



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, 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 for Tuesday, February 10th.

Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. There appear to be no replies today. Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Curley.

Question 24-81(1): Visit By Alberta Legislature's Constitutional Committee

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Leader of the Elected Executive Committee Members. I wonder if he is aware of the proposed trip of the Alberta Legislative Assembly's committee on the constitution and if he is, will he tell this House whether he has had any communication with the leader of the Alberta government about the proposed trip by Alberta's constitutional committee?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Braden.

Return to Question 24-81(1): Visit By Alberta Legislature's Constitutional Committee

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was informed a couple of weeks ago that the constitutional committee of the Alberta legislature wished to visit Yellowknife and then proceed on to Inuvik. I was asked to inquire, on behalf of the committee, whether or not it would be possible for them to meet some Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. I believe that item was considered this morning in caucus. With respect to the honourable Member's question about communications with Premier Lougheed, no, I have had no communication with the premier on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

Question 25-81(1): Payment Of Room And Board In Correctional Centres

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) I would like to ask one question. I would like to know about the people who are in correctional centres in the Northwest Territories, who pay the room and board for those people who are staying in corrections in the Northwest Territories? Also, I have known that they are covered in the corrections and I know that after their coverage they own some money, and what the inmates have to pay for themselves when they are in the corrections.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, there were certain aspects of the question that I would like to reply to the Member by written form and I would like to take it, not to just put aside the question, but I would like to reply in written context at a later time to the question that the Member has raised.

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

Question 26-81(1): Management Agreement Re Caribou

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I understand that there has been some discussions and agreements reached with the governments that have responsibility for the management of the caribou herds. I believe there was a meeting in Edmonton and there was a report, I think, made public that there has been an agreement reached. Could the Minister maybe outline very briefly as to what the nature of that agreement is and whether, in fact, there will be any further discussions with the communities or regions involved?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 26-81(1): Management Agreement Re Caribou

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We did have a meeting in Winnipeg with the ministers of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In attendance was the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and representatives from the Department of the Environment. We addressed the question of the concern that has been expressed by the provinces and in the Assembly that we have had with regard to both Beverly and the Keewatin area. We intend not to proceed without the communities being involved in any discussion. That was one point I think that we made very clear to the provinces and we wanted the provinces as well, to involve their native communities in the northern parts of the provinces. We did get an agreement that further discussion would occur and that no agreement would take place until the communities and regions were involved in that discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The hon. Mr. Curley.

Supplementary To Question 26-81(1): Management Agreement Re Caribou

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to that, my understanding is that there was a recent meeting by some government representatives, including the superintendent of wildlife from Keewatin region, recently in Edmonton, and they had discussions with the members from the Canadian Wildlife Service as well. My understanding is that they have reached some type of an agreement of schedule and plan of action for further research and whatnot, required to manage the caribou herds. So, I wonder if he would provide me with some information in this House about the nature of that meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Supplementary To Question 26-81(1): Management Agreement Re Caribou

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will gladly table any kind of information required.

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

Question 27-81(1): Territorial Property Tax Rebate

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Local Government. During the Baker Lake session, a motion was passed by the Legislature recommending that the Minister of Local Government establish a territorial property tax rebate as an incentive for home ownership in the Northwest Territories. I would ask the Minister what progress has been made, and is the government ready to proceed with the implementation of this valuable program to assist home owners in the Northwest Territories.

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

Partial Return To Question 27-81(1): Territorial Property Tax Rebate

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say at this time that I will be tabling a document regarding incentive to home ownership, during this particular session. Thank you.

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

ITEM 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Ms Cournoyea.

Questions 28-81(1): Federal Act, Game Export Permit

MS COURNOYEA: I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources, Richard Nerysoo. What involvement has the Government of the Northwest Territories or the Department of Renewable Resources had in redrafting the federal act, Game Export permit? What is the status of that act? What recommendations have been made on behalf of the Northwest Territories? What was the outcome of those deliberations? When did the talks take place?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo. I am sorry, written questions. The hon. Mr. Curley.

Question 29-81(1): Route And Base Protection In Keewatin Region

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. In July 1979, the Commissioner wrote to the Air Transport Committee to object to Calm Air International's application for route and base protection in the Keewatin region. Could the Commissioner table the submission he made in July 1979 and the more recent one in Rankin Inlet to the Air Transport Committee? Secondly, will he explain why he has changed his policy of route protection to Calm Air International Ltd. without ever consulting with people of the Keewatin region? Thirdly, will the Commissioner undertake to explain his present policy to this Assembly about route protection?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Mr. Curley, inasmuch as the rules have not been changed with regard to the Commissioner coming into the Assembly, I presume that you will direct that question to Mr. Braden to get the advice because the Commissioner is not responsible for this House until such time as the rules are changed.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will change it to the Leader of the Elected Executive, Mr. Braden.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. Are there any returns? Is that written questions? The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 30-81(1): Hiring Preference, Northern Teachers

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Education. Will the Minister indicate whether the Department of Education endorses the answer that was provided by the Department of Personnel in response to Question 196-80(2)? Most particularly, will the Minister indicate whether a northern teacher who is well qualified in amount and type of training but who is lacking experience, will be chosen in preference to an equally well qualified southern teacher with experience? If his department does not fully endorse the answer referred to above, in what ways does its policy differ?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further written questions? The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 31-81(1): Echo Bay, Radiation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for both the Minister of Justice and Public Services and the Minister of Health. Will the Ministers tell this House whether miners at Echo Bay are perhaps being exposed to a radiation hazard and if it appears that they are, will the Ministers explain what measures have been and are being taken to protect them?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further written questions? There do not appear to be any returns or replies today.

Item 5 on your orders of the day, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 7-81(1), The Northwest Territories Small Business Loans and Guarantees Fund, Annual Report, 1979-80. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further tabling of documents?

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Fraser.

Notice Of Motion 6-81(1): Appointment To Standing Committee On Finance

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice of motion that on February 12th, I will be introducing a motion: Whereas the Hon. Kane Tologanak has resigned from the standing committee on finance; Now therefore, I move that Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk, the Member from Baffin Central, be appointed to the standing committee on finance to fill the existing vacancy on that committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Further notices of motion. The hon. Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 7-81(1): Appointment Of Deputy Chairman Of Committees Of The Whole

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that at the appropriate time I will be asking for unanimous consent to move the following: That Mr. William Noah, the Member for Keewatin North, be appointed to the vacant position of deputy chairman of committees of the whole.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Further notices of motion. The hon. Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 8-81(1): Appointment To Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, I would like to give notice that on Thursday, February 12th, I will move the following: That Mr. Robert MacQuarrie, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, be appointed to the standing committee on legislation to fill the existing vacancy on that committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Further notices of motion. The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 9-81(1): Debate Of Paper "Principles For The Development Of An Agricultural Policy"

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Thursday, February 12th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that the Speaker set a day certain during this session for debate of the paper, "Principles for the Development of an Agricultural Policy", and further that the president of the Territorial Farmers' Association, Ben Greenfield of Hay River, be invited by the Speaker to participate as a witness during that debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Further notices of motion. The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 10-81(1): Invitation To Dr. David Torgerson To Appear As A Witness

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give notice that on Thursday, February 12th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay, that this Assembly invite Dr. David Torgerson from the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment in place of Dr. Green, to participate at the Assembly's expense as a witness during the debate on uranium exploration and mining.

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

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Next in the book is Motion 3-81(1). Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to be very brief. The motion calls for extending the time for replies to the Commissioner's Address. The rule which limits replies was developed when the Assembly was much smaller.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, they are having difficulty...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion is that Rule 34 of the Rules of this Assembly, which provides that replies to the Commissioner's Address shall not extend beyond the first five sitting days of the session, be waived for this session and that the item, replies to the Commissioner's Address, be retained on the orders of the day up to and including February 17th. Mr. Speaker, this motion would give us another week...

MR. FRASER: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser. A point of order.

MR. FRASER: The motion, as is written in my book...

MR. SPEAKER: That is right, Mr. Patterson. You neglected to read your motion. This is an introduction of a motion. You have to start right from the beginning of your motion and read the entire motion and who it is seconded by and/or give a seconder and then we will go into speaking to the motion.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. The motion is:

WHEREAS the Rules of this Assembly now provide five sitting days for the presentation of replies to the Commissioner's Address;

AND WHEREAS this rule was developed when this Assembly consisted of 15 Members only;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife South, that Rule 34 of the Rules of this Assembly, which provides that replies to the Commissioner's Address shall not extend beyond the first five sitting days of a session be waived for this session and that the item, replies to the Commissioner's Address, be retained on the orders of the day up to and including February 17th.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your motion is in order. You may now address your motion.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, as was discussed in caucus, it is desirable that more time be allowed for this important part of the Assembly's work. If we do not pass this motion, we will have only heard from Mrs. Sorensen in reply to the Commissioner's Address and while it was an excellent speech, I am sure that other Members have constituency concerns they would like to bring up. This is really the only opportunity that Members have to make general comments and raise issues that might not otherwise be permitted to be discussed in the debate.

Perhaps we should give attention to revising the rules since at previous sessions we had to go through similar motions to extend the time and it almost seems to be a developing practice in this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The Member from Yellowknife South, do you wish to second, or speak to this motion?

MRS. SORENSEN: No. Question.

Motion 3-81(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: A question being called. All those in favour. Opposed, if any?
The motion is carried.

---Carried

This concludes the motions in the book. Were you going to seek unanimous consent at this time, Mr. McLaughlin?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, I do. I would like to ask unanimous consent at this time to deal with my motion regarding the appointment of the deputy chairman of committees of the whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: You may proceed, Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion 7-81(1): Appointment Of Deputy Chairman Of Committees Of The Whole

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Hon. Dennis Patterson has resigned as deputy chairman of the committees of the whole of this House;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member from Yellowknife South, that Mr. William Noah, the Member for Keewatin North, be appointed to the vacant position of deputy chairman of committees of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser. You are seconding the motion, Mr. Fraser? To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 7-81(1), Carried

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

---Carried

---Applause

Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to ask unanimous consent. I would not dare try it on something else, but...

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Unanimous consent is being asked for.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Fraser.

Motion 6-81(1): Appointment To Standing Committee On Finance

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Hon. Kane Tologanak has resigned from the standing committee on finance;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk, the Member for Baffin Central, be appointed to the standing committee on finance to fill the existing vacancy on that committee.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 6-81(1), Carried

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

---Carried

---Applause

The hon. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask unanimous consent at this time regarding my motion for appointment to the vacancy of the legislation committee.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed.

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion 8-81(1): Appointment To Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Hon. Dennis Patterson has resigned from the standing committee on legislation;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, that Mr. Robert MacQuarrie, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, be appointed to the standing committee on legislation, to fill the existing vacancy on that committee.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 8-81(1), Carried

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

---Carried

---Applause

It is a pity that other things are not that simple.

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

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 12: SECOND READING OF BILLS

The Hon. Mr. Butters.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for additional expenditures for the public service for the current financial year, to permit deletions from inventory of certain obsolete, surplus or unserviceable articles and to authorize the Commissioner to delete certain obligations or debts due to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? The Hon. Mr. Braden. Discussion. The bill can now be debated on matter of principle only. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour. Opposed, if any? The motion is carried. The bill has had second reading.

---Carried

Are there any further bills for second reading? The Hon. Mr. Butters.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 3-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Commissioner to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada providing for the payment of operating and capital grants to the Government of the Northwest Territories and related matters.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All those in favour. Opposed, if any? The motion is carried. The bill has had second reading.

---Carried

Are there any further bills for second reading? The Hon. Mr. Butters.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 4-81(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds from the Government of Canada and Make Loans to Municipalities or Other Persons in the Northwest Territories During the Financial Year, 1981-82 be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Commissioner to borrow funds for the purpose of making loans to municipalities or other persons.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Do I have a seconder? The hon. Mr. Fraser.
Discussion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour. Opposed, if any?
The motion is carried. The bill has had second reading.

---Carried

Any further bills for second reading? The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 5-81(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to Borrow Funds, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to authorize the borrowing of funds by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation for the construction or acquisition of public housing projects, or both.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Do I have a seconder? The Hon. Mr. Butters.
Discussion:

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour. Opposed, if any?
The bill has had second reading.

---Carried

Are there any further bills for second reading? Item 13. We will resolve then into committee of the whole, for consideration by the 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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

The Executive

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I have the permission of this committee to convene to the witness table and also to bring in officials from the Executive, those officials being Mr. Moore and Mr. Horn?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Does the Member have permission to bring the witnesses in? Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): If I am correct in saying, that when we reported last night at 6:00 o'clock, Ms Cournoyea had a question on the floor that Mr. Braden would like to sleep with. I wonder if he has the answer for Ms Cournoyea today. Do you recall the question, or do you want to read it? It is in the Debates.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, if my honourable colleague could repeat it, please? I recall the general issues under consideration but I would like to have her just...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Do you have a copy of this?

Restrictive Terms Of Employment

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated last night, it is in some ways very difficult for the government to place restrictive terms of employment in any contract with an employee. It would seem to me to be very difficult to indicate to an employee that following their term of employment with the territorial government they would be, or should be, restricted in pursuing other jobs or other types of employment, either in the Northwest Territories or outside the Northwest Territories.

Now, I recognize that there are, perhaps, certain caveats or qualifiers that can be put on employment, particularly in the case of using consultants, but I think we have to be extremely careful that we do not establish terms of employment or restrictions on what employees can do after they leave the government which will get us into trouble with federal human rights legislation.

In the hypothetical situation that we were talking about yesterday, there are obviously situations where if an employee leaves the government and takes restricted documents and uses them in whatever new line of work that they are into then we obviously have a case where the employee has misused material and documents that he or she had access to in the government. That clearly, I believe, would be a case where the government would have to take action of some sort.

In other instances when we do use consultants or people on term contracts, they are required to do specific work for the government and the product that they produce in the end is for the use of the government. Now, I cannot go into too much more detail about the kinds of restrictions we put on there. I would have to call upon the Commissioner to say a few words in this area. I am not the expert on personnel policy for the government, so if I could ask Mr. Chairman, the indulgence of the committee to hear a few words from the Commissioner.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

---Agreed

Thank you very much. Mr. Commissioner.

Restrictions Placed At Very Senior Levels

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I cannot add very much to what Mr. Braden has said. I do understand that in other governments, there have been some restrictions placed at the very senior levels and that in one or two instances, these restrictions have been tested in the courts and have been found to be out of order because they conflicted with human rights legislation. My understanding is that within the federal government, the restrictions that are placed on deputy ministers and people of deputy ministerial rank keep them from taking work that is closely related to their government work for a period of two years. Although

I am not an expert on this, to the best of my knowledge, I believe that that is the only group of people to which there is any attempt made to restrict their activities once they leave the government service.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. On page 363 of yesterday's debate, about half way down, there was a request from a Member requesting some type of policy. I wonder if Members are aware of that policy. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, we do not have a policy at this time. The Commissioner and I have indicated some of the kinds of issues or concerns that we would have to take into consideration in preparing such policy, if it was the wish of this House. I would be willing to hear remarks further from the honourable Member from the Western Arctic region or other Members on this issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Ms Cournoyea, do you want to pursue that a little further? Ms Cournoyea.

Investigation In The Western Arctic

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Braden and Mr. Commissioner, I am certainly not satisfied with those answers. It has been a year since I have had a great deal of concern in the Western Arctic and in fact, I have asked for an investigation of the regional offices and people involved in that office in order to determine policy for the areas of concern I have expressed. I am getting exactly the same kind of answers that I have over the last year and it seems to me that if we are going to spend money on budgets for policy planning, and then perhaps when these concerns are brought up, we should be able to, after a period of six months to eight months, have something a little bit more specific than vague replies as to what possibly can be done.

In industry and areas of employment where it is strictly confidential and possibly things can be used at a later date, there are covenants on the employees and I believe that in our pursuit of trying to get the issue of claims and trying to get the issue of territorial government involvement in resource sharing, I think we are in a very, very delicate situation and I believe that there are jobs that senior civil servants have that are very touchy in terms of where we are as local people. I speak mostly on behalf of native people but as well as small business people in our area.

I did not know it was the policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories to import people up here to get involved and live in the area and provide them with a subsidy while they look around and use the government system to get where they want to go and basically, this is what is happening. I have expressed to you and to the government in several instances by letter and by telex that these things are happening and so far I am still faced with the same vague answers that we had a year ago and six months ago, that, you know, these things are a delicate situation. Of course, they are, but are we going to develop the people of the Northwest Territories, or are we going to continue to bring in senior civil servants so that they can promote themselves in the North? What are we doing?

I would like to see something more definite, that you have made the investigation in the Western Arctic as previously requested and out of that investigation that you have had some policy or options or how it can be dealt with. I would like to have more affirmative statements rather than just a repetition of what I heard a year ago.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. I wonder if a motion would be in order. Mr. Commissioner.

Will Provide Definitive Comments In Writing

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, what we are trying to tell the Member is that what she is seeking probably is not possible and we do not necessarily support it. We do not like to see people use the government as a jumping off place for other work but we cannot always prevent it and it happens very, very seldom. Speaking for Personnel, I am prepared to bring forward an answer by the end of this session to give some definitive comments in writing on this subject and that will be after or as a result of having further conversations and consultations with our legal officers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Are you satisfied with that, Ms Cournoyea?

MS COURNOYEA: Just as long as it does not wait until the last day when we are ready to go home and we cannot discuss it.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: The second to last.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): As soon as possible, Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: It will be long before then.

Executive Committee Secretariat, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Considering the Executive, page 2.04. Any more questions? Any further questions? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I feel the time is right to bring forward one of the standing committee on finance's recommendations in the form of a motion and if Members will refer to their copy of the standing committee on finance's ninth report to the Legislative Assembly which was distributed last week, it is recommendation A26-81.

AN HON. MEMBER: On page eight?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page eight of the standing committee's ninth report. Mrs. Sorensen, proceed.

Motion To Move Government Of The Northwest Territories To Cabinet Envelope

MRS. SORENSEN: On behalf of the standing committee on finance, I move that the Executive -- I recommend that the Executive develop an immediate strategy and a detailed plan in order to begin the lobby to have the Northwest Territories government removed from the federal social services envelope to the cabinet envelope for purposes of territorial funding.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, Hear!

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Yesterday, during the questioning of the Executive, Mr. Parker outlined for you the difficulties that the territorial government faced when it found itself in the social development envelope. Mr. Braden further indicated that they certainly, as an Executive Committee, were concerned about what envelope they found themselves in for the purposes of funding and

that a motion from this Legislature would provide that extra support that the Executive Committee and indeed the Minister of Finance needs in order to further the lobby with the federal government.

I think that an example here would be appropriate. For instance, Treasury Board officials refused to consider the additional costs asked for by the territorial government officials in our 1981-82 budget which would have provided money as a result of going from three to seven Members on the Executive and to provide for the additional costs as a result of going from 15 to 22 Members on the Legislature. The Treasury Board said that it did not recognize a ministerial, hence a political decision. That was a Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs' decision. That is why we have a B level submission now before the federal government, before cabinet, asking for extra funding for constitutional development.

Belong In Cabinet Envelope

I certainly maintain, and the standing committee on finance maintains, that all decisions made in this House are political as opposed to departmental and the finance committee at least says that that should be recognized and that we do not belong hidden within the Department of the Indian and Northern Affairs, that we belong in the cabinet envelope as a Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Braden indicated yesterday that it would not be an easy thing for the Executive to have the Northwest Territories government removed from the social development envelope and put into the cabinet envelope and, as I said, that a motion from this House would provide the added support that they need. So I would urge Members to support the standing committee on finance's motion.

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

Formula Financing

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I would like to ask a question of clarification perhaps from Mr. Braden or whoever might be able to answer it. I understand that -- I think Mr. Butters referred to it in his speech introducing the budget -- I understand that consideration is under way and has been under way for some years to get what has been called "formula financing" negotiated with the federal government. Now, I confess that I do not understand this whole process of negotiating our budget with the federal government very well, but how does formula financing relate to this motion of changing envelopes? I ask that question partly because, you know, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has always been seen as having a special trust relationship for the two thirds of our population that are native people and I am just wondering whether in suggesting that we urge the federal government to transfer -- put us in a different category -- whether or not we might be de-emphasizing that special relationship. If I do understand formula financing, it would be something different from this envelope concept. Can someone enlighten me?

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I will have to defer to the Commissioner to answer that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

A New Funding Arrangement

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the matter of formula financing and the possible move of the territorial government to a different envelope or group have some bearing on each other but they are not closely related. We are negotiating, together with the Yukon, a new funding arrangement, a new way of calculating our deficit grant. When we speak of formula funding then, we are talking about using an actual formula to which we would add certain figures and carry out computations and thereby come to an amount of money, as against the method that we use now of examining in rather more detail our requirements and our new programs. The use of a formula, which would be related to provincial expenditures -- that is provincial expenditures that are taking place over a period of the last two or three years -- in using that as a base, it would mean that we would be more independent. We would be then in a position of having negotiated a certain sum of money which relates to a provincial type base and then we would be on our own but we would have the right to spend that money on our own. We would not be subject then to what has become the whim of the federal government to apply either cost cutting or restrictive measures or for their own reasons, that is we would not be treated as a federal department.

Now, to the matter of the relationship to the envelope system, the formula funding arrangement could work equally well whether we were in the social development envelope as we are now or if we were in the cabinet envelope. It would not matter which envelope we were in as far as formula funding is concerned.

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

Government To Government Financing

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose I can understand the argument about us being treated as a department but of all those who are in the know about these matters, would we have the assurance that in switching envelopes, that we would more likely receive the attention of those who are finally making decisions about expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories? More particularly, I hear sometimes comments made about government to government financing. By opting for this, is that what we are doing? Is it government to government financing or if it is not, would doing this get in the way of trying to achieve government to government financing?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that Mr. MacQuarrie put that question that way because I think I should go back and correct or modify something that I said. In seeking a formula, in seeking to go to formula financing, we are in fact moving toward government relationship rather than the relationship which we now have which is part of a department.

When I said that it would not matter which envelope we were in, I guess that is a true statement but if we achieve a true level of formula financing, our financing will be more or less not affected by the decisions that are taken for any envelope. In other words, if the federal government decides that the social development envelope is to be held to, say, a five per cent or some nominal amount of an increase in a year, if we had achieved formula financing, we would be immune from that. We would not be affected by that decision. So the achievement of formula financing would very much put us in the position of a government to government relationship rather than the present system which is departmental.

Changing Envelopes Dependent On Cabinet Views

The likelihood of us moving or being able to move to a different envelope is very, very much dependent upon the views of cabinet and how cabinet sees the responsibility on the federal level for the two northern territories as to who should co-ordinate and be the federal minister for the two northern territories.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if, however, we did not manage to achieve formula financing, would there be an advantage in us if we possibly could, becoming part of the cabinet envelope? Would there be an advantage in that? Finally, out of your experience and knowledge, would you say that in us passing this motion, that it certainly could not do us any harm and might help us if we could achieve what is intended by this motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I see the motion as a positive step, if it is passed, and I do not think that our situation would be harmed by being in a different envelope if we do not achieve formula funding. It is a value judgment as to whether or not the ministers in the social development envelope would be more or less favourably inclined toward us than the minister or ministers in the cabinet envelope. I cannot make that kind of a judgment. It is not possible for me to do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Any further questions? To the motion. Did I hear a question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Move Government Of The Northwest Territories To Cabinet Envelope,
Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): A question being called. All in favour. Down. Against? Abstentions? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Page 2.04, Executive Committee secretariat. Any further questions for the witnesses? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Policy For Replying To Correspondence

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just a couple of small matters -- maybe they are not so small -- with respect to the Executive. I just have not known where to bring them up but I think this section deals with policy and so I will raise them now. Number one, does this government have a policy with respect to replying to correspondence that is received, through all of the departments, all employees? Is there a policy with respect to responding?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, there is not a written policy, per se, but I know that in my office I make a habit of acknowledging receipt, at least in the first instance, of almost everything that comes into my office. I would assume that it should be the same in other offices, as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I understand that there is no policy?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: No written policy, no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): No written policy. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Policy Re Securing Of Government Offices During Noon Hour

MR. MacQUARRIE: I will have a motion on that in a moment. I have got one typed version, but the other is still being translated and when it comes down, I would like leave to present that motion at that time. I have another question of a similar nature. Is there any policy that this government has with respect to offices being available -- some office services being available to the public at noon hour and departments being secured at noon hour in public buildings where the buildings are not secured? You could walk into certain departments and there is nobody around, so you could walk out with quite a number of things. Are there policies with respect to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, the Commissioner has responsibility for security aspects in the government, so I will defer the question to him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we have a policy on security over noon hour and that is, that all areas are to be watched over by an employee. They may be very sparse in number, but there is to be someone around, in a general sense. It may break down now and then, but we have policies on keeping material that should be put away, not on desks, but rather, put away, and we try at all times to have someone as a receptionist in any sort of general area where the public may come in.

Providing Services Over Noon Hour

With regard to providing services over noon hour, we have no written policy in that area, unless there are specific policies in the area of licence sales. I cannot speak specifically to that, but we basically do not continue to offer government services to the public over the noon hour, with the possible exception of the area that I mentioned, things like licence sales.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Is the policy with respect to securing offices during noon hour, is that a written policy, and if it is, who enforces the policy or in what way is it enforced?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we have one person in charge of security for the whole government. We are not overly lavish in that area. He travels around and visits the regions once in a while, perhaps on an annual basis. The rest of the time he manages the policies that we have on security and he accepts the responsibility for making inspections from time to time and drawing infractions to the attention of the employee, and if that is inadequate, then drawing those infractions to the attention of the superior to the employee.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. It still was not clear to me. Is it a written policy that there should be one staff member on during the noon hour in public buildings that are not secured? Is that a written policy already?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

Definition Of Policy Necessary

COMMISSIONER PARKER: I am not certain of the form of the policy, whether it is recorded as a policy. I do not think it is recorded as a policy document, but rather, a letter of instruction that our officer in charge has circulated. The Member raises a good point, Mr. Chairman, and we might well look to the actual recording and definition of the policy in this area.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: If I may be given leave then, when the translation comes down, to move motions which otherwise I would want to move immediately -- if I can have your permission, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie, providing we have not completed the Executive budget, we are on page 2.04, I imagine you could request unanimous consent to come back. How long are you going to be?

MR. MacQUARRIE: It should not be too long, I do not think.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Page 2.04, Executive Committee secretariat. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: In the section, grants to organizations, could you tell me if that section has been all allocated? If it has not been all allocated, and portions of it have, to which organizations is it being directed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

Grants To Organizations

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I have the summary of grants and contributions for the current fiscal year. The amount of grants provided, grants and contributions provided, was \$112,000 over the \$183,000 allocated last year. Would you like me to read out the list of organizations and groups that received?

The Girl Guides of Canada, Northwest Territories Council, received \$15,000. The Boy Scouts of Canada, Northwest Territories Council, received \$10,000 and these grants were paid out of funds for the 1979-80 fiscal year. The Native Women's Association received \$50,000. The St. John Ambulance received \$15,000; Circumpolar Conference, \$5000; national native centre fund, \$2000, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada urban handbook project, \$8000; the Canada West Foundation, \$5000; the Northwest Territories Mine Safety Association, \$750; the Canada Week committee, \$4000; the Northwest Territories Metis Association, \$100,000; the Dene Nation, for their annual general meeting, received \$25,000; the Eskimo Dog Foundation received \$50,000...

---Applause

...the Army Cadet League of the Northwest Territories and Air Cadet League received \$3000; the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, for their annual general meeting, received \$25,000; and the Native Communication Society received \$2500; total grants paid in 1980-81 fiscal year funds amount to \$295,250.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden, did you say \$295,000?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, the figure is \$295,250.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We have got -- oh, that is last years you are talking about?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Could the Minister also say what of this years portion has been allocated, if it has, of this years budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, we are currently going through our list of recipients. We have made some commitments for this upcoming fiscal year. One organization which I believe we made a commitment to is the Native Women's Association, in the amount of \$50,000. What we are going to be doing, however, is to go through the list and to indicate to groups who are recipient of a grant every year that their grant may or may not be reduced. We have not completed that exercise yet, but we expect to have that done in the near future.

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

Canada West Foundation

MS COURNOYEA: Just to go back to your previous list of last year, and you said you are going to evaluate all the groups that were receiving funding, why was Canada West Foundation given \$5000? Are we supporting the aspirations and the viewpoint of Canada West Foundation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the grant was approved and our commitment was made prior to the present Executive Committee coming in, and we did not review the commitment to Canada West. Now, I stand to be corrected by the Commissioner if I have...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we made grants, I guess perhaps for three to four years, to the Canada West Foundation because initially it seemed that the Canada West Foundation was taking a great interest in the Northwest Territories and they had some research facilities which seemed valuable to us and they seemed very much interested in our position in confederation. That interest continued, although this year my recollection of the Executive Committee's discussion was that we felt the organization was perhaps becoming less research oriented and more controversial and I believe that we felt that this might be the last year that we would make a grant without a very, very careful review. We have, though, gained some considerable information from them and I think most of us were satisfied that they were certainly taking an anti-separatist view.

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

Motion That No Further Funding Be Allotted To Canada West Foundation

MS. COURNOYEA: I would like to move a motion that no further funding to Canada West be authorized by the Executive Committee until such time as this Legislative Assembly is provided with a full report of the cost benefit analysis of giving money to such an organization.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Yes, thank you, Ms Cournoyea. A motion on the floor. Could we get a copy of that please?

It might be of benefit to some of the other Members to know who this Canada West is, Mr. Braden. You are giving them money and you do not know who they are. Maybe Ms Cournoyea knows who it is but maybe somebody could tell us who this Canada West is. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I would like to ask the leader here whether he is a member of the Canada West Foundation, or the Commissioner.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: No, Mr. Chairman, I am not a member of Canada West. I do not join organizations, political parties and other such institutions. I would be prepared though this afternoon to get some documentation over here, as we can get it very quickly, for the information of the Members of this committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I do not know how the other Members feel but to vote on a motion and we do not know who we are voting for, we do not know who Canada West is. Somebody should be able to explain who they are and what ties they have with the Legislative Assembly. I, myself, could not vote for a motion if we do not know who...

MR. CURLEY: Unless it is a tie.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

No Benefit From Canada West Foundation Involvement

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the reason I made that motion is because I believe, as Mr. Braden has said and the Commissioner has said, this funding was authorized many years ago and it seems to just continue on and on and I know that there are many Northwest Territories organizations that will be requesting funds from this particular budget. I recently received a phone call from Canada West Foundation and it seems to me that I have never seen where we have benefited from our involvement with Canada West. It seems to be primarily from Alberta and the western provinces and I do not deny them their political aspirations or what organization they form themselves under but I believe that the Northwest Territories has its own particular problems and aspirations as well and I do not know if we are receiving any funding for those from Alberta or other provinces. It seems like no one has really knowledge of what we have gained from belonging or giving funds to this foundation. As a matter of fact, the chairman does not know what it is all about and he has been on this Legislative Assembly for some number of years and he has authorized that for those years that he has been sitting on this Legislative Assembly. I read some things about the Canada West Foundation and I just do not see where we are benefiting from giving them \$5000 a year. Maybe we should give that to the disabled or some other...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, Hear!

MS COURNOYEA: ...group that needs it much better.

AN HON. MEMBER: Or perhaps the MLA's.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Fraser commission, the Fraser commission!

---Laughter

Mr. McLaughlin. To the motion.

Attendance At Canada West Foundation Meetings

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, maybe to help us out with this you could ask Mr. Braden if any of the Members of the Executive Committee have attended Canada West Foundation meetings and if so, could they report to us what their opinion was of our membership at those meetings.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, Hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, the Executive Committee was requested to send representatives to a recent conference held by Canada West in Alberta. Two Members of the Executive did attend -- Mr. McCallum and Mr. Wah-Shee -- and a presentation was made. Members will recall receiving it in the mail some time ago. I believe Mr. Wah-Shee and Mr. McCallum went in November last year and I would be pleased to have Mr. McCallum and Mr. Wah-Shee give you a brief review.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. McCallum.

Canada West Foundation Conference In Banff

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, in November -- I believe it was November -- Mr. Wah-Shee and I were asked to attend a conference sponsored by the Canada West Foundation in Banff. Amongst other groups, there were other representatives from the Northwest Territories who were there. There were people from the Yukon and there were people from various groups, fields, universities, just people from the western provinces there as well. I believe the issue was alternatives for the 1980's, that is on the constitution. The Canada West Foundation, in my opinion and as far as I know, is non-partisan. It is not a political organization. It is a foundation set up under various auspices, not the least of which would be other funding organizations, to look at various aspects of the Canadian constitution to try to see that there would be greater representation or alternatives to the kinds of representation that western and northern people have in our present political set-up.

It had been under the guidance, if you like, of an executive secretary, Mr. Stan Roberts, who had a background in education and who just recently, I think as of December, took on the new position in Ontario and Toronto as executive director or secretary of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. What we have gained from it, in my opinion, would be to see what other parts of the West and the North have been -- what their views are of the present constitutional question, that is the patriation by the federal government of the constitution, the changing or amending formula of the constitution. It has in the past provided this government with various research material that they have undertaken in the West. I am not sure whether in fact they have done any research pertinent to the Northwest Territories. I may be in error but it is basically a forum -- again in my opinion -- it is basically a forum whereby people from the North, that is the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and the western prairie provinces, if you like, including British Columbia, are able to gather to discuss certain particular common purposes, and in some cases not common, where people would be at odds.

Participation In The Conference

At the conference that Mr. Wah-Shee and I attended, we were asked to participate. I was asked to chair a meeting or a discussion period that involved -- supposedly at that time there were to be three members from the Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta government. Mr. Romanow from Saskatchewan was supposed to be there, he could not make it. The Hon. Dick Johnson, the interprovincial minister for Alberta government was there as well as the deputy premier of Manitoba, the Hon. Don Craik. They participated in that particular panel that I was asked to chair.

Mr. Wah-Shee, who can very capably indicate what his purpose was, but I will say that he was asked to be a member of a panel that involved a former cabinet minister, the Hon. James Richardson, Dr. Michael Kirby and I am not sure of the third person. I thought there were four people on it. Mr. Wah-Shee was another elected member there and I am not sure, I forget who chaired that meeting but he was asked questions on it and he can discuss that in greater detail what his role was there.

I understand, as I have said, that the bit of research that we found that would be of use to us would be the research on how each province, how each jurisdiction that we know now, the provinces entered confederation; the background material into it. That was given to us amongst some other material that we have received. We felt, in this case, that that was fairly relevant to our situation.

I think, as Mr. Braden has indicated, that we have belonged to the Canada West Foundation for some three, four, five years. Over that time, of course, I think, as far as I know, that there has been material sent back and forth to either individual people in the government or to other organizations in the Northwest Territories. Again, as I say, in my opinion it is a non-partisan group. It is a foundation that provides research potential and capability pertaining to the West and the North. Maybe Mr. Wah-Shee would like to add something to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Wah-Shee, do you remember anything about that party?

---Laughter

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: It was not a party.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: It was held in Banff. It was at a very nice place.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: The snow was on the ground, so we could not play golf.

Opportunity To Educate People About The North

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Anyway, I look at it as another forum where we can provide information regarding our own particular situation in the Northwest Territories, because my impression is that the majority of delegates that went to the conference were ignorant of the Northwest Territories. So, I think it was an opportunity to present our case before them, I made a presentation, just basically outlining the problem that we have in terms of progressing and that there were a number of outstanding issues that we had to deal with, for instance,

the aboriginal claims, and also the problems that we were having with getting involved with the constitutional discussions that have been taking place in Ottawa and also the lack of appreciation and understanding on the part of the various western provinces, that they were more concerned with getting additional members of parliament and also senators and so forth. I think they were talking about western alienation, and so forth. I think that the problem that we have in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon is very much different from the problems that they have in the western provinces, and so it was really another forum. I found that the majority of the people were fairly ignorant. I mean...

---Laughter

I meant of the North.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. The time being 2:30 p.m., I will recognize Mr. Curley and Ms Cournoyea after coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question being called. We have two speakers and neither one of them here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion That No Further Funding Be Allotted To Canada West Foundation, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question being called. That no further funds be given to Canada West Foundation until this Legislative Assembly has been given a full report and a cost-benefit analysis to this government. Question being called. All in favour? Down. Against?

MR. PUDLUK: Those two are against.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Abstentions?

MRS. SORENSEN: You called a question, did you not?

MR. PUDLUK: I did not say it was a question.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The motion is carried, anyway.

MRS. SORENSEN: But you did not read it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Well, you said carried.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Well, how do you work that?

MR. MacQUARRIE: What was that, Mr. Chairman? The motion was...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The motion was defeated.

---Defeated

MR. McLAUGHLIN: By a vote of six.

MR. PUDLUK: If that is how we vote, I vote that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I had a question with respect to that item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We are still on the same page, Mr. Curley, and there is a motion on the floor, and somebody called question, and that was it.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I think I would challenge your ruling in asking for the Members to vote on it before the mover of the motion even got inside. I think I would call it...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): You are challenging my decision, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, I do, because the mover of the motion had question and comment to make on the motion and I believe you had her on the list and you told us that after coffee, Ms Cournoyea and myself were to speak on the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I called the committee to order. We had a quorum and our 15 minutes were up. I am sorry, the question was called and I had to deal with the motion in question. If you want to challenge my ruling, go ahead.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, I do challenge your ruling, because the mover of the motion had a further comment to make on her motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Report progress.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, the committee has been studying Bill 1-81(1), the Executive budget. The motion was on the floor and my decision that the motion was out of order was challenged.

AN HON. MEMBER: Well, we had the vote on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I will just take a moment on this. It should not take very long, so I would hope that you would stay in your seats. It will just be a few moments. We will recess and have a cigarette.

---SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: This particular challenge is complicated in the fact that Ms Cournoyea and Mr. Curley had indicated that they wished to speak and they were on the list of speakers prior to the coffee break. However, after the House was reconvened after coffee break there was a quorum and a Member -- both names, I understand, were called and neither of the Members were in the House, Mr. Curley nor Ms Cournoyea. The question was called and a vote taken. I think according to the rules, as they stand, it is an unfortunate situation but I think Members must realize that it is up to them to get back into the House quickly after the coffee break and be in their places. I do not think the chairman can be held responsible for their absence, so on this basis, I am declaring that the chairman and the procedure used is correct at this time.

We will return to 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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I would like the permission of this committee to ask my officials to come inside the ropes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it agreed that we have the Executive -- agreed?

---Agreed

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you.

Executive Committee Secretariat, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We are dealing with the Executive Committee secretariat, page 2.04, in the amount of \$1,597,000.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion That Mail Be Acknowledged Upon Receipt

MR. MacQUARRIE: A motion is all right, now. Yes? Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move that this Assembly urge the Executive Committee to adopt as policy and to inform all Government of the Northwest Territories departments and agencies of its policy, that all first class mail or its internal equivalent, if it cannot be dealt with within three days of its receipt, at least be acknowledged in that period of time, by phone or preferably by mail, even if the latter means resorting to form letters.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. Very briefly, I have had on a number of occasions and I know that others have had the experience of sending correspondence and not receiving any indication for a prolonged period of time whether the correspondence was even received. I have other means of finding out something like that but I know that a lot of people do not. So, I would like to see it as a policy, that if someone is out of town or is ill or whatever, that at least we have a little form that says, you know, or is ticked off in some way, "Your letter received; Mr. 'X' is out of town and we will correspond when he returns." Just so that people know that it did not get swallowed up in some great vacuum and that it will be dealt with in due time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion That Mail Be Acknowledged Upon Receipt, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): A question being called. All in favour? Down. Against? Abstentions? It is carried.

---Carried

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion That Government Offices Be Staffed During Noon Hour

MR. MacQUARRIE: My other motion is that this Assembly urge the Executive Committee to adopt as policy and to inform all Government of the Northwest Territories departments and agencies, which would appropriately be subject to such policy, that at least one departmental staff member be kept on duty during the noon hour, in situations where government offices are located in public buildings that are not secured during the noon hour and that departments or agencies, which have fairly frequent interaction with the public and which have sufficient staff to accomplish it, have one or more staff members accessible to the public during the noon hour to answer phones, to greet visitors, to distribute information, to make appointments and so on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Better Service And Security

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. With respect to the first part, it simply arose because on a couple of occasions I have found myself in situations where I was in departments in public buildings at noon hour and it was evident that someone who had a malicious intent could easily have taken government property or gone into files in government offices and that sort of thing. I believe that we should have better security than that.

With respect to the second part, two arguments. I would like the motion, in some small way, to express a general concern that I have with our society which seems to be very much concerned with benefits and not enough with responsibility and service. In putting this motion, I certainly do not wish to single out public servants. I think that we find the problem right across the job spectrum in our society. I believe that it is a problem that we ought to deal with in whatever small ways we can to begin with. In addition to that, more specifically, I just feel that our government does exist to serve the public. There is at least a

certain segment of the public that finds it difficult to get to government offices when they are open and I think we should have someone there at noon hour who can deal with any problems that they might have. Both these matters are of serious concern to me. My constituency is largely comprised of public servants and I will, without question, continue to insist that public servants be treated fairly, that they have decent benefits and so on, but I am also willing to concede that not only they, but all of us have responsibilities that are associated with our jobs as well, that all of us must at all times take seriously.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. I wonder if the Inuit Members understand the motion. Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. MacQUARRIE: It was translated, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand the motion. I wonder if Mr. MacQuarrie's motion only has restriction to the headquarters offices, or to all the offices in the Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I do say all departments and agencies and I considered regional offices certainly to be part of that, wherever the staff is adequate.

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

Increase Government Expenditures

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would have difficulty in supporting that motion. I think, unless those particular staff members or secretaries are going to be paid for the noon hour break, I am not sure whether they would be able to spend that time in that office building when they are not going to be paid for it. I think this is a costly affair. I think it is certainly going to increase the expenditures of the government, of the public service. It only applies, I think, to Yellowknife, not to our communities, so on that basis, I think it creates more of bureaucratic red tape -- on that basis I am not going to support the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just in response to that, I do not believe that it is written into contracts that people must have lunch between the hour of 12:00 and 1:00 and therefore, what I am suggesting is that if there are 10 people on a staff, there is no reason why one of them could not take lunch from 1:00 to 2:00 and the other people take lunch from 12:00 until 1:00. It would not cost the government one single extra cent, I believe, unless there is a contract which would make it impossible to do that or costly to do it. I do not know. Perhaps the Commissioner could enlighten us about that.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think it is convenient for some of the members to have to wait for the other members to return from lunch, when they will be in the office. There are many offices in the public service say, for instance, on one floor. I do not think the person

designated to stay around over the lunch period would be looking after all of the floor. If the public service did not allow anybody to come into the building during lunch hour, it should be clearly stated. If this is going to be it, I have problems in supporting the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Commissioner. I think there was a question for you there.

Details Of Operation

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, these are details of operation. I think that the Member has drawn to our attention a possible deficiency in the more major centres and in areas where the public has a requirement to be served. We should look to our practices. In the areas of security, we should also look to our practices and we are quite prepared to do that. If we have to, we can keep somebody on duty and if not, we can just lock things up safely. With regard to the direct question as to whether it would be more costly, I would think that we can arrange our affairs to look after this little matter without spending much more money but it will not necessarily mean that we will keep offices open over noon hour.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): In other words, if the motion passes or not, you are going to take action anyway. To the motion. Do I hear a question?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): A question being called. Mr. Stewart.

Matter For Administration

HON. DON STEWART: Yes, I do not think that I can support the motion as a motion. I think the suggestions contained within the motion are well taken, but as a Legislature we are getting down into pretty near the everyday running of the administration. The next thing we are going to be doing is serving tea and telling how many cubes of sugar you can put in it or something. I think this is an overall matter for administration to look after. I think the point has been raised and should be looked after but not by way of motion. I think we are getting into detail of trying...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, Hear!

HON. DON STEWART: ...to run things through...

---Applause

...too close.

Motion That Government Offices Be Staffed During Noon Hour, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. A question was called. All in favour? Down. Against? Down. Abstentions? Now you know how I feel MacQuarrie.

---Laughter

The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Sibbeston supported me, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The motion was defeated. Page 2.04, the Executive Committee secretariat, in the amount of \$1,597,000. Mr. Curley.

Motion That Grants And Contributions Be Reviewed

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion concerning the grants and contributions. I move that this Assembly direct the Executive Committee to adopt as policy that all grants and contributions requested by organizations out of the Northwest Territories be reviewed and approved by finance committee before the funds are released.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Can we get a copy of that? We will just be a minute here. We have to see whether the motion is in order.

MR. CURLEY: It is in order with the policy. It is the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley, your motion is sort of confusing here. I will just let the Law Clerk explain the technicalities or the difficulties in the motion, if you will Mr. Johnson.

LAW CLERK (Mr. Johnson): Mr. Curley, the problem I see with it is that we are considering grants and contributions and the House, once they vote on those, and the money is approved to be spent, then you are trying to make it subject to a further committee of the House and further approval of the House. I think then you are interfering with the financial prerogative of the Executive as to how the money is spent. That is my view of it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not care what the Law Clerk thinks, I would like to...

---Laughter

...to establish as a policy that all applications for funds requested out of the Territories, in the charitable organizations and whatnot, funds sought from out of the Territories should be analysed a little more carefully. I think that is what I have asked the Assembly to adopt as policy. I do not think it is attempting to take away that chunk of the allotted grants and contributions away from them, but subject to detailed study and approval by the finance committee of this House. I do not see where that could lead to a problem at all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We have the intent of your motion, Mr. Curley. It is just a couple of changes in the wording. Mr. Johnson will probably explain.

Change In Wording

LAW CLERK (Mr. Johnson): Yes. I think the object could be accomplished if the wording would be, that the Executive Committee adopt as a policy that no grants or contributions be made to organizations outside of the Northwest Territories, something like that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: May I ask the Leader of the Elected Executive then, would that pose a problem to the financial management board or the Commissioner, if the policy were to be adopted and the finance committee be given the responsibility to review applications from out of the Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden.

Policy Already Established

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Executive Committee already has adopted a policy with respect to grants to organizations. It was developed earlier on last year and adopted around the summertime. The policy is intended to provide funding to the non-profit organizations which serve the whole of the Northwest Territories in cultural, social, and educational areas. It is a way of providing funding to organizations which are not eligible for other territorial government grants or forms of assistance. For example, we provide assistance to hunters' and trappers' associations through the Department of Renewable Resources.

Now, given the criteria that we have already established with the new policy and also the increasing demand by territorial organizations vis a vis the limited funds we have to deal with, I would suspect that Canada West Foundation would not be high on our priority list of organizations to receive assistance. I believe that it is the only organization which is not resident in the Northwest Territories which has received financial assistance. The only other possibility where that could be challenged is the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. I think as far as your question is concerned, we could defer consideration of a request until such time as we had consulted with the standing committee on finance. But as indicated, given the demand and the limits of money we have available in this grants and contributions portion of our budget, organizations outside the Northwest Territories would not be high on our priority list.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

Motion That Grants And Contributions Be Reviewed, Withdrawn

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I recall last year, that when an organization, an international organization like Circumpolar Conference, requested funds, it went through the -- not just the Executive Committee. It went first through the caucus, the whole caucus, before it was presented to the government. Now, I do not see where -- I do not understand why there has to be such a problem in the managing of the funds of the territorial government a little better than they have been, by putting in a condition like that, but I will withdraw the motion because it seems to be creating a problem right now. Thank you.

Executive Committee Secretariat, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Page 2.04, Executive Committee secretariat, the amount of \$1,597,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 2.05, aboriginal rights and constitutional development secretariat, 0 and M, \$495,000. Agreed. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have some reaction from the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and the Leader of the Elected Executive as to how the present policy, if there is any, is working out with respect to negotiations of the organizations, whether or not the territorial government is actively engaging in negotiations of the land claims, particularly with ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and other native organizations. Have they taken part and have they established a new policy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Wah-Shee -- Commissioner Wah-Shee. Did you get the question, Mr. Wah-Shee?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: No, I did not. I would like to ask the honourable Member if he could repeat it for me, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley. I think you are just a little bit too far from your mike. I can barely hear you.

MR. CURLEY: No, I think they were talking with each other.

---Laughter

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I was just telling him what you said. I was helping you out. Slow down. Do not get excited.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley, could you just repeat...

MR. CURLEY: Do you want to interpret for me?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I am going to have to.

MR. CURLEY: Why do you not walk outside, so I can...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Let us get up and go home.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Order. Could you repeat the question, please?

New Policy For Aboriginal Rights Negotiations

MR. CURLEY: Yes. I would like to ask whichever elected leader or constitutional Minister can react to the question -- whether in fact, they have established a new policy with the aboriginal rights negotiations, or whether or not they have been actively engaging in negotiations with the federal government and native organizations as a third party. I would like him to brief the House on these matters at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We have been active in the negotiations of the COPE, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement claim and we have appointed a negotiator for COPE and we have been participating as part of the federal team. This is a mandate that we received previously from this House, and so we are proceeding with that.

Regarding ITC, we have also appointed a Government of the Northwest Territories negotiator. His name is Mr. Charlie Evalik and he has been attending the discussions with Thomas Suluk, in Ottawa, as well as in Eskimo Point, I believe. Regarding the Dene Nation, the Dene Nation is waiting for the federal government to appoint a federal negotiator. I believe the Minister for Indian and Northern Affairs has made a commitment to the Dene Nation, back in November, that the federal government will appoint a federal negotiator. To date, no negotiator has been appointed by the federal government, although the Dene Nation is anxious to enter into discussions and negotiations. I intend to table a progress report on aboriginal claims in this particular session for the information of the Members of this House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Curley. Any further questions? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, just with respect to the last matter, could the Minister, Mr. Wah-Shee, give us some idea as to how soon that report will be tabled? Specifically, will it be in plenty of time for a commentary or questions afterwards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I intend to table the report, as I have already indicated earlier. I want to ensure that the document is translated. Also it has yet to go before the Executive Committee so I cannot really say at this time, on what particular date we will be submitting it but it will be fairly soon. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Would you say within the next week, Mr. Wah-Shee?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Not necessarily, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Within the next month?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: At this particular session, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Any further questions on page 2.05? Mr. Sibbeston.

New Faces In Land Claims Staff

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, last spring, when we were in Baker Lake and when we were discussing the aboriginal rights and constitutional secretariat, I remember talking about the government getting specialists in the field of aboriginal rights and constitutional development and also people who were publicly known to be very sympathetic with native people, aboriginal rights claims. I am just wondering, has the secretariat hired anybody who would perhaps fit in that category? Are there any new faces up there that we could perhaps be happy about or impressed with?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I do have a good staff on the secretariat. We have recently hired Mr. Angus Mackay. He is the political development adviser. He has just recently completed a degree in political science and also he has been working for a number of years in the Eastern Arctic and so we have hired him and also, as I have indicated, we have hired Charlie Evalik. We have yet to hire a Dene negotiator, and two researcher positions are vacant at this time as well but we intend to hire those people as soon as we can get some people to consider the positions. We are getting involved with the discussions regarding aboriginal claims and the only one to date which has been fairly active is COPE, and ITC is getting onstream. So I think from my point of view, I believe that we do have good people on the Executive secretariat at this time. It is just a matter of what we can accomplish in the coming two years and that will be determined by how the negotiations progress with the three native organizations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Sibbeston.

Employee Leaves Government For Private Industry

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I understand that recently Murray Smith, who had worked for the secretariat, has joined and is now working for, I believe, Dome Petroleum and I am just curious as to this happening. I am curious of the fact that someone can work for this government in the field of the constitutional and aboriginal rights area and then find himself now working for the opposition, in a sense, for industry. Can Mr. Wah-Shee explain perhaps some background as to Mr. Murray Smith's leaving the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Well, I believe Mr. Smith was not very happy working within this position, so he went on to other challenges and it is rather unfortunate that he chose to work with Dome Petroleum because that does pose a problem. I think the leader of the Executive has indicated that it is rather difficult to prevent anyone who leaves the public service from entering into employment with one of the resource industries like Dome Petroleum. The only recourse we may have, of course, is that when these people leave the public service, they should not take any documents that really are the property of this government. I think that is the only recourse that we would have. In terms of when they do leave public service and where they wish to be employed outside the government, it is very difficult for us, I think, as a government to prevent anyone from being employed in any particular industry. I share the concern that is being expressed but I think that it is one of those things which we really do not have any control over, Mr. Chairman.

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

Suspicious Of Government Staff

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, maybe the Minister can then appreciate the feelings that some of us have about some of the people that are working for this government. I am basically suspicious that some of the people that are working for you do not really have the native people's interests at heart and to me, this case of Murray Smith is perhaps a good example of someone who is supposed to work for this government, who ought to have the interest of native people at heart, finding that now he works for industry. Where was his interest and his concern and his -- what do you call it -- where were his sympathies, as it were? It is this sort of thing that really makes me suspicious that this government, inasmuch as it has an aboriginal rights and constitutional secretariat, is not really doing as good a job as possible because there is a suspiciousness that you have people on your staff who are not really that sympathetic with the native cause, as it were. Is Mr. Wah-Shee aware of any other persons on his staff who he finds is not very sympathetic and who, for all we know, next month might be working for industry in the opposition again? If he is aware of it, would he take steps immediately to fire them so we eventually get rid of all such people and as I said, get good people who are very competent and who publicly state and are publicly known to be sympathetic with the native cause?

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

Land Claims Staff Committed To Principles

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I think that, as I indicated earlier, the staff that I have at the present time have to be given the opportunity to produce results regarding the kinds of progress that this particular Legislature would like to see. It is very difficult for me to read their minds as to what they wish to do after they have been employed in the secretariat but as far as I am concerned, the staff that I do have are very committed. I do not consider them to be deadwood or people who do not have any imagination. I think they do. It is a very challenging position that they do hold and all I would ask of the honourable Member is to give my staff a chance to get into their responsibilities.

I would also like to say that I think the land claims negotiations have not really commenced to a point where we can sort of gauge how things are going because, really, the only one we have which has been fairly active is the COPE

claim. I think that overall we are really definitely committed to the principles which were adopted by this House where we were given the mandate as an Executive to work and co-operate very closely with the native organizations and to bridge the gap that seemed to exist before we all got elected to this Assembly. I think to date we have come to some mutual understanding between ourselves as a government and native organizations. I think right now, the result is that we have a good rapport with the Dene Nation and I also think the same feelings exist with ITC and also with COPE. So it is a matter of giving this mutual co-operation and opportunity to produce results and to see how we can progress from here and I think that judgment should really be made perhaps a year from now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Curley, I have you next on the list.

Plans Of A Constitutional Debate

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions to the Minister responsible for Constitutional Development. During the last session in Frobisher Bay, there were a number of motions that were passed asking the Executive Committee to plan, for instance, maybe another constitutional conference in the Territories or schedule events dealing with the division of the Territories. I would like to know whether or not the Executive Committee, or through you, has had any kind of ideas or plans as to whether or not we should plan a constitutional debate either through this Assembly or the public. Could you maybe give us what you have in mind with respect to those motions that we passed during the last session? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, we definitely do intend to hold a conference. We recently met with the Dene Nation and a suggestion has been made that perhaps we could hold a conference sometime in the near future involving the major native organizations with the Members of this House possibly, and to get an initial discussion going regarding the constitutional direction that the North should really go as a whole. Included in that would be the discussions regarding the division of the Territories. I think we have a lot of work to do in that area but I think really where we ought to begin is to get a joint conference going where the native organizations or leaders are involved in getting the direction to the government and I believe that this is a long time coming. Now that we have established good lines of communication and a good rapport, I think that perhaps now is the time to consider such a conference, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I am sorry. I have Mr. Commissioner on next. Did you want to answer Mr. Curley's question?

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I just would like the opportunity, if I could, to make a very brief comment with regard to the earlier question of Mr. Sibbeston.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Please proceed.

Employees Leaving Should Have Supportive Viewpoint

COMMISSIONER PARKER: I do not think that the point should be lost that some persons may leave the government's employ and go to work with commercial companies or resource companies and take with them to that new occupation a very good point of view, a point of view well understood as to the operations of government and a point of view supportive of the native people. You cannot automatically assume that because they are going to work for someone else, they are suddenly in opposition. I think the opposite is true. They may well be very supportive of the native people and I would hope any and all of our employees would be supportive where any support should be given. In fact, we probably should be pleased that we have employees that are attracted to companies and will go and work for them and take our point of view there. Is it not much better to have that happen once in a while, than for the resource companies to be forever hiring people from the South, somewhere else, who have no experience in the North? I just submit to you that it should be borne in mind that it can be a very positive experience.

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

Important Question Is Competency

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a while earlier, I thought Mr. Sibbeston was perhaps pleading for the continued employment of Mr. Smith in the aboriginal rights secretariat because I would not find it comprehensible that he should deny a person the right to seek employment elsewhere. Personally, I cannot see why employment with Petro Canada would be a threat to aboriginal rights negotiations. At any rate, I do not think that this asking questions about where people have gone is legitimate. Others might ask questions about where our staff is coming from but in the final analysis, those are not the questions that are important. The questions, the final test as to whether employees in the secretariat are worth while, is whether they are competent, hard working and faithful to any direction that is given to them from the Executive Committee and from this Assembly. That is the ultimate test, whether they are valued employees or not.

MR. CURLEY: To the item, to the item, please.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Of course, there is a further question...

MR. CURLEY: Order.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...and that is that we have a responsibility to give them adequate direction. I am not sure that we have maybe done that and that is why I have asked certain questions about what is going on but I think as far as employees are concerned, the question is competency, industriousness and willingness to do what this Assembly wants.

MR. CURLEY: There is no motion. To the item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I was out of the House when this debate began but I heard Murray Smith's name mentioned as I came through the door. I would like to join with the Commissioner in pointing out that Murray Smith served this government very, very well and the native people of the Northwest Territories and, in fact, all people of the Northwest Territories while he was a member of the Government of the Northwest Territories. I know...

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Chairman.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I know because he worked for me.

AN HON. MEMBER: A point of order.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I would suggest that -- I would agree with the Commissioner that Murray Smith will take with him...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Do you have a point of order, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think we are getting out of topic here. We were talking about aboriginal rights and constitutional development. We were not talking about personalities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Tell your friend on the end. He started this.

---Laughter

MR. CURLEY: He shut up for a while.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The subject of Murray Smith came up and I think Mr. Butters is just protecting him. Go ahead, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I agree with what the Commissioner said. I am sure that Mr. Smith will make the position of the people of the North known with his new employers. In a general sense, I heard some reference or the implication that if you are working for industry in some way, you are working contrary to the interests of native organizations and native people.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is true.

Taking Advantage Of Opportunities

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is not true, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of native people who have felt that their best chance to influence the direction that development will take is with employment in these organizations, in industry. We all know many of them and have they become traitors to a native position? Have they become opponents to a native objective? I do not think so. I think it is good that such opportunities exist in industry and I think it is good that native people are taking advantage of those opportunities.

One excellent opportunity that was taken was by the IDC, Inuit Development Corporation, when they became very much involved in Cullaton Lake and invested in that organization to the tune of \$25 million. I think that we can take our hats off to that type of forward looking objectivity and management.

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

Caveat On Privileged Positions

MS COURNOYEA: I suppose everybody is getting carried away. In terms of the budget I think that we have senior people in various sections of this government agency. I just wanted to restate again, that people who have privileged information should have some caveats with their position. I am not talking about secretaries. I am not talking about people who have information just of a general nature. We do not have a native person lawyer in industry or anything like that but I just wanted to come back to that and say what people think is not what we are talking about. We are talking about senior people with access to privileged information. If we want to get around this argument, we should really face the fact that we have to make some kind of policy that puts a caveat on these privileged positions and I think then the argument will cease.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Page 2.05, aboriginal rights, \$495,000. Agreed? Mr. Curley.

DIAND Minister Invited To Session

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have one more question to the Minister about constitutional development. I wonder if he has plans to invite the Minister of Indian Affairs to brief and share with the Assembly his ideas or any plans for the constitutional development of the Territories. My understanding is that the cabinet is going to be deciding something about the division sometime next month. Would the Minister have any interest in inviting him to the spring session, for instance, to try and at least come to some understanding with the Minister, unless otherwise he is inviting him during this session? Could he maybe enlighten us on this possibility? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: We intend to table information regarding the latest development on constitutional changes which were made recently by Jean Chrétien. Regarding inviting the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to the spring session, if that is the desire of this House, certainly we would be pleased to invite the Minister to the Hay River session.

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

MR. CURLEY: One point to be made to the leader of the government here. Since your trip to Ottawa, have you had any further discussions with respect to the formulation of the cabinet paper and if so, could you maybe explain to us what kind of contacts you have had, whether or not he is actually going ahead with the cabinet paper, and as to the timing of his cabinet decision with respect to the division?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden, your views on that?

Federal Government Considering Major Issues

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal government, as you are aware, is currently considering some rather major issues respecting the Canadian constitution and energy policy. The reason that I raise this is that I gather, from discussions I have had with federal officials, the issue of northern constitutional development will not be considered until such time as the Liberal government in Ottawa has put to rest or at least come to terms with dealing with these major national issues. Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that we will have to wait years and years. It is my understanding that there are

officials in other departments as well as other Ministers who have expressed a deep and sincere interest in the manner in which any position papers or decision papers are put together, respecting not only division of the Northwest Territories but any other major items, such as resource revenue sharing between the federal government and northern institutions of government, provincial-type resource jurisdiction by institutions of government in the North and the transfer of those provincial-type powers which still remain in the hands of the federal government. I am referring to such powers as are contained in the area of justice, labour, health and a few other areas where the federal government still acts on our behalf.

All of this is to say, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Munro, who will be in Yellowknife on February 27th to address the Association of Municipalities, has made some time available to meet with the caucus. This may be a good time for interested Members to bring up questions in this area as well as in other areas. He may be able to give us a progress report on how the development of their position papers is going. There are, I think Members recognize, a lot of outstanding reports, issues, and proposals on the table that the federal government has to deal with.

I would suspect, if I can look into the future, that we may look to getting something out of the federal government in the fall of this year. I know that is not perhaps the timetable that some of us were under the impression of earlier on, but as I said, there are these two major items, the Canadian constitution and the national energy policy, which the federal government is collectively struggling with now. Thank you.

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Page 2.05, aboriginal rights in the amount of \$495,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Regional Operations Secretariat, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 2.06, regional operations secretariat, \$2,447,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Audit Bureau, Total 0 and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 2.07, audit bureau, the amount of \$831,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Go back to page 2.01, total 0 and M, \$6,736,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Capital, \$485,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Did you say capital?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We have already approved capital, the first day.

MR. CURLEY: Oh, I see.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): That is just the summary. That completes the Executive and we will take a 15 minute coffee break, and Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will be next.

---SHORT RECESS

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. The committee will come to order. We will deal with the main estimates. Bill 1-81(1), page 3.01, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Mr. McCallum, any opening remarks?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I may, before I make these, ask the indulgence of the committee to bring in the chairman of the board of directors, as well as the managing director of the Housing Corporation, and we would then take the witnesses' seats.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: That would be Mr. Forrest and Mr. Pilot. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would propose, sir, because I have responsibility to bring forth to this House the budget of the Housing Corporation, or at least the amount of the contribution that the government makes to the Housing Corporation, that is the Government of the Northwest Territories share to carry out the construction and acquisition of housing, as well as maintenance of houses in the Territories, and only that responsibility; whereas the responsibility for the board of directors is Mr. Pilot's, as chairman of the board, under the present legislation, and Mr. Forrest, as the executive director, if you like, or the managing director of the corporation.

I have very few comments to make, Mr. Chairman. I would say that this is the first time, I believe, that the corporation's budget has been put forth as a separate entity. I indicated as well, that we must remember that this is a contribution by the government and as such, is of course, accountable. It is only the Government of the Northwest Territories share of the funding that the corporation has at its disposal. I would think that there is approximately as much again if not more, that the corporation handles, so that it is the kind of money that the corporation is involved with in its entirety, \$50 million plus.

There is no report to be tabled at this time on the operation of the corporation. It will be tabled at a later date. At the present time, the corporation operates on a different fiscal year than does the government in general. Mr. Pilot may very well report to this committee regarding the work of the board of directors, its make-up, the meetings, etc. I have been in attendance for part of the time at some of their board meetings.

The amount of funding that is in the contribution that this government gives to the corporation is, of course, to provide for new units for public housing under two sections of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the means, that is, by which this corporation acquires funding.

Housing Corporation Personnel

There were some issues, I think, that not only will this committee, but the Legislature, and in fact, the board of directors would have to address themselves with over the next year. I should say at the outset that the corporation does not have an increase in personnel, save for an increase in the number of people that may very well be involved with housing associations in the communities, but certainly with the corporation, there is no increase in man years in this coming year. There is an increase of approximately \$4,100,000 to the contribution from 1980-81 to this coming year, 1981-82.

As I had indicated, there were certain issues that I believe the committee may well want to address itself to, as well as the Legislature, and that would be into the structure of the corporation. If it is to remain a corporation, we, the board of directors, have addressed ourselves to this question as to taking on a better corporate structure.

Arrangements For Housing Construction

One of the things that I think that the Members should be aware of is the arrangements under which housing is constructed in the Territories. At the present time, our amortization payments approximate \$10.8 million of a total contribution of \$24 million. We are involved with arrangements with CMHC; that is the lending institution from which we gather that money and acquire money, in 50 year old mortgages. Now, I say 50 year old, that is, we take on 50 year mortgages to build houses in the Northwest Territories.

The arrangements under which we build houses are under section 40 of the CMHC Act, wherein we provide so much money and the housing corporation of the Canada Mortgage and Housing provides other. Under section 40, it is a shared partnership and capital. Our share is 25 per cent and the CMHC is 75. That means that we have a large amount of money initially. There is no repayment clause in this particular arrangement, but there is a large amount of front-end money under the second section, section 43, that is that we provide 10 per cent and the CMHC provide 90 per cent, and with the mortgages under those two arrangements, it costs us a great deal of money. Most of the amortization costs are, of course, within the Central Arctic, the Keewatin, and the Baffin.

One of the other questions that we should address ourselves to is the question of bringing the corporation into an identical financial year as the government. That is a question, I think, that the board of directors and maybe Mr. Pilot will refer to that later, but we should consider that kind of an arrangement. We, in this government work from April to March; the Housing Corporation is on a calendar year and there is some difficulty, obviously, with those three months.

Problem Of Social Housing

One of the other problems is the problem of social housing. I think it is time that we, as a government, addressed ourselves to this total concept. Are we in social housing or are we not? Do we begin to charge economical rates for rent, or do we continue to subsidize it? We will find that of the total contribution of this government to the corporation, more and more of that contribution has to go to provide for non-discretionary funding, and by that I mean the fuel, the power, the taxes, the water, the amortization. More and more of it keeps going in that area, with the result that fewer dollars are then available for the construction; fewer dollars are available for the retrofit, the rehab programs.

You will find in the budget, Mr. Chairman, that we are constructing many new units of housing in various areas of the North, predominantly -- I should not say predominantly -- by and large, with the exception, I think, of Aklavik, Fort Franklin and Holman Island, the new units under those two sections that I have mentioned will be in the Central Arctic, Keewatin, and Baffin. We have a considerable program in what we call the small settlement homeowners assistance grant, the SSHAG program, that is basically in the West. We have a rural remote program and we are involved, as a corporation, in some experimental housing -- experimental housing that will be constructed in the eastern part as well; specifically at Clyde River, Frobisher Bay, and Pangnirtung.

I think, Mr. Chairman, with those very few remarks concerning the corporation, I would ask Mr. Pilot if he would like to make some opening comments on the operation of the board of the Housing Corporation over the past year and possibly with a view towards the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Before I ask Mr. Pilot, I am going to ask Mr. Noah, the deputy chairman, if he will want to take the chair for a while, seeing he was just appointed today. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Yes, I will be able to take the chair, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mr. MacQuarrie, I believe you wanted to say something.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, I was just getting my name on the list for later. I think the chairman had asked Mr. Pilot or Mr. Forrest whether they had anything to say, and certainly, I will wait until they do, if they do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Pilot.

Purpose Of The Board Of Directors

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PILOT: Mr. Chairman, I will only add very briefly to the words of Mr. McCallum. As chairman of the board of the directors, I suppose I should indicate that there are a total of 10 members on the board, one of whom is the managing director, in fact, and two Members of this Legislature are also members of the board of directors.

The main purpose of the board of directors, or the aim of the board of directors this past year, has been to review the establishment or the structure of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, and based on the review that is being undertaken at the present time, it is hoped that we will be able to recommend to this House some changes in the ordinance and in the structure of the corporation in this coming year. The other aim of the board at this present time is to review the policies of the corporation. We have discovered that this is one of the weaker areas of the administration or of the board in itself actually, because it is the board's responsibility to develop policy which provides the guidelines to the administration of the Housing Corporation.

In the review of the structure of the Housing Corporation itself, it is hoped that we can bring the senior management more in line with the corporate structure that is common to many organizations with a large responsibility, and financial responsibility, as this Housing Corporation has. It is hoped that when this review is completed over the next few weeks, that the recommendations that we will be putting forward will enhance and strengthen, in fact, the board of directors and its responsibilities to this House.

1980 Board Meetings

This past year we held four board meetings, one of which was the budget meeting, in which we reviewed the budget as presented by the administration of the Housing Corporation; both the operating and maintenance budget and the capital budget of the corporation, and the review being completed -- it was unfortunately done after the fact, and I mean by that, it was done after it had been reviewed by the Executive, or the financial management board of the Executive. In future, we anticipate that the board of directors will have an opportunity to review the budget prior to its appearance before the financial management board, and before its appearance at the standing committee level. I do not believe I have anything further to add at this time, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Forrest if he wishes to make any comments, if I may.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Pilot. Mr. Forrest, any comments?

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this moment, I have no opening comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Thank you. Mrs. Sorensen.

Deterioration Of Housing Corporation Finances

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few remarks on behalf of the standing committee on finance. They are not necessarily in the form of any questions. I will save those and get my name on the list later, but first of all, the standing committee would like to thank the Hon. Mr. McCallum for tabling the document entitled, "Thorne Riddell and Co., Report Prepared for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, August 1980". We had indicated by recommendation that this report be tabled in the House, in time for Members to review it before the main estimates of the Housing Corporation were reviewed. We received it, I believe, yesterday, and I am certain that most Members have had that opportunity to read it and will have questions arising out of it.

Yesterday was also my first opportunity, as the chairman of the finance committee, to review the document, and I must say that I am absolutely shocked that the finances within the Housing Corporation had deteriorated to such a level. However, during the review that the standing committee on finance had in mid January, we had been apprized of action that was being taken by the board of directors in response to this report and I believe that that action -- at least I hope that that action will get the Housing Corporation back on the right track.

Corporation Should Be Back Under Control Of Government

The standing committee, however, felt that perhaps this Legislature should consider very seriously bringing the Housing Corporation back under the control of the government, and in particular, under the direct control of an elected Minister, and under the direct control of the Legislative Assembly. If that were to happen, the Housing Corporation would then be subject to our government's policy with respect to financial management. It would be subject to our internal auditing process. It would be subject to more than one page that simply says \$24 million, with no detail whatsoever, within this Legislature, and it would certainly be subject, then, to our government's calendar year. Under this arrangement, the Housing Corporation board of directors would still remain in existence and would provide input and guidance with respect to policy decisions.

The standing committee on finance was not prepared to make that a formal recommendation. We felt that there were certain ramifications to bringing the Housing Corporation back under the government and we did not have all that information available at our fingertips, since we first were aware of this very serious problem only in mid January. We did, however, feel that it was an option that the Legislature should discuss and we do know that Mr. McCallum and Mr. Pilot and the Executive Committee have seriously discussed this option and do have some recommendations on how they see we should proceed. So having said that, Mr. Chairman, I will defer any further comment and allow other questions to come onto the floor.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not sure whether the Member wanted any comment. I felt that she was making simply an opening statement as regards the corporation rather than asking for a response from me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mrs. Sorensen, do you have anything else?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, it was a general question and I would recommend that we now proceed into capital as we had agreed and then move into operations and maintenance.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Is it not customary to deal, first of all, just with general questions and comments and this sort of thing before we address specifically either capital or O and M?

MRS. SORENSEN: Sorry.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) At the present time we can have general discussion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Corporation Management

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to see that the standing committee on finance has considered already some of the problems that are faced by the corporation and that Mr. Pilot has indicated that the board is thinking of certain necessary revisions. I say that because I do not pretend to any financial expertise. Yet when I read through the Housing Corporation's budget proposal, and through the Thorne Riddell report, and a variety of other things, just as a non-expert, I was forced to wonder whether the corporation is in control and whether it is being governed and managed effectively. So there are a great many serious questions that occur to me. I hope that we will not rush through the discussions here and that we will attempt to have everyone in the Assembly understand as clearly as possible what problems are facing the corporation now.

I have so many questions I am not quite sure where to begin and I certainly will not try to get them all in before other Members have a chance but one or two anyway. Could I ask, first of all, why this is the first year that we are having the contributions brought in in the budget in this way? What changes have occurred to make that necessary?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think that very few changes have been made. In previous years it was under the Executive vote. This time we felt that it should be separate because there is now somebody responsible for bringing the budget into the House, only for that particular reason. In other years it simply came under the total vote of the Executive because it was a contribution to a corporation by the Executive but we felt, that is, the Executive felt because it was now the responsibility of an elected Member of the Executive to bring forth the budget into the House, it then should be separate in the list of various departments, only for that reason.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mr. MacQuarrie, do you have another addition to your comments?

Details Of Housing Corporation Budget

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Somewhere soon will we see the internal part of the budget, the salaries and wages? I recognize -- has that been tabled already? I did not have that. Perhaps I am wrong. I have not seen it among my materials.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I thought that the Territories Housing Corporation 1981 budget in this particular wrapping was available to Members. There were 50 copies delivered to the Clerk. There were copies delivered so I guess what you would have to do, Mr. Chairman, is ask Mr. Hamilton or the Clerk whether in fact they received them and if not, if they have not received them, we are going to have to find them. They must be in transit. Oh, there could be a problem, Mr. Chairman. We sent them by mail. That is factious.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) I would like to know if Mr. McCallum would like to ask about those copies of that material now.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yes, I would hope that if they are here, that they should be passed out to each Member, if they have not been, but certainly we made them available, I think last Thursday.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Alarming Increases In Corporation Budget

MR. MacQUARRIE: Okay, perhaps -- I certainly would want a copy of that -- but perhaps we can go on with one or two other questions. I notice what I guess I could call an alarming increase in that contribution over a period of two years from \$16 million to \$24 million. One question I would like to know is: Can we expect to continue to see annual increases in the neighbourhood of 25 per cent? That was 50 per cent over two years.

I notice also, in respect of that, that there was an alarming -- I do not know what you would call it -- but the main estimates last year called for a contribution of \$19,863,000; and then we see a revised forecast of \$24,373,000, so there seem to be some rather alarming increases in that contribution. Can we expect an explanation as to why these increases have occurred and can we expect that they would continue at that rate in the foreseeable future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I recognize that the Member is referring to the actuals of 1979-80 to the proposed budget of 1981-82 and indeed there is an approximate 50 per cent increase. If we continue as a corporation to provide housing to people in the Northwest Territories, at the rate we are embarked upon, yes there will be a continuing increase. It is conceivable that within two to three years, that our amortization costs, because they fluctuate with the rate that is being applied to them, could double what they are now if we continue to provide the kind of housing under the arrangements that we have and at the costs that are involved in the construction of houses. I foresee that it will begin to cost us continually more and more money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Increase In Main Estimates

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a final one for now, but surely in an age when we know that fuel costs are going up rapidly, interest rates are going up rapidly, there is still an opportunity to forecast what costs

are likely to be. The main estimates for last year called for a contribution from us of \$19,863,000, and yet the revised forecast called for \$24,373,000. Could I ask what that is attributable to? Is it a question of management, then, or what?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think that the primary reason why there has been an increase over those main estimates of 1980-81 to the revised forecasts of the same year is because of an ever increasing amount of money that has to be put towards the non-discretionary items, such as the ones that I indicated; that would be, in fuel, power, etc. Now, the majority of that amount is attributable to these. There are other particular costs involved, some of which result from overexpenditures on maintenance, and extraordinary maintenance that it was felt had to be done to the particular units that we have.

We tried to anticipate the amount of revenue that we would get from rent. In light of what has occurred over the past two years, that kind of an estimate or statement, or whatever it is, has been a rent overstatement in terms of the amount of rent we receive and as such, our particular costs over those -- well, in point of fact, over the last two years, it is approximately \$4.5 million, and that is the amount that the Member is referring to.

MR. MacQUARRIE: One final supplementary, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) There are still more who would like to comment, and Mr. MacQuarrie says that he would like to state just one thing. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Extraordinary Expenditures Not Accounted For

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one final thought that arises, that if the change from the main estimates to the revised forecast was attributable to increases in amortization costs and fuel and so on, then I would expect to see in the estimates for the following year, that is for 1981-82, that there would be a commensurate increase -- that you would not be asking for a grant of \$24 million then, but maybe a grant of \$30 million, if the costs are rising in that way. Yet you are not asking for that. So it seems to me that it may be some extraordinary expenditure that was not accounted beforehand.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: My understanding of this introductory statement from the Minister was that it would follow that each Member would be allowed introductory remarks about the nature of the corporation, rather than getting into the detail like Mr. MacQuarrie seems to be taking pleasure in pursuing. I am confused as to whether or not we are studying the details now, or is he making introductory remarks, before getting into the detail. Could I be advised of that, before I take satisfaction of what he is doing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mr. Curley, it was that when this was introduced, they were going to make opening remarks themselves. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. Just to explain, I certainly recognize the validity, in a sense, of Mr. Curley's remark; but it is just that my opening remarks were, I was wondering whether the corporation is in control. I was just citing those facts as an example of what made me wonder that. Certainly, if at this moment they do not want to answer that particular question, perhaps they could give assurances that everything is in control, if it is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum.

Corporation Striving To Become More In Control

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yes, I believe the corporation is in control of what it is doing. It has, I think, a very responsible board of directors, not the least of which are two Members from this Assembly. We have a difficult time, that is the corporation, has a difficult time acquiring from the government the proper amount of funding. The amount of funding, of course, that is being proposed to give in the terms of a contribution is not the amount, of course, that the corporation requested. It is like other departments. They would request more in terms of the total amount of the government, but I believe that there have been, and there will continue to be strides made to become even more in control, if you like.

The amount of overexpenditure that the Member refers to was brought to our attention primarily by the report of Auditor General and it occurred primarily in the past number of years and now it is catching up to us, as it were, in 1978-79 years.

Obviously we would like to be, we have to be, aware of the escalating costs that are involved with the non-discretionary items, and obviously we attempt to acquire greater amounts of funding from the lending institution to carry on more discretionary work, but that becomes rather difficult. We believe that the procedures, the controls, of working with various housing association people in the communities will make the corporation more responsible. It will continue to meet the needs that are being expressed by the citizens of the North, and we should have a better handle on our total finances.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. I have on the list next, Mr. Stewart.

Fifty Year Mortgages

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose my greatest concern at the moment is that we are taking on 50 year mortgages, and I think we all recognize the fact that the houses will no longer be occupied in 50 years; that we will have to replace them. There are a lot of reasons for this, the foundations, the climatic conditions, the care and so on, that these houses receive. There is no way, in my opinion, that a house is going to last 50 years. So, they are going to have to be replaced and we are still going to be paying for them. So, this type of financing gets into a position where it is going to be absolutely impossible, as the years roll by.

Now, I know it is not the Housing Corporation's fault, and it is not my intent to blame the Housing Corporation for this at all; but rather, it seems peculiar to me that the federal government, who is our main source of revenue, would give us money to promote a housing project and every year continue to give us more money so that we can pay them back that money that we got the previous year, plus interest. So, we go around and around in a circle. It is exchanging money from one pocket to another, only the size of the roll of bills is getting larger all the time, with no end in sight. Yet on paper, it looks as if the territorial government, through its benefactor, the federal government, is doing a great deal for northern housing by way of the fact that they are investing so many million dollars in it every year. However, when you find out that 30 to 40 per cent of these dollars are being used to pay back the amortization, that will not be completed in the lifetime of the House that we are referring to, that will continue, and the end is in sight somewhere down the line, until we are into a bankrupt type of a situation, unless there is some sort of a long-range economic plan or an agreement with the federal government.

A Long-Range Economic Forecast

Now, this sort of thing, the longer it continues, the worse it is going to get. I know that this is a normal type of financing, but with the federal government being the main supporter financially, it seems to me to be ridiculous for them to loan us money that we have to repay, and the money that we have to repay they loan us, and they loan us the interest rate they are charging us to pay back to them. So, around and around we go. So, I guess my basic question is: Is there some long-range economic forecast that is going to be able to get us out of this jackpot, or are we committed down the road, where disaster sooner or later must reach hold and grab a hold of us?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the Member obviously centres in on a question that, as he indicates, is of great concern to him. It has been a great concern of mine, as well as other people concerned, other people of the Executive and the corporation; this business of the financing arrangements with our lending institution.

We are attempting now to move more of our financing from section 43 into section 40, section 43 being the one that costs us a great deal, because we are borrowing, if you like, 90 per cent of the financing. So, there is a very small outlay in the beginning, but over a long period of time the cost of that house escalates because it is over 50 years. Whereas, by taking them from section 43, getting more housing under section 40, we put down 25 per cent of the money, and that is a greater cost at the front end, if you like, but it does not carry on, or does not cost as much under section 40, and we are trying to do more and more. I think, Mr. Chairman, before I get into a greater amount of confusion than I would normally be, I would ask Mr. Forrest maybe to elaborate a little bit more on that particular topic.

Funding Under Section 40

MR. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. Minister. In the beginning of 1974, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, for a period of three years, financed almost totally -- I can give it to you on a year to year basis if you wish -- under section 43, because it appeared I think at the time, that you could build twice as many houses for the same amount of money but ignoring the long-term mortgage repayment. Now, since 1978 we have reversed that process and hopefully this year we will do all our funding under section 40 which is a very good arrangement with the Government of Canada. We put up, as a government, 25 per cent of the front-end money. We do not, in this form of partnership, we do not, therefore, enter into a mortgage and therefore its attendant repayment.

Now, we are continuing to negotiate with Canada Mortgage Corporation in two areas. One is promoting section 40. This year 80 per cent of our construction will be done under section 40 and we have entered the final round of negotiation with Canada Mortgage to increase that to 100 per cent of section 40 but there are certain problems. By utilizing this section, the main one is that the corporation or its partner, Canada Mortgage, whoever decides who shall own the house, they must also own the land that the house sits on.

Now, as we know, in the Territories we have very few units sitting on land that is in fee simple. These houses sit, by and large, on crown land and the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and the Housing Corporation enter into a long-term lease whereby the corporation is allowed to build on that land. That is part one.

Part two of your question on financing is that we have opened negotiations now with Canada Mortgage in Ottawa to renegotiate all our section 43's into section 40 so this high amortization which is killing the budget and is such a negative influence on the corporation and therefore the Government of the Northwest

Territories, and to be relieved of that amount of amortization per year. So the trend now, in an inflationary sense, is levelling off because of the utilization of section 40 rather than section 43. Secondly, to renegotiate all our existing mortgages, of which there are \$63 million worth, to be forgiven, with this government putting up the necessary additional front-end money for further relief of amortization and mortgage interest repayment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Thank you, Mr. Forrest. (Translation) Mr. Stewart, do you have anything else to say?

Housing Corporation Is A Social Assistance Program

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes. There is one more thing of a general nature. We have a Housing Corporation that was set up to do a specific job; supply houses in the Northwest Territories in various areas that required them. I suppose right at the beginning there was a force at work that set up a situation so that the Housing Corporation could never be a financially independent or a break-even type of a situation inasmuch as -- in fact, the Housing Corporation is part of the social assistance program in the Northwest Territories. What I mean by that is that the rents being charged in most places are not equitable rents for value received or for the cost of the operation.

Now, it seems to me that to separate this so that we would know -- I have spoken on this before. I am not suggesting that people have to pay more rent if they are not capable of paying more rent for housing but that the difference between what they are paying and what the market value of the rent is, should be picked up by the Social Services department so that the corporation is operating as a corporate body should and their economics then would start to make sense. But what we have done, we are actually using a shield called the Housing Corporation to be part of the social assistance program as far as I can see. Is that a fair assessment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCallum: Mr. Chairman, not bad, but fair.

MRS. SORENSEN: You would have to do it for staff housing too, then.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I would suggest that that is fair. That is one of the issues, if you recall in my opening statement, that I referred to, Mr. Chairman. We will have to make up our minds whether we are in social housing or not. I know all too well that if an individual cannot pay the rent and the economic rent is \$600 a month and that individual can pay \$28 or \$50 or whatever, who will have to pay the other? It will be the Department of Social Services obviously. Where else? But you are absolutely correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Stewart.

Social Assistance Does Not Pay The Difference

HON. DON STEWART: But is it not true that as of today, social assistance does not pay the difference so it is a loss within the Housing Corporation itself? Is that not true?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Social Services at the present time pays the rent that the individuals should be paying if the individual cannot, so he is correct. We do not pay the difference between what rent is being assessed and the economic rent. What the Department of Social Services pays is the rent that is assessed the individual if the individual cannot pay it and the corporation obviously absorbs the rest of it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have read the Thorne Riddell report and I know that there are serious problems that we are going to have to grapple with in the area of finances. I would like to compliment and congratulate the Housing Corporation on a few things that I think they have done right and particularly on things that I think they have worked hard to accomplish in the last year which resulted from recommendations which came from this Assembly. I am happy to be able to say that, especially in the light of the comments thus far, I think they have responded very well to initiatives that we urged on them last year and I think somebody should say "You are doing something right."

MR. CURLEY: You do it.

Employment Of Local People In Housing Projects

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am going to say that and I will outline what I see from the perspective of a Member from Frobisher Bay as to some of the things that I have noticed that are working and that have been accomplished.

We made an awful lot of fuss and bother last year about employing local people in housing projects and about our concern about these large amounts of money that were being spent to build houses that were flowing right out of the Territories. I said it in Frobisher Bay but I want to say it again. The training project in Frobisher Bay is a model of the sort of thing that this government should be doing in all its departments and I cannot speak too highly of that project which provided useful employment for 24 people in Frobisher Bay, and they were not all from Frobisher Bay. They were not all natives either. They were not all men either, incidentally.

Already in its first year that project has led to seven apprentices being hired by the contractor who did most of the work. I think it is an excellent project. It has been used already with some success, I think, to persuade the federal government, which has a massive housing construction project slated for the next two years in Frobisher Bay, that it is possible to provide local jobs and also to get the job done. Another thing that the project demonstrated is that local labour is not necessarily inferior. You know, that project, I understand, is about two months ahead of schedule. The houses went up just as rapidly as they would have gone up had they been tendered privately and in fact, interestingly enough, some of the work was done by a private contractor with southern labour which was imported at great expense. I do not know if there was competition going on or not but the training program appears to have put up houses just as fast, if not faster, than that outside contractor.

Contractors Pleased With Local Labourers

Also, it shattered the myth that private contractors cannot be forced or encouraged or inspired to hire local labour. The contractor in Frobisher Bay, and contractors previously working in Pangnirtung proved that it is possible, with the right encouragement, to involve local people. The interesting thing about that project is that I understand that the private contractor is perfectly happy with the quality of the work and the efficiency and is quite happy to participate, should they be awarded the contract again, in future experiments.

So, you know, this is something that we should recognize here and encourage in future years. I would also briefly like to say that I think a lot of progress has been made through the creation of these housing federations in Keewatin and Baffin, in having people who are going to live in houses participate in their design. This is an initiative that was urged by the Assembly and something has been done about it. I again congratulate the corporation on moving so fast.

Merits In Having The Corporation Accountable To The Government

You know, there may well be some merits in the idea of turning the corporation into a body that is more accountable to the Government of the Northwest Territories and I think we should consider that recommendation of the finance committee pretty seriously. It might result in a bit more rational planning because I was impressed with the way the Housing Corporation, and I suppose particularly its managing director, did not hesitate to say that they were being crippled by the costs of these utilidor hook-ups and even question whether or not these grandiose plans of Local Government, in places like Frobisher Bay, really were helping public or private home ownership. I notice that in the coming year, in the area of utility hook-ups, there are large costs projected for Baffin and Keewatin and maybe the fact that the Housing Corporation was not affiliated with part of the government gave them a little bit of a different perspective on some of these programs.

Also, I have had a great interest in the experimental energy conservation projects and seen the experimental houses that have been built this year in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake and I think this is a very important initiative and look forward to hearing more detail when we get to that place in the estimates. You know, I am not trying to downplay the financial problems that we are obviously going to have to deal with, but I -- oh, porches -- that is another area. We said build porches and, you know, it seems to me they built porches. There were porches being built when we were in Baker Lake. There are porches on houses in Frobisher Bay and Resolute Bay, and maybe they were able to do it across the Territories like we asked. You know, this is an example of direct response to initiatives from the Assembly and it certainly did not go unnoticed on my part. I would like to give a few compliments as well as join in the concern about the financial problems.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, Hear!

---Applause

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Patterson. (Translation ends) Mr. McCallum, or Mr. Forrest.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I do not know what to say, with that kind of -- with the kudos that are being passed. My friend, Mr. Curley, even goes along with it too, you know, wonderful. Seriously, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate, on behalf of the corporation and the board of directors, I appreciate the comments of the Member. I believe he has indicated the areas in which we did respond and as the chairman of the board of directors, I do not try to minimize the difficulties that are involved in the operation of the corporation in all aspects, but certainly, I think that we have been able to respond to some of the concerns that have been raised. Housing will always be a problem, but I certainly appreciate the comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mr. Patterson, no more comments? (Translation ends) You are finished? Okay, thank you. Now, I have Ms Cournoyea.

Conflict Of Interest

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say that being appointed to the board of directors of the Housing Corporation, I would just like to declare that interest and withdraw myself from participating in the debate and voting on matters relating to this Northwest Territories Housing Corporation business.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Yes, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Maybe our Law Clerk can tell us whether or not, in fact, it is necessary for her to do that. I would certainly hope not, or I am going to hesitate about appointing any Member of the Assembly to a board like this. I do not think it is necessary, unless there is a personal interest flowing from the subject of the debate.

LAW CLERK (Mr. Johnson): Mr. Patterson, I was just looking at this matter a few minutes ago. The section of the Council Ordinance is very, very broad and I think it is better to err on the side of caution than it is to err the other way. So my view is that a person who is appointed to the corporation's board of directors is potentially in a conflict of interests, and the way around it is -- I agree with you that it makes it difficult as far as making appointments by Members of the Assembly, but I think the approach is to amend the ordinance and make it less restrictive, perhaps.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Yes, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: So, I suppose, Mr. Chairman, that anybody on the Assembly who lives in a public house, if we look at the letter of that section, cannot vote or participate in much of the discussion either. You know, that section has got to be revised if it can be interpreted that way.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) We will ask the Law Clerk to give you his views on the matter.

LAW CLERK (Mr. Johnson): I think the wording is a direct or indirect pecuniary interest, and I would think that would restrict it to someone receiving, for instance in the Housing Corporation's case, an honorarium or a per diem as a director. I do not think it would extend as far as someone in subsidized housing, that sort of thing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Okay, thank you. Mr. Patterson, you have finished now? Mr. Arlooktoo.

Housing In Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief. This past summer, when the NWT Housing official came to my home town, the housing association in our community mentioned that at Lake Harbour they wanted to have various types of housing built in Lake Harbour. I would like an indication from the Housing Corporation what kind of plans they have in building various types of housing at Lake Harbour. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the detail of the capital, we are planning on building five new units in Lake Harbour and one of the areas where we are putting a warehouse in is in Lake Harbour as well, but there were five units, of a total of approximately 120 units going into Lake Harbour next year. Mr. Chairman, I have been advised as well that the Inuit Non-Profit Housing Association or Corporation...

MR. FORREST: Corporation.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: ...Corporation, is planning to put up houses in Lake Harbour as well. Two of them, I think, with that corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mr. Arlooktoo, does that answer your question?

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I understand, I think. I was asking in regards, say, using an example of five housing units, would they be a case of row housing? I think I do understand now that they will be five separate units, and also that they will be built by the Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. McCallum, or Mr. Forrest.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the two units that the INPHC will be putting up in Lake Harbour are experimental units. They are detached units. The other five units, four of them are semidetached, because that was what was indicated to the association, that it was the kind of housing the people wanted. The other then, obviously, is a detached house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. McCallum. We are carrying on with the discussion on the Housing Corporation and it was primarily the introductory remarks on the Housing Corporation and we are now at...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Yes, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Rulings By Law Clerk

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I did not wish to interrupt when Mr. Arlooktoo introduced another matter, but with respect to the question of conflict of interest, I still feel that that has not been cleared up. I know that we have Clerks for procedure in the House and yet we do not accept their advice as the final ruling. In other words, they give advice to the Speaker -- to the chairman or the Speaker -- who then decides whether he will abide by that advice and makes a ruling. I am just wondering, a question of order then, whether that would not be the same with advice given by a Law Clerk. Does that advice have a different status? I would like some clarification on that, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Yes, we will look into the matter, how the Law Clerk would give his interpretation on the matter.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. What I am asking for is a ruling from yourself as to whether the advice given by the Law Clerk is a final determination or whether, after having heard the advice, I am saying that that determination then should be made by the chairman and if it is challenged, by the Speaker. I would ask that that kind of judgment be made now, because it certainly could have implications for the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) We will recess for a few minutes and we will look into the matter with our Law Clerk.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) The committee will come to order. Please be seated. Mr. MacQuarrie was asking if there was any conflict of interest on Ms Cournoyea's part. Ms Cournoyea will not be able to vote or cannot take part in discussion as she is a member of the board of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

Being Bound To Advice Of Law Clerk

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman, point of order. That was not quite a correct interpretation of what I was questioning. What I was questioning was whether the chairman of a committee, of the committee of the whole or the Speaker, is bound to accept the advice of the Law Clerk because we know that he is not bound to accept the advice of the procedural Clerk. That is particularly what I was asking. If you are upholding the decision of the Law Clerk, I presume that means you agree that you should be -- well, I should not presume that. Will you please address the particular question that I raised?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mr. MacQuarrie, I am not just following the advice of the Law Clerk and I am also a co-Member with Ms Cournoyea on the Northwest Territories Housing and if you will take a vote during the committee of the whole -- if I were to take part in the voting, I would have to remove myself from the chair, and I recognize this, as a Member of the vote. I said I had a conflict of interest on my part as long as I will be sitting here in the chairman's chair while you are proceeding with the voting. If there is any conflict of interest as the chairman, that I would have to be removed as the chairman. I am trying to give you the interpretation on the idea of conflict of interest and this is my own personal ruling. Is that clear enough for you, Mr. MacQuarrie?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Not still, Mr. Chairman. I am trying not to be whimsical about this but I see it as a very important question concerning procedure in this House that could have implications months and years ahead of now, so I would, first of all, like that question answered specifically. In the chairman's opinion, are you bound to accept the advice of the Law Clerk? That is the specific question that I am addressing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): No, Mr. MacQuarrie. I already stated.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you are saying that you do not feel bound to, but that you are accepting his advice in this particular matter. I will then challenge that ruling.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Welcome aboard, Mr. Noah.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Do you want to report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Noah.

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

MR. NOAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my ruling has been challenged.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah. We are in a rather, a very peculiar situation. Number one, a challenge on the grounds of conflict of interest should be done when a person who is in conflict is speaking and a Member wishes to challenge that right to speak. There has been no offence. Really what has transpired here is

that you are trying to ascertain a rule from the Speaker that has not been broken. Inasmuch as conflict of interest is a great deal a matter of conscience, and everybody takes a different interpretation, it is normal procedure that unless a Member sitting in the House challenges a person's right on the grounds of conflict of interest, that there is no ruling required. So the situation we have got ourselves in now is that you are asking the Speaker to rewrite the rule book before an offence has been committed and I do not intend to do that. I will, however, report further tomorrow when we reconvene after I have had further time to study the question inasmuch as it is very broad. So it is my intention at this time to quit for today and we will have a new start tomorrow. Mr. Clerk, are there any announcements?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Committee meetings: Wednesday, February 11, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A, Members' Services Board; 9:30 a.m., room 301, education committee; Thursday, February 12, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A, special committee on the impact of division; 9:30 a.m., Friday, February 13, Katimavik A, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association executive committee.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, February 11, 1981, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House will stand adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 11, 1981, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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