what would we do if one of us had a heart attack getting overly emotional or excited about this issue?

MRS. SORENSEN: I will take care of you.

---Laughter

MR. SIBBESTON: I appreciate Mr. Braden's remarks about the possibility of us losing this money if we do not go ahead with the Yellowknife project but I do think he was trying to make us feel a little bit bad, a little bit guilty and I do not believe that just because the government or someone in the territorial government negotiated this money and won it for the Yellowknife hospital, that we cannot change it.

Decisions Of Past Assemblies

I do not know when this negotiation was made, it was perhaps made before this Assembly, so now if this new Assembly has different priorities than the last Assembly surely we are not stuck with the past Assembly's decision. I am sure it is possible for the Executive Committee or Mr. McCallum to go to Ottawa and simply state that the people of the North now have different priorities and it will be possible to renegotiate the moneys for a hospital up in Cambridge Bay or in Baker Lake or in Rankin Inlet.

So I think that a possible solution to this matter is simply to defer the matter until the fall in Frobisher Bay. That is one idea. Also, during this time we should strongly recommend to the Executive Committee that they go to Ottawa, the Executive Committee has recently been to Ottawa, they were greatly concerned about constitutional rights and rightly so regarding the pipeline, they have gone there and so it should be clear to them that this issue is as great an issue as a pipeline and constitutional development. They should go to Ottawa and have a meeting with the Minister of National Health and Welfare and all the other government officials and convince them that there is some serious problems in the North and there have been major changes, the priorities have changed in the last few years and come out of there, with the federal government convinced that hospitals are needed in Cambridge and the Keewatin.

So those are my comments and I just wanted to perhaps make a small remark about the idea of being basically suspicious about government. I think it is an essential element or a desirable characteristic to always be suspicious of government. I think the time when you are not suspicious of government, I think that is the time when one needs to worry about yourself and wonder if you should be a politician.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion To Amend Motion To Release Funds For Proposed Hospital

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After listening to the conversation I am convinced that a motion is needed that will both give Yellowknife the hospital it needs but at the same time take into consideration the suspiciousness and the reluctance the other Members have that the federal government will really do anything in the other areas. In light of that I would like to make an amendment to the motion beginning at the second word from the bottom of the page after the word "release" I would like to place the following: "funds for planning of the proposed Stanton hospital but that construction not proceed until the territorial and federal agencies concerned get together and provide a program which provides acceptable primary services in the remote communities and secondary services in larger communities: And further the territorial and federal agencies concerned consider a phase one and two construction for the new Yellowknife facility so that funds would become immediately available to make a start in other communities."

Mr. Chairman, I think this motion will allow the primary planning to go ahead and I will also give this Assembly the opportunity at the end of this session at Frobisher Bay to hear from the Minister of Health to see how his department has been able to do in advising the federal government of our desire to have more say in the delivery of health care in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: A point of order.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Could I have a ruling? I am willing to abide by your decision as to whether that is an amendment to the motion or whether it is a different intent and therefore should be another motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): If you can just give us a couple of minutes.

MR. FRASER: Coffee time.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I move we report progress.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Nay.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I heard nay. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The intent of my motion is certainly not to change the original intention of the motion, it is only to delay the timing of the motion as far as the release of the final funds would go. I do not believe my motion does change the substance or the intent of the original motion, my amendment only delays the procedure enough for us to have some input at Frobisher Bay and to give the Minister a chance to demonstrate to us that the territorial and federal governments can come through with something.

Motion To Amend Motion To Release Funds For Proposed Hospital,
Ruled Out Of Order

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): This amendment is not acceptable at this time, it is too broad. Also, this motion is for the planning and this amendment would defer further discussion.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: A point of order. Mr. Chairman, how about my motion to report progress?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Yes, it has been a long day. Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is that agreed?

---Agreed

There was a motion to report progress and was that agreed? So we will report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call the House to order. Mr. Pudluk.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF INFORMATION ITEM 26-80(2): HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM, ACCOUNTABILITY; INFORMATION ITEM 29-80(2): AREA HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE BAY, REGIONAL HOSPITAL, KEEWATIN; TABLED DOCUMENT 3-80(2): PLANNING PRIORITIES WITHIN THE SYSTEM OF FOUR LEVELS OF CARE; TABLED DOCUMENT 4-80(2): A SCHEME OF LEVELS OF CARE FOR THE N.W.T.; AND MOTION 18-80(2): CALM AIR FREIGHT RATES

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering and adopted Motion 18-80(2). Your committee has also been considering Tabled Documents 3-80(2) and 4-80(2), Information Items 26-80(2) and 29-80(2) and I wish to report progress.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Announcements. There will be a brief meeting of the Northwest Territories branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association executive committee at 6:00 p.m. in the caucus room today. At 7:30 this evening the unity committee will meet in the caucus room. At 9:30 tomorrow morning a caucus meeting.

ITEM NO. 15: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, June 19, 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
8. Motions
9. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters: Sessional Paper 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), 29-80(2); Tabled Documents 3-80(2), 4-80(2); Report of the Standing Committee on Finance; Tabled Documents 6-80(2), 12-80(2); Bills 1-80(2), 2-80(2); Sessional Paper 4-80(2)
10. Third Reading of Bills
11. Assent to Bills
12. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members should know I am considering additional extended sittings Thursday evening and Friday morning. As to whether or not there is one tomorrow evening it will depend on how we proceed with the business in the afternoon.

One further announcement. I have a letter from the recreation committee of Baker Lake chairman, Matthew Kunangnat. "For your information on June 19th in the evening at 8:30 there will be a dance at the recreation hall and all or any of the Legislative Assembly Members are welcome to the hall." A special occasion and the last chance for a square dance in Baker Lake tomorrow night. This House now stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., June 19, 1980, at the Kamanituak School.

---ADJOURNMENT

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