



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Speaker: The Honourable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Turning to the orders of the day, Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. There appear to be no replies today.

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Pudluk.

Question 8-81(1): Fishing Test At Crooked Lake

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 7th, 1980, when we were all present in Frobisher Bay, I raised Question 202-80(2) to the Minister of Renewable Resources about the fishing test at Crooked Lake and I would like to get an answer before the end of this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will provide an answer to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 9-81(1): Polar Bear Quota Increase In Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you. I refer to the Minister of Renewable Resources. The question is asked by the people of Cape Dorset. The people of Cape Dorset are saying that the quota for polar bears is too few, especially when there is a lot of hunters. The polar bear quota at Cape Dorset is only 10. I would like to have an answer during this session so I wonder if I could be advised whether the people of Cape Dorset's polar bear quota could be increased during this session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. The Hon. Minister, Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will provide a written reply to that question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 10-81(1): Federal Government Paper On Lancaster Sound

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Leader of the Elected Executive. Mr. Braden, we have learned that the federal government is releasing today its draft green paper on Lancaster Sound. I wonder, has your counterpart, the Prime Minister of Canada, or his representative, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, contacted you and/or the Executive Committee to give you a briefing on this very important paper and to arrange for that paper to be tabled in this House simultaneously with the Frobisher Bay release.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 10-81(1): Federal Government Paper On Lancaster Sound

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had, over the last two years, association with the federal group that has been preparing the green paper, so we have had some measure of involvement with its preparation. With respect to your specific questions, there has been no arrangement made to have a simultaneous tabling of the document although we do have officials of the territorial government present at the Minister's presentation in Frobisher Bay. I will make it a point of having copies available of the green paper presentation as soon as possible. We have one copy at present. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. There appear to be no further oral questions. Item 4, written questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

The hon. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 11-81(1): Yukon And NWT Game Permits

MS COURNOYEA: This is a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. As the Yukon and Northwest Territories game departments in a meeting in Aklavik on February 3rd, 1981, saw fit to explicitly express that Inuvialuit had to have a game export permit to take their kill across the Yukon/Territories lines, and that the export permit had to be affixed to the carcass or game animal before it left the Yukon, why did the same officers not see fit to apprise the Fort McPherson residents of the same restrictions in a meeting held there earlier in the day? Why did they not see fit to go to that community the following day? Why was this restriction so explicitly placed when there were no game permits or officers available and would not be for two weeks?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 12-81(1): Re-establishment Of Credit Unions In NWT

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, the Hon. Mr. Butters, please indicate what obstacles presently stand in the way of credit unions being re-established in the Northwest Territories and what measures might be required to remove those obstacles?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Further written questions. There appear to be no further written questions. Are there any returns? Will the House excuse me one moment.

Mr. Clerk, Item 5, petitions, on your orders of the day. There appear to be no petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 3-81(1), Cost of Assembly Session in Frobisher Bay, a response I received to my Question 209-80(2) which I asked in Frobisher Bay concerning the additional cost of the session there and which indicates that the additional cost amounted to \$114,493.85.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further petitions? Correction, tabling of documents rather?

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

The Hon. Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion 3-81(1): Extension Of Time Period For Replies To Commissioner's Address

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice of a motion to be made on Tuesday, the 3rd of February, seconded by the hon. Mr. MacQuarrie. Now therefore, I move that Rule 34 of the rules of this Assembly which provides that replies to the Commissioner's Address shall not extend beyond the first five sitting days of a session be waived for this session. The item, replies to the Commissioner's Address, to be retained on the orders of the day up to and including February 17, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Notices of motion. Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Are there any motions ready for today? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion 1-81(1): Invitation To DIAND Representative, Deputy Minister Paul Tellier

MR. MacQUARRIE: Motion 1-81(1):

WHEREAS the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development appears, from reports in the press, to be generating a series of position papers that could have serious implications for the people of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Members of this Assembly would like to know the range of subjects these papers will cover, the target dates the department has set for policy development and the degree to which the Government of the Northwest Territories will be consulted in the development of policies which will affect it and the people of the North;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the hon. Member for Yellowknife South, that this Assembly through its Speaker, invite Deputy Minister Paul Tellier of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to appear before it prior to the end of this session to explain his department's initiatives in planning directions for the 1980's and his view of this Assembly's role in that planning.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order as long as it is fully understood that this is by way of invitation.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I believe, Mr. Speaker -- yes, the words are very clear -- "through its Speaker invite Deputy Minister Paul Tellier" to attend. Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the motion, I would recall or ask Members to recall the question that I posed on the first day of the session to the Leader of the Elected Executive. At that time Mr. Braden, in doing what might be described -- or indeed was described, I guess, in essence -- as a "Pierre-ette" around the question, that is with respect to...

---Laughter

The question was directed as to whether the federal government was actually and officially giving these papers to our government for its comment, advice and amendment. And Mr. Braden indicated, I think, that our Executive Committee is not given these papers for that purpose. What this means, in essence then, is that policies which will have a very significant long-term impact on northern life are quite deliberately being shaped outside of our influence.

Northerners Must Be Consulted And Informed

What it means is that we apparently are expected to wait patiently and impotently to see what the machinations of various departmental officials in the South have in store for us and that, I am sure all Members of this Assembly agree, is unacceptable, for it seems to me that: Who should determine the quality of life in the Northwest Territories, for example, the director general of the northern environment in Ottawa or we who live here? It is regrettable, if somewhat understandable, that circumstances of history, demography, economics and so on, leave that power over our lives with the federal government in Ottawa. I think it is outrageous, though, that the federal government, having that power, does not at least consult with us concerning how it will be exercised.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: And I think further that it is absolutely intolerable that having that power, they do not even deem it appropriate or important to inform us that the power will be exercised and how it will be exercised.

MRS. SORENSEN: Aye, aye!

MR. MacQUARRIE: Surely we do have a right to know who is doing what to us and why, and accordingly, I urge all of the Members of this Assembly to support the motion to bring the Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development into this House so that we can find out -- without the confusing intervention of rumour and supposition and speculation -- find out just what Ottawa's "benign providence" has in store for us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. I would remind the press gallery that there is no smoking during this part of our proceedings. Motion 1-81(1).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 1-81(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

That then concludes the motions that are ready for today.

Item 10, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

ITEM NO. 11: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS FOR FIRST READING

The Hon. Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 2-81(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 3, 1980-1981

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The bill is at first reading.

---Carried

Are there any other bills for introduction for first reading? Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 3-81(1): Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1981

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 3-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 3-81(1) is at first reading.

---Carried

Are there any further bills for first reading? Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 4-81(1): Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1981-82

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 4-81(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds from the Government of Canada and Make Loans to Municipalities or Other Persons in the Northwest Territories During the Financial Year 1981-82, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 4-81(1) is at first reading.

---Carried

Are there any further bills for introduction? The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

First Reading Of Bill 5-81(1): Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance, 1981

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 5-81(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to Borrow Funds, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder for Bill 5-81(1)? The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 5-81(1) is at first reading.

---Carried

Are there any further bills? I take it there are no further bills for introduction at this time for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills. There appear to be no bills ready for second reading.

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

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

Bill 1-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1982, capital plan overview and the Legislative Assembly budget. We will have the committee of the whole then, with the hon. Mr. Fraser in the chair. It was understood that we would try and stay in committee while we watched a film review of the capital plan overview, but inasmuch as this is going to be held in the other room, this will not be possible, so I suggest to you, Mr. Fraser, that if that is to happen that you recess and we will retire to the other room to watch the film presentation.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 1-81(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-81(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1981-82

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): In view of what the Speaker has just said, there is apparently no film, so we will do away with that. The capital budget was the first thing on the agenda for today. I think Mr. Butters has something he wants to announce. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. First, I apologize for addressing you as Mr. Speaker two or three times yesterday during my opening remarks to the budget. I recognize that you fill a very important position in this House as deputy chairman of committees.

I recognize in the House, as do other Members I expect, Mr. Pilot, who is responsible for the capital planning committee, and some of his staff members. I do not believe that we will have to go to the other room to receive the briefing that the members of the capital committee will be providing us. I think it can be done right here in this chamber in committee of the whole. So, we have had circulated the documents that the briefing will take place from -- these four pages here -- and I think if we could invite whomever it is that will be presenting this briefing into the House, they probably would appear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. We will then ask that the Sergeant-at-Arms see that the Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Don Johnston appear at the witness table. Mr. Don Johnston and Deputy Commissioner Pilot, do you have any opening remarks?

Capital Plan Overview Introduction

MR. PILOT: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First, I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before the Legislative Assembly and to explain the current process that is being used in determining the capital

plan of the Government of the Northwest Territories. And I would also like to, if I can, go into -- very briefly though -- the process that we anticipate putting into place this coming year.

Perhaps if I may, Mr. Chairman, explain what we mean by capital. The capital expenditure or capital items of this government are those buildings, equipment -- heavy equipment or vehicles -- furnishings, that make up the assets of this government. It also includes renovation to buildings, extensive repair to equipment which will extend the life of the buildings and equipment to maintain the asset at a high dollar value.

Yesterday we had an opportunity of distributing to the Members a copy of the detail of the current capital plan for 1981-82, and the intent today is not to look at the details of the plan, but more or less the process that we used at coming up with the items that you see in that plan before you. Over the past few years, the capital process was one in which departments, whether they be program or service departments of government, responded to the needs of regions and communities. And capital, as you can imagine, is a very visible manifestation of our programs and easily recognizable in all of the communities.

I started, in 1979, on a new process of trying to achieve better input by the communities and by the MLA's in the development of the capital plan at the grass roots level prior to it coming to the finance management board within the Executive Committee for final approval. The idea, of course, is to identify at an early point in the process whether the direction of the Legislative Assembly is, in fact, being followed and the total thrust of the government is being achieved.

Capital Funds Acquired From The Federal Government

The paper which we handed out this afternoon has attached to it what we refer to as a pie diagram and it is the colour circular form which we earlier distributed. What this form, or what this picture depicts, is the amount of capital funds, the total capital funds, which this government acquires annually from the federal government in the form of a grant, and how these funds are distributed throughout the various departments of government. For example, the Department of Local Government, Department of Public Works and the Department of Education expend the largest amount of capital dollars of all of the departments within this government; and that is indicated by the centre pie or the centre wheel in this diagram.

The smaller pies around the outer edge of the form indicate how this money is spent in the various regions; in the Keewatin, Inuvik, Fort Smith, the Central Arctic and Baffin. Pretty well all of them, with the exception of the Central Arctic would indicate that, for example, that local government and the allocation of capital funds within the Department of Local Government at the headquarters or total expenditure, reflects very equally within the various regions. And if you look at the Department of Public Works, for example, the expenditure is relatively equal again in all of the various regions, with the exception of the Central Arctic, where you have a massive Department of Public Works program in progress with the new Central Arctic region beginning to develop and will take place over the next year and a half or two years.

The capital plan that we have devised, or we have put together, for 1981-82 is difficult to explain in a large forum such as this and so we put together an additional graph, a bar graph, which then indicates the percentage of capital dollars compared over a four year period for the major spenders or the major users of the capital dollar. As you can see, over the past several years the Department of Local Government has grown to the point where it is expending from a 30 per cent amount of capital dollars in 1977-80 period, and now decreasing and will decrease over the next few years as far as that particular department is concerned.

Three Year Capital Plan

What we are attempting to do is develop a process whereby we cannot have a one year capital plan presented to the finance management board of the Executive, but a three year capital plan, so that we can project further ahead and be able to identify at an earlier stage as to whether or not we are, in fact, achieving the goals or the aspirations of this Assembly and having it demonstrated through the expenditure of capital funds. Therefore, we devised a new scheduling process which, at the end of this Legislative Assembly meeting in January, or February, or March, some indicators will be given to the capital planning group that I am responsible for, and this will be interpreted and placed before the Executive Committee to establish the thrusts of this government for the next two or three years. At the current time, this particular document is before the Executive Committee and will be examined in the very near future.

Once the thrust of the government has been established, a call letter will be sent out to the five regions. The regions then, in consultation with their communities and with the MLA's, will identify those capital requirements of the communities and have that information fed into the regional capital planning group. At the same instance, the headquarters Deputy Ministers will be establishing those priorities that they must identify, and working in close relation with the regional office, develop a total plan. This plan will then come before the capital planning group sometime in May, and when it is consolidated will be distributed to the standing committee on finance and the Executive Committee of the government, in order to establish whether, in fact, those priorities and those concerns of the standing committee are being met and at the same time, to establish whether the major or overall thrust of the government is being achieved.

This process having been completed, the plan is then taken to a small committee. This committee is made up of the regional directors -- the five regional directors -- and headquarters departmental officials, Deputy Ministers and their officers, and the capital working group, and it is at that stage that the priorities are set by the department, in consultation with the regions, to see that those items that are most urgently needed are prioritized and placed before the Executive Committee and standing committee once again, in that prioritized method.

Total Dollar Allocation

Of course, at the same time we are trying to stay within the total dollar allocation that has been given to the capital grant and if the plan, at an early stage, indicates that we are planning to expend more funds than have been allocated, then it is at the working group level that it must be reduced and a final line drawn across the plan to indicate that no further funding can be expended.

As I said earlier, it is difficult to explain in a large forum such as this the various processes that we are attempting to put together, but the main thrust or the main idea is to, number one, get community input at an early stage in the

development of capital resources or capital items that are going to affect their community. Number two is to have an earlier input by the MLA's and the Members of this Legislative Assembly at the regional level into the various projects or various capital works that are going to affect the particular constituency. Number three is to see that the overall thrust of this Legislative Assembly is achieved through the capital plan. I would be very pleased to answer any questions that this committee may wish to ask.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pilot. Mr. Patterson, I recognize your hand, and I wonder if Mr. Johnston has anything to add to those opening remarks.

MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I think not. I think Mr. Pilot covered everything quite adequately.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you very much. Mr. Patterson.

Consultation With Regions

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Baffin, the community and MLA input has been put into one group in the Baffin Regional Council, which consists of communities and MLA's, and as you are aware, they already met this past summer to prioritize the Baffin region capital plan. The first question is, has this process involving MLA's, and particularly as it involves MLA's, taken place in other regions in this years capital plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Pilot.

MR. PILOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the process has taken place in other regions, with the exception, I believe, of part of the Fort Smith region which, due to a change in the Executive administration last year, created a difficulty. However, there has been input, I understand, by the majority of the MLA's and consultation with the regional offices and the Eastern Arctic. The Baffin Regional Council has certainly taken a lead in this role and I guess the best would say they are leaders in the pack in having the Baffin Regional Council and having that type of a forum to present the capital plan and to receive community input.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pilot. If Members will just look at the blue book that you have in front of you, this is what the capital plan is all about. It gives you the amount of money being spent through the territory, plus the coloured sheet that the Deputy Commissioner was talking about. But this big book here is broken down by region as to where the money will be spent so if you have any questions, I think the Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Johnston are prepared to answer them. Mrs. Sorensen.

Capital Planning Process

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the capital planning schedule that your group has developed, Mr. Deputy Commissioner, I must say on behalf of the standing committee on finance that we are very impressed. I remember during our very first meeting in early December of 1979 -- that was one of the glaring inadequacies of the capital planning process. The planning itself was in disarray and the standing committee was aware of that and discussed that with -- I think Mr. Morrison who was in charge at the time -- and had begun to develop a plan and I am glad to see that within a year of that meeting that such a plan has developed.

There is one glaring thing that is missing from this little diagram and I guess with my penchant for detail I must point it out. It is the fact that the Legislative Assembly is at the bottom instead of at the top. I wonder if you could add another little square to the top of your planning process entitled "The Legislative Assembly" and under that, "The standing committee on finance". In your opening remarks you did state that the planning really does begin in this forum here and is carried through on behalf of the Legislative Assembly by the standing committee on finance. In fact, our committee will be meeting during this session to give some guidelines to the Executive Committee on priorities for capital spending for 1982-83. So would that be possible to add those two little boxes to your diagram there?

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

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for the kind comments. The capital planning process is a cycle and it is difficult to put a paper into a cylinder. But if the bottom of the page is marked January the 15th and the top of the page is marked January the 15th and if you roll the paper around like this...

---Laughter

---Applause

Yes, definitely we talked about putting the -- also identifying it at the top of the paper and we will do that by all means.

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

Top Priority Projects

MRS. SORENSEN: Well spoken, well spoken. During the deliberations of the standing committee on finance, both the Department of Public Works and the capital planning group recommended that there should be a one year moratorium on the building of new buildings, in other words on the capital planning budget itself. If this Legislative Assembly were to authorize this or recommend to the Executive Committee, projects of an emergency status would certainly go ahead, top priority projects would go ahead, like the replacement schools in Rankin and Pine Point. Of course, those projects that I would imagine would be just finishing up, in other words you just needed a little bit of money to finish them up and then they would be completed, they would also go ahead. Now the money that would not be used for capital projects would be used instead, during this one year moratorium, for upgrading and retrofitting of our existing buildings; and I suppose for retrofitting or fixing up of our non-functioning utilidor systems and macerators as the Hon. Mr. Patterson is so fond of talking about. So the capital money, while it would not be used to build buildings, would still be used, within the Northwest Territories, to create jobs within the communities. Perhaps even more jobs would be available because retrofitting can be done at a community level with, a certain amount of guidance, by local contractors and small carpenters. Small contracts can be given at the local level.

Rising Energy Costs

Now, the Department of Public Works and the capital planning group and Members of the standing committee on finance are all, I know, extremely concerned about our rising energy costs and the fact that the dollars we have available for maintenance and upgrading of buildings in our existing budget within DPW is not adequate. I think Mr. Patterson put it very succinctly in a letter to the standing committee on finance when he said that this government was on a suicide path or suicide mission with respect to utilities themselves. We have also learned, and the Legislature will hear more about this when we review the main estimates of DPW, that in order to meet its target figure for this budget year, DPW had to cut back in the whole area of maintenance. So we are faced with a vicious circle or a real serious series of issues here.

Number one, we have got rising energy costs as a direct result of federal initiatives and decisions. Therefore, our government utilities budget must be increased. Number two, we have got less money for maintenance because of decisions that our Executive Committee has had to take with respect to our budget. All of these factors, particularly non-maintenance, contribute to the deterioration of our buildings, hence an increase in the amount of dollars that is going to have to be spent on utilities.

Moratorium On Construction

So the decision to place a moratorium on construction is certainly a timely decision if it is taken but it is also a very sensitive decision and it will affect, I think, each and every one of our constituents. Certainly it will affect mine because it will affect the building of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital and my community would like that construction to go ahead. But it will only delay it for a year. Certainly it will be a sensitive decision.

Now, we could also recommend that the moratorium not take place this year but that it take place during 1982 or 1983 so there is a couple of options there. In any case, a moratorium I do not think will affect the number of jobs or the types -- well, it will affect the type of jobs -- but certainly there will be probably more jobs at the community level, doing retrofitting.

I am, personally in favour of the moratorium and if we do decide to sponsor a motion or any individual decides to sponsor a motion, I will speak in favour of it. The finance committee was not prepared to take that step because we wanted to have input from the rest of the Members and we also wanted to get a more in-depth discussion going with yourself and your co-worker because we felt that you were in a position to speak more about the ramifications of such a decision and what kinds of projects perhaps would be considered emergency projects that would have to go ahead in any case even if we did establish a moratorium. So I wonder if you could address us on those two questions then and give us more in-depth reasons as to why you decided yourself that a moratorium would be a good decision to take at this time.

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

Partial Moratorium

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, the idea of a moratorium is not a new one. It is something that has been discussed at the finance management board and at the Executive level on several occasions, although not reaching any firm decision

as to whether we could, in fact, have a total moratorium on construction, looking at the capital plans and the current needs through the capital program of the various regions and communities. But I do believe that we could have a partial moratorium if that was so recommended and at that time we could look at the total capital, perhaps not for 1981-82 but for perhaps 1982-83, and when we send out our call to the various regions to establish their capital plan, then the call is sent out indicating that only those major projects that have an ongoing requirement -- if a school is partially built, we continue with the completion of that school or if equipment is urgently required in a community, water trucks or what have you, that we continue with the process of purchasing those particular pieces of equipment.

Providing Planning Money In Advance

But what does bother us in the capital planning section is that we establish or start projects, large, very expensive projects, that have been initiated and I will use as an example the water and sanitation program, and our success ratio of having these facilities totally functional has been very, very poor. We also are in a hurry or in a rush at times when we are planning to construct a major building within a community. When the funds become available on April 1st, we must start the planning process, the tender documents, the drawings, and if the community is small, a high Arctic community that requires the items to be shipped in by seairlift, then everything is put onto a panic basis and we are rushing to get the plans done and to get the materials on site. Because of that, the winter is already upon the communities in most cases, so construction is being done at the most adverse time of the year. As a consequence, the roofs tend to leak, the doors do not fit well, and our success is very, very poor in that way.

So we have now, in fact just yesterday, had a meeting of the major users or the major planners in capital, the Department of Public Works, Local Government and Education, to talk just on that particular subject of planning. I think as the title indicates, capital planning, we have to look at that in that respect, in being able to provide in advance, planning money, so that we can carry out the necessary studies that are needed before we go into a community to place a large new structure in the community -- and the effect that that new structure will have on the community. In fact, the effect that the new structure will have on our O and M costs. In some cases, because of our energy consciousness, the buildings are much better than they were a few years ago and indeed we will be saving on our O and M but some of the older buildings that have very poor insulation and, as I say, were put in in a very rapid manner or in a hurry, eat up a lot of our O and M money, our operating and maintenance money. If we could reduce the O and M costs, and the utility costs in some of these buildings, that means that would be less money the Department of Public Works would require and that money then could go into other areas, other departments or other programs.

As you are probably very well aware, at present the Department of Public Works almost expends 25 or 22 per cent of the total O and M dollar and of that, a large portion is in the utilities, the heating, lighting and maintenance of our buildings.

Benefiting To Communities

So I suppose what we are saying is yes, we would, I think, be able to respond to a plea for a partial moratorium on new construction in our communities with the exception of those major areas that must proceed, and go back to the communities and put every one of our buildings and the various works that we have in the communities into top running and working order and make them energy efficient. Not only will it be a boost to us as far as our operating and maintenance budget is concerned, but it will also be a great benefit to many of these communities that are suffering, really because of some of the things; some of the buildings that we have placed in the community or some of the water line that we are experimenting with. We hope that it will save the community from driving three or four miles to the local water lake in the wintertime to get their water, only to find that the pipeline freezes up early in the fall and they have to drive out there anyway.

So I think that we want to address that whole subject and be able to make a lot of corrections and take more time in our planning to assure that we get best value for the capital dollar -- and we do not get very many capital dollars from the federal government. If we are going to go into formula financing, that means that every capital dollar that we wish to spend has to be thoroughly reviewed by our finance management board and by this Legislature.

At the present time, the budget, the capital grant from the federal government, is \$66 million. In the past or historically, it has been a 10 per cent, approximately, increase annually so that means next year we are looking at \$77 million and 1983-84, \$88 million and we are not sure whether, in the Department of Public Works for example, we can cope with the requirements and the needs of the various communities and expend \$88 million at the same time and do all of the O and M that is required. So we have a real problem there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you very much, Mr. Pilot. I, as part of the finance committee, would like to congratulate you on this. Somebody put a lot of work into this book here. And it looks to me like you have even got that FIS system working. Mrs. Sorensen.

Making Public Works More Energy Efficient

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question arising out of your remarks. First of all, with respect to the federal government, would there be any difficulty in using the money for retrofitting and upgrading to make our Public Works more energy efficient as opposed to using it for the building of capital works?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I think they are having problems with the translation. It is coming in garbled. We are going to have to maybe break for five minutes and see if we can get this translation fixed. It is very garbled, if you listen in the Inuktitut. We will break for five minutes and see if we can straighten that out.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes the quorum. Mrs. Sorensen.

Moratorium On Capital Construction

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just continuing on with the discussion about the possibility of a moratorium on capital construction, Mr. Pilot, would there be any difficulty in spending our capital money on retrofitting and upgrading of our existing capital projects? Would there be a problem in transferring the money that we now use for capital into that type of a project?

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

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe there would be any difficulty in that proposal. We are talking about the major items, major repairs and upkeep of those larger facilities that we have and I do not believe there would be any restriction as far as the capital grant is concerned from Ottawa and the method we use to apply that funding.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Now what kind of consultation has taken place to date about the possibility of a moratorium? Have you talked with the regional directors, for instance, about whether they could agree and survive, I suppose, for a year without major projects going ahead or all the major projects that they would like to see go ahead in their region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Pilot.

Consultation With Regional Directors

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, the discussion to date has been with the four, or five I should say, regional directors. In fact, in the last two or three days the regional directors were here in Yellowknife and we did discuss to a great degree the capital program within their region and the process that we are now devising or the system we are devising for the development of the three year capital plan. I have talked to them about requirements to upgrade their buildings and works within the region and the allocation of funds to the regional office for those particular projects.

The indicators I have received are that it would be difficult this year to rearrange our capital plan. However, if there are funds identified after April in what we consider our carryover, which would then be an increase to our current capital grant -- it would be those funds, unexpended funds from this fiscal year carried over into the new fiscal year. If those funds are identified as being available -- or have not been allocated to that point in time, then we could, in fact, suggest and perhaps coming back to this House in May or June to have funding allocated to each region so that the region would be responsible for carrying out a retrofit program this coming year, a minor one, and at the same time prepare plans and identify what would exactly be needed to carry out a major retrofit program. If that would be the direction of this House, then in our call letter to the regions in the next few days it would indicate that they should take that into consideration in the preparation of their capital plan.

I do not believe we are talking about a great amount of money. We have \$66 million and if next year the finance management board and the Executive agree, will plan on expending in 1983-84 and onward, an increasing amount of capital. My indication, or the indicators I have from the various regions would leave me

with the feeling that a million or a million and a half dollars in each region, spread over the next two years, would perhaps bring us up to an efficient level. But of course, that is only an assumption on my part and until the regions have an opportunity to do a complete review of all of the communities and community needs, then I believe we should look at it in a smaller light and then plan for 1982-83 to a greater extent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pilot. Maybe I have other Members -- have you got some more...

MRS. SORENSEN: No, that is fine. Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Yes, I have Mr. Butters next on the list. Did you put your hand up to talk, Mr. Butters, or were you just stretching? This was quite a while ago I had you down here, when the witnesses first came on there. If not, I have Mr. Patterson, and he is not here. Mr. Patterson.

Session To Plan Capital Budget

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is sort of a pet peeve of mine, but I heard you talking about the rush that occurs to meet sealift and all that. I know Mr. Butters addressed it yesterday. Do you feel that we have settled the question of having a separate session to plan capital in the fall, as opposed to doing it in the winter session, so close to the shipping season, or might that option not still be possible or something we could review in the future? I am sort of impressed with the way it seems to be working in the Yukon and I wonder what your views are on evolving toward that system in the future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Pilot.

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, we have examined that but not in great detail, and it is my belief that the timing for voting of the funding for capital is incidental. The problem is in the planning, the planning stage, of capital requirements. It is my belief that if a three year capital plan, which we desperately need so we can look ahead and see what the requirements are, identified planning money in advance of the major project taking place, that the requirement for the tender documents, the drawings, the consultants' services if required, can all take place in advance of the actual project taking place.

Planning Takes Years

What our problem has been in the past is that we have identified and approved at this Assembly the expenditure of funding to build, for example, a major garage or a warehouse or whatever in a community, and the funds come onstream on April 1st. We draw the plans, tender, award the contract and have the items all done in that one period, from April to September. But when we identify that we are building, for example, a major school in a community, we are now recognizing that we require at least three years before we can really put that school on the ground. One year to look at the impact of that school, the size of that school going into a community, the effects it will have, the ripple effects it has on the various departments; Local Government for providing water and sanitation, for road networks on the Department of Public Works, for operating and maintenance funds. It also requires us to look at the in-depth plans, the consultation with the community, and that in itself will take a year. Once the consultation with the community is completed, then we go into the actual drawings, architectural drawings, to have them approved. Then the materials moving into the community and the tendering process can take place anytime, whether it be winter, spring, summer, or fall, as long as that process of consultation and planning has been completed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pilot. We will take a five minute break. The technicians have to do some switching on the machines here. It will only take a couple of minutes. Maybe we could just hang off from answering questions for a minute or two and let them get this switchover. The Inuktitut language will be back on channel six once it is switched.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I think we have got the switchover now. Are we on channel six now? Is everything okay? We can continue. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really am pleased to hear the expressed need for more planning and particularly, I would like to address the question of planning of social and economic impacts in the field of water and sewer projects. Now, it seems to me that in the capital planning process you are emphasizing advance planning and I will be specific. Back when I was an MLA, an ordinary MLA...

AN HON. MEMBER: You still are. You still are. You still are.

---Laughter

Planning For Social And Economic Impacts

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I hounded the Department of Local Government about the socio-economic impact of the utilidor in Frobisher Bay. I notice that, or I am pleased this year, that the capital plan shows a slow down in the expansion of that program and the major work is slated for the following year. Now, what I am wondering is, and especially in light of experiences like the costly disaster at Fort Rae this winter, whether or not that this year of grace we have in Frobisher Bay will be used to do the sort of planning of social and economic impact and perhaps more thorough technical planning that might be needed to ensure that the system is actually going to work. I am wondering, do you see that planning responsibility as being part of the capital planning process undertaken by your department or is that something that Local Government would be primarily responsible for doing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Pilot.

Capital Planning Committee Process

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, this is one subject we have addressed just recently and it is a concern to all of our major departments or the large users of our capital dollars. What we see happening during the three year capital plan process, that as the plan is being consolidated by the capital planning group, they will identify either communities or regions or areas in which there is going to be a major impact on that community or in that particular region because of a larger facility being placed in the community, whether it be a piped water system or whether it be a new school or whether it be any of the larger major capital items that we build in a community.

When this has been identified by the capital planning group, to myself as chairman of the capital planning committee, I will call a meeting of those major department users and the region concerned. We will then look at the strategy of what the total impact is going to be on the community and through, again, working very closely with the community itself in explaining why perhaps we are slowing down the particular project which may be very important to them, but perhaps not understanding the full associated requirements that go with the particular project. If we see that a project or can identify a project that is perhaps not in keeping with the true requirements of a community, we would ask them to reconsider. If it is a piped system at Grise Fiord, for example, where you only have a small population and someone makes a living from water delivery, it would not make much sense to expend a large capital dollar on a piped system and put that one individual perhaps out of business. So these are things we are addressing and we hope that this summer, after the first call on our capital has come back from the region that is being consolidated here in Yellowknife, that we can identify those areas and bring it to the attention of the Executive Committee, the regions and the MLA's concerned and explain why we would like to highlight those particular ones.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pilot. Any further questions of the witnesses? Capital planning. Is the wish then that we thank the witnesses for the presentation and go into the -- Mrs. Sorensen, do you have any more questions?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mrs. Sorensen.

Consensus On Moratorium

MRS. SORENSEN: I will go back to my seat, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very concerned that before we move on, we get some kind of a consensus on the standing committee's recommendation that we at least discuss a moratorium. I have a motion prepared but I have not really heard how a lot of the other Members feel. We know that the Executive Committee, in general, feels that a moratorium would be a responsible way to proceed as a government but they are somewhat reluctant to make that decision without input. To me, that is what consensus is all about. That is what consensus government is all about. So I really feel, and on behalf of the standing committee on finance, that this is an important issue and one that we should decide soon and particularly now because we have the experts before us. The departments that are involved in this have recommended that it go ahead, that we institute a moratorium. The regional directors have been involved. As I said, the Executive Committee feels that it is responsible action so what about the Legislature. I certainly, although I have a motion, would like to hear first how other Members feel about this.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have thought about this proposal myself and I think that there is a lot of merit in it. However, since I have become involved in my new responsibilities and have received already significant requests from really all parts of the Northwest Territories where communities feel that their schools are falling apart or that they have urgent needs for expanded facilities, for example, communities that feel that they should have gymnasiums in their schools or additions in their schools, I have had a bit of a different perspective on it than I had before. It is going to be very hard to tell communities who want better school facilities that we have decided that they have to wait.

Moratorium To Apply Equally To All Departments

All I would say, then, in response to your request is that if we are going to have a moratorium, then we had better agree that it will be a moratorium. I think that it will have to apply to all but perhaps the most essential or the most urgent needs such as where for example a school has burned, and it would have to apply equally to all departments across the board. I think that the public could probably accept that kind of a major decision if it was made in no uncertain terms to apply to all departments.

I, myself, believe that unless we spend money on conserving energy, we are going to get caught further on down the road. Right now, and I know this is an oversimplification, but right now if our utilities budget increases, the federal government tends to give us more money. That is a formula that does not give us very much incentive to save money on utilities because it is a savings for the federal government but not for our own government. So I think that if we were to take this dramatic action, then we would also want to have our Minister of Energy and our Minister of Finance negotiate with the

federal government so that there would be incentives for our government guaranteed, that if we can bring down the federal utilities cost in the North, that we will then have more money available to meet the program needs. So I am sort of expressing a qualified support but on the condition that we look at it very carefully, that it be well discussed with the federal government, particularly on the utilities financing which other honourable Members know a lot more about than I do, and that it apply to every department across the board so that the people of the Northwest Territories and say, the school committees for example, will not feel that someone is getting an advantage that they are not.

That is my reaction but I, too, am very interested in hearing from other Members. Because actually it is the MLA's who are going to have to face the responsibility and the reaction for that kind of a decision and I think we all have to stand together on this one if we are going to make that kind of a move. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Timing Of Debate

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to address the question put by the chairman of the finance committee relative to timing of the debate. The finance committee already has introduced for consideration by committee of the whole, this whole matter of the capital expenditure and whether such a moratorium would be beneficial. I would suggest that the best time for that discussion to proceed is after all Members have looked at the capital in the book and determined how it is going to affect their particular constituencies. At that time some pattern may have emerged to say that this type of structure should go ahead but certain other expenditures could be deferred one year. So I guess in the sense of timing, I think that the time to do that is when the total budget and all the capital items have been considered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Stewart.

All Capital Expenditures Essential

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think probably Mr. Butters has a good approach because at this time of fiscal restraint, I would imagine that most of the capital budget are things that are almost essential. To put a moratorium on, yet with provisions that we are going to carry the essentials on, how much are we actually going to save on this one year? It could be very small because I suppose in this time of restraint, that there is very little in that capital budget that is not almost essential. I do not know that is true but I would suspect that. So I suppose the only way we are going to find that out is to go along with the Hon. Mr. Butters' suggestion that we look at each item and see what possible deletions could be made. But to come in with a motion that we are going to a moratorium without really knowing the effect -- one, I suspect it would be a very small amount of money that we would be able to cut out that is really not essential. Secondly, we should have the right to decide what is essential and what is not. So I would support the position of Mr. Butters, that we do it when we get into the blue section here on capital.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Full Extent Of Problems

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think before I was prepared to vote on the question of whether or not there should be a moratorium, I would want to know more about the full extent of the problem. I am given to understand, unless I have missed the point somewhere along the way, that we are getting into a problem because we are moving ahead, building structures and so on, but running into a problem of not being able to fuel them and service them and maintain them properly. But I would like to have some presentation made to myself and to other Members of the Assembly where we are able to see precisely what is the extent and nature of that problem. Then we would have a better idea as to what was needed with respect to cutting down on capital expenditures and turning some of that money toward retrofit and extraordinary maintenance.

I would want to know, and I am not clear on this, whether we would have problems getting money from the federal government for that specific purpose. In other words, supposing next year we were going to be entitled to \$70 million -- I should not say entitled -- supposing there was a great possibility of getting \$70 million for capital, could we make the decision that \$50 million of that would be spent on actual structures and so on in that fiscal year, but that the other \$20 million would be turned to extraordinary maintenance and retrofit? Would the federal government accept that?

If they would, then in a sense maybe we do not need a moratorium at all, but that kind of thing which makes good sense, in my opinion, ought just to be included in the three year planning that you are suggesting already; that we simply start making that part of our consideration every year; that we reduce the new things we are doing and spend a little more money maintaining the old. Is there any comment on the remarks that I have made, from Mr. Pilot?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Pilot.

Total Moratorium Almost Impossible

MR. PILOT: Mr. Chairman, there would be no difficulty in the direction in which we expend our capital grant. The capital can be used for what we call retrofit or the upgrading of our capital assets, as long as it is improving the life and the value of the building or of the piece of equipment that we are working on or that we are concerned with.

A total moratorium on capital would be almost impossible, as I do not believe that we could expend our total capital in any one year strictly on retrofit. It would be impossible. The indicators I have from the regions would indicate to me that if there was new money in this current year, 1981-82, which may be identified after April 1st -- then they could possibly manage a half a million dollars in each region. That would be about their capability at this point in time, because they have not done any planning to date and it is difficult for them to try and carry out a massive retrofit program or a rehabilitation program of their buildings and works without first doing a survey and planning what they would like to do.

I believe that the answer may be in identifying that one of the thrusts of this government would be to do a major overhaul of our buildings, of our large buildings and works, and that in the call that we send out to our regions, that we identify, or we advise that they must identify areas by community and those things which must be done or should be done in the retrofit program, and affecting capital. And that would then become a high priority in the expending of dollars on each community.

Capability Would Be Limited In Regions

I think a limit would have to be attached to it. I think the capability of any region to carry out retrofit programs on all government buildings and works would be limited. They do not have the resources, number one, and they would over extend themselves, number two, if they tried to take on too much. So, I think that we are looking at a two or three year program in which, if it is a high priority, we put that priority in our call to the regions and ask them to respond in that manner.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pilot. Mr. Butters. Have you a supplementary question? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So perhaps, if the Assembly wanted to give an impetus to the capital planning group to affirm it in that direction, if we had a motion somewhere along the way that asked those responsible for capital planning to ensure that not only was it directed toward new expenditures, but toward increasing the value of the assets that we already have, toward extending their life, toward reducing operating expenses, and so on, that would be adequate perhaps? Would that ensure that that kind of concern was included in a three year plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Pilot.

MR. PILOT: Yes, that would be very good.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to commend the standing committee on finance on bringing this matter forward. As I say, the concept has been discussed a number of times but because of its political nature I do not think it has been addressed either satisfactorily or realistically. I would hope that a debate will take place further on into our session, because of the importance of the matter being discussed. I guess my own personal feeling would be that if we are going to move on it, it would be better to move sooner than to move later and that would be in the fiscal capital planning of 1981-82. I guess I just am saying, I would like to see the discussion revived in two or three weeks, after the total capital has been examined and debated.

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

Recommendation For Future

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I had no idea that anyone was considering a moratorium for this coming year, as I seem to get the impression from Mr. Butters and/or Mr. Stewart. I think this has to be planned well in advance and I would like the chairman of the finance committee to confirm that the recommendation was for a year in the future, but not this coming year. I think that should be clarified here and now because it would create a lot of chaos in regions where I think almost certain promises have been made about what is going to happen. Can I just have some clarification on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mrs. Sorensen, do you want to answer that?

MRS. SORENSEN: Certainly. In my discussions earlier with Mr. Parker, he pointed out that it would be almost an impossible situation because of the expectations in the regions, to place any kind of a moratorium on this coming year, 1981-82. The suggestion that we talked about in the standing committee on finance was for the year 1982-83.

Projects Already Started Would Proceed

Now, it was not a full moratorium on all capital projects. For instance, we know that there is going to be a terrific amount of activity in the Beaufort Sea area and that if the standing committee on finance's recommendations concerning development zones are accepted by the Legislature, then that whole area would be designated as an essential area and any capital works that were necessary in order to respond to the impact of non-renewable resource development in that development zone would certainly be funded. We know the same may be true of the Norman Wells area. The same may be true of the area around the Arctic Pilot Project and the Polaris Mine.

As well, the schools that will have to be replaced as a result of fire, where we have negotiated a direct repayment from the federal government to rebuild those schools, they would certainly go ahead. We had also discussed that any project that was already started and well under way would have to proceed unless there was a major reason why we should not proceed with it. So, we certainly did not feel that the moratorium would be a total moratorium. We would have to designate but we would have to be tough about that designation, of course, but we would have to designate special projects that would have to go ahead. Also, it was only for one year and one year passes very quickly. I think it is Mr. MacQuarrie who has said that this is but a drop in time -- in the bucket of time. I do not often quote him but I thought that that was kind of a good quote. One year does pass very quickly.

With respect to the political effects, we still have another year to try to get re-elected after the moratorium; another year in which capital projects will go ahead.

---Laughter

So, while it may be difficult in 1982-83 for MLA's in their constituencies, it should also be remembered that the fall of 1984 is the next time that the elections come around.

Governing Responsibility Of Legislature

There is one final point and that is that this Legislature really has to think of itself in terms of governing responsibly. We know that there is an extremely crucial thing developing with respect to utilities and the cost to this government of utilities. We know that unless we act now, to bring up our existing buildings to some level of energy consciousness, that five years down the road our whole operating and maintenance budget may have to be turned into utilities. So, it is essential, I think, that at least part of our capital be used for retrofitting now, while we still have a handle on our buildings. To continually build more and more and more, and never retrofit, is only going to sink the ship that is already half sunk as far as I am concerned. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Ms Cournoyea.

Options Should Be Discussed

MS COURNOYEA: I would like to make a suggestion that it seems that in the replies to the particular suggested motion that would come forth from the floor, that a lot of elected people are concerned about what that would mean to their political future, I suppose, but I do not believe that is what we are talking about. This idea has been talked about in all levels of the territorial government and perhaps it would be helpful to all of us who have to decide on how we are going to approach delaying capital expense and how we would go about doing that. I am wondering if perhaps at the time that the discussion of capital planning comes up, the financial management board may present two or three options on how we could realize that and what it could possibly mean, and a suggested timeframe on how we could do that.

I think that would be very helpful for us to deliberate, with that kind of information. I do not believe it would be a hazardous task to do because as everyone has expressed, this has been debated and talked about for a few years. I realize that it is not politically good to tell your constituents that for this year, they will not be getting the particular project in the planning works or being built in itself that they had wanted for so long. But I do not believe that the suggested motion that Mrs. Sorensen wanted to place on the floor confined us to deal with it this year. I would feel if the financial management board or someone who feels that they can do that particular job, present those two or three options and a suggested timeframe, that when the capital works and when the debate can be brought forth at this session, it would be easier to deal with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Any further comments? Mrs. Sorensen.

Jobs Will Not Be Taken Away

MRS. SORENSEN: There was one other point, I think it has to be understood that even though we may not go ahead with specific capital projects, it does not mean that there will not be jobs in nearly every community. What we would be doing is taking the money that would go into that capital project, that building, and give it or give a portion of it to the community to retrofit or reconstruct an existing building. There would still probably be -- in fact, I think there would be more jobs in retrofitting, more supplies bought locally therefore helping local business than there might have been had an arena been built or a community council building. So that we are not taking jobs away from the community in not building a building. We are just making them into different types of jobs.

With respect to what Ms Cournoyea had to say, I think that maybe that is a good suggestion. Mr. Pilot, would you be prepared then to take the time over the next week or so and develop two or three options on how you would proceed and then table it as a paper in this House for discussion?

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

MR. PILOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I will prepare a document as suggested and place it before the finance management board or the Executive Committee and see what happens to it from there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pilot. Mr. Commissioner.

Partial Moratorium Provides Time

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I think that there is one thing that should not be lost sight of and that is that one of the reasons for having a partial moratorium would be to give us those very valuable needed months that are necessary in the planning process. Questions have been raised two or three times in the House as to changing the cycle and voting the capital money earlier. Good responses have been given to that subject, that it is not the time of voting that is a problem. It is the time of the thinking of the projects and the initiation. If you were to agree to a partial moratorium, and that is all it could be, it would be a partial one, then that would give the boost that Mr. Pilot needs in the Department of Public Works to get these projects that we are doing a bit too quickly onto a sounder footing.

I think that if he were to tell you the number of projects that we ask our Department of Public Works to carry out every year, you would be amazed at the

number and the complexity that is involved. So we need to buy a little bit of time. There is no doubt that major projects that have been under planning for some time would have to go ahead, projects that were already started would have to be completed. But it would give us that opportunity to carry out retrofit and rehabilitation projects that are, in the long run, going to make such a tremendous difference to our O and M spending.

Saving Money On Energy

There was a question about the incentive to do this, whether the federal government would see the same level of incentive that we would. I do not think that there is any problem there because quite clearly, we would, in the long run, be saving money on energy and there is no doubt that federal politicians and officials are very much behind that kind of a program. Finally, I think that that kind of a delay would be well understood in the communities. My experience would lead me to believe that if we had, through delaying some projects, an ability to identify money for retrofit and rehabilitation, that this money, in fact, would be spent in the communities and the communities would enjoy that part of the economic benefit as well, as well they should. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Nerysoo.

Retrofit To Buildings Is Available

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, most of what I think I was going to say was stated by the Commissioner. I think that there are many programs that will influence the kind of program that we set out in capital. Certainly there are a number of federal programs that probably could help. There are a number of initiatives that we have to take as you all have said in the area of energy conservation. I think that it is going to be a little more complicated than just suggesting options and we have to be aware of what other programs are available to this government and to the communities, so that we make them aware that the areas of retrofit and rehabilitation to buildings that we have now and to homes is available. But we have to make people aware in the communities of that availability.

The energy conservation area -- it is quite clear that we have options that we should be talking about. We really have not talked about converting the present homes that we have in the areas of the valley where we have wood. We have not talked about conversion to natural gas, for instance. We have not talked...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, Hear!

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: ...of areas of coal, the possibility of utilizing coal where it is possible. I think those kinds of things have to be all part of any capital outlook that we have in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Any further comments?
Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, do you need a motion to have a paper put together by the capital planning group on a plan of action for a partial moratorium? Or is it understood that that is what they will do?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I do not need a motion but maybe some of the House would need a motion. Mr. Butters, could you explain?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Pilot made a commitment on behalf of all Members of the Executive Committee and the financial management board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We have him on record.

MRS. SORENSEN: At this session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Any further questions of the witnesses? Is it the wish then that we thank the witnesses and continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask permission that I could table a document, the green paper on the Lancaster Sound, and would like to...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo, I cannot give you permission but maybe you can ask for unanimous consent to go back to Item 6.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. Well, I would like to go back to Item 6 then please. Unanimous consent?

MRS. SORENSEN: Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo, I am told that you can distribute it but you cannot table it at this time. It has to be tabled in formal session.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Okay. Could you report progress then please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it the wish that I report progress? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We will break for 15 minutes then and have a cup of coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I recognize that there is a quorum. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Rather than going into formal session, might I suggest that the draft green paper on Lancaster Sound be distributed to the Members and I will go -- during the formal sitting at the end of the day I will ask unanimous consent to go back to Item 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Legislative Assembly

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The Legislative Assembly's budget, page 1.01. On the budget, the Speaker asked if there are any questions arising from this. Does anybody have anything to say on this budget? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance had recommended that after the department officials -- or the Minister, rather, gives his opening statement, that we move directly into the capital of each department and then the operating and maintenance budget. I wonder if that is acceptable to the Legislative Assembly. Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is that agreed?

MRS. SORENSEN: Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): That is agreed. The Hon. Mr. Stewart.

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inasmuch as I was not present when this budget was put together, I wonder could I have the approval of the House to have the Clerk, who was present on the assembling of this budget -- and then I will make references to the cuts that occurred in the budget -- but to give you the preliminary background on this, that it be done by the Clerk, because I was not present.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is that agreed?

---Agreed

Background Of Assembly Budget

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Chairman, the budget originally compiled by my staff, submitted to and approved by the Members' Services Board, represented a substantial increase over the previous years estimates. The 1980-81 main estimates totalled \$1.893 million. The budget, as approved by the Members' Services Board totalled \$3.35 million, and that is a total of operating and capital. The principal areas of increase were: In the area of indemnities and allowances the intention was to provide for a constituency allowance which would permit each MLA to make three, instead of two, trips annually to every settlement in his or her constituency.

There was provision in that budget for four new positions. One of the existing positions was to go onto contract. There was a provision to undertake a major overhaul of the retiring allowances or pension plan for MLA's to introduce a plan with much better benefits for Members. It has fallen far behind the standard of plans in effect for provincial MLA's. There was added funding incorporated in

that budget to enable the Assembly to sit twice annually, outside Yellowknife. There was an amount incorporated to enable the Assembly to become active in the areas of constitutional and political development. There was substantial additional funding incorporated to provide for the significantly increased level of activity of standing and special committees.

The original submission, which amounted to \$3.35 million, was broken out as follows: \$280,000 for the administrative operations of the Assembly's support office; \$739,000 for the holding of sessions and for official travel, such as regional tours; \$546,000 for committee operations; \$820,000 for Members' indemnities, per diem payments and constituency allowances; and \$50,000 for -- I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I have been quoting you the wrong figures. I have been quoting the revised figures. May I repeat that?

The original figures proposed: For Assembly support services \$344,000; for sessions and official travel \$864,000; for committee activities \$546,000; for indemnities, per diem payments and constituency allowances \$896,000; for constitutional and political development \$250,000; for the retiring allowances plan \$200,000; and the capital amount submitted was \$25,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Is there any general comment or any questions from this House? Mr. Stewart.

Cutbacks In Assembly Budget

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The net result of the budget as it stands today results in a cutback, and the cutbacks are in the following positions: Administrative activities will be reduced by \$64,000; sessional costs reduced by \$125,000 and this, in effect, eliminates two sittings outside of Yellowknife a year and restricts this to one. The amount of \$76,000 was eliminated from the MLA's idemnities and allowances. This restricts them, then, to two visits within their constituency, rather than three. And funding of \$250,000 has been eliminated and this eliminates the constitutional and political development fund.

Now, this amount of money is being submitted, I understand, in a B level submission and there are still hopes that there may be an addition to our funding at a later date. This basically is the budget that you have in front of you now, then. The figures that are in your book on page 1.01 result in the deletion of the things that I have just mentioned as part of the activity until B level funding is available.

Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. On page 1.02, capital, \$25,000.

MR. FRASER: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question for either the Speaker or the Clerk on the capital planning -- capital budget on page 1.02, if there was any consideration given to the legislative and the MLA's or just MLA's, as to office space in any of the buildings now leased by the territorial government. Is there any consideration given to office space for the MLA's who require office space and more space for the Legislative Assembly staff?

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

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, under the capital budget side, no, there are no funds in here for office space or for accommodation. This is strictly for equipment.

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

Assembly Office Space Inadequate

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think it is right that the MLA's should be treated the way they are. If you have a look up on that sixth floor where they are, the MLA's too, they are supposed to be MLA's anyway, but they have a pretty plush place up there. I think it is discriminating against the other MLA's to have such a place like that and we are stuck in one little building. I do not know if anybody has had a look at it lately but some of you should go down there. Maybe you would feel more at home. It looks like a horse barn with a bunch of stalls in it and there might be the odd telephone hanging from the wall but keep your shoes on because there is no rug on the floor and I was very impressed with the place when I came back after a trip out and found all these stalls and they said "That is your office." But I could not get into it because of papers and books that the staff require for their work.

After saying that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move a motion. I tried to move this in formal session but I could not get a seconder but I do not need a seconder now...

---Laughter

Whereas the office space now occupied by MLA's...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Fraser, I think you are going too fast. Could you slow down a little bit?

MR. FRASER: That is what I tell everybody. You are using my punch line now.

---Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I proceed now with the motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Proceed, Mr. Fraser.

Motion To Upgrade Legislative Assembly Offices

MR. FRASER: Thank you.

Whereas the office space now occupied by MLA's and Assembly staff is inadequate;

And whereas the offices were neither remodelled nor redecorated prior to or since the arrival of the present occupants;

And whereas extensive redecorating and furnishing has been completed on the floor of the Laing Building occupied by Members of the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee senior support staff;

And whereas redecorating the fifth floor of the Laing Building also occupied by Executive Committee support staff is scheduled for the near future;

And whereas the same quality of office accommodation and furnishings should be provided for all MLA's and to the Legislative Assembly staff as is provided to the Executive Committee and its support staff;

Watch out for the punch line.

---Laughter

Now therefore, I move that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner: (a) That he make adequate provisions in the near future for office space for MLA's and the Legislative Assembly office staff in the same quarters; (b) that he arrange for the early redecorating and furnishing of all offices assigned to the Legislative Assembly in the same manner and quality as the Executive offices; and (c) that the funds required for this purpose be provided for from the Executive budget.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. I wonder if we can have a copy of that motion. To the motion, Mr. Tologanak.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, it is my motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Just a moment. Yes, to the motion.

MR. TOLOGANAK: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order from Mr. Tologanak.

Translation Required

MR. TOLOGANAK: Seeing as the motion is a little bit long, I wonder if it was properly translated and distributed to the Members, to this side of the House.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Fraser, I am sorry. It is your role, I think.

MR. FRASER: It is not a formal motion, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is still a motion.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Okay. We will take 10 minutes to translate that. We will take 10 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We will come to order. Now, we have had translation in Inuktitut. We also have a copy and I am going to ask the Clerk to read it again. Does everybody have a copy? Okay, to the motion. Mr. Fraser, I believe you have first...

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I am not going to say too much on the motion. The motion sort of speaks for itself.

AN HON. MEMBER: Not very well.

MLA's From Out Of Town Need Working Space

MR. FRASER: But I will say, Mr. Chairman, that I think some of the other ordinary Members will agree with me that they do not have adequate space to work in the building that we are presently at. I am not just speaking of the Members from Yellowknife. Other Members from out of town like to come in when they are in Yellowknife and have a place to work, some place where they can keep some of their documents rather than carry them around. I do not think any consideration was given at all to the office of the Legislative Assembly and its support staff. If they were given any consideration, they should have showed it by at least trying to get them into a building away from other government departments. We could maybe have a building out somewhere in town that is apart from the offices of other departments. I hope that some day we get our own legislative building, that will come about. But in the meantime, I think that some effort should be made to provide adequate space and accommodations for the Members and support staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

Elected Executive Members Not Treated As Well As Other MLA's

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, being a new Executive Committee Member, was quite surprised to find that we are not in some ways treated nearly as generously as the MLA's. For example, in the area of living expenses, as an MLA, I could come to Yellowknife and stay at the YMCA for \$10 or \$15 a day...

MR. FRASER: At the old folks' home, you could stay for nothing.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...or I could sleep in the jail for nothing.

---Laughter

But none the less, I would, each day I was here, get \$97 for which I was required to give no receipts whatsoever and I did not stay in jail or even in the YMCA but I was able to make quite a nice profit on that each day.

MRS. SORENSEN: That is because the government was not charging you to live in its accommodation so it is a government problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order please. Take your turns please.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes. I was giving my business to a local hotel owner not in your constituency, Mrs. Sorensen, but I was staying in a local business place and paying, I think, a decent rate. Still, it was possible to do quite well on that and I am wondering, since Mr. Fraser is asking the Executive to contribute to this refurbishing of the MLA's offices, refurbishing, which I agree is desirable, whether he might not consider recommending that MLA's living allowances go to the Executive Committee's level which is based on actual expenses and \$27 and some cents for meals a day. I tell you if you do not eat breakfast or if you arrive

from a trip at noon and do not eat supper, they make sure that you do not even get the \$27 so I am wondering whether some sacrifices are...

MR. FRASER: From \$47,000?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...whether Mr. Fraser might be interested in recommending some sacrifices in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, Hear!

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

MR. FRASER: I would consider anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Hold on. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston. Forgive me if I do not say it right.

MR. SIBBESTON: It is close enough. Mr. Chairman, I do not support the motion made by Mr. Fraser. It seems that Mr. Fraser is concerned about having all MLA's, whether they are on the Executive or not, treated the same in terms of office space and so forth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Could you hold on, sir? We are having a little problem with the technician. Go ahead.

Present Services And Offices Provided Are Sufficient

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I was just saying that I do not support the motion. It seems that Mr. Fraser is interested in having all MLA's treated the same and I, for one, do not agree that we should raise our present level of style and poshness to that of the Executive. If he is concerned about everybody being the same, maybe we should consider having the Executive Committee Members' offices reduced to those that are presently provided to MLA's. That is the right approach or that is the direction that I think we should go.

I never cease to be awed by the poshness of the offices up on the sixth floor. It is quite dazzling and it is awing and a little bit intimidating. I think that the style and just the amount that is provided is much too posh and I feel it is one of the things that separates more or less, the people from government. I, for one, do not think it is good for MLA's to be provided with extremely posh offices. I think that the present services and office space that is provided are sufficient and if you are considering any changes, I think you ought to perhaps be talking of reducing the class, style and spaciousness of the Executive Members to that of the MLA's. That is the direction that I would go.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Stewart.

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I cannot support the motion either, although I would like to see improved conditions. But the present plan calls for space with a desk and a filing cabinet to file papers, for every MLA, while he is in Yellowknife. The difficulty has been that there was some snarl-up in the instructions or this would have already been accomplished. However, the Commissioner has indicated that he will look after this in the month of March. I think that was the deadline he said he would be able to do it. And I think that this would be sufficient to look after the needs of the Members.

I suppose now that the subject has been brought up, we should have a good hard look at what is going on; for our few Members that use the office facilities on a permanent basis, and then we have others that use it occasionally, and then we have some Members that, to date, have shown no desire to even have a place to work, so we really do not know what we need. However, we are proceeding on the principle that we will provide for a desk and a filing cabinet for every MLA.

Funds For Offices In Individual Constituencies

A point does arise, however, and I think it should be brought out at this time. The MLA's in Yellowknife are using on a permanent basis office space in that building. Now, if that is going to be the criteria, then possibly every MLA should be allowed to have funds to have an office in his own constituency...

---Applause

...because there is an imbalance here, on this particular situation, that should be looked at and decided what you want to do. I have no objections if they use it but on the other hand, people outside of Yellowknife are not provided with it. I think the matter will work itself out and certainly, rather than spending a lot of money as soon as the political questions of the North are reasonably settled, I would rather be putting this type of money towards getting and acquiring our own legislative building; something that is going to be permanent and be used properly...

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, Hear!

HON. DON STEWART: ...because right now we are in a stage of development and we cannot expect all things to be perfect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Office Facilities Must Be Expanded

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Fraser's motion was made more out of his frustration with the situation that he sees almost on a daily basis, when he comes into the third floor of the Cunningham Building. He sees that, as a result of the increased activity of committees, particularly the education committee staff and new staff being hired, there really is not any place on that one floor to put them. He sees the work area on the third floor, where the staff themselves used to be able to spread out their work, in terms of getting ready for the session and the preparation in between sessions, being taken up by these dividers, in order that there can be areas for the MLA's when they do come into town, to hold private meetings and private sessions. He sees the need for an expansion of the present facilities to accommodate the increasing demands of a new Legislature. The Legislature had been promised, when we moved into the Cunningham Building, that we would have access to the second floor and that did not materialize. I know I agree with him; he sees the staff themselves being somewhat frustrated by this lack of space and also the lack of the ability to be able to respond to Members as they come into...

MR. FRASER: Tell us what you see, not what I see.

MRS. SORENSEN: I just told you, I agreed with you. Into...

---Laughter

...when they come into town for committee meetings. So I wonder if -- Mr. Stewart has indicated that there is some work being done in giving us some expanded facilities and he has also indicated that could be done by, what, March 1st -- April 1st?

MR. FRASER: What year?

MRS. SORENSEN: I have forgotten the date.

MR. FRASER: What year?

A Commitment For Expanded Space

MRS. SORENSEN: So, I wonder if we could ask Mr. Fraser to withdraw his motion at this time, in view of the fact that we have received a commitment for expanded space. I would see that he has achieved what he set out to achieve, which was the recognition that we did need more space. I wonder if he would be prepared to withdraw his motion at this time.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Fraser, would you like to comment on that?

MR. FRASER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I do not intend to withdraw my motion at this time. I have no assurance -- the Member is talking about a statement made by the Speaker, and I do not know -- I have no assurance of anybody else that this is going to happen. He said in March, but he did not say in what year.

---Laughter

I might have been asking for a lot in that motion but being so long, almost 30 years with the government, if you ask for lots, you might get half or maybe less. So, you shoot for the top and maybe you get something at the bottom. But I have no intention of withdrawing my motion until I have some assurance from higher up that this actually is going to happen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Ms Cournoyca.

MS COURNOYEA: Well, if the motion had specified that perhaps there should be more space available for the working staff, I probably could support the motion, but I am from the Western Arctic and I do not intend to sit in an office, especially in Yellowknife.

---Applause

Some of the comments that have been made -- people should remember that two wrongs never make a right. I do not know why Mr. Fraser needs an office, because I think, if I remember, comments from Mr. Fraser from time to time, which are very eloquent and funny, but I tend to take them seriously, even though he intends to be funny -- it seems to me that his general outlook is that instead of a filing cabinet we should have a garbage barrel to burn all of the paper. So now he wants an office, he wants a rug and he wants a filing cabinet, and maybe a phone.

MR. FRASER: A secretary.

Relating To People Represented

MS COURNOYEA: So I am wondering what the change of heart is. Is it because you are living in Yellowknife? Now, about decorations, and I suppose I will agree with Mr. Sibbeston that I do not really like the plushness of the Executive offices because I find that when some people work in subdued atmospheres it creates a lethargy in how you do your job. We have a lot of people sitting out in the communities in the far Arctic that all they have is a chemical toilet and a good supply of MistoVan; and I think if we want to relate to the people that we represent, perhaps this is the kind of decoration and atmosphere we should be working in, because maybe we will work harder to bring up the standard of living for these people.

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on, right on!

MS COURNOYEA: Now, I do not know why when people come to Yellowknife there seem to be some illusions of grandeur about what we are.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MS COURNOYEA: I represent a group of people whose toilets plug up, whose tanks freeze up and whose outlets from their bathrooms a lot of times plug up, and cause a very high toxic poisoning to the community and to the house -- to those people. I think if Mr. Fraser and the other MLA's are interested in office space, well, perhaps there is a way that they can pay some rent to give that facility to themselves. I cannot support your motion, Mr. Fraser. I realize that the staff themselves could possibly use a little space and perhaps it was wrong that we were promised an office -- I do not know why we were promised one, because I think our job is out in the field...

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MS COURNOYEA: ...among our people. So, I cannot support this motion and I recommend that we do not.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

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

Constituency Offices Necessary

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this goes only to Yellowknife. I think it is only directed to Yellowknife, so I cannot support it because Yellowknife is not my constituency and it would be useless for me to have an office here. I think we are going to have to do some considering to see whether we could get an office in our constituency. I am going to use this for an example; all my letters and correspondence are in the way in our house and there is not much room, and there is not enough cupboard space. It is where children cannot reach them. When it is like this, it is very hard to keep letters and correspondence in order. Perhaps even now the correspondence that I have around the floor right now -- I lose correspondence sometimes when I do not have any place to put them away. Perhaps we should think about the office spaces in our constituencies and consider getting an office in Yellowknife. I think we should be given some money to set up an office somewhere in our

constituency, because it is no good when you have the correspondence right at home when you have the children and some people throw them away by mistake. Because of that I do not think I am going to support this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. To the motion. Mr. Commissioner.

Additional Space Will Be Available In March 1981

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak only to explain one matter about office space. When the Clerk and his operation were moved to the third floor of the Cunningham Building, we had every intention, within the limits of our planning for space, to provide him with that floor and a bit more space on the second floor of that building. I sincerely regret that that did not work out because that was our intention and I am not exactly sure why we were not able to deliver it but we were not.

The plan at that time was to provide adequate space for the Clerk and for his staff and for the Speaker and to provide either small offices or cubicles, so that when Members were in Yellowknife between sessions and wished to have a place from which they could make telephone calls or do some of their preparation, then such a space would be available. I do not think that we had ever considered the possibility of either a cubicle or an office for every Member. I believe the intention all along was to provide six or eight of these spaces because we did not think that every Member would require this space at the same time.

Now, the other intention was to provide each Member with one or two drawers of filing space which they could then lock up and keep their material in. I hope and trust that that is being proceeded with because that is the kind of thing that certainly, as an absolute minimum, every Member should have.

I have given the Speaker a commitment that we will identify some additional space within the month of March, that is March 1981, and I cannot promise that it will be enough space to divide up into an office for each Member. I gather from the discussion that has taken place that that is really not what is being asked for but what most Members seek perhaps is a chance to have some filing space and a work space for the occasions when they are in Yellowknife. We will identify some additional space and we will make adequate space available for the Clerk, for the Legislative Assembly offices and that space will be identified sometime in the month of March. Certainly I would hope that they would be able to move into or use it perhaps early in April.

I agree with those persons who have said that the long-range requirement, and maybe it should be moved into a medium range, is for us to provide a proper Legislative Assembly and adequate offices for Members when they are in the capital. Thank you very much.

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

Using Government Office Space In Communities

MRS. SORENSEN: I have a question, Mr. Chairman, of Mr. Braden as the Leader of the Elected Executive. Mr. Braden, if individual Members were to go into their community government office and ask for a desk and a telephone and a filing cabinet, would you see any difficulty with the government providing them with that kind of access?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Braden, did you get that question?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, it is difficult for me to respond directly to that as I would see this as a matter for the Legislature's Members' Services Board to consider. If it comes down to increasing the allowance provided to individual MLA's in order that they can rent space in a particular community, I think that is one option to consider and I believe it is one which we have already talked about in caucus. I cannot really say with respect to our offices in various communities what space is available, although I am certain if there was an empty building or an empty office that was not being used, some arrangement could be worked out. But as I have said, it would seem something which should be dealt with through the Members' Services Board since what we are talking about here is a service for Members. That would be the appropriate forum to consider it and make some specific recommendations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mrs. Sorensen.

A Long-Term Objective

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Braden, what you suggest is certainly a long-term objective of this Legislature I am sure but the fact remains that we do not have the money and we will not have the money in this years budget. So no matter what the Members' Services Board decides, the fact remains that there is not the money to provide MLA's with enough money to rent space in their communities. So what I am asking is, in the interim, if there is space in the government offices, could MLA's have access if they choose. They may not choose to be associated with the government office in their community but if they choose so, and there is space, could the government, in the interim, allow the MLA to set up in a corner somewhere a desk, a telephone, and a filing cabinet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Braden, do you want to reply?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not agree with the Member that this is a long-term impossible situation that cannot be dealt with. I think it is something that we can look at through the Members' Services Board. If we have a specific proposal and it looks like it is possible in some communities to rent office space and that the budget of the Legislative Assembly has to be increased, well there is always the option of supps in the next few months. So I think it is something we can look at. But if it is a crisis situation in the case of some MLA's and some of their communities, then certainly the government will give serious consideration to allowing a Member to use available space in our offices.

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

Increase In Constituency Allowances

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to comment on the motion. My feeling is that I think the MLA's that have constituencies outside of Yellowknife should have more access to the office space than has been made available. My feeling is that I think that within our constituency allowance, we were going to do a review and in there perhaps maybe we should consider having an increase in the constituency allowance so that MLA's who live outside of Yellowknife and represent their constituencies could have their own office space with adequate funding and so forth. That might be one consideration that we might want to consider.

The other thing, of course, is I think that the MLA's from Yellowknife South and Centre should probably consider having their own office and using their own constituency funds instead of having or setting up a permanent shop in the office spaces being provided to make room for other MLA's who are out of town who want to make use of those office spaces because, as I understand it, the two MLA's I am referring to have set up shop, I believe, and I think that is where your problem comes in. I think that that office space has been made available to all the MLA's but I think that you cannot have one MLA sort of claiming that office space. That might be one of the problems that we are dealing with here.

But I think that the Members' Services Board should be the one that should probably consider the problem of office space and, like I say, I would like to see an arrangement where we could consider an increase of constituency allowance so that all the MLA's have an opportunity to have their office space within their own constituency. Thank you.

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

No Difficulty Obtaining Office Space

MS COURNOYEA: I would just like to make it clear that I do not know what all this office thing is. I think it is very unhealthy to sit in an office, but certainly in the area where I come from, every community that I have wants to give me office space. I have perfect co-operation from even Inuvik, who wants to give me office space. I have never had any difficulty getting office space and I would like to emphasize that this is not the difficulty. It has been offered from every council, from Holman Island, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, even Aklavik, which I do not represent, and Inuvik, and I do not feel it is necessary to have an office to do a good job. I just want it to be known that I do not have a difficulty in my constituency area getting office space.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted not to say anything about the motion at all and just to defeat it, but there have been several implications made in the statements of several Members that I object to very strongly, and the first is that somehow the Members from Yellowknife are responsible for having brought this to the floor. I want to assure everyone right now that I did not see the motion beforehand; I did not know it was being brought up and now that I have seen it, I know that I do not support it. I hope that is clear to everybody. I also object to the inference that I have set up shop against somebody's wishes and that I am causing a problem in a government office. I do not expect any treatment that is any better than any other MLA is getting. I will not apologize for wanting to work every day for my constituents and wanting to have a convenient place to do it. In order to do that, I asked if I could use some services at the government offices and I was told that I could. However, I have tried to make myself as co-operative as possible and when the needs of the office have been demonstrated...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Hold on, sir. You are going a little bit too fast. Could you slow down a little bit? Thank you.

Needs Of Office Staff Come First

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should not get so excited I guess.

---Laughter

I believe that the needs of the office staff come first and that I am there if it is convenient for me to be there and if it is not, then I will move on. It would not make sense to me to have some space available but not to use it in that way if it were possible. I do think that there needs to be better space for the Assembly and I think in considering that it should also be considered that MLA's, when they come to town, need the kind of accommodation, at least, that the Commissioner earlier indicated we would likely have. I would like to leave it at that. I would like Mr. Fraser to withdraw his motion, but if he will not do so, I will vote against it.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Noah, to the motion.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the motion, I am not going to support the motion because it is just like a piece of paper, because I think it would just be used by the Executive Committee, as being the MLA. I do not have any office space in our community, everybody knows that we can work on our own without an official office. Mr. Appaqaq mentioned that he has got a lot of paper in his own private home. I do not have an office space in my community and we cannot throw out a lot of the paper we see, and the papers are in our houses and they are increasing daily and our houses are small.

I cannot understand, actually, what the motion is trying to say, which was put forward by Mr. Fraser, so I cannot support it. I do not see how we want to establish office space in Yellowknife if we cannot establish office space in our own community. This office he is referring to is redecorated with everything; with everything to look nice as an office here in Yellowknife. So, I am not going to support the motion, and I would like to thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion. Mr. Kilabuk.

Some Constituencies Generate More Work

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I would just like to tell people that some of us have three constituencies and after me there is going to be somebody elected outside my community. That would create a problem because if we get our own office in our own community -- I agree 100 per cent, that if there was government office space available, then we could use some office space like that. People who need office space in Yellowknife, who have to work hard, should get office space. Like some of us, we do not do a lot of work like the others, because we do not receive a lot of letters from the community, so it would not make sense of creating an office just for the MLA in the community. However, if there was space available in one of the buildings in our community, then I would agree with that. I was told that if I need an envelope or something like that, then I could use my allowance to buy it, or my funding to buy envelopes. So, I just would like to get a clarification. If there was an office available, if there was a government office available for us to use, can we use that space in our community? I would like to get an answer on that, please. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. (Translation ends)

To the motion. I heard a question. Ready for the vote. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hands.

MR. FRASER: You cannot win them all.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Those against.

MR. FRASER: You win some, you lose some.

---Laughter

Motion To Upgrade Legislative Assembly Offices, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Total Capital, Agreed

Page 1.02, capital, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Salaries And Wages

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 1.01, salaries and wages. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Stewart, when you were discussing with us what areas you had to cut back, you mentioned that there was some staffing that had been proposed by the Clerk, Mr. Remnant, and that staffing proposal had to be shelved for this year. I wonder if I could have an indication from yourself or Mr. Remnant what the ramifications of shelving the increase in staff proposals to the workings of the Legislature itself are?

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

HON. DON STEWART: Yes, there was a reduction in staffing. The one position was filled that was felt to be essential at this time. We are going to monitor this very closely. We feel that we can get by at the present time. Efficiency probably will not be as high as it probably would be if we had the staff, but we feel that we can get by at this time with this filling of one position and if the B level funding comes in, then we will review the situation and increase the staff as we see the need for it.

I think it is very difficult and very dangerous to go in with the increased number of Members and just decide that we have to have X number of people. I think that we have got to have a proven need and know exactly what we need, rather than assuming what we need. Personally, my preference is to go slow on staffing, to make sure that we require them and then, of course, if we reach that decision, fight like hell to get them. But I am not convinced at this time that we need the full number.

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

Recommendation For Increase In Staff

MRS. SORENSEN: I wonder, Mr. Stewart, if you could give me an indication of what measures Mr. Remnant may have taken to bring about his recommendation for an increase in staff? In other words, what did he do himself to come to the opinion that he needed an increase in his staff? Did he do anything at all?

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

HON. DON STEWART: I understand that he had technical assistance from, I do not know if it was the Department of Personnel or -- did a survey and made recommendations as to his staff requirements. I have heard time and time again in this House that the civil service always overstaffs itself. I even heard you speak against the number of people we have got running around and I do not want to be guilty of running the office that has been assigned to me in over-staffing. I want to make damn sure I need the people that are there.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Supplementary? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Can I ask then, in light of the fact that Mr. Remnant has indicated that he feels that there is a need for increased staff and obviously he is prepared because you are responsible for the area, to hold back on the number of staff increases, can I ask what you, yourself, are prepared to do then to monitor the situation and then to make a decision on whether he does, in fact, need the increase in staff?

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

Most Efficient Office In The Public Service

HON. DON STEWART: Yes, I plan on being in Yellowknife at regular intervals between sessions and spending two or three days, probably at least twice a month, and will watch the operation and be part of the working force and see just exactly what the situation is and come up with an opinion at that time. Of course, if Members are not receiving the service they feel they are entitled to, they can certainly relay that information to me and we will look into it in depth. But I certainly want to make very, very sure that nobody can point a finger and say, "Well, there you people are. You are sitting in the Legislature blaming everybody else for all of these things and yet you are doing just the same thing we are doing and so how come you can complain at us." I want the best, efficiently run office in this public service in Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Supplementary? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I think your comments are fair, Mr. Stewart, but I am very concerned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think you are going too fast. Could you slow down please?

Present Assembly Staff Overworked

MRS. SORENSEN: I sit every day in the offices and I know the amount of overload that the existing staff has and I am extremely sympathetic with the amount of stress that they are now under with respect to their jobs but I feel powerless to do anything about it. Now, I must emphasize that because I am there, I do not create extra work for the staff. My typing is done, with the exception of the standing committee on finance typing, by an independent body and I pay for

that typing out of my constituency allowances. I do not expect that my phone is answered although I admit that from time to time the staff does answer my phone, because it comes through the switchboard. But the work that the staff is now doing is as a result of the increased work of the committees of this Legislature. I have been in there in the last three weeks, since the special committee on education has hired its consultant, and the amount of typing alone that that committee is and its consultant is having done is astronomical.

So the demand is increasing on a daily basis and I am very, very concerned about that. It has nothing to do with the lack of ability either. We have excellent staff, support staff, in that Legislature but because I am there on a daily basis, I see what is going on and I have said this in the Members' Services Board and have registered my very great concern about what has been happening. I am afraid that some of our staff will have no option but to resign because the stress is so great in that area. We have already had one resignation. Now, because I am not involved at the administrative level I have not inquired as to the reason so there may be more than just overload as reasons. But I think it is an indication that we are expecting our Legislative Assembly staff to do more than a normal ordinary person could be expected to do and I must register my concern.

Now, Mr. Stewart said that he is willing to come to Yellowknife and to spend some time monitoring the situation and I respect him for that. I am certainly prepared to wait for his decision but I would emphasize, Mr. Stewart, that I hope that you can do it as soon as possible.

No Moneys For Impact Committee And Constitutional Development Committee

I have another question and that concerns the area of constitutional development. You had indicated that there is no money in this budget for the impact committee and for the special committee on constitutional development that was created in Frobisher Bay. Am I to believe then that we can go ahead with the work of those two committees and just come back with supplementary estimates or do we just simply not go ahead with the work of those two committees.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Stewart, do you have a reply to that?

HON. DON STEWART: Well, at the present time, my plan is to negotiate the position and once the committee meets and comes out with a budget to see what type of money they are looking at -- I have not a figure to proceed with. I have got to have that at least and once we get those figures then we will indeed go to the Members' Services Board and if they are in agreement, then we will carry the thing further to the Executive to see what can be done for financing.

With regard to your concern on overload because of committee work, I plan on seeing if we can get stenos from the pool if required to do that work. If we have got a committee working for a month or two months, there is no reason to hire a secretary on a 12 month basis to look after that type of work. I have consulted with all of the senior staff and I have had no complaints of the type that you are indicating. So all I can do is take their word for it. They have not shown any concern at this time. So I think things are well in hand and I do not think we have a problem in that field.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Butters.

Committee Work To Be Done During Sessions

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The Member for Yellowknife South indicated that she had some concern about the funding for the impact committee. I recollect, as a Member of the striking committee, when we established and named eight people to that committee, that our expectation was that that committee could do its work during

the times when the Assembly convened. My expectation would still be that that is possible. I just wonder if the Member has seen the terms of reference of the committee which suggests that that condition no longer applies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mrs. Sorensen, supplementary?

MRS. SORENSEN: I will answer your question, Mr. Butters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Butters. I am sorry. Go ahead, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: No, there have not been any terms of reference developed and Mr. Butters is quite right when he says that it was in the beginning determined that the work could be done during session nevertheless, there is work of a nature that will cost money that must be done. If the committee has to hire, for instance, the services of a consultant to look at the economics of separation, if the committee has to designate its chairman to do any travelling or business of that nature, then there will be some expenditure. We are not expecting that the eight or 10 Members that sit on the committee will be doing any travelling nor they being paid any indemnity or living expenses because they will be giving their guidance to the chairman at the time that we sit at session. But nevertheless, it is expected that there will be some limited costs that will be associated with that committee.

The same does not exist, however, for the constitutional committee. It is expected that that committee will have to do extensive travelling in the West and that with the holding of public meetings, there will be dollars associated with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Ms Cournoyea.

Cut In MLA's Salaries

MS COURNOYEA: At one of the session, Tagak Curley suggested that perhaps some of us would be willing to take a cut in our direct salary that we receive as Members of the Legislative Assembly. I realize we cannot do too much about the travel expense because those costs are high but I was wondering if Mr. Stewart had taken that suggestion that perhaps some of us would be approached and be willing to do that. In that way, maybe some of the money could be redirected to things that are more needed in the Legislative Assembly. I wonder if you considered that. I have not been approached myself.

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

HON. DON STEWART: No, I have not considered it and I do not think I will consider it either. If any Members wish to turn their money back, that is up to them but I am not going to be an agent going around asking people to give me part of their wages. The wages have been set by the Members' Services Board and as far as I am concerned, that is what it is. I have no intention, personally, of asking for anybody to return anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it sort of goes without saying but I would like to say it, that all Members probably agree that the Legislative Assembly staff are doing an excellent job. This is why...

---Applause

Thank you.

---Laughter

On their behalf, on their behalf. They are probably listening to this debate upstairs and I think we should publicly recognize that they are working their -- they are working themselves very hard and it is not unnoticed.

Reclassification Of Assembly Staff Members Positions

Now, what I would like to ask in that connection, rather than talking about more staff is this, and I have privately heard complaints on this subject from the staff and I realize that I am not -- I do not have any responsibilities but I would like to ask you this, Mr. Stewart. Have you looked into whether or not Legislative Assembly staff members, in view of what all recognize is quite a considerable workload and the requirements to work after hours and demands that we make on them as Members and, of course, the dislocation associated with moving with sessions, especially this year -- have you looked at the classifications of their positions, especially as it relates to comparable positions in the government? I am wondering, particularly, whether you have considered the possibility of examining their classifications and with a view to reclassifying, because I have a feeling that it may not be quite fair to compare them with ordinary 9:00 to 5:00 workers in other departments, and whether or not in your capacity you might be willing to take a look at that avenue for giving them a little bit of reward for their work? In other words, we may not be able to add more people, but maybe we can raise their classification and recognize what they are doing in that regard. Can you comment on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Stewart.

HON. DON STEWART: Yes, Mr. Patterson. One of the first acts I did when I came to Yellowknife in January was to discuss this with the Commissioner. First, I must make it clear that the legislative staff is part of the civil service here. It is not an independent staff. It comes under the normal government staffing. I asked the Commissioner if he could have our people looked at and look towards reclassification, and he has promised to do that in the immediate future. I do not know whether it is in progress yet or whether it has been done, but that request has been made. Once we get that, then we can review it and if we do not feel it is right, then make presentation on their behalf.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Fraser. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make it clear -- I think there could have been a misunderstanding earlier -- that the impact committee and the constitutional development committee are not -- although they may have some difficulty -- they are not paralyzed at the moment, because all of the committee meetings that take place in Yellowknife, while we are in session, do not cost anything in addition at all. So we can certainly have meetings during this period of time and at least some preliminary and preparatory work can take place.

Salaries And Wages, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Salaries and wages, \$358,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Other O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Other O and M, \$2,254,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total O and M, \$2,612,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Expenditures, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total expenditures, \$2,637,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does this committee wish to report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-81(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1981-82

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Fraser, do you have a report on your committee work?

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, the committee was studying the capital planning and had witnesses up before the Members and concluded the part of the witnesses.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, may I request unanimous consent to return to Item 6, tabling of documents?

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have unanimous consent? Are there any nays? You may proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 4-81(1), The Lancaster Sound Region, 1980-2000, which was released in Frobisher Bay at 4:30 eastern standard time, today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any other announcements? Mr. Clerk, would you give us the announcements and the orders of the day?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Committee meetings for the early part of next week: Monday, February 9, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A, education committee meeting; Tuesday, February 10, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A, caucus meeting; Wednesday, February 11, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A, Members' Services Board.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, February 9, 1981, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to the Commissioner's Address
3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Notices of Motion
9. Motions
10. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
11. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
12. Second Reading of Bills
13. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bill 1-81(1); Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 9, 1981, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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