



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 17, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): The Chair would like to acknowledge in the gallery, Agnes Semmler.

---Applause

The orders of the day for February the 17th, Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO THE COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Fraser.

---Applause

Mr. Fraser's Reply

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker...

MR. PUDLUK: No jokes, no jokes.

MR. FRASER: ...I do not know why there is a big applause but I take it with a grain of salt. I, too, Mr. Speaker, would like to welcome our two new Members on the Executive Committee. I think it is about time that they decided to join the people from the West here. We can always use these wise men from the East. I am glad to see them in there and fighting. I do not know if they are fighting the right way but we will find out in a year or two.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing prepared. I am just like Mr. Butters here. I have got a bunch of paper laying all over and I will see if I can sort it out some way or another. I would like to speak briefly on some of the points that have been raised in the Assembly and the finance committee legislative meetings. Like I said, I have nothing prepared. I just have a bunch of notes. I notice that in our meetings when you throw in a few punches, not too many bouquets -- I imagine they will come later once we get things corrected.

We went over the auditors' report this morning and it did not look too good. It has not come to the House yet, but I do not know what is going to happen when it does come to the House. Briefly, I would like to say a few words about it. They have an animal over in the Rae Lakes called a revolving store or revolving fund for a revolving store which I have never heard of before. It has been in the budget before but they have X number of dollars to sort of run a store and they keep asking for more money every year. I am just wondering if they have the same finance management at the Housing Corporation because they are always in the hole too.

People More Directly Involved Should Appear As Witnesses

We went through the auditors' report and found it very interesting. The people directly involved with the problems should be brought before this Assembly to answer questions. It was one of the recommendations that came out of the meeting this morning, and it was agreed that we would try to get some of the people involved and just have them answer questions rather than have Mr. Nielsen, who is the head of the Department of Finance, answer questions.

Some problems came up this morning with oil deliveries in the Arctic by some of the Members from the East. They asked Mr. Nielsen what happened to the oil that was spilled in Pond Inlet or Pangnirtung. He does not have a clue. He does not even know where it is. So I think that we should get the people that are directly involved with the management anyway and bring them up before this Assembly and have them answer questions and maybe this would not happen again. We have failed to do that in other years. We have just let Mr. Nielsen or Mr. Parker say "Well, you know, that has happened and we will correct it next year." If we get the people up that are directly involved, we might have different results.

Upgrading Assembly Offices

I would like to touch briefly, Mr. Speaker, on that sixth floor. I am not finished with that yet. We have had some pictures in the paper of the office on the sixth floor and the office down in the Cunningham building. Unfortunately, I was not sitting in that chair. If I was, I would have been sitting on an apple box just to make it look good, but I was not able to be there. I have assurances that they are going to be corrected, but they never said when or how. Before this session is over, I would like to know just how they are going to correct that situation.

I realize that the Executive Members have to have a decent place to work, a nice atmosphere. They are dealing with the public at all times more than we are but at the same time, they are forgetting that we are all in this boat together, and I think we are going to have to look at things. I do not know. Maybe they will let us use their office if we have to once in a while. I have not asked them, but they might.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Sure.

MR. FRASER: Arnold McCallum would not mind, anyway.

---Laughter

Financial Assistance, Organized Caribou Hunts

One of the things that has been bothering me, Mr. Speaker, is a question I asked in the House -- I think it was on the 6th or 8th of February -- of the Minister of Renewable Resources on caribou hunts. I got an answer back from him, and there was something like \$31,000 spent on caribou hunts and \$27,000 of that went to the Yellowknife area. Now, at the Eighth Assembly we had the same problem. We may not have the same Minister in charge today as we had then but we still have the same directors and staff that maybe should have informed him that there was a motion made in May 1978, Motion 19-65, by myself:

Whereas most of the funds allocated for organized caribou hunts is spent in the Yellowknife area;

And whereas other communities are in need of assistance for organized caribou hunts;

Now therefore, I move that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that the financial assistance provided to organized hunts be more equally distributed among the communities requesting such assistance.

That motion was passed, Mr. Speaker, and they assured us that this would happen, but apparently it has not. Out of \$31,000, \$27,000 is still going around the lake. It seems to me that the government is somehow forgetting that there are other communities besides the Yellowknife area. It has bugged me for a long time and until it is corrected, it will keep on bugging me. They have a store in Rae Lakes and the people from Rae go out there to buy food because it is cheaper in Rae Lakes than it is in Rae. People in Fort Franklin use it. They have a community hall in Snare Lake and there is nobody living there. I do not know why they have a community hall there.

When I was in Spence Bay I screamed for a community hall. If the community wanted to have a gathering, we had to throw all the trucks and tractors out of the garage and let them run outside while we had a party and then put them back in when everybody went home, but here they get a community hall with no problems. There are not too many people at Snare Lake. I am going to check into it yet anyway. They have a community hall in Detah, a big complex in Rae and I think it is time that some of this money that is so freely divided, I would say, in the Yellowknife area, be put out into the communities where there are other people.

Lack Of Communication

Mr. Speaker, another thing I would like to speak on is communications. We talk so much in the Northwest Territories -- when something goes wrong, a lack of communication, a lack of communication. You hear that all the time, and it comes down to typographical errors when it comes before the House, but it is actually a lack of communication that we see.

So many times, not only people from the Eastern Arctic -- I imagine people from the Eastern Arctic experience this more than people in the Western Arctic -- so many times they have taken a sick woman or a sick child out of the community and that child needs treatment, and they say you cannot treat it here because it has got to have treatment somewhere else. So, a plane comes along, a nurse takes the child and away it goes. Well, three or four days, maybe a week has gone by and nobody is heard from. The woman is sitting at home, if it is her child, the husband is sitting at home if it is his wife, wondering what is happening to his wife. Had that been one of the RCMP or a Hudson's Bay man whose wife was gone, he is going to find out the same day or next day what is happening to his wife and where she has gone. But in the case of the Inuit and the native people in the North, they just have to sit home and wait and hope that everything turns out all right.

Case Of The Couple From Spence Bay

This is a proven fact, Mr. Speaker. We have had people come out of Spence Bay -- a woman was sick and went out with a cut thumb, and they said they were taking her to Cambridge. Somebody came from Cambridge the next day and said your wife is not in Cambridge, I saw her getting on a plane going south. Do you think we could find out what happened to that woman? No way -- and all she had was a cut thumb. Apparently they shipped her out to Charles Camsell because

blood poisoning had set in. But that is not the problem, the problem is that that person at home should be notified that his wife had to go out to Charles Camsell, and he would feel a lot better. He could tell his kids, your mother is out in the Charles Camsell Hospital and we will hear from her in a day or two, but nothing is said, and this guy is going crazy. Well, it so happened that that guy was so frustrated, they had to take him out. He was sick. They did not know what was wrong with him, but they flew him out to the Charles Camsell. He and his wife were both in the Charles Camsell Hospital for a week. She came back to Yellowknife on a Monday, he came back on a Tuesday. The plane did not leave for Cambridge Bay, it only left once a week then, on Saturday. They were both in Yellowknife here for five or six days. One was living at that end of town, one was living at this end of town. They had both been in the hospital together. They were both in Yellowknife for a week together. They did not know where each other was until they were getting on the plane to go back to Cambridge Bay, two weeks later.

Two-Way Radios In Hospitals

Mr. Speaker, I came up with a suggestion -- I have no education but these people that are supposed to be running this Department of Health are supposed to have education, but I do not have any -- however, I came up with a solution that might solve the problem, not only for people in the West but also for people in the East. They have a little gadget out now that you could carry around in your pocket called a radio, and it is called a two-way radio. I think you can talk back and forth -- I am not sure -- but you can talk back and forth. I had a meeting with Dr. Martin, who is in charge of northern health I believe, and I suggested to him that he put a two-way radio in the Charles Camsell Hospital, one in the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, and one in the Inuvik Hospital.

Now, nearly all of these settlements, or all of these trappers that are out on the land or are in the settlements have two-way radios. They can communicate to people in the bush. They should be able to communicate to their relatives in the hospital. All they would have to do is set up a schedule for a certain time of the night or in the day and talk back to their relatives at home. You would be surprised how fast that patient might get better if she knew that her people were all right at home, her kids were all okay. She might get out of the hospital a lot faster than she would by sitting there worrying and the doctor does not know what is wrong with her, because she is probably just a worry wart.

These people are only human, Mr. Speaker. They have the same feelings that everybody else has and like I said, if it was one of the white people, they would be either gone with their wife or they would find out the next day what was happening to her. But they do not seem to have any consideration for people who are sitting at home wondering what is happening. I hope that I can get some results. I am going to let Dr. Martin look at it for a while. He has sent me a letter and he has assured me that he is -- he wrote a letter to Mr. Schellenberg in Inuvik and I do not know if Mr. Schellenberg is his boss or what he is, but it seems to me like he is asking Mr. Schellenberg's permission to put these radios in there. I thought Dr. Martin was always the boss -- but, I am going to leave it with him for a while. I am not going to let the issue die. I am going to push it as far as I can and see if we can get some communication back to the people in the settlements. I think it is only right, Mr. Speaker, that we have some communications with people in the hospitals and not take hearsay back to the communities and say, well, your wife should be out tomorrow, maybe the day after, I do not know.

I have another little book here too, a little black book -- your name is not in here either, Lynda Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Good thing. You are too old for me, Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Do not knock it.

---Laughter

Skidoo Accident In Fort Good Hope

Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly point out a few things that I think may be of interest. Some of the Members might have experienced the same thing. There was a skidoo accident in Fort Good Hope when I was there. I was asked by the person involved in the accident -- apparently he was driving down main street and a skidoo came out of a street and ran right into him, hit him and he was just about killed. He went under the truck and they had to pry him out of there or they had to get him out some way. It damaged the truck a little bit, I saw the truck. I asked them if anything is being done about it, and I do not think there has been anything done about it, but apparently that man on the skidoo that ran into the truck was an RCMP.

I asked a few questions as to what happened, what were the results of the accident, and they said nothing happened. The RCMP was chasing somebody -- they do not know who he was chasing, but he was chasing somebody. Had that been anybody else, Mr. Speaker, I think they would have been charged with careless driving. I have not mentioned it to the Minister, but I am going to mention it to him and see if he would look into it for me, but this has happened so many times. We have problems in communities that the people never hear about and it is kept pretty quiet. I am not about to throw anything under the carpet, Mr. Speaker. If I hear of something that has happened in my community, I am going to bring it out, whether they like it or not. Most people do not like it. They do not like to be accused, for they never do anything wrong, but I do not believe in that myself. I do not know what else I can talk about. I am just about running out of breath anyway.

MR. SIBBESTON: Sex.

MR. FRASER: That is a good subject, Mr. Sibbeston.

---Laughter

I was coming around to that. I was going to show you this cheque I got here, for...

---Laughter

Maybe I will table it, Mr. Sibbeston, and you can all have a look at it.

Norman Wells Pipeline

We have people looking into the possibilities of building a pipeline into Norman Wells. The Dene Nation -- sure they are up in arms about the pipeline being built. I do not blame them. They are looking for some assurance that they are going to get compensation out of it, but really, the fight should have started years ago, not now. The fight is starting now, when maybe it is too late. The way the federal government is trying to operate, they are not going to get gas from the provinces. The only place that they can get it now is in the Territories, and they can get it whether Mr. Sibbeston likes it or not, but they can make their own rules and get what they want -- gas, oil, gold, minerals, anything they want out of the Territories. This is the only place left that they can do it.

Like I said, the fight started too late. The fight should have started years ago. The Dene Nation is trying to do it now and the people in Yellowknife should have done it when they first opened up the gold mine there. That is when they should have started getting after the federal government for some compensation.

AN HON. MEMBER: I was not around then.

MR. FRASER: Yes, I was around then, but I was not worried about it.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: 1935.

MR. FRASER: I do not think the Dene Nation is trying to stop the pipeline really.

AN HON. MEMBER: Be careful.

MR. FRASER: They want some assurance that they are going to benefit from the oil that comes out of there. That oil was found in 1921 by a native and there again, he had a sample of it in a jam can and gave it to a white man and then it was all lost. So they opened the oil well in Norman Wells and now they say "Well, we found oil" but actually if it was known who found the oil, it was not the white man that found the oil but Imperial Oil has possession of it. If they could assure the native groups and the people of the Territories that they are going to get something out of that pipeline, I do not think that is too bad a thing. I think the Dene Nation and their native groups would go along with it, and the other people.

Territories Should Reap Benefits From Resources

We have been sitting here now for two weeks and we will be sitting here for another four weeks trying to get money out of the federal government when we have our own resources in the Territories that we could be using to run the Territories. We do not need their money.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FRASER: Their money is our money. It belongs to the people in the Territories so why should we have to suck hole to Ottawa to get money. Give us what we have got, what we have had before and let them have James Bay or whatever they want to take. They can have the rest of it.

I think, myself, that the fight started a little bit too late and these reports that they are doing are only a cover-up because all those reports that they have done in the last year have all that information. That information was brought out two or three years ago and I personally think that all they are holding those meetings for is just a cover-up and say "Listen, we are trying to find out whether it is going to be any good for the people, what it is going to do -- damage the ground or damage the life in the Territories." They have that information. That information was had long ago, two or three years ago and that is only a cover-up, I think, saying that "Well, we have done a survey on this and it is going to be okay. Nothing is going to be damaged."

Personally, I think the way the government is operating in Ottawa -- they do not seem to care what the people of the North think, and I do not know what we can do to stop them. I truly think that they could have some consideration and say "Well, we will give you so much a barrel or we will give you this and give you that." They are not trying to give us anything. They say "We are going to build that pipeline and that is it. Forget it fellows."

Now, if something can be done about it, I do not know what, but I would like to see some compensation and I think most of the native groups want some assurance that they are going to benefit from it rather than have to wait until it is all gone and then say goodbye.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have touched on just about everything that I wanted to touch on. I am not an educated person. I cannot sit up here and blah, blah, blah for an hour with a written piece of paper because I do not have the secretarial knowledge like my colleagues to my right here. I try to sneak a look at their paper to see what they are writing first.

---Laughter

Well, saying that, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Replies to the Commissioner's Address.
Mr. Sibbeston.

Mr. Sibbeston's Reply

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today, on the last day that it is possible to speak. I have waited until now partly because I wanted to attend the Dene Nation regional meeting and the Hire North review meeting in Simpson last week. Those meetings provided a good forum because there were leaders from most of the communities in my area, and it was a good opportunity, more or less, to be in tune with what they were thinking and the issues that I should raise.

Since the last session in Frobisher Bay, there have been quite a number of things happening in my constituency and I am pleased to say that most of these things have been positive although there has been one big major negative thing, which of course is the EARP, Environmental and Assessment Review Panel decision in January.

Shortly after the Frobisher Bay session, a large community meeting was held in Simpson about alcohol problems in the community and the area. I spoke yesterday and expressed some of my feelings on the subject when the Liquor Licensing Board people were before us. I want to again publicly thank the Commissioner, John Parker, for coming to the meeting and for understanding and being prepared to make a decision and thus reacting positively to the request, particularly to the native people at the meeting.

Results Of Workshop On Liquor Problems In Fort Simpson

For the native people of Fort Simpson and the area, it was an eventful day. The band council in Simpson and the people in the area had talked about the liquor problem for about two years and it was only last fall that they were organized, they held their workshop with some money from social development and were able to make a very effective presentation to the Commissioner and the Liquor Licensing Board. As a result of this meeting, the Commissioner imposed restrictions on the liquor store hours and the amount which each person can buy each day, and already there is evidence of beneficial results of his decision. I spoke of some of these yesterday which have to do with fewer people being picked up by the police for being drunk, less injury as a result of drinking, and it has certainly helped the native leaders in the community feel that they can affect government.

Unfortunately, the Liquor Licensing Board has not made a decision to date, and Mr. Pugh indicated yesterday that the decision would be forthcoming later this week, and I and my constituents look forward, hopefully, to a positive decision from the board.

Native Persons Elected To Village Council

Another thing which happened in Simpson is the village council elections in early December. Members may recall that last January or February, I had made a statement that the village council, as it was then constituted in Simpson, did not represent all of the people in town because at the time, of the seven members on the council, only one was a native. The band council this fall decided to become involved in the village council and of eight persons running for positions, five were native, and I am pleased to say that two native persons were elected and one non-native. So the village council, with the small increase, is vastly improved, and we look forward to the next election to get more native people on council.

Another matter which I can say is a positive thing is the matter of highway maintenance between Fort Providence and Fort Simpson. Members may recall that last winter when the budget was being discussed, when the Department of Public Works was discussed, I raised with department officials the possibility of the department re-examining the way in which the highway maintenance was being done. I suggested to them that the government ought to consider doing the highway maintenance with their own forces and hiring native people. I must say that the DPW officials have taken my suggestion seriously and during the course of the summer, had an independent study done to see how local people could become involved and benefit from the highway maintenance.

Highway Maintenance To Involve Native People

As a result of this report, DPW has agreed in principle to negotiate a contract with the Dene corporation in Simpson to do 100 miles of highway maintenance. One portion will be done by the DPW forces and another portion will be put out to public tender. All of this, I believe, is better than an Edmonton company doing work without any native people being hired, with only one person from Simpson being hired. So I commend Mr. Pilot and his officials for their good work.

Band Council Setting Up Economic Development Corporation

The band council in Simpson is setting up a corporation and this is their vehicle to get into economic development. I must say here again that the band has had good co-operation from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, particularly the officials in Fort Smith. Jake Heron, who until recently was the regional superintendent, has gone to the Metis Development Corporation, but during his time there has done excellent work in providing information to the band, encouragement and making the area economic development officer available to the board.

It seems oftentimes that there are programs in place, that there are officials who are in place, and for a variety of reasons things do not mesh. In this case, it seems the right chemistry was present and so the band was able to set up a corporation and get some work from the territorial government.

Another event which was, I think positive, was the visit of Mr. Butters and Mr. Rod Morrison, his Deputy Minister, to the Simpson area. As a result of this meeting to Simpson, Jean Marie River and Fort Liard, the people of Jean Marie River in particular, are being helped in getting their sawmill back into operation and also getting a summer, or an all weather, or a fair weather road to the main Mackenzie highway, which is about 17 miles away.

It was interesting, when Mr. Butters was in Jean Marie River, when we talked about government -- I had the chance to talk about territorial Assembly and government and I think people were surprised to know that Tom Butters, as a government official, really had to become a government official in the same way that I became elected. I indicated that we were all elected, but Tom Butters, I guess, went on to better things and became a Minister. During our discussions I told them that there were some Dene Ministers and people, I think, looked forward to seeing Mr. Nerysoo and Mr. Wah-Shee come to see them and talk about some of their local concerns.

Issues Raised At Dene Nation Regional Meeting

As I stated at the start, I attended the Dene Nation regional meeting in Simpson last week and this meeting eventually went on to review Hire North activities. A number of issues were raised and I will just go over some of the highlights.

One of the interesting things which came out of that meeting was that I, as their Assembly Member, apparently was not vocal enough on issues. The group from Fort Providence, in particular, thought that I had not really done very well in representing them or speaking out on issues that concern them. So, I did promise to do better in that regard. So, in respect to the people in Providence, Members may recall that this past fall the people of Fort Providence, particularly the band council, took steps to shut down the Horn River access road to all but non-local residents. The Providence people took the position that the Horn River area, which is a good hunting area, which has lots of geese, ducks, fish and moose, was their area and they did not look too kindly on people from other communities and certainly people from the South coming into their area. People felt that their rights were being encroached upon and this government was not doing anything to look after their interests. So, it was because of this that they took steps to just physically shut down the road and try to not have people go into the area.

I understand this prompted Mr. Parker and Renewable Resources officials to meet with the people and I take it from this, it resulted in an outpost grant, where some of the people in Providence were able to get out into the bush this winter. I recently received a letter from the chief of Fort Providence, Mr. Bonnetrouge, stating that the outpost camp is successful. There are approximately 38 people who are out on the land hunting. The people now are thinking of establishing a community centre and perhaps even a school and are asking that a teacher be made available so that the children there can be taught.

Teachers For Bush Camps

While on the subject, I should say that when I was recently in Fort Liard, I had an extensive visit with the school authorities there and in Fort Liard the school attendance rate is only 28 per cent. Most of the kids are out in the bush and it was thought that perhaps a program of having teachers go out to the large bush camps might be an answer to education of the kids. So, in Fort Liard and in Fort Providence, I think government officials should look at doing something. I think it is encouraging that people are going back to the land, and in places like Providence this is one of the only economic alternatives, and government, I think, should be encouraging and supportive of this.

Another matter which was raised at the regional meeting was that of having a Liard Valley authority. The idea of having a Liard Valley authority to control all economic development in the Liard Valley is not a new one. It has been raised a number of years ago when the highway, Liard highway project was being discussed and when the Hire North committee was set up. At that time people thought that it was a bit premature. Now, however, it is going to be about two years before the Liard highway is finished and we expect that the Liard highway will open up that whole area. People are concerned that they have some influence and some say and a certain amount of control in what happens in the Liard Valley. I undertook to notify this House and also to write or speak to Minister Munro, when he comes later in the month, to see if the federal government will be prepared to set up a Liard Valley authority.

Hire North Review Meeting

As I said, the regional meeting extended into the Hire North review meeting. The main concern that arose when Hire North was discussed was that of management. Communities' leaders felt that there were serious management problems in Hire North and people have asked the Hire North committee to replace the project manager when his contract terminates in May. One of the things that was expressed

was that Hire North was set up with the idea of training native people and eventually having native people take over the whole Hire North project, and I think people were frustrated with the fact that there were not any native people who were working at the higher levels of the Hire North operation. It is their hope that a native person can be got to replace the project manager.

The Hire North meeting also resulted in criticism of the Hire North office in Fort Simpson. People were aware that there was a high turnover at the office and that there is generally low morale in the office. I had written to Mr. Butters in this regard and he has assured me that there will be an independent study done of this, and I look forward to this being done in the next few weeks.

One matter which was brought to my attention, not at the meetings I attended in Simpson, has to do with Trout Lake. Apparently, Trout Lake is turning green. Normally, of course, Trout Lake is blue. Trout Lake, just for people's information, is a large lake 100 miles south of Simpson. It is 36 miles by approximately 12 miles. Apparently, since this fall, for some reason, the water has begun turning green and people have quit drinking it; people are using snow now for drinking water. They have, apparently, told some government officials and they, in turn, have suggested that they not drink it. So, I do not think it is just their imagination, as it were, that the water is turning green. There seems to be some evidence of it being either some algae or else somebody putting some dye into the water.

Optimism Among Leaders

So, as Members can see, there have been a number of, I think, positive and encouraging things happening in my constituency. There is a certain amount of optimism among the leaders, that they are able to affect government. The Commissioner and Mr. Butters have been around and during the time they have been around, have been responsive to people and this is very encouraging. It is this sort of thing that makes people think that it is a good government, that it is their government. So, there has been some start let us say, as it were, in Dene people recognizing this government as their government.

In all the issues that I mentioned, be it the alcohol or native people getting into business, there are always two sides to the story. In a place like Simpson, the population is approximately 60 per cent native and 40 per cent white and up to now, although native people have been in the majority, they have not really been listened to by government. They do not hold positions of power and they certainly do not have the control of the businesses in the community. White people, although fewer and in minority, are very vocal and have held to date, most of the power positions in the community and as native people are trying to get on their feet, this of course is being challenged and results, sometimes, in some differences of opinion and some tension. However, I think this is to be expected. Let me just say that the people of the silent majority in my area are very determined and are taking definite steps to get on their feet.

The Dene people have come from a traditional way of life. They are going through great changes, adapting to community living, living among white people and as a result of this, there has been a great deal of social disorder, drinking and demoralization. I think now, after many years, people are beginning to come through this, particularly the young people and they see what has happened and there is some optimism about the future. In a sense, they are fighting back. Whereas some people might say that the native people are beginning to fight with white people, it is not that. It is just that the native people, in a sense, are fighting for their rights.

Views On EARP Report

I would like to turn now to the EARP report on the Norman Wells expansion and oil pipeline. Mr. Speaker, I and the majority of my constituents are dissatisfied with the decision and I must say that I have also been dissatisfied with the territorial government's reaction to date. When Mr. Braden reacted to the announcement, I thought that he was acting a bit prematurely without a great deal of thought and in the January 23rd issue of News/North, Mr. Braden is reported to have said that he was gratified that the report contained directly or indirectly many of the recommendations put to the panel by the territorial government.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have the same view of the report and I will express why. Let me just say that from the very onset of the EARP panel being set up, native people were very suspicious of the panel and I think this suspiciousness has been confirmed. In many ways, the report now is just another obstacle that native people have to deal with before they get their just land claims.

Some Members, particularly those from the East, may not have heard about the EARP report. The report concludes that a pipeline can be built without damage to the environment and the people but, however, Esso must make some more environmental studies and the government must get more ready, in a sense, for the project. In simple layman's language this is what the report said. The report goes on to say that the pipeline should not go ahead until 1982 at the earliest so these problems or deficiencies can be cleared up.

Issue Of Lands Claims

The way that I have dealt with the report is firstly, from the vantage point of my constituents, what was said by the people in my constituency and were these concerns answered by the panel. The second way I have dealt with it is what was said by this Legislative Assembly and whether the panel satisfactorily dealt with these concerns. For lack of time, I will deal primarily with the issue of land claims and hope that there can be a debate on the report later during this session. Now, when the panel was in my constituency, the dominant theme or concern was that land claims ought to be settled before any pipeline is built.

The other main theme was that native people needed time in order to get on their feet and this was the position of the chiefs of Fort Liard, Fort Providence, Wrigley and Simpson. People generally were annoyed at the fact that government officials were coming around again to talk about pipelines, just three years after Berger had made his decision. I recall being at Simpson when the panel was there and hearing people, particularly native people, saying that if a pipeline were to be built, there would be social disruption. There would be more drinking and demoralization of people. People were aware of this possibility because a number of years ago, before the big oil pipeline was to have been built, Simpson experienced a bit of a boom situation and even this in itself created a lot of social disruption.

Cautious Attitude Towards Development

It is only now that people are getting over this. Native people and white people are now getting along better and so it seemed as if the whole issue of pipeline was again going to revive all of the social problems and the tension between native people. It seems this time around that the village was being a little bit more cautious in its position whereas before it seems the village or groups like that were concerned for any development, without great consideration as to whether there would be benefits. Now it seems, in this case,

the village took the position that if they were to benefit, then it would be okay.

Now, when I spoke to the panel in Fort Simpson, I concentrated my remarks on the law of aboriginal rights as it related to cases in the North. I referred to the Paulette caveat case where Judge Morrow concluded that aboriginal rights may not have been extinguished down the Mackenzie Valley despite the fact that the government had made treaties with the Dene people. I also referred to the Baker Lake decision pointing out the extent to which the court had recognized aboriginal rights. My hope was that the panel would have some understanding of why people wanted their aboriginal rights settled before approving a pipeline. The people, in effect, were saying that the land and the resources were theirs, that they did not give it up to government, and I wanted to provide some legal background to show that these statements were not just hollow or unfounded positions, that there is certainly a moral basis to what they are saying and some legal basis to their claim.

No Great Need For Jobs In Fort Simpson

Another point that I had stressed before the panel was that in Simpson there is not any need for more jobs. Hire North hires all the people that want to train and work and you know, in the wintertime there is even a brush clearing crew hiring labourers, so certainly in the fall and winter there is not a great need for jobs. In the summer, in the past few years, there have been a great many fires. Forestry has hired all the available people. So in Simpson and the area, there is not a great need for jobs. Hunting and trapping in the area has been reasonably good in the last few years. So it is not a situation where people really need jobs and look to the pipeline for work.

Now as to businesses, there are very few local native people in business and I guess as native people, what they are saying is, "We are not going to benefit by the pipeline so really why should we support something that we are not going to benefit from?" So, indirectly, there may be a few jobs and people realize that there may be a bit of work for a couple of winters but I think people do understand that it is not going to be a lifelong job for them. So this is what was said by people and what I had said at Simpson before the panel.

Now, as you know, this Assembly has passed a motion in respect of the Norman Wells pipeline which is to the effect that it should not go ahead until substantial progress is made and that the Dene and Metis people in the Mackenzie Valley are satisfied.

Position Of Panel On Land Claims

I would like to now deal with how has this EARP panel dealt with the positions as outlined. Now, on the question of land claims, the panel says that it is a political question, so the panel should not make any recommendation on it. In its closing comments, the panel does talk about the importance of land claims, so it seems to have some understanding of the issue, and I appreciate the views of the panel in trying -- they appear to have some understanding of it, but in my view their position is not good or strong enough for people of the North.

In my view the panel is not realistic in thinking that between now and 1982, there will be substantial progress on the land claims settlement. I feel that the panel should have allowed until at least 1983 or 1984 before the pipeline was to have gone ahead, and in this regard you just have to look at what happened with other native groups in the North to see that these negotiations take a great deal of time and that you just cannot get them resolved in one years time like

the panel hopes. You just have to look at COPE and see the number of years that they have spent in trying to reach agreement. They have reached one agreement. Now it seems they are at a block as the federal government has changed its mind.

You also need to just look at ITC. They just started a few months ago and now it seems that they are not getting anywhere. You have to look at the Dene Nation. The Dene Nation, I take it, has been ready to negotiate with the federal government since September or October and the Minister has promised to appoint a negotiator, but to date, none has been appointed. So, it seems you cannot even get started, let alone come to some conclusion. So, it is for this reason that I really feel the panel is naive in thinking that in just one year's time there will be substantial progress in land claims. I think the panel is, perhaps, well meaning but naive and in my view, because of this, they have sold the people of the North short, particularly the native people in the Mackenzie Valley. What I would have liked to see the panel recommend is a clear statement that there ought to be no pipeline until substantial progress is made on land claims and the parties agree to begin.

No Onus On Federal Government To Settle Claims

I would have liked to see the panel show the same kind of understanding that Judge Berger did when he put out his report. I would have liked to see the panel say to the federal government and all the people of Canada that the northern people have a just claim and right to the lands and the lands have not been given up illegally. That is the sort of thing that I would have liked to see the panel do and there would have been some onus on the federal government to settle these rights before they went ahead with a pipeline.

Because the panel has now just recommended that there be a one year delay and no condition that land claims be settled first, there is no onus on the federal government to bargain in good faith. There is no onus on the federal government to get on with land claim negotiations. So, because, I feel the panel did not go far enough, did not really comply with the wishes of the people in my constituency, did not comply with the wishes of this Assembly, I consider that we are, in a sense, all threatened and certainly the native people are threatened.

It seems as if we are going to get into a situation where, despite what native people say, perhaps despite what this Legislative Assembly says, the federal government will just likely go ahead when some of the environmental issues are resolved. If they were to do this, they would, in effect, be saying to the native people and other people in the North, that you really do not have any rights to the land and the resources, and what you say or think is of no consequence. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that this will do great damage to the morale of native people and their leaders who are trying, I believe quite desperately, to get on with land claims. We in the Legislative Assembly, we native people who are in this Assembly and non-native people who are in this Assembly who have some understanding and some sympathy for us, should not stand by and let this happen. I think we should go down fighting and I certainly intend to fight to the bitter end, as it were.

Economic Stimulus Not Needed

Now, in regard to the jobs and economic viability, the report says the project will provide a needed economic stimulus to the Mackenzie Valley, and I ask, who is complaining now down in the Mackenzie Valley? Certainly not anyone in my constituency and we are in the heart of the project. There is no one that is crying. There is no one that is saying very loudly that some impetus or something is needed to get the economy moving, as it were. I can say that business in places like Simpson is not booming, but people are surviving and making a living. People are not becoming millionaires, but they are making a living. As I said, there are enough jobs for everybody and people in our area do not look down the Mackenzie Valley, as it were, for their future. People are looking southwards, towards the Liard Valley for their future. So, I think it is because of all this that people in my area are against the pipeline because of land claims and because there is no present great need for jobs and stimulation of the economy.

On another point, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to touch on briefly and that is that of the resource revenue sharing. It seems on this point this government has fared a bit better. Like the land claims issue, the panel felt the matter of resource revenue sharing was a political issue, but still the panel suggested that a trust fund be established by the Minister and that all the moneys that would accrue or go to the federal government ought to be placed in this trust fund for dealing with, or for sharing out with this government eventually when some settlement or some agreement can be reached.

I feel, again on the issue of land claims, that if this recommendation does not go ahead -- and this is a central issue of great importance to all people of the North -- again, I felt that the panel should have said no pipeline until resource revenue sharing agreement has come about between the federal and territorial government.

Justification For Federal Government Through Panels

I have come to the conclusion that because the EARP panel did not satisfactorily deal with a number of very important issues to people of the North, that there is no use, there is no purpose in having EARP hearings in the North in the future. The federal government, it seems is using this forum to get what they want. Any time a company wants to set up or do a project, it seems the federal government has not gotten into the practice of establishing EARP reviews. It seems that this is just a justification for itself without ever dealing with the more important issues, such as land claims and resource revenue sharing.

I intend to make a motion in this Assembly, in this session, to take the EARP report, in the sense of a task and to consider also the legal opinion that has been provided to this Assembly by our Law Clerk and see what steps we can take, as I said, to deal with the recommendations and have our own position on how we ought to deal with the Norman Wells project and other projects that arise in the North.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say again that I am very pleased with some of the things that are done by the territorial government in my constituency. The government has responded positively on a number of occasions and on a number of issues. Native people, who up to now have been in a sense the underdogs or in a disadvantaged position in our society, are as a result of government responsiveness making some progress.

Native People Taking Rightful Place

In native people taking steps, it seems we sometimes fly in the face of some non-native people who feel threatened by seeing native people rise up. In this regard, I ask for patience and understanding by people, and white people should not see it as a threat but just native people trying to take, in a sense, their rightful place in society and play a more meaningful part and involvement in the society. In this way, I feel that all of Canadian society becomes better and you also have more respect for one another. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. The Chair would like to recognize Mr. Herb Norwegian, the vice president of the Dene Nation.

Further replies to the Commissioner's Address. I would like to get a short one if there is one available so we do not have to break the speaker for coffee break. We have got about 15 minutes. Mr. Appaqaq, is that about the right time for you? You have the floor, Mr. Appaqaq.

Mr. Appaqaq's Reply

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say thank you to the Executive Committee, the new Members of the Executive Committee. I am glad that there is somebody native that is sitting on the Executive Committee. Also, I hope that you will continue to have native groups, native people, involved.

I am very happy that when I was in the Frobisher session -- I mentioned something about corrections. We have seen quite a few problems concerning these corrections in my constituency, and I have been informed. I am not only speaking for myself but I am speaking for my people. The reason I am mentioning that is because I have kids who are growing up and I would not like to have them have problems in the future.

It is a known fact that Inuit and Kalumuk, white man's way of life are completely different. The Kalumuk, white man, has a saying, stating that as soon as you are 19 years of age, then you are adult. That is not the Inuit way. I just want to inform you that Inuit and Kalumuk people are completely different. The Inuit traditional law of life is not written down. I know a long time ago there was no material on which you could write on even though Inuit people have their own traditional laws. I also know that Kalumuk people do not believe in the traditional laws that Inuit people have because it is not written. I am just going to summarize maybe what I said before. There was no paper to write on when you were living in igloos. There were no papers except the Bible and even in the spring, even though we were out with the animals, there was nothing to write on.

Unwritten Traditional Laws

I am also concerned about the Nunavut proposal, that if we do get Nunavut, maybe they can start writing down the traditional laws that should apply to Nunavut. I also want to mention one more thing concerning the traditional laws, part of the traditional laws, because I was not supporting one of the laws that young kids, young teenagers, like now, even though me, I am an old man now, seems like that I still have my parents, and they still look after me, even if I am a bad person. So, while there is still life, I cannot go against them. I was mentioning this unwritten traditional law, that I have been informed of since I was a child, which was put to me, even at the point where I was just born, like maybe, if I had that problem, who would be looking after me? This unwritten traditional law is what I am going to be following up now in my parents' own life. That is a true fact. Even if you ask a question to these real Inuit people, they will still tell you the same thing.

That was what I wanted to say to you concerning unwritten traditional law, and I do not want to make it too long. I am very happy that when I have first mentioned corrections, and all the rest, now I am finding out that it is going to be there in the future, and we are also thinking about this unwritten traditional law. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. How many more speakers will I have? Could you indicate by your hands? One, two -- well, there is no way that either of you will be done in 10 minutes, so we will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Fraser): The Speaker recognizes a quorum. The next reply to the Commissioner's Address, Ms Cournoyea.

Ms Cournoyea's Reply

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Commissioner, honoured Members of the Assembly, honoured guests. First of all I would like to congratulate the two new sacrifices to the Executive Committee.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Not dead yet.

MS COURNOYEA: We will see how you will burn. I would like to comment briefly on a few issues that affect the lives and future of my constituents, and how they affect the Territories as a whole. It appears as if we are well into a new era of federal-territorial conflict which may well set the tone for the remainder of this Assembly. It might well be that we are in the bitter struggle, and I think we should be prepared for that. It will be the task of this Assembly to determine our goals and our course of action for the Northwest Territories. Although we may be engaged in the federal-territorial disputes, we must never lose sight of, or forget, our own jurisdictional responsibility, nor cease our endeavours to improve upon our performance in this regard.

Some of the events which indicate to me that we can expect further disintegration of federal-territorial relations -- I will mention a few as an illustration. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. John C. Munro, has recently indicated that he is not prepared to honour Canada's commitments in the Canada COPE agreement signed in 1978. Such an action is deplorable and should not be tolerated by this Assembly or any other person in this society. The Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, James Wah-Shee, has written to the Minister of Indian Affairs indicating his concern with respect to the Minister's actions.

High Praise For Minister

I would like to personally commend the honourable Minister and the Executive Committee for their position. In my conversations both inside and outside government, I have heard nothing but the highest praise for his letter and for the way the Executive has exercised their responsibility in this matter. Although the action by Minister Munro on December 24th will cause great turmoil and disillusionment among my constituency in particular, it also has tremendous implications for the other native groups in the Northwest Territories, this government, and the whole policy for the North.

The settlement of land claims has been fundamentally necessary for the rational economic and constitutional development of this territory. With Mr. Munro's breakdown of the federal responsibilities in negotiating land claims settlements, there can be no security for development. Dome Petroleum can no longer be assured their interests can be protected, nor can they continue to expect people to operate co-operatively in the Beaufort Sea. Every developer in the Northwest Territories must be having the same apprehension. On December 24th, when the Minister signed his letter to Davey Stuart, he set back the development of the Territories to where it was a decade ago.

Public Hearings Useless

Although the federal government has shown it is unprepared to deal fairly and in good faith with matters of the Territories, they have imposed on us a never-ending parade of public hearings sponsored by civil servants. These are nothing more than an excuse for doing what they want and pretending we are involved. Since the inquiry of Justice Thomas Berger we have been consulted to death by these civil servants. We have had the EARP hearings on the Norman Wells pipeline which make recommendations which will not be followed. We have had a green paper on Lancaster Sound as a result of an EARP process, which is an insult to the public's intelligence, and now, we have an EARP hearing starting up in the Beaufort Sea.

In the Mackenzie Valley we said everything to Berger. There is simply no excuse to keep asking people the same questions over and over again. The green paper on Lancaster Sound was a joke. It cost half a million dollars. It was one year late. It did not address the question it was supposed to and turned out totally useless. I think it is time for this Assembly to tell the bureaucrats in Ottawa, we are not interested in any more of these useless hearings.

---Applause

This Assembly and this government must take charge of the responsibility for planning and developing the Northwest Territories.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: We cannot any longer be passive participants in the strategy of the Department of Indian Affairs bureaucrats.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

Secretariat To Deal With Federal-Territorial Matters

MS COURNOYEA: This is so fundamental to the successful development of the Northwest Territories that I recommend that we give consideration to instituting a secretariat reporting to this Assembly to deal with the federal-territorial matters. It is just not good enough to have these important matters brought to the table by hurried motions. The function of the secretariat would be to investigate and report to this Assembly on those aspects of the functioning of the Indian Affairs jurisdictions in the Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Patterson.

Hon. Dennis Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like yourself, I am going to rely on a bunch of papers on my desk, and I promise to be briefer than I have ever been before, which is not saying much.

---Applause

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Promises, promises.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just raise a few constituency concerns first. Perhaps the most urgent concern in Frobisher Bay is the further deteriorating problem of the cost of living, and particularly as it relates to air carriers, which we depend on. I know that this is a concern of other Members. Mr. Curley has spoken of the problems in the Keewatin. Mr. Evaluarjuk recently complained about disastrous scheduling involving the passengers, particularly the women and children, who have to travel between Hall Beach and Igloolik on Nordair.

I would like to briefly comment on the cost of air travel. I am not going to speak a great deal about division today because we are scheduling debates in the future, and my views have perhaps been forced upon people ad nauseam. I cannot help but complimenting, in a very backhanded way, Northwest Territorial Airways for the great contribution they have made for promoting division in the Northwest Territories. When they applied for the Frobisher-Yellowknife route, we were all pleased with what seemed like a reasonable air fare, which made it more economical than going via the South. It seemed to, although steep, take into account that a northern carrier has certain burdens to bear. That air fare from Frobisher to Yellowknife, and vice versa, was \$420.

I think the existence of that service encouraged commerce between Frobisher Bay and Yellowknife and encouraged social communication between the two points. I particularly, as one who had to spend some time in the West, was quite happy to invest my own money in bringing family members over here for meetings.

Sudden Increase In Air Fares

Now that the service seems to have been established for a while -- and, incidentally, Mr. Speaker, those planes are not flying over there empty by any means -- the rate has suddenly been increased 25 per cent, from \$420 to \$526. This has meant for me, for example, to bring three children under 12, not infants, over here to attend school here, as I hoped they might while the session was in place, was going to cost me \$1578. Other Members are in the same dilemma when it comes to bringing children over here. I think many Members and people in the general public would like to visit friends in Yellowknife or in Rankin Inlet, but this sort of incredible increase has just soured the whole prospect.

Now, Nordair has not neglected, has not failed to pay any attention to our purses either. We were again mistakenly hopeful that when Nordair was acquired by the Government of Canada that there might be some changes, that we might expect some sort of concessions that we have come to associate with Air Canada. We would hope, perhaps, that you might be able to get on the plane in Montreal and fly to Frobisher Bay with two pieces of baggage, the way you are allowed to fly across Canada, at much lower rates per mile on Air Canada or on CP Air. We hoped that Nordair might change this policy of strictly enforcing the 44 pound baggage limit from Montreal -- no change.

We hoped we might benefit somehow from more favourable rates, but not only are tariffs steadily increasing but recently a real disaster has befallen the people of Frobisher Bay, and that is the weekend excursion fares are to be dropped. The fall savings, fall seat sale, which was I think utilized by many people, the savings have been slashed so as to be ridiculous. I think this will have and has had profound effects on not just the purse strings but the mental health of the people of Frobisher. We are now more likely to feel really trapped in a community where climate and harshness of weather sometimes make it nice to get out, even to a place like Yellowknife.

---Laughter

Executive Committee Should Address Problem

So, Mr. Speaker, all I wanted to say is I am very concerned about this and I think that our Executive Committee, encouraged by requests like that from Mr. Evaluarjuk and Mr. Curley's concern, should really try and tackle this whole problem of the cost of air transportation in the Northwest Territories. I hope to somehow be able to work toward improving the situation because it is of great concern to my constituents. Really, although I believe in the division of the Northwest Territories, while we are still together and while Yellowknife is still the capital, this sort of blatant and apparently excessive increase, without any public hearings of any kind is intolerable. I feel I must address it.

Now, just a few other constituency matters. I am very happy to see the progress that is being made toward the territorial government working with the Department of National Health and Welfare to negotiate a territorial-style board of management of the hospital in Frobisher Bay. It is an excellent hospital. For some reason we do not seem to have the serious problems they are having in Inuvik attracting professionals. I am encouraged by this further improvement, when it takes place, on the service, by injecting the element of local control and input into the little things that matter in the hospital; diet, presence of country food, interpreting services and this sort of thing that in the end are

so important to the quality of health care. So I am happy to see these negotiations are progressing, and I am particularly happy because that was one of my campaign pledges. The Hon. Mr. McCallum is making it very easy for me to accomplish that goal, and I am happy about that.

Utilidor And Macerator Systems

I also want to briefly mention the fact which has not gone unnoticed by me, that somebody has been listening to concerns I have expressed about the utilidor in Frobisher Bay. I am pleased that there is a little more breathing space before the next major phase is planned. I am pleased to see that this years estimates show a modest expenditure which will connect the Bay complex, the new Bay store. That makes sense to me. I do not know how that could be serviced by water trucks. They are going to look at the macerator and try and get it working for the first time in over five years. I think we can afford to take the time to make the system work before we build it bigger. I am happy to see the Department of Local Government and the budgetary, the capital planners, have listened to the concerns, obviously, and hopefully will go further and give us some kind of an idea of the socio-economic implications of further expansion of the system.

I am also very happy to acknowledge the efforts of the Minister of Local Government and his officials in solving what really was a very unfair situation as it affected taxpayers whose houses happened to be near the utilidor. The matter was addressed in Frobisher Bay, and despite observations from some Members like Mr. Stewart, who seemed to think that was the way the ball should bounce, the Department of Local Government, I am very happy to announce, has admitted that there were inequities in the tax structure last year and they have offered a rebate to certain Frobisher taxpayers who were affected. Subject to the approval of the town council, which I am sure will be forthcoming, this plan will help the burden that we heard complained about while we were in Frobisher Bay. It is really nice to see that government is willing to -- when they say we will look into something and we will let you know -- it is really nice to see that if your complaint has merit, efforts will be made to remedy the situation.

Urgent Need For A Lawyer In Frobisher Bay

Another matter, or the last constituency matter that I would like to address, Mr. Speaker, is one that I feel a little bit uncomfortable discussing because some may say that I have an interest in this area of legal services in Frobisher Bay because I was recently practising there. Should a lawyer locate there, it might be possible that I would want to make available some of my library and/or equipment to that person. I do not want anyone to think that that is why I am raising this matter. I am raising it on behalf of my constituents. There is no lawyer in Frobisher Bay anymore.

MR. PUDLUK: Where did he go?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Where did he go? Well, due to pressure from some of my colleagues, which I was flattered to receive, I decided to take another job so I am the missing lawyer, as Mr. Pudluk well knows. I am just, of course, not able to provide any services there now that I am doing a full time job on the Executive Committee.

The problem is, Mr. Speaker, that there is an urgent need to relocate a lawyer in Frobisher Bay, and I think the public has come to expect some sort of encouragement from the legal aid system and the legal services board and the Minister of Justice in the Northwest Territories. I would like to say on behalf of my constituents that this is a fairly urgent concern that I look forward to raising with the Minister, and aiding my constituents in, their desire to get the necessary financial incentives to locate a lawyer in such a remote place. There may have to be a slightly different formula applied than is applied in centres nearer to Yellowknife where costs are less. I would like to work on that and I would like to see some progress made in the near future because this is an important service. If you are going to locate some 25 policemen in Frobisher Bay, there has to be a lawyer there.

Session In Frobisher Bay An Enlightening Experience

I would like to, in closing remarks about Frobisher Bay, Mr. Speaker, say how happy I was to have hosted the session in Frobisher Bay or to have hosted it along with my constituents. It was a most rewarding and enlightening experience, I think, for the people in Frobisher Bay and the people of the eastern Territories, if you like. I recognize that some Members might have voted against it if it had not been suggested that it was in the interests of territorial unity that we do meet there. I make no apology for having suggested that and I think a great deal was accomplished in that regard.

I would defend the holding of the session, firstly, on the grounds that although it did cost a lot of money, as I tried to show when I tabled certain information that had been received through your office, Mr. Speaker, last week, the money was not thrown up in the air or burned. It went largely to the merchants of Frobisher Bay, and Northwest Territorial Airways. You know, in a community like Frobisher Bay where there is not a great deal of economic activity, this is a major economic event, a meeting like that, and I would not want my honourable friend, Mr. MacQuarrie, who alluded to the cost, I would not want him to think that that kind of money was wasted on the people or the economy of Frobisher Bay, although it did cost more.

I would like to say that I hope we can find a way to move around, not just to spread the wealth outside Yellowknife, but because of the other more important intrinsic values of this kind of communication and exposure. I was particularly delighted at the way that session attracted the interest of the CBC; for example, Don Harron was there. It was a most inspiring event for all of us, I hope.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Free Discussion Of Constitutional Future

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The other significant thing about it, I think, was that we were able to demonstrate to the people of the Northwest Territories a remarkable degree of consensus and compromise and in the final result, a remarkable degree of unity. It was a difficult, heated, at times nasty debate, and maybe now and then some of us lost our decorum, but I think we should be proud of that debate in Frobisher Bay, because that sort of free discussion of our constitutional future is extremely important. I think we have laid the groundwork for perhaps the next 10 years of work and development. I am looking forward to participating in the special committee on impact and in the ongoing debates in the future.

Some Members say that we compromised too much so that our recommendations became ambiguous, if not meaningless. I think that in a consensus government these sorts of concessions are vital to our survival and I do not apologize for any concession that I might have suggested be made. I think that the price that one often pays by a rigid principled stance is the impossibility of consensus and until we have a party system, this is a reality that I think cannot be ignored.

I would like to very briefly, Mr. Speaker, mention the special committee on education and particularly its recommendations on higher education grants and bursaries. I have found this subject to be a very difficult subject for us to deal with and perhaps, for the people of the Northwest Territories to deal with.

Hearings Showed Interest Of The Public

I, unfortunately, was not able to attend the public hearings in Yellowknife, although I would have liked to, believe it or not...

---Laughter

...just due to unavoidable commitments that I had, that suddenly were thrust upon me when I became appointed Minister. However, I followed the hearings with great interest and read the submissions with great interest and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that in general, I think that we can be very grateful for the tremendous interest that the public has taken in this issue. I think we should be happy that the people of the Northwest Territories are so concerned about education and about higher education in particular.

I think in the end result it will have been a very healthy discussion, and I must commend the committee, of which I am a member and its co-chairman, particularly, for having decided to hold public hearings. For some Members it was a particularly discomfiting experience, but I think our committee should be commended for at least having set this sort of precedent. I only hope that once the issue of higher education grants and bursaries has been resolved, we will get the same sort of interest, as we continue our work throughout the Northwest Territories, in the other major problems that we have to deal with, in such areas as attendance, quality of education, language education, special education, vocational education.

I say that, Mr. Speaker, because I feel that it is important that these recommendations be discussed as soon as possible and resolved as soon as possible. Some Members of this Assembly and some people have urged delay, but I feel that we had a mandate from this Assembly to report, in Frobisher Bay. When one considers now the complexity of the issue of higher education grants and bursaries, it was a big order to expect a committee from so many parts of the Northwest Territories to be able to meet, put its recommendations together, put the sort of fine polish on the wording that we probably should have put on them, in time to report to the Assembly in Frobisher Bay, but we did it.

Recommendations Should Be Discussed Here And Now

The public reacted in a very strong, clear manner. A lot of uncertainty resulted and perhaps anger from some quarters, and I do not think now is the time to back off from the issue and say, well, we will wait 12 or 18 months and hope that things cool down a bit before we raise this issue again. I think that the recommendations which our committee will table shortly should be discussed here and now by this Assembly, because there is uncertainty in the Territories. People are wondering what is going to happen to them next fall and it is going to be a difficult debate, but I think we should rise to the challenge and not back off.

This business of the ugly allegations of racism has particularly disconcerted me. I hate to think that I am a racist but none the less, the sometimes rude allegations that have been received by the committee or directed at me have caused me to search my soul and consider this issue of racism. You know, it would be pretty hard for our recommendations not to allude to race, Mr. Speaker. If our recommendations are racist then perhaps it is because this is a racist country.

Maybe there should not be a Department of Indian Affairs. Maybe there should not be special status for native people. Maybe the constitutional committee is wrong in recognizing and affirming aboriginal rights. Maybe the provision which exempts affirmative action programs from the operation of the proposed charter of human rights and freedom is wrong. Maybe it is wrong that native people are, by the federal government, given free drugs under medical services and people like me or even people who have lived all their lives in the Northwest Territories have to pay, but these are the realities.

Reasonable Distinctions Between Classes Of People

I am also convinced, Mr. Speaker, that our law, despite some public suggestions to the contrary, in fact will uphold reasonable distinctions between classes of people by sex or by race or on other grounds in spite of what some people would like to see. If I was a purist, as a lawyer, I would bemoan the fact that the Queen vs. Drybones, a decision of our esteemed late Judge Morrow in the Northwest Territories, which held out the potential for the view that racial classifications would be in conflict with the bill of rights, the Diefenbaker bill of rights, and its egalitarian and civil liberties provisions did not materialize. Drybones was struck down.

A subsequent case, the famous case of the Attorney General vs. Lavalle, upheld the provisions of the Indian Act which discriminated on the basis of sex by providing that an Indian woman lost her status on marrying a non-status male, while an Indian man did not. Now, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld that provision in the Indian Act. I am not applauding that decision. I think it was wrong but I do not think it is fair to say that in Canada recommendations in legislation or otherwise, which allude to race are necessarily racist or unconstitutional or unlawful.

Rationality Of Legislative Policy

I would like to quote, since I have done a little bit of research on this because I was very concerned about these rather serious allegations -- I would like to quote briefly from a work on Canadian constitutional law, authored by Dr. Peter Hogg of Osgoode Law School and he said that:

"All laws impose burdens or confer benefits on special groups or deny these to others. The guarantee of equality before the law in the bill of rights cannot therefore, per se, in itself condemn every legislative classification. Instead, it should be taken as directing inquiry into whether a particular classification is a reasonable means of securing a legitimate legislative purpose."

This means, in effect, Mr. Speaker, that we have to sort of stray away from strict legal analysis and look at the rationality and acceptability of legislative policy. I would like to see our recommendations discussed in terms of social policy and not race. I think that perhaps some people who have considered this issue have let the issue of race, and it is an emotional issue, distract them from what should be considered and that is the social policy in changes to the existing rules and regulations, if there are to be changes. I hope that when we are debating the matter in this Assembly, we will look at the social policy and the desirability of the recommendations in terms of improving our system rather than getting too sidetracked by the issue of race. That is all I will say at this time on that subject, Mr. Speaker, but I undoubtedly may have more to say when the recommendations are tabled.

All Members Have Equal Rights

Now, I would like very briefly to comment on consensus government and the Executive Committee. I feel -- incidentally Mr. Sibbeston should know I do not feel muzzled. I feel quite free to state my views, if need be, on the Executive Committee. I think that perhaps some Members of the Assembly and perhaps some Members of the Executive Committee, as well, have tended too much in the past to think of the "us/them" analogy and you know, it is easy to think of the Executive Committee as the government and the MLA's or the ordinary MLA's, as I mistakenly called them earlier in this session, are the opposition. I would strongly challenge that kind of reasoning, Mr. Speaker, because I believe that this Assembly here as we are now, all equal Members with equal rights to speak or not to speak according to the rules, we are the government...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...and you know executive committees are in existence and executive branches of government are in existence, according to my theory, especially where there are no party politics, to simply carry out the wishes of this government between its sessions and carry out your instructions and try and figure out what you would do if you were all there with us when we are considering an issue. I think that most Members of this group see things this way or will see things this way if they give it some careful thought.

Benefit Of Debate By All Members

A good example, I think, is the debate we are having on Bill C-48 this week. The Executive Committee -- I know I speak for the Hon. Tom Butters -- is most anxious to get that debate over with because we have to, on Friday, formulate the government's position and it is going to be immensely more easy if we have the benefit of the views of all MLA's.

I would like to say that it may be that some of my colleagues on the Executive Committee have felt a little like Nick Sibbeston. The hon. Nick Sibbeston suggests that we are muzzled, but in fact I would hope that we are not muzzled, subject to a few rules. First of all, obviously, just like this Assembly, we operate on consensus and just as Members of this Assembly should respect the decisions taken here by a majority, there is even more of an obligation on those of us who are Members of the Executive Committee to respect decisions and positions taken by the Executive Committee on certain issues.

However, where positions have not been taken, and I suggest that many of the important issues that come before this Assembly are put before this Assembly precisely because positions have not been taken and we want to obtain direction. I do not see any particular reason why Members of the Executive Committee cannot freely and fully and should not freely and fully participate in the debate. I welcome contributions from my colleagues during the estimates with suggestions and, if necessary, even criticisms of the government.

I think the only rule that we must follow, and it is a rule that every Member should follow, is when we are critical or questioning or when we are curious, is that we show respect to the particular Deputy Minister who might be involved or to a particular colleague that might be involved. I think as long as respect is shown and the rules of order are followed, there is no reason Executive Committee Members cannot participate quite fully. I intend, subject to my obligation to honour the decisions that my colleagues have taken in the Executive Committee, whether I totally agree with them or not, subject to that rule, I intend to participate as fully and freely in debate as I did while I was an MLA or an ordinary MLA.

Constitutional Experiment In NWT Is Unique

I will not be asking any more questions, my colleagues will be happy to learn, but apart from that, I think we are involved in an ongoing experiment. This is a whole new constitutional experiment in Canada. We are now unique. The Yukon has a party system. I think we are doing something here that is important.

An example of a precedent that I think is unique to the Northwest Territories is that the Executive Committee Members are chosen not by the Commissioner, not by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, but by Members of this House and, ergo, and I say this to Members who might feel that the Executive Committee Members are not doing their job, you have the right to remove us and I accept that principle fully. A motion of non-confidence could come on the floor and if a majority of this Assembly votes to remove me, I will not even whimper.

So let us not get too caught up in this us/them business. I could not help chuckling, Mr. Speaker, at Mrs. Sorensen's speech on opening day with the packed gallery here because it reminded me very much of a speech I made in this very same room when I was first elected and I protested loudly, executive secrecy and you know, having been stifled as an ordinary MLA. Maybe Mrs. Sorensen read my speech. Maybe she was inspired by my speech. I would be flattered.

MRS. SORENSEN: At least I gave the Executive Committee a year to perform as opposed to criticizing immediately like you.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: At any rate, Mr. Speaker, there is no oath of secrecy. I said that before and if there is, I certainly have not taken it yet.

Practical Limits To Secrecy

It is just that I suppose there is some point at which practicality has to enter into it, and I think if we were to give out copies of everything we did, we would not have anything more to do as an Executive Committee. It could be left to the Assembly or it could be left to the finance committee or the media and perhaps they would help to make some of the tough decisions we have to make behind closed doors. I am not defending secrecy, by any means. I am just saying that I think there are practical limits.

I do not see any reason why MLA's should not be even better informed of what is going on than they have been to date. I think it is no secret that we have already discussed that issue in the Executive Committee and I think we are going to try and do what we can to try to improve communication between ourselves and MLA's, but Members should not feel too defensive if it is hard to get information because I have discovered now that there is an awful lot of work to be done, and if sometimes requests for information get put aside, well, one is forced to come to grips with the decision that has to be made. I hope that we can improve that situation.

There are no great secrets of state locked in the Executive Committee offices, although I think that the honourable Member for Yellowknife South will appreciate that while matters are not yet finalized, while recommendations are in the discussion stage, and while they are probably still subject to change, it is highly undesirable that the public be misled by premature exposure to those recommendations. I guess that is a consideration, although I am not saying we do not trust MLA's. I feel there is probably a special relationship between

Executive Committee Members and MLA's and personally, as far as educational matters are concerned, I hope MLA's will not hesitate to approach me with their concerns. I certainly hope I will consult and confide as fully as I would have expected when I was an MLA without other responsibilities on the Executive Committee.

Southern-Style Model Of Executive Committee

Since I was a little bit critical of the hon. Mrs. Sorensen, I would like to applaud her suggestion in her reply to the Commissioner's Address that we should take a look, a careful look, again at this sort of southern-style model we have of having Executive Committee Members responsible for certain departments. She suggested in her speech that maybe there is another formula that would work better in the Northwest Territories; emphasizing geography, for example, or having Ministers represent a particular constituency or area of concern, rather than be responsible for program departments. I think that suggestion is worth very serious investigation, Mr. Speaker.

I must say that I have been very impressed in my short tenure on the Executive Committee, and I hope it is not going to be a short one, but in my short tenure so far, I have been very impressed with the calibre of the senior bureaucrats, if you like -- bureaucrat is not a flattering term -- but the senior managers in departments, particularly in the Department of Education, with which I am obviously most familiar. They have been running the government long before Executive Committee Members took so many departmental responsibilities.

I am not saying that our Executive Committee Members are not doing an important job in now directing those departments, but I am just wondering if their energies are being used the way they could be used. I am just wondering if, perhaps, we should not be leaving more of the day-to-day responsibilities to the Deputy Ministers and looking at some of the wider issues and looking at some of the special problems that we have, and assigning ministries on that sort of a basis. I think it merits serious consideration and I applaud Mrs. Sorensen for insisting and bringing that issue forth, as she has done in the past. In closing, Mr. Speaker, and I am finally closing...

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

---Applause

Assembly Is Consensus Government

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...I would like to just once again somehow -- perhaps along the lines of Ms Cournoyea, whose speech I thought was quite inspiring -- I would like to urge upon all Members that we have a big challenge ahead of us. There is no question about the depth and breadth of the challenge that is facing us in the near future. I am astonished every time I see the proposals for development in places like Lancaster Sound and the Beaufort Sea. I think it is extremely important in the face of our relatively small population and the limited resources that we have as people and, indeed, as a government, that no matter what we do as an Assembly and no matter what opposing views we might have inside or outside this House, we remember that until things change, this is a consensus government.

We come from all kinds of backgrounds, educations, geography, history -- I am very grateful for the diverse interests that are represented in this House. I think everyone makes an important contribution, whether they say a lot like I do, or whether they say a little, and what I would like to urge all Members to

think about, in closing, is that if we are to grow and survive, whether it is as two or more territories or not, consensus, compromise, respect for the other, the opposing point of view, is going to be crucial. The more difficult the problems that face us, the more important these human values are going to be.

An Atmosphere Of Mutual Respect

I think we have done very well in that regard to date. I think the very strong consensus that was achieved on the division issue, where there was a majority of 16 to one voting on what I thought was the most crucial question, shows that even facing very profound issues, we can work together to achieve a consensus in an atmosphere of mutual respect, no matter what part of the Territories we are from or what our views are, or what our racial or cultural backgrounds are. I think these goals must remain uppermost in our minds as we continue our work in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson, the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay. You did not keep your promise. You said you would be just a short while, but we will let you go.

The Chair would like to recognize the chairman and the president and the directors of the Nahanni Regional Co-operation from Kotzebue, Alaska, in the gallery.

---Applause

I wonder if the guests would like to join the Members in a brief cup of coffee in the Members' room, just next door. We will break for a 15 minute coffee break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Getting back to the business of the Assembly. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. McLaughlin, the honourable Member for Pine Point.

Mr. McLaughlin's Reply

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As other Members have, I would like to congratulate the Members for Central Arctic and Frobisher Bay for accepting the challenge of helping to administer this government and I am sure that Mr. Tologanak and Mr. Patterson will have to prove that responsible government is the best way to respond to the needs of northern residents.

The acceptance of this government by residents of the Northwest Territories who live above the tree line will open the eyes of federal politicians and hopefully jolt the minds of Ottawa mandarins who advise that northerners can neither help themselves nor each other. This colonial argument justifies the continued existence of those people in Northern Affairs and excuses their control over northern lands and resources so that residents of the Northwest Territories may never take full control of their own lives in their own land.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner has made a very positive step in turning over the responsibility for the Department of Finance to an elected Member of this Assembly. This move will result in the development of policies and courses of action which will help to create a greater feeling of responsibility by Members of this Legislature for both the content and the style of delivery of the programs and capital expenditures of this government. We will have to live with and accept responsibility for the failures of this government. We will not be able to just take credit for the successes. The Commissioner has given us this challenge and I hope that we can live up to it well enough so that in a years time, he will be hard pressed to find reasons why we cannot take full responsibility for the balance of the portfolios still controlled by himself and the Deputy Commissioner.

Evolution Of Responsible Government

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that I have confidence in Mr. Parker and Mr. Pilot as administrators of this government. Before I was elected to this House, I heard of the fairness and of the honesty of both these gentlemen and they have since proven this and more to me and I am sure to all Members in this Ninth Assembly. The continued evolution of responsible government in the Northwest Territories which was set in motion and encouraged by previous federal governments, has resulted in changing roles for both these men and they have very ably responded to the task and they have my heartfelt respect for that. I am sure all Members will agree with me when I say that it would be nearly impossible to find two better men to serve as Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner at this time in our history.

That was the good news. The bad news is that I cannot wait until the future leader of this House writes the speech from the throne, which one of you can read as lieutenant-governor. That is why I will continue to do all I can to prevent you from sitting in this chamber unless you are elected in a future general election.

Now I would like to say that the very presence in this room of these two very likeable and competent administrators indicates that much progress is still to be made by the people of the North. They represent the very heavy hand of Northern Affairs, a division of the federal arm which has a strangle hold on the land, the resources and the future of all northerners. This arm which is controlled by the pulling of many shoulder strings in Ottawa will make any move that its semidetached brain conceives in order to prevent the settling of aboriginal claims or the turning over of resources.

Southern Attitudes Must Change

This Assembly has the potential to break the strangle hold of Northern Affairs for the greater benefit of all residents of the Northwest Territories. We can, more than any other group or organization, effect the changes of attitude which are necessary to give us the opportunity to control our own futures. These changes of attitude must occur in Ottawa and the rest of southern Canada where we are seen as a divided people and spread thinly over a vast treasure of natural resources, held in the trust for the future use of the federal government to benefit the rest of Canada. The only price that they will have to pay for this resource grab is to continue the colonial monetary control over the people of the Northwest Territories as we argue each other to a standstill while a fait accompli occurs which will rob us of our future. After Trudeau brings home his constitution and pushes through his National Energy Program, there will be nothing the federal government can legally do but give us the few measly crumbs we are presently squabbling over.

Mr. Speaker, we were not elected by the people in our constituencies to allow the federal government to take our future away. We were elected to deliver good government to the people in our constituencies and to the rest of the Northwest Territories and part of that delivery must include some hope of a future for all the residents of the Northwest Territories. I can see that we have made decisions in this House during the last year which have pleased many people in the Northwest Territories. In some cases, these decisions have responded to the wishes of residents who felt they never had a voice in this House before. It is just as easy to see that some people feel that they now have less of a voice in this House but if that is only a result of all people finally having at least some say in what goes on, then that really only speaks well for the future of this Assembly.

Assembly Must Work Together As A Group

However, all Members must remember that a consensus government will only work if all the voices in the House are fairly reflected in decisions made. If any significant group in this Assembly is forced to play politics outside of this House, either in the media or by phoning Ottawa and crying "foul", then we will be continuing to play into the hands of the feds and we will be giving them the time to change the constitution and create a national energy program which will handicap this or any future form of government in this area.

Mr. Speaker, we have addressed many of the concerns that individual residents have expressed which affect them in their day-to-day lives. Our Ministers have changed policies to effect these changes and they are continuing to make progress in other areas. On the other hand, many Members have said that they do not feel our Ministers are responding fast enough over a broad enough area. I say that this problem arises from the fact that the Members of this House have been unable or unwilling to give broad general guidelines to our Ministers. It is my feeling that we have not made enough effort to identify the areas where objectives are the same or where easy consensus can be achieved. Until we make the efforts in this area, we will continue to be disappointed by our Executive Committee and we, in turn, will disappoint the people who elected us. I believe that we have got to get together informally in a lengthy caucus meeting and resolve this problem. How can we expect our Ministers to negotiate with the federal government on constitutional and resource development matters if we do not give them a clear direction to head? And I contend that this cannot be done on the floor of this House. You do not see Peter Lougheed and Merv Leitch plotting our their strategy for Alberta while Kit Spence takes notes in the galley.

It is important that all of us make the necessary compromises on the small matters which seem to crop up in the debates and feed fuel to the fires through the media. If we do not, we will get nothing out of Arvik, Norman Wells, or the Beaufort Sea.

Native People Have Special Status And Rights

To summarize, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the example that if it is in the best interests of the people in the Northwest Territories to divide into two new territories, then we have to unite in this House before we can begin to achieve that. Two basic facts have to be recognized. The other people in the Northwest Territories have got to acknowledge as the three major federal parties did in the proposed constitution amendments, that native people do have special status and rights in Canada as evidenced by the very existence of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. As well, the native people in the Northwest Territories have to recognize that others will continue to live up here and both groups will have to realize that the federal government will protect the rights of natives and others and will do so the federal way or our way, largely depending on how we work in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Any further replies? Mr. McCallum.

Hon. Arnold McCallum's Reply

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would want to just take a few brief moments. I know that that is the byword, take a few brief moments, but I think that I would like to at this time, if only for two major reasons. The first is that I would like to associate myself with the remarks that were made by Mr. Curley yesterday in relation to the kind of development that has to go on and the responsibility that we have as legislators in providing jobs for our future. I sincerely mean that, in all earnestness, that I would like to associate myself with his remarks, because in dealing with concerns that I have from my constituents, the question is being asked all the time -- "What are we going to do?" -- in my area and in other areas of the North, where for the last few years those people who have pursued a traditional way of life, that is in trapping, have not been able to pursue that life because of the fires that have ravaged that area.

With the kind of winter that we are experiencing this year, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we are in for more of the same in the coming year, this coming summer. Even though the fur prices are high, trapping is on the decline because the animals are not there. I said because of two reasons. One was this association with the remarks of Mr. Curley because of the economic area and the education.

Division Of The Territories

The second is the concern that my constituents have over what I consider to be two or three of the main issues that face the Territories today, and one, that we addressed in Frobisher Bay, is on the question of the division of the Territories. My constituents of all ethnic bases asked me questions concerning the division. They are very much concerned with who will vote for the division if we go by plebiscite. They are very much concerned as to the number of resulting territories that may emerge. They are very much concerned with where the division will occur and finally, who will do the actual dividing, setting up of these emerging territories. These are real questions that are being asked of me continually.

The second concern that people have in my constituency is the business of economic development, that I indicated. They are asking, where do the jobs come from? They are asking, why are we training young people, retraining adults? What is there for them to do? They are concerned with the proposed changes in education. They welcome the complete study into education but they are

concerned with the proposed changes. They have, obviously, put forth some kinds of concerns to Members of the education committee and they look forward to having that committee present themselves in Fort Smith, hopefully within the next few weeks. They have asked for changes to the grade one school year, that I know the Minister is looking at, at the present time.

School Of Dental Therapy

They see the possible decline, not just on an economic basis, of the, I would say, inevitable move of the federal School of Dental Therapy from the Northwest Territories, because I am convinced that it will go. It will have to be done. The decision will have to be made sometime very quickly. I will refer to that to a greater detail when I talk about the Department of Health, but nevertheless, they are concerned about the move of the School of Dental Therapy.

All these matters of education have a great concern, because people in Fort Smith are saying there is a need at the present time for this government to put an end to the idea of providing for the technical kind of education, to get serious about doing something with the facility that is now housed in Fort Smith, to ensure that our youth are getting good training and that they are supplied with the kind of background that they require to take on the jobs of managers, technicians, tradespeople, professional people, administrators, for the kind of development that will come through.

They are concerned as well, Mr. Speaker, with two studies, one that is going on now and the probability of another one. The one that is going now is a study on the management of Wood Buffalo National Park, as to the direction of management of that park, the largest park in our park system -- in fact, as I understand it, the largest park in North America -- because there are people who would utilize the facilities that are there. Part of that park is in the Northwest Territories, not much, but part of it, and we should be concerned what the direction of the management of that resource is, if the resource is to remain for the naturalists and for the animals only, or whether it is to be utilized by people as well.

Development Of Hydro Power On Slave River

The other study that people in my constituency are very concerned with, as are other people further down the Slave River and surrounding area, is the EARP study that will be undertaken at the federal level, by federal people, of the development of hydro power on the Slave River. The term, dam Fort Smith, takes on a different kind of connotation in Fort Smith and the area, and I am suggesting Fort Resolution, because at the present time the development of that hydro power along the Slave River could stop at the border. It could stop at Mountain Rapids and not come into the Territories. The power could be transmitted back down to the oil sands, to Fort McMurray, where it will be used by Alberta, if we do not get serious about developing in the Territories alternative sources of power. In my area there are these two; the wood and the hydro.

They are concerned as to what will occur, the benefits that will accrue to people with that development, because I am convinced that that is another development that will go ahead. If Alberta is going to cut back on the development of their oil, and if they are to come together with the other prairie provinces and the northern power grid, they are going to have to develop hydro power. One of the areas on which they can develop 2500 megawatts of power is on the Slave River.

With the present state of affairs, we as a government have very little to say, can do very little about that kind of major development. We are talking very close to the kind of development that occurred in Quebec or Labrador -- talking in the vicinity of 3000 megawatts of power. People in my community and I know

in other Members' communities -- specifically that of my colleague, Mr. Sayine's community at the delta of the Slave River -- are concerned about what will go on. What benefits will accrue? What will happen? Will we have any real say in that development, because we will be affected by it? I am sure that other Members of the Executive will recall the comments that were made that there will be an effect, minimal, but there will be an effect on the large lake, as well as the Mackenzie River, with that kind of development.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would want to bring these kinds of concerns, because I do not often get the opportunity in this particular forum to lay those concerns. It is not that I do not lay those concerns to other government Ministers, but I think that Members should be aware that there are concerns in other areas represented by Executive Committee Members.

There is a growing number of people in my community who are retiring, as the Member for Mackenzie Liard indicated some time ago, I think it was in Baker Lake, about Fort Smith being a retirement centre for public servants. I think that more and more have come to the realization that it is. The good thing about that, Mr. Speaker, is that most of those people who are retiring government civil servants are native people from that area, and we are attempting to provide them with many of the things, and not only in Fort Smith, for senior citizens, but in a number of other places including Fort Simpson.

Young Offenders Act

I think as well, Mr. Speaker, that I would really greatly want to indicate that there are two particular events, if you like, that are ongoing in this year. One is the federal initiative of which we received word today from the Solicitor General of Canada who informed me, and I believe my colleague, Mr. Butters, that yesterday he had the pleasure of tabling in the House of Commons a bill containing new legislation to replace the Juvenile Delinquents Act and that, of course, is the Young Offenders Act. I have indicated the concern that people should have, Members should have, the results of the implications of this act in here. I listen to Mr. Appaqaq talk about the relationship of young people with their parents. I listen to and get direction at different times from our judiciary about taking on the responsibility of looking after young people. In this act there are implications that we cannot, as a group of territories and provinces, we cannot agree on what the specific maximum age of jurisdiction will be for juveniles. In the Northwest Territories, at the present time, we say 16 but the federal legislation now says that it will be at least 18 and the provinces can determine it. As well, there is a minimum age and that now has been moved from seven to 12 years.

Young offenders, under this new legislation, can be charged, taken to court where there is open court, sentences can be made on them, to incarcerate them, a committal to custody. That means that we are going to have to start looking at buildings, capital construction of other institutions to house young offenders. There are a number of dispositions for sentences placed on youths.

International Year Of Disabled Persons

The other ongoing initiative that takes place as of the first of this year, Mr. Speaker, is an international initiative and that is that 1981 is the International Year of Disabled Persons. Through information given to me by members of the Department of Health and Social Services, I find it very enlightening to know that there are a great number of disabled people in the Northwest Territories as well as across the country for which very little has been done in the past. There are very few buildings either of this government or the federal government or private buildings where disabled people, for example handicapped people in wheelchairs, have access.

I think that there is a great deal to be done for this segment of the population, not only in the Territories but throughout, that we as legislators have got to respond to. We have got to respond to those kinds of needs. We have got to be able to start doing things about it. That does not just mean individuals within the Department of Health and Social Services. That means each and every one of us. This is a portion of the population for which there has been very little done. I would hope that during this year, especially during the year 1981, the International Year for Disabled Persons, that we would begin to do something. It would not be just a one year shot that we would do something. I think if we were able to, Mr. Speaker, do something positive in this area during the year that our time within the confines of this House in this particular year will have been well worth it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk's Reply

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, Commissioner and my fellow colleagues. I would like to first of all say thank you to those Pages that are in the House. They are doing a good job.

---Applause

The new Ministers, also I thank them very much for doing a good job.

---Applause

Also the interpreters here, and I thank them very much.

---Applause

The finance committee and their chairwoman, Mrs. Sorensen, she is working very hard.

---Applause

I thank all these people in my first remarks. I am not going to talk too long. I forgot but this has to be mentioned. I was not going to reply but it just came up.

Concerns Of The Residents Of Pangnirtung

The concerns of the people of Pangnirtung, I think the people here should know about. Perhaps you all know the man who owns the fishing camp in Pangnirtung. Residents of Pangnirtung do not like the idea of him wanting an airstrip around that camp, for the main reason that we have been asking for upgrading the airstrip in Pangnirtung. As you all know, it is pretty dangerous for the airstrip to be right in the centre of the community.

The residents in Pangnirtung would like to see users to be the priority in the settlement. There are things that have to be done in Pangnirtung first before anything else happens. Before they wanted a road under the airstrip. If this person who wants an airstrip at the camping area was given approval without us being notified -- the person who is asking for the airstrip has not come up to the Pangnirtung council at all to notify them of any intention. He has gone only to the federal government without notifying the people of Pangnirtung and this is of great concern to the community.

For those who are administrators, I would like you to help us with what Pangnirtung people want. I thought this was very important that you hear about it. Also, another one I wanted to mention is there are some written letters on the telephone bills they received. I have read in it that if they are not paid 11 days after you received the bill, they would increase five per cent if you do not pay it on time. Sometimes these bills do not come to the communities for a long, long time and this 11 days is not very fair to the other communities who cannot get their mail regularly.

The last one I want to mention is -- I mentioned it before in Frobisher -- when I was in Ottawa, I noticed the Inuit students are given country food that comes from the Northwest Territories for free. For those of us who live in the Northwest Territories and are students, our students do not have as much country food to eat as the people in Ottawa that are going to school. Perhaps the new Minister could really work on this, and I know he will, so that we could have good country food available. I wanted to say these things. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Are there any further replies? This is the last chance for any replies. Mr. Pudluk, High Arctic.

Mr. Pudluk's Reply

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say a few words. Do not look at me that way.

---Laughter

I would like to remind this House about the half session in the High Arctic. I believe there are going to be a lot of activities in that area in the year 1985. I was just looking at the draft green paper and I have not had time to review this draft yet. There will be two big projects in the High Arctic, around 1985: The Trans-Canada pipeline project in King Christian Island and opening a mine on Little Cornwallis Island. There are probably going to be at least 25 years of operation there. I do not know about the King Christian.

Even before we have a session in Resolute Bay, I would like to take you up there and show you around to see what is going on and what is really bothering the people about these projects. I am sure this study will not be able to resolve all the problems we are going to get into in our new future. I cannot do it by myself. I need some help. Sometimes, when we are saying that the project is going to go on, we are supporting each other. That is what we keep saying. We are supporting it, we support you, but how? We never have a chance to talk to each other.

(Translation) Sometimes when problems arise, we usually say that we would support each other. The only way we help support each other is by saying that we are supporting each other and we do not usually need this type of meeting here. For example, we keep saying that we are supporting Nunavut, division of the Northwest Territories, and we have never really discussed it.

As you may all know by now I am not mentioning polar bears at this time. Even myself, I am getting tired of listening to myself.

---Laughter

You all know that the projects are going to take place in my constituency area and I want to thank George Braden for supporting us. I was not going to make a long speech and I was not going to make a reply if you had not been sitting there. Maybe if the other Speaker was on I was not going to make a reply at all. I thank you very much for that. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk, the honourable Member from the High Arctic. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Nerysoo.

Hon. Richard Nerysoo's Reply

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think that I would like to express firstly my appreciation to Members of the Executive Committee. It has been approximately one year now since we first got into a budget debate and our certain responsibilities. I know that the first few weeks and the first few months were the most hectic that I have ever known in this position. I certainly would like to express my appreciation to the Members of the Executive Committee for the time that they spent together over the last year. I commend the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner for the amount of work that they did in trying to help us during the times that we were really going through an educational period. Also, to express appreciation for the amount of openness of discussion that we have had. Maybe at times we all did not disagree in this Assembly but certainly I think we would have to say one thing, we have survived this far and hopefully we will survive for the next two or three years.

I know that we have had some trying times and that not everything has gone the way we wanted it to go, but certainly I think we have done a lot more than most people really think we have done.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I think that each one of us has been part of that. We have not always, as I have said, done the things that we have really wanted to do. The amendments that we have done, the regulation changes that we have gone through, the legislation that we have made in this House, has not always been satisfactory to our own individual thinking, but we have had to really try to come to a consensus on the issues. I think that is a point that many people have made today, certainly one where we have had to try to work with one another and change, at times, our own ideas about certain things that have come up in this House.

Improving Working Relationships

Speaking as an Executive Committee Member, I think we have tried over the last year to come to some agreement, tried to improve our working relationship with native organizations and I think we have done that. I think that we have a lot more to do and I do not suggest for one moment that we have done all the work that we have to do, but we have done as well as we could with the amount of time that we have had to do it. I only think that over the next year, now that we have already oriented ourselves to our work, that we can improve our working relationship even better. Our positions and our own ideas on legislation and our positions that we take as a body, as a Legislative Assembly, to the federal government or other provincial governments will be ones that are well thought out and well worked out, because we will know, I think, where our jurisdiction lies, where we overlap other jurisdictions. Certainly, we are able to then come up with legislation, that we can, in fact, be able to negotiate with the federal or provincial governments. I think that is important.

Medical Services In Mackenzie Delta

The one area of concern I have and I have mentioned it in past Assemblies and especially in Frobisher Bay, and that is with regard to the medical services. I know that the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, Dave Nickerson, brought the issue up in the House of Commons, but it is with regard to medical services in the Mackenzie Delta. I still think that it is important that we

address that issue. I suggested an inquiry in Frobisher Bay. I will hopefully try to get some support for that, because it is very important. I feel that, in my own opinion, and from talking to members of the nursing profession and to members that are part of the medical profession, that they are very unhappy and the morale of the nurses and the doctors is not very high. I think that is a very important issue that we have to deal with.

It is always important that people talk about money, but I think one of the critical issues of getting people to work with one another is the morale that they have with one another, the ability to work with one another. I think that is important and so I still press this House as to when the honourable Member, Mr. McCallum, will probably invite National Health and Welfare to this chamber, where we can discuss some of those issues.

Again, I think I would like to congratulate the two Members, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Tologanak, for joining us and I hope that your place in the Executive will certainly help people in the Executive to come up with better decisions, if that is a better way of saying it. I do not have any other words, I guess, but certainly it will help us make some very good decisions over the next while. It has been more than difficult at times to really address the issues in the East and, you know, at times there has been sort of an attitude where we get angry at one another and I think that, hopefully, this will resolve the issues and certainly the working relationship that we have established over the last year will help resolve it.

I would still like to, again, express my appreciation to the Members of the Executive that have been with me over the last year. They certainly have helped me, and to the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I thank all of you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo, the Member for Mackenzie Delta. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. There are no further replies. Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 61-81(1): Wildlife Officer, Fort Providence

MR. SIBBESTON: A question for Mr. Nerysoo, in respect of Fort Providence. What is the department's policy as to the size a community must be populationwise before it can get a wildlife officer? Could the Minister indicate if there are any plans to have a wildlife officer or guardian, game guardian, placed in Providence this coming year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 61-81(1): Wildlife Officer, Fort Providence

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am not really positive about the population. I do not think we have a population restriction, but certainly within the budgets I have proposed moneys for game guardians and, hopefully, we can resolve the issue in Fort Providence.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen, Yellowknife South.

Question 62-81(1): Utilities And Fuel Subsidy Program

MRS. SORENSEN: My question is for the Minister of Energy, the Hon. Mr. Nerysoo. On Saturday, while driving downtown, I heard a news item out of Whitehorse concerning a utilities and fuel subsidy program which was being instituted by the federal government in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether he or his officials have been involved in the development of that program and further, does the Minister think the program will adequately meet the needs of the business sector and the private home owner in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 62-81(1): Utilities And Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: My God, I was dying for that question yesterday when I was prepared. I must express or explain to the Member that we were involved in the actual discussion on the program. Initially, we were not happy with the program and certainly the kinds of amendments that we asked for were partially included in the programs.

Now, we are well aware that there are two new programs. One, the heating assistance program, and those people eligible will be the private residential consumers, home owners and renters, who pay their own home heating, and also, who are not recipients of a subsidy for heating. We still are not clear on the subsidy for heating because so many people receive subsidies and not necessarily for home heating. It is intended to reduce the first 1500 gallons consumed in one year to the Yellowknife base rate, which is determined at the start of the heating year. The customers can apply to the Government of the Northwest Territories to get the subsidy. The value of this subsidy, which is retroactive, apparently, to the 1980-81 year, is \$450,000. That is for and will be including up to October 1st, 1981.

There is also a small business power subsidy. Those eligible will be small businesses with a gross sales of less than two million dollars annually. This reduces the first 1000 kilowatt hours per month to the Yellowknife rate, to a maximum of 12,000 kilowatt hours per year. This is to be handled automatically in the billing process.

---Applause

Now, that is valued at \$1.25 million for the 1980-81 year. As I said earlier, both subsidies apply to the 1980-81 year and for the first six months, to September 30th, of 1981-82. By October 1st, 1981, the Minister of DIAND must submit to cabinet the northern energy policy, which will make a recommendation on the continuation or discontinuation of these subsidies.

Now, it is our intention to participate in the preparation of the northern energy policy. We already have met to ensure that our involvement will be there and our kinds of recommendations will be submitted to Indian and Northern Affairs. Now, my only concern was that the Treasury Board has insisted that measures be taken to ensure a high federal visibility in the distribution of funds and require a report by October 1st, 1981 on how this visibility has been achieved. Now, I think that one clear area of high visibility, which I feel the federal government lacks right now, is a working relationship with any other government. Certainly, there seems to be a constant conflict between the federal government and the provinces and I think for the first time we have been able to at least address, or start a working relationship. I only hope that the Treasury Board will recognize that working relationship and not just suggest that being able to finance any subsidies will be the only area in which they can check on their visibility, but rather, that there is a working relationship that they have created here and maybe if it continues it might have an effect on their relationships in other places.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Noah.

Question 63-81(1): Patients From Outside Of Yellowknife

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It was a question put forward last year by Kane Tologanak, but it seems like there has been nothing done about it. It is concerning the people who come to Yellowknife when they are sick. I am Inuit and these people involved are Inuit, just by looking at them, I feel that I must help them.

Yesterday, when I went up to the airport around 10:30, there were people who came in, and also from Cambridge, they came in by DC-3. Some people were escorted from the airport. I also know that Gjoa Haven people come -- especially one person from Gjoa Haven was sitting in the airport for over an hour and it looked like he was just being ignored, maybe because there was no representative from that hospital to pick him up, and nobody seemed to know who he was. Maybe he left the airport after I left. It was around 12:00 o'clock or 11:30 that I returned from the airport. He was still sitting there when I left, all that time. Now, if the Minister of Health and Social Services can inform the House of the policy of their department, are there any good interpreters and good escorts from the airport for the people that come out to Yellowknife when they are sick, and also ladies that are pregnant, to ensure that are they properly looked after when they come to Yellowknife? Are they well informed as to where they would be going? Could the Minister please reply? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 63-81(1): Patients From Outside Of Yellowknife

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, when people are referred to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, they are referred by a medical practitioner, be that a doctor or a nurse. People who come from Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay or that area, those people, as Members will appreciate, are the responsibility of the federal Department of Health and Welfare and again, I do not want it misinterpreted that I am attempting to evade any question, but those people when they are referred, they are referred by federal medical people. As far as I know, when people are referred to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital is made aware of these patients coming there, but in point of fact any patient is well cared for at the hospital, not just in terms of particular people, be they pregnant women or be they people who have other particular needs to be addressed in the hospital.

Again, as far as I know, the interpretation that is provided there is interpretation that meets the needs of the people. Now, again, that in turn is provided by the board of management and if in fact that interpretation or that kind of awareness is not as such in the hospital, if Members would give me the instances where the people were not getting that, I would obviously take it up with the board of directors to ensure that the kinds of services that people require are being met at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital or the other two hospitals under our jurisdiction.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Curley. Keewatin South.

Question 64-81(1): Informing Federal Authorities Of Patients' Problem

MR. CURLEY: Yes, supplementary to Mr. Noah, could the Minister also maybe assure this House that he will undertake to inform the regional director of medical services of the present problem that exists?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 64-81(1): Informing Federal Authorities Of Patients' Problem

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I most certainly will.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Question 65-81(1): Referral Of Patients By Nurses

MR. CURLEY: I also have a question to the Minister of Health. It is my understanding that patients or people that are sick cannot be referred except by the nurses in my riding, to have doctors check them in Yellowknife. I would like to ask the Minister if that also applies to the Members of the Assembly. Supposing that I was sick, would I have to be referred by the nurses, before they can even examine my illness -- a patient cannot go to the doctors here unless advised or referred by nurses in my riding? So I would like you to answer whether that also applies to us. Before we can go to a doctor, would we have to have a referral from the nurses in my riding?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 65-81(1): Referral Of Patients By Nurses

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the Member, while he is here, would have no problem at all going down to make an appointment with a doctor or going into the hospital as an outpatient, none whatsoever, while he is here in Yellowknife. The hospital is there, the services are there. Again, the Member, if he wishes while he is in Rankin Inlet -- some patients have been referred here by a medical practitioner. Other patients would simply make their own particular arrangements to contact a doctor or physician or even the hospital here on their own. I would expect that the federal government would look after individuals regardless, but I certainly do not see any difficulty in the Member making his own arrangements to go to the hospital while he was here or even for that matter, if he wanted to while he was in the Keewatin. Most people within that area I think prefer to go south into Winnipeg and it may be in that particular instance that it would be necessary for them to be referred, that is to get the kind of compensation for travel assistance from National Health and Welfare, by a medical practitioner.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Supplementary To Question 65-81(1): Referral Of Patients By Nurses

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am a bit concerned. A supplementary question here. I would like the Minister to actually find out about the fact through the regional director of the medical services, because even though the individual had phoned the doctor here directly, this individual was advised that they would first have to be referred by the nurses. So when the nurses were contacted at that particular settlement, they said this was politically not advisable so they could not do anything about it. I think there is possibly some policy that might have been established by the Department of Health and Welfare. If so, could the Minister undertake to find out about the facts and let me know?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Supplementary To Question 65-81(1): Referral Of Patients By Nurses

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, if the Member then has an instance where this is a fact, I would very much want to have that kind of information, and go with information to the zone director, Dr. Martin. If the Member would be kind enough to give me that pertinent information, I would go with it to him. I will as well

ask Dr. Martin about the kind of policies that now are in existence or whether there has been any change to those policies that the National Health and Welfare have in providing transportation to or from and referral to an existing hospital facility in the Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley, supplementary.

Further Supplementary To Question 65-81(1): Referral Of Patients By Nurses

MR. CURLEY: Yes, supplementary. I am not at all inferring that the patients from my riding should go there, but on occasions people who do come here find it convenient, you know, that it would be advisable for them to get a medical check-up while in Yellowknife, like myself for instance. My concern is that the nurses would indicate that because of political consideration, they were not able to refer them to a doctor. Even the doctor here in town was not able to make an appointment even though the individual was not going to charge any airfare or whatnot coming into town, but this is the kind of concern that I have. I would just like you to get in touch with the regional director of the medical services and find out whether in fact he has established policies and if they have established policies, would the Members of the Assembly be given the benefit of that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Further Supplementary To Question 65-81(1): Referral Of Patients By Nurses

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly pursue this matter of the health policy of the federal government with Dr. Martin. I think my colleague, the Hon. Mr. Nerysoo, indicated that when we are discussing the health budget, I intend to have Dr. Martin here as a witness so that questions that are applicable to the federal representative can then be made directly to him. That is not to say that I will not pursue these things but as far as I know, at the present time there is nothing to stop anybody while they are in Yellowknife from going to get a medical examination if one wants, if they can make that kind of an appointment with a doctor. For that matter, if you require outpatient service at the hospital, at the Stanton Yellowknife, there is nothing that would stop you or anybody else from going directly to the hospital. You have a medicare card. That is all you need in the Northwest Territories and you should be able to get that.

Again, a lot of the concerns that have been expressed to Mr. Speaker in terms of questions regarding health in the Territories obviously are a concern of mine. I would like to see, as I have indicated many times, that we would provide the health services. Unfortunately, that is not going to happen in the Northwest Territories. We, as a government, are not going to be transferred that responsibility as much as you or I or any other Member would like to have them. They are and will continue to be the federal government's responsibility and the questions, in a lot of instances, that are being placed to this government for a response, are questions that come under or should be more properly addressed to a federal representative. Not that I will hesitate in bringing those concerns to that particular person or persons about -- the concerns that are raised here by Members as to the total health. We are concerned as well, but a lot of these questions are more properly addressed to the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Noah, you have a question?

Question 66-81(1): Patients Not Understanding English

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just going to ask my question to the Minister of Health. For those who are English, when they -- this has come into the office. That incident yesterday, when that person from Gjoa Haven was at the airport and I left him at the airport, he did not give me a clear answer. Is the hospital going to do these things to the people that are coming to the hospital for the first time, make them wait in the airport? It is kind of dangerous for a person, when you do not know where the hospital is, who to contact, and who is going to be your interpreter. If I was going to be like that, and I did not speak a word of English, I would not be very happy if I had to wait in the airport for about an hour, if I was coming from Gjoa Haven. Maybe sometimes you have to wait six hours.

I think this is a very big problem and if it does not get resolved -- if a white person was to go to an Inuit settlement that did not speak a word of English, I wonder how he would feel. I mean, they do not understand a word of English, and not knowing the language well, and not knowing where the hospital is, and if you did not know where you are going who to call. This is very important, so we have to deal with it starting now.

MR. SPEAKER: I would just like to remind Members of Rule 39. Oral questions and returns are both supposed to be brief, with only essential facts and no arguments of opinions. I realize that the Members are very concerned about this, and so am I, as you may have noticed in my reply. However, I think maybe if you get together a meeting with the Hon. Mr. McCallum and Dr. Martin, I am sure they could solve the problem and give you some definite answers. However, if you want to bring it up in another item, make a motion that we invite Dr. Martin to answer questions in the House, but I do not think this is the place for it, because the Hon. Mr. McCallum has not got all the answers to it. It is a federal responsibility as well as Social Services. So, we will continue with Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

Question 67-81(1): Funds Provided To The Tutorial Assistance Program

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from the Fort Simpson education committee stating that the committee itself was having to put money into the tutorial assistance program at the local school. The committee felt that it should not use its own funds, which is really funds for cultural inclusion and so forth, to sponsor such a program. My question is, can the Minister see if funds can be made available to the tutorial assistance program, so that the program can continue for the remainder of the year? I understand that they have funds only for February, in fact, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Frobisher Bay, Mr. Patterson.

Partial Return To Question 67-81(1): Funds Provided To The Tutorial Assistance Program

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have been, probably, able to answer this right now if the Fort Simpson committee had sent their letter to me or a copy to me. This is the first I have heard of the difficulty. I agree that it is undesirable that local education authorities use their own funds in supporting school programs and I will certainly look into it and reply back. I cannot tell you right now what we can do, but I will reply. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I wonder if the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard would like to hold that for Item 4, written questions? Item 3, oral questions. Item 4, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Ms Cournoyea, the honourable Member for the Western Arctic.

Question 68-81(1): Bids On Tenders By Native Businesses

MS COURNOYEA: I have a question for the Minister of Local Government. Is the Minister aware that the Department of Economic Development, in their educational program, have gone to a great deal of trouble to advise and caution native businesses on the merits of placing reasonable economic bids on tenders? Is the Minister aware that, by and large, Local Government purports to support the same determination? Is the Minister aware that on a number of occasions a lowest bid by native businesses has been discouraged, not accepted or turned down for the good of that particular native business?

Will the Minister advise this Assembly why Local Government permitted Inuvialuit businesses, bidding reasonably on an 8000 cubic yard gravel contract to be passed by, to allow a non-native business, barely operating and in the throes of bankruptcy, to secure a contract in Aklavik at an obviously uneconomic bid? Would the Minister tell this Assembly why this was permitted and why continual extensions are being allowed by the Department of Local Government when local native contractors are standing by to get the gravel haul completed before spring in a reasonable timeframe?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Item 4, questions and returns. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 69-81(1): International Convention On The Porcupine Caribou Herd

MS COURNOYEA: I have a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources, Richard Nerysoo. Would the Minister please inform this Assembly if he is able to table the last draft of the international convention on the Porcupine caribou herd. Would the Minister please inform the Assembly what meetings have taken place in this regard? Would the Minister please inform this Assembly on what basis he has formulated opinion that this draft contains the necessary elements to be able to move ahead and to state that this is an acceptable draft to enable him to move ahead.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 4, questions and returns. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question 70-81(1): Evasion Of Government Of NWT Taxes On Liquor

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister responsible for the Liquor Control System. Will the Minister indicate whether, and to what extent, the government is aware of northerners evading Government of the Northwest Territories taxes on liquor by smuggling liquor into the Northwest Territories, and further, what measures does the government take to prevent such smuggling and bring offenders to justice?

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame!

MRS. SORENSEN: Who would do that?

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, questions and returns. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question 71-81(1): Use Of Pesticides And Insecticides In The NWT

MRS. SORENSEN: I have four here, making up for my lack of any yesterday. My first one is to the Minister of Renewable Resources, the Hon. Mr. Nerysoo. My question concerns the use of pesticides and insecticides in the Northwest Territories. Has this government given approval by permit or otherwise for the use of any pesticide or insecticide in the Northwest Territories in the last three years? If so, to whom and when and for what reason? What monitoring system was used for the safety of the handlers and the protection of the environment?

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, questions and returns. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question 72-81(1): Rate Rationalization For NCPC

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Energy. In reply to oral Question 6-81(1) concerning the development of an energy policy, the Minister responsible for Energy mentioned that government departments had been working on NCPC rate rationalization. Could the Minister answer the following questions for this House:

1. What is rate rationalization and how does it differ from the current schedule of rates now applied by NCPC?
2. What is this government's position on rate rationalization?
3. Will there be public input if any changes to the current structure of NCPC rates are to be changed?

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, questions and returns. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question 73-81(1): Establishment Of A School Of Mining In The NWT

MRS. SORENSEN: This question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Since the mining industry, next to government, is the number one industry and employer in the Northwest Territories, and since this government is anxious that northern residents take full advantage of business and job opportunities created by industry and development, and in addition because most jobs in the mining industry now demand some training, particularly for safety sake, I would ask the Minister of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism if his department, or any other department of the government or the federal government, has studied the feasibility of establishing a school of mining in the Northwest Territories? If so, what did the studies reveal and could those studies be tabled in this House?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, questions and returns. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question 74-81(1): Information Re Government Programs And Unemployed Youth

MRS. SORENSEN: My last question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Ministers of Social Services and Economic Development and Tourism. Would the Ministers provide the following information to this House:

1. How many dollars have been spent in the Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Wrigley, Fort Norman and Fort Good Hope, Hay River and Fort Resolution for social assistance, STEP, and other territorial make work projects and programs, housing and utilities subsidies, federal Canada Works and all such similar federal programs in the last two fiscal years?

2. Give this House an indication of how many people are unemployed in these communities including young people between the ages of 15 to 21 who are not in school?

3. In addition, give this House an indication of how many young people that are now in school in these communities or from these communities who are between the ages of 15 to 21 who will soon be looking for employment.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, questions and returns. Mr. Curley. Keewatin South.

Question 75-81(1): NWT Game Council Status

MR. CURLEY: My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Could the Minister tell this House what the present status of the Northwest Territories Game Council is? Secondly, what has the council done during this past year and more recently up to now?

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, questions and returns. Are there any returns?

Item 5, 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 the following documents: Tabled Document 16-81(1), Government of the Northwest Territories Annual Report of Territorial Accounts for the Fiscal Year 1979-80.

Tabled Document 17-81(1), Report to the Council of the Northwest Territories on the examination of the Accounts and Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the year ended March 31st, 1980, by the Auditor General of Canada. This second document, Mr. Speaker, has been interpreted and will be discussed on Thursday, two days hence, at which time the Auditor General and other people of his staff will be present as witnesses.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, tabling of documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

The honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

Notice Of Motion 12-81(1): Assembly's Objections Re Environmental Assessment Panel's Report To The Federal Government

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on March the 4th I will move the following motion: That the Legislative Assembly state its objections to the Environmental Assessment Panel report, particularly as regard to the report's recommendations, on aboriginal rights and resource revenue sharing issues, and convey these objections directly to the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion. The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion 13-81(1): Auditor General's Report Referred To Committee Of The Whole

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 19th, I will move the Auditor General's report into committee of the whole for discussion purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 8, notices of motion.

Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I was wondering if I might have unanimous consent from the House to move the Auditor General's report into committee of the whole at this moment, sir. Then I will not forget it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Requesting unanimous consent. Do I hear any nays? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Butters.

Motion 13-81(1): Auditor General's Report Referred To Committee Of The Whole

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the Auditor General and members of his staff will be before us as witnesses on Thursday afternoon;

NOW THEREFORE, I move Tabled Document 17-81(1), Report to the Council of the Northwest Territories on the examination of the Accounts and Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the year ended March 31, 1980, into committee of the whole for general discussion.

Motion 13-81(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Have we a seconder? Mr. Patterson. All in favour? Down. Contrary? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

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

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

Bill 1-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1982. Note, departments expected to be considered are Finance, Information and Personnel.

MRS. SORENSEN: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed.

---Agreed

Mr. Noah in the chair, please.

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

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

Department Of Finance

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) We are now on the Department of Finance, page 6.01. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask leave of the committee to invite my Deputy Minister, Mr. Nielsen, whom I believe is in the House, if he could join us and I will take the witness stand with him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Agreed. (Translation) Please escort the witness. (Translation ends) Mr. Butters, general comments.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, my comments will be very brief which has been a favourite word of Members this afternoon. As Members are aware, I have recently assumed responsibility for the Finance portfolio. It is the first time that an elected Member has so served. I would like to remind Members that yesterday when the financial management board estimates were discussed, I appeared before you at that time in the role of deputy chairman of that committee.

The reason for these remarks is to indicate that the management of the finances of this government is very much a joint and a co-operative arrangement between an elected Member and our Commissioner. The organization chart, if I were to show it to you, indicates that the Deputy Minister is in the difficult position of having to serve and report to two masters and so saying, I would ask that should the -- although the Commissioner is in the House, he is not now within the ropes -- but should he wish to complement or supplement anything that I say or Mr. Nielsen says, I expect he would raise his hand and bring that matter to your attention.

Present Situation Of Department Of Finance

Relative to the department itself, I would point out that the figures before you are misleading to a certain extent. In one area I will indicate, it shows that the increase in the department's man years is 11. This is misleading in that only three man years are an increase with the other eight transferred into the department's responsibility; four from the financial management board, which showed up yesterday in those figures, and there are four data entry clerks.

Two, the figures of expenditures show a decrease in funding and these, too, are not accurate, because they do not reflect the fact that there has been a major financial item removed from our estimates and that is the principal on the loan repayments. Basically, those are loans to municipalities.

Just one other brief comment, and that is the standing committee's motion that the financial information system be examined by the Auditor General or members of the Auditor General's staff, which I welcomed in my opening remarks on this budget and I welcome it again. I would expect that motion will pass and we will take steps to have that direction implemented.

I have mentioned the financial information system. That program is obviously still within the Department of Finance because it was conceptualized and planned by this department and when it is in place and operating, I will be very happy to turn responsibility for that system over to my colleague, the Hon. Kane Tologanak. At the present time, unfortunately, it is under my aegis. I think that that is about all that I have to say at this moment. I do not know if Mr. Nielsen has any additional words. If so, I turn the mike to him. No, he does not, Mr. Chairman, so we will take questions either of a general or a specific nature.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mr. Nielsen, if you do not have any comments then, Mrs. Sorensen. Have you got general comments?

Findings Of Standing Committee On Finance

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have, again, some brief comments on behalf of the standing committee on finance. For the information of the Members, this is the department where you can bring up questions that you may have concerning the notorious financial information system, of which we have heard so much about over the past year. It is also the department that has been working on the financial management and territorial accounts for the government.

We learned during the deliberations of the standing committee on finance that we have gone to a new payroll package and Members may be interested in finding out more about that. We also learned that we have an IBM computer to get rid of by April 1, and Members might have questions concerning the disposal of that computer. We also learned that this is the department which is involved with inventory of government capital assets and Members might be interested in asking questions with respect to that.

Mr. Butters made reference to the standing committee on finance's recommendation A3-81 concerning a comprehensive audit on the FIS computer program and I will present that recommendation on behalf of the standing committee later on during the detailed discussion of the main estimates. That is all I have at this point, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, Mr. Minister, what I am asking would be of value to others. It certainly is to me, anyway. I know that last year we passed a deficit budget and I am just wondering, how is that handled? What does it mean now for the Government of the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I will ask Mr. Nielsen to respond later, because of his very great knowledge of the fiscal situation of this government, but as Members will determine on the examination of our supplementary estimates, we did not spend as much money as we had estimated and requested approval for. The one major deficit area will be the deficit in the Housing Corporation, but there has been a much better position than we had anticipated in the costs for fuel oil and the consumption of fuel oil. I will turn the microphone over to Mr. Nielsen to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Nielsen.

Deficit Budget

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, you will recall that the main estimates that were passed last year provided for an approximate \$14 million deficit. That deficit was entirely due to a utilities projection. Number one, the level of utilities expenditures has not materialized. We are presently investigating the reasons for that. We suspect a substantial reason has been the mild winter, but there may be other things involved.

The second thing that has happened is that we -- I should say, at the time that the deficit budget was passed, I believe the Legislative Assembly had reasonable assurance from the federal Minister that he would support a Treasury Board submission for the extra cost of utilities. That is continuing and we have reason to believe, at the moment, that the amount of utilities overexpenditure projected for the current year will, in fact, be submitted to the Treasury Board and we have every confidence that it will be approved by the federal Treasury Board.

On that basis then, the deficit projected for the current fiscal year will be completely wiped out. There is no projected deficit for the current fiscal year on the basis of the operations of the Government of the Northwest Territories. There is a deficit projected which is because of the Housing Corporation write off of losses of prior years. That is the approximate level of the deficit, the projected deficit, at this time. The question as to whether that level will materialize will be dependent upon the remaining expenditures for the current year and the level of revenues. If they continue at the same rate, then it will be an approximate four million dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Covering A Deficit Budget

MR. MacQUARRIE: Whatever it amounts to then -- did I understand you, that whatever it amounts to would be covered by making a special requisition on the Treasury Board to cover that amount?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Member is referring to our requirements in the area of fuel oil, and if that is the case, yes. We received Treasury Board approval almost a year ago to bring any overages to the federal government for replenishment, as it were.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: That was not quite my question, because I understood that we may very well not have an over expenditure in the area of fuel, but that there may very well be a deficit anyway, because of the situation with respect to the Housing Corporation. How would we cover that deficit? Can we go to Treasury Board to cover that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Nielsen.

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, the deficit would be handled much in the same way as a surplus would be handled in prior years. It would simply go into our surplus account and we have an accumulated amount from year to year, which at the present time is showing a significant deficit position because of loans which were made to the government years ago for the purchase of capital assets. Those will be wiped off the books, and the government will show a surplus, a net surplus position, so that the deficit would simply be applied to that surplus position.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. MacQuarrie.

An Accumulated Deficit

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I thought the Housing Corporation was criticized for accruing deficits or passing them from one year to the next. Maybe I misunderstood that totally, but I thought that that was one of the complaints of the Auditor General, that they ought to be doing that. I do not suggest, then, that we are in precisely the same circumstances, but I ask you that, are we? Are we entitled to do that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Nielsen.

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, the situation of the Housing Corporation is that it is showing a net deficit position. That is an accumulated deficit position over a period of years, which is not the same as the government's position. The accumulated deficit under the Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance must be appropriated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and that was the concern, that that amount be appropriated. In the case of the government, the government does have the opportunity, and this would be with federal approval, to pass a deficit or surplus budget in a given year, but it would be expected that the accumulated surplus would be -- it would not exceed the accumulated surplus.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): (Translation) Mr. MacQuarrie, would you like to say some more?

Problems With Financial Information System

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I have one final point, if I may, then. It occurred to me when you said that it is not quite clear why we have not spent as much on fuel as anticipated, that perhaps all of the invoices are not in. There was delay in the implementation of the financial information system, and so, just quite apart from whether it was the right kind of system to get into and so on -- I am not asking about that at all in any way now -- but I know that there were some problems with morale, there were some problems with the amount of financial information that was available and when it was available. Would you mind just giving us an update? I know that you were working very hard to have an interim system in place. Could you tell us how that is faring, and where we stand now with monthly reports and so on, and finally then, whether it could be possible that we do not know the fuel expenditures because not all the information is in yet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to clarify the thrust of the Member's question, I understand that he is asking for an update of our financial information system, just where we are now, and when we expect that it will be ready for implementation. If that is the case, I think that we probably do not have enough time to go through it. I think that the question is very valuable, but I think that it may take five to 10 minutes to provide that report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: That was not quite it. I know that the full implementation of FIS has been delayed for some time, but I believe, Mr. Nielsen, there has been an interim information system that you have worked hard on, and I believe the monthly reports have been catching up. That is what I would like to know, and I do not think it would necessarily take that long. Just where are we at in that respect right now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Nielsen.

Development Of An Interim System

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, yes, an interim system was developed. It has been operational since June 1980, and as of February 15th, 1981, it was probably more current than the system was in prior years. Management statements were taken off on February 15th, printed statements, and circulated. The question of the utilities, which I think was the other one that you had identified, no, we have no reason to believe that there are any utilities invoices outstanding. Obviously, we do not have any control over input. If somebody does not make up an invoice, no matter what system you have in place, it will not get processed. So, at the moment, we believe that everything that has been made up has been input and has been processed, and so, no, we do not believe that there is a problem in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, and although the interim system is not as full a system as what you were hoping with the full financial information system, are you and the various departments quite satisfied that the kind of information that financial officers have access to now, is entirely adequate for safeguarding government finances and for conducting the business of government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Patterson.

FIS System In Regions

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to know how things are working in the regions as far as the FIS system is concerned. Could you give me an idea of whether those terminals are in operation yet, and whether you have been able to solve some of the problems I know they had with staff and that sort of thing in some places?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the system will be in partial operation in the regions, I believe by April the 1st in all the regions, and I would ask Mr. Nielsen to supply the details as to the work that still has to be done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Nielsen.

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman. An interim data entry system was implemented in the regions in approximately June of 1980. Since that date, the data has been data entered in the regions, and we have had excellent success, the quality of people, the type of work they are doing, and their ability to grasp the operations. In fact, I was particularly impressed in the Baffin region, with a young native girl, who I believe came from Inuvik, and who originally walked into the computer centre, quite fearful, but was able to pick that up and is now very, very pleased. At least, that is what she indicated to me, very pleased, and quite proud of the fact that she could run the centre all by herself. I asked her if she felt she was in a position to train other people, and she said yes.

The data entry is accumulated on a tape which is sent in to headquarters. That is a temporary arrangement. During the months of February and March, the new data entry system for the new financial information system will be implemented in the regions. Inuvik is scheduled to be implemented over the next week. We anticipate being in Frobisher Bay certainly within the next month. The financial information system itself will be implemented in headquarters commencing April the 1st, and assuming everything goes well during the first month, we will then start to move out into the regions. We want to ensure that there is a full parallel run with the old system and the new system, and that we do not move into the regions until we are quite satisfied that everything is working satisfactorily, but I can say that the full accounting system, from our point of view is very, very near to completion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Patterson, you have got two minutes, two and half minutes.

Limited Storage Capacity

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just one very quick, Mr. Chairman. Will the new system allow more information to be stored from the regions than is presently permitted? Right now there is a limited storage capacity, I understand.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Mr. Nielsen.

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman. Absolutely. In fact, as I indicated, we are operating on an interim basis with data entry only in the regions. Early in the new year, we will move so that the region will have its complete information system stored in the region, a complete regional data base which will provide full information on all aspects of the operation in each of the regions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Noah): Report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Assembly will come to order. 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, your committee has been considering Bill 1-81(1) and wishes to report progress.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah. Are there any other announcements from the floor of the House? There being no announcements, Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Committee meetings: Wednesday, February 18, 9:00 a.m., in room 301, the special committee on education. At 2:30 p.m., tomorrow afternoon in Katimavik A is a group photograph of Members of the Assembly. Thursday, February 19, 9:00 a.m., Katimavik A, a caucus meeting, 10:30 a.m., Katimavik A, the standing committee on rules and procedure.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, February 18, 1981, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Oral Questions
3. Questions and Returns
4. Petitions
5. Tabling of Documents
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions
9. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
10. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
11. Second Reading of Bills
12. 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; Motion 4-81(1)
13. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: It now being 6:00 o'clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 18, 1981, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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