



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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

9 February 1981

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	113
Oral Questions	113
Questions and Returns	117
Petitions	118
Tabling of Documents	118
Notices of Motion	119
Motions	120
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-81(1) Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82	122, 154
- The Executive	122
Report of the Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-81(1) Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82	153, 167
Orders of the Day	167

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, 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): The orders of the day, February 9th.  
Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. There appear to be no replies.

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 13-81(1): Norman Wells Pipeline Re Government Position

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I am aware, Mr. Minister, that there are some serious environmental concerns that have been raised with respect to the Norman Wells project which could, and should if they are not addressed properly, delay the project. Apart from that, in view of the recent recommendations of the Environmental Assessment and Review Panel with respect to that expansion project and the building of the pipeline, will the Minister briefly outline the Government of the Northwest Territories plans for taking advantage of time and circumstances between now and the proposed 1982 start-up date to maximize revenue raising opportunities, minimize impact and to ensure that the fullest benefits for northerners are realized just in case the project does get off the ground at the proposed start-up date?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 13-81(1): Norman Wells Pipeline Re Government Position

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the honourable Member for notice of his question. He made reference to a report of the EARP panel, Mr. Patrick Duffy's panel, which indicated that a delay was being recommended because of two major areas of deficiency. One, the environmental, which he made reference to and the second, the inability of governments to respond to the project. The Member is also aware, I think, of the 61 recommendations, some 20 or so related to the responsibilities of the Government of the Northwest Territories.



What has been done to date to begin action is that the Executive Committee has looked at the report in a very general sense and we have referred it for prioritization and identification of the responsibilities, of the departmental responsibilities that have been outlined in that report. We expect to be reviewing in the very near future the specific requirements that that report has made of this government.

I would point out that the last statement I saw by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. John Munro, in the House, was that he is still awaiting the report of the NEB, National Energy Board panel and I think he stated at that time that until that panel's report is in, he would be making no decision relative to the project's development or not. Therefore, I mention this because anything that this government does at this time will have to be done from the resources that are currently available to us. We have made to the Minister, a request for new money, B level funding in the amount of some three million dollars, from which we would expect, if it were to be approved, to ensure that the deficiencies identified by Mr. Duffy's panel would be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 13-8(1): Norman Wells Pipeline Re Government Position

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just supplementary to that, Mr. Speaker. The matter of identifying and prioritizing the Government of the Northwest Territories responsibilities is under way. About how soon is that likely to be done and will this House be given the benefit of that information when it is available?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Return To Supplementary To Question 13-81(1): Norman Wells Pipeline Re Government Position

HON. TOM BUTTERS: As Minister responsible for Economic Development, I would hope that it is accomplished in the very near future and yes, whatever determination we make will be known to the House.

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

Question 14-81(1): Expansion Of Lake Harbour School

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to go back to something that I petitioned on three times already when we met in Baker Lake. I have given a petition to the Minister of Education. I wonder when this question of mine is going to be answered because I have been waiting for it for a long time. I got some letters again from Lake Harbour on the expansion of the school. Maybe after I get a reply, I can hand in the petition, if I can get an answer from the Minister of Education regarding Lake Harbour expansion of the school. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was afraid that nobody was going to ask me any questions.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Here it comes.

Return To Question 14-81(1): Expansion Of Lake Harbour School

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The capital plan for the Baffin region, at the request of the Baffin Regional Council, was delegated to a committee of the Baffin Regional Council executive and the MLA's from the Baffin region. That committee met this summer in Frobisher Bay -- I believe it was August if my memory serves me right -- and reviewed the capital plan for the coming year in Baffin which, of course, included the capital plans for schools. At that meeting, it was noted that despite the petitions from Mr. Arlooktoo, an addition to the school in Lake Harbour was not in the capital plan for the coming year. This was primarily due to the fact that prior commitments had been made to Clyde River for a school addition. I believe that commitment was made by former Commissioner Hodgson and that the Clyde River school addition would be a priority over any other expansion in Baffin region in the coming year.

I have also looked into the question of a school addition in Lake Harbour with my officials because I was very much aware of Mr. Arlooktoo's concern and the concern of the people in Lake Harbour. I have been told that based on standards elsewhere in the region, there just are not the number of pupils enrolled in the Lake Harbour school to justify this addition at this time, that the enrolment is simply not high enough. Now I also looked into the possibility -- since I know that the concern is that there be a gymnasium attached to the school -- I looked into the possibility of a solution being worked out whereby students at the Lake Harbour school could somehow use the rather spacious community hall in Lake Harbour. I have not had a chance to talk about that with Mr. Arlooktoo or with the community but suffice it to say that I hope a solution can be worked out which would permit the students at the school to have a place where they could engage in sports. I understood that the problem with using the community hall was that there is no clear responsibility for cleaning that community hall. It was not seen to be satisfactory for a gym because it is not kept to a standard of cleanliness that one would want for gymnasium activities.

In answering the question, Mr. Speaker, I am telling you all I know about the problem at present. If it is not satisfactory to the community that a solution be worked out using the community hall, we will have to discuss other alternatives and review the department's belief that there are just not enough students to justify an addition compared with other needs in the region.

The next that has been identified for capital in Baffin is the school in Sanikiluaq which is in quite bad shape, and Resolute Bay too. I understand that there is a process whereby capital planning decisions are made now in the Baffin region, and in addition to talking with Mr. Arlooktoo and his community, I think it would be quite proper to raise the concern at the Baffin Regional Council planning committee because it was not raised at the summer meeting and therefore, perhaps, was not paid the same sort of attention it would have been had it been raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 15-81(1): Federal Government's Economic Development Plan For NWT

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. On the CBC news this morning, reference was made to a 20 year economic development plan for the Northwest Territories, which was being developed by the federal officials for federal cabinet approval. Would the Minister please tell this House if he is aware that such a policy is being discussed and whether the Minister of Economic Development or the Executive Committee or the Department of Economic Development has been consulted with respect to the development of this 20 year economic development plan for the Northwest Territories?



MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 15-81(1): Federal Government's Economic Development Plan For NWT

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the honourable Member for giving me notice of this question. The answer, as I have been able to ascertain, is no. I am not aware of it. I have spoken with officials in the department who should be aware of the development of such a plan and they are not aware of it, so to my knowledge, there has been no consultation. One person I spoke to in the department said that he had heard of something in the wind but had thought it had been dropped over the last six months. So if the situation is such as has been described by the Member in her question then we are not informed or involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 16-81(1): Government's Participation In Workshops Re Lancaster Sound Region

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Will the Minister indicate whether this government intends to participate in the public workshops at Resolute and Ottawa concerning possible development in the Lancaster Sound region and if it does, will the Minister indicate the process by which the Government of the Northwest Territories position will be formulated to present at the workshop?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Partial Return To Question 16-81(1): Government's Participation In Workshops Re Lancaster Sound Region

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I had no notice of this question, but as the Member is probably aware, there was participation by the Northwest Territories in the development of the paper, or the report, that I tabled yesterday I believe. I will have to take the Member's question as notice and provide a reply, possibly tomorrow or the next day.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 17-81(1): Socio-Economic Plan Development

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also again for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Minister, in presentations to the EARP and the National Energy Board, the territorial government stated that it would like to, and in fact had begun the process of setting up its own socio-economic review process to review socio-economic impact of renewable and non-renewable development projects. I would then ask the Minister whether such a plan has indeed been developed. If so, whether he would be prepared to table it in this House during this session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Return to Question 17-81(1): Socio-Economic Plan Development

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, again I wish to thank the honourable Member for notice of the question. Yes, there has been a plan developed. It has not yet received study by the Executive Committee. I would expect to attempt to have that study carried forward in the next two weeks and if that is done, I will seek and request approval to table it in the House, as the Member has requested.

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

Question 18-81(1): Establishment Of NWT Power Corporation

MRS. SORENSEN: My question is for the Minister of Energy. During the Frobisher Bay session, a motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly recommending that the Minister of Energy begin the process of establishing a Northwest Territories power or energy corporation. I would ask the Minister what measures have been taken by the government to establish such a body?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Partial Return To Question 18-81(1): Establishment Of NWT Power Corporation

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. I would like to thank the Member for giving me notice of the question. We have proceeded and attempted to come up with a proposal. We have not completed that and we have not, as Executive Committee, agreed on what would be presented to the Legislative Assembly. Hopefully, we will have something to present to the Assembly at some time in this session.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: I do not wish to monopolize, but no one else seems to have any questions. My question is for the Minister of Local Government, and I have not -- he is not here. I will save it for tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Item 4 of the orders of the day, written questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 19-81(1): Exemption From Taxation

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My very first question for the Minister of Education, the Hon. Mr. Patterson. Will the Minister indicate what success he or his predecessor has had in making representations to the federal Minister of National Revenue concerning an exemption from taxation on post-secondary assistance? Just as additional information, your predecessor did write a letter on August 1st, indicating that he would be pursuing that matter, so it is just a question wondering what has happened since then.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 20-81(1): Periodic Surveys, Statistics Division

MRS. SORENSEN: My question is for the Minister who is responsible for the statistics division. I am not really quite sure who that is -- is that you? The statistics division of the Government of the Northwest Territories has released a spatial price survey completed in June, 1980. I would ask whether the division has plans to continue doing periodic similar cost of living studies. If not, why not? In addition, would the statistics division consider adding Inuvik, Frobisher Bay and Rankin Inlet to the list of communities surveyed? If not, why not? In addition, would the statistics division consider adding a further dimension to their survey which investigates what accounts for the percentage differences between communities surveyed? If not, why not?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.



Question 21-81(1): Norman Wells Pipeline, Balanced Economic Development Plan

MRS. SORENSEN: My written question is for the Minister of Economic Development. During the Baker Lake session, this Legislature approved five areas of concern which had to be addressed before approval could be given to the Norman Wells pipeline. They were: Land claims negotiations had to be sufficiently under way, revenue sharing, guaranteed energy supply, suitable northern based authority, and finally a balanced development plan. I would ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism what measures the Minister and the Executive Committee have taken to address these issues, both internally in the government, and externally with the federal government. In particular, has the Minister devised a plan and/or recommendations for number one, revenue sharing; number two, for a suitable northern authority and finally three, has work begun on a Northwest Territories version of balanced economic development plan?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 22-81(1): Changes To Quota Regulations

MS COURNOYEA: I have a question for the Hon. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Nerysoo. In October, 1980, the communities of Holman Island, Sachs Harbour and Paulatuk, together with the Inuvialuit game council, requested certain changes required in the regulations would be changed some months ago. I have been advised by the hunters and trappers in Sachs Harbour that they have not been changed with respect to quotas. Your officials in Inuvik have said that the regulations would not be changed until next year. Could you tell this Assembly if the regulation changes for musk-ox, that were requested by the Western Arctic and as agreed upon by your officials, have been implemented and if not, why not? If they have been implemented, why do your officials in Inuvik not know about it?

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

Question 23-81(1): Fort Simpson Liquor Sales

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Liquor Licensing Board. Can the Minister responsible please table either a copy or copies of any agreements or the details of any agreements entered between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the liquor store agents in Fort Simpson in respect of liquor sales in the community?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. Are there any returns? No returns. Item 5 on the orders of the day, petitions.

ITEM NO. 5: PETITIONS

Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Petition 1-81(1), Hamlet Status for Nanisivik. I have a petition here from Nanisivik. This is a request for hamlet status. I believe the Minister of Local Government already has a copy of this, but I thought it was my responsibility to table this petition. It has been translated to Inuktitut and English and French. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Petitions. Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Hon. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 5-81(1), 26th Annual Report of the Liquor Control System and the Liquor Licensing Board, covering the period April 1st, 1979 to March 31st, 1980. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 6-81(1), Thorne Riddell and Co., Report Prepared for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, August, 1980, a review of the finance division of the Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 4-81(1): Response To Bill C-48

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Wednesday, February 11th, I will move the following motion: That this Assembly request the Executive Committee to develop a detailed position in response to Bill C-48 for presentation at hearings of the standing committee on natural resources and public works in Ottawa and further, that the Executive Committee seriously consider including in the Government of the Northwest Territories position the following:

1. That the Government of Canada should have Petro Canada establish a subsidiary corporation to be known as Petro Canada (NWT) Ltd., to which crown shares in oil and gas production enterprises in the Northwest Territories and its adjacent waters will be transferred;
2. That the directorship of Petro Canada (NWT) Ltd., reflect northern interests;
3. That the operations of Petro Canada (NWT) Ltd., be accounted separately from all other Petro Canada operations so that a clear picture of northern resource revenues will emerge;
4. That Petro Canada (NWT) Ltd., serve as a framework for whatever public energy corporations might eventually be established in the Northwest Territories or northern Territories into which it is subdivided;
5. That the basic royalty, section 40, accruing to the federal government from oil and gas produced in the Northwest Territories and its adjacent waters, or some suitable portion of that royalty, be assigned to the Government of the Northwest Territories or at least be placed in a trust fund until aboriginal rights claims are settled;
6. That the annual amounts accruing to the federal government from its share of the net profit, section 41, of production enterprises located in the Northwest Territories or on and in its adjacent waters be assigned to the Government of the Northwest Territories, or at least be placed in a trust fund until aboriginal rights claims are settled;
7. That the Crown, using its powers over disposal of production, section 48, order that adequate supplies of oil and/or gas, at reasonable prices, be offered for sale to the Government of the Northwest Territories by various production enterprises operating in the Northwest Territories, or on and in its adjacent waters;
8. That moneys placed by production enterprises operating in the Northwest Territories or on and in its adjacent waters in the environmental revolving funds, section 49, be assigned to the Government of the Northwest Territories to be used for those specific objects it chooses, so long as the funds in general are spent to protect the environment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Notices of motion. The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

Notice Of Motion 5-81(1): To Raise The Maximum Small Claims Court Limit

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to serve notice of motion that on Wednesday, February 11th, I will move the following: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Frobisher Bay, that this Legislature recommend to the territorial court rules committee that it raise the small claims court limit from \$500 to \$2000 as soon as possible.



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

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

There is one motion in the book for today. The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie. Motion 2-81(1).

Motion 2-81(1): Additional Witnesses, Uranium Discussion

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS this Assembly has agreed to debate the paper "Uranium Exploration in the Northwest Territories" produced by its Science Advisory Board;

AND WHEREAS the debate should be thorough, providing opportunity for input from all interested parties;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay, that in addition to witnesses already invited to appear during the debate on uranium exploration and mining in the Northwest Territories, that the Science Advisory Board, the Northwest Territories Chamber of Mines, the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and the division of safety in the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Justice and Public Services, be permitted by the Speaker to produce witnesses for the debate should they wish, and that the British Columbia Medical Association be invited by the Speaker to produce a witness for the debate at the expense of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Proceed Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members will recall that in Frobisher Bay a motion was passed inviting Dr. Gordon Edwards and Dr. Ralph Green to attend as witnesses at a discussion of the paper on the development of uranium exploration and mining in the Territories. These other names have been advanced because there are significant uranium finds in the Northwest Territories and that could mean continuing exploration and future mining. They are certainly possibilities, and so both Mr. Patterson and I agree that this possibility raises important questions which should be dealt with thoroughly and not be given short shrift. So, we hope that you will support this motion to make it possible for others to come to participate with us in our discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Patterson as seconder.

Reasons For Inviting The British Columbia Medical Association

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is probably one of the most important environmental, public health issues and debates that this Assembly will deal with. I am sure that Members will support the encouragement of all viewpoints for our consideration during this important debate.

I would like to briefly explain why the British Columbia Medical Association is mentioned, since I am responsible for suggesting that a witness be invited from the British Columbia Medical Association. Recently, a very comprehensive 457 page report entitled, "Health Dangers of Uranium Mining and Jurisdictional Questions", was presented to the now deceased British Columbia inquiry on uranium mining and it was produced by the environmental health committee of the British Columbia Medical Association and co-authored by Dr. R.F. Woolard and Dr. Eric Young. This report, I am told, represents the most current and comprehensive gathering of data on the health aspects of uranium mining, particularly as it relates to miners themselves. It talks about radiation levels which miners can be expected to be exposed to and discusses whether or not those dosages are safe.

I have spoken to the British Columbia Medical Association and spoken to one of the co-authors of the report and am informed that they would be willing to attend. I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, that we be able to examine the authors of such a report as this because the report itself may not be very useful or may not be very comprehensible to lay people, in that it is highly technical. The area is a very complicated area.

Understanding Radiation

I am trying to learn a bit about it myself and I am just amazed at how difficult it is to understand even the most simple concepts. You cannot see radiation. You cannot touch radiation. In fact, radiation is invisible. This is why it is important, Mr. Speaker, that we have professionals present who are able to answer questions of ordinary people who may not be physicians or may not be physicists. I am satisfied, from talking to one of the authors of this report, that they are quite willing to answer the kind of questions that we ordinary people might have about these complicated areas. So I encourage Members to support this motion and observe that as far as cost implications are concerned, with the exception of the British Columbia Medical Association witness, who will only be coming from Vancouver which is relatively close, all the other witnesses that are invited, in the motion, would bear their own expenses and indeed, many of them would be our own government departments. So there is not much expense involved with this and besides, who can put a price on the health of our children and our children's children, so I urge Members to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to say that I support the motion. I notice that there is reference to witnesses and that they may be invited by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. I am grateful for that suggestion because we are attempting to bring experts to this House during the time when the debate goes forward, one who is aware of the regulatory process that is currently in place in the Northwest Territories. Also we have been seeking Jack Messer who was the former minister for development in the Saskatchewan government. The department has felt that this man would be most helpful to us because not only has he been a politician but he has been part of government which seems to have been able to deal with the whole matter of exploring uranium and developing uranium as is currently going ahead in Saskatchewan. Unfortunately, at the current time Mr. Messer is not available but I am hopeful that we will be able to bring somebody before Members who has direct and personal knowledge and experience with the manner in which the province of Saskatchewan has handled this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 2-81(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. There is a question being called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried



That concludes the motions for today.

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

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

Item 13, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the 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, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

---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

The Executive

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. Dealing with the capital budget, the Executive. Page 2.01, the Executive. Have we any witnesses before us, to come before the House? Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I might be allowed to make a few brief remarks about the main estimates for the Executive branch and after that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I cannot hear anything he is saying. Is your light on?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Yes, my light is on, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Try again.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might be allowed to make a few brief remarks about the budget of the Executive branch and after I have completed my remarks, I would like to ask that a couple of the officials from the Executive join me at the witness table and we would be prepared to answer detailed questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Very good, Mr. Braden. Go ahead with your remarks.

Introduction Of The Executive Budget

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce the Executive budget by first of all explaining how it is made up as there has been some changes since last year. One important change is that the territorial government funding for the Housing Corporation is no longer shown as part of the Executive budget. This year the corporation is shown separately in the budget book with details of proposed expenditures in much the same way as departments are shown.

The Executive budget provides funding for the following units or parts of the Executive branch: The Commissioner's office; the Ministers' offices; the Executive Committee secretariat; the aboriginal rights and constitutional development secretariat; the regional operations secretariat; and the audit bureau. Funds for the regional Executive offices are included under the regional operations secretariat and there is a breakdown by regions in the distribution of funds on page 2.11.

Another important change you will notice is that there are funds in the budget for five regions. Funding for the Central Arctic region has been separated from Fort Smith.

---Applause

Not only for the Executive branch but for all other departments as well. In connection with that, I should say that there is no increase to the 1981-82 Executive budget as a result of forming the Central Arctic region, but it will be a full year before the new region is fully staffed and completely operational. So the cost of setting it up will not really be apparent until this time next year when we are reviewing the budget for 1982-83 fiscal year.

#### Increases In Man Years

Overall, there are some increases in dollars and man years in the Executive, mainly in the Ministers' offices and in the aboriginal rights and constitutional development secretariat. The increases in Ministers' offices are mainly to allow for the two additional Ministers and their staff as well as for the new Ministers' travel and other expenses. Part of this increase is because we were not fully funded last year for five elected Members and their staffs.

The aboriginal rights and constitutional development secretariat has been increased in size by three man years to provide for officials to represent this government at the Dene claims negotiations, to allow for the appointment of a political development adviser and a research assistant to work with all three land claims negotiators.

Apart from these increases in the area of political development which we said is one of the priority areas for this government, we have kept the Executive budget well within the guidelines set for other departments.

One other item I might mention is the grants to organizations. This item was in the Commissioner's office last year. It is now shown in the Executive Committee secretariat because the grants themselves are approved by the Executive Committee as a whole under a policy which we approved a few months ago.

I might indicate, Mr. Chairman, that the Executive Committee, during the past year, has been extremely active in terms of responding to direction provided in this House, taking the initiative in other areas and in travelling quite extensively throughout the North and the South for various meetings and to make the presence of the Government of the Northwest Territories a reality.

#### Increase In Budget Due To A More Active Elected Executive

Generally, I would attribute increases in our budget to the expanded size of the Executive, a more active elected Executive and finally, the need to put together a larger group to deal in the claims and constitutional area. I would indicate in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that the Executive branch of the government is the branch which is the closest in many respects to the Ministers of this government. They provide a very valuable daily service in a wide range of areas. We have, during the last year, attempted to modify the Executive branch from what it was like when we first came into power. We have made some changes and some of them have worked out very well. Others need some modification but, by and large, I believe that we have been very successful and we have put together a sector or agency of the government which is extremely important in providing services to your Ministers.

Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, I would ask that I have permission to ask Mr. Mike Moore, the secretary to the Executive Committee, and Mr. Lee Horn, who is our chief of finance, to assist me in the detailed examination, if that is all right with the House.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms see that the witnesses before us come to the table? Any further opening remarks, Mr. Moore or Mr. Lee Horn?

MR. MOORE: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): No comment I take it.

MR. MOORE: No comment.

Detail Of Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We are dealing then with the capital budget on page 2.09. Would the Executive care to make a statement on the capital budget, page 2.09, \$485,000? I take it no comment. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I was just passing a note, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I thought you wanted to go to the bathroom or something.

---Laughter

Any questions on capital budget, \$485,000 on page 2.09? Agreed? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Office Complex For Tuktoyaktuk

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is just a point of information in the detail on capital. I notice that there is an office complex for Tuktoyaktuk. I am not questioning the expenditure at all but just as a point of information, could you inform us as to what is happening there as far as the Executive is concerned?

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

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, this office comes under the jurisdiction of regional operations; it is the one comparatively major project that the region has asked for, a proper government office in Tuktoyaktuk. It is not a large office. It is a minimum size of office for a representative of the territorial government and a member of the Executive branch to be a field service officer there. I cannot give you offhand, I am afraid, the size of the office but it is a small settlement type of office which has been badly lacking, I gather, in Tuktoyaktuk and is our only major project this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Moore, I think, for your information, you were a little bit too fast for the interpreters. I wonder if maybe you could just repeat that.

MR. MOORE: Yes. Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I forgot myself. The office in Tuktoyaktuk is a small settlement type of office. Essentially, the Executive will have one officer there and there is not that type of office in Tuktoyaktuk. It is particularly important because of the development that is going on there that we have a representative in that community. This is the only project of any size which is planned for the Executive this year.

Detail Of Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Moore. Any further questions on the capital budget, \$485,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Commissioner's Office, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We will turn now to page 2.02, Commissioner's office. This should be a good one. Any questions of the witnesses? Total O and M, \$397,000. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Just on a point of interest, Mr. Braden, I wonder if you could tell me how the Commissioner and the Executive Committee arrive at a person or an individual to give a Commissioner's Award to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. I wonder maybe if the Commissioner could answer that. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, if it would be all right with this committee, I would ask that the Commissioner address that subject in detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Very good. Mr. Commissioner, are you prepared to answer that?

Handling Of Commissioner's Awards

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the function of handling the Commissioner's Awards is, indeed, my responsibility. It is not the responsibility of the Executive Committee nor of the Legislature. These awards are meant to be given as a lieutenant governor or a similar functionary would offer awards and I say that because they are intended to have no political implications whatsoever. I do not mean to suggest that there would ever be any suggestions that that would take place in any event. The mechanism is that there is a Commissioner's Awards committee. The committee advertises from time to time although it has not recently. There is a small pamphlet available indicating how recommendations can be made. Recommendations are made to this committee and the committee reviews the recommendations and forwards its advice to me, then I make the final decision.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Does that answer your question, Mrs. Sorensen?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Any further questions? The Commissioner's office, \$397,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Mr. Commissioner, how many staff do you have in your office and how much are they increased in a year and when are they getting increases? Who recommends the increases of the salary?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the number of people under this allotment is five. It consists of three secretarial positions and two executive assistants. They receive their increases, or not, each year after a review by the person to whom they report. In the case of three of these people, I would do an annual review on their performance and then in consultation with the director of Personnel, settle on their position in the pay structure. Their positions are all classified through a regular process. They enjoy no special benefits, that is to say the rate of increase in the case of three of the positions, the three secretarial positions, is related directly to the settlement that is negotiated with our union.

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



Commissioner And Deputy Commissioner's Salaries

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I was hoping that perhaps the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner were reflected in this budget. Now, perhaps someone can answer where the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner receive their salaries from.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Commissioner and I are paid by the federal government as Governor in Council appointees and our salaries are contained in the Indian Affairs and Northern Development vote.

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

Awards For Bravery

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if these questions had been asked before -- and since these questions have been asked, there are the people that should be awarded for bravery. There are a lot of people that rescued people from danger, such as in water from drowning, or the people that were lost or rescued by some people before, but there has not been an award for bravery. The Members from the Legislative Assembly could get information from the community of the people that have risked their lives and maybe this could be awarded.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the question from Mr. Evaluarjuk is a good question. I am afraid that we have not given sufficient publicity to the matter of Commissioner's Awards and I will take steps to let people know in the communities and in particular, any government representatives there, so that they can spread the word about the method of making the nominations. Nominations for Commissioner's Award in both public service and bravery categories should be made to the secretary of the committee and they can also be sent directly to me in my office. One of the reasons, I suppose, that awards for bravery have not been given out more often is that we have not been told of the circumstances and that there has not been any nomination, but I will try and get further publicity out on the awards.

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

Modifying The Role Of Commissioner

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question is for the Commissioner. I think that all Members of this House would agree that your co-operation in aiding the transformation that is taking place with respect to political power in the North has been outstanding and is very commendable. I would just like to ask whether you have had recent discussions with the federal Minister with respect to continuing to modify the role that the Commissioner will play in the Northwest Territories and whether you personally have any objectives that you would like to see obtained in that respect, within a years time or two years time.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I have discussions from time to time with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and to the very best of my understanding the methods that I am following and the directions that we are all taking find favour with him. With regard to objectives, I have not recorded my objectives and perhaps I should have, but I feel that we are moving along

at a reasonably good pace. I would like to think that I have my hand on the pulse, as it were, of the Executive Committee and the Legislature and that I will continue to take my lead from those two areas and continue to respond.

I think, as we all realize, timing is important. It is essential that the Legislature and the Executive Members have sufficient experience and are able to undertake each step as it comes up but by the same token, matters must not be allowed to drag or take too long or the momentum will be lost. So, I think that is about all that I would say on that at the present time.

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

#### Differences Of Opinion Within The Executive Committee

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, either for Mr. Parker or else for Mr. Braden. We of us who are not on the Executive Committee do not really know, of course, what goes on in the Executive Committee. I am curious to know whether thus far, since the new Executive Committee has been in existence whether there has been any serious conflict or serious differences wherein the Commissioner has taken the prerogative of making a decision by himself or overriding the decision of the Executive Committee as a whole?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose there are probably a few people who would like to be able to observe what transpires in an Executive Committee meeting or a subcommittee meeting -- the financial management board or priorities and planning. I can say quite honestly and truthfully that there is, from time to time, a very frank exchange of ideas. At times tempers do flare. Sometimes that takes place between Ministers, sometimes it is between a Minister and an official but I think that kind of discussion, dialogue, is good, because we do get views expressed in a very strong way and we do try to work things out to reach a consensus on issues -- if not a consensus, then at least some measure of agreement.

In my experience so far, Mr. Chairman, the Commissioner, in some of these more difficult and sensitive discussions, has assumed the role of a mediator as well as that of an impartial, objective chairman. I might say, Mr. Chairman, that this is a very, very welcome role to have him assume when it is required. I do not recall any specific incident where the Commissioner has gone against any decision or position of the Executive Committee of the government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Sibbeston.

#### Native Members Of The Executive Committee

MR. SIBBESTON: One further question and this relates to the role, or participation of, let us say, the native Members of the Executive Committee. Quite frankly, since these persons have been voted or appointed to the Executive Committee we have not heard them say very much publicly in this House. For instance, we have not heard them say very much in this House on issues that have arisen and I am just wondering, is there any muzzling by the Commissioner or the other Executive Committee Members that maybe Mr. Wah-Shee or Mr. Nerysoo should not speak out on controversial issues? The Assembly is left with other native persons who are not on the Executive Committee to now raise issues, and these native persons on the Executive Committee, perhaps, not have any further role in the debates on controversial issues in the North.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Braden.



HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my colleagues, Mr. Wah-Shee or Mr. Nerysoo or Mr. Tologanak, wish to speak on this, I would ask the indulgence of the committee to let them speak but I would like to make a few general points first. Mr. Sibbeston used the word "muzzle". I think that there are times when the Executive Committee is considering an issue that if it is not resolved, as I indicated earlier, there is an ongoing discussion until some resolution is achieved within the Executive, but there is a kind of an unwritten standard whereby until we have achieved something or have not achieved it, Members attempt to keep the debate within the Executive.

Now, there are lots of occasions when we have reached kind of an impasse or a problem area where a Member will say, "Well, I simply cannot accept a decision of the Executive Committee." Then it means returning again to the issue and getting into further discussion of it to see if there is a way to compromise and reach agreement. Now, as far as the exposure which some Members of the Executive are getting in public or in the media -- I know that I have been criticized at times for hogging the headlines -- I cannot really comment on that. Mr. Chairman, that is all I have to say. If other Members wish to comment, they are free to do so.

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

#### Working As A Group

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the honourable Member, Mr. Sibbeston, I would like to say that the present Executive have been working together quite well to date and I do not feel that I have been muzzled. I think that I am sitting as an equal to the other Members on the Executive and that I do definitely have my say and I have my own views regarding various issues that we deal with. I think that it is one of trying to arrive at a conclusion regarding any issue that is brought forward to the Executive and that being all human and having various backgrounds and experience, I feel that we have a lot to contribute working as a group. We all have our own opportunity to contribute to any issue that we are dealing with and I would say that we have managed to arrive at a conclusion on a number of issues. I feel that I can speak my own views on various issues even when we are dealing with these various issues in this particular House.

At the same time, I feel the same way on the Executive Committee so I do not really feel that the rest of the Executive are telling me to keep my comments to myself. I feel that I am quite capable of speaking for myself. I do not need the rest of my colleagues to speak on my behalf. At the same time, I do have a large respect for my associates and colleagues like I do for the Members of this House, so I do not feel that I am being muzzled at all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Sibbeston.

#### Concerns Of Native People In The North

MR. SIBBESTON: I have one final question. I wonder whether the native Members on the Executive Committee -- I wonder if they intend to ever raise the issues that are of concern to their constituents or other native people in the North. It seems to date that some of us not on the Executive have raised these issues, but I frankly wish at times that issues were raised by other persons because we give the public the image that in raising these issues, that we are the radicals or unhappy ones and you people on the Executive are the contented ones without any concern for some of these issues. I wonder whether, as I said, these Members intend at this Assembly session or the next few months or years to raise some issues by yourselves rather than have us always raising them.

MRS. SORENSEN: Check the capital at Fort Rae.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Check the capital in Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Curley.

MR. SIBBESTON: May I have a response please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I did not get it. It seems to be awfully hard to hear in here today. I do not know why, but go ahead, if anybody got the question. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I understood that the question was directed at the native Members of the Executive Committee. Perhaps they would wish to respond.

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

Attaining Best Possible Solution

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think that in the past we have raised, or I have certainly raised concerns about my constituency. I think the issues that are pretty controversial in the Northwest Territories, like the pipeline or aboriginal rights. I think these are issues that we argue about every day and we have different positions on them and we certainly have to try to mediate some kind of a position and it is not always a position that everyone agrees with but we try, I think -- even though we have different ideas and we have held different positions in the past and certainly our alliances, I guess, are with different groups -- we try to work out some kind of a position that we could all agree with. I know it is difficult, I guess, at times to do that and certainly if it is difficult for anyone, it certainly is difficult for me at times. I assume that it is also difficult for the other Members as well because we all have different positions on the areas of concern and basically we try to come up with the best possible solution that we can.

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

Commissioner's Role In Reporting To Federal Government

MR. CURLEY: My question is to the Commissioner and his counterpart, Mr. Braden. I would like the Commissioner to give me an exact sort of outline and nature of his legal responsibilities in this part of the Northwest Territories. Specifically, are you still a Chief Executive Officer of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and if so, will you explain a little bit whether or not there have been any changes with your role as assigned by the Minister of Indian Affairs? Secondly, could you explain to me and to the Assembly, to the committee here, what kind of reporting obligations do you have to the Minister? Do you have a monthly report that you give about the progress of the constitutional responsibilities of the government or do you normally have a daily or weekly conversation? If so, could you tell us a bit about how you carry out reporting and about your duties and whether or not some of them have been devolved to the elected representative or not?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the Northwest Territories Act has not been amended and therefore the Commissioner's powers remain as they have been for some time. That act does indeed make me, in fact, the Chief Executive Officer. However, having said that, I hope everyone in this Legislature, will realize



through practice -- and this practice has now extended for several years, not just months but several years -- through practice, certain of my responsibilities are carried out by Members of the Executive Committee and more latterly and particularly by the elected leader of the Executive Members. I do not think that it is unusual in governments and in constitutions for certain things to be carried out through practise and not necessarily through changes in legislation.

In other words, we all get used to a certain pattern of activity and changes to those activities and they become the accepted norm. Now that still means that in point of law, my responsibilities and authority remains the same. Various Ministers of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have issued instructions to the Commissioner from time to time, whether it was to me or to my predecessors; they have issued instructions from time to time on specific issues and those instructions have been followed. I have not been given, in recent months, any new or different instructions but clearly through exchanges of letters and discussions, as I said earlier, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs appears to support the present practices that are in place.

#### Informal Means Of Communications

With regard to reporting relationships or frequency of reporting, I have no formal arrangement with the Minister to provide him with a weekly or a monthly report. As you know, I provide him with an annual report and I provide him with a letter from time to time on matters that I think are of particular interest on which he should be informed, and we have conversations, not frequently but we do have conversations by telephone and of course whenever we meet, whenever I am in Ottawa for meetings with him or other persons, or whenever he is travelling in the North. So I suppose to sum up, we have an informal means of communication rather than a formal regular reporting structure.

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

MR. CURLEY: Last question. Mr. Commissioner, I would gather you have pretty easy access to the Members of the Assembly, particularly those ones from Yellowknife. I would think you have no difficulty in getting in touch with them on matters that affect Yellowknife and particularly either when they lobby for certain changes in government policy, but you do not have that kind of access in the Eastern Arctic or other remote parts of the Territories. I would like to ask you further, the fact, now that you have been assigning more of your responsibilities to elected Members, whether or not you have any other plans to devolve your departmental responsibilities like DPW, or regional operations to Executive elected representatives or not, because it is difficult for me to ask questions effectively with departments like Public Works, regional operations, and be able to give a supplementary question when the answer is not immediately forthcoming. So often with a department like DPW, which you have the authority and responsibility with regional operations, you are in fact -- have been made not accountable to the public of the Territories.

#### Devolving Departmental Responsibilities

So, I am wondering whether or not this poses any difficulties from time to time in wanting to respond, or whether you want to respond, or whether you are just satisfied with the time-consuming runaround for -- until at least a week later in finally providing an answer to those Members from the remote parts of the Territories. Could you explain to me, maybe, whether you prefer the arrangement where you are not accountable to the Assembly or would you be willing to take quick action in trying to devolve more of these departmental responsibilities to the elected Members? Thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I did not see a direct relationship between the first part of the Member's comment and the last part. With regard to the first part concerning my accessibility to local Members, specifically to Yellowknife Members, I must say that to their credit, they do not approach me on a frequent basis. Apparently, perhaps they do not need to, but in any event, they are not, sort of, forever at my door. They also have access to Ministers but they do not abuse any privilege of being handy here. I think my communications with Members from out of town are probably at least as frequent as they are with Members living in Yellowknife.

Now, with regard to answering questions and answering for departmental responsibilities, which I have retained or which are held by the Deputy Commissioner, one of the reasons for retaining those responsibilities is a very pragmatic, a very practical reason, and that is that there is in total a certain amount of work to be done by Executive Committee Members and part of my responsibility is to ensure that that workload is shared reasonably equitably, to the point that the work can get done in as efficient a fashion as possible, and also to permit Members who may be new to the Executive Committee or new to executive-type operations, to gain some experience; just as simple as that.

#### Portfolios Held By Commissioner And Deputy Commissioner

The three portfolios -- four if you count regional operations as a portfolio -- that are held by myself or the Deputy Commissioner, that is Personnel, Public Works, Information and regional operations, are ones that I think that we have the experience to handle, particularly at this present time of growth and change. Of the number that I have mentioned, Public Works is a very, very major workload. It is a complicated workload and it is a heavy workload because, as you know, it does all kinds of things for the government, all over the Territories, and I think that if you were to question the elected Executive Members -- and you certainly may wish to -- I think you would find that they probably heave a sigh of relief that Bob Pilot is carrying that responsibility for the present time. Eventually, that responsibility should go to an elected person and I, at this stage, would not like to predict how soon that should happen but it should happen eventually.

With regard to the other responsibilities, because of my responsibility under the Northwest Territories Act and the sensitive nature of dealing with Personnel problems, and it is not a big department at all, it just has seemed to be sensible for me to retain it.

The Information portfolio is one that we are discussing within the Executive Committee at the present time and we are jointly seeking ways and means of utilizing that department so that it can be used equally by all parts of the government. Who it responds to eventually, I do not think will be particularly controversial because it will be changed in some ways so that it carries out a certain job for all parts of the government.

At the present time regional operations is tied quite closely to the capital plan and to planning for capital expenditures. Each and every Minister has an interest in that area and in fact, therefore, the Deputy Commissioner acts as a kind of a chairman of regional operations and draws it all together. It is related closely to Public Works and he acts as a co-ordinator. I suppose that that is one that can change in the future too, but we have not set any target on that.



With respect to answers in the House, I sense a certain frustration in the Member's question. I would hope that if oral questions are asked; that is, questions of an urgent nature, then I will just have to, together with the Deputy Commissioner, give a commitment that we will get our answers back just as quickly as we can if one of the elected Ministers cannot handle it right at that time, but we will just simply have to give you a commitment to get the information to you at the very earliest possible time. Thank you.

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

MR. CURLEY: Yes, the last thing...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): It is going to be before coffee, anyway.

Public Works Accountability

MR. CURLEY: Yes. I see and I share the Commissioner's understanding that I believe the Department of Public Works is a major department and one of the ones that is very much of interest to the communities and municipalities but we do not have the access to have a dialogue with Ministers or the Deputy Minister when dealing with a project that requires more information; for instance, during the question period; and I see that, sure, I like to see them get out of the involvement of the government, you know, the Commissioner and his Deputy but I do not like them to go away with holding those two departments and that was one reason that in Yellowknife you have a big city council. The municipality is able to handle the projects and so on. They can carry them out for you but in the communities, Frobisher Bay -- look at our sewer system in Rankin, for which Public Works is responsible. Nobody knows who is accountable to that, and we sense a real problem in that. I would just like the Executive and even the chairman of the elected leaders to try and find ways to respond quickly, and more quickly, so that some of the problems that we see can be resolved in a more acceptable fashion, rather than getting into frustrated and antagonistic situations.

So, that was the only main reason that I was trying to find more information out on that, because I am doing this not just to try to take the responsibility away from you guys, but to find a way that we can be provided with the response, and rather than having to wait two or three days and each Minister taking a question as a notice and forgetting about it; because that has been the common sort of practice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I have Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Patterson, Ms Cournoyea and Mrs. Sorensen after coffee. Fifteen minutes. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Braden and Mr. Hodgson -- Mr. Hodgson -- Mr. Parker. Sorry.

Political Dynamics Of The Past

In 1971, there was a great deal of political dynamics going on in the Northwest Territories. The Commissioner had a great deal of power at that time. Like Mr. Curley has expressed to you, that the access that you have to the federal government, Mr. Munro -- I guess I am concerned about that access the federal government has to the territorial government and its workings, and, especially in that political dynamics that are going on now which may be a little different but similar to 1971. I would like both Mr. Parker and Mr. Braden to comment on how they feel about the situation, when Mr. Munro could call up the Commissioner and ask him for some political advice as to what is transpiring in the Northwest Territories and that if he took a certain political position, what would he have to be concerned about in terms of reaching his objective.

For example, in 1971, in the formation of the political organizations, there was a confidential memo from Commissioner Hodgson to the Minister of Indian Affairs and the context of that confidential memo was that there were a great many problems in the Northwest Territories and they were caused mainly by the political aspirations of the native people who felt that they should have more jurisdiction in terms of land rights and ownership; and that these concerns that the Minister was bringing forward were certainly of high concern to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; and building the Northwest Territories in an organized formulated fashion that would be done in a respectful way according to the criteria of how the federal government wanted it to operate with the least bit of interference from radical people; and that the Northwest Territories could probably move more comfortably if two people such as myself and Mr. Wah-Shee were not around to complicate the issues.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame!

Dynamics Important When Determining Direction

MS COURNOYEA: I am wondering if the Minister Munro, in determining the political dynamics of what is going on in the Northwest Territories along with major industries in Ottawa, who spend a great deal of money lobbying the federal bureaucrats and who in a lot of instances are federal bureaucrats moving back and forth from industry to government, government to industry, and in view of the circumstances that the Executive Committee -- which I would like to commend at this time for taking a strong approach on the issue of trying to get together with native people and their organizations...

---Applause

...and I would like to say that these kinds of dynamics are very important when you are determining direction. I am wondering how the Commissioner would react if the Minister Munro telephoned him and asked, "Commissioner, what do I have to watch out for?" I would like to ensure that an organized, uniform approach to renewable resources gets under way without the inference of political aspirations such as provincehood from the Northwest Territories and native peoples claims. How would you answer or what kind of responsibility would you have to the Minister of Indian Affairs and the federal government to give him information that may be very critical in determining how he acts, how he proceeds



in terms of making a judgment on how to control and hold on to the resources and the development of the Northwest Territories in the interests of the federal government? I am wondering how you would answer that.

That is the question to the Commissioner. I would like to ask the Leader of the Elected Executive Committee how he feels that the Commissioner would react in that situation. Would he ask the Executive Committee that he had been approached from the Minister of Indian Affairs to provide a political determination on how the Minister should operate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Who wants to answer that first? Mr. Commissioner.

#### Federal Minister Seeks Advice From Many Sources

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, that is not an easy question to deal with. The Minister takes -- when I say the Minister now I am referring to Mr. Munro or any federal minister -- the Minister takes advice or I should say perhaps seeks advice and I do not know how many people he takes advice from, but he seeks advice from probably a pretty broad spectrum and among those persons I would hope from time to time he would and does seek my advice. He would seek the advice of elected Members and elected Executive Committee Members. He seeks the advice of other cabinet ministers. He seeks the advice of his officials. Now, the reason I mention all of these different people is to indicate that no one source is going to be the ultimate source for the Minister in formulating his plans for the North. Having formulated his plan which really can only be proposals for the North, he then must advance them through a cabinet committee and then through the cabinet so there is another process that brings into play another larger number of people. So anything that I would have to offer him would be simply one factor among many other factors.

Now, I am not exactly sure of the nature of the question but what would my advice be, what would my advice to him be? Well, first of all, he would be seeking from me only what I would call small "p" political advice, that is nothing to do with the party structure. I would have to tell him as carefully and as fully as I could of the various forces which were at work in the Northwest Territories and I would have to comment to some extent at least on what I perceived their strengths to be and perhaps their abilities. It would depend upon the nature of his question and the circumstances at the time as to what my response would be.

#### Measured And Not Partisan Advice

I suppose that in any of these things, you as Members have to have an element of trust in me as I have a very high element of trust in you, that I would draw on my experience, that I would not step out of character. I think I have established a certain credibility with some people and I think a pattern has emerged as to the nature of my actions and therefore that should be an indication of the nature of the advice that I would give to him. I would therefore hope that you would understand that this would be carefully measured advice and not partisan, that is, not particularly against or for any one person or organization. It is a very difficult question because of its nature and the only thing I can say is that depending upon the circumstances, I would give the most measured advice I could but my advice would only form a part of the pattern that the Minister would follow in seeking to arrive at a recommendation for his colleagues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. A two-barreled question there. Mr. Braden.

Participation And Knowledge Of Commissioner

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been times over the last 14 months when I or my colleagues have been outspoken or done something which is very critical of the federal government, the Department of Indian Affairs in particular, or even more specific of the Minister, John Munro, and some of his officials. Now, we have taken certain steps over the last 14 months, which as I said, have been criticized but these have been done with the knowledge of and participation by the Commissioner. I would assume that if John Munro feels he needs a certain measure of elaboration on our particular views that, he should feel free to call Mr. Parker and Mr. Parker would use his discretion in elaborating somewhat on whatever decisions the Executive Committee or the Legislature or the individual Minister has taken.

So, I think I can easily answer the question in part by saying that I have a lot of respect for our Commissioner and his ability to be objective and to use his discretion in the kind of advice that he feels he can provide to the Minister and if he feels it is of a political nature, that the Minister be referred to the Legislature or to the Executive Committee or to Northwest Territories Ministers.

Last Days Of Existence

I think one thing we have to bear in mind about the Department of Indian Affairs and its Minister is that the department is in -- if I could say this personally -- its last days of existence. I believe that we will see, in the next few years, some dramatic changes in that department. The reason I say this, is because there is an extremely high level of interest and activity by other federal departments and other federal ministers. Take, for example, the political evolution of the Northwest Territories and that element of the aboriginal rights settlements which is very political and constitutional in nature. I can say, Mr. Chairman, that the office of federal-provincial relations, the Minister and Department of Justice at the federal level are extremely interested in how things are progressing in the northern Territories.

I believe that the national energy program, which was tabled in the House of Commons last October and which is being implemented, illustrates to Canada and to the people in the North that the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources is going to be taking a much more active and involved role in the Northwest Territories.

I think that some of the recent actions being taken by the Department of Environment, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Department of Transport, for example, all point to a greatly expanded role by these departments. So, we are faced with a situation overall where one department and one minister has a kind of co-ordinating role but really where there are a lot of other experienced and influential politicians and departments who are taking a much more expanded and direct role in the Northwest Territories. All of this is to say, Mr. Chairman, that I believe that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister, while they still perform certain functions up here, have kind of slipped on the federal ladder, so to speak, and that in the future, my colleagues on the Executive and in this House, and indeed our Commissioner, are going to be dealing a lot more with other federal ministers and their departments with respect to the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. A supplementary, Ms Cournoyea.



Commissioner To Apprise Executive Committee

MS COURNOYEA: I do not think that the Commissioner fully answered my question. If you were faced with a conflict and you were asked to give privileged information from the elected people, which you are apprized to that privileged information by the normal run of activities, would you apprise the Executive Committee that you have been approached to give an analysis of a situation and let them know what you are affording to the Minister of Indian Affairs? Would you do that?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, that is a straightforward question, and therefore it is easily answered. I would either advise the Minister that his question dealt with matters that I felt my colleagues considered to be their own affairs, and therefore say nothing; or I would advise my colleagues of what my response to the Minister would be. I would only make a response to the Minister if I felt that the degree of privilege was very slight, if you can follow what I mean. In other words, if it was a discussion that took place within the Executive Committee and I felt that in my judgment it was not a matter that would disturb my colleagues if I were to advise the Minister, I would, though I would most certainly advise them of what I had said; but I would have no compunction in saying to the Minister that the subject being addressed was a matter of privileged information and that I could not carry it further.

Commissioner A Territorial Person

If I could just make one further observation, in a meeting at which quite a number -- I cannot remember how many, but several Executive Committee Members were present -- when we were meeting in Ottawa with the Minister, the Minister said -- I cannot quote his words, but the sense of it was that he saw me as, to quite a great extent, a territorial person and not necessarily -- in fact, doubtfully -- a departmental person; that is, an Indian Affairs person.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Just briefly, I would like to recognize Chief Joe Migwi and two of his councillors from Rae in the gallery.

---Applause

Thank you. I have Mrs. Sorensen.

Position Of Commissioner A Threat

MRS. SORENSEN: I just have a quick comment, Mr. Commissioner, concerning the discussion which has just taken place. In listening to what you yourself have said in response to Ms Cournoyea's questions, I can see that at some point, and perhaps that point is coming soon, that your position -- and I am not talking about you, John Parker, but your position -- will in many respects be a great threat to what this Legislature and its Executive Committee wish to do particularly with respect to moving toward responsible government in the face of certain federal government initiatives. I can anticipate that you yourself will find, at some point in the future and perhaps that point will be soon, you will find yourself in a difficult situation. You will, perhaps, have to make a choice between your loyalty and your number one responsibility to the federal government and its policy and your probably stronger loyalty to the Territories and its wish to move on. That was my comment.

I do have a question and it concerns the regional operations. There was a motion that was passed, I believe, at the last budget session, calling for the creation of a minister of regional operations and also there was a subsequent motion that was passed in Frobisher Bay calling for the creation of a minister...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mrs. Sorensen, I just wonder if we want to go -- on page 2.06 we have regional operations. Do we want to go through the whole thing or go page by page?

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Fraser, my question really is to the Commissioner...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...and it concerns policy more than...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you.

#### Discussion Of New Positions

MRS. SORENSEN: Has the Executive Committee discussed, number one, the creation of a minister of regional operations in response to Mr. Curley's motion and/or has it discussed the creation of a minister of Nunavut, in response to, I believe, Mr. Patterson's motion in Frobisher Bay?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the Executive Committee Members have discussed, on an individual basis, each of the motions but I do not believe that either one has been addressed in depth, in a formal sense, by the Executive Committee itself.

With regard to the motion to have a minister for regional operations, I looked at that and I believe that it is a move that must come eventually, but at the present time -- and it is a little difficult to put a time limit on it -- but at the present time, we are pretty well served by having the co-ordinating role being played by the Deputy Commissioner and, in particular because of the need to put together the capital planning structure. We have had a capital planning process, of course, for many, many years but it has not been as highly developed as it is now emerging and I think that it is coming along very nicely. I would like to see, and I think my colleagues agree, that we would like to see that process well in place and the co-ordinating aspects of regional operations well in place before taking that step. I cannot just say how soon that step should be taken.

With regard to a minister for Nunavut, that subject really has not been addressed fully yet. It is a subject that must be. To some extent I am waiting to see something of the actions of the House through the two committees, which really, to the best of my knowledge, have not commenced their work yet. There is also, in my mind, a need for the new Members, Executive Members, to gain some experience and knowledge of the operations of the Executive Committee before fastening on any one of them, or any of the existing Members, a direct responsibility for one part of the Territories.

#### Representation For Other Regions

If we were to establish the responsibility for one regional area of the Territories, put that responsibility on the shoulders of one Member, then we have to look to the same kind of representation for other regions. In other words, other regions could claim that they had a right to be heard at the same level as Nunavut, as the Nunavut area would be heard. The other side of that argument is, of course, that the Nunavut area is farther away and somewhat more difficult to serve perhaps. In summary, it is not a matter that has been discussed in depth and no final decision has been taken. I think that a little more experience is necessary in that area.

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



### Ministries Of Regions Rather Than Departments

MRS. SORENSEN: I can understand when you say that with the creation of a minister of Nunavut, other regions would certainly perhaps indicate that they would like the same thing. I would like to see some activity in the whole area of alternatives to ministries of program departments. Development perhaps of ministries of the Baffin, a ministry of the Keewatin, a ministry of the Central Arctic, a ministry of Inuvik, a ministry of Fort Smith, perhaps even ministry of headquarters. We seem to have a lot of money and staff here.

Has there been any general discussion about going that route? We are always talking about how we are different up here and yet we have forged ahead and created ministers of program departments much like has been done in the South. Yet we have decentralized to a great extent, costing us an awful lot of money. Further there is an awful lot of power in the regions with those regional directors and I would really see that perhaps we, as a government, would find some benefit in at least looking at a new structure as opposed to simply copying what has gone on in the past in the South. I am wondering if perhaps you, as the Commissioner, would undertake to look at that yourself and think about that and perhaps come back at a later date, perhaps at the May session, with your own ideas of at least some options. First, could I have an indication of what you think of regional ministers.

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

### Uniformity Of Programs Across NWT

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the difficulty that presents itself immediately to having regional ministries rather than ministries of programs is that of having some uniformity of programs across the Territories. Now, we are not all hung up on offering the same programs from one end of the Territories to the other because that is not necessarily appropriate but, it is important that there not be a multiplicity of programs that might even be competing with each other in, say, the economic development field or if an altogether different approach is taken in, say, renewable resources. That is the principal difficulty that I see.

Now, certainly I am not opposed to taking some new looks. In fact, it is probably a very wise thing to do. I may as well say right now that it would not be possible, in my view, to come forward with anything very profound by May. The time is just too short. The Executive Committee Members have been very, very busy and working hard. I am not just throwing this out for the sake of adding words to the record but they really have been. You know, in the first year of their term, they have taken on a very substantial number of heavy issues, and particularly constitutional issues, so we have had to go light in some areas. In other words, we just cannot cover all of the bases at once. The other thing that I would like to add is that we really have a very small research staff, that is, people with the time and the capability to do the kind of research that we would all like to see carried out, the very practical research that needs to be done. So we are definitely limited in that area.

### Priority For Immediate Study

I would though be prepared to raise with my colleagues the question of some new and different designs in the manner of ministries and perhaps, well certainly by the fall we should be able to have some comments to make on that area. I have to be really careful here because this is an area that I certainly would not want to proceed with on my own but I would certainly give a commitment to raise it with my colleagues to see whether it is an area that they would like to attach some priority to for immediate study.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. I have Mr. Patterson next.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going way back to Nick Sibbeston's question and I am not a native Member obviously but I was interested in his question and I would like to give some reaction if I can. Now, first of all, there is no Executive oath of secrecy. At least, if there is one, I have not taken it yet. I do not...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Patterson, I wonder if we could deal with that on the next page, that is the Executive Members. We are dealing with the Commissioner's office right now and we have two pages, Ministers' office and then the Executive Committee secretariat. Do you want to deal with that now or do you want to wait until we get to it?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, I do not mind waiting, Mr. Chairman, but maybe you should try to get comments from everybody who puts their hand up when a certain question is asked at the time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I will. It does not matter to me if you want to deal with the whole budget, the whole Executive, and then come back to approving it. I am easy. We can do that or else deal with one page at a time, whichever way the Members want to deal with it.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will wait. That is fine.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay. We have the Commissioner's office on page 2.02 in the amount of \$397,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion concerning the Executive Members. I believe the Commissioner is a member of the Executive Members so if you will permit me, I would like to move a motion to see if it is in order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is that, Mr. Curley, on the Executive Committee secretariat or the Ministers' office or is it a Commissioner's office?

MR. CURLEY: Well it concerns the Commissioner and his responsibility. I believe that is an appropriate...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): That is okay then. Go ahead.

Motion That Executive Committee Members Not Vote Until Responsibilities Have Devolved

MR. CURLEY: Yes. I would like to move that the Executive Committee Members responsible for the Departments of Public Works, Personnel and regional operations be seated, without voting privileges, during formal proceedings of this Legislature's question period, until such time as their responsibilities have devolved to elected representatives to allow questions from ordinary MLA's about departmental matters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We will have to get a copy of that so we could -- have you got a copy made out?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Point of order, Mr. Stewart.

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to the length of that motion, I wonder whether we could have that typed so that we can study it because I think there is quite a few implications in that particular motion. I would like to have a look at it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. We will take a 10 minute recess and have this motion typed. Mr. McCallum.



HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not presume to tell you how to run your committee meetings but could we not come back to that motion without recessing and continue on and then, you could determine whether in fact the motion is in order before it would be translated. I do not think it is necessary to take a recess at this time. That is my own humble opinion, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. We will have to get the consent from Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley, would you agree?

MR. CURLEY: Agreed.

Commissioner's Office, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay. Thank you. We will continue then with the Commissioner's office on page 2.02 until such time as we get this motion cleared and typed. Commissioner's office, total O and M, \$397,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley, we will defer that motion until later. You could bring it in on the Executive budget.

Commissioner's Office, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Commissioner's office, total expenditures, \$397,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M

Page 2.03, Ministers' office. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Can I ask you a question? I thought that my motion would have to come in before we vote on the Commissioner's office.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I am told that your motion could come in -- it is still going to be in effect with the Ministers' office and the Executive Committee secretariat. It will still be in effect.

MR. CURLEY: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ministers' office, page 2.03, the amount of \$969,000. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Regulating And Controlling Expenditures

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I saved this question until now because the Commissioner is well known for his personal frugality where the expenditure of public funds is concerned. I am absolutely not one to begrudge a little extra expenditure to add dignity to government offices or other kinds of offices. I am referring, of course, to the recent renovations and I say that sincerely when I do not begrudge additional expenditure, but I do recognize that a number of people, having seen the renovations, whether it is justified or not, perceive it to be somewhat lavish. Also in recognizing that there are some public servants, in their zeal to please political bosses who can offer enticements that are somewhat difficult to resist -- and so as not to attach that only to the Executive, I would say such things as special licence plates for MLA's -- and noticing that, I would simply ask, does the Executive Committee have some

mechanism for controlling, regulating the amount of expenditure for that sort of thing? Is there an automatic kind of review for the frequency of renovation, the amount that would be spent on renovation, and is the Executive Committee quite ready to disclose the amount that is -- publicly -- the amount that is spent on that sort of thing?

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

#### Space Planning

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The expenditures that were made for the renovations on the sixth floor of the Laing Building were approved by the Executive Committee. I might say generally, although I would have to ask the Commissioner to comment a little further, we engage in something every now and then called space planning where we examine office requirements of various departments, the amount of space that is provided for each official to work in and the kind of renovations that would take place when a particular department is expanding. Now, with respect to the sixth floor, we were just attempting to bring the one section of the floor up to the same standards as the others. I might indicate generally that in our capital reviews over the last two years, one particular item that we have paid very close attention to is something called office furnishings and supplies, and as I recall it, last year we took about one and a half million dollars out of that particular section of the capital budget.

Mr. Chairman, as far as indicating whether there are some special mechanisms in place to put a check on lavish expenditures by the Executive or by specific departments and senior officials in specific departments, as far as the Executive goes I have a fair idea of what each Minister can expend on certain personal expenses, personal items related to his ministry. Then as far as each particular department is concerned, it is more or less the responsibility of the Minister concerned to make sure that his department is not expending public money in an overly lavish way. Now we will be criticized, I would assume, for the manner in which we do expend public moneys but I can just say generally that each Minister is responsible for making sure that his department and senior officials in his department keep a check on the kind of public expenditures they are making, particularly in those areas where the public is going to view this as just making life comfortable for the civil service.

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

#### Public Spending Is Accountable

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would agree that in the final analysis, the best check and the one that is least cumbersome, I guess, is that whoever is doing the spending is accountable for it. So could we have an undertaking that whenever these kinds of expenditures are made, that whoever might wish to find out what they cost would have no difficulty in finding out that, whatsoever?

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I give that commitment to the honourable Member. I would ask, though, that when he requires such information, that it may be necessary from time to time to elaborate further just on what the request is. Now, let me elaborate a bit. Sometimes there are all kinds of rumours and suggestions that there is an overly lavish expenditure of public funds and I have no problem with providing a detailed account of what the expenditures are. However, that may take some time and some digging to find the exact figure, because of the manner in which the expenditure took place as it may be over a number of departments or whatever. But I would assure the Member that I hope that he would not construe this, as a means of stalling or trying to evade the issue, because it is public money and I believe that you people have the right to know how it is being spent.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a question to the elected representative, the chairman of the Executive Committee. There has been a bit of talk about the lavish offices up in...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I wonder if you could just pull your mike a little closer? We can barely hear you. Thank you.

Departmental Offices For Executive Committee

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. I would like to ask you whether or not, now that you have all the elected representatives fill the Executive Committee positions, whether or not you see the need to move into the departmental offices, rather than just filling up the sixth floor with all types of executives. I say that because this is not a party politics that exists yet and it is supposed to be a consensus government. In that respect, would you not see public funds being better spent if you were to make offices of the Executive Committee Members who have departments, departmental offices? Has that been considered at all? You guys are going to continue to get criticism from the public with that extravaganza and all that, and it is a little uncomfortable to many of us. It will probably always be, until -- I do not know what happens. Have you reviewed that possibility at all, moving into departmental buildings?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member has brought this issue up before. I believe it was a year ago, when we were considering the budget and at that time the Commissioner answered on behalf of the Executive. I can say honestly to the honourable Member that, no, we have not considered having Ministers assume or take up an office in their respective departments. As the Commissioner indicated last year when the honourable Member raised the question, there are a few factors to be considered and I will briefly review them.

Matter Of Convenience

First, the Executive Committee spends a great deal of time during the day working together as a unit in various meetings. Fridays are usually taken up with the Executive Committee. Thursdays are either financial management board or priorities and planning and from time to time there are a number of special meetings that are called, or smaller meetings, where it is a matter of convenience that we are close together and that it is relatively easy to communicate with one another.

Second, I think that I could say that in the case of a few of us, if we were to have offices in each department, Mr. McCallum, for example, would have an office at the Housing Corporation, the Department of Health and Social Services; Mr. Butters would have one in the Department of Finance and the Department of Economic Development; I would have one on the sixth floor or the fifth floor and in the Department of Justice and Public Services.

MRS. SORENSEN: And the liquor warehouse.

---Laughter

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: And the liquor warehouse. Not the plush surroundings I am used to. I would say, Mr. Chairman, that I can understand the intent of the honourable Member's point, that it would bring the Minister into closer contact with his department and away from the sixth floor which has its disadvantages and drawbacks because of its location and so on and so forth but as I understand it, these are the points that were raised generally last year by the Commissioner. To conclude, in answer to your question, no we have not considered moving to specific departments.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Braden, under this budget here, are the Deputy Ministers' salaries reflected in this budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, no they are not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

Deputy Minister's Status

MS COURNOYEA: When a person is made a Deputy Minister, and from time to time I see him taken out of the bureaucracy to become a Deputy Minister, what is his status, what is the person's status? Does he leave the bureaucracy and take on a special status as assigned to the Minister or does he stay within the department budget? Where does a Deputy Minister fit in in terms of status?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Minister's salary would be included in the salary of the departments or the -- well, take for example the directorate of the Department of Economic Development. It would include the salary of the Deputy Minister of Economic Development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Does this put the Deputy Minister on a term basis, that he would take on his Deputy Minister's position? The reason I am asking is that if the minister changes portfolio and you do not want that particular person in the Deputy Minister's position, what ties you to that individual?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

Mutually Agreeable Arrangement

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, it is a matter that would be up to the Minister involved, the Deputy Minister involved and the Commissioner. I know, for example, in provincial governments, and I believe even in the federal government, the standard practice for Deputy Ministers, when a new government comes into power, is to collectively tender their resignations. Well, we have not come to that practice here yet but if it is the case that a Minister just adamantly refuses to work with a Deputy Minister who happens to be in a department to which the Minister is assigned, I believe this is a matter which hopefully can be handled on a professional, mature basis whereby the Minister, the Commissioner and the Deputy Minister in question can work out a mutually agreeable arrangement and if the Deputy Minister must be replaced, well then so be it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Ms Cournoyea is that your question? Have you any further questions? Mrs. Sorensen.

Protection For Executive Assistants And Secretaries

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Braden, there are individuals that are within the Ministers' offices who are executive assistants and secretaries. It is my understanding that they neither belong to the union nor are eligible for the Hay Plan. Is that so, is that true and if it is, are there any plans under way to create a mechanism whereby they have some protection as well?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.



HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member is correct. In the case of executive assistants, we have worked out a system whereby, there are three tiers in terms of salary and it is at the discretion of the Minister and the person that he or she has chosen to be the executive assistant to find what level the executive assistant will be placed at in terms of salary. They do receive the other normal benefits that other civil servants receive but, as I understand it, if I resign or am thrown out of the Executive, my executive assistant goes along with me.

Now, with respect to the executive secretaries, they are not covered under the Hay Plan. As I understand it, some concern has been expressed and I have been endeavouring to deal with the issue. It takes on kind of a general context in the sense of the Ministers saying to themselves "Well, do I want to really establish a Minister's office where all the people working for me are people that I have chosen myself and that I can exercise a certain amount of discretion in paying them what I think or what we both think that they are worth." I think it is another step in evolving the Minister's office or offices to what is currently the practice in other jurisdictions.

Ministers' Offices, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mrs. Sorensen. Any further questions? Ministers' offices on page 2.03. The amount of \$969,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I had a question to the Executive Member. I was interrupted by the Clerk here. If you will give me permission, I would like to ask a question with respect to the motion passed last time, today to the Executive, to the Ministers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Curley.

Eastern Arctic Portfolio

MR. CURLEY: Okay. My question concerns the motion that we passed in Frobisher Bay asking that, the Executive Committee Members -- this Legislature actually recommended that the new Minister be assigned responsibility for the Eastern Arctic portfolio. I wonder whether or not you have any progress report on that or whether or not the Executive Committee has rejected it or if so, why have they or are they going to bring this matter for discussion with the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, as the Commissioner indicated, we have not given it any consideration within the Executive Committee. I do not want to leave the honourable Member with the impression that it is an item which we are going to ignore. We felt that it would be very necessary to have Mr. Patterson and Mr. Tologanak present and to allow them to get an understanding of procedures in the Executive before we got to a discussion of this particular issue.

Mr. Patterson and Mr. Tologanak came onstream early in January and I regret to say that given the Executive agenda over the last few weeks, it has just not been an issue which we have been able to address. I assure the honourable Member and

I am sure that my colleague, Mr. Patterson, can give him assurances as well that this is not an issue which is going to collect dust on the shelf or anything like that. It is something that will be given serious consideration in the Executive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, I have a motion that the Clerk I believe has and I wonder if that could be read now before the item is finally...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley, as long as we are still on the Executive budget, your motion will still be in order.

MR. CURLEY: Okay. I will let it go for now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I think we will just take a 15 minute coffee break, it now being 4:00 and you can straighten it out with the Clerk and then we will bring the motion in right after coffee.

---SHORT RECESS



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I recognize a quorum. Mr. Curley, I think we have your motion now, if you want to deal with it.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): For the benefit of the Members who have not got the translation, the interpreters do not have the time right now. I wonder if you could read it out to them in Inuktitut.

Motion That Executive Committee Members Not Vote Until Responsibilities Devolve, Withdrawn

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to withdraw my first motion and reintroduce a new one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Go ahead.

Motion To Have Commissioner And Deputy Respond To Various Government Departmental Questions

INTERPRETER: The interpreters will be reading the English version. That the Rules of this Assembly be amended to permit the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to be seated in the Assembly without the right to vote during formal proceedings to respond to questions relating to the Departments of Personnel, regional operations and Public Works until responsibility for these departments is devolved to elected representatives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Does everybody have a copy of the motion? It is a committee motion that the Rules of this Assembly be amended to permit the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to be seated in the Assembly without the right to vote during formal proceedings to respond to questions related to the Departments of Personnel, regional operations and Public Works until responsibility for these departments is devolved to elected representatives. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) For DPW, and they are using the largest money, and settlement, and they have a lot of work in communities, and they are not being taken by the hand right now. When they are asked a question, it is very hard to get some answer. Because of that, when we are meeting in this Assembly, I think it would be better if they could answer some questions. When you live in very far away settlements, it is very hard to get answers. When you ask questions, they always say, I recognize your question but -- I would like some support from the...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We are having trouble with the translation. Are you going to say something in English too, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Go ahead.

Most Expensive Departments

MR. CURLEY: Okay. My motion is trying to bring the Commissioner -- not so much that I want him to be present during the formal proceedings, but the Department of Public Works is one of the most costly departments and it affects every aspect of the settlements in the Territories and since the hamlets have taken over some of the municipalities' responsibilities in terms of local government, the Department of Public Works is still an isolated department as far as the local hamlets, local governments are concerned. So, on that basis, I am merely asking through this motion that the Commissioner and his Deputy be seated during the question period only, without voting privileges, so that the Members, like myself, can ask a question and be able to ask a supplementary question, rather than being curtly told that it will be taken as a notice and provide an answer.

It becomes very frustrating and it even becomes discouraging for me to ask a question related to Public Works, regional operations and Personnel, because I am going to get the runaround and I am not able to represent my constituency effectively without being able to give them information that is of interest to my constituents. So, I would urge you to just support the motion and ask the rules committee to change its rules to permit them to be here during the question period. I think we would be doing a great service to our public, because right now what these departments, which are the most expensive departments, do not have is a decent accountability to the public at this time, other than going through one of the Ministers responsible for other departments. So, I am simply asking you to support it and I think you will do a great service to my constituency if you were to support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I just have one question on the motion and that is, you have specified no time limit. Do you want this to happen now, this session, or next session, or when do you want the rules committee to deal with this motion, or is it up to the rules committee?  
Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I did not put a date on it, but I would definitely like them to be seated as quickly as possible. I do not know how far the rules committee can change its rules, but given the support, if someone would like to add an amendment that it become effective as soon as it is passed through this committee, then certainly I think it would help me.  
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

Only Elected People Should Be In Assembly

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Curley and I usually agree on things, but this is one issue that I just cannot agree with him on. I can appreciate his problem and the frustration that he feels but I really think that only elected people should be in the Assembly here.

---Applause

I, for one, do not even agree with Mr. Parker being in here during committee of the whole. I was elected the first time in 1970 and we had a council then that consisted of seven elected and five appointed. I was sitting by a person who was appointed, he was from Ottawa, and he had as much or more voice than me in council. We have progressed, of course, to the point where now we are all elected and we do not have any appointed people during the formal sitting of this Assembly. I really think that is definite progress and we are on the road, in a sense, to responsible government. I think that to have the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner in formal session is to go backwards...

MR. CURLEY: The question period only.

MR. SIBBESTON: ...and certainly, not having a Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner puts the onus on the Commissioner to give these departments to elected people. Not having the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner in the House also puts the onus on the elected people to answer questions and to deal with matters. I suspect that if the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were in the House to answer questions, that many of the questions would be directed toward them and I think that that is not right. I think that it is only proper that the elected people who become Ministers are the ones who ought to answer questions and deal with matters that arise.



So, I oppose the motion and think it would be just backward steps to now -- we have had them out now and I believe it works reasonably well and I think it is a backward step to now, get them back in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. To the motion. Mr. Kilabuk.

Immediate Answers Wanted To Questions

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, can you hear me? Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a comment. In the first place, the motion was pretty clear. The elected Members must be meeting regularly to discuss the capital items, on planning, capital items and then they should be able to answer the question being asked at a session. When we ask a question, we are told that the answers will come later, and also, when I was first councillor, before the elected Member, I told the elected Members to sit on the planning committee. I support what is in the motion.

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

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) I wanted to support the motion. There used to be not so much problem before, when the Commissioner's assistants were sitting in the meeting because they were able to answer questions and there were not too many Ministers. I understood that before there was any Minister to DPW, a lot of them to sit in the meeting, I will be supporting the motion. Mr. Sibbeston was not supporting the motion. If he wants to become a Minister, I will not support it. If he does not want to become a Minister, then I will support him.

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

Question Period Becoming An Important Means Of Expressing Urgent Concerns

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that the question period, since I have been on this Assembly, is starting to become really an important means of the ordinary Members' expressing their urgent concerns and helping to set priorities and sort of in a day-to-day way, shape government and influence government policy. Here we have very important departments not really part of that dynamic process. I support the motion. I think that any concerns about the appearances of having non-elected Members participating have to be weighed against the fact that at least they will be accountable, even though they are not elected, to the Members of the Assembly, and secondly, it is only during a question period. We are not going much farther than that. I do not think that Mr. Sibbeston's concerns are too serious in light of that fact. It would only be half an hour a day at the most. So I would support the motion and urge other Members to do so as well.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I am going to say is not going to be too long. We know, as a government, I think we will be going back to the things we did before. Now, we know that what we did promise, some part of it has to be better than what it was, and I think people recognize this. I think people recognize that we would like to get some answers quicker than before, because it helps us in our constituencies and for people who live quite far.

I feel that it is going to be like this all of the time if we have the same government here. Also, there will be new elections after three years. Perhaps when there are new ministers -- after three years there is going to be another territorial Assembly election and the new ministers will probably not know their jobs right away, after the election. I really support the motion. Thank you.

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

Non-Elected Members Should Not Be Within Assembly Ropes

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that I will not ever again be accused of rigid thinking. When this matter first arose I was one of those who urged it, more than a year ago. I thought then that it was very desirable to have access to the people who were in charge of various departments. When the issue came up the second time -- this time I cannot remember when it was, perhaps Baker Lake -- Mr. Curley brought it up -- I had changed my thinking a little bit and I abstained at that time. Now that it is brought up a third time, I must say that I will vote against the motion.

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: I have been working on him.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Not at all. I have been thinking.

---Laughter

Which is not an unusual process for me -- it is going on all the time.

---Laughter

With respect to this -- sometimes better than others, I am afraid, or sometimes worse than others. At any rate, in looking at what has happened over the past year, I have certainly come to feel that the system that we do have is adequate if not excellent. I feel that with respect to questions, the type that would be referred to mainly would be oral questions rather than written questions and what happens often, of course, is if we ask an oral question without giving any notice, the Ministers find it difficult to respond anyway and if we are going to give notice, we can as easily give that notice to the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner and could have their responses prepared for someone else to answer in the House.

Now, I agree the one weakness still is Mr. Curley's concern, that you cannot come back immediately with a supplementary question, although I do not think anybody would object too much if the answering Minister had to lean over the ropes and have a word put into his ear in order to answer a supplementary question. At any rate, I have come to agree with Mr. Sibbeston, I suppose, that I would just as soon see it the way it is and not bring non-elected members in more than is necessary. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Any further questions to the motion?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley, you realize that if I let you talk the motion is finished -- cut off all debate.

MRS. SORENSEN: No, that is in formal session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay. Go ahead Mr. Curley.

Very Controversial Departments

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am just amazed that some of the guys who have been so concerned with finances, you know, they just think about the mandate Mr. MacQuarrie gave the education committee about the grants and bursaries.



He told us to report and make a recommendation. Now he is against them. Now, it is not the first time he has changed his mind. We are talking about at least \$100 million worth of public money in the hands of these two guys and we say, let them not be accountable; let them keep their hands in their pockets and do whatever they want with it and no accountability to this Legislative Assembly and to the public of the Territories. Now he is satisfied, you know, if \$100 million -- it is roughly that -- it is more than \$90 million of the three departments and I did not include Information, and they say it is all right to leave them without accountability to the Assembly and to the public. I am saying, until such time they devolve this responsibility to the elected Members, they should at least be provided with the opportunity for the Members -- private Members -- to put it on the record, because some of these departments are very controversial ones.

The Department of Public Works involves a lot of tendering, a lot of contracts that go out to southern Canada, not in the Territories. A lot of money is being spent by the construction people, with the construction and so on for building works, and their tenders normally are awarded to other than the Territories. I am concerned that I think we have even a small measure of accountability through the question period. They should at least be there to put things on the record, because one of the main concerns that I have is to put things on the record, rather than outside of the chambers, and I can do that too.

#### Accountability To Our People

My constituents would like to be able to hear, from time to time, what kind of contract DPW is going to be giving out to constructing the sewage system and all the departmental buildings in my region. I say it again, in Yellowknife you are not concerned with those things. The city of Yellowknife is looking after those. So on that basis, I think it is our duty as elected representatives to be able to at least provide a minimum amount of accountability to our people, because we are surely not getting it in the Eastern Arctic. So, I would urge you to reconsider your position and change your mind again and I would very much like you to do it. Thank you.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Then what would you accuse me of?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Curley were correct when he says that not having them here means that they are not accountable to anybody then that would be a very serious thing but, of course, that is not so. Mr. Curley had the opportunity on Friday -- oh, pardon me, he was not here on Friday -- when Mr. Pilot was in the House and he then was made accountable, people questioned him with respect to capital planning. He could have been challenged at that time and, of course, each of these departments, we are going to be dealing with their estimates and so the people who are concerned will be made accountable at that time.

There is a good measure of budget accountability and I think that the kinds of questions that would be asked during the question period do not particularly deal with that kind of accountability, but rather information as to what is happening in that particular department or what is not happening. I believe that that can be handled adequately in the other way. I can see also that DPW is a very important department and so I think not that nothing should be done about it but that we should be pressing very hard to make sure soon that that is a department that is handled by an elected representative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Anything further to the motion? Question being called. Mrs. Sorensen. To the motion.

MRS. SORENSEN: What I say will just be a repetition of what Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. MacQuarrie have said but I think repetition is essential in this Legislature because it does not always sink in the first time.

---Laughter

Present Ministers Could Take On Responsibilities Of These Four Departments

I certainly agree with Mr. Sibbeston that we would be taking a backward step to bring both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner back within the ropes. I think our major emphasis should be on pressing for the devolvement of those four departments; well, there is three listed here but there is another one and that is Information as well. Those four departments are very important and I think that we should have a motion that states that we wish those four to be devolved rather than a motion that brings the Commissioner back into the ropes. I think we should try again to restate our wish for an elected Minister to take on those responsibilities. I think Mr. Patterson is quite capable of handling more than the Department of Education. He is a brilliant statesman and I think that he could handle particularly regional operations. He is familiar with the regions and he has an affinity for what goes on in the region. I think Mr. McCallum too is a brilliant statesman...

---Applause

...and certainly could handle a bit more than he is handling. Likewise, I think all the other Members, particularly those who have been around for the past year, have gained some experience and could take on additional responsibilities as well.

Members have also mentioned that they feel they have not had responses quickly enough and that if the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were within the ropes, things might be a bit different. Well, I do not really think that is necessarily so. I think sometimes there is strategy in not answering the question or in seeking time to think about the answer and I do not think that Mr. Parker or Mr. Pilot would act any differently in many cases. Sometimes the questions that we ask are very, very loaded questions and that is a way to get out of it. In a federal or provincial legislature, the party in power just repeats itself over and over and over again and never gives any answer at all. At least when we get written answers, we do get the kind of answers that we require to assist, as Mr. Pudluk said, to assist our constituencies.

Questions Have Been Answered Adequately

As far as our elected Ministers are concerned, on the whole, I feel that they have been answering the questions adequately, that is if they are not evasive...

---Laughter

SOME HON. MEMBERS: For Yellowknife?

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: ...and particularly if they are given notice. I have certainly tried as much as is possible to give notice and certainly have always been satisfied with the response that I have received if I have given that notice. Many times new questions arise but certainly my questions have been answered. I feel that I cannot support the motion for those reasons and I would urge Members to think about defeating this motion and coming in with another motion that recommends that the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner devolve those responsibilities that they now have immediately to the elected Members. Thank you.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Patterson, have you got something to say for those nice words?

Hastening Process Of Devolution

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, despite those flattering comments, I disagree with the honourable Member. I think, Mr. Chairman, that she is suggesting that anyone who votes in favour of this motion is against devolution of these departments to elected Members and I do not feel that way at all. In fact, I feel that if we have non-elected officials put in the somewhat difficult position of answering to a political body, questions that may well have political implications, that we may in fact encourage the process of the devolution of these departments to elected Members because it is going to be somewhat difficult for them to deal with some of these questions. I do not think the two issues are mutually exclusive. I think that it is quite possible to vote for this motion and to believe as I do that eventually we should be working towards having these positions held by elected Members.

So I urge Members to vote in favour of the motion and not to look at it as an issue of whether or not we believe that non-elected officials should hold these positions. I think all Members probably would like to see these positions devolved and we are making some considerable progress. I think that it cannot all happen overnight but after all, we focused on regional operations as a priority. We focused on the Eastern Arctic which may have special needs and we urged the creation of a Minister of Finance, and that has occurred. Interestingly enough, I have just learned that we do not need any revised letters of instructions from the Minister of Northern Affairs to hand these portfolios over to elected Members. It is something that can be done by the Commissioner with the Executive Committee and I think it is quite fair to say that will happen soon enough, and really if we approve this motion, I think it will hasten the whole process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. PUDLUK: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I hear a question being called.

MR. PUDLUK: Recorded vote. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Recorded vote, I take it. I will just read the motion: That the Rules of this Assembly be amended to permit the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to be seated in the Assembly without the right to vote during formal proceedings, to respond to questions related to the Departments of Personnel, regional operations and Public Works until responsibility for these departments is devolved to elected representatives. A question has already been called and a recorded vote has been called for. All in favour, please stand. Mr. Clerk.

Motion To Have Commissioner And Deputy Commissioner Respond To Various Government Departmental Questions, Carried

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Against, please stand.

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Stewart.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Abstentions.

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. Noah, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Braden.

AN HON. MEMBER: You earned your money, Mr. Fraser.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): No sweat.

---Laughter

I understand that it is a tie vote on account of the abstentions so that means one thing.

---Laughter

Mr. Sibbeston, what have you got to say?

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to raise a point of order on the basis that I feel that a motion like this should not be dealt with at this time. I feel it is a motion of significance for procedural and formal -- it is a formal and very important matter that concerns the whole House and ought to be dealt with in formal Assembly rather than in committee of the whole. So I would raise the objection to the motion and suggest that you rule that this motion is out of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Sibbeston, I have already ruled the motion in order. If you want to challenge my decision, go ahead.

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. My decision has been challenged and I will report. Sit down, Mr. Patterson. We are not finished here yet.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am just putting my coat on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay. I am in the position here where I am told that I have to break that tie.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay, and the vote went seven yes, seven no and four abstentions so I will vote yes.

---Carried

---Applause

Now, Mr. Sibbeston, you can challenge my decision that the motion is in order and I will report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

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

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MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, the committee has been studying Bill 1-81(1). A motion was on the floor by one of the Members and my decision was challenged as to whether the motion was in order or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We will break for a few moments.

---SHORT RECESS



Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: On studying the matters, there are two points that should be raised. It is very doubtful that Mr. Sibbeston's motion was in order, because the vote -- it had been accepted and the vote had been taken, so it is very questionable whether Mr. Sibbeston's point...

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. It is Mr. Curley's motion, not Mr. Sibbeston's.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am speaking about the motion that...

MR. FRASER: You are speaking now of the challenge.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the challenge -- the motion to challenge. So, it is very questionable that that motion is in order. However, there is nothing in our rules that would indicate that the motion is not acceptable, so the Chair rules that the motion is in order and has been passed. We will return to the committee of the whole, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

---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): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, may I have permission to bring back Mr. Moore and Mr. Horn?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Yes, Mr. Braden. We are still dealing with main estimates, the Ministers' offices, the Executive, page 2.03, the amount of \$969,000. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

Improving Regional Communications

MR. CURLEY: Yes, I had a question to the Executive Committee Member here. Although I respect Mr. Braden's efforts in trying to improve the communications with the MLA's, ordinary MLA's, I think there is still concern from some of us, like myself, that there is not enough communication with the Executive Committee Members. The lines of communication are still very much through the regional director. Although the Deputy Commissioner indicated to you guys the other day, with respect to capital planning, that all the MLA's had been pretty well consulted and have been approached, and they are taking part very nicely and smoothly, but I can say to you guys that I have attended one meeting, which was merely an information meeting with the regional staff in trying to find out what is being planned for the capital planning -- it was not even a capital planning -- it was a major operations planning for this coming fiscal year.

So, I cannot say that I have taken effective involvement in capital planning. I would challenge that the Deputy Commissioner's remarks the other day were inaccurate and were said in trying to, maybe, put support to the Executive, I do not know, but I have no problem communicating with the regional director and I say that has improved a lot, but I say again that in dealing with the Executive Committee Members, I would like to see a way that you can maybe improve the communications with us in the field. So often when you are making an announcement with respect to the new policies announced, we normally get the

feedback or response or the summary of it from the regional director. Even when there is money involved in our regions, we are not consulted very much, or when the Ministers are going to be travelling to our region we are not contacted directly. So, I wonder if you have any plans for us to try and improve the contact with us, so that we not be left out in the cold in our region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Just for the clarification of the Chair, did you say an honorary Member or an ordinary Member?

MR. CURLEY: Ordinary.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ordinary Member. How do we distinguish an ordinary Member? Just an MLA, not a Minister?

MR. CURLEY: Not the Ministers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

#### Ministers Consulting Other MLA's

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not attempt to comment on that one. I agree with the honourable Member to a certain extent. There have been cases in the past where we have made decisions and made announcements without the proper consultation with our colleagues who are in constituencies and who will be affected by our decisions. I can say that, by way of improvement, the best step to take would be to spend more time in various constituencies, to meet constituents and the various Members, and to learn first hand about the kinds of issues that are of importance in the Eastern Arctic or the Mackenzie Valley, or the Central Arctic, or whatever. I would like to say that hopefully in the future we can travel more. The reality is that we are, to a certain extent, chained to Yellowknife, but we are also responsible for the whole Northwest Territories and we do travel a lot to other regions, as well as to the South to fulfil our responsibilities there.

#### Government Communications Policy

Second, and this is something that I am currently undertaking. Work is being done with the Department of Information to establish a communications policy for the Government of the Northwest Territories. Now, Mr. Curley indicated in his remarks that there are times when decisions are made where money is being expended in a particular community or constituency and I have often expressed the concern that here is the government spending X hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars and neither the government nor the MLA from the constituency are doing very much to take any credit for positive things that are being done.

Now, what we hope to do with this communications policy is to streamline the manner in which the Executive communicates with MLA's prior to taking decisions; communicates with MLA's on a joint basis when decisions are announced, and also, we hope to improve the manner in which our officials communicate with people on a day-to-day basis. I think it is understandable that our officials are the people who -- not only MLA's, but residents of the Northwest Territories -- we come into contact with the most, and we want to streamline this process. We want to improve the kind of oral or verbal transmission of information. We would like to see a more professional and effective approach taken with the written media and through television and radio. So, Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I recognize that the honourable Member has some sincere and valid concerns. I hope that in the future, with a well defined and effective communications policy and programs, we can help to alleviate some of these problems. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Curley, supplementary.



Communications With Regions Necessary

MR. CURLEY: The final one. Mr. Chairman, I certainly do not expect the Executive Committee Members to be travelling around in our region just to provide some part of the needs of the public relations work in that. What I am saying is that normally I receive the press releases of the government compiled into one big -- in a number of pages, all lined up for the month and collected; and normally they are quite a few days old, even a few weeks old. I normally do not have time to go through some of the things that are at least three weeks old or something. So, these are the kinds of things that I am concerned with.

For instance, the Department of Local Government has been conducting, I believe for a number of months or years, the proposed municipalities ordinance, but I do not have a direct communication or any information from them about their intentions as to how they wish to go about discussing a paper of that sort, nor have I received any information on that through the House. I think it would be kind of helpful to us to have some information, as our regional directors have, about the government's plans to carry out the policies. You know, that is what I am asking really, that if you can work something out with the regional directors where we can be briefed and be able to at least have communication with some of the people about a major policy effort by your government. That is about all I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Page 2.03, Ministers' offices in the amount of \$969,000. Agreed. Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion To Devolve Various Departmental Responsibilities To Elected Ministers

MRS. SORENSEN: I have a motion, Mr. Chairman, that this Legislature recommend to the Commissioner that the responsibilities for the Departments of Personnel, regional operations, Public Works and Information be devolved from the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner to the elected Ministers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Is that a motion?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I wonder then, if we could just take time and get it distributed. Is it very lengthy?

MRS. SORENSEN: No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. We will just check it over here and see if we can read your writing. Could the Clerk please read the motion again?

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Hamilton): The motion is that the Legislature recommend to the Commissioner that the responsibilities for the Departments of Personnel, regional operations, Public Works and Information be devolved from the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to the elected Ministers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen. To the motion.

MRS. SORENSEN: I was going to say if you wished it typed or anything, I would be prepared to move on and then come back to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you very much. Then we will get it typed and then move on and come back before we have completed the Executive budget. Page 2.03, \$969,000. Mr. Curley.

Same Motion Raised Last Year

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, since Mrs. Sorensen has put forth a motion, which is exactly the same as the one I introduced last year, I wonder maybe if I would be given the privilege to ask Mr. Braden as to what has happened to that motion and whether or not the Executive Committee Members have analysed the motion urging the Commissioner to devolve his responsibility. Could you give me some information on whether or not any progress has been made with respect to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Since the motion was made by my honourable colleague, I believe we have made some measure of progress and have begun recognizing the kinds of points the Commissioner raised earlier on. In June of this year, I was asked by my colleagues on the Executive to speak on behalf of the elected Members of the Executive Committee and to, in effect, assume a number of the functions or roles which the Commissioner previously had been responsible for. For example, that includes communicating with, through a variety of forms, provincial premiers, the Prime Minister, the Governor General, and also at times speaking on behalf of the government as opposed to having the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner speak on behalf of the government.

Portfolios Transferred To Ministers

In addition, there have been other portfolios transferred to elected Members. These include the Department of Finance which was recently transferred over to my colleague, Mr. Butters. They also include the Department of Government Services, the small intergovernmental affairs group that we have and what, in effect, amounts to, in my case, jurisdiction over or authority for much of the Executive branch of the government. That is why I am sitting here now.

There have been a couple of other smaller ones although they are at times major problems such as, the liquor system and the whole question of liquor control in the Northwest Territories. That is now the responsibility of an elected person. So there has been movement in this area, Mr. Chairman. I might indicate generally that last summer and again last fall before portfolio changes were announced and also before the Commissioner turned over some departmental responsibilities to elected Members, I had an opportunity to consult with the Commissioner on the specific portfolios to be transferred. As the Commissioner indicated earlier on, he had a chance as well to consult with all other elected Members.

Decisions For Portfolio Distribution

Now, if I can say generally, there is a certain amount of discretion that we, as an Executive, and the Commissioner have to exercise in turning over responsibilities to elected Members. I think the Commissioner has given a fairly accurate assessment of some of the burdens being faced by all the Members on the Executive Committee and it is his job to assess individual Members' abilities, their experience and to turn over portfolios which Ministers can handle. On the other hand, we have to recognize that the Northwest Territories Act vests a lot of authority, in law and theory anyway, in the Commissioner. Now, in making our decisions for portfolio distribution to elected Members, this is one factor that we took pretty seriously. I understand there is a little bit of grumbling and rumbling in Ottawa because of the fact that we went ahead and we said "We need a Minister of Finance," but we have also been sensitive to the fact that we have this agency called the financial management board which is like a treasury board. The Commissioner



sits as chairman of that board and we felt that we could say to the federal government or the Minister if he expressed concern or complaint, we felt that we could say "Well, we are moving ahead but we are staying within the bounds of convention and practice in law."

#### More Portfolio Transfers To Elected People In Future

Now, I fully expect that in the future, in the next year, we are going to see more transfers to elected people. I cannot predict what portfolios they are going to be but I am sure that as the newer Members -- and I include myself and Mr. Wah-Shee and Mr. Nerysoo in that group -- as we gain more experience, I am sure that the Commissioner is going to feel confident about the delegation of departmental responsibilities such as DPW and Personnel, Information and regional operations to elected Members. I, along with others, talked a lot during the campaign in 1979 about responsible government and I sure hope that by 1983, we can have achieved a situation where our Commissioner can, with full confidence and support of the federal government, make those last few steps to delegate all administrative authority to elected people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. We have the motion here now on the floor and it is typed out but we have not got the translation so I will ask the interpreters if they will read it out first to the Members who have not got the proper translation.

INTERPRETER: Do you want us to read it now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Yes, if you could read it out now please. The motion reads that the Legislature recommends to the Commissioner that the responsibilities for the Departments of Personnel, regional operations, Public Works and Information be devolved from the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to the elected Ministers. To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen, do you want to speak to the motion?

#### Time For Devolvement Of Four Remaining Departments

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have just passed a motion calling for the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner to come back within the ropes and I think it is only fitting that at the same time we pass a motion calling for the devolvement of the four remaining departments of this government, to go from non-elected members to elected Members. I think it is evident that we have seven very capable Members on the Executive Committee and that additional program and service responsibilities with the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner acting as assistants and advisers would be certainly heavy perhaps but not an impossible situation.

I think it is also fair to remember that the Commissioner has the option of recommending to the Minister of Indian and Northern Development, that he expand the Executive Committee from seven to perhaps eight or nine or 10 Members. If the Commissioner feels that it is time in the development of this Legislature to have all programs and services under the elected Members, then -- but also feels that the load would be too heavy for only seven -- what he should do is ask for a letter of instruction from the Minister to expand the Executive Committee. I think that that is within the realm of possibility. So I think that the Members here have basically expressed their frustration with not having that elected accountability within the ropes for these four departments, and so passing this motion would just re-emphasize that we feel that it is time for that devolvement. That is it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Sibbeston. To the motion.

Civil Servants Still Running The Show

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I generally support the motion, but just want to say something about elected people having responsibility over departments. Now, we have seven people who are elected and who are in charge of certain departments. What I am concerned about is that we overload the elected people that are presently on the Executive. What I am afraid of happening is that we give them so much responsibility when we give them a number of departments and really what happens is that they do not have enough time to really be fully responsible for that department. So, we end up where we have elected people as heads of departments but really it is still the Deputy Ministers and government officials that are running the department. I am concerned that this may happen. I am aware that this is happening to a certain extent, where it is not an elected person that runs a department, it is the same bunch of government officials that were there for the last 10 years that are running the department.

I have not seen significant changes since elected people have been in charge of departments. I really expected, frankly, last fall after the election, when elected people were on the Executive Committee, that we would see major changes, particularly that now we had some native people in charge of some departments, that there would be changes, but really there has not been that many changes. I feel that government officials -- the same old civil servants -- are still running the show and elected people, of course, appear as if they are running the department but may not really be running the department.

Maybe I am speaking from lack of experience. Maybe I am not practical but I know that, for instance, if I had chosen to run and be on the Executive Committee and if I were responsible for a department, I know that there would be changes which people in the communities want. There would be changes in policy, there would be changes in quite a few personnel. There would be quite a few civil servants going down the road if they did not agree with goals that I set for the department, and you would have programs and policies that would really be responsive to the people in the communities. So, you know, I feel that it is possible to have elected people as heads of departments and have changes but I do not see that happening. I am just wondering whether there is any merit in giving elected people further departments when it is not really them that run the departments. I would just like to hear what other people have to say on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Butters.

Operating At Departmental And Governmental Level

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, certainly I can agree with the direction that is contained in the Member's motion. However, I am sympathetic to some of the things that Mr. Sibbeston raised, but for different reasons than he has provided. I run the departments I am responsible for and if the people do not do what I request of them, then I make them know that I am displeased. I think that I am reflecting the views of the other Members on the Executive Committee. We all run our departments. Where I would agree sometimes with what Mr. Sibbeston has said, is that not only does this House give us direction relative to what we should be doing in a departmental sense, it gives us a great deal of direction as to what we should be doing in the governmental sense. Most of the recommendations that are contained in the standing committee on finance report



are these types, in which we are to enter negotiations, carry out long studies and develop new relationships with the federal government, and these cannot be done if you are snowed under by departmental pressures. These matters require a great deal of study, a great deal of attention, because once they are in place they will be in place for a long, long time. So, we are operating on really two levels, a departmental and a governmental level, and sometimes I just wonder, in the directions I am getting, which one Members believe to be most important. I tend to think that it is the governmental one that is most important and it is that one that I try to satisfy if I can.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Curley, to the motion.

#### Accountability To The Public

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Yes. Thank you. I would just like to support the motion on the floor by Mrs. Sorensen. I think it is very true, what Mr. Sibbeston mentioned. I think the only way that they can be devolved is by presenting them to the Executive Committee and from there they can deal with them. I think it would be a lot better for the regions to have Ministers responsible for each region. If we had Ministers in the region, I think it would be better. (Translation ends)

I would just like to say that I am in support of the motion because I would like to see the elected representatives take the burden of accountability to the public. After all, you know, they got themselves into it in the first place. They have to be accountable and carry the responsibility in carrying out the services to the public. I also share with Nick Sibbeston's concern that normally there is not much change when Ministers take departmental responsibility and the same things go on. You know, they have the same rules of the game that they have to stick with, and in a bureaucracy it is one, I believe, that is very hard to change. They are all tied in with the agreements and whatnot, collective agreements and that, and they normally become self-serving departments.

#### Minister's Responsible For Regions

Normally there is very little part of the whole operation budget to carry out and serve the needs of the public, but maybe -- even though, through this exercise with the responsibilities given to the Ministers, elected representatives, will we see the need to change the style of the government we should have in the Territories. Everyone would like to have a departmental responsibility, but I say that I think in the Territories, the only way we are going to eventually become a decent government to the people of the Territories, is by having Ministers responsible for regions. I really believe that is one that can be an effective way of serving and carrying out the programs that the government is supposed to carry, through the regional ministerial responsibilities.

I see, again, that there is a tremendous problem with the status quo, that it is hard to change this system that is being carried out for hundreds of years, but I believe in the Territories, we may not have a choice eventually to design regional ministerial responsibilities based on regions. I think only then, that we are going to be able to see the Ministers respond to certain areas; that they are going to be able to get there, but with the size of the Territories that we have, who is able to visit all of the communities and make an appearance once in a while and meet the people.

Ministerial Burdens

Right now, I can understand the kind of burdens and the fatigue that the Ministers normally have. I think it shows during this particular time of the year, that we are very sombre, you know, many of the Members are tired. We have not quite recovered from the last three sessions that we had, but I will support the motion because I think we can improve on that. Once we have devolved them to the elected representative, then again, let us try and work out a better system, better ways of carrying out the responsibilities that we have gotten ourselves into. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question being called. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I am going to say will not be too long, but I would like to get clarification before I vote on the motion. That was moved and made a motion before and we supported it but now the recommendation -- I think we are just going to lose the motion that we have right now. I just want to understand the motion first, as to what it says, before I vote on it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. I understood the interpreters to read the motion to Mr. Evaluarjuk. He did not quite understand it. I take it you did not understand the motion.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) I understood the motion the way it was read.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): So, now you want more clarification on the motion, is that right?

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to get more clarification. We voted on the motion before and now there is another motion. If this was to be carried, it seems like the motion that was made before would just be lost, regarding the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner being in the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I wonder if I could indulge on Mr. Curley to explain it. I think he is afraid that your motion is going to be lost and I think with this motion now, your motion is in effect until this other one is in force. Could you explain that, maybe, Mr. Curley?

Clarification Of Motion

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) I think it is like this; the first motion that I said is stated clearly. The Commissioner's and the Deputy Commissioner's responsibilities, before they give it to the elected Members, I wanted them to sit in the House for Personnel, Public Works, regional operations, so we can ask the questions of them. If they devolve their responsibilities to the elected Members, the elected Members would be answering the questions. Before they devolve their responsibilities to the elected Members, I wanted them to sit in the House. That is all my motion was. We do not know which one is going to be -- maybe you understand this.

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

MR. NOAH: (Translation) The motion of Mrs. Sorensen. I do not mind this, but I have a concern regarding the Legislature and part of it -- there is a committee for the Legislature and I am one of the Members. Mr. Fraser, Mr. McCallum and Mrs. Sorensen, they are Members of the committee for the Legislative Assembly committee. I was thinking if the motion was in order, each Member of the rules



and procedures committee and I wanted to know whether they had the rules, in line with the rules, when our rules and procedures want to be changed, whether we would be included in the voting. I wanted to know if we can vote when the question of the rules and procedures committee. Thank you.

Possible Conflict Of Interest

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Noah. I understand your concern but everything that happens in the Legislature, of course, will have to deal with the rules committee and we are going to have to get somebody from the elected Members to deal with it, but I think it is in order. It is definitely in order. Unless somebody has something, some other concerns about it -- but I think the Member is concerned about a conflict of interest because we are on the rules committee, rules and procedures. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering, with the rules and procedures committee, we might have a conflict of interest. That was my main concern. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Noah, I am told by the Clerk that there is no problem, no conflict of interest. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): A question is being called. Mr. Braden. To the motion.

Ministers Already Have A Full Plate

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief. I recall being put in the same position about a year ago. I believe it was in our first session. I understand what both Mr. Curley and Mrs. Sorensen are saying in their motions and I understand the principles involved. I believe we are all working toward this goal. It is a matter of timing. I am not quite sure how the Executive Committee is going to vote. I want it on record that I agree in principle with what Mrs. Sorensen is proposing in her motion but I am going to have to vote against it because in practical terms at this point in time, I feel that we have a full plate and that Mr. Parker and Mr. Pilot offer a lot, to both the Executive Committee and to this Assembly. Thank you.

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

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I would like you to repeat that motion so I know what we are voting for. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): You do not have a copy in front of you?

MR. PUDLUK: No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The motion reads that the Legislature recommend to the Commissioner that the responsibilities for the Departments of Personnel, regional operations, Public Works and Information, be devolved from the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to the elected Ministers.

Motion To Devolve Various Departmental Responsibilities To Elected Ministers,  
Carried

A question is being called. All in favour, raise your hand. Down. Against. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Ministers' Offices, Total Expenditures, Agreed

Page 2.03, Ministers' offices, in the amount of \$969,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive Committee Secretariat, Total Expenditures, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 2.04, Executive Committee secretariat, \$1,621,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat, Total Expenditures

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 2.05, aboriginal rights and constitutional development secretariat. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a series of questions that I asked between sessions concerning the Government of the Northwest Territories' role in aboriginal rights negotiations. I received a reply from the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, that at this session there would be a detailed report about that which would answer the questions I asked. So I am perfectly willing not to go into those questions now if I have the undertaking that the report is forthcoming and that we will have a chance to discuss it somewhere along the way.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Braden, would you like to answer that? Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I did not get the question but whatever it is, I would just like to reassure the Member that I do intend to table a report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Braden, did you get the question? Somebody must have got the question because there is a question there.

---Laughter

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, my colleague has indicated that he will be tabling a report on the government's role in aboriginal rights negotiations. I just wondered, for the purposes of this examination, if we could deal with perhaps some general questions. I realize that Members will have them but we will be tabling a more detailed report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you very much. Are you satisfied, Mr. MacQuarrie?

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Aboriginal rights and constitutional development. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I had a question under the Executive Committee secretariat and you slipped by that so fast, I did not get a chance. It concerns something that the standing committee on finance had wanted to ask. I was wondering if we could go back to 2.04 for one minute?



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Proceed. Go ahead.

Federal Envelope System

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Braden, I wonder if you could explain to the Legislature, the federal envelope system and how that works.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

---Laughter

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I have very, very general knowledge of it and I would not want to mislead the honourable Member or anybody in this House with my very limited knowledge. I wonder if Mr. Butters or perhaps Mr. Parker could explain it in more detail for the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): There must be somebody in the House with all these brains that should be able to answer that.

---Laughter

Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I am sorry. I did not mean to put you on the spot. It appeared to me that this was the best point to bring up the standing committee on finance's recommendation concerning the development of a strategy for the envelope spending process. It appeared to me that it would be this secretariat that would assist the Executive in the development of that strategy but if Mr. Parker is prepared to explain, that is fine with me.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I can give a brief answer at least.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): That is what Mr. Braden did.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Just be brief.

Explanation Of Envelope System

COMMISSIONER PARKER: That is impossible. The federal government, about two years ago and for many, many years before that, prepared its budget on the basis of each federal department being considered as a single unit when they were allocating the total amount of money available. It became apparent to them, as I understand it, that with somewhere between 25 and 30 departments, this process was getting very difficult. It was difficult for them to set priorities among around 30 different units, and so they devised a system of grouping them and they called these groups "envelopes". They put together a group of departments that have somewhat similar interests and called that an envelope. For instance, the social development envelope consists of the Departments of Health and Welfare, Indian and Northern Affairs, Justice, the CBC and a number of other outfits that are dealing directly with people problems. So by creating a number of these envelopes or groups, then they could sit as a cabinet and say "Well, this year we are going to put a priority on the social development envelope." Or "This year we are going to put a priority on the economic development envelope." And as far as I can see, it provided them with a new and a little easier approach to planning.

The territorial government's money, since it comes through the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, means that we are in the social development envelope, or grouping. The standing committee on finance has suggested that that particular group or envelope has not enjoyed a very high priority since these envelopes were formed and that perhaps it would be wise if we could be placed in a different envelope, one that had a higher priority at the present time. How this could be achieved, I would think, could only be done if our money was separated out from the Department of Indian Affairs and identified in such a fashion that it could then go into one of these different groupings within the federal government. I hope that is of some help.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. I thought only the churches used that envelope system but I guess we are back into that.

---Laughter

Mrs. Sorensen, does that answer your question? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Can I ask then what...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Envelope you are in?

---Laughter

Strategy Development To Remove Territorial Government From Social Development Envelope

MRS. SORENSEN: ...what strategy then has been developed or is in the process of being developed by the Executive Committee to remove us from the social development envelope and put us into the cabinet envelope?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Well, Mr. Chairman, we are still trying to shine up to the social development envelope to get a little money for this year before we try and get into another one. We have not really had an opportunity to address that. That is very, very much the federal government's business and it makes it hard for us to promote such a change to take place. I believe that you have requested a meeting with the Minister and if that meeting takes place, that would be an excellent question to pose to him.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: If the Executive Committee has the support of this Legislature, do you think that that would provide you more strength during that meeting, in promoting the transfer from one envelope to the other? Mr. Braden, perhaps you could answer.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

Moving To The Cabinet Envelope

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, it certainly would provide a much needed support to change the manner in which the federal government votes our deficit grant. Where it might run into some opposition -- because what you are proposing basically is that we go to the cabinet envelope where equalization grants to other provinces are placed -- is that it would place us on a par with the provinces. That might bring a little bit of opposition from people in the Department of Finance and Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development who want to maintain the status quo but I would certainly welcome, as would the Executive Committee, a formal motion through your committee report to proceed in looking for a change in this area.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Ms Cournoyea, have you a question for the witness?

MS COURNOYEA: The question I have is somewhere in between and I would say, Mr. Chairman, you moved very quickly out of the Executive Committee secretariat. I do not know why you did that but you certainly zipped through it. The question is somewhere between the Executive Committee secretariat and their policy making and the aboriginal rights and constitutional development secretariat.

Senior Government Executive Policy Re Privileged Information

At the previous session, I raised the question and the concern that many government personnel in senior positions who have privileged information and positions are not bound by any policy of this government and they are able to move out, use the information, use the expertise to either promote themselves or work to a disadvantage of others from the information that they obtained. I see no policy from the government set before us to rectify this situation. There are two situations that have occurred in the last few months: One from the aboriginal rights group, where one of the major people in that area had left the bureaucracy to work for a particular industry that works in direct opposition to the desire of native rights in our area. He has been able to secure information through his department from the native claims complainants as well as from the Government of the Northwest Territories and federal government. There was nothing in the policy that restricted this individual from moving directly from the government department into another position that could possibly jeopardize the people who have provided the Northwest Territories and the federal government with very strategic information in terms of settling the claims process.

As well, in our region, a fifth employee, major employee of Economic Development has left to take up another position in the business industry in Inuvik.

I am wondering, between these two departments, what efforts are being made with the number of people who are hired to set policy to protect, the native people, and maybe the common businessmen who are using the departments and, the people from the native population who provide information through the claims policy in these prime areas of concern. Where is the policy, when is it going to be placed before us, when are these departments going to do their jobs? I would like to know that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Braden, would you care to answer that briefly? I have about two minutes.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is an issue which deserves more discussion, perhaps tomorrow, but I will briefly indicate that it is difficult for us as a government to say to an employee who leaves that, he or she cannot go and work for somebody else and use any of the knowledge or experience that they have gained. I am really not quite sure how we could ever manage that. Where we would have recourse is if that individual was taking documents that clearly belonged to the Government of the Northwest Territories -- that is if they are secret, confidential or documents with restricted access. If that individual was using those documents in his new position and he clearly did not or should not have had them in his or her possession, then clearly we would have, I believe, as a government an opportunity to take action. Mr. Chairman, can I go further or did you want to perhaps address this issue further tomorrow?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I suggest maybe you bring back an answer tomorrow and we will deal with it as the first business. Thank you. The time being 6:00 o'clock, is it the wish that we report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 1-81(1), and wish to report progress at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any announcements? Mr. Clerk, are there any announcements? We will read the orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Announcements: Caucus meeting at 9:30 a.m., February 10, Katimavik A. Meeting of the Members' Services Board, Wednesday, February 11, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A and at the same time, in room 301, a meeting of the special committee on education. On Thursday, February 12, 9:30 a.m., a meeting of the special committee on the impact of division in Katimavik A.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, February 10, 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: This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 10, 1981, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT



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