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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## Speaker

The Honourable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1877  
Hay River, N.W.T., X0E 0R0  
(Hay River)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.  
X0A 0W0  
(Hudson Bay)

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.  
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.  
X0A 0N0  
(Baffin South)

Braden, The Hon. George, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 583  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0  
(Yellowknife North)  
Leader of the Elected Executive and Minister  
of Justice and Public Services

Butters, The Hon. Thomas H., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1069  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
X0E 0T0  
(Inuvik)  
Minister of Finance and of Economic  
Development and Tourism

Curley, Mr. Tagak E.C., M.L.A.  
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.  
X0C 0G0  
(Keewatin South)

Cournoyea, Ms. Nellie J., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1184  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
X0E 0T0  
(Western Arctic)

Evaluarjuk, Mr. Mark, M.L.A.  
Igloodik, N.W.T.  
X0A 0L0  
(Foxye Basin)

Fraser, Mr. Peter C., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 23  
Norman Wells, N.W.T.  
X0E 0V0  
(Mackenzie Great Bear)  
Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.  
Pangnirtung, N.W.T.  
X0A 0R0  
(Baffin Central)

McCallum, The Hon. Arnold J., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 454  
Fort Smith, N.W.T.  
X0E 0P0  
(Slave River)  
Minister of Health and of Social Services

MacQuarrie, Mr. Robert H., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 2895  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0  
(Yellowknife Centre)

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 555  
Pine Point, N.W.T.  
X0E 0W0  
(Pine Point)

Nerysoo, The Hon. Richard W., M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0  
(Mackenzie Delta)  
Minister of Renewable Resources and of Energy

Noah, Mr. William, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 125  
Baker Lake, N.W.T.  
X0C 0A0  
(Keewatin North)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 262  
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.  
X0A 0H0  
(Frobisher Bay)  
Minister of Education

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 22  
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.  
X0A 0V0  
(High Arctic)  
Deputy Chairman of Committees

Sayine, Mr. Robert, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.  
X0E 0M0  
(Great Slave East)

Sibbeston, Mr. Nick G., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 560  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.  
X0E 0N0  
(Mackenzie Liard)

Sorensen, Mrs. Lynda M., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 2348  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0  
(Yellowknife South)

Tologanak, The Hon. Kane, M.L.A.  
Coppermine, N.W.T.  
X0E 0E0  
(Central Arctic)  
Minister of Government Services

Wah-Shee, The Hon. James J., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 471  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2N4  
(Rae - Lac la Martre)  
Minister of Local Government and of Aboriginal  
Rights and Constitutional Development

## Officers

Clerk  
Mr. W.H. Remnant  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0

Clerk Assistant  
Mr. D.M. Hamilton  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0

Law Clerk  
Mr. E. Johnson  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0

Editor of Hansard  
Mrs. M.J. Coe  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Mr. Jim Miller  
Hay River, N.W.T.  
X0E 0R0

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HAY RIVER, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

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): Orders of the day for May the 15th. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address.

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

The hon. Mr. Sibbeston.

Mr. Sibbeston's Reply

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the first thing I want to do, sir, is to apologize for the incident which occurred at the last session. I apologize specifically for swearing and throwing the cup.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, since the last session I have had an opportunity to make extensive visits throughout my constituency. I went to all the communities, firstly to account for the incident in this Assembly and secondly, to deal with capital planning and a number of other constituency matters.

Now, as regards to the first visit, I feel as if I have gone through another election. I have gone through the process of accounting to the people for my behaviour and I have got their views and as a result of this, I feel that I have a new mandate, as it were, for the things that I have been saying to this Assembly during the past year and a half. The things that I have talked about are things like land claims, the Norman Wells pipeline, whether this government is really the government of the people in my constituency and so forth.

Now, as regards to the second round of visits that I made, this was a visit to do with capital planning for the next three years. As you know, at the last Assembly session when the budget was being discussed I had stated that as far as the communities in my area, it seemed as if we were getting very little capital projects and equipment for the communities. It seemed as if other parts of the North were getting much more from this government. So, when in early April the regional office advised me that they had planned to go on a tour of the communities in my area to talk about capital planning, I took the opportunity to go with them. I jumped at the opportunity.

So, we went to nearly every community in my area. We went to Wrigley, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake and Jean Marie River. In all of the visits we spent extensive time with the community leaders and the whole communities in some places, and we got the views on what projects the people wanted and what equipment they wanted. So, a list has been made and I believe yesterday and today the matter is being dealt with in Fort Smith. So, I hope that in next years budget all of this work will be reflected and we will have some good results.

#### Housing In Nahanni Butte

One of the greatest concerns that I have in my constituency is to do with Nahanni Butte. I have talked about Nahanni Butte in the past, particularly about its housing and what I considered to be the bad state or the demoralized state of the people in that community. I am not proud, as it were, to talk about people in this way, but I think those are the facts and I think they ought to be expressed.

Now, as regards to housing, I arranged a meeting in April with officials of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the Mackenzie Valley Housing people and we did have a very good meeting in Nahanni Butte. As a result of these meetings, you may have seen some articles in the Edmonton Journal, News of the North and the Native Press about housing and some of the other things in Nahanni Butte. The housing in Nahanni Butte is simply atrocious or very bad. The log houses that people live in there were built over 20 years ago, and the houses, when they were built, were built right on the ground. Nahanni Butte is quite a wet area. It gets lots of rain and so, through the course of time, the log houses have rotted. The houses have rotten foundations and floors and many of the houses are lopsided and the floors are crooked and caved in when you walk in. Many of them do not have windows. Some of them have plastic for windows and generally, the houses are unkempt. I just feel that there is really no reason why people in the North, people in my part of the North, should have these types of houses.

#### Alcohol Problem In Nahanni Butte

In that area there is good timber for making nice log houses. It occurs to me, and I think sometimes, well, why are people not doing something themselves about it? Why cannot people in Nahanni Butte just simply build themselves nice log houses and why ask or depend on the government for housing, which gets me into the other area of the state of people. Alcohol in Nahanni Butte has virtually or almost destroyed and demoralized the people there. In 1979, there were five deaths resulting from liquor, and when you have a small town like Nahanni Butte, which has only 50 people, that is one tenth of the people dying from alcohol. In 1980, last fall, there was another death which resulted from a stabbing. The whole community, as it were, was drunk, and to this date the police and people do not know who committed the murder. There was a young person who was accused of doing it, but nobody really knows. Since prohibition last fall and since the controls over the liquor store and the bars in Simpson last winter, things have improved in Nahanni Butte; and whereas I feel the past situation has been bad, I am optimistic about the future.

#### Local Government In Nahanni Butte

Now, I am pleased to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that this government and in particular, Mr. Wah-Shee, have arranged for a Dene person from Fort Simpson to work with the people in Nahanni Butte for the next one year. It is hoped that this person will help them get organized and set up a small community council and generally get on their feet. I am also pleased to know that the government plans to have a Local Government officer stationed or placed in Fort Simpson in the next few months and I understand he will have a trainee. So, in the whole area of local government, I feel my area has been neglected. In the past few years we have had fights between the settlement councils, the

government wanting to impose settlement councils and the people, perhaps, reacting negatively to that. So, because of this, government really has not done anything more. They have just neglected all of the people of all of the communities in my area. So, I am pleased, though, now that things are beginning to -- the government is taking some steps and I would like to say that I am very pleased about that.

Now, as to the houses, last spring a person from the Mackenzie Valley Housing went into Nahanni Butte and I went with him. I spent a good day there. We went to every house. We took measurements. We took descriptions, and we got a list of all of the materials that would be needed in order to repair the houses. The people certainly were told that during the summer materials would arrive for their houses, but unfortunately, it never did. This material never did arrive. So, this year, though, as a result of the meeting we had a number of weeks ago, I am and I think people are more optimistic that something will be done. I am pleased to say that the Housing Corporation has agreed that two new houses can be built in Nahanni Butte this summer, with some difficulty, but it seems as if it will be possible to build two new houses. What is being done is, there is \$15,000 allotted for each log house under the SSHAG program and the people will try to build two houses from the \$15,000. The Mackenzie Valley Housing has agreed, also, to do a major housing repair. So, at this stage I am certainly optimistic that something will be done and I will report back in the fall, and see just what has happened.

#### Norman Wells Pipeline

Now, turning on to another subject, that is the Norman Wells pipeline. I think I would be remiss and perhaps not doing my duty as a Member if I did not raise the matter about the Norman Wells pipeline. As everybody knows, the news of the pipeline from the National Energy Board was made public on April the 22nd, that the National Energy Board is recommending to the federal government or cabinet that IPL -- this is Interprovincial Pipe Lines -- should or could go ahead with construction of the Norman Wells pipeline. I can tell you that I was in the band office in Fort Simpson when the news from the National Energy Board was made public and I can tell you that Chief Jim Antoine and the other council members who were at the band office then and heard the news were very disheartened and really were angry that such a decision should come from the National Energy Board.

Now, there are quite a number of reasons why I know the chief and band council members and most of the native leaders in Simpson feel angry about this decision. I was at a meeting in Yellowknife on this past Monday where the Dene Nation and a number of chiefs met with the Executive Committee and there were some concerns expressed by chiefs further down the river. There was the chiefs from Fort McPherson and Aklavik who said that they did not want the Norman Wells pipeline to go ahead, because they were concerned about pollution. They thought that the artificial islands which would be created in the Norman Wells area would perhaps not withstand the force of ice and water during the spring break-up.

Mr. Speaker, I think you just have to see the break-up in a place like Simpson in the spring, some springs, to realize the force of the river, the force of the ice in the river in the springtime, when the ice goes away. It is a natural phenomenon, and it is hard for me to express, and talk, and describe to you the force. It would be best, of course, if you were there to see it. This spring the Mackenzie River, Liard River, went out in full force. The whole width of the river was just flowing down the river at about 10 miles an hour with a great roar and it is just amazing and it makes you just feel so little. You feel so inconsequential when you see the amount of force that the river has in times like that, in the spring.

### Pipeline May Cause Pollution

The people further up the river in the area of Wrigley are concerned that the pipeline may pollute the lands and the rivers. Now, the pipeline as planned may cross the Mackenzie River upwards of Simpson, and people are concerned that the pipeline, when built, may break and thus will pollute the Mackenzie River. And of course there are many little rivers along the route which the pipeline has to cross, and so there is genuine concern that the pipeline may pollute the lands.

Now, in Wrigley, people are especially concerned that the pipeline, when built, may break if there is another earthquake. Some of you may have heard that there was an earthquake in the Wrigley area last winter, and it was not just a little earthquake. It was a reasonably strong earthquake, I believe about six on the Richter scale, if that means anything to anybody, and I know that I had visited Wrigley afterwards, and people told me about how cups had fallen from their cupboards, and there was one elderly woman who fell as a result of the earthquake. So people, again, are genuinely concerned that there may be another earthquake. The Norman Wells pipeline, it seems, is going through an earthquake area of our North.

Now, apart from all of these concerns, people, Dene people in particular, are very concerned. They feel threatened by the prospect of a pipeline, and people feel that the land over which the pipeline is going to be going is still their land. There still has not been an agreement made between the federal government and the Dene people, so they feel threatened and feel badly that the government proposes to go ahead with the pipeline when an agreement has not been made.

### Water Board Hearing In Fort Simpson

Now, another point that I want to raise is that regarding the Water Board hearing. The Water Board met in Simpson on or around April the 20th, and as usual a lot of local persons made representations to the Water Board and the band council. I was there to make a presentation, too, and I would say that the majority of people who spoke expressed great concern about the Cadillac Mines, which is being proposed by a company west of Fort Simpson in the mountains, and the little river on which the mines would be built flows into the Nahanni River, and then that in turn flows into the Liard River and down the Mackenzie. People were most concerned that the rivers would be polluted and it is part of the company's plan to use cyanides and chemicals which will eventually be put into the river, and therefore people just feel that there is a strong possibility of their rivers being polluted.

I must say that I was disappointed that I did not see any government representatives at that meeting, and people at the meeting, though, local people, expressed concerns about pollution; they expressed concerns about wildlife; they expressed concerns about jobs and so forth, and whether a place like Simpson was benefiting. It seems as if these ought, where they are the concerns of the local people, they ought also to be the concerns of some of the government departments. There are a number of government departments that are being affected, and so I feel that the government should be present at the hearings. The hearing that was held in Simpson I believe started at 7:00 in the evening, and was still going at 1:00 or 1:30 in the morning, until somebody suggested that this was getting ridiculous, that people were tired, and how could the board really be sharp and be fully awake to be able to hear all the representations, so it was suggested to them that they return to Simpson, and so the Water Board has decided to return to Simpson. It will be there, I believe, on May 20th, so I hope by then that the government will have some of its Ministers or some of its senior departmental officials there, to also express concerns that it has.

It just seems that, in the past, any time there have been hearings, it is always left to the local native people to try to convince the boards of their concerns, and the government kind of stays a little bit distant from it. I just feel that, if this is the government of the people, then it ought to be there, saying things or expanding on things, or providing more sophisticated information to the bodies that are being dealt with.

#### Challenging Decision Of National Energy Board

Now, finally, I just want to say that I was present at a meeting this past Monday between the Dene Nation and a number of chiefs and the Executive Committee, wherein the Dene Nation was asking this government to also take part in a legal challenge of a National Energy Board decision. As some of you know, the Dene Nation is definitely challenging the decision of the National Energy Board in respect to the Norman Wells pipeline. Now the Dene Nation and my constituents and I think it would be very good for this government to also challenge the decision of the National Energy Board. Certainly, if they did, it would show the people that it is not always just the native people who are concerned about things, and that it is also this government that is concerned about it. This government was before the National Energy Board once to express its feelings, and it seems as if the National Energy Board did not comply with the request of this government, so I feel it is in a position where they ought to challenge the decision of the National Energy Board, and I hope that this can be done in the next few days. I hope that a decision can be made by this government to do so in the next few days.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the next few weeks, when the session will be sitting, and I have other concerns, but I notice that on the agenda some of the things that I am concerned about will be raised, so I will be expressing my views then. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard. Replies to the Commissioner's Address. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Arlooktoo.

#### Mr. Arlooktoo's Reply

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, thank you. Right now I would like to make certain points to the Commissioner. I will make it brief. Perhaps the actions I bring up you have heard before. We have some difficulties in our region, we also have problems in our community, just like any community. I will say some of them, because I have never mentioned them, in my reply to the Commissioner's Address.

#### Problems In Lake Harbour And Cape Dorset

Mr. Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen and colleagues, I thank you for listening. The difficulties that we have in my constituency of Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset, I will say them. The problem that we have in Lake Harbour is our airstrip is not good enough, and it is too short. Only Twin Otters can land at the airstrip in Lake Harbour. People of Lake Harbour have been asking to have the airstrip extended, but we were all aware that we have financial difficulties. If we do not do our financial work properly now, if we do not do our homework now, we are not going to be able to keep up with the cost of inflation. Later on, when people ask for the extension of the airstrip at Lake Harbour, it may be very expensive for them. The people at Lake Harbour have their opinions, and they have some wishes, and we are refusing them this time again. I do not think it is fair.



The other thing that is a problem, in Cape Dorset, we had a petition. They wanted to get a gym in the school in Lake Harbour. They do not have a gym at all, right now. They use the community hall for recreation, certain hours of the day, but their time is limited for the rent of the community hall. We signed the petition asking for a gym in the school, but it was refused. Since I could not do anything to help the people in Lake Harbour, my powers of an MLA were completely useless at this time. We have all signed a petition, even though it may take a long time to get the approval. Eventually, I would like to see it approved by the Legislative Assembly. If we cannot do that for the places where we were voted in, then we are totally useless.

Thirdly, the other problem is Cape Dorset. Cape Dorset's population is 700, perhaps more. They have only 10 polar bear quotas per year, and that is a difficulty. I would like to see the Legislative Assembly think about extending the polar bear quota in that region. As long as the polar bear quotas are not extended or increased in Cape Dorset, I am going to be pushing for it. Cape Dorset is a migration route of the polar bear, and most of the people make their livelihood by hunting in Cape Dorset.

Also, in Lake Harbour, they have been asking, and have been rejected each time. They wanted to get a new water reservoir, but the government has been denying that. They wanted to get another reservoir, but they have not been able to get it.

When I arrived at Hay River, I saw something, that Lake Harbour's water was not the only water that was polluted. When I go back to Lake Harbour now, I can tell them that other people have water problems also, and I was glad to know that the settlement is not the only one with dirty water.

#### Responsibility Of MLA's

Also, we, the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, might visit our communities and make promises. As long as we do not deliver, we are not doing much, even though we may have difficulties trying to get the things we want to happen because of financial problems.

I just wanted to mention the few places that are having difficulties, and I wanted the other Legislative Assembly Members to be aware of those, and that had been rejected. Perhaps I will be raising those few points again about the two communities, and maybe later on we will be signing petitions. You will be hearing more about the two problems, and, hopefully, I would like to see those two requests approved. I enjoy going to those communities and meeting with them. They are quite hospitable, like the people of Hay River. Since we are in Hay River, we are welcomed. As we have seen, we are very happy to see that the water is becoming clearer down in Hay River. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Replies to the Commissioner's Address. Item 3 on your order paper, oral questions.

#### ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. MacQuarrie.

#### Question 6-81(2): Executive Decision On Grants For Post-Secondary Education

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are, as the House knows, a great many people in the Northwest Territories who are interested in the question of grants for post-secondary education, and I believe recently the Executive had the opportunity to meet to consider the recommendations that were put to it by the Assembly. So I would ask the Minister of Education whether he is able to report to the House on any Executive decision with respect to those recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 6-81(2): Executive Decision On Grants For Post-Secondary Education

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the honourable Member for notice of this question. Yes, the Executive Committee has carefully reviewed the recent recommendations of the Legislative Assembly concerning changes to student grants and bursaries for post-secondary education. The Executive agreed that the current program whereby grant entitlement is determined without regard to means should be reduced to lessen its cost, but that there should also be a new program developed for needy students. The Executive has decided that the current program including living allowances shall be maintained for the coming 1981-82 school year to give myself time to come back to the Assembly at the fall session or in January with a new proposal on living allowances and grants which would feature a Northwest Territories loan system.

With regard to recommendations concerning the establishment by this government of a program for the Metis along the lines of the federal program for registered Indians and Inuit, the Executive is determined that it would be wise to obtain legal advice to ensure that such a program would be within our legal powers. That recommendation and the recommendation that students of Dene and Inuit ancestry take advantage of the federal post-secondary program should be discussed with the federal government prior to implementation, it was decided, and specifically the Executive Committee will approach the federal Treasury Board to determine if Metis people in the Northwest Territories could be classified as status Indians for the purpose of the federal program.

The Executive Committee agreed with the recommendation concerning the proposed scholarship program, but felt that something also should be in place for mature students. The Executive felt that a decentralized approval process was also desirable, but that in view of the time, the present student grants and bursaries board should remain in effect for the 1981-82 school year. Post-graduate studies recommendation should be implemented, it was decided, although it was felt that eligibility criteria need to be clarified.

Generally the Executive determined that since amendments, and fairly extensive amendments, would be required to the Student Grants and Bursaries Ordinance and regulations, the Executive will make a final decision on the recommendations of the Assembly prior to January, 1982, at the very latest, so that the new program can be introduced at that session in time to give adequate notice to students who wish to enrol in the 1982-83 school year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 7-81(2): Executive Response To Creation Of Eastern Arctic Portfolio And Executive Committee

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Leader of the Elected Executive Committee Members. I have a copy of a letter from John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs, dated March, 1981, addressed to Allen Maghagak, Nunavutland program director, in which he says that on December 18, 1980, when you met with him, just after the unity committee debate had been concluded in Frobisher Bay, you did not raise the matter of recommendation 10 in which the Assembly recommended creation of an Inuit Eastern Arctic affairs minister, portfolio, and executive committee. My question is, is the Executive Committee in support of recommendation 10 or not? Why did you not raise this important matter with the Minister of Indian Affairs, following that unity committee debate?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, Mr. Braden.

Partial Return To Question 7-81(2): Executive Response To Creation Of Eastern Arctic Portfolio And Executive Committee

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret that I do not recall all the specifics of the debate in Frobisher Bay on that particular subject, nor do I recall specifically at the moment the presentation we put together, particularly in terms of the question which Mr. Curley has raised. However, as I recall in our discussion, the Executive agreed that it would take this recommendation as discussed by the Assembly and give it due consideration at such time as it felt the Members from the Eastern Arctic were sufficiently familiar and experienced with practices in the Executive branch itself.

Now with respect to whether it was or was not contained in that report that we collectively made to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and to the standing committee of Indian Affairs, I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I just do not recall how it was dealt with and when we prepared it, but I give the Member my assurance that I will dig back into the files and the drafts of the preparation of that document which we presented and get back to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Supplementary To Question 7-81(2): Executive Response To Creation Of Eastern Arctic Portfolio And Executive Committee

MR. CURLEY: Yes, my supplementary is directed to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Has the Commissioner ever discussed the recommendation 10 which the Assembly adopted in Frobisher Bay instructing this Assembly to establish a portfolio to deal with the Eastern Arctic constitutional development, and if so, what are his views with respect to that recommendation 10?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

Further Return To Question 7-81(2): Executive Response To Creation Of Eastern Arctic Portfolio And Executive Committee

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I have studied the recommendation and there was a certain amount of discussion of the recommendation within the Executive Committee as Mr. Braden has outlined. Again, as he outlined, part of our thinking was that we wished to see experience gained by the two newly-appointed Members to the Executive Committee before reaching any final decision on a portfolio.

The concept of a regional portfolio causes me difficulties because that simply is not the manner in which the Executive Committee's responsibilities have been set up, and the question comes to mind, of course, should such a post be created then should not other regions of the Northwest Territories expect to have their concerns concentrated in the hands of one minister or a special minister?

That thinking then leads one to looking at the two options of doing the majority of the Executive Committee work through regional ministers or through departmental ministers. No final conclusion has come to that as yet, but my own thinking is that with a reasonably good arrangement of Executive Members from various parts of the Northwest Territories, a regional ministry would not be advantageous nor necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Further Supplementary To Question 7-81(2): Executive Response To Creation Of Eastern Arctic Portfolio And Executive Committee

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, final supplementary to the Commissioner. My understanding of the recommendation 10 is that it is strictly a portfolio to deal with the division matters, not so much as the regional departmental affairs. So I would want some assurance from the Commissioner whether or not he will discuss that again with the Minister of Indian Affairs while he is here because the Eastern Arctic already has a constitution with the Western Arctic. The Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights has certain responsibilities for the West. So are you going to discuss that matter again with the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

Further Reply To Question 7-81(2): Executive Response To Creation Of Eastern Arctic Portfolio And Executive Committee

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I should clarify that I have not as yet discussed that matter with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but I am most prepared to do so and will attempt to find an opportunity during his current visit to the North.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 8-81(2): Challenging National Energy Board's Decision

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the Executive Committee is actively considering whether it will legally challenge the decision of the National Energy Board in respect of the Norman Wells pipeline. Can Mr. Braden, as Leader of the Elected Executive Committee Members, advise whether a decision has been made in this matter, and if not, when may a decision be made and announced?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 8-81(2): Challenging National Energy Board's Decision

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the honourable Member's question, we did not have an opportunity this morning as I had hoped, to discuss the issue in the Executive Committee. We have been examining some of the legal alternatives as one particular option in responding to the National Energy Board report. I might add a little further that we have also given some consideration to the political alternatives and as all good Liberals are aware, Mr. Munro is going to be in the western part of the Northwest Territories this weekend, and as I understand it some of my colleagues from the Executive, who have a really good rapport with Mr. Munro, will be addressing this issue with him. So that is from the political perspective, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I also should say, Mr. Speaker, that we have our legal staff working on this issue. We expect to receive something more substantive today and I regret that it did not get discussed this morning in the Executive because of a number of other issues, but I would suspect, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Sibbeston is not going to let this issue rest for the next few weeks that we are here in Hay River, and we will, as the Executive, endeavour to have something of substance for him and for this Assembly as soon as we possibly can. Thank you.

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

Question 9-81(2): Care Of Accident Victim At Frobisher Bay Hospital

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I have a question directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding a problem in the Frobisher Bay General Hospital. On April 25th, someone broke his leg, and he had to wait almost two days to get treatment because the doctors at Frobisher Bay General Hospital did not want to treat him. If that is the way they are going to operate, then the people that are injured, while waiting for treatment, might get complications, if they walk around on a broken leg. I would like to be informed as to whether they will still be operating that way, or was this a one-time incident. The person who injured his leg still cannot walk up to now. I would like the Minister to investigate the incident in the hospital. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of the incident that the Member refers to. However, I will assure him that I will inquire into the situation and come back with a further reply to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 10-81(2): Non-Payment Of Taxes By Hunters And Trappers

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. In recent months there has been a number of hunters and trappers who have received very demanding letters from the Department of Revenue on non-payment of taxes over the last five or six years. Did the Government of the Northwest Territories, Renewable Resources, make available the records to the Department of Revenue in regard to trappers' incentives paid out to trappers which the Department of Revenue appears to have, and if they did, on what basis and authority was this done? What assistance is planned to get the necessary help out to the hunters and trappers to overcome this very serious problem by your department?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I am not fully aware of the total details of the question. I will be prepared to provide further information with regard to the question as asked by the honourable Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Noah.

Question 11-81(2): Assistant Wildlife Officer For Baker Lake

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. My first question is: We consulted the wildlife officer in my community regarding an assistant wildlife officer and I would like to know if his department has allocated funds for the training of an assistant wildlife officer. That is my first question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: The translation did not come clear through my speaker here, so could you please repeat the question?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Keewatin North, will you repeat your question, please?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In my community, we have asked for an assistant wildlife officer. Has the Minister of Renewable Resources allocated funds to train an assistant wildlife officer? If not, will he attempt to allocate the funds for the training of an assistant wildlife officer?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 11-81(2): Assistant Wildlife Officer For Baker Lake

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. During the last session we passed in our budget money available to hire native people in the communities under our program which would in fact ensure wildlife guardians or ensure that further training would be given to community people as well as assist them.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Keewatin North.

Question 12-81(2): Increase Of Rents By NWT Housing Corporation

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is to the Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. My constituents have had concerns over the rental housing being increased from \$28 per month to \$30 per month for the ones that are unemployed or the senior citizens. This has been the concern of my constituents in Keewatin. What is the Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation going to do about this concern? Are the rents going to increase, and I would like to be informed as to what plans he has regarding the matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River, Mr. McCallum.

Partial Return To Question 12-81(2): Increase Of Rents By NWT Housing Corporation

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the increase of rental rate obviously must have been discussed by the Housing Corporation board of directors, and if it has not, then I would suggest that that is maybe where there should be some discussion on it. I have not heard from Mr. Pilot, the chairman of the board, anything different in any kind of rate structure or rental structure, and I would have to receive something from him on it in order to respond properly to the question that Mr. Noah asked of me. I do not have any further particulars on it. I have not heard anything from the chairman of the board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Will you take the question then as notice? Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. The people of Coral Harbour would like assistance to go hunting to Coats Island because their caribou hunting grounds are too far. The hunters who are unemployed have problems of high cost of living.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Noah, you are going just a little too fast. The translators cannot keep up to you. Will you start your question over again, please?

Question 13-81(2): Request For Grants For Coral Harbour Caribou Hunters

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Coral Harbour would like to get assistance. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. The hunters of Coral Harbour who are unemployed, and with the high cost of gasoline, cannot afford to go hunting to Coats Island. The hunters would like some assistance financially to go caribou hunting, or to get meat brought from Coats Island. Can the Minister of Renewable Resources find assistance for the hunters of Coral Harbour and inform the wildlife officer in Coral Harbour as to whether the Minister is going to help the people of Coral Harbour to go caribou hunting in Coats Island?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 13-81(2): Request For Grants For Coral Harbour Caribou Hunters

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Again in our last budget we did pass some possible finances to allow for community hunts for caribou. I will instruct the wildlife officer to provide some help to the community and to the hunters and trappers so that they can apply for the grant.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Noah.

Question 14-81(2): Increase Of Narwhal Quota In Repulse Bay

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question for the day is also directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have asked this question many times but I am going to ask the question again. The people of Repulse Bay have asked for a quota of 50 narwhals to be taken in one year. At the present time their quota is 25, and the three communities who have been given quotas to kill narwhals have no narwhals in the vicinity. These are the communities: Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay, and either Pangnirtung or Cape Dorset -- I do not know which -- and those communities do not have narwhals. The people of Repulse Bay would like to get help in getting quotas of 50 narwhals to be taken in one year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 14-81(2): Increase Of Narwhal Quota In Repulse Bay

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Approximately a year ago I met with the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. LeBlanc, and brought before him the concern that was expressed regarding increased narwhal quota, and I also brought it to the attention of the representative regional director for fisheries in Winnipeg. I think it was after that that there was an indication that they would increase from 15 to 35.

Now I have continued to bring to their attention that that concern is still continuing to be expressed. I have written a number of letters to the regional director to indicate that concern, but other than that, the actual decision of increasing the quotas on whales remains in the jurisdiction of the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 15-81(2): Electrical Power At Kakisa Lake

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Local Government what he can announce in respect of providing electricity to Kakisa Lake. The Minister will know that this matter is one which I have been raising with him since my election in 1979 and one which is causing me great concern, because I have difficulty facing my constituents from Kakisa Lake, as they raise the matter with me any time they see me and they feel I am not doing anything on their behalf about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

Return To Question 15-81(2): Electrical Power At Kakisa Lake

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the concerns of the residents of Kakisa regarding power. I have, as I indicated earlier, corresponded with Alberta Power Limited and the Northern Canada Power Commission as well, regarding the request from the community to have power extended to Kakisa Lake. The response that I had received was that the proposal was not economically feasible. Therefore, I have communicated to

the energy conservation division of the Department of Renewable Resources to investigate the possibility of looking at alternate forms of a source of power for the community of Kakisa Lake. I have yet to receive a response in that regard. So, this has been posing some difficulty for me to respond favourably to the concerns of your constituency and once I receive the complete response from the energy conservation division, then I will relate the info to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Sibbeston.

Supplementary To Question 15-81(2): Electrical Power At Kakisa Lake

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister consider having Alberta Power establish a power plant in the little community during the time that the energy conservation branch or a group is considering alternative means to providing power to the community? I just feel that if we continue to wait for this group it may be quite a number of years before they come up with a plan.

I also, Mr. Speaker, have access to the report that was provided to the government from Alberta Power and I believe the amount of money that they require to establish little power plants in the communities is \$40,000. Is this correct and would the Minister attempt to provide this sum of money for power?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 15-81(2): Electrical Power At Kakisa Lake

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the Government of the Northwest Territories is into providing power to the communities. That essentially is the responsibility of the Northern Canada Power Commission, but as I indicated earlier, that I have not had a favourable response from these two corporations. However, we will have to look at the various alternatives. For example, I have asked the conservation division to look at whether it would be feasible to have a small river turbine as opposed to having a line extended from the highway to Kakisa Lake. However, I think that we will have to consider the possibility of having the government set up a generator in Kakisa, and that is one of the other alternatives we will have to look at. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 16-81(2): Decision On Constitutional Development In The North

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Commissioner. In your Address yesterday you stated that matters of political development will be better addressed in the fall session, which immediately sets back the progress of the division issue in the Territories. Was this decision made by the Executive Committee or by yourself or by you on the instructions of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

Return To Question 16-81(2): Decision On Constitutional Development In The North

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, the comment in my Address yesterday with regard to constitutional development was not so much a decision as it was a suggestion that since a number of things were already under way, it was seen by the Executive Committee that a full debate and discussion on constitutional matters at the fall session would be more valuable than a discussion at this time. In coming to this conclusion -- and it was a conclusion reached by the Executive Committee -- in coming to this conclusion, we were mindful of the two committees which have been set up to consider the matters surrounding the possible creation of Nunavut, as well as the larger issues of the federal government's plans for constitutional development in the North.



It always remains a possibility for Members to press for a discussion of constitutional matters at any session. Finally, I have not received any direction nor have I had any discussion with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with regard to the timing of any of our own work with regard to constitutional development.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 17-81(2): Latest Position Of B Level Funding

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have another question to the Finance Minister. What is the latest progress on the B level submissions?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister, Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 17-81(2): Latest Position Of B Level Funding

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the matter of the B level is still very much in abeyance, in that there has yet been no division of the moneys that were collected by the Ministry of State for Social Development. We form one of the departments in that envelope. I have discussed the major requirements on B level, which are the new programs, with the Minister of Indian Affairs about a month ago and received from him an indication of recognition of the value of all the programs that are being put forward. At the present time there is some difficulty in determining just how strong is our financial need for funds at our year end. At the present time we are not able to provide a firm year end determination of our cash position and there was some thought by federal officials that this government would end the year end in a much more sanguine position than our current expectations suggest. So, the B level is still an open question and I will be discussing the matter with the Minister in the next 48 hours, I hope.

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

Supplementary To Question 17-81(2): Latest Position Of B Level Funding

MR. CURLEY: Yes. A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the negotiations might be timely and it might be quite a long time before the agreement is reached between the federal government and the territorial government with respect to the B level submission and since the B level submission contains funding for the impact and constitutional development committees, and since the Legislative Assembly has declared constitutional development as a high priority, will you commit yourself now to providing the necessary funds for these committees if the B level submissions fail?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Further Return To Question 17-81(2): Latest Position Of B Level Funding

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, no. The situation of the government at this time is that our fiscal position is that we do not have the money required to fund those various programs. The honourable Member will also know that there is an additional five million dollars that we are attempting to get through the medium of the newly negotiated General Development Agreement. So there is no money, we have no money that we can foresee going into those requirements, as urgently needed as they are.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 18-81(2): Game Export Permits Between Northern Yukon And NWT

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, another question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In regard to the game export arrangements for the transport of game across the Yukon-Northwest Territories border, and this relates to the

recent problems we have been having, I understand that a group community permit has been issued to those communities involved and this is done on a one year basis. Could the Minister please advise what is being done to secure a more long-term solution to this problem for the people who have traditionally used the North Slope and northern Yukon and the area between the Northwest Territories and the Yukon?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Return To Question 18-81(2): Game Export Permits Between Northern Yukon And NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the total details of the agreement with regard to exporting from the Yukon. I have also pressed on a number of occasions where we could have a joint meeting with the executive of the Yukon, to discuss the various issues and concerns that we have had. Now, we have certainly pressed the issue of long-term arrangements with regard to hunting in the Yukon and I will continue to.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms Cournoyea.

Supplementary To Question 18-81(2): Game Export Permits Between Northern Yukon And NWT

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Renewable Resources, in regard to his negotiations. The game export permit is under the federal jurisdiction. Has he made any overtures toward the department to have that changed at the federal level?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return to Question 18-81(2): Game Export Permits Between Northern Yukon And NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I believe that approximately one month ago -- yes, about one month ago I did send a letter to the federal Minister indicating that we would like to sit down and talk over the issue of amending the export permit.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 19-81(2): Investigation Of Government Officials By RCMP

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Justice. Recent news reports have stated that a number of Northwest Territories government officials are under serious RCMP investigation. Could the Minister confirm whether or not this government's officials are in fact under investigation? If so, what departments are involved? What are the exact allegations charged to these officials by the RCMP? Will he indicate to this House whether or not he will grant these officials leave of absence while they are being investigated?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 19-81(2): Investigation Of Government Officials By RCMP

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP conducted investigations a couple of weeks ago in some of our offices and seized some files. The investigation is under way. I have no notification of any charges that may be laid and as this is a matter under investigation, I really cannot comment any further on it at this point in time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 20-81(2): Department Being Investigated By RCMP

MR. SIBBESTON: Supplementary to Mr. Curley's question, could the Minister indicate which department is being investigated and perhaps which persons are being investigated?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 20-81(2): Department Being Investigated By RCMP

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to those three questions, I can answer one at this point in time. It was my department that is being investigated.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (No translation)

MR. SPEAKER: We are having a little translation difficulties. I think the translators changed the frequency we were broadcasting on. Did the Minister get the question? Would we try and establish the English back on channel four and would you ask your question again, please, Mr. Kilabuk?

Question 21-81(2): Proposed Airstrip, Pagnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of Local Government, regarding the request for an airstrip and we still have not heard anything about it. Will the federal government give him permission or not? Has the Minister been informed as to what is happening? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Butters.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Is this question directed at Local Government or Mr. Butters?

MR. SPEAKER: I thought it was Local Government.

Return To Question 21-81(2): Proposed Airstrip, Pagnirtung

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Okay. Just a point of clarification, is the honourable Member inquiring about the new proposed airstrip at the Clearwater Fiord? Well, regarding that, we are aware of the application that Mr. Peyton has applied for a land use permit to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, a permit to build the airstrip. We are aware that the federal government is carrying out an environmental impact assessment this summer regarding the application and during the process of reviewing the permit application there will be an opportunity for the community of Pagnirtung to have input into that application. That is the information I have to date.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question 22-81(2): Program Needed To Elevate Students' Educational Level

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. It is my understanding, Mr. Minister, that up to 20 young students are now in the William McDonald Junior High who are not at an educational level to enable them to cope with the regular academic grade 10 program which is now being offered in our Yellowknife high schools. As well, it is my understanding that this same group of students have not obtained the minimum requirement for entry into a vocational trades program. They obviously desperately need some special program to elevate their educational level, since without it these some 20 students will probably become drop-outs, of which we do not need any more in Yellowknife nor in the Northwest Territories. My question then is, are you, Mr. Minister, aware that these students exist and if you are, can you give us an indication of what action your department might be willing to take to correct the situation or at least to give assistance to these students to upgrade their level?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Frobisher Bay.

Return To Question 22-81(2): Program Needed To Elevate Students' Educational Level

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate very much getting notice on this question, which gave me a chance to read the excellent study prepared by Mrs. Kathy Knockwood on special education students entering Sir John Franklin in September 1981, which well describes this serious problem. I understand and appreciate that these students are too old to remain in the junior high school but are not prepared to enter grade 10 at Sir John Franklin because they have special education problems and have not obtained grade nine.

Sir John Franklin, of course, is a high school and students must have grade nine to enter. However, the department has been working for some time now to make it possible this coming fall for this group of students to at least remain on the enrolment list of Yellowknife School District No. 1, which would enable the board to obtain the per student grant and to use the vocational facilities at Sir John under a special program, although they would not be a part of the ordinary student body. The details will have to be finally worked out jointly between the Sir John Franklin community education committee, the board of Yellowknife School District No. 1 and the department.

Let me say that generally, it is my strong desire to enhance opportunities available to territorial high school and junior high school students to obtain vocational training. In that regard, I am working to implement the high school certificate vocational training program which has been developed by the department and awaits financial resources prior to implementation across the Northwest Territories.

With regard to this specific question of the William McDonald Junior High School students, I am quite confident that the problem is in hand and that a solution will be worked out involving the committee, our department and the school board, in time to look after that rather large group of students in a special program this fall. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

Item 4, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 23-81(2): Rental Of Government Premises To Interprovincial Pipe Lines Limited

MR. SIBBESTON: Could the government please indicate during this session whether it is renting any accommodation premises to Interprovincial Pipe Lines Limited in Wrigley? Please provide the terms of the agreement in existence with IPL and also the cost to this government in terms of air charter costs, material, labour and any other related costs which this government has incurred or is incurring in preparing and leasing the premises.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question 24-81(2): Effectiveness Of Corrections Centre System In NWT

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Social Services. Will the Minister provide this House with a brief statement of the philosophy governing the corrections service in the Northwest

Territories and how this translates into action at the level of punishment/rehabilitation? Also, will the Minister provide the House with statistical and/or other information that indicates the degree to which our corrections system is effective?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Written questions. Mr. Fraser, Mackenzie Great Bear.

Question 25-81(2): Contracts For Highway Maintenance

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works, highway maintenance. Some years back I thought it was the policy for DPW to contract highway maintenance to private enterprise. Could the Minister tell me how many miles of highway are maintained by DPW in the Northwest Territories? How many miles are out to contract?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Written questions. Are there any returns? Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a rather lengthy return. I expect that it would take about 10, 15 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for the warning. We will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---Laughter

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the House back to order. Returns. The honourable Minister, Mr. Braden.

Minister's Statement On Government Response To Task Force On Employee Housing

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you. I am honoured, Mr. Speaker, to have this opportunity to present to the Legislative Assembly this government's response to the task force on employee housing. As I have indicated to this Assembly before, any change in the government's staff housing policy will create major impacts throughout the Northwest Territories. We cannot isolate this policy's impact to government employees nor should we wish to do so.

The problem is not a simple matter of ensuring employee accommodation. There are no quick solutions. We need to plan on a long-term basis. Only then can we feel confident that we are dealing with fundamental issues and embarking on new directions which will ensure the availability of adequate housing for all residents and not just for the staff of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Tripartite Task Force

Mr. Speaker, many respected individuals and agencies have identified problems with our present staff accommodation policy. The report of the special representative on constitutional development elaborated the problem by observing that the provision of subsidized accommodation acts as a disincentive to employees to purchase their own accommodation or to rent privately. In January 1979, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories invited the Public Service Association and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association to participate in a tripartite task force with the government to look into the whole question of government staff housing. The report of the task force on employee housing was released October 15th, 1979.

Although the policy which the Executive Committee has approved is primarily concerned with Northwest Territories government staff accommodation, the problems and solutions are deeper and more complex and they relate to our basic ability to provide adequate and suitable accommodation for all residents of the Northwest Territories. I think we heard some remarks today from my colleague, Mr. Sibbeston, about housing in his constituency, so I want him and others to know that what we are looking at here is something which affects everybody.

Mr. Speaker, the housing sector is very important to the territorial economy for two reasons. First of all, the effect on the business community is most profound, because buying or building a house often represents the most important investment decision an individual will make in his or her lifetime. The spinoff effects in the community are obvious. Home owners will patronize local businesses, pay taxes, use local labour and provide opportunities for individuals to develop and practise trade skills. Secondly, adequate and suitable housing is rightly expected by and indeed necessary to a growing and more prosperous population in the North.

Problems Limiting Development Of Housing Industry

Now, while it is difficult to predict what will happen five years from now, it is possible to identify those problems which will limit the development of a viable and healthy housing industry. Now, the more serious of these problems are the presence of government in private sector policies which discourage home ownership and private market rental. Second, the pressures exerted upon the available supply of accommodation by increased resource development and exploration and by an increase in the federal government's northern employment. The third problem is the lack of suitable serviced lots in many communities, which will create problems for low income groups and young people looking to establish their own private housing units. Fourth, we all recognize that another problem is the rapidly increasing cost of homes because of high interest rates and rising material and labour costs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this government has a major role to play in addressing these problems. We are the North's major landlord. We are actively involved in providing subsidies for both staff and public housing and we are the major developer of serviced lots. In some important areas we have already adopted a number of new initiatives. During the last session of this Assembly my honourable colleague, Mr. Wah-Shee, the Minister of Local Government, announced a municipal tax rebate program, which will help to reduce the cost of home ownership.

#### Elements Of Staff Accommodation Policy

Now, our new staff accommodation policy will build upon this effort. The major elements of the policy are the development of the private housing market, the administration of government housing programs at the local level, the provision of equal benefits to all employees, and the guaranteed availability of staff accommodation in remote communities. These are the central elements, Mr. Speaker. They are designed to ensure a steady movement away from the provision of staff accommodation. The policy encourages the development of a private market, responsible to personal tastes and preference. Whether an employee wishes to reside in a tent or in a mansion should not be the concern of this government.

Now, in many communities I believe we no longer need to provide -- or rather, guarantee staff accommodation. We have employees who are staying longer, making a commitment to the North. Mr. Speaker, our first objective in setting the new policy is to encourage the growth and development of a private housing market. One of the limitations of home ownership is the cost and availability of serviced lots. As long as land is available at a reasonable cost, people will always have the option of building their own homes.

It is this government's intention to begin negotiations with the Government of Canada to cost share the planning and development of serviced lots within all our communities. Lots developed under the proposed program will be made available to individual residents at a reduced rate. In those communities with a developed housing market, this program will be initiated through municipal governments. In the remaining communities it will require the involvement and support of local councils and the Department of Local Government.

To further reduce the cost of home ownership in remote areas, a similar cost sharing program will be negotiated to financially assist non-profit housing associations and co-operatives.

#### Elimination Of Unequal Benefits

Mr. Speaker, our third private market incentive is the elimination of unequal benefits associated with government accommodation. Under the existing policy employees in private accommodation, even with their allowances, are paying considerably more for rent than employees in subsidized accommodation. This disincentive will be eliminated by providing a private accommodation allowance more reflective of the real cost to this government of providing accommodation. Under the new policy all government employees choosing to own or rent private accommodation will receive a monthly allowance of \$300. In those communities where the cost of home operation and maintenance significantly exceeds the Yellowknife cost, an additional allowance will be paid on a household basis to families living in private accommodation. In those communities where a private market exists, and I refer here to Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Pine Point and Inuvik, the government will dispose of all its owned and leased accommodation. Units which cannot be sold for a reasonable price will be managed by a private firm and rented to employees and residents at prevailing market rates. Government-owned houses will be made available for sale to employees and residents on a tender basis and in both cases, financial preference will be given to long-term residents.

### Potential For Private Housing Market

In those communities, Mr. Speaker, where a private housing market does not exist, but where a potential is evident, the government will create the basis for a market by requiring employees to pay market rents, by providing a private accommodation allowance to all employees, and by implementing a home buy-back plan. This latter program will ensure that staff who own their own homes are protected from financial loss upon termination or transfer in communities where a housing market is not yet fully developed.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the new staff accommodation policy of this government establishes a consistent set of programs designed to encourage a private housing market. Taken together, the pricing and expenditure measures will enhance both the supply and demand for private housing.

### Public Housing Administration

I now turn, Mr. Speaker, to the second major objective of the staff accommodation policy, and that is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public housing administration. In many communities, this government funds the major share of housing, either directly, as in the case of staff accommodation, or indirectly through the public housing programs of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Ironically, this separation between public and staff housing is maintained in the planning, construction, administration, and operation and maintenance of community housing. In fact, both the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Housing Corporation establish separate guidelines for allocating housing units and determining rents. This is both a costly and an inefficient utilization of government resources.

In order to ensure available housing for its employees in remote communities, it may prove necessary for the government to reserve accommodation for its employees. However, at the planning and construction stage, co-operation between agencies providing accommodation could substantially reduce design problems and improve the overall integration of community and government concerns. In recognition of these issues, I am recommending that an experiment in a single agency for community housing administration be carried out in conjunction with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation in selected communities.

### Lack Of Fairness In Present Policy

Now, Mr. Speaker, another pressing problem with our present staff housing policy is an inherent lack of fairness. I am confident the changes we are recommending will correct this problem. Under the new proposal, all employees will be eligible for a private accommodation allowance, reflective of the government's costs of supplying housing. No employee will be disadvantaged simply because he or she is not living in subsidized accommodation, and, as I have pointed out, in many communities the government will either have no long-term staff accommodation, or will be charging rents for those units occupied by employees. If our experiment in implementing a single housing authority for selected communities proves successful, there will no longer exist any quality difference between staff and public housing. There will be a common housing pool, and everyone will be paying comparable rents.

Other inequity problems arise from the present allowance system, because it is based upon the family unit, with only the major wage earner, or head of the household, being eligible for full housing benefits. Mr. Speaker, it will not be a policy of this government to discourage marriage. Our new policy will provide subsidies on an equal basis, to all employees, regardless of their family status or sex.



Present Policy On Sale Of Housing To Be Revoked

The inequities in our staff accommodation policy are not restricted to the allocation of rental units, but also to the sale of accommodation units. Only employees who qualify for single family dwellings are eligible to purchase them. This is clearly unacceptable. Effective immediately, the present policy on the sale of government housing will be revoked, and the new policy will make all government-owned houses in market communities available for purchase by employees and residents. Financial preference, as I have indicated, will be given to long-term residents, and not on the basis of family size. The new policy will benefit both residents and the government, since we are no longer restricting the sale of these units to a small and select market.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Executive Committee has taken the decision to apply the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance to employees living in government staff accommodation. I know this will be welcomed by employees and their associations. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that it will be in some way an indication of our intentions to deal fairly and equally with our employees in matters of housing.

To complete the picture on staff housing, I want to assure you that the government will continue to provide staff accommodation at reasonable rental rates in those communities where there is no private housing market. We have also decided to provide accommodation for a limited period of one year for new employees, or for employees who transfer from one community to another.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, we have sought, in this new staff accommodation policy, a means whereby we can address the concerns and aspirations of both employees and residents. I cannot promise an instant solution to all the problems, but we are making a big step in the right direction. We have avoided, I believe, those solutions which would have this government treat one class or division of our residents or employees differently from another. We have chosen, to the greatest extent possible, to leave the choice of housing to personal preference and taste. I am convinced the initiatives which I have set forth establish a consistent set of policies and directions designed to reconcile the needs of our staff with the best interests of all northern residents.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for their assistance and support, the members of the task force on employee housing, and all those residents and employees who have provided us with practical suggestions and valued advice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns?

Item 5 on the orders of the day, petitions.

ITEM NO. 5: PETITIONS

Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Petition 1-81(2), to the Government of the Northwest Territories from the settlement of Holman Island in regard to the much-needed replacement for their school facilities. The petition is signed by the people of Holman Island, and the reason why the petition is being presented is because it was understood by the community, over the last three or four years, that this item was indeed being considered on the five year capital plan project, so therefore to bring forth the views of the community in regards to this much-needed facility, they have sent a petition for this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Further petitions. Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table three documents. Tabled Document 1-81(2), 1979 Annual Report, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. It is in both languages of the House.

Tabled Document 2-81(2), Report of a Study of Inuit Health and Health Services in the Keewatin Zone of the Northwest Territories, 1980, submitted by Dr. Ruderman and Dr. Weller. It was done in conjunction with Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. I do not as yet have the report translated. At least a summary of this report will be available to Members next week.

I have Tabled Document 3-81(2), Report on Health Conditions in the Northwest Territories, 1980, by Health and Welfare Canada, as well.

I would like to table those three documents, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to indicate that the health study on the Central Arctic needs is complete. It is in the process of being printed, translated, and I hope that that will be available to Members next week as well, at which time I would table that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Notice Of Motion 4-81(2): Polar Bear Quotas

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May the 19th I will put forth a motion to be seconded by the MLA for Baffin South, on polar bear quotas.

MR. SPEAKER: The substance, then, of that motion is on the polar bear quota. Is that right, Mr. Evaluarjuk?

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion.

Item 9, motions. There are no motions for today.

Item 10, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 11, second reading of bills. There are no bills for second reading.

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

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

The House will now resolve into the committee of the whole, with Mr. Fraser in the chair, to consider Sessional Paper 1-81(2), Principles for the Development of an Agricultural Policy, for the Northwest Territories, and the cost of living in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Fraser.

---Applause

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Sessional Paper 1-81(2), Principles for the Development of an Agricultural Policy, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER SESSIONAL PAPER 1-81(2), PRINCIPLES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order, dealing with Sessional Paper 1-81(2). I believe this sessional paper was put out by the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. The paper has been before Members for, I believe, a year. It was first brought to the attention of the committee by my predecessor, the Hon. George Braden, and I might call on him from time to time, as he might have some specific knowledge about the document.

The committee, I think, would be well served if we ask Mr. Ben Greenfield, who is in the House, to join us and provide a position on the policy. I think this would be most apt, since it is the people from this area south of the lake that are very keen on seeing the introduction and establishment of an agricultural policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Is it the wish of the Members, then, that we call in Ben Greenfield as a witness on this policy paper?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed. Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you see that Mr. Greenfield is escorted to the witness table? Thank you. We have Mr. Greenfield now at the witness table. Mr. Butters, have you any further comments before we go to the witness?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to say, Mr. Chairman, Members will note that the paper, in essence, consists of seven recommendations, to be found throughout the body of the report, and following each recommendation there is a brief paragraph of explanation, so I would suggest that, by way of procedure, any general comments might be made, and then we could go through each of the recommendations in detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Greenfield, have you any opening comments before we go into the recommendations?

MR. GREENFIELD: Yes, I would like to say a few words...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): You could sit down, Mr. Greenfield, if you so wish.

Presentation By Mr. Greenfield

MR. GREENFIELD: Thank you. I would just like to thank the Members here for allowing me to say a few words, and I might just say that this is not the first time for agriculture in the Northwest Territories. There are a few here that may remember, or know of, the missions that did have agriculture here many years back, and I think that at that time they did grow the vegetables, grains, raise their meat, and whatever, at that time.

The Northwest Territories Farmers' Association would like to see the people of the Northwest Territories being able to purchase northern-grown vegetables, beef, chicken, eggs, as I believe that we can grow as good, and quite possibly better, quality products than you can receive from the South. I think that agriculture would be an asset to any community that they happen to be in, because you are going to have added business. You need machine shops, employment will be increased, and whatever. I think it will be quite an asset.

In the South, I would like to point out that more and more land, good agricultural land, is being put under pavement, and I understand there are a number of agricultural people in the eastern provinces, and in the southern provinces, that would like to come to the North. Now, I am not sure this is a good idea. However, I believe it will take a minimum of two years before we will have too much productivity from agriculture once, or if, it is okayed by this Assembly. We believe land should be surveyed into hectares. Canada is in the metric system, and as it is being laid out, it should be laid out in hectares rather than acres as it is in the South.

#### Proposed Committee To Select Applicants

I believe that when the applicants are being selected for this land, the Northwest Territories Farmers' Association would like to have a voice in who gets this land. We believe that there should be a committee set up to deal with this, and made up of government, territorial farmers, and we suggest a member or so from the native band in the area.

I would also like to suggest it would take about 100 farmers to supply the people around Great Slave Lake, taking in approximately 20,000 people. I think that if this land is opened up, or if there are areas opened up, they will mainly be opened near the highways. This will cut down on an expenditure of building roads. There may have to be short areas of roads, but I suggest that this will be fairly short. I also suggest that the farmers should be responsible for their own municipal-type services. Also, farmers would be required to compete with other businesses for existing business assistance funding. We also would like to see agreement reached with the federal government to allow the Northwest Territories farmers equal access to the farm credit and ARDA funds, as Canadians in the South are.

I think it would be good for the people of the Territories to be able to go down to the store and purchase a dozen of fresh eggs, and this is something that could happen if we had farmers in the Territories. With those few words, I would like to thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Greenfield. I will open up the floor for general comments before we go into the recommendations. If anybody has any questions, I am sure Mr. Greenfield will be pleased to answer them.  
Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I would like to ask a couple of questions before making some general comments. Is that acceptable?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Proceed.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Could you tell us, Mr. Greenfield, just how many members there are in the Northwest Territories Farmers' Association, and, beyond that, what is the extent of interest, in your estimation, in developing farming in the Northwest Territories? Are there a number of people who seem to want to get at it, and are maybe able to do so?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Greenfield.

Extent Of Interest In Developing Farming

MR. GREENFIELD: There are a few farmers in our Farmers' Association to date. We have had quite a drop-off since the freezing of lands in 1975, and we have had trouble keeping too many farmers in our association. We do have a handful there in operation. That is about it. So far as the people interested in starting agriculture in the Territories, there are a number. For a while they have been discouraged, because there was nothing doing in regard to agriculture. In the past year or so there have been a few that have been inquiring as to land, and they would like to get started doing something in regard to agriculture.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Greenfield, what is the range of products, and the areas of farming that you see a potential for in the Northwest Territories, I suppose particularly in this south Slave region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Greenfield.

Possible Areas For Production

MR. GREENFIELD: We can grow pretty well all products that can be grown in the South, in regard to vegetables, potatoes. We can raise our own beef, pork, chicken, eggs. We could have a frying chicken set-up, and so on. We could go into grain. We could go into grass seeds. We could go into almost any of these areas if you so wished. We can grow seed, hay, in this country, much better or as good as some of the areas in the South, and I believe we do have a better product because of the higher protein value. I think pretty near any of these areas could be gone into, so far as the agriculture is concerned.

I had some doubts, myself, in regard to grain, because we are a fair ways from market for grain if they wish to haul it South, but I have been told by some interested people that distance does not really matter because of the trucks and equipment that they have nowadays. It is no problem to haul feed or grain pretty near any distance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members will know that I expressed an interest in past sessions in proceeding with the paper, "Principles for the Development of an Agricultural Policy," and I certainly hope that Members will give it due consideration today, and maybe start this important industry on its way. I feel that way, I want to see something happen in the area of agriculture, because there is little doubt that it has been the development of agriculture in every society that has provided for a kind of stable economic base, and the development of agriculture has freed individuals for time to undertake other pursuits, rather than hunting, fishing, gathering, that have always occupied a great deal of an individual's time. Moreover, agriculture has enabled the few to feed the many, and that has released great numbers of individuals and great forces of creative energy in societies that have enabled them to develop in many ways: culturally, scientifically, and so on. I think that that need not be different for the Northwest Territories.

I feel there is a potential here. That is confirmed by the president of the Northwest Territories Farmers' Association, and others with whom I have spoken incidentally, even in my own constituency, people who are interested, if there is an agricultural policy in the Northwest Territories, in getting into the area of farming in some way. Obviously, the potential that exists in the Northwest Territories is not the same as potential elsewhere, but there is a potential, and it is obvious that it is not at all being fully utilized, and I feel that that is a shame, particularly for a society that wants to be as self-sufficient as possible. I think that developing a proper agricultural policy can help us to become more self-sufficient.

Now, I do recognize that, in wanting to promote the development of agriculture, that there are other very serious concerns that have stood in the way of it up until now, and those concerns are not insignificant, and they are not to be treated lightly. They are not to be dismissed, for sure. I do feel, however, that it is possible to develop -- a point of order, I believe, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: To the witness, before we get on with our own statements. Was that not the idea?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The idea was to be open for general comments before we go into the recommendations. Mr. MacQuarrie, are you...?

MR. MacQUARRIE: I am willing to carry on. Am I in order, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Yes. Carry on.

#### Possible Interference From Improper Development

MR. MacQUARRIE: Okay, thank you. The very real problems that I raised are those of land claims and of the traditional pursuits of people in the Territories, trapping, particularly, with which it is possible that the development of agriculture could interfere if it is not handled properly, but I think that it is possible to proceed with the development of agriculture, and still take proper account of these other concerns.

For one thing, what is recommended in this paper would obviously keep -- or so it seems to me -- the development of agriculture very close to existing communities. That would very likely, then, help to ensure that the concerns we mentioned, land claims and traditional pursuits, are not unduly jeopardized or prejudiced in any way.

This does not recommend a homesteading policy at all. It specifically says that it would not be a homesteading policy, but rather commercial agriculture, which means that we would not have a rush of people taking up lands throughout the Northwest Territories.

I think also that this House could safely embark on an agricultural policy according to the principles that are recommended here because, really, it is a long process. If we were to agree with what is in here, it would not mean that, very suddenly, there would be large-scale developments in this area, because it is a long and complex process, and the more reason why, I think, we should at least lay the foundation in this kind of policy.

It would not entail any great commitment of funds on the part of this government, and, as I say, it would not be the development of full-scale agriculture such as you may have had in Alaska or Brazil, states and countries which have had agricultural potential in frontier areas, and which have gone about developing that potential in a massive kind of way. This is not, I think, what is involved in this paper at all.

#### Safeguards Included In Policy

Moreover, there are very reasonable safeguards included in this policy, which would ensure that lands were not jeopardized. One would be the fact that what is recommended is leasehold, and not title to land. Another matter that is pointed out is that the federal government has already indicated that it would not accept land selections for agriculture until the land selections had been reviewed by the Office of Native Claims. A third very important safeguard is that the Farmers' Association is willing to accept a land selection committee which would include themselves, but also representatives from government and,

more importantly, representatives from the native groups in those communities wherever it is thought that agriculture might be possible and might be developed. I know that those who are interested in farming would want to see a much more comprehensive and aggressive policy, but they are making, I think, a reasonable compromise in accepting the groundwork that is being laid here.

When the land freeze was implemented I am given to understand that those who were interested in farming were assured that within two to three years after that time, there would be an agricultural policy implemented in the North. That has not materialized, and they have been very patient, but they would like to see something done on it. This is not a great deal, but it is an encouraging beginning as far as they are concerned. I think that we ought to promote and assist them in this. It certainly encourages self-sufficiency of individuals. It would help to provide some employment, and at a time when costs are rising very rapidly, it would help to feed us in the Territories and help to make us more self-sufficient, more independent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Comments and questions of a general nature. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Greenfield, I guess I have to speak through you. Is that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden, you know the rules.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I have relatives in Saskatchewan who are farmers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Good for you.

---Laughter

Large Investment In Farming In The 1980's

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Well, they make a lot more money than I do, but I am given to understand that farming in the 1980's is a relatively expensive undertaking. I am told that they have these big tractors and big combines and other pieces of machinery which cost thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars. Some of the buildings that they have had to put into place to keep their cows and chickens and pigs also cost thousands of dollars. They have to put up buildings which have really good health and safety standards because if they want to sell their product, the people who buy it want to make sure that it meets certain standards. Given that they have invested all kinds of money in cows and pigs, they want to make sure their livestock is going to live and produce under good conditions.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I guess I would like to hear Mr. Greenfield's views on the cost of farming in 1980 and how he feels that territorial residents will be able to come into a relatively undeveloped area, clear the land, and either get into grain farming or mixed farming, because I feel it is a fairly -- or I think, Mr. Chairman, that it is a fairly expensive undertaking. Maybe he has got some ideas on whether I am right or wrong, or whether we have a bunch of people in the Northwest Territories who want to invest a lot of money in new farms. Thank you.

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

MR. GREENFIELD: I have to agree that the costs are very high in the South. There is no doubt about it, the costs are going to be high here. I also know that we still have to eat, and with the acres that are going under pavement in the South, I think they are going to need more land for agriculture, and agriculture, of course, being a renewable resource, it keeps continuing year

after year for many a year. Even if it does cost us a bit, I think there are farmers that are willing to take a chance on getting into this end, trying to make a go of it. There is no doubt about it, there are going to be some that are going to lose out. This is going to happen. I do not think there is any doubt about it, but I do believe there is a good chance for them to make good.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Greenfield. Mr. Patterson, questions and comments of a general nature.

Member Has No Interest In Agricultural Policy

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking now in my capacity as MLA for Frobisher Bay, and I do not want to make light of this agricultural policy or in any way slight Mr. Greenfield and the Northwest Territories Farmers' Association, but quite frankly as an MLA from Frobisher Bay, and in that capacity, I have no interest in this policy. I have no concern about it. I have no right, I think, particularly to oppose it, and I certainly do not feel inclined to do that.

One of the reasons I ran for the territorial Assembly is that I firmly believe that the Territories is too large. It must divide. There must be an eastern territory created at the earliest possible opportunity. Probably it should divide along the tree line. I do not think there is any potential for agriculture in the part of the Territories I come from. We derive many resources from the land, but they are animals and not plants. Although people have lived for years on plants, there is no real potential for farming the land the way this rich country does permit. So, when I say I have no interest, I really mean that more in the legal sense. I am curious, of course, and I am happy to be here and hear from you, but we have no interest in agricultural policy and no right to express strong opinions on it, I feel.

I also believe that as far as land claims are concerned, neither do the Inuit have any particular interest in or right to make strong comments on an agricultural policy because there is no agricultural potential in Inuit lands and I suspect that I am probably not far off in saying that the land claims people and the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada would likely react this way if they were invited to appear.

So let me simply say that I am not certainly going to oppose this policy and I would try to explain why I do not feel I have a particular right to take a strong position one way or the other. I will be asking some questions around recommendation number four, some detailed questions, because I heard some alarming things about livestock threatening the buffalo in this area. I would like to ask you, perhaps generally, would you agree that livestock could be a threat to buffalo in that they could transmit anthrax and TB and that disease that causes buffalo to abort? Is that something that the farmers are concerned about? Thank you.

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

Mixing Range Cattle With Buffalo

MR. GREENFIELD: Yes, I think that we are aware of this, and as far as I am concerned, the association really has not dealt with this specific case. However, personally I am aware of this problem, and I would suggest that we do not encourage ranch-type agriculture over in that area. I think there are a number of other types of agriculture that could be carried on in that area, but I think that ranching, having to do with the range cattle and whatever, this could be serious mixed in with the buffalo.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Patterson, supplementary?



HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes. Again, this may be an ignorant question, but the paper says under number three that there is a demand for agricultural lands in the Slave River lowlands, and if I am correct, that includes the buffalo sanctuary. Would you say that ranch-type agriculture should not occur in that area then, Mr. Greenfield? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Greenfield.

MR. GREENFIELD: Yes, I personally do not think that it should, myself. I have never been involved in any discussions or debates on this regard, but personally I am not in favour of it.

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

Settlement Of Aboriginal Claims Prior To Agriculture

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make some remarks of a general nature regarding this policy proposal. First of all, I think that this particular policy really does have implications regarding the interests of the Dene people. I would find it difficult to support the implementation of this particular policy, as well as the land selection. Mainly my concern here is that the whole question of aboriginal claims has to be settled. The Dene people have been facing a number of problems trying to get into the negotiations of aboriginal claims. They have to contend with resource-related development. For example, the construction of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline was one of the big concerns the Dene people have, and the president, of course, is dealing with the Norman Wells; also the area of the reluctance on the part of the federal government to appoint a federal negotiator until very recently.

So I think that the viewpoint of the Dene people would be crucial in the formulation of agricultural policy. I think the agricultural policy is required and I think that it is a very worth-while occupation. I do not really have anything against farming. I think it is a very worth-while venture. However, I think that in the interim period I would hope that we will not proceed with the implementation of the policy until the question of aboriginal claims has been settled. I do not think that it is going to take 10 to 15 years before the claims are settled. I am very optimistic that it will be a matter of years before the claims are settled, depending on the good faith on the part of the federal government.

So that is the view that I think that should be taken into consideration. I realize that my colleagues from the Eastern Arctic are not all that concerned regarding the farming, but when you are talking about farming, there has to be a land selection. You are not just talking about land the size of a lot to put a house on, you are talking about acres. For all I know, I think that probably Dene people would be interested in farming some time in the future.

I feel that as MLA representing my tribe from Rae-Edzo, I would have to indicate to the House that I do definitely have interim concerns, not so much in the long-term, because I think that farming will certainly proceed and I can see it as a reality in the future, but I think that in the interim period, if one was to discuss this particular policy with the Dene Nation, I feel that you will probably get the same viewpoint that I have expressed now. Thank you.

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

### Timing Of Policy Appears To Conflict With Claims

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. General nature comments. I certainly do not have any real opposition to the development of an agricultural policy in this part of the area, but I sure have some concerns too, like the Member James Wah-Shee just indicated that he has some reservations about it. I do too, mainly that I will not want to see another government policy creating further conflict with the Dene people in this area. My question again is, is the timing right to establish a policy that would possibly transfer some of the lands to and withdraw lands for the purpose of the agricultural development prior to any agreements for the native claimants? So that is my concern. I think the idea is very good. I would support it, but I am not sure whether I could support it at this time because the timing seems to conflict with the outstanding claims.

The other concern that I have is more related to the Eastern Arctic. This government seems to take priority in establishing policies for this western part of the area. You know, we have many of the renewable resources in the Eastern Arctic, such as fisheries, untapped fisheries resource. This government for years has no interest, no policy. So the timing seems to be in conflict with respect to many of the more urgent priorities that this Assembly has recommended to the government; for instance, the division issue. You know, we should deal with this seriously before we actually start to develop one part of the Territories.

I would certainly like to support this policy because I believe that the western part of the area could make use of the products produced from the agricultural development, but my conflicting situation is whether the timing does not seem to be right to come forth with such a policy at this time. That is all I have right now. Thank you.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I feel a great deal of sympathy for Mr. Greenfield and his organization because farmers, I suppose in many ways, are like native people who have association with the land, farmers grow things and have a special, perhaps, affinity for the land much like the Dene people have. I find too, that farmers and people who work with the land have a similar attitude toward life. They are generally more easy going and have time to spend with people.

If I can just say, a number of days ago, perhaps 10 days ago, I was in Lloydminster, Alberta, area, where I was visiting with my wife at my brother-in-law's farm and the farmers and he were just getting on the land. I had a chance to spend half a day driving a large tractor that had air conditioning. It had stereo music, a two-way radio, pulling a 30 foot wide disc, and I enjoyed it very much. I almost felt as good there as being back home on the land.

### Agriculture In Fort Simpson In 1950's

My constituency is part of the North where agricultural policy could come into effect at some future date. There is good land in the Providence area and between Providence and Simpson and in the Liard Valley. I was raised in Simpson in the 1950's, in a farm setting, where the Roman Catholic mission had large fields of grain. They were providing all of their food, in a sense, for the large hospital that they were running. They had large grain fields and large potato fields and they really grew everything. They had a herd of cattle and one bull. They had chickens and one rooster, and they had pigs. I do not know what you call a male pig. So, I drove a tractor before I drove a dog team. So, that is the kind of setting that I grew up in. So, I have sympathy for the Farmers' Association and persons like Mr. Greenfield.

Fort Simpson also had a large federal experimental farm, which existed until about 10 or 12 years ago, where they really grew everything under the sun. Everything that could possibly grow in the South was grown in the North and I think in many instances it grew better. So, there is no question that the North

could have a large agricultural sector, that I think it is possible to set up farms and so forth, and these farms could provide cheaper foods, fresher foods, better foods probably for people in the North. So, I think all people could benefit from the agricultural policy here that is before us, but I am concerned about the policy coming into effect until the land claims matter is settled.

I think that it is good to discuss this policy and have it in the sense of ready for the time when we would be able to put it into effect. I am optimistic that land claims can be resolved in the next two years and so I am prepared to discuss the policy, have certain recommendations go forward and have everything in place, however, put into effect only after land claims are resolved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. The time being 4:00 o'clock, we will break for a 15 minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Come to order. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman. A couple of brief comments; the Member for Keewatin South noted that this policy deals with only a particular part of the Northwest Territories and suggested that similar attention was not given to the eastern area. I would remind him of two years ago, I think it was, when we developed and approved a policy for soapstone harvesting and I think that that applied specifically and most pertinently to the areas above the tree line. So, we do, I think, attempt to look at the whole of the Northwest Territories and the needs of all the people.

With regard to this paper, and I may have misled Members by describing it as a policy, because it is only principles for the development of an agricultural policy. We are not approving a policy at this time. We are examining those major principles that would go into a policy and which would be acceptable for enhancing and improving the agricultural potential of the Northwest Territories.

One very brief comment and question, and that is, these principles relate to a policy which would improve or develop commercial gardening in the North, commercial agriculture in the Northwest Territories. Am I correct in assuming, Mr. Chairman, that the products of farms in the Northwest Territories and which would be consumed around this lake and down the river and into the Central Arctic would be competitive and would be cheaper than one would pay for products from other parts of Canada or California?

Products From The North May Not Be Cheaper

MR. GREENFIELD: I am not so sure I would say they were going to be that much cheaper. It does cost considerably more to produce things here in the North and this is something I have never stressed too much, that it is going to be that much cheaper. I believe personally that it should be, but then again, with the costs as high as they are here in the North you may have to pay just as much as you are paying for stuff from the South. However, I do say that you will have as good or quite possibly better quality than you are getting from the South. This is the main thing and I think that it should be a much better quality.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to conclude, sir, that I agree that the quality of the locally produced product is much better and I can recollect many years ago waiting for the produce from Fort Simpson to come down the river on the final barges and maybe my good friend across the way helped produce those potatoes and carrots...

---Applause

...and they were very excellent. So, I look forward to the day when once again Inuvik will be able to avail itself of the wonderful fresh stuff of the upper valley.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Butters. General comments and questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Policy Is Premature

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am of the opinion that certainly the policy development aspect would be premature at this time. I have a feeling that the chiefs of the Dene Nation, certainly at this time, do not support any kind of policy development because of the negotiation process. It is sort of unfortunate that we are at times put in a situation by the federal government, especially most recently, by them giving leases to major corporations for exploration in the valley and at the same time continuing to suggest that a freeze is on for farming. I think that the situation is not helpful to the

development of any policy for the future with regard to agriculture. It certainly does not allow for an attitude whereby the communities can see a sign of good faith on behalf of the federal government and that, I think, is an issue that has to be resolved and something that we all have to at some time address.

The idea, I guess, of the principles is -- I think that the problem lies when usually in adopting principles you get right on and do the work to develop the policy. The policy may include surveying of lands that have not been negotiated for or indicating areas that would be proper for farming and certainly for the agricultural area. As I said, that would be somewhat premature to go on and try to establish the principles and then on to the development of a policy.

It is my impression and certainly my position that in future there is no doubt that agriculture certainly will play a major role in the economy of the Northwest Territories. It has in past played a major role and certainly, as you indicated, the schools in the past have been very fortunate to have gardens and to have been able to grow their own produce, both from the ground and from the animals available, but it is my position that it is still premature to discuss that policy or the development of a policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Greenfield, did you want to say anything?

MR. GREENFIELD: I think that by putting it off for a couple of years -- are you also going to quit eating? I suggest you still have to eat and while we probably are only going to produce food for the people around the lake and down the river -- we are not talking about exporting at this time. I cannot really see us doing any exporting. I think that we are just feeding the people in the area and I cannot really see this being postponed for a number of years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Greenfield. Mr. McCallum.

#### Mixed Farming Or Specialized Farming

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would want to just ask one question through you, sir, to Mr. Greenfield and that would be a question as to the kind of farming that he envisions. Does he envision the small mixed farming that would go on, and when I say small mixed farming, I define that as being a one person operation, as it were; a one family operation whereby there would be some livestock -- he referred to beef, poultry, pork -- or does he envision that there may possibly be specialized farming? That is, in the growth -- the development of one unit with a particular crop in mind? I would just like to get a response to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Greenfield.

MR. GREENFIELD: Well, in my opinion, I think there would be a good number of mixed farmers in this area. I know there are some people who have indicated that they would like to go into beef cattle and there is a good possibility that some will want to go into hog production. So, it could vary. There is a possibility that some will want to go into larger-type vegetable gardens. I think that the vegetable gardens that we do have today are too small, really, to get a large amount of production from and if you are going to have vegetables, you have got to have a large-scale operation and equipment. It is difficult to get labourers to pick weeds and work the hoe handle type of thing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Greenfield. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I understand that what we are looking at here is a policy for commercial agriculture, and I think it is defined as agriculture for the traditional purpose, if you like, of making a living. We have a market garden policy, I think, already in place.

Mr. Chairman, I think that we should be looking at this particular policy; I think that we should be looking at the development of a policy to have it there. Lands could have been made available, and as it said, it would be lands around where infrastructure is already in place. It will be land that would be made available not for homesteading but land that will be given as a leasehold. It seems to me that not very long ago, just a matter of a year or more, that the former minister of Indian Affairs, under the Conservative government, was prepared to open this up if in fact this government had a policy. I think that there are safeguards within the proposal that the department has placed before us for consideration.

#### History Of Agricultural Land Use

However, I think that, even though there may be some very valid and real concerns in terms of it -- I know that in my particular area, as in Mr. Sibbeston's area, there has been a history of the use of land for agricultural purposes. It is not that long ago that the mission in Fort Smith, as other people envisaged, grew particular materials, foodstuffs, to fill the schools, the hostels, and the hospital. It is an active way of life, if you like, for a number of people in my particular area, my constituency, not on a large scale, because there are a number of people that have gardens and grow small plots to feed themselves in the way of just fresh vegetables, but I think that with the kind of principles that are put before us, and the safeguards, if you like, that are there within it, then I think that we would and could be able to at least look at the principles and try to develop a policy, and the implementation of it, then, of course, is a matter of another kind.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Greenfield. Okay, that is it. Are there any more general questions? Ms Cournoyea.

#### Policy Would Cause Alienation Of Land Use

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in reading over the paper here, which is not a policy paper, I am wondering if the submission of this paper took into consideration the fact that any alienation of land -- it does not matter whether it is in freehold or even just allowing a person to use a land -- creates an alienation, and if the priority for this government is supporting the settlement of claims -- which I am sure we are all aware will deal with a large selection of land for the Dene and other people -- it seems very premature that we are now making a policy, or embarking on a policy, that causes definite alienation.

Although I come from an area that probably would not produce too much gardening, there is a concern that I have in creating another lobby force that would probably support some kind of water diversion, eventually. It is a matter of where you place your priorities, and it seems to me that -- in section three, where you say that the selection of land for agriculture would be the responsibility of the Northwest Territories -- it seems to me that, in the last year, the federal government has certainly not seen fit to recognize the territorial government's concern about land outside the community sites, and I do not see how this assurance can justify the paper, because the Northwest Territories does not have any power over crown land. The application for land use goes to the Department of Indian Affairs, and then it is filtered down through the process, where people can put suggestions and concerns, and the federal government makes the final issuing of a land use permit for whatever it may be.

So I think it is a little naive to assume that section three holds any assurances for the people who are seeking to resolve the land claims issue and land selection for their people. It suggests that the land selection in itself would be around communities, and some of this land is prime land, for many things, and probably best left in its natural state in some instances. So I do not know what assurance that this Northwest Territories government can give to the native people that they had any impact on the federal government. I guess the way they view their responsibility and where the Government of the Northwest Territories is.

So it is fine to say, "Well, let us have a policy." Well, the policy will only allow another group of people to negotiate with the federal government to carry out the responsibility of divvying up more land, and as the Northwest Territories government are we going to create a policy that would encourage people to take part in a venture such as farming, and saying at the same time, perhaps that the Northwest Territories government is going to make sure that the land selection will not interfere with the land selection for the Dene claim in particular? I think that is not a very strong assurance to the people that we are very serious about our priority of doing everything we can to facilitate the negotiation of claims.

#### Prime Land Good For Many Purposes

It is my experience in terms of other people's use of land that many of the areas that are prime selection areas are always the same lands that are good for many purposes. I would see, in the Dene land selection, that they would want to choose some of the major agricultural areas for their land selection, and for the use of their people in the future, and I cannot assure the Dene that the Northwest Territories government has any clout at all to assure them that they are going to be responsible for the selection. You could say that you are responsible for the selection, and placing certain areas forward, but once you have a policy and say that you do support agricultural ventures in the Northwest Territories, then the federal government will just proceed on the policy and allocate land as they see fit.

Now you say it will not prejudice native land claims, and you say that the federal Office of Native Claims has advised this government of its intention to review every Government of the Northwest Territories application for transfer of federal land for agricultural use.

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

#### Settling Native Land Claims A Priority

MS COURNOYEA: So it may create an impression that it will not prejudice native land claims, but we all know that in the last while, even with the extremely good efforts on the part of the Executive Committee, we have not been able to encourage the federal government to pay very much attention to what the efforts of both the Executive Committee and the Dene have proposed, and PetroCan has been advised that they can go ahead with many applications for land use permits on this land area.

So I do not think that we have any assurances -- and I do not think that we should say that we have those assurances -- that we are going to protect the priority of native land claims being settled, and the land selection by that group, because once the land is given to these people for agricultural purposes, I am sure that they would feel that that land is theirs; it is a land they developed, it is a land they put their money into, and they can be a pretty powerful force. From there they will form an alliance with Alberta Farmers' Association, Nova Scotia Farmers' Association, and they will all work together with their very highly sophisticated leverage toward the federal government.

Now, these are the kinds of arguments normally I do not like to present, but it is supposition. Suppose this happens, suppose that happens, but, let me tell you, the federal government may not recognize the territorial government's involvement in developing this land. However, I know that any kind of foothold they can have to justify their purpose of doing what they want to do, they seize upon very quickly.

If I thought that perhaps 100 Dene people wanted to get into farming at this point in time, in these areas that are sort of designated, I suppose I would look more freely, that maybe it is a good idea and maybe come up with a more detailed proposal on who will get what, but I think it would be more fair to say that the people that should be the ones who determine land selection would be the Dene, not necessarily the Northwest Territories government, because we have no power to do that. It is federal crown land, and we have not got anything that has been presented in the past that would show that we have a lot of power or influence in that area at all.

There is not a thing, I think, more beautiful than a well run farm, producing food, but to also say that, "Well, we are going to produce food for northerners," I would say that if I were a farmer and had a good farm, and I could get a better price in Alberta, I would not think that I would want the territorial government to tell me where to sell my produce. I do not think that we can do that, so to say that, "Well, we are going to produce food for northerners," that may be true in part. It all depends on the market and who pays the best price.

#### Agriculture Would Interfere With Timber Resource

An agricultural policy in the Mackenzie Liard area, if the farms are big enough, would probably interfere a lot with the timber resources that are there. Once the timber resources are removed, then the animals leave. So, I do not like to discourage people who want to move ahead. However, in particular for the area of business funding, we really do not have the money even to support the businesses that we would like to support to move ahead in our area, so then we again, in another instance, create another lobby force, and another group of people who are going to be vying for the little money that the Northwest Territories has. It may be a better approach to ask the federal government to let us know what kind of resources they are going to provide for an agricultural policy, and then develop the agricultural policy along the lines of what they are going to produce to encourage that kind of business venture. So I just want to caution the people who are really pushing for an agricultural policy and opening up the land, that perhaps in the first instance they should join together with the Dene Nation and insist that the claims be settled, and then move ahead with the agricultural policy immediately following that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you very much, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Greenfield.

#### Land Will Be Leased Not Sold

MR. GREENFIELD: Yes, I would just like to say that the land will only be leased as far as I understand. The people really do not have a title to it or anything along those lines at this stage, and I think as far as the animals leaving, yes, there is a possibility there.

One of the recommendations that the Farmers' Association does have is that a tree line be left around every quarter section or every parcel of land, and in this way, it will help to keep some animals there. It will also bring in a number of animals as well. I know that there is the odd deer moving into this area, and I think that this is one thing that will probably happen if this agricultural area is opened up; there will be deer moving in and there is no doubt about it, there will be probably more moose in the area than there is at the present time.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I would just like to bring up a suggestion here that might solve some of the concerns of the people who are interested, as I am, in doing whatever we can to promote the just settlement of claims, and protect those interests which aboriginal people hold over the land in this area. I am wondering whether those persons who spoke in favour of the policy being implemented after land claims are settled might care to comment on what might be a compromise; namely that we could build into the policy that the Dene Nation should have a veto on land selection. I would just like to throw that idea forward and hope that other Members who are concerned might comment on that. Thank you.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Any more general comments, more questions? Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have problems in wildlife. Maybe someone would like to try this out -- increasing farming. I cannot say too much before I hear from my constituents. I cannot support it, because I do not think we can grow anything in Keewatin. Maybe we could try it in the summertime, but I think that this would be impossible. If they were able to grow things, I do not think we would be able to buy whatever is grown. Maybe if they had an industry to keep the meat or other things, people in the Northwest Territories may be more willing to try this, but I do not know how this would work out in a cold place.

I cannot say very much toward this, because I do not know what my people think about this, except I think that maybe we would have to look at this problem. I think it would be very hard to have any livestock or agriculture grow up there. For us, I think this would be very hard an operation, so I do not really know how to put this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Noah. General comments. Questions. Does this committee wish to put recommendations to the commission? Is it agreed? Or do you want me to throw it out? Okay. Recommendation number one. Mr. Butters, how do you want to deal with those recommendations? There are seven of them.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that you read the recommendation and get comments on it and whatever support it might realize.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): You mean you want me to read the recommendation? Do you have a copy of it?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. I will read it if you wish, and go through it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Yes, we can do that, but I think everybody has a copy of those recommendations. Okay, Mr. Butters, you can read the first recommendation, please.

Motion To Accept Recommendation One, Principles For The Development Of An Agricultural Policy

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first recommendation is that the Government of the Northwest Territories supports the development of commercial agriculture in the North for the economic and social benefit of northern residents.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Butters, do you make that motion?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, I will so move.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will speak to it since I moved the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Go ahead.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I think, Mr. Chairman, that the discussion we have heard around the table today has suggested that all Members agree that the Territories are in need of an agricultural policy for the North. The only concerns that I have heard raised by the Members deal with the timing of the implementation of such a policy. So I would suggest that all Members of the committee can support this recommendation.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Greenfield what it is that now prevents people from farming commercially in the Territories. I understand there is some considerable farming going on now, and that there are herds of cattle in various places. Is there actually an obstacle to people clearing and farming land now?

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

MR. GREENFIELD: Yes, there are very few that do have leases. There are some that own their own property as I do myself. I own 18 acres, but you cannot start farming or take up land without having a lease on it, and without land, of course, you cannot have any agriculture, and this is the problem that we have had since the land freeze in 1975.

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

Amendment To Motion To Accept Recommendation One, Principles For The Development Of An Agricultural Policy

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to the motion. My amendment would be after the word "North", comma, adding the words "upon a fair resolution of Dene land claims", comma, "for the economic and social benefit of northern residents".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the amendment. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) I want to amend this because if it is not amended, it is going to take a long time for the land claims to be settled, and I think there will be difficulty with each other before there is anything done about this. If we approve this, it is going to be brought up to the government, and the position will be put to the government -- the Government of the Northwest Territories has been reported to -- I say with them, that they do not have any funds. I would prefer to wait until after the land claims are settled, but I would like to amend it right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel a little bit embarrassed about speaking in this debate because I initially said I was not interested in it and could not see why we should participate. However, having heard people like Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Sibbeston, and Ms Cournoyea express their reservations about this on principle, I am inclined to agree that even though we should, and we do support the development of commercial agriculture in the North, that perhaps this is an occasion where the Government of the Northwest Territories and this Assembly can demonstrate its commitment to the speedy resolution of claims.

Amendment Will Speed Up Process Of Land Claims Settlement

I sincerely hope that if this amendment is approved that the Dene claim will be speedily settled and in fact that our desire to see an agricultural policy implemented will encourage all residents, claimants and non-claimants, to encourage the rapid settlement of the claim.

I find it somewhat ironic, if not sad, that we are here today concerned about a very small number of people and a relatively small number of acres of land, as a government about to consider a policy of territorial agriculture when the federal government, which has control over the vast land and off-shore area of the Northwest Territories, has very blithely moved to grant vast mineral and oil and gas exploration leases without even a sign of recognition of the outstanding aboriginal interest. We are assured that there may be a federal amendment to Bill C-48, which will state something about the new National Energy Program not

prejudicing land claims but it is hard to believe that the expenditure of vast amounts of money on oil exploration and even production could be overturned by an eventual successful claim by aboriginal people.

Here we are talking about a relatively small area in this community where there is obviously great concern about this, yet the federal government has stampeded rather blithely over much greater concern over a much larger area. However, I do see this as an opportunity for our Assembly and our government to make a commitment and in speaking in support of the amendment, I just want to say very sincerely that I hope that I recognize that territorial farmers have been waiting a long time, and I sincerely hope that -- in fact this amendment will encourage the speedy resolution of this problem, because I do agree with the motion and I think the amendment does not say there should not be commercial agriculture, but proposes a question of timing. I sincerely hope that if the amendment carries, it will speed this process being resolved.

So, I feel, although it was difficult for me to decide how to vote, I feel that because I support and recognize aboriginal claims and because the representatives of the Dene for, I am sure, very good and sincere reasons, feel that this policy would be yet another blow struck at their aspirations, I feel that the former principle must take precedence over the long-term need for developing a viable agricultural industry in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the amendment. Mr. Nerysoo.

Community Leaders And Chiefs Should Be Heard

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I sort of find it unfortunate that we are, I guess, continuing to talk on the policy, as was indicated, that affects a vast majority of people other than Hay River and we have not had the opportunity to hear what certain members of the Dene Nation, in the sense of the chief from Hay River or other leaders from the communities that will be affected speak at this Assembly. We have heard, I think, from one side of the coin sort of thing and we have not allowed anybody else to address it and said we will proceed with the overall policy, because as you obviously will notice, we will continue on to two, three, four, five, six, and it was indicated that those are areas that we are certainly going to find ourselves in a situation where we are going to almost have to back away from agreeing to those areas. It is unfortunate that we have not had the opportunity to hear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the amendment. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I would just like to speak in support of the amendment, an amendment I feel is necessary. It may cause the supporters of agricultural farming to lend a hand to the Dene. I do not agree with Mr. Nerysoo that we really had to listen to the chief of Hay River, because I believe I know what the position of the Dene is. It is their position that no further alienation of land until land claims are settled, and I think we are all fully aware of that position and I for one understand that position. I was hoping that while we were in a forum such as we are and have people so close to the native element that a lot of these people would not have to keep repeating themselves.

The amendment is necessary and I believe one that I can feel comfortable with, because then we recognize the one element that has forced this House from passing an agricultural policy in the past, the respect for outstanding settlement of Dene claim. We can prolong and talk about the issue, but the fact is that any alienation of land makes it very difficult to claim for another purpose. Any lease given to a person is very hard to take back, and it does not matter whether it is a lease or whether it is a total outright ownership to that property.

Now, the Dene claim would probably lay claim to much of the land that the agricultural people will want, the very same land. I understand that and I feel that we have to support this amendment, all of us, if we really believe in supporting the position of the Dene and their claim that no further alienation take place until such time as land claims are settled, and that is the reason that I support the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the amendment.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose in a technical sense the amendment is acceptable, but there is no doubt that if it passes that there is probably little point in discussing the other principles that are enunciated in the paper, because in effect it would place an obstacle in the way of the present development of an agricultural policy and that is what the Northwest Territories Farmers' Association was hoping for. It seems to go without saying -- we heard a lot of platitudes from people about how beautiful it is to farm -- a bit like the weather, I guess, everybody talks about it, but nobody wants to do anything about it. I think it is important to start doing something about it. I am surprised that I have not heard more from Members in the south Slave area. To my knowledge, the south Slave area council passed a resolution calling on us to deal with this matter and to try to develop an agriculture policy. There are regional councils elsewhere in the Northwest Territories and we certainly are made to pay attention to the concerns that are expressed by those councils, and justifiably so. This is another area council that would like to see some action in this particular jurisdiction and I think it is time that there is some action.

#### Land Claims Would Not Be Jeopardized

I feel that we could implement the essentials that are in this paper without jeopardizing land claims. In this matter, I recognize the legitimacy of putting pressure on the federal government to get ahead with the settlement of land claims. They have been at fault. There is no doubt about that in my mind, having witnessed the delay in appointing a negotiator, but there is some obligation, I think, on the Assembly to put a little pressure on the other side too. Why can there not be some interim selection of land by the Dene so that matters like this can be proceeded with, trying to work around the legitimate claims that native people have? I would like to see that kind of pressure as well, so that things like this will not be continually held in abeyance.

I think some concerns were raised about the cost of farming. It will be costly and that simply means that there will not be many people ready to embark on it. Concern was raised that we really do not have much power to manipulate the federal government. That is another indication that by beginning on this policy there is not going to be a wholesale change in what is happening. It is going to be a slow and difficult process, but it is time to start on it. I think that is what the Northwest Territories Farmers' Association is saying. I think that is what the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is saying.

The way the principles for a policy proposal are defined, they really are not a threat in reality. The types of farming can be limited. The areas where farming could be done would be limited. A land selection committee that absolutely represented native people and was able to determine the selection of lands could be a part of the whole process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. MacQuarrie. Too fast.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A committee that became involved in the selection of lands which included native representation is another safeguard to ensure that rights are not jeopardized. It is acknowledged by Members around the House that there are not many people that are going to get involved in farming. The land is close to communities. It is not going to be a great amount of land and so I do not think that in reality there is a significant threat and I believe that we ought to not pass the amendment, but pass the first principle

and carry on with the discussion of the other principles. However, as I say, if the amendment passes, then I will have to accept that, but I would say that really there would not be much point in proceeding with the other principles.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard, to the amendment.

MR. SIBBESTON: I was hoping to not have to say too much and let everybody else do the work for me, but I feel that I must jump in a little bit too. I agree with Mr. MacQuarrie, that if this amendment does pass, that there would be no purpose in going through the rest of the recommendations, because it will not be applicable. Many of the things will be redundant, in the sense they will not be meaningful any more.

#### Deal With Agriculture After Land Claims

I think if we do pass the amendment, I think it will be good news to the Dene Nation. I feel quite disheartened about the fact that land claims are just supposed to be beginning and all around them lands are being alienated from them. There is, I really think, bad faith on the part of the federal government to do this. So, I think if we take the position that, you know, inasmuch as we support the whole idea of agriculture happening in the North, I think if we take the position that we would just deal with it or approve it after land claims, I think it would provide some consolation and support of the Dene Nation, because we will be one level of government who support them, or are truthful, or are showing good will toward them.

I feel that it is impractical to think that persons will go ahead at this stage if their farms are subject to aboriginal rights claims or subject to being told to move off that area eventually, when those lands are selected. It is true it is likely that the Dene people will choose the good lands and so there would be some difficulty then, perhaps, if farmers, some farmers, are located in those areas. So, I support the amendment and once it is passed I do not think there is any purpose in continuing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the amendment. Mr. McCallum.

#### People Want To Start Farming Now

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am in a quandary in terms of the amendment, because in my constituency there are Dene people now wanting to get into farming, ranching, and that means, obviously, if the amendment is passed, then that person and/or persons will not be able to get to move into this way of life that they want to pursue until the land claims.

I would go along with Mr. Sibbeston in terms that he foresees a quick, and as the amendment says, a fair resolution of Dene land claims, but this person that I know wants to get started very quickly on ranching and on farming in the area. As I say, that person is Dene and when I go back and he asks me well, how did you make out with the agriculture policy and I will have to tell him he will have to wait until the land claims are finished before you can start in on it. I know that he has already talked to people within this government, within the Alberta government, to begin to get some stock by which he could build up his herd and is in the process of trying to develop a total proposal that he has in mind for a particular area, and that area is not in the park. It is in an area that has had ranching before.

There are other people in the area who have livestock now, cattle. I know there is a herd of 26 shorthorns that are in around Fort Smith. These people are looking -- in this latter case, the lands that he is able to use are lands that he was able to get to lease from the province of Alberta. So, it is conceivable that livestock ranching, be it cattle, buffalo or the crossbreed, cattalo or whatever they are called -- that they can survive in that area, but it is a concern of mine in terms of the amendment. I think that we can go along

with the motherhood statement that we support the development of commercial agriculture for the benefit of northerners. I think that in this case, I have a difficulty in terms of it because these particular people are concerned that we get on with the business of putting together an agriculture policy and making certain statements, where it can be developed. The people in my constituency support the business of agriculture in the North for the benefit of the people. I raise that point because it does give me a concern now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. To the amendment. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Federal Government Requires Pressure Re Land Claims

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of clarification, I would like to say, regarding the comments that were made by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. I agree that pressure ought to be applied to have progress being made regarding aboriginal claims, but at this point in time I would find it very difficult to see what merit would be in pressuring the Dene Nation to go into land selection immediately. I think that the honourable Member is aware that the Dene Nation has been prepared and ready to negotiate for quite some time. The holdup, of course, is that the federal government has failed to appoint a federal negotiator, until very recently. The Dene Nation has encountered a number of obstacles regarding resource related development, which creates problems regarding negotiations. If pressure ought to be applied, I do believe that it is the federal government that requires pressure...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: ...because they take their sweet time to negotiate aboriginal claims, but they have all kinds of time to consider resource-related development in the Northwest Territories. That is their priority. The priority is not in the whole area of aboriginal claims, the way I see it.

Regarding my associate's dilemma regarding a Dene person in Fort Smith, I think that if the question was put very squarely to a Dene person in terms of "Where does your priority lie? Would you like to see aboriginal claims -- the Dene claims -- settled before the agricultural policy is implemented or even considered?" The obvious answer, of course, is that the Dene claim would override any other consideration, because it has been outstanding for a long time.

So I think the amendment is a good one, because I think that you cannot really talk about alienation of land until you have the whole question of aboriginal claims settled, and land is very important, so I think that the amendment certainly is in order. I would like to see the honourable Members of this House have a little bit of consideration regarding the whole question of aboriginal claims, because it is really the prime issue that we have to address. I have heard wonderful speeches from non-Denes and non-Inuit Members in this House regarding all kinds of support that they have regarding aboriginal claims. Well, if that is how you feel, then let us see the kind of support that we can expect, as far as aboriginal people are concerned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

Federal Government Under Pressure To Develop Agricultural Policy

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the amendment. My concerns with the amendment are that I am afraid that the federal government is getting pressure to develop an agricultural policy in the North. I know at the standing committee of Indian and Northern Affairs -- there was some conversation on it one time -- and that the Yukon had their policy, and they were waiting for the Northwest Territories policy before they implemented their policy, so they are being pressured to implement an agricultural policy up here. I would hate to see them go ahead and make a policy because if we do not get around to making one, and if our policy is not to make one until land claims are settled,

then we may be leaving the door open to the federal government to just go ahead and make some policy and ignore this Legislature and the Dene Nation in the same manner they are. So for that reason, though I am sympathetic with the amendment, I am also afraid it could cause us problems as well, because I do not like the idea that people are going to go around the House and the Dene Nation to the federal government again and, you know, an agricultural policy could turn into a Norman Wells type thing, just about a fait accompli on us.

So I am in a situation where I have sympathy for the amendment, but I also have a worry that, by us not having a policy, we are going to get an end run done around us again, so I am going to abstain on voting on this, but I just want to speak to it. Let the record show that I am in favour of an agricultural policy going ahead for more than just the pressure from the few farmers that do exist in the Territories now, because I am familiar with northern Alberta, where around Paddle Prairie the native people, have a system of farming that leaves an open area as well as farmland, they are able to hunt and trap and carry on a traditional way of life for a good part of the year, and for the summer months are able to farm, and some of them have very excellent and now very large farming facilities down there.

I hate to make a speech about how I am going to abstain, but I have been approached by several people in this area on farming, and a few of them have been Dene people, and I just have to let the record show why I am abstaining, I guess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the amendment. Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, maybe some free advice for Mr. McCallum as regards to his constituent. I would say that if the person he mentions is a Dene person in good standing, that he should go ahead with his plan anyway, his Dene lands anyway. If he has aboriginal rights, that is exactly what it means. He has rights to lands and so forth. I am aware of one case in the Liard Valley where a native person has just gone out and done exactly this, without any permission from the federal government, and the government has dared not do anything.

I would say, to that, that if a person is interested in getting a lease to do farm work, particularly if he is a native person with aboriginal rights, he has a good chance, if he wants to apply to the federal government, to be given a lease now, because the government does grant leases to people, they grant leases to corporate bodies, they grant leases to mining companies, why not a lease to a Dene person? I think that it would be quicker that way, because what we are suggesting here is that large tracts of Dene land be transferred over to this territorial government for disposal of to farmers, so it is a lengthy process, and it is going to be years and years anyway. So that should solve the problem, and so everybody is happy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the amendment. Mr. Braden.

#### Aboriginal Rights May Take A Decade

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have heard to the original motion, and to the amendment, a lot of statements which reflect deep and underlying and legitimate concern of Members for the aboriginal rights factor, as it is applied to agriculture in the Northwest Territories.

I think, if we can step back for a minute, and recognize that what the government is seeking here is not carte blanche authority to go out and identify blocks of land and start leasing them to farmers, or potential farmers, and instituting various programs to assist in the development of, and implementation of, the industry here. I think what the government is seeking, Mr. Chairman, is agreement that there are certain principles upon which a policy for implementation could be developed, and the kind of debate, the kind of issues raised here this afternoon, I think would make the government very sensitive to what -- doing anything in the implementation phase, but I do not know why the government should just lock up all the files on agriculture in the Northwest Territories until the issue of aboriginal rights is settled. I mean, it could take a decade. Look at what happened in James Bay, Mr. Chairman. It took a little longer than two or three years.

Now, I think what is being proposed here are some principles which we can take back and do further work on, on the issue of agriculture and developing agriculture in the Northwest Territories, and, as I say, rest assured, with the kind of commentary and argument that has been placed on the table here today, implementation of that policy would be one that the government and the Legislature would take very, very seriously, but I think what we are doing here this afternoon is asking for permission to develop a policy, and develop some plans, not to go out and implement it.

I think that, as various Members have observed, the amendment would, in effect, put it in a filing cabinet for a long time but I think we should give some consideration to perhaps developing the concept of agriculture in the Northwest Territories a little further, and what we have done this afternoon is place before you some principles which we think could be used to develop that policy, not to implement it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the amendment. Are you ready for the question? Mr. Stewart.

#### Bad Timing Of Policy Paper

HON. DON STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure a lot of people have wondered why I have not really got deeply involved in this debate. With silence, sometimes you are more involved than when you are talking too much.

The main problem that we have with this particular paper -- and I support the paper, I support the stand of the Northwest Territories Farmers' Association -- but unfortunately, the timing of this paper coming before this Assembly could not have been picked at a worse time than this particular session. The National Energy Board's position, the Panarctic land grab, and all of the various other things that have transpired, make the subject very delicate, especially when we know the feeling of the majority of Members relative to land claims, and their support for them.

This particular matter, if you take it as a paper to develop a full agricultural policy, may in fact be a danger along the same lines as the others. However, I think the point is that if you proceed with the amendment, then you have locked in possibly a half a dozen people that are struggling on very small pieces of land to try and make a living.

I would prefer to see, possibly, the paper dropped, and a recommendation that people that have been in agriculture prior to 1978 or 1979 that require a few more acres to make their proposition viable -- that we have a look at it from that viewpoint, and let these people at least have a chance to make a living. Not to open the field wide open. I know that there is absolutely no hope of getting that type of a policy put through the Assembly at this time.



However, rather than close the door completely, if we could come to an agreement and say, "Fine, let us set this paper aside, and let us see how many people are involved," and, personally, I am sure there cannot be more than half a dozen -- I do not think there is a half a dozen -- and give them a few more acres -- you are not talking very many acres, probably you are not talking more than 200 acres, right in their immediate vicinity next to their present holdings so that they at least have a chance to become viable and make a living.

If you do this, you have doomed the established places now, because they are not large enough, they cannot exist, and we are going to put another four or five families out of business. I realize the seriousness of it. I realize the position of the native people on this Assembly, and I appreciate your position -- I do not agree with it, but I appreciate it -- but surely we can look after a few people that have, for 10 or 15 years, struggled to make a living, and with the added costs of development and the added costs of living, the areas that they have now just are not large enough to live off, and at least let us look after those few.

I suggest to you, if you put that amendment in, nobody can do anything. I would prefer to drop the paper, and deal with the few people that are involved, and see what we can do to assist them, and if the land requirements are greater than you think, we can bring the paper back and amend it as suggested, and stop the whole operation. However, before you stop it, I think we should really have a look at the few people -- and they are very few -- that are being affected. On that basis, I would like to move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Butters. I am sorry. The Don Stewart motion is not debatable. All those in favour to report progress, please raise your hands. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. Opposed? One, two, three, four, five. The motion is carried.

---Carried

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF SESSIONAL PAPER 1-81(2), PRINCIPLES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY

MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Mr. Greenfield for his presence here this afternoon. Mr. Clerk, announcements?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. For those MLA's and all staff associated with the operation of the Assembly remaining in Hay River this weekend, there is an afternoon trip to Alexandra Falls and a barbecue on Sunday, May 17. Transportation will be departing from the Ptarmigan Inn and from the Mackenzie Place at 12:00 noon on Sunday. For those persons travelling to Yellowknife this evening, a bus will be at the Ptarmigan Inn at 6:45 p.m. to take them to the airport, and it will then go on to the Mackenzie Place. Committee meetings Tuesday, May 19, 9:30 a.m., a caucus meeting in the caucus room; 11:30 a.m., a meeting of the constitutional development committee in room 101 at the Ptarmigan Inn.

ITEM NO. 13: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, 1981.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to the Commissioner's Address
3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents

7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Notices of Motion
9. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
10. Motions
11. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
12. Second Reading of Bills
13. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Sessional Paper 1-81(2), Principles for the Development of an Agricultural Policy for the Northwest Territories; Cost of Living in the Northwest Territories; Presentation by Mr. T. Anderson re Uranium Mining and Exploration
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House then stands adjourned until May 19, 1981, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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