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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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HAY RIVER, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Mr. Curley, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Kilabuk, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. MacQuarrie, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, 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 23rd. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address.

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

Mr. Appaqaq.

Mr. Appaqaq's Reply

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My reply is quite brief. First of all, I would like to speak about the high cost of food, especially the gasoline and the food. The food and gasoline go by air freight. The cost gets higher every time they go through air freight, and whenever they raise the food cost, then they usually raise the salaries of the government employees. There is a problem for those people who are not working, trying to live on carvings and hunting. They have never been considered whenever the food cost is raised. Everything is changing nowadays, but it is pretty hard to try and live by hunting. Nowadays we have to get good weather and sometimes when they are out all day hunting, they do not even get anything. I would like this to be considered, especially for those people who are not employed, that they are working so hard trying to live by hunting. They are still raising the rent for the houses and I am aware now that they will start charging people renting houses for the electricity. The people who are unemployed have never been considered when it comes to the high cost of living.

I would also like to say this has been also a concern of my people, of my constituents. I have heard from people that they do not want Bill C-48 to come through before Nunavut, or before the land claims are settled, but I do not know if it will be postponed until the settlement of land claims. The people would like to see Nunavut go through before Bill C-48, and people would like to be consulted about Bill C-48. That is all I had to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Replies to the Commissioner's Address. Ms Cournoyea.

Ms Cournoyea's Reply

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Commissioner, fellow Members and honoured guests. The Commissioner in his opening Address has given as an overview of the activities of the Executive Committee and a glimpse of some of the future issues impending upon the Territories. In general, I feel the Commissioner's speech indicates the Executive Committee and Ministers are spending a great deal of time pursuing big long-term issues, and while these issues may be important, I feel we must approach them with well thought-out objectives.

We do not have the resources to deal with every issue, I believe. We must decide where we want to go and how we want to get there. At this time I feel that we are flitting around willy-nilly from one glamorous issue to another, not sure of our realistic objectives and not able to sustain the effort to bring any issue to successful conclusion.

If we continue in this fashion, we will develop a style of government that does nothing but run from one crisis to another crisis and deal superficially with everything. In this situation, I am also concerned that Ministers are not dealing with the day to day responsibilities at home. I feel it is critical if this Assembly is to be effective and develop politically that the Ministers and Executive Committee put priority on increasing their effectiveness within their administrations. The more responsive and efficient our administration becomes, the more time this Assembly, the Ministers and the Executive Committee will have to devote to the bigger issues. To ignore our domestic affairs, while pursuing the more glamorous events will only result in ineffective government and chaos.

In the last session I raised many questions about our performance in economic development, wildlife and municipal matters. I still have not received answers to many of them, and with a few exceptions, I have seen little progress in addressing my concerns. I do not want to keep continually raising the same problems. When MLA's raise concerns, I would expect the bureaucracy to investigate them and provide options for solutions.

More often than not what we get out of our administration are all the reasons why no solutions can be found. I would hope the Ministers would be able to develop a more co-operative and constructive attitude within their administrations and between the regional administrations and the MLA's. I know this takes time, but I also know that it is possible. I am pleased that, for example, the Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee has been successful in developing such an attitude within certain quarters in his administration.

The Commissioner identified again the three priorities for the Territories; land claims, economic development, and political development. Noticeably absent were any references to the Western Arctic in respect to those issues. This is indeed an important oversight, as the Western Arctic is a region where the greatest pressures are occurring and where the immediate resolution of this issue is most critical. It is the area where the federal and territorial governments have failed to carry out their responsibilities. In the area of land claims, the federal government has failed dismally to honour its commitments and to fulfil its native claims policy.

Failure To Honour Commitments

The COPE agreement in principle, is the most advanced of any claim in the Northwest Territories. The final agreement could be achieved in a few months if the federal government had the will. Failure of the federal government to honour its commitments and negotiate in good faith indicates the federal priorities. The federal government, through its super depletion allowance and royalty holidays, through its National Energy Policy and grants, has been promoting off-shore exploration at an ever-increasing pace, yet it fails to live up to its meagre responsibility with respect to the local people, the Inuvialuit, and their agreement with Canada.

The federal government pours millions of dollars into Dome, yet no money is available for Tuktoyaktuk to cope with the impact of Dome on that community. This community, Tuktoyaktuk, cannot even keep up the roads improvements. The territorial government has promoted Dome's interest in the Beaufort Sea for its own political reasons yet provides no additional moneys to Tuktoyaktuk to keep up its municipal responsibilities.

I do not see any remedy for the Western Arctic communities in the B level funding submission before this Assembly. The Territories want a development supposedly to provide economic benefits to the local people, yet in the Western Arctic, the Department of Economic Development has the poorest record of performance.

It is easy for short-sighted politicians to rise to the bait of huge development, but once they get hooked who ends up in the frying pan? There are a lot of advocates for big development, but who wants to pay the price? The costs are left to be borne by the communities and the people of the Western Arctic. It is my view that the Western Arctic is well into an accelerating crisis. Up to now, we have been the followers of industry and federal government with respect to development. Dome takes the initiative and this government follows along trying to pick up the scraps. The federal government takes the initiative, for example, with Bill C-48 and its task force on Beaufort Sea development, and we follow along, fighting a rear guard battle.

Time To Take Initiative

I think it is the time the people of these Territories took the initiative to say how we think development should take place and this government should work to ensuring such plans are realized. In the Northwest Territories is a vast area with many distinct regions within it. Each region is rather unique in terms of its land claims, economic and political development. This Assembly has been dealing with some far-reaching territorial-wide issues, and I suggest to this Legislative Assembly that the Western Arctic cannot wait for some of these issues to be resolved on a territorial basis. The issue of land claims, economic and political development must be resolved soon in the Western Arctic. I feel it is the challenge of the Legislative Assembly to provide policy and direction for the orderly development of the Beaufort Sea.

In the last session, I proposed a federal-territorial secretariat to help develop such initiatives. As an example of the work I anticipated for this secretariat, I will be tabling for consideration in the next session a comprehensive plan for the Beaufort Sea development, which will address the requirements for the three fundamental priorities indicated by the Commissioner.

It has been with great distress over this last year, despite the many motions that I have put to the floor and the many requests that I have asked in terms of support for the Western Arctic, but I do not really understand what the problem is within the administration and the different levels of territorial government. This last year, because of the lack of action and the slow moving of the government, we almost lost our ability to do the musk-ox harvest on Banks Island, for no apparent reason except we had the royal runaround from one administrative department to the other on why the regulations had not been signed. We almost lost the ability to hunt polar bear in the northern Yukon, and at the very last minute we were able to grab onto one of the Executive Committee Members to sign the regulation change.

Lack Of Concern For Renewable Resource Development

In matters of concern to hunters and trappers, renewable resource development, there is a great deal of lack of priority for these concerns. It is true we are facing big development in our area. However, even with that we do not expect this government to put aside the attention to handicraft industry, to our hunters and trappers, because in the past and in the future when all the resources are taken out, these are the things that the people will live on, the renewable resources.

In terms of game export permits and concerns by hunters and trappers, most of these areas of concern are not large nor big issues that cannot be dealt with in a very smooth fashion. However, what kind of thought and resources have been put to the recent major concern of hunters and trappers in the area of taxation to hunters and trappers? Mr. Nerysoo has indicated that he has written one letter. I do not believe that this kind of responsibility or lack of responsibility is acceptable to our communities.

In the Western Arctic we welcome many workers from many parts of the Northwest Territories who also require attention, but we do not expect that this government would ask our local communities to step aside for these new infusions of employment seekers. Where is the update for housing? Where is the update for social concerns brought in by these people? All these concerns are taxing our communities in the Western Arctic and in many instances we are glad to know and happy to open our arms to new people coming in and using the area which we find is of major importance to us and will be so in the future.

I believe that some attention should be paid to these concerns. It is not good enough for us to see that we are looking into the future to what might happen in other places, when the Western Arctic in itself is left to the onslaught of anyone who wishes to come in. The choice will be ours whether we will be the initiators and planners of our future or continue to be scavengers, living off the leftovers of big development and big government. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley's Reply

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a few brief comments. Since I came to Hay River...(No translation)

(Translation) We are all elected here to do some assignments and we are doing some good assignments and we have some responsibility to our constituencies, but some of the time it is hard to get accomplished most of the things that we are requested to do. It is very tiring being a Member of the Legislative Assembly, but we have to do our best working with the government. (Translation ends)

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I just want to go on and just very quickly assess the role of the Legislative Assembly and the role of the MLA's. I am beginning to feel that I think Members of the Legislative Assembly, and I, as an ordinary MLA have been made to believe that we are the real representatives of our people. No doubt we are, but our role as MLA's in this Assembly, I think is not actually being taken seriously by the government as a whole. I am beginning to feel that the Executive Committee normally is -- has so often taken advantage of the MLA's, for the time and effort and energy that we have put into any of the direction that we have tried to give to the Executive Committee and yet the Executive Committee, once it gets it into its hands, does nothing about it.

I can go on. We can go on through all the recommendations of the unity committee on development, and in political development, what has happened? What serious initiatives has the Executive Committee taken to try and continue to respond to the public and respond to the Legislative Assembly's requests? So, I really wonder, rather than increasing the responsibility of the government and giving more powers to the government, maybe we ought to be reviewing the Executive Committee's responsibility and authority and maybe take some of them out of there.

Disparity Between Assembly And Executive Committee

I am beginning to feel there is too big a disparity between the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Committee. I can give you in one example, grants and bursaries, that this Assembly has been given instruction to deal with and we debated it. We did what we were supposed to do. A lot of time and energy was put together. We brought them before the House and then this Assembly made some amendments to a number of recommendations. What happened since? The special committee has been totally ignored. The Executive Committee says, look, we are not going to do anything. We are reviewing all those recommendations. So, to me this is just a waste of time for the special committee to have put energy and time into it -- a waste of public funds. I am beginning to wonder, again, whether or not we should be reviewing the roles of Assembly's standing committees and special committees.

I think we should be making some restrictions. I think the Executive Committee should be saying to us, look, special committee on education, you have no business in this field, get out of it, because I have no reason to believe that the Executive Committee is going to ever take this special committee on education seriously. Without consulting the co-chairmen and Members of the special committee on education, the Executive Committee approved funds in the amount of \$120,000 to grant to the Dene group. So, I am beginning to feel that I am wasting my time and energy in being a Member of the special committee on education, because I have no assurance or any reason to believe that all the energy and the exercise that I am putting into it to visit the communities are ever going to be taken seriously, from what the Executive Committee has done or the way it has treated us so far.

Decisions Of Assembly Disregarded

So, I think it will be important to point out whether or not we are not just wasting public money, whether or not we just have been allowed to go ahead and do these things so that we can eventually feel that we are doing something when, in fact, the government is not going to do anything about it. So, question number one, is the Assembly actually functioning as it is supposed to or is this just a hoax to the public, appearing to be that we are doing something when, in fact, the decisions that this Assembly makes will be continually disregarded by the Executive Committee and the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories?

I can give you another example. This Assembly strongly urged the Executive Committee not to levy property taxes in the Eastern Arctic until land claims have been settled. The Assembly took the motion in June, 1980, seriously, debated it for a length of time and very strongly, by majority of the Members of the House, instructed the Executive Committee to hold off until the land claims have been settled. Then, the people in that part of the area objected strongly, but what did the Executive Committee do -- totally disregard the energy and the time that this Assembly had spent on it and went about it and said, look, if the people in Hay River can pay property taxes, the people in the Eastern Arctic should pay also. But it is different, Mr. Speaker. People in Hay River can have some control of how their property taxes should be spent. They have a lot to say about how they should be spent, but we do not have any say in Rankin Inlet about -- if the property taxes are levied, they do not have any ways of controlling that, because it is not a municipal tax as you people experience out here. It is a Northwest Territories government tax. An ordinary member who is paying the tax or the businessmen or home-owner will not have any responsibility or any way to try and change or influence the local government as to how the money should be spent.

Contribution Too Small

The Commissioner indicated in Rankin Inlet, the people are going to have to pay for services some way, but I must say that I am not impressed to say that people in the Eastern Arctic will pay for the governments services through the property

taxation. It is really too small a property, you know, tax based. I think it is just a joke to try and tell me that I can have a decent contribution. If I believe that I can have a decent contribution to the source of revenue, contributing to the revenue of the local community and if they do have a say in it and control of how the money really should be spent, I will not mind paying a property tax. I pay taxes and I do not mind paying them to the Canadian government.

So what I am saying is, was it really good timing? After all, this Assembly has objected to it. Was it really a proper time, during the time that we are supposed to be developing fair relations with the native organizations? Was it proper timing to go against the wishes of the people? I say that we have not. I say that the Executive Committee just went ahead at the advice of the people in the department and said, well, we have to treat people in the Northwest Territories and the communities equal. Okay, if we are going to treat the communities equal, let us give them equal responsibilities. Let us see that the community and hamlet at Rankin Inlet has some powers to actually do what it wants. Let us say that they have the power to adjust the mill rate in the community so that they, in fact, are controlling the taxation and what amount should be levied and what amount should be spent in terms of community improvement.

Too Many Levels Of Government

I contend that the Executive Committee's position that they have to pay their own way I think is really trying to excuse themselves from the very serious problem of the disparities as far as the responsibilities and levels of powers in all types of hamlets or settlement councils or whatnot have. I do not believe there ought to be so many different levels of government in this little territorial system. I think that has to be looked at much more clearly.

I also see some very serious things that should be looked at. Our municipal workers, municipalities in the Territories have a very strong burden to try to administer their programs. I think they are doing very well. I think the development of hamlets and settlement councils have been very good in the Eastern Arctic, but I think they have been neglected a little as far as their resources are concerned. They work hard with very little resources, in terms of staff and professional advice. They work hard at trying to represent their workers without any kind of unions to adjust, from time to time, the level of inflation with respect to their salaries. Nobody represents the municipality workers in the Eastern Arctic. A tremendous disparity nowadays, when you consider the public service union, members of the public service, teachers' unions and so on, because they do not have bargaining powers. They do not have anyone to deal with their collective agreements. They do not have these kinds of rights.

I think the Local Government should seriously try to provide funds so that they can organize, so that they can establish an association of some sort, so that they can be treated justly in these very difficult times of high cost of living in the Northwest Territories. I have spoken to some. They expressed a desire to organize, but I realize money, funds are difficult, when you are in the Eastern Arctic, to try and organize a program of that sort. So I think that is one area that the government should not overlook, but take some immediate action to try and adjust the tremendous disparities in terms of salaries as far as the people in the Western Arctic are concerned, if they are serious about treating people and institutions equally.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say a little bit about regional operations of the government, the governments role. I think I have said on and on that the relations between government and people in the Keewatin district have improved, but at the same time I think that the critical issues, such as what I was just talking about, property and taxation, and issues related to the renewable resources, fishing and game management, still have to be seriously looked at. I think it is not good enough, these days, to say, "Well, your regional director is doing very well, so headquarters just have to put a blind eye in that all is well, and accept that all is well in the district."

Fisheries Facing Serious Problem

I think there is a real serious problem today faced by Rankin Inlet people with respect to fisheries. What is the government going to do about it? As of now, the quota, the small economic base at Rankin Inlet for fishing Arctic char is closed, is shut off. It is not good enough for the government to accept the regional director's assurance that he will do something about it. We can get too far off in trusting our directors, to believe that they can do it when, in fact, sometimes they cannot do all that. So I think the government should respond to that. If they wish to say to the people of Rankin Inlet that they cannot do anything about it, well, that is still good, but the government has to respond whether or not they will represent the people of that area, whether or not this government is interested in raising the price of Arctic char so that the fishermen can get on with the fishing this summer.

Health Services In The Keewatin

The other area I would just like to mention as a conclusion, Mr. Speaker, is the health services. Health services continue to be a problem, health facilities, and so on. I am happy to see that there are a couple of reports presented to us, but still the problems remain. I would want to ask the Minister of Health exactly what his next intentions are in implementing and taking immediate action to resolve the health services problems in Keewatin district. There are difficulties, as well, particularly with dentist requirements in the Keewatin. I understand that the people in one community were asked by the dentist to travel to another community at their own expense. I do not think these kinds of things should be allowed. I would ask that the Minister try and keep a close tab on exactly what is happening. I realize that he still has a problem as far as the responsibilities for health services are concerned, but I think it is important to indicate to this House what step is required next, and whether or not there is anything that this Assembly can do, because people in that area, in my riding, are very anxious to see that the health services should be improved. Concrete plans should be presented to the people.

So in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I raise this number of questions with respect to the role of this Assembly, and the other issues that I mentioned at the hands, again, of the Executive Committee. We will keep our eyes very closely on them to see whether or not things will actually begin to improve. I take my responsibilities seriously, perhaps too seriously, and if it is so, I think we should be at least informed by the Executive Committee that there are things that are beyond my ability, or beyond this Assembly, to deal with. So I think it is important to pose that question to every one of us, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to express my appreciation for being here in Hay River for the first time, but I would just like to indicate that I may not be back here too soon. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Replies to the Commissioner's Address.
Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk's Reply

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, Mr. Commissioner and Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am just going to make a short comment on the things that I am very much concerned about. The Northwest Territories is a vast place, and we have always mentioned this, and it is tiring to repeat. We, the Legislative Assembly, have stated things that are just the same over and over again. Sometimes I get confused as to whether the committees have more power than the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I wondered whether the Legislative Assembly Members or our committees are more powerful. That has been a concern of mine, because what my constituency wants and what they have requested, I have seen in this House, but most of the time things are not done. That has been my conclusion.

I would like to talk especially about the polar bear biologists. I have always stated that there have always been some problems that we have had with any polar bear biologists coming into our community. In Clyde River, when the polar bear biologists were doing the survey, they were dealing with the mother and the cub died because the polar bear, after they gave her a sleeping drug, woke up again and just hit the cub. Now the two cubs are both dead now. I feel that the biologists that come up to the North to do some surveys on our wildlife should be more careful. They have been told many times that they are not supposed to do too much with the mothers with cubs. Maybe we can tell the biologists that they are not supposed to be dealing with the mothers that have cubs. It just seems like an inhumane thing that the two cubs are without a mother, when they give them a drug. I heard, too, that they injure the soft side in the stomach. That was the great concern of the people of Clyde River, because they would do harm to the animal.

The biologists have to be told again not to rush in their job, because I feel that they are doing a rush job because they can be paid faster. That was a concern of mine, and I wanted to express it here in the House.

The Department of Economic Development, I have mentioned them quite a number of times before, because I believe that Economic Development are the people who are supposed to get us for the better, but they are not letting the people of the Northwest Territories participate, and are not working with them closely enough.

Training In Economic Development

I have been concerned in Baffin region. I asked how many are going to school in Frobisher Bay, with Economic Development people. They stated that there was one person. He is the only one in Baffin region who has taken a course with Economic Development...

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Kilabuk. It seems as if the translators are having trouble picking up from the table there. Have you got it back again?

INTERPRETER: There we go.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) I said that in the Baffin region, in some of the communities, Economic Development offices assist travel to the communities, and there is an Economic Development office in our community. I have been thinking that they should get a native person to work with the Economic Development officer in the community, and just send him to school to a southern institute or Yellowknife when he is supposed to be taking academic things. Let them be able to go to school in Frobisher Bay or another community. After spending some time with the Economic Development officer in his community, and let him have his salary be paid on the job.

I want the Legislature Members to think about this seriously. It is something that I have wanted to mention for quite some time. In my last statement, decisions that we have been holding, I would like to state a little bit about them. This is my first time in Hay River to meet with the Legislative Assembly and it has been a very happy experience for me to meet in different places, but I have not heard that you have made any progress by meeting in different places in the Northwest Territories, but I know for sure that we spend a lot more money by meeting in different communities. This is one thing I am sure about, by going to different communities you are spending a lot more money. I have not seen any statements on our progress, and underneath they always hurry our business. That has been a concern of mine too. We should not be meeting in a hurried way.

MR. SPEAKER: We will break for 10 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kilabuk, I am sorry to cut you off, but we were having some trouble.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, sir, we have trouble with our receivers. When I was just concluding, I was talking about the business...

MR. SPEAKER: Are we all right now? Go ahead, Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am sorry our receivers are not working very well. I was trying to say that the business of the Legislative Assembly meeting in different communities, I have not seen any action taken and we always have to hurry and spend a lot of money when they meet in a number of communities. That is what I felt about the meetings in different communities.

The last thing I want to say is I want to thank the residents and the mayor of Hay River. We have been treated very well by the residents since we arrived here. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk, the honourable Member for Baffin Central. Replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Clarification By Mr. Arlooktoo

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated when I was replying to the Commissioner's Address, I stated this that I think it was misunderstood by the interpreters. I was not talking about the water in Cape Dorset. I just wanted to clarify, I was referring to the water in Lake Harbour. I thought I should bring this up. I should just like to clarify I was talking about the water in Lake Harbour instead of Cape Dorset. I was referring to the reservoir requested by Lake Harbour. That was only a clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo, the honourable Member for Baffin South. It is kind of a sneaky way of getting a correction in, but...

---Laughter

...it has been done. Replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Patterson.

Hon. Dennis Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say I am very happy to be here and I do not hesitate to say "your town", and still committed to the principle that we should move around the Northwest Territories despite the cost and despite the inconveniences that those of us from the East have suffered due to the terrible weather we are having.

---Laughter

It is too hot; that is all, but it is worth it. You have a very impressive community and I am sure you do not need more congratulations from someone like me for the job that you have been doing in civic politics over the many years.

Mr. Speaker, very briefly I want to make some comments. First of all, to say that as a relatively new Member, I have really profited over the last few months from the opportunity to learn a great deal about the workings of government and about parts of the government like Hay River, that I have never hitherto had the opportunity or privilege of visiting.

One thing I have learned very clearly about the position that I am occupying is that the job is impossible, with the Territories the way it is. It is impossible to do the job adequately with the geographical barriers that are imposed upon us. We all believe in open responsive government and we all know that sometimes the only way to find out what is really going on is to visit a community and to talk to people who are actually dealing with problems on a first-hand basis, and even if I had a Lear jet that could take off and land on short strips, it would be impossible to adequately visit all the communities in the Northwest Territories. That is the one terrible frustration that I have felt. I have got excellent support from staff in the Department of Education, my fellow Members on the Executive Committee, and particularly the Commissioner. I have received, I think, significant understanding from Members of this House that I am new to this job. They have been very easy on me during the question periods, but I cannot help but state publicly that if I ever had any doubts about the urgent need to subdivide the Northwest Territories into more manageable units, they have been erased by the terrible frustrations of trying to adequately visit and cover this vast, vast area.

Reservations Re Establishment Of Partisan System

On political matters, I would also like to very briefly state that, despite the advice generously given to us by the honourable Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs about the steps we must take to achieve responsible government, I have strong reservations and remain to be convinced that the establishment of the partisan system in territorial politics is an essential prerequisite to responsible government. I have grave reservations and I warn Members who may be convinced otherwise that I believe we are not yet ready and I remain to be convinced whether we ever should promote this system, and I say that, Mr. Speaker, because while I do not for a minute subscribe to the notion of an ethnic state or a so-called ethnic government which would have radically different forms and procedures from the one that we now have, and which would set up separate governments based on ethnic lines, I do believe that the native people in the Northwest Territories who are still the majority of the population have very important contributions to make to our form of government from the wisdom that has been acquired in their traditions of self-government over many years prior to the establishment of so-called civilized governments. One of those contributions, Mr. Speaker, is the inestimable value of making decisions by co-operation and consensus as opposed to confrontation and argument.

A very short story which was told to me by one of the witnesses in the uranium debate, who complimented our Legislature on its interest and attentiveness on this very complicated issue, and that witness told me that we should cherish and protect the system of government we have now because that witness had appeared before other legislative committees -- many others -- and had seen other legislatures debate these fundamental questions, and recited to me a particular instance in Ontario where the legislature was grappling with the possible problem of a dangerous reactor in the Ottawa area. The witness recalled the very disturbing sight of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario debating this issue at some length, with only two or three government members present, but when the vote came, they all filed in and dutifully voted like trained seals without ever having heard the debate because they had instructions to follow the party line.

Credit To Aboriginal Traditions

We have difficulties in making decisions in our Assembly. It is frustrating. There are inconsistencies. Mrs. Sorensen carefully documents them all, I know, but we have something unique here. We have got something special. I think we can credit some of the traditions that have been brought to us by our aboriginal Members in this experiment in consensus government having been evolved as far as it has evolved in the Northwest Territories. I think there is a lot of work yet to be done. I think we must, perhaps in the context of our constitutional debates forthcoming, grapple with the rules that we should create to govern ourselves as a consensus government.

I agree with Mr. Curley that it is important that the lines between the Executive responsibility to the Assembly be clarified and be defined more clearly. I think that we are breaking new ground in the Northwest Territories with this type of non-partisan government. It is not perfect, but let us carefully examine how we can make consensus government work before we plunge into party politics.

That is my view. I will be interested in hearing what justifications the parties in the Northwest Territories who are considering this move provide to assure me that we will not fall into the traps of partisan politicians in the South. I particularly would hope that we do not fall into the sort of traps that we can see evident in the tense political situation in southern Canada now, where there seems to be so little room for compromise of the kind that we have struggled to achieve over many difficult issues in this Assembly.

Now briefly, Mr. Speaker, some constituency concerns, and then, since I really am learning something from you about brevity, I will sit down.

Concern About Support To Private Enterprise

There is an ongoing concern in my constituency about the commitment of this government to supporting private enterprise. It is a bit of a dilemma for me, Mr. Speaker, because at the same time I talked to representatives of the unions and the labour movement who warn me that we must not err too much on the side of contracting out, either, because it is most important that the government retain some significant control over jobs in communities, because government control over local employment means that we can ensure that opportunities are first given to local people as opposed to outsiders.

So it is a bit of a dilemma. I think that significant progress has been made toward making opportunities available to private enterprise. I know my colleague, Mr. Tologanak, is about to report to the House on what he has been able to accomplish in the way of northern purchasing policy, and I commend him for that. I think this is an important incentive to local enterprise, and I commend the Baffin regional director for having specifically invited tenders and contracts on government work well in advance so that local businessmen can gear up to participate.

Yet there are little things that happen that appear to be discouraging some of the local businesses in spite of this initiative, and I will just give a small example. There has been a contract available in Frobisher Bay for some years to do with fire extinguishers, the recharging and inspection of fire extinguishers. This year the contract was again tendered, but the government saw fit to remove the inspection function from the contract and thus make it significantly smaller. I think, perhaps, that can be corrected. I have spoken to Mr. Britton about it already, but I just give it as a small example of the need to be vigilant, because that sort of contract is ideal for a small businessman in Frobisher Bay, and I know there is great interest in that contract and others of a similar nature.

Capital Planning, Frobisher Bay

Also, Mr. Speaker, I wish to mention a concern on behalf of the council of Frobisher Bay, about capital planning. I have spoken at length about the great need to decentralize and regionalize the capital planning process as far as setting of priorities is concerned, and I think great progress has been made recently in that area through Mr. Pilot, and, of course, Members may be aware that Baffin region MLA's took this opportunity of being together here in Hay River to meet with the Baffin Regional Council executive and the Baffin regional director, this week, to give their input into capital priorities in the Baffin region. This is as it should be, and I am encouraged.

However, I would very briefly like to quote from a telex which I have, which was directed to Larry Elkin, Deputy Minister of Local Government, to illustrate a problem that we must guard against. I will just briefly quote from this telex, Mr. Speaker: "On Friday, May 22nd, 1981, a motion was passed unanimously by the council of the town of Frobisher Bay calling for an explanation of the deferment of the outdoor stairway and trailer court study projects in this community by the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Local Government, and expressing council's strong objections to the lack of communication from the office of the Baffin regional director which has resulted in council's becoming aware of this situation only by examining copies of the official report of the Legislative Assembly proceedings. The official Hansard report of Assembly proceedings on Wednesday, March 11, 1981, records the statement that, 'The study of the trailer court is not going ahead in this current year because of the lack of cash to carry it out...regarding the stairs, it was agreed by the municipality and ourselves it was not a pressing requirement and because funding was very tight, that it would be deferred for a year.' At no time have either Frobisher Bay's council or its administration agreed to the deferment of the projects. Quite the contrary. It has always been council's strong feeling, as expressed on several occasions to the Department of Local Government and the office of the regional director, that the projects proceed in the 1981 fiscal year, in particular that the stairway be built in the summer of 1981. Council is therefore led to wonder whether priorities in terms of improvements to the community are, in fact, to be set by the council or by civil servants in Yellowknife.

"Secondly, if the regional director's office holds some reservations regarding the council's priority, it is the feeling of council that it would deserve the courtesy of communication to say so. Further, it is..."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, you are going a little too fast. I am getting a flashing light here.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I wanted to be brief, Mr. Speaker. That is why I was speeding up. I guess it is like going faster so you do not run out of gas so soon. "Further, it is the strong concern of council that the territorial government, while stating that it wishes control over local matters to be devolved to the local level, is none the less reluctant to release it. It is noted that many cases have arisen which support this belief, and see either local decisions overturned outright, or action upon them delayed to such extent as to create the same effect. As indicated, council therefore wishes an explanation of the subject deferment, and of the lack of communication with the municipality regarding it."

Ensuring Devolution Of Powers

I am sure that Local Government will follow up on this, and I suppose that I, being a Member of the Executive, need not dwell upon such matters in my reply to the Commissioner's Address, Mr. Speaker, but I think it is important that other Members of this House be on guard to ensure that the priorities that we have established for devolution of powers regionally and locally be met by the civil service in all instances.

Liquor Control

Briefly, I would also like to mention, Mr. Speaker, that there was a very important meeting in Frobisher Bay since the last session, whereby a motion of some local citizens to relax the controls on the liquor store situation was presented to the council's recreation and social services committee at a public meeting. I must say I was gratified by the very strong and sincere expression of the vast majority of speakers at that well-attended public meeting that there is a need for serious restrictions on the availability of liquor in Frobisher Bay at the local level. I believe we have an excellent compromise in

place in Frobisher Bay, whereby people who want to drink can drink in public places where there are controls, but I do believe that former Commissioner Hodgson acted courageously and properly in receiving a petition in 1976 which he acted upon, to close the liquor store in Frobisher Bay to retail, over-the-counter sales.

While it imposes hardships on people who can drink at home without causing problems to themselves and their family, and even if those people are in a majority, I think that they must make sacrifices, to recognize that there are a minority of people who, perhaps because of lack of exposure to liquor, cannot control it, and cause grievous bodily harm, pain and suffering to themselves or those closest to them. I think that if the majority of people in Frobisher Bay are not willing to make that sacrifice, and decide to open the liquor store in the near future, then they will have blood on their hands, and I was gratified that so many of the Inuit and non-Inuit who spoke at the meeting in Frobisher Bay seem to agree with that proposition. I think it speaks well for the community of Frobisher Bay.

I was also terribly gratified by the very wonderful spirit of community harmony and co-operation expressed in the recent Toonik Tyme celebrations there, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the council of Frobisher Bay and all the interest groups and bodies in that town for the wonderful celebration that occurred.

Utilidor Operation

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I could not make a reply to the Commissioner without addressing the utilidor, and I want to briefly mention some of the things I have learned since I last spoke on that subject. Briefly, I would summarize my current feelings on the matter by saying I am not yet satisfied that further utilidor expansion in Frobisher Bay, especially to private homes, can be justified. I wish to thank the Minister of Local Government and his officials for spending hours since the last session to try and persuade me that pipe services are superior to truck services. I can accept that a narrow examination of the costs in dollar terms seems to show that over the first 20 years of the operation of the pipe system we will save a substantial amount of money over truck services, and I think it was approximately five million dollars over 20 years, although I was a bit disappointed that the projections made did not account for major problems such as I fear may occur in the event of, for example, a prolonged power failure.

I am disturbed that even the experts do not seem to be agreed or certain as to the ability of the technology currently in place to withstand what would be a major disaster of a power failure. I know that there are certain elements in that system now in place in Frobisher Bay that, probably, on very good authority would not last a power failure of, say, eight hours. We learned in Rae-Edzo last winter that these contingencies have to be guarded against, that a major, costly disaster could occur by virtue of power failure when sophisticated technology systems are in place.

Price Of Utilidor Expansion Is Local Jobs

However, Mr. Speaker, even if it is cheaper, and even if it can be made to work without failure in power failures, I still believe, especially when you consider that the price of utilidor expansion is jobs and especially when you consider that these jobs are unskilled jobs which are in great, great demand in Frobisher Bay and in very, very short supply, that this is too great a price to pay. The figure was given of something like 18 jobs, and I say that if I were to compare five million dollars over 20 years with 18 jobs over 20 years, I would say it is worth it to spend five million dollars on a truck system to save those jobs. It may not be worth it in narrow dollar terms, although how can we really calculate the economic implications of local employment versus investing in technology where experts have to come in to fix and even maintain the system?

There are problems with the system, Mr. Speaker. There are chronic problems. There was a major leak this winter and this spring, hunters coming home with fresh meat had to go through a -- if they were not careful, and it happened to me -- were faced with a huge pool of melting sewage at the beach, because that leak over the winter, which froze in a huge mass on the beach has thawed. Proponents of the utilidor say it is healthier, it is more sanitary than the truck system, but these problems seem to be chronic. I just mention this, Mr. Speaker, because I think we have to very carefully look at expansion, particularly to private homes and generally, that we have to be very cautious about high technology in the Northwest Territories, because high technology means that we have to hire high-priced experts to give us advice and to maintain and operate the system and often enough this is at the price of local employment.

I am happy to have heard that some of my colleagues on the Executive Committee, and including the Executive Member responsible for Public Works, are aware of these trade-offs and are as concerned as I am. So, I hope that I will be able to help influence the preservation of at least some measure of truck services in Frobisher Bay over the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay. Could I have an indication at this time of how many more replies to the Commissioner's Address I can expect today? One. This House will stand recessed for the lunch break until 1:00 p.m.

---LUNCHEON RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the Assembly to order. We are on replies to the Commissioner's Address. The indication was that Mr. MacQuarrie wished to give a reply. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Mr. MacQuarrie's Reply

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to say thank you very much to yourself and to the community of Hay River for the excellent hospitality that I have enjoyed and I think that other Members have enjoyed as well. My last visit of any duration to this community was, I think, in 1973 and I would say that since that time I see a great deal of improvement in the community, very nicely laid out, and improved to the point, certainly, where I find my stay completely comfortable and very, very enjoyable. In short, I am happy to be here and I am not anxious to leave. I know that when we met in Baker Lake and in Frobisher Bay, twice I raised questions about the costs that were involved in travelling sessions, not because I disapproved of travelling sessions as such, in fact, I enjoy them very much, but because I simply thought it was important that we be sure that the objectives we have in travelling are realized and that they are important enough to warrant the additional cost.

I have since found that that does not seem to be an issue with anyone, not with my constituents -- or I should not say anyone, but apparently very few people. The public seems to think it is a good idea and so, I will say for my part from now on I am not going to concern myself with that issue anymore. I am simply going to travel when the Assembly travels and enjoy it very much, as I am here.

I do not want to leave Hay River, not because I have fallen in love with the place and have any thoughts at all about moving here from Yellowknife, which is also an excellent community, but I do not want to leave because I believe this Assembly, in its short meeting to date, simply has not done justice to the many important issues which it was elected to deal with.

Important Items Not Included On Agenda

When I first became aware of what would be dealt with at the session in Hay River, I was disappointed and even angered, I could say, to see that the government agenda did not include some items which I personally feel are very, very important. Not just very important, but I feel are crucial and they include political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories, they include aboriginal rights, they include energy, all the more disturbing to me, because I know that at least in a couple of these areas there are government papers which have been produced and which are ready for discussion in the Assembly and I simply cannot understand why we have not taken the time while -- even before that, why the government has not decided to bring them before this House for discussion, because I believe in these areas that critical decisions have to be made at the earliest possible date. So, I do fault the Executive for not having put these things together better and having brought them before us, but I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that disturbed as I was at that, I was even more disturbed to arrive in Hay River and find within two or three days after arriving that Members were already talking about going home.

---Applause

Mr. Curley, of course, was one of them. There seems now to be a rush to conclude even the shortened agenda that we were presented with and leave many other important matters unattended to. So, in addition to the items that never appeared on the agenda, it is seeming more and more as though we are not going to be talking about the progress report on Bill C-48 or the progress report on Norman Wells, which are fundamental issues. It is apparent that we are not going to have time for, what I consider to be very important committee meetings, the committees of the Legislature, including the impact and constitutional development committee and the standing committee on legislation, to name some,

and I have no doubt that there are others. There are still important items on the caucus agenda, and we are going to leave, it appears, without making other important decisions, such as on appointments to the boards, and particularly to the Water Board which, in my opinion, is the single most effective instrument that we have in the North for protecting the northern environment and which is in very real and imminent danger of being undermined by federal initiatives, and it appears that we may leave without having made the decision about that.

So, from my point of view, certainly Members are free to criticize the Executive all they like and I do myself and often we all do with justification, but I think until we meet fully our own obligations, that those kinds of criticisms are bound to have a bit of a hollow ring. I must say that if in future, meetings are scheduled away from Yellowknife, and that is completely acceptable to me, then we must accompany that kind of a decision with a determination to stay wherever we go until all of the important business before us is concluded.

Executive Committee Caught Up In Details Of Administration

In respect of the Executive Committee, I do have a criticism of my own and perhaps in voicing it I may throw into focus the very difficult job that the Executive Committee is faced with, because in some respects the criticism I have is at variance with the criticism that was voiced earlier today by the honourable Member for the Western Arctic. My belief is that the Executive Committee is too caught up in the details of administration and the day to day operation of the departments of government and spend a great deal of their time and effort on matters which are not of crucial importance to the Territories. I wonder, for instance, how many hours were spent by the Executive Committee discussing the task force on housing report, which I am sure in its own way is important, but not nearly as important as certain other issues that are facing us in the Northwest Territories.

I recognize that the time and the energy of Executive Committee Members is limited and I do not expect superhuman efforts from Executive Committee Members. They simply cannot do all that has to be done, but that makes it of utmost importance that they choose priorities and deal with them, and I say that at this time in our historical development that the items that receive the highest priority are those items that will have the greatest and longest lasting impact on the life of the people of the Northwest Territories and I personally include in those, at least political and constitutional development and planning to deal with apparently what will be massive intrusions as a result of non-renewable resource development.

I would recommend strongly to Members of the Executive Committee that each choose to emphasize his role as an Executive Committee Member and not as the head of a particular department of government and that the Executive Committee sit together, reflect on the situation in the Northwest Territories and the wishes of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and attempt to set priorities and then spend its time as a unit dealing with those priorities and allocating whatever resources of personnel and funds are necessary to deal with them adequately and to ensure that there is a continual interplay and consultation with the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

During that time it may be necessary to leave departments to run themselves, or at least to the maximum amount possible, and I know that in doing that, there may be things that occur which disturb individual Members and probably myself from time to time, but nevertheless, I recommend that course of action strongly, not because those specific items are not important, they are, but because there are more important issues demanding the time and attention of our Executive Committee Members.

Definite Date Should Be Set For Plebiscite

In concluding, I would simply like to say that whatever may or may not arise to be dealt with at this session, that I know personally that I will be mightily disturbed if I have to go away from Hay River without having dealt with Water Board appointments, without having some clear idea as to what will be further steps in planning for political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, and finally, if we should leave without setting a definite date for the plebiscite dealing with the division of the Territories. There is a motion before the House. I do not agree with the particular date, and I will talk about that when that motion arises, but I do absolutely agree that we must set a firm date and work toward that. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. Are there any further replies to the Commissioner's Address? Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 46-81(2): Status Report Re Government Advertising On Supply And Services Requirements

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My oral question is for the Hon. Mr. Tologanak, the Minister of Government Services. Mr. Minister, during the last session of the Legislative Assembly, a motion sponsored by the standing committee on finance requesting that the government advertise what supply and services it requires on an ongoing basis was adopted by this Legislature. As chairman of that committee, I have since had a number of positive comments concerning this motion, of which the outcome could mean an awareness in the North of what the opportunities might be for supply and servicing the government, new business starts and/or new supply or services being added to existing businesses, and good government public relations.

Mr. Minister, the standing committee is anxious that the government proceed on the recommendation as soon as possible, and therefore, in that regard, I would appreciate a status report with respect to when you do plan on advertising what supply and services the government requires on an ongoing basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Tologanak.

Return To Question 46-81(2): Status Report Re Government Advertising On Supply And Services Requirements

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the question that the honourable Member for Yellowknife South raised, the goods and services that are required by this government are many and varied. We considered the advertising of our goods and services that are required by the government, and we found this to be a little bit of an impossible task and required more time, and the list of items that we require is quite impressive.

So instead, we took the opposite approach and advertised in the newspapers, northern newspapers, but the response was disappointingly small. Only a handful of replies were received, but we are continuing to review what other steps we can take. We may eventually have to advertise in the newspapers, but I am reviewing that with my Deputy Minister and staff of my department. I might note that the commerce division of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism completed what they call a business profile data bank, which places all businesses in the Territories. Information can then be retrieved either by

geographic area or by a series of products or services categories. We will probably be co-operating with Economic Development in getting the list of the requirements of the government, but we are continuing to work on what we consider to be important to the business world in the Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a supplementary, Mrs. Sorensen?

Supplementary To Question 46-81(2): Status Report Re Government Advertising On Supply And Services Requirements

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Minister, the standing committee, when it recommended that action and the Legislature adopted that motion, was aware that the government was planning on seeking from businesses in the Northwest Territories what supplies and services they might be prepared to offer, and we were happy with that, but we were also concerned that there might be businessmen here in the Northwest Territories who were not aware that the government had specific needs with respect to certain supplies and certain services.

Now, you have said that the advertising of government services and supplies would be an impossible task, but you did not explain why. I wonder if you could explain why that would be an impossible task? Are you specifically referring to the amount of money that it might take to place such government ads, or is there another reason why it might be an impossible task for the government to do this?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 46-81(2): Status Report Re Government Advertising On Supply And Services Requirements

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, the goods and services that the government requires are quite varied and are in great quantity, since the government represents the whole Territories, and like I said, we are going to look into the problem and exactly how we can deal with this. I have not really personally been involved, but I am now, since our response from the public was not that great, but I can assure the chairman of the special committee on finance that we are reviewing this and what further steps we need to do will be done, probably in the next month.

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

Question 47-81(2): Tax Rebate On Gasoline For Hunters And Trappers

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Government Services, Mr. Tologanak. I have not heard about the hunters getting some -- if the hunters had been paid back what they use with the gas.

MR. SPEAKER: The translation on that was not that good. Does the Minister understand the question? Mr. Tologanak.

Return To Question 47-81(2): Tax Rebate On Gasoline For Hunters And Trappers

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, if I understood the question correctly, it concerns the tax rebate to the hunters and trappers for the gasoline that they purchase in the communities. Is that correct?

Mr. Speaker, that is a federal program, but that same question was raised at the Central Arctic regional conference which was held recently in Spence Bay. The people were concerned about this excise tax on fuel, or gasoline. The necessary information is being sent to those areas in the Central Arctic, but I can assure that other regions get this necessary information, and the honourable Minister of Renewable Resources can add to the other programs as well.

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

Further Return To Question 47-81(2): Tax Rebate On Gasoline For Hunters And Trappers

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, the government agreed to take a role to ensure that residents were made aware of the gas excise tax rebates allowed to hunters and trappers and fishermen. Information was provided through wildlife officers, communicating with hunters' and trappers' associations in the various communities. Copies of pertinent correspondence explaining the rebate program were supplied to wildlife officers with a supply of the application forms. Hunters and trappers were advised to keep all receipts and refer to the wildlife officer for assistance in completing the application. Checks were also made to ensure that additional application forms were available at the local post offices. The address of the Edmonton district office of Revenue Canada was made available to hunters and trappers for additional assistance for information.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister, the Member for the Mackenzie Delta. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 48-81(2): Report On Health Services Study, Keewatin Zone

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In view of the fact that "The Report of a Study of Inuit Health and Health Services in the Keewatin Zone of the Northwest Territories" has been completed by Peter Ruderman and Geoffrey Weller, will the Minister indicate to this House what he is prepared to do with this report, and in view of the last recommendation urging that every effort be made to resolve speedily the issue of when and to whom responsibility for health services is to be transferred? Will the Minister tell this House what steps he has taken so far to start implementing the recommendations included in that report?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question 48-81(2): Report On Health Study, Keewatin Zone

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the officials of this government's Department of Health and the medical services branch of National Health and Welfare, together with the authors of this particular study, Dr. Ruderman and Dr. Weller, will be meeting some time early next month to discuss the recommendations and obviously then to make recommendations to the federal Minister of Health for the implementation of those recommendations.

When the results of that particular meeting come to both myself and to Madame Bégin, then I will be obviously in touch with her, sit down and discuss not only the carrying out of those recommendations, but also the total transfer of the health responsibility to this government.

There are a number of recommendations in that particular report. I received it just prior to coming here and I tabled it. We have not had that much time to go through the recommendations so far. So, I have members of our department sitting down with medical services and with both the authors and we will certainly go through the recommendations. As I say, once their recommendations come to both territorial and federal governments, we will talk about the transfer at the same time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Slave River. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 49-81(2): Teacher Shortage, Rankin Inlet And Eskimo Point

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Education. In view of the very serious and critical teacher shortages at Eskimo Point and Rankin Inlet, with at least a 25 to one student-teacher ratio, does the Minister share this critical problem of teacher shortages, and will the Minister assure these communities that he will undertake to increase teachers for the upcoming school year? If not, why not?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay.

Return To Question 49-81(2): Teacher Shortage, Rankin Inlet And Eskimo Point

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I certainly do share the Members' concern about the problem, because I have recently been to Rankin Inlet and Eskimo Point, and I was very impressed with the concern that the reductions that have been necessitated by financial restraints this year, whereby we lost nine positions over the Territories, have in fact wreaked real hardships on certain schools. There are schools in places other than the Keewatin which have, I think, special problems of that kind too.

I am also aware that these staff shortages profoundly affect teacher morale, and may well have been a contributing factor to the very high, alarming turnover rate in the school at Eskimo Point particularly this year. I also regret that the high student-teacher ratio tends also to discourage the classroom assistants as well, and there have been as many as four classroom assistants working in a particular crowded classroom in Eskimo Point. So this means that it will be incumbent upon me to find ways of reallocating money that is already in the department's budget. It may be that by this fall, for example, we can cut back on operating and maintenance moneys for schools, for example, without hurting the quality of education.

I cannot guarantee to the Member that I can accomplish this object, but I can assure him here, and I can assure other Members who may have concerns about these particularly urgent problems in other schools, that I am aware of this situation and I will strive mightily, working with the regional superintendents and from within the headquarters budget to solve the problem, and I can say it is the first priority now that we have been able to take some special initiatives this year for TEP, teacher education program, which I felt was very important, this special problem of trying to do something about the staffing problems in certain parts of the Territories is the first goal of mine. I am confident that we can do something about it, perhaps not as much as some Members would like, but I am confident that we can, through frugal practices and ingenuity, liberate a few positions where they are really needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Member for Frobisher Bay. I would hope you would keep your answers to a minimum. It is not speech making time. It is time to give an answer. Mr. Curley.

Supplementary To Question 49-81(2): Teacher Shortage, Rankin Inlet And Eskimo Point

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Again, going back to the shortage of teachers, I would ask the Minister that he seriously take into account the fact that Rankin Inlet has not increased teachers for the last 13 years. It is not only, you know, that it might be a proper time, it is long overdue. So I will ask again that he approach Rankin Inlet education society soon, to try and resolve that very critical problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the Member for Keewatin South. The honourable Member for Frobisher Bay.

Further Return To Question 49-81(2): Teacher Shortage, Rankin Inlet And Eskimo Point

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I already have approached the regional superintendent of Education about the urgent needs in the Keewatin as the Member has outlined, and I will report progress in striving to do something in time for this fall to the education authorities concerned. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay. Oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 50-81(2): Government Assistance, Canada Census

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, thank you. My question is for the Commissioner or the Leader of the Elected Executive Committee. I would like to know what this government is going to do through its regional and area offices in order to help out the people in the communities who are doing the Canada census on June 3rd. What has been done to date to help in the smaller communities in the North, where the census has already been taken or is under way, to make sure that the Northwest Territories has all its people counted, to make sure that we are able to show our increased population and be able to take advantage of federal grants which may result from this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Pine Point. Who wishes to field this question? Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question 50-81(2): Government Assistance, Canada Census

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I am aware, the federal government is handling, to the largest extent possible, the census, but we all know that the federal government makes mistakes from time to time, so we would be pleased to help them out in any way after they have done the census, with more accurate population figures or anything that we could provide. What we are actually doing to assist right now I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, so I will endeavour to get that information and provide it to the Member, if, in fact, we are doing anything.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the Member for Yellowknife North. Oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin, the Member for Pine Point.

Supplementary To Question 50-81(2): Government Assistance, Canada Census

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The point is they will do their census similar to the one they did in 1971, and they made lots of mistakes then because we did not help them while they were taking the census, but they have since used those figures and put percentages on them each year. What we should have done in the first place was help to make sure their figures were right, whenever possible. In my community last time they missed about 400 people.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin, the honourable Member for Pine Point. Mr. Braden.

Further Return To Question 50-81(2): Government Assistance, Canada Census

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the Member has brought up a very valid point, and I will check with the officials in my statistics bureau who do a lot of population work and just find out exactly what kind of procedures we have for monitoring the actual census process and, if I can say it in this way, for identifying early on in the process where there are major discrepancies between federal theory and territorial reality.

---Laughter

So I will assure the Member that we will attempt to keep on top of this thing and ensure that there are accurate figures.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the Member for Yellowknife North. Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 51-81(2): Government Studies, Gas Potentials

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Energy, the Hon. Richard Nerysoo. Mr. Minister, in reply to a recommendation that was adopted by this House, that was made on behalf of the standing committee on finance, concerning the fact that the Executive Committee should investigate the possibility of federal government funding for the development of gas potentials in or close to municipalities and for the construction of gas infrastructures, you stated, and the government stated that "a catalogue of alternatives to oil must be done on a community by community basis, including feasibility studies on those projects which appear to be economically justified". You made the analogy to gas infrastructures. What progress has been made, and what priority has the government given to these projects and to the cataloguing of alternatives?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 51-81(2): Government Studies, Gas Potentials

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. We have already begun to try to catalogue some of these concerns and some of the potential areas of importance, such as coal and hydro. Now, we have not, to date, gotten into identifying areas of gas infrastructures and that sort of thing, and hopefully we will be doing that in the near future. I think there is a necessary requirement to get the studies that we are carrying out, and certainly the ones that we have presented and tabled in this House, done first, and then proceed to try to provide the other information.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta. Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk, the honourable Member for Baffin Central.

Question 52-81(2): Appearance Of Hudson's Bay Officials

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this to somebody. I do not really understand. I would like to know when the Hudson's Bay director is coming. I am not sure who I should address this question to.

Return To Question 52-81(2): Appearance Of Hudson's Bay Officials

MR. SPEAKER: The matter of invited appearances from witnesses is in the hands of the Speaker's office, and the Hudson's Bay officials will appear in front of this Assembly on May 27th. I am not prepared to argue with the floor but as far as I am concerned we will be here. Oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 53-81(2): Housing Situation, Pine Point

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Commissioner regarding housing in Pine Point. I would like to know if he is aware that the Department of Education employees are presently occupying housing initially provided by the federal government, and that that federal housing is now needed by an employee of the federal government. It is a lady who has recently lost her husband and she wishes to remain in Pine Point with her family and in order for her to have accommodation, she has to be able to get that house. I would like to ask the Commissioner if he is going to get his employees out of federal housing and other borrowed housing in Pine Point, and either rent or cause to be constructed, houses which the territorial government can rent in order to put their employees in their own houses for a change?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner, the honourable resident of the sixth floor.

---Laughter

Return To Question 53-81(2): Housing Situation, Pine Point

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 54-81(2): Welfare Assistance Applications

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Welfare: I was told to ask the Department of Social Services, the welfare assistance applicator, even though they do not have any reason -- they have never been assisted by the Social Services. Mr. Minister, can you clarify that, please? Did you understand it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question 54-81(2): Welfare Assistance Applications

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that I understand, or caught the gist of the total question, but if the Member is asking for social assistance people or social workers to become more involved with people from within the community when they apply for assistance, then I am sure that I will be able to take that to the regional director and the regional superintendent in the Baffin area and indicate to them that they should be dealing with people, maybe going out into the community, if there is a difficulty in sitting down and helping people fill out forms for assistance, then I would be able to do that. If that is the gist of the question...

MR. SPEAKER: Is that a satisfactory answer, our honourable Member for Baffin Central? You have the floor, Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, yes, this was not known by the people who go out, so I asked this question. People from the outpost camps have requested me to come with this question. Is that understandable?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Baffin Central. Mr. Minister for Slave River, do you have anything to add?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, what I will do at coffee break is meet with the Member and then we can determine if there is some kind of difficulty, and I will try to allay it. However, I will talk to him at coffee break time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that satisfactory to the honourable Member for Baffin Central? Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 55-81(2): Policy Review Re Private Operations In Government

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Commissioner, Mr. Parker. I cannot remember whether it was during the last session or the session before that, but the standing committee recommended and the House adopted a recommendation that the Executive Committee review the policies concerning private operations located in government, and also the policy with respect to housing and civil servants operating private businesses. We received Information Item 25-81(1), in which it seems that this government has a fairly strong policy and a fairly strong collective agreement regulating outside employment of staff and use of staff accommodation for business purposes. The problem, however, may be in alerting the staff to the fact that, throughout the

North we have such comprehensive policies, and so, on that note, on behalf of the standing committee, I would ask for a clarification, Mr. Parker, on what method of communication is used to alert staff and management to these provisions on a regular basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South. Mr. Commissioner.

Return To Question 55-81(2): Policy Review Re Private Operations In Government

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I would have to check my records, but I believe that we sent a message along with one of the two weekly pay envelopes informing our employees on these matters. If we have not already done that -- that is the method that we usually use, and will continue to do so. I can assure the honourable Member that we will refresh the memory of our employees on these subjects in the very near future.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. With regard to your rules, and I know, by precedent, we have been dealing with oral questions not really within the rules of this House but "an oral question shall be concisely and clearly put, and shall refer only to a matter which may reasonably be assumed to be within the present knowledge of the Executive Member to whom it is directed". So I hope the House will acknowledge their own rules and try and keep things cut down and as concise as possible. Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, two or three days ago I was asked three questions of an urgent and pressing nature, and, although I had the information on two of them yesterday, there was no question period. Could I proceed to give those answers which were answers to oral questions?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Commissioner. Proceed.

Return To Question 26-81(2): Request For Housing Unit, Tuktoyaktuk

COMMISSIONER PARKER: The first question, which was asked by the Member for the Western Arctic, which was concerning the use by the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk of a territorial staff house. Mayor Vince Steen asked yesterday for use of a 512 unit for a hamlet secretary. The unit had been vacated recently by a territorial staff member. The unit was released to the hamlet last night for their use.

Further Return To Question 36-81(2): Legal Action Against National Energy Board

Mr. Sibbeston asked questions concerning the National Energy Board decision. Prior to any reference for direction to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Executive Committee considered the question of whether or not the territorial government should appeal the decision of the National Energy Board to the courts.

Advice was sought from legal counsel experts in this field. Since under the National Energy Board Act the appeal can only be on a point of law or jurisdiction, and since all of the evidence submitted by the territorial government at the hearings of the board had been accepted, it was concluded that the chances of success were marginal. Of course, it was recognized that other persons or groups might have appeals on stronger grounds.

The Executive Committee has therefore concluded that an appeal should not be launched. The Executive Committee has under consideration certain positive actions of a legislative nature, designed to increase northern benefits and further regulate the oil industry, which it will present to the House in due course. These actions are expected to enjoy a greater likelihood of success than would a court appeal. On the question of ministerial direction, I have received an indication that an appeal by the territorial government to the court concerning a decision by a crown agency would be inappropriate.

Further Return To Question 37-81(2): Eastern Arctic Ministry

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Curley raised Question 37-81(2), with regard to a ministry for Nunavut. In considering the recommendation of the Legislature with regard to the appointment of a minister responsible for the conduct of matters affecting the proposed territory of Nunavut, I considered particularly the following factors: (1) By late 1981, the federal cabinet is expected to have considered the question of constitutional development of the Northwest Territories and to have reached conclusions as to the options which it supports; (2) The constitutional development and impact committees of this House are just now commencing serious deliberations. The problem of funding these committees has yet to be solved; (3) Constitutional matters are expected to be discussed in depth at the fall legislative session.

Bearing in mind the work load facing Executive Members between sessions and the constraint in place against appointment of additional Members, I propose to consider the appointment of a minister to cover the duties surrounding Nunavut after the fall session. In the meantime, the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development will continue to direct the efforts of his staff toward implementation of the recommendations of the Legislative Assembly as contained in the unity committee report.

I recognize the concerns of some Members of this House that the matter of a new territory might be allowed to lapse. It is not my intention, nor is it the intention of the Executive Committee, that any of the recommendations of this House, which came out of the debate at Frobisher Bay, should be disregarded.

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

Question 56-81(2): Appointments To NWT Water Board

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have an urgent and pressing question for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Water Board. Five of those members, including the chairman of the Water Board -- their positions on the board will expire during the month of June. In addition to that, Mr. Gibney of Pine Point is recently deceased and there is a vacancy on the board due to this. What is the Minister's intention to make sure that this board can continue to function in the summer, while hearings are going on for Cadillac Mines and various other operations, to be sure that this board can continue to operate and that the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs does not have to appoint people for us, because we have not done so?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister.

Return To Question 56-81(2): Appointments To NWT Water Board

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It is my intention to move a motion of reappointment for a number of the members and to withdraw one appointment at a later time.

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

Question 57-81(2): Vacancies, NWT Housing Corporation

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question, not quite as urgent and pressing, but still important. There are vacancies on the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation board of directors and I would like to ask the Minister responsible, the Hon. Mr. McCallum, what his intention is to do about these vacancies.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 57-81(2): Vacancies, NWT Housing Corporation

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would have hoped that we would have had time to deal with this problem in caucus, but I would ask permission or the consent and support of the Members of this Legislature for the following recommendations for appointments to the Housing Corporation. I would recommend that Mr. Steve Brooks be renamed a member for a period of one year. I would recommend that Mr. Red Pedersen from Coppermine be appointed for a two year term, to replace the appointment of Mr. James Arvaluk. I would recommend that Mr. Richard Wilson from Fort McPherson be appointed to replace Mr. Leo Hardy from Norman Wells, who has resigned, and since Mr. Noah has indicated that he has put in his resignation, I would recommend that Mr. Sarto Ippiak -- and I hope I pronounced that properly -- from Chesterfield Inlet be appointed to replace Mr. Noah. I would hope that I would have the support of the Members of the House for those appointments.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, that was taking a great opportunity, to reply to a question by putting forth a motion, but it will be dealt with during the regular session period. There seems to be some feeling among Members -- unless the Chair is advised otherwise, this House will be sitting until Wednesday. Now, if we lose a quorum, it is a different proposition, but it is not my intention to adjourn this House until the business has been completed. Oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston, were you indicating that you wished...

MR. SIBBESTON: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Written questions. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Question 58-81(2): NCPC Hearing, Frobisher Bay

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two questions. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government, regarding NCPC. I postponed this question about NCPC holding public hearings in Frobisher Bay, but after they postponed the public hearings, residents of Pond Inlet have instructed me to ask these questions: What is the situation on NCPC's recent increase in electricity? How much is the increase? What is happening to them getting transferred to the Northwest Territories? I would like written replies on these matters, even after I get back to my constituency. I would also appreciate receiving the reply as soon as possible.

Question 59-81(2): Budget Cutbacks In Housing Associations

Mr. Speaker, this is addressed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. My constituents expressed their concern over the budget cutbacks in local housing associations, some of the employees have to be laid off due to recent cutbacks. Can the Minister please explain the reason for the cutback? Is it because the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation needs more funding this year? How will the cutback affect the Baffin region? I would like a written reply as I will be gone. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Foxe Basin. Written questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 60-81(2): Construction Of Airstrip, Paulatuk

MS COURNOYEA: I have a question for Mr. Wah-Shee. Could he please tell us what is the commitment of the government to proceed with the building of an airstrip in Paulatuk this year, as planned?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Western Arctic. Written questions. Mr. Pudluk. Pardon me, Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 61-81(2): Housing Units, Pangnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. The hamlet secretary manager and housing association chairman of Pangnirtung have told me that they were told of how many units and types of houses they would be getting for the years 1981-82. They were well informed about this and that they were told that they were to have some houses renovated but something else came up. They are not bringing any new houses, instead they are bringing in some prefabricated houses. As the Minister of Housing Corporation, will you tell me what the present situation is? When you do, I can report back to the two people and tell them what will be happening to the housing situation in Pangnirtung. Will they bring in new houses? Are they renovating the old houses?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Baffin Central. Written questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 62-81(2): Investigation Of Regional Office, Inuvik Area

MS COURNOYEA: This question is placed to the Minister of Economic Development. What is the status of the investigation in the Inuvik area regional office of Economic Development?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for the Western Arctic. Written questions. Are there any returns today? Pardon me, Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 63-81(2): Maintenance Of Highway, Pine Point To Hay River

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes. I have a written question for the Commissioner, thank you Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Commissioner is aware, the highway between Pine Point and Hay River has had chip seal asphaltic coating applied to it during the last two summers which has successfully solved the dangerous dust problem, and I would like to know if the department of highways has determined what the annual average savings for grading and dust control are in relation to the capital costs incurred for the asphaltic surfacing. Further, I would like to know if there have been other sections of highway identified which have a good work base that this type of cheap and cost effective surfacing can be done and when these areas will be done.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Pine Point. You asked a question, answered it, and I am not exactly sure what you want the Commissioner to do. Written questions. Are there any returns? There appear to be no returns today.

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following: Tabled Document 8-81(2), The Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board Annual Report, 1980.

In accordance with section 39 of our Interpretation Ordinance, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 9-81(2), the Consolidated Regulations of the Northwest Territories, numbers 17 and 18 of volume 1; numbers 1 and 2 of volume 2 of part I of the Northwest Territories Gazette; number 9 of volume 1;

number 1 of volume 11 of part II of the Northwest Territories Gazette; and number 1 of volume 2 of part III of the Northwest Territories Gazette; and indices of the regulations of the Northwest Territories; statutory instruments and appointments pursuant to the ordinances of the Northwest Territories that have been made between the first of February, 1981 and the 20th of May, 1981. Thank you, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Yellowknife North. Tabling of documents. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 10-81(2), the Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Concerning Bills to be Introduced at the Fifth Session of the Ninth Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 11-81(2), Letter from Members' Services Board, a letter addressed to myself with an attachment regarding decisions made by the Members' Services Board, concerning the opening of standing and special committee meetings to the general public.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Pine Point. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 12-81(2), The 1981 Central Arctic Area Health Study: Towards Co-operation and Improvement, done by the Morton Warner Health Care Associates. Again, it is a similar study to the one that was conducted in the Baffin, but this government did this particular study, and as I have indicated, we will be embarking on a similar kind of study in the Inuvik region as well.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 13-81(2), The Baffin Correctional Centre, a Review of Current Programs and Alternatives done by Mr. Harold Finkler. I have as well an Executive summary that has been translated into Inuktitut and that Members will be able to read what is there. I should caution though, Mr. Speaker, that neither the department officials nor myself, nor in fact the Executive have studied the recommendations, and I do not want to raise our expectations that may be put forward by the authors of this report. Basically, it is a summation of what has gone on in the past and what may happen in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Slave River. Tabling of documents. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 14-81(2), Standing Committee on Finance, 10th Report on Spending Priorities for 1982-83, Operations/Capital.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South. Tabling of documents. Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

ITEM NO. 7: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mrs. Sorensen.

10th Report Of Standing Committee On Finance

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will proceed now with the report of the standing committee on finance regarding standing priorities for 1982-83, operations and maintenance, and capital. Members will remember that your standing committee recommended and this House adopted the following priorities for government action and spending for this current 1981-82 budget. They were

as follows: Constitutional development, including the Legislative Assembly; economic development, particularly responding to non-renewable resource development; northern resident employment and training; and language.

Constitutional Development

Now, under the first priority, constitutional development, the expanded Executive Committee, the expanded Legislature and its more active standing and special committees, two field sessions per year, the unity committee recommendations for a western constitutional and impact of division committee, all were to have been funded. While the dollars allotted to constitutional development were indeed increased within the Legislative Assembly, and in specific departments of government such as Local Government, the Executive Committee reported that additional funds were being sought under a B level submission. Unless those additional funds are found, the work of both special committees will be severely curtailed and the implementation of the unity committee recommendations will be difficult if not next to impossible.

Further, it has been announced by the Executive Committee that the House will debate further constitutional change at the fall session. Recommendations having financial implications will most likely be adopted at that time. Therefore, your committee recommends that constitutional development be a priority for 1982-83 spending.

Economic Development

Under the priority economic development, responding to the impact of resource development, your committee had stressed the fact that during 1981-82, we wished to see a strengthening of the Northwest Territories governments ability to respond to the impact of resource development. We emphasized that money should be made available under a developing zone policy to communities for planning for infrastructure needs, and for the government to strengthen its internal resource sector so that it could better deal with companies and corporations. In addition, we stressed the need for a strengthening of the governments ability to make representation before regulatory agencies such as EARP, Environmental Assessment and Review Panel, Lancaster Sound hearings, the National Energy Board, and parliamentary committees.

Because it is evident that in some areas of the Northwest Territories, resource development is expanding, your committee is concerned that territorial government response to that expansion must improve. Your committee therefore recommends that the Legislative Assembly recommend that economic development, particularly as it affects responding to resource development, continue as a major priority for 1982-83.

Education

The third priority for 1981-82 as adopted by the Legislature was northern resident employment and training. Your committee, as a result of direction during the last session, has reworded that priority and placed it under the heading of education. Members will remember that the House adopted a motion calling for education as one of the priorities for government spending during the budget session in Yellowknife.

Therefore, your committee recommends that education be a priority for 1982-83 spending and that the following areas be emphasized: Training for employment; vocational training in schools; on-the-job training; adult upgrading; and finally, the needs of the special committee on education.

We had a discussion during our deliberations on priorities, with two of the Members of the education committee, with respect to whether this recommendation of the standing committee on finance would usurp the role of the standing committee on education, and it was their feeling that the priorities that we

had established, as a result of discussion that has taken place in this House, of course, and discussion that Members of the education committee have had in their travels throughout the North, that these recommendations do not, in fact, usurp the role, or in any way diminish the role of the special committee on education. Since the House had already established during the budget session that education was a priority that we do not feel that our recommendation would be in conflict. With respect to northern resident employment, I will make a comment and recommendation concerning that, following the recommendations for priorities on spending.

Language

Under the priority of language, your committee emphasized last year that it wished to have a language policy for the Northwest Territories government, developed. We also stressed that we felt that the first step in addressing the whole area of languages in the Northwest Territories had to be the governments use of the languages to serve the public and the Legislative Assembly, and the use of languages as a vehicle for teaching and training as is now being done in the Department of Education, rather than the cultural aspect or the preservation/revival and/or development of the languages.

To date a policy has not been established, neither by the government nor by this Legislature. A language commission to look at this issue was suggested but has never been implemented nor discussed at this level. A Dene languages study was completed and tabled in this House which addresses the development and preservation of the Dene languages, but has never been discussed in this House. A review of the interpreter corps is currently under way. Work has been done and is currently being done in the teacher education program for the teaching of school subjects in the Inuktitut language. Some work has also been done in some of the Dene languages.

Your committee therefore recommends that we call again for the development of a language policy concerning languages as a vehicle of government service, interpreter corps, information to the public, and for training and/or teaching purposes.

The standing committee on finance is extremely concerned about the cultural aspect or the preservation/revival and/or development of the languages of the Northwest Territories. This Assembly and Assemblies before it have always stated that the strengthening and further development of the native languages was a priority, however, unless the money is made available to do just that, this government will merely be paying lip service to that priority.

Your committee faced that issue during its last meeting and held a frank discussion on whether we could support saying that we felt languages were a priority, when we knew full well that the money to do what must be done to revive and develop further many of the languages, and various dialects of those languages, would not easily be found by the territorial government. After debate and some soul searching, your committee decided to bring this serious dilemma to your attention with the following recommendations.

Your committee, therefore, recommends that money for the cultural development, revival and preservation of native languages, be found within the various land claims settlements and that we, as a Legislature, urgently support the advancement of money from the federal government to the native groups who wish to do this.

It should be noted that the territorial government would continue to serve the public in native languages. The Department of Education would continue to develop its native language curriculum for the TEP program and for the schools and the various departments would continue to inform the general public of government services on the native languages, on radio, television and film, and, of course, the interpreter corps would continue to serve the government and Legislative Assembly. Now, that concludes our priorities for operation and maintenance and I shall move now to capital priorities.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen, in view of the hour, I think we should take a break now, for 15 minutes.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum. It is my intention, with the indulgence of the House, to proceed through the orders of the day to motions, and allow those Members that may not be available on Monday at 1:00 p.m. to deal with their motions today, at which time I would like to adjourn until Monday at 1:00 p.m. Now, if that is in agreement with the House, that is what my intention will be. We still have not concluded the presentation from the finance committee. Mrs. Sorensen, you have the floor.

Capital Priorities 1982-83

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue with the standing committee on finance recommendations concerning capital spending priorities for 1982-83.

Members will remember that your standing committee recommended, and this House adopted, communications systems and tank farms as the priorities for government capital spending for the current 1981-82 budget. We have, after consultation with many MLA's, decided to recommend the following capital priorities for 1982-83: That the Legislative Assembly call for a portion of capital to be used for retrofitting, and that the Legislative Assembly place a high emphasis on recreation facilities for communities in the capital plan, as long as money for operation and maintenance is planned for by both the government and the community.

With respect to recreation facilities, more than one MLA has talked about the need for good recreation facilities within each community. Some have mentioned the fact of having facilities attached to the local school. With a good school recreational program that was one way of attracting -- and an important way of attracting -- and keeping young people in school. Others have mentioned that good family type of recreation facilities such as swimming pools, skating rinks and bowling alleys were required in the communities to keep families "playing" together during the long winter months.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes our recommendations to the Legislative Assembly concerning spending priorities for 1982-83, on both operation and maintenance, and on capital.

Northern Resident Employment, Purchase And Business Opportunities

We do, however, have another recommendation to make, concerning northern resident employment, northern purchase, and northern business opportunities.

Those three items, northern employment, northern purchase, and northern business opportunities, have been a priority of every Legislature, and all three have been mentioned by the elected representatives in some way or other during every session for as long as I can research back into our history. In fact, Mr. Patterson referred to all three today in his speech. Yet the statistics are not good enough, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps the biggest offender -- although it is improving -- is our own government. The political will to do it is there, however somehow, the translating of that political will into positive and serious action still needs vast improvement.

Too many northerners are still unemployed, too many contracts are still going south and too many purchases are being made outside the Northwest Territories, both by the government and by industry. Examples of such instances have been placed before our committee, not only by MLA's but also by members of the general public, and we feel, as your finance committee, that the time to act is now.

---Applause

Your committee strongly recommends that this Assembly take a much firmer stand on those three priorities through the establishment of a monitoring system which would act as a watchdog on industry and indeed on our own government, and which would hear and investigate complaints surrounding northern resident employment, northern purchase and northern business opportunities.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: This monitoring system, whether it be one individual or a team of individuals in a centralized location, or appointed regional bodies/individuals located at the regional level, would be established under legislation and would have independent powers much like the Food Prices Review Board or the Anti-Inflation Board, to review industry and government policy and financial books with respect to addressing legitimate complaints about any of the three priorities.

We realize, Mr. Speaker, that this is a serious recommendation. We realize, as well, that it needs to be further debated and, if passed, then more work must be done by our elected representatives on the Executive Committee, or by a special committee of the Legislature, or by your standing committee on finance, to develop the concept more extensively, and to consult with the regions on the make-up of the monitoring system itself.

There were three principles that we agreed were most important:

- (1) That the monitoring system not be the government or a civil servant.
- (2) That the monitoring system be established under legislation.
- (3) That the monitoring system be responsible directly and report frequently to the Legislative Assembly.

If Members of the Assembly can agree to those principles, what then must be discussed is the mechanism, the monitoring system, itself.

The committee, to help discussion along, poses the following questions:

- (1) Should the monitoring system be composed of an individual similar to an ombudsman?
- (2) If so, should we have one centralized ombudsman or should we appoint regional ombudsmen? or
- (3) Should we create a board similar to the Labour Standards Board, to act as the monitor?
- (4) If so, should it be a centralized board with regional representation, similar to our current boards? or
- (5) Should boards be appointed on a regional basis with strict regional membership?

Members here may have your own ideas for the make-up of the monitoring system which might be quite different. If so, we would like to hear about it. You also probably will want to consult with your regional and community people on this. Before the Legislature decides on the make-up of the monitoring system, we would like to see it debate this whole issue. Therefore, in order to open that debate, we agreed to sponsor the following motion that the Legislative Assembly take a much firmer stand on encouraging northern resident employment, northern purchase, and northern business opportunities by establishing a monitoring system, and that the following three principles be endorsed by the Legislative Assembly:

- (1) That the monitoring system not be the government or a civil servant.
- (2) That the monitoring system be established under legislation.
- (3) That the monitoring system be responsible directly and report regularly to the Legislative Assembly.

Motion To Refer 10th Report Of Standing Committee On Finance To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, that completes the standing committee's report to the Legislature. I move that the report be referred to the committee of the whole for discussion immediately following the discussion of bills on the order paper. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South. I have a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Pudluk, Member for the High Arctic. Discussion, to the motion.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Question.

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

---Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Refer Report Of Standing Committee On Legislation To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the permission of the Assembly I will not read the standing committee on legislation report into the record now. I will move that the report be considered in committee of the whole when legislation is brought forward.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor, that the report of the committee on legislation be considered in committee of the whole when legislation is being discussed. Do I have a seconder? Mr. McLaughlin. Discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Patterson, the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay.

Notice Of Motion 12-81(2): Honorariums To Compensate Uranium Witnesses

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that I will move on Tuesday, May 26th, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Assembly recommend to the Members' Services Board that certain witnesses who the board is satisfied were not otherwise compensated beyond expenses for their appearance during the recent uranium debates be provided with a daily honorarium. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay. Notices of motion. Mr. Curley.

Notice Of Motion 13-81(2): Appointment Of Mr. John Todd To Workers' Compensation Board

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will be asking for unanimous consent as early as possible for the following motion: I move that this Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that Mr. John Todd of Rankin Inlet be appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley, the honourable Member for Keewatin South. Notices of motion.

Now, before I proceed further into motions, it is my understanding, Mr. Curley, that you have duties that will take you out of Hay River on Monday, so I presume that you would like to proceed with your motions today. Is that correct?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is certainly within the orders of the day, and I would like to proceed with it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk, you have a motion on today's order paper. Would it be convenient for you to deal with this on Monday rather than today?

Mr. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, if my seconder will be here, I can wait.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, is there any objection to moving it until Monday?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Motion 8-81(2), Mr. Curley, I understand that there is a correction in your motion that will require unanimous consent to amend. Would you proceed, please?

Motion 8-81(2): Proposed Plebiscite On Division

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS this Assembly has recommended that a plebiscite be held concerning the question of division of the Northwest Territories, and that the plebiscite be held between November 1981 and 1983;

AND WHEREAS it is urgent that this important question of political development be resolved as soon as possible;

AND WHEREAS it is planned that in the fall session of this Assembly this year, constitutional development and division is to be debated;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Pine Point...

Mr. Speaker, I now wish to ask for unanimous consent to include the following:

That this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that the proposed plebiscite on division of the Northwest Territories described in recommendation five of the unity committee recommendations, be held in all Northwest Territories communities in conjunction with the December 14, 1981, municipal elections.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the House, basically the change in the motion is to make it a request rather than a demand, which would have been ruled out of order by the Chair. It does not change the intent of the motion in any way, basically. Do I have the unanimous consent for the Member to change his motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? Are there any nays?

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. Curley. Your motion, as reworded, is in order.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is now clear that since the unity committee's recommendations were passed by this Assembly, there has been very little action, or progress, so far with those very important recommendations. It is now eight months, at least, since the recommendations were dealt with and I believe there was a specific recommendation that the question of the political development be debated at least twice before the plebiscite was held, but if we were to stick with that schedule, we would be pushed further and further until we would be in a position that the state of political situation would be in a worse situation than today, if we do not proceed with some kind of action.

So I believe that if the plebiscite were held, this would merely be a formality, and that it would be very much less costly to coincide with the municipal elections. So, I am asking that Members of this Assembly vote in favour of this motion, because for another thing I believe that we do not have to wait until the federal government makes a decision about the political and division question, as far as the will of the people of the Northwest Territories is taken and dealt with by this Assembly. I think we can do certain things, but I do not think we have to wait for the federal government, until they deal with many of the questions that are presented through the unity committee's recommendations.

I am asking you to take this motion seriously and ask the Executive Committee to pose the question and deal with it and at least proceed with the plebiscite in December. That is still at least six months away from us, so it is really not too soon to hold it, because that would be at least over one year after the unity committee's recommendations were dealt with in Frobisher Bay. So, I do not think it will be too soon. I think it is an appropriate time and it would come shortly after the forthcoming major debate on political and constitutional development. So, I am just asking you to go on, get on with the job and see what we can do from here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. McLaughlin, as seconder you have the floor if you wish at this time.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seconded this motion in order to get the issue onto the floor of the House. I too, feel that the question of the division of the Territories hangs over this House and interferes with much of the debate that could more easily be carried on and resolved, if we could first settle this basic question of the future of the Northwest Territories. I am not in a hurry to get rid of the Members from the Eastern Arctic, but I would like to see them in their own territory as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member should be noted as speaking for himself only, I presume. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Amendment To Motion 8-81(2)

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move an amendment to the motion. My amendment would strike off all words after the word "communities" in the fourth line, and would then read "...be held in all Northwest Territories

communities at a date to be set within one months time by the Executive Committee, but not later than the end of the month of April 1982". Again "...be held in all Northwest Territories communities at a date to be set within one months time by the Executive Committee, but not later than the end of the month of April 1982".

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to have a few moments to consider the amendment, because off the top of my head, I think the amendment is out of order, inasmuch as it changes the intent. The intent appears to me to be, that it be held in conjunction with the municipal election, and by changing the date, I think you have completely changed the context of the motion, but I will have a second look at that. Point of order, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: If I may speak to the point of order just before you make your ruling then, Mr. Speaker, would that be allowed? To the point of order, which although one was not called, you obviously feel is present in this situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Being Saturday, I am going to be lenient. I will allow you a point of order, but it is not a normal procedure, until I have made my decision from the Chair, but go ahead, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. It is simply to the point of order, which you are obviously considering, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest that the main thrust of the motion is to compel a fixed date and that my amendment would be legitimate, because it does set a fixed date, and simply changes the date that was suggested in the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We will recess for a few moments, until I have a look at this, but please do not leave the chamber. It should not take very long.

---SHORT RECESS

Amendment To Motion 8-81(2), Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the meeting back to order. This is probably a very close type of a decision to try to make, but I feel that the motion itself "...to be held in all Northwest Territories communities in conjunction with the December 14, 1981 municipal election", which is the key to me of the motion, not the date necessarily. The date of the municipal elections might be any given day, but it ties in municipal elections. Therefore, in my opinion the amendment is out of order. Mr. MacQuarrie, do you have a point of order? I am not prepared to debate my decision.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I would just like to speak to the motion, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Fine. If you want to speak to the motion, proceed.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In which case, I very, very reluctantly will vote against the motion, not because of the nearness of time, which I want to see, but I do not want specifically see it tied to municipal elections. I believe that it is an issue of ultimate importance and that it should have the spotlight and be focussed upon all by itself. I believe that April would have been an adequate time, but at any rate, because of that and because of the nearness, but that is a lesser argument, I would feel that I would have to vote against it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 8-81(2), Carried

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

---Carried

---Applause

Motion 9-81(2). Mr. Curley.

Motion 9-81(2): Plebiscite Re Division

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS this Assembly has recommended that a plebiscite be held on the question of division of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS it has been recommended that the plebiscite ask in essence, the following question: "Do you favour the division of the Territories into one or two territories?";

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the question for the plebiscite be determined well in advance of any plebiscite;

AND WHEREAS the wishes of all the people of the western part of the Northwest Territories with regard to the creation of one or more new territories are not yet clear;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly's constitutional development committee will take some time yet to determine the aspirations of all the people in the western part of the Northwest Territories and hold the necessary constitutional convention in the western part of the Northwest Territories to determine the exact nature of political development in the West;

AND WHEREAS residents of the area known as Nunavut and their representatives have been committed for years to the creation of a new public government and new territory known as Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that people in all parts of the Northwest Territories be consulted on the creation of the Nunavut territory;

AND WHEREAS the creation of the Nunavut territory is essential to satisfactory and early resolution of the land claims talks now progressing well between Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Government of Canada;

AND WHEREAS an early vote on Nunavut territory will in no way preclude a later plebiscite on the question of further divisions of the Northwest Territories into new geopolitical units, once the aspirations of the people of the western part of the Northwest Territories become clear;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the question on the first plebiscite on division of the Northwest Territories be as follows: "Do you favour the creation of a Nunavut territory?".

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley, your motion is in order. You have the floor. I am very sorry, you second it, Mr. MacQuarrie? Seconded then by Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Curley, you have the floor.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe the preamble speaks for itself in that it is clear that the motion merely tries to clarify the regional recommendation which, in essence, was a bit confusing as the unity committee recommendation which asks whether the division of the Territories should be divided into one or two new territories. So, I think on this proposed plebiscite, the question should be clear when dealing with that particular Eastern Arctic territory to be known as Nunavut territory.

So, merely, Mr. Speaker, the motion is really asking for approval of this Assembly to put the question clearly whether the residents in that territory would favour the creation of a Nunavut territory. So that is what I would merely like to speak at this time, and would ask the Members to support this particular motion. Thank you.

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

Question Should Be Clear And Simple

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the seconder of the motion, I would like to say that I have always felt that the question that was formulated in Frobisher Bay was rather confusing, and I believe in a plebiscite it is important to have a question that is as clear and simple as possible, and I think that this one is.

I guess we all grow and change and in some ways I have. I know when I first joined the Assembly, I guess because of my nature and my background, I always thought that things hinged on every word, the meaning of every word. I have learned, I guess, that politics in a way is a science of approximations or something. So, I would say that there are a couple of things in the "whereases" here that do not entirely please me. One of them is that I feel that it is not demonstrated totally that all the leaders and all the people of the Eastern Arctic area have wanted this, and, of course, that is one reason we are having the plebiscite. Then also there was a time, I suppose, in my life when I would have been concerned about the word "Nunavut" being used there in case the implication was that that meant all of the ideas that were included in the ITC documents on Nunavut. I no longer think that that would be the case, that the question to most people would simply mean, are you in favour of having another territory, an Eastern Arctic territory with a name, Nunavut, and because I believe it means that, and because I believe it is a simple and straightforward question, I am happy to second the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to briefly speak in support of the motion. Mr. Speaker, the matter of political development in the Northwest Territories is pressing, and the creation of the Nunavut territory has been discussed at some length by the people of the Northwest Territories and particularly the people of the eastern part of the Northwest Territories. Although I do agree with Mr. MacQuarrie that it is desirable that we find out for sure that the assumption is true that there is extensive support in the eastern part of the Northwest Territories for this division, it was presumptuous in the "whereas" to state that the people supported, when that would be the purpose of the plebiscite. So, I agree, but I think that is a small part of the motion.

The creation of Nunavut is based on several strong arguments that parts of the existing Northwest Territories form a distinct area with climate, ecology, economy, history, and culture in common, and that political boundaries should reflect this distinctiveness. Also, that people of this area, yet to be precisely identified...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, just that the motion deals with, whether this shall be the question, and not the legitimacy of a second territory. I felt that the remarks should be confined to that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I think this House basically has been very lenient. As long as we are dealing with the subject and creation or separation into two or more parts seems to me a legitimate part of the argument that may be before the House. Whether it be necessary or not is another thing, but I think it is legitimate. Proceed, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of my constituency look forward to resolving this question as soon as possible so that their unique political, economic and social aspirations can be better recognized and reflected in government, and the Northwest Territories have served only as a stopgap measure for the provision of public administration in the advance of the emergence of more long-term political units.

The creation of Nunavut in accordance with the popular political allegiance of its people represents a logical step in the fulfilment of such a process, and our own special committee on unity underscored this view of mine in recommending or stating in its report of October, 1980, that it was unable to find consensus on either the people of Nunavut or among all the peoples of the Northwest Territories favouring the continuing existence of the Northwest Territories under a single jurisdiction and under its present government.

Settlement Of Inuit Land Claims

The other aspect I wish to address is that ITC is presently negotiating with the federal government in order to reach a just and reasonable settlement of Inuit claims, and they have stated publicly their commitment not to enter into a final land claims agreement without federal government assurances of political change. The present negotiations involving as they do the future of all Inuit in the Northwest Territories are proceeding on the understanding that the creation of a Nunavut territory is needed.

Political development in Nunavut, however, is not within the mandate of the chief federal negotiator, Mr. Robert Mitchell. In other words, the political development of Nunavut will not be determined at the land claims negotiating table. So this bears directly on the challenge that this Assembly faces. Of course, ITC has been committed to the creation of this territory for a number of years, beginning in 1979 with their annual general meeting in Igloolik when there was agreement to release the document "Political Development in Nunavut" for public discussion. Then 1980, delegates to the ITC annual general meeting in Coppermine unanimously passed a resolution that called upon the federal government and this Legislative Assembly to indicate agreement in principle. Just last week, our Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs stated that in his view, a division is possible, and judging from this Assembly's positive response to the unity committee report, I think we can agree that the Nunavut territory is both necessary and inevitable.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the question of why the question should be worded precisely as it is, and I would agree with Mr. MacQuarrie that the resolution of the plebiscite question in Frobisher Bay was not as precise as we might hope, and that this motion, if it is passed, will help eliminate the confusion that resulted from agreement that there certainly appears to be the need for a creation of an eastern territory and possible new territory or territories in the western part of the Northwest Territories.

I think it was accepted, Mr. Speaker, and acknowledged in the recommendation that a special constitutional development committee be established, specifically to address the political future of the western part of the Northwest Territories; that there needs to be more time for further discussion amongst all the peoples of the Northwest Territories before the particular question can be formulated to put to the people of the western part of the Northwest Territories.

In the meantime, the pressure on the people of the eastern part of the Northwest Territories, the pressure on the native organization which represents those people to settle a claim which I understand is progressing well is upon us, and therefore, this motion should not be seen as determining the western solution, but rather allowing the people of the Eastern Arctic to early express their views and consult the people of all the Northwest Territories on what is much better understood now -- the need for an eastern territory -- should proceed now.

Impact Committee

As far as the question of the Assembly's impact committee, this important committee chaired by Mr. Peter Fraser has been established. Unfortunately, it has only been able to meet a few times, and has been to date somewhat hamstrung by a lack of funds. This funding is part of the B level submission to the federal government which our Minister of Finance, Mr. Butters, has recently discussed with the Indian and Northern Affairs standing committee, and we certainly will hope that resolution of this funding problem will be swift. A vote in favour of this motion will certainly provide impetus to the impact committee to get its work done, and I would point out that the fact that the Commissioner has indicated the desire of the Executive Committee to have a major political and constitutional debate in the fall session will, in itself, be a very important way of informing all the people of the Northwest Territories of the question and the plebiscites so that they may participate fully in determining this most important question.

The creation of a Nunavut territory, of course, cannot be achieved overnight. We do believe that it is a process which is going to require many further questions answered relating to timing, transitional arrangement, boundaries, etc. This vote will, in some way, assist in resolving the question of boundary, possibly. The work needs to begin very soon, Mr. Speaker. This Assembly is in a position to initiate and continue the public process of determining our political future in conjunction with communities, individuals, organizations, and governments. Let us support this motion as a first step toward our constitutional development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the honourable Member from Frobisher Bay. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. McCallum.

ITC's Proposal Called Nunavut

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I at the outset simply want to indicate that when we were talking under the aspect of the division in Frobisher Bay, I think that we hoped everybody decided that the division of the Territories, that we were in favour of it. In fact, we went on to declare a commitment in principle on the debate on the recommendations of the committee in unity. I think pretty well everybody was in favour of it. We were, as well, in favour with recommendation five from the unity committee which indicated that we should hold a plebiscite to determine the wishes of the people on this particular

question of division. I agree with Mr. Patterson, I think it was he, it may well have been Mr. MacQuarrie, who said that division would be inevitable. I agree that there should be division. I agree that people in the Territories should have the opportunity to do that. We agreed with recommendation five of the unity committee, as I indicated, that our Government House Leader in conjunction with Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. Curley take these 10 recommendations to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs.

However, Mr. Speaker, the recommendation of the unity committee said that the plebiscite should ask the following question: Do we favour the division of the Territories into one or two new territories? The question in the motion that we have now is do you favour the creation of a Nunavut territory? On the one hand we had this Assembly, through the Leader and two other Members, take those recommendations to the Minister and suggest to him that these are the recommendations that we, as a group, agreed with.

One of the perks of the recommendation of the unity committee number five was that all citizens, 18 years or older who have resided in the Territories five years or more, would be able to vote. However, in municipal elections, you need only be a member of the community for six months to vote. There would be a difficulty there. It is not that I have hesitation in believing that Mr. Wah-Shee will be able to work that out within his government and his local government people.

However, I guess my concern with the question itself is, Mr. Speaker, the question that has been recommended in the motion: Do you favour the creation of a Nunavut territory? I think people should be able to call it whatever they want, if that is what the question is asking, that that is the name that people would want to apply to a territory. There are other people who may want to have other names, but if it is simply to put a name on another territory, then I do not have any difficulty supporting this, but, Mr. Speaker, if the question means do I support and favour the creation of the territory that has been proposed as Nunavut, then I do have some concerns, in terms of the extent of it.

There is a proposal, obviously, by ITC for this new territory called Nunavut. Now, as I say, if the motion itself simply wants to put a name and have the approval of this Assembly to put a name to a particular area that we do not know what it is going to be, then I do not have any difficulty supporting putting a name on it, if that is what is intended in the motion, but if it is intended to ask that I agree with the proposal of ITC, in terms of the boundaries, then, no, I am not in favour of that particular boundary, and I would expect that there are others in this House who are not in favour of that boundary.

I think that to pass this particular motion, the motion indicated that we should hold a plebiscite to determine the wishes of people, that is the recommendation on the unity committee, no sooner than one year and not later than two years, and it should ask the question, do you support the division, and I voted yes for that. I voted yes, that we should have division, but when I voted, I voted that we should have all people vote on it.

We did not, in the recommendations of the unity committee which this Assembly wanted taken directly by representatives of the Assembly to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, asking him to accept these, and I suggest that the motion that we have now before us, Mr. Speaker, differs from what we have already told the federal government, because there we simply said that we favour we want to ask the question, in a plebiscite, do you favour the division into one or two new territories?

Personally, I would be much more in favour of not just making new territories out of the old territory but I would see us developing further on. I think we have waited long enough to get beyond the territorial stage in political development. There should be something more, there should be something we could get even higher than that.

Mr. Speaker, then what I would ask you, is the question simply to put a name on it? I know Mr. MacQuarrie referred to that, and he seems satisfied to himself that that is all it is. Hearing the second speaker, Mr. Patterson, talk about the proposal that ITC has, for me, I would want it clarified simply that this recommendation to the Executive Committee to ask the question, do you favour a Nunavut proposal, is that simply placing a name on a yet to be defined area of the present Northwest Territories, or is it, in fact, asking approval of this House for the ITC proposal called Nunavut in its present boundaries. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley, under normal procedure, if you were to speak, you would end the debate. However, a question relative to your motion has been asked, and I will permit you to answer that question, and basically, I presume, the question is: Does Nunavut have predesigned boundaries in part of that motion, or is it a matter of just a name only? Mr. Curley.

Boundaries Of Nunavut

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable Member's concern revolves around much more broader concerns than the motion itself. I think if he reads all the "whereases" there, he would get a much better understanding.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, point of order.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I asked to pose a question. I did not ask or hope that he was going to tell me what I am thinking of. I have enough problems myself with that, I do not need his help.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Basically, I take your point of order as being correct. Mr. Curley, the question is, does Nunavut indicate a boundary or does it only indicate a name?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think we have to take into this question that the boundary has not been formally resolved yet by the Government of Canada, but there is a proposal as I indicated in paragraph six, the area known as Nunavut, and that is what I think we are talking about, but the boundary question, as I know it, is not resolved as yet.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley, I must assume from the Chair that the expression "Nunavut" does indicate boundaries.

MR. CURLEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am confused because we are not talking about a boundary. Boundary issues yet have to be dealt with by the impact committee; that is a rule of the impact that has to define it, but sure, the question is: Do you favour the Nunavut territory which has been discussed publicly for a number of years?

MR. SPEAKER: The question of the honourable Minister is to find out whether you, as the mover of the motion, feel that Nunavut means, basically, the Nunavut proposal, which is everything North of the tree line, and that is the Nunavut proposal. He is asking you, is that what it means, or does it mean division?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, from my notes, the Nunavut government would mean, if the Territories were divided, the eastern part of the Territories, that would be known as the Nunavut government. The boundary, as far as I know it, is yet to be resolved. I am not putting the boundary into the motion at all.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Mr. Curley, on your motion, it would clear the matter up, I think, if you said, as far as you are concerned, Nunavut is the name for the eastern section, "boundaries to be decided later". Then everybody would know what they were voting on. I think that is what they want to know.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, they do know.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Mr. Curley, unfortunately, maybe I am more stupid than usual, but I do not know, because you have said "Nunavut"...

MR. CURLEY: Well, if you support it, you would know.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very small word in the question makes all the difference. It says: "Do you favour the creation of a Nunavut territory?" If it said "the Nunavut territory", then I would be concerned that it was the specific proposal of ITC, and so on. It is a Nunavut territory in a general sense. Most Members understand that means a northeastern Arctic territory, boundaries to be defined through negotiation, or whatever, I think.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, as the seconder. Are you ready for the question?

MR. CURLEY: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. Curley, you have the right to close the debate.

Boundaries To Be Decided By Federal Government

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I do so. I think the issue of the boundary should be left during the debate here. If you are confused about it, do not just go back and forth trying to deal with yes or no answers, because we cannot understand that way.

Sure, the boundary, Mr. Speaker, has yet to be decided. That is up to, likely the federal boundary commission. Any major division would have to be dealt with by the appropriate authorities. I am not in a position to pose to you where the line of the Nunavut government should be, but the public interest groups have given you some idea of where it should be, but they have indicated that the issue of the boundary is yet to be dealt with by the Government of Canada and through the impact committees to inquire into it.

The question we pose to you, "Do you favour the Nunavut territory?" Sure, you can put a name on it. If the public decided to change it, surely they will not be bound by this particular vote today. So I am just merely asking you. If the Members are confused about it, they should do a little more homework that they would understand. So, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for a recorded vote on this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: That concludes the debate. The question is now on the floor. Recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour of the motion, will they please stand and remain standing until their name is called?

Motion 9-81(2), Carried

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? Abstentions?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden, Mr. Nerysoo, Mrs. Sorensen.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Mr. Pudluk, I understand that you are prepared to set down Motion 10-81(2) until Monday. Is that correct?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion 11-81(2). I only have half of the motion. It is rather difficult when I do not know who made it. I would assume, however, that it is Mr. Curley. Motion 11-81(2) -- I am sorry -- is made by Mr. Noah, seconded by Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Noah. Motion 11-81(2).

Motion 11-81(2): Cancellation Of Property Taxes Implementation In Eastern Arctic

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Minister of Local Government announced on February 27, 1981, that property taxation would be implemented in a number of communities in the Eastern Arctic in 1981, and in additional communities in 1982;

AND WHEREAS by Motion 9-80(2), adopted on June 14, 1980, this Assembly recommends that residential and commercial property taxes in all areas in that part of the Northwest Territories designated as Nunavut in the ITC Nunavut proposal, be held in abeyance until after the settlement of land claims and the establishment of Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce at its recent annual meeting resolved that it supports the postponement of property taxation;

AND WHEREAS Eastern Arctic residents are always burdened by extremely high costs of living;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Baffin Central, that this Legislative Assembly recommends to the Executive Committee that it not proceed with its plans to introduce further property taxes in the Eastern Arctic until after the settlement of land claims and the establishment of Nunavut as designated in the ITC Nunavut proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Noah. Proceed.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were meeting in Baker Lake, I think it was sometime in June, it says June 14 here, but I think it is the wrong date here. There was a motion, when we were meeting in Baker Lake on June 16, 1980. The motion number was 9-80(2), and it was Tagak Curley's motion. The reason we did this motion again was because of property taxes, and it was not talked about over in Keewatin or in Baffin. The size of the houses has to be talked about and be explained clearly, and be understood, for the property tax.

The people who own their own land should know how much they should pay property tax on the land and also how much taxes they are going to be paying for the size of house they have. A lot of people in the Keewatin region do not have a clear view as to how property taxes work, and also all utilities, food, and other things, the prices of these things are getting higher, and municipal services are high.

This was never properly explained to the people, and if this goes on, the Department of Local Government will only be blaming themselves for not making the people understand how property taxes work. Before the land claims are settled, I think this will have to be clarified to the people of the Keewatin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah, the honourable Member from Keewatin North. The seconder of the motion.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) I really have nothing else to add to this, because Mr. Noah mentioned them all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk, the honourable Member from Baffin Central. Mr. Pudluk.

Eastern Arctic Should Pay Property Taxes

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary to the motion. I do not think I am going to support this motion in the Baffin region. The Baffin Regional Council had our annual spring meeting, and property taxes were mentioned. I do not think BRC minds getting a little more revenue from the people in Resolute Bay. They are already paying property taxes, and it is the only settlement in the Baffin region who are paying property taxes. If Baffin is the only settlement in the region paying taxes, I would like the other settlements in the region to pay taxes also, and also Frobisher Bay to pay taxes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) I would like to say that property taxes should be implemented in the Eastern Arctic, beginning in the near future, and once it begins we shall see how it works. BRC supported the Eastern Arctic paying property taxes, and I am not going to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk, Member for the High Arctic. Mr. MacQuarrie, the honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I submit that this issue has nothing at all to do with land claims, as was mentioned in the motion and that, in fact, it does not originate from among those people who are to be recipient of claims, but in fact, originates in the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce and with the president, John Todd.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

A Motion Of Non-Confidence In Executive Committee

MR. MacQUARRIE: I submit as evidence of that a wide coverage of a meeting recently in the Keewatin of the chamber of commerce in News/North, Friday, May 22nd. I know that some of us from the urban centres are sometimes accused of being dupes of the chamber of commerce, but I would like to assure Members here that on more than one occasion we have resisted the more inane urgings of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce.

I would urge the Members, Mr. Speaker, who sponsored this motion to withdraw it, because whether they realize it or not, what they have done here is to introduce a motion of non-confidence in the Executive Committee. I believe

that in this motion we have come to the very crux of how consensus government works. I believe that the Executive Committee, having received the motion that is mentioned in a "whereas" earlier, has an obligation, if democracy is to prevail, to have an initial disposition toward accepting the will of the Assembly. That is most fundamental and most important, but then in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, they have the obligation to consider those recommendations in the light of various financial, legal and constitutional constraints and also in the light of trying to balance the interests of all of the people of the Northwest Territories. Apparently, in considering the motion the last time, that is what the Executive Committee did.

The motion has been brought back again and I would submit to Members here that if it passes again, then I would feel that there is a very serious obligation on the Members of the Executive Committee who decided not to proceed with the Assembly's motion to resign, because the Assembly is expressing non-confidence in them. I believe that anyone who would advance and support a motion of non-confidence has a serious obligation to do so only if they themselves are willing to fill in the Executive Committee positions that would thereby be vacated.

I do not see it as a motion of non-confidence in the traditional sense that that motion is advanced in British parliamentary tradition and, therefore, it is not an automatic obligation, but at least in another sense, that Executive Committee Members would have to realize that their decision had been challenged. So, at any rate, I ask those who advanced it to consider withdrawal and if not, I shall certainly have to vote against it.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Curley.

Eastern Arctic People Have No Vote On Money Matters

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak a little. Does it have to be like this all the time, throughout the whole Territories? The government was going to help and they say, you are going to get this much money. When the Commissioner was in Rankin Inlet and this topic was brought up by one of the persons who has a place -- the high cost of living -- now I am going to have to pay for using the land, and he asks why is this the way it is. It is very high. The cost of it is very high. Do I have to answer that? Did you want to answer it?

I was told by the chamber of commerce -- I can tell the Member from Yellowknife about Inuit Members who have been misled and they are trying to keep up with their businesses and pay all the bills. Now they are going to have to pay the property taxes, when they have the burden already of paying the other thing. They will have to pay the same prices as they pay in Hay River. A lot of people with houses are going to have a hard time regarding taxes. The problem is that in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith, they can pay, because they have a right to vote, but in our regions, there were not any conventions when the property tax was implemented. Would you like to have to tell the people in your constituencies? It is going to be a burden. It is not connected at all to the government's civil servants or workers and you cannot say that this is good for the people, because they do not even have to worry about it; they are just trying to implement it.

I wanted to say this, because if you are going to help the people, I do not think they should pay anything like this. I think we should be able to resolve this. People who have land and property, they should be the last ones. Perhaps it would have been better -- I was going to Eskimo Point. Nobody wants to pay the property taxes, because they do not have any say as to how the tax would be used. Now, if you are going to help the people in the constituencies, I think that the government should listen to the people. (Translation ends)

Now, I think the Executive Committee is very able, Mr. Speaker, to speak for themselves. I do not think they need the Member for Yellowknife Centre to speak for them. I must say that I am a little disappointed in Mr. MacQuarrie's very naive, if not complete ignorance of the way the chamber of commerce is attempting to represent its people. They are a bunch of small businessmen. They are not like the chamber of commerce group in Yellowknife -- small businessmen, who have difficulty in paying for their loans; who have difficulty in paying for their fuel costs, which is somewhat different from Yellowknife; which have difficulty in paying for electricity, unlike Yellowknife; which are burdened by the much more tremendous inflationary costs of goods and services, unlike Yellowknife, but they say, we have got to treat everybody equal. Is that true? Unlike people in Yellowknife, people in Keewatin will not be able to vote on money matters, because they have no such legislation to support them.

I see that the executive assistant of the Minister of Local Government disagrees with me, and if so, she should go publicly and explain what her position is. The Minister was asked recently to come to Rankin Inlet, and their taxation representatives, to speak to the people, but I feel that the government has deliberately attempted not to talk about taxation and the property taxation program directly in the communities. They have told the Assembly they are going to carry on with the consultation, but they have not.

Taxation Should Be Introduced In Stages

Yes, I agree taxation for property should be equal, but I do not agree when people have no real say in how the money should be spent in their own municipality and I question whether or not this is really the way to go about it. I have mentioned once before that, yes, maybe the taxation should be introduced in stages. Maybe we should start with the development of major companies in the Territories, but not at the expense of the very small private home-owner. Home-ownership programs of this government are not effective to try to encourage private home-ownership in other parts of the area -- no problems in the Western Arctic; no problems in Fort Smith; no real problems in Yellowknife, I would say. So, property taxation, as I say, should be given serious consideration and I believe that the timing is not correct. It is not the right time. So I would, again ask you to seriously look at this; not only take the interests of your constituents, but the interests of the people in the Eastern Arctic as to how it will actually affect their lives. Whether or not you agree that the cost of living and inflation is comparable to Yellowknife or not, I think you should seriously not only serve your interests, but the interests of the private home-owner.

I certainly agree that the large corporations and companies can probably go through paying taxes and so on, but how about the small-time operator, the small businessman? I believe that if you are seriously interested in representing your constituents, ordinary citizens, you would be prepared to vote against this. You know, you would be prepared to vote for the motion, but if you have no regard for the ordinary citizen, who has to suffer paying his bills, then you will not be representing the interests of the ordinary, small man. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your time clock is working beautifully. You were within five seconds of your 20 minutes. To the motion. How many more speakers do I have? We will then recess for coffee and sandwiches for 15 minutes. What is your point of order, please?

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it is a point of order or of privilege, but while we are having coffee break, may I have a legal opinion on whether on voting on this motion that we are indeed voting on a motion of non-confidence on the Executive?

MR. SPEAKER: We can request the Law Clerk to have a look at that problem and see what his opinion is. Thank you. We will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: This Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the Assembly back to order. To the motion. With the legal ruling you asked for, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Law Clerk.

Motion Ruled Not One Of Non-Confidence

LAW CLERK (Mr. Johnson): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding there are two kinds of non-confidence motions. One is a formal notice of motion of non-confidence and the other is sort of an informal one whereby the government puts forward a financial bill, and if they are defeated on that, it is treated as non-confidence. Now, this particular motion is not a bill and it is not formally worded as being worded as a motion of non-confidence. Therefore, I do not think it is a motion of non-confidence.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in order of consistency, I will have to support this motion. I do not normally like to talk about what someone else has said. However, if we are going to look at the records, this motion was brought up previously, and argued on the basis of the small business people, who in the northern part of the east and northwestern Territories are normally Inuit.

The problem of taxation is often used as part of a desire or a presumption that you belong to this society, and there are many other breaks for local businesses that we have anticipated, but so far the action has been very slow in moving those forward. So it seems that in this motion what we are suggesting is that the tax breaks to the smaller people and people facing the large costs that are well-known in our part of the country, is just one of the positive things that we can do to help these business people out.

If, in fact, the taxes that we are talking about were a very large amount, I would presume that we could say that these costs and taxes are offsetting other costs. In this relationship I was very happy to hear about the local home-owners tax and was to be a recipient of that. However, in the Inuvik town council, they have just upped the taxes 20 per cent and that is about \$50 more than the incentive that I was going to get on my home.

So I have no problem in supporting this motion. I believe that the desire of people is to take part in industrial development and community development, and that cost from time to time is so horrendous that many of our local people fail in that area when they wish to take part. Once the precedent of taxes has been set, then we continue to try to fit into that system and are forced continually to move closer and closer to what the South is doing, rather than trying to develop a process whereby our own people in our own particular area is supported. Therefore, we just continually follow along the status quo because that is, after all, what we know, and we do not know any other ways to go.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Federal Tax Breaks For Large Industries

MS COURNOYEA: Now, on the basis of taxation it seems to me large industries, such as Dome Petroleum, have been given frontier incentive from the federal government to work in the North, and that means a tax break. Not only a tax break, but a payment for every dollar they spend on a percentage basis determining where they are.

Now, since the Northwest Territories government cannot do that and do not have the funds to do so, I do not understand the difficulty in supporting local people who want to take part in industrial development by giving them this tax break at this time, until we, as a territorial Assembly, can find the necessary funds to help these people. Not only are local people, which in our area in

the main part are Inuit, and I believe Mr. Curley has referred to land claims -- this is probably the reason why -- although others have often wondered how they would benefit from the benefits of Inuit, and I believe in their support of the tax break request, they are benefiting.

The problem that the local businesses also face is the extreme difficulty in getting loans from banks in our area where in the main part there are no banks. We also face the inability of Economic Development to aid us in getting into these new ventures. So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we all want equality, but I guess equality is on the economic standards, an ability of a group of people to move toward equality, and this small, minuscule benefit, or break, that we are talking about on taxation, is a very small part of what we can do for the area which I believe is sort of out of the line of transportation and communications in many instances.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: I am not close to the capital city of Yellowknife, and Mr. Speaker, I support this motion. I feel people should not have a difficulty for fear of hurting the Executive Committee, or have a fear that they are doing something that will allow them to depart from normal society.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for the Western Arctic. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken at length on this motion before. In fact, I have taken already two different positions on it.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: This better be the last one. Best two out of three, Dennis.

Eastern Communities Help To Pay For Services

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: So I am going to abstain this time. I would just like to add a few things, Mr. Speaker, to what I had said earlier. In the past I had strongly refuted and do still refute the assertion that eastern communities are not paying their way to the best of their ability. I think that is wrong. I think hamlets and unincorporated municipalities are paying their way for municipal and government services to the best of their abilities, and particularly there is in the Eastern Arctic a very impressive phenomenon of hamlet community corporations, although they are not really so named in the sense that hamlets often very aggressively and successfully do contract work for profit in communities, and help to pay for their own services significantly in that regard.

I also observed the last time this was discussed that Mr. Wah-Shee and the Executive Committee will reconsider the percentage of moneys returned to hamlets and other communities as an integral part of this new tax policy. There is a formula now for returning a portion of moneys collected to communities, and that is going to be reviewed.

I also would like to report on a new development Mr. Pudluk mentioned at the Baffin Regional Council recent session in Cape Dorset. The Baffin Regional Council moved, after some very lively and lengthy discussion, that the Executive Committee be requested to consider transferring a significant portion of the new revenue collected in the Eastern Arctic, and particularly in the Baffin region, to that group, to aid the Baffin Regional Council in its important work in the operation of the government. I do not speak for the Executive Committee, but I know that they will treat that motion seriously and likely will applaud the recognition of the Baffin Regional Council that communities have to help pay their own way. They say there is nothing certain but death and taxes and this is a realization that has been arrived at by the Baffin Regional Council and they have asked simply that they get a share of the resources to do their work.

Taxation Issue Is Separate From Cost Of Living

I hope this kind of approach can eventually be effected in other parts of the Territories who may feel concern because we do recognize there are significant costs, particularly in the Keewatin where distance and absence of roads and extremely high transportation costs and poor air service impose really crippling burdens, but I would respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter to be addressed through freight subsidies or other measures to relieve small businessmen. I support relief to small businessmen in encouraging small businessmen, but I do respectfully suggest that this taxation issue is separate from the soaring cost of living, and should be so considered.

Now, on the matter of confidence, I addressed that in the past as well, and I agree there is some element of confidence in the Executive Committee, although I do not think we all would feel obliged to resign en masse if this motion were to carry. However, because it is a matter of confidence, I have decided it would be appropriate that I abstain and will do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Proposed Taxation Program

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide some information regarding the proposed taxation program. First of all, of those taxes that are collected in the communities, we intend to have 100 per cent of these taxes remain in the community. Out of that, 65 per cent will be applied to the community's approved budgets, and 35 per cent of those taxes will be discretionary. In other words, the communities can spend the 35 per cent toward whatever they wish.

---Applause

Along with property taxes, just to give an example, a three bedroom house in Rankin Inlet will probably have to pay \$100 a year, but then under the property tax rebate, they get a rebate of \$50, so what they will be contributing annually is \$50.

MRS. SORENSEN: What about Yellowknife? What about Yellowknife?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: This is in areas where it is a non-tax based area. Also, I would like to refresh my colleagues' memory regarding the property taxes that the hotels would pay. To give an example, in Rankin Inlet, the Rankin Inlet Lodge has a footage of 16,952 square feet and the taxes on that would be \$2563. The Twin Pine Motor Inn in Yellowknife, which is relatively smaller in footage -- it is a little over 14,000 square feet -- will be required to pay \$15,000. So that is just to give you some comparison...

MR. CURLEY: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley, a point of order.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Minister should be going on with his sales pitch. He should be speaking to the motion.

MRS. SORENSEN: Cannot take it, eh?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Give him a shock.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley, I feel that the Minister is speaking relative to the motion. We have always been broad on interpretation of a person speaking to the motion and all Members, including yourself, have always been granted that privilege.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I am providing some information which the honourable Member has requested.

MR. CURLEY: When? When?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Perhaps he does not like the information I am giving him.

MRS. SORENSEN: Right on.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Too bad.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: In any case, I cannot support the motion.

MR. CURLEY: You want to go in confrontation? You can get it, boy.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I cannot support the motion, mainly because we had a big debate about it previously and all we are doing is basically responding to the wishes of this House.

MR. MacQUARRIE: You are wasting the time of the House.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

Taxation Being Explained In Communities

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: The other thing too is that I believe the honourable Member mentioned that the taxation program has not been properly explained to the people in the communities. It has only been recently that my officials have gone to various communities to explain the program to the people. I do not believe that the program itself would be implemented without a great deal of discussion with the people in the communities, and that is just to clarify some of the statements which are not true.

However, I believe in the whole area of taxation, my feeling is that I think that everybody has to contribute. Whether you live in the East or the West does not really matter. I think right now the Territories is one unit, and that is the way that we have to approach the various programs that we do have. That is not to say that I do not support division, because I do support division of the Territories.

MR. CURLEY: When? The record will show you did not.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Well, right now, if you want.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I have to get into this act, too. I cannot help but think that it is somewhat ironic, after Mr. Patterson's comment during his reply, about how wonderful government consensus was, and how we could make it work, and then to listen just a few minutes ago to what Mr. MacQuarrie's comments were with respect to the fact that, if we were to pass this motion, it would be similar to a non-confidence motion, and that morally the Executive Committee would have no choice but to resign.

Proof That Consensus Government Does Not Work

Mr. Speaker, the facts are these. This motion has been once narrowly passed. It has been once narrowly rejected. It has been rejected by the Executive Committee, and they have brought in an alternative, which is their property tax rebate, but now the motion is back on the floor, and, Mr. Patterson, I do not have to say any more, I rest my case on party politics.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Well, sit down.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: I rest my case. This motion is making a mockery, an absolute mockery, of consensus government, and it proves that it does not work.

Now, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the financial aspect, that is so important to the North right now, we have a \$10 million B level submission, which is now before the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. We want money for constitutional development, so we can move ahead and make some decisions about where we are going to be in the future. We want money for impact, so that we can provide assistance to communities who are not getting the kind of assistance they need because of resource development. We want money to set up a minister of Nunavut, so that we can proceed with the orderly implementation of division of the Northwest Territories. This is exactly what we have now before the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs; and that same Minister watches the Hansard very, very closely, and he reads what is said in this House, and I maintain...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Proceed.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...I maintain, Mr. Speaker, that when the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs sees this motion, particularly if it is adopted, he is going to say, "Those people are not ready to manage their own affairs. They are not ready to have their own territory." I submit, Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah, that you had better be very, very, very careful about how you handle yourself in this situation, because you may be jeopardizing the creation of your own government. Taking responsibility for financial affairs is a sign of a responsible government.

MR. CURLEY: In your people.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South. To the motion. Mr. Noah, I believe, if you speak, that terminates the debate. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted this to be heard. I was thinking, if I was the only one that was not voting, the reason why I am not supporting the white people -- if I had supported, my constituents would say to me, "You are doing it for yourself only, only for yourself and nobody else", but I know I can do it. With the high cost of gas, oil and food, I am concerned about my constituents. In other communities, especially in Frobisher Bay, mostly white people own property. About a year ago I found out that people of Frobisher Bay did not like their representative because the member was supporting the payment of property taxes.

The reason I am not going to vote on this motion is because I am concerned about my constituents. I was in favour of that motion last winter, and I was against that motion and we were defeated, and after we were defeated, somebody makes the motion again. I do not know if this is following the rules. That is all. I just wanted to inform everybody.

Each Community Should Decide On Property Taxes

It is not because I do not want to help my people, but I am not going to vote on this motion because I think quite a few people in the Eastern Arctic are in favour of paying property taxes. Why do we not let each community decide which way they want to go on it? Then, if they are in favour, they can go on. Then I can go to Pond Inlet and ask the community whether they would be willing to pay property tax or not. I think it would be a lot better if we let each community decide, but the only problem is that we have to follow the Northwest Territories ordinance regulations. Then, why are the people of Resolute Bay paying property taxes now, when they are not even incorporated? I just do not understand, when everybody has to follow the same regulations in the Northwest Territories, why Resolute Bay is the only community that is paying property taxes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Member for Foxe Basin. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. McLaughl -- Mr. Speaker, thank you.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: He forgets his name.

---Laughter

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes. I have to speak as I did before, against this motion, because I really feel that when local governments get involved with the collection of taxes in their community, and get involved with setting their own budgets, that this is an advancement toward responsible government as Mrs. Sorensen said previously.

The other thing is, especially travelling through the Keewatin and Baffin recently, in the last month, I have seen where work has to be done, in public works areas, in some of these communities. You have my agreement that a lot of the Northwest Territories money should be spent in these communities in order that they can catch up to some of the more developed areas. As well, I agree with Mr. Sibbeston, who is not here now, but I agree with him that some of the Dene communities are also in bad shape for some of the public works that the government has in place in other communities.

Fairness In Taxes

However, people in my constituency in this area of the Northwest Territories, who pay taxes on their small businesses, and who pay taxes on their homes, five and six times as much as is proposed in this, find it very upsetting when I go around saying it is okay for the government to spend a lot of money in the Central Arctic, in Keewatin and in the Baffin, when the property owners there do not have to pay taxes and they do. So I really do not think it is fair that the property owners here have to pay taxes and then not even get as much government money spent in their towns as is spent in the other towns. So I really feel that there has got to be some fairness, that there have to be taxes everywhere. The taxes are only about one fifth or one sixth of the amount people are paying in this area, so I think the government has taken into consideration the more difficult costs of operating in the more remote areas. So, in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I will be voting against this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin, the honourable Member for Pine Point. To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo, I believe.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am supporting this motion. Right now, there are no private businesses in Lake Harbour. When the community council was informed about the property taxes that will become effective, they did not mind, but there are a couple of private businesses in Cape Dorset. I understand why we could be paying property taxes when other communities are paying, so I will be supporting the motion, but I do not want to vote before consulting with my constituents. So the reason I am bringing this up, before I got elected, I told them that I would do what they want me to do.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo, the honourable Member for Baffin South. To the motion. Mr. Noah, you have the floor. You realize that you close the debate. This is the last speaker. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the motion will be defeated again, but I do not mind myself if the motion is defeated, since I am the chairman of the hamlet of Baker Lake. That is the reason I do not mind if we are defeated. The reason I made this motion is because I am doing what my constituents would like me to do. I am aware that some of the houses are quite large and they have garages and warehouses. You all know that there is quite a bit of expensive equipment in Baker Lake. The water services will be rising and air freight and telephone bills are still going up, and garbage services. The houses have to have insurance, which they have to pay for, and the electricity rates are going up. We know that if we use more electricity we will have to pay more. I know myself that there are quite a few people who own quite large houses and if they would like to put some extension on their houses, they would have to pay more by bringing their supplies by airplane, plus more for maintaining the houses and feeding their families.

Taxes Will Be Increased

Perhaps we do not mind paying property taxes by now, since we will not have to pay too much in the first place, but we all know that they will be raising the property taxes in a years time. Perhaps the property tax that you start off with will increase about five times in five years. We all know, as people originally from this area never had to pay property taxes and for those Dene and Metis who do not have to pay property taxes, they are given reserves, which do not have very much space. They are just like dogs put into compounds, dog pounds, so they do not pay taxes.

If we are going to be paying taxes in our future, for those who own their property, the taxes will be going to hamlets and a lot of it will be going to government. We have paid a lot of money into our houses. I have learned this from the white people that I have talked to. They said they have paid a big amount of taxes. They said that the taxes that are taken away are just given to government and they never give them back and they do not help the people that pay the taxes at all. I think now of in the future, when five years or perhaps 10 years are over, in the future we will be going to the hamlet or the government, crying that we are paying too much taxes.

Henderson went to Baker Lake one time, came at 8:30 and showed slides. Then he left in a couple of hours -- left to go to another community. The reason why he did not stay there very long was because they really wanted to go home, so they left after a couple of hours and the residents of Baker Lake did not even know what that person was or who he was working for, after he had left the community.

I am aware, as Inuit people are much more mature. We have a lot more kids and they have to have clothing. It is very hard to look after them, for the native people, because our families are larger than the rest and we have to feed them, clothe them. We have to consider these too. There are quite a few people who do not know about taxation, that is why they will not be voting. I know the other people, they will be paying a small amount of tax, because we know that.

I do not mind either, if we have taxation. I am the mayor of a hamlet. If I am going to be given some revenue, I will not mind and I am sure your government -- you do not mind getting some more money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah, the honourable Member for Keewatin North. That concludes the debate on Motion 11-81(2). Because we have been on this motion for considerable time, the motion reads: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Executive Committee that it does not proceed with its plans to introduce further property taxes in the Eastern Arctic until after the settlement of land claims and the establishment of Nunavut, as designated in ITC Nunavut proposal. That is the motion. I have heard a request from the floor for a recorded vote. Is that correct, Mrs. Sorensen?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Recorded vote, Mr. Clerk.

Motion 11-81(2), Defeated

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Those in favour of the motion, please stand. Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah.

Those opposed to the motion. Mr. Pudluk, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Abstentions. Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Mr. Clerk, announcements and order of the day. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I had asked for unanimous consent for one motion. I do not know whether I have that right or not.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Yes, you had indicated that you were going to ask for unanimous consent for a motion. Do we have copies of that motion? Would you briefly read the actual final clause of your motion, please?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This motion that I gave notice of today was: Now therefore, I move that this Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that Mr. John Todd of Rankin Inlet be appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the motion. Is there unanimous consent?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Curley.

---Agreed

Motion 13-81(2): Appointment Of Mr. John Todd To The Workers' Compensation Board

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS a vacancy exists in the membership of the Workers' Compensation Board;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to include representation from the Keewatin region on the Workers' Compensation Board;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that Mr. John Todd of Rankin Inlet be appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Do I have a seconder? Mr. Nerysoo. Proceed with your motion, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: The motion speaks for itself. I know that the Member for Yellowknife Centre does not altogether seem to be pleased with it, but I would just recommend that that vacancy be filled. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: As seconder, Mr. Nerysoo, do you wish to speak?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: No.

Motion 13-81(2), Carried

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

---Carried

Are there any other motions that anybody is asking unanimous consent on to deal with today? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I want to take a chance on my motion concerning the payment of honorariums to the uranium witnesses. I have given it to the Clerk and I am afraid I do not have the exact wording, but could I have the unanimous consent to proceed with it today?

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent being requested. Do I have any nays? Mr. Patterson, you can get away with anything. Go ahead, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid it is not here at hand right now, but I wonder if I might, while I am waiting to get it, briefly speak to it with your permission.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: I think in all due respect, Mr. Patterson, that you have tested the patience of the House as far as I can allow you to. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. For the benefit of those Members and the staff going to Pine Point tomorrow, bus pick-up at 9:00 a.m. at the Ptarmigan Inn, at the Mackenzie Place, and at the Migrator Motel. There will be a meeting of the special committee on education at 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 25.

ITEM NO. 13: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, 1:00 p.m., Monday, May 25.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to the Commissioner's Address

3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Notices of Motion
9. Motions
10. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Sessional Paper 1-81(2), Agricultural Policy for the Northwest Territories; Bills 1-81(2), 2-81(2), 3-81(2), 4-81(2) 5-81(2), 6-81(2), 7-81(2), 8-81(2); 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance; Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation
11. Third Reading of Bills
12. Assent to Bills
13. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until May the 25th, 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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