



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

6th Session

9th Assembly

**HANSARD**  
Official Report

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1981**

**Pages 439 to 488**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## Speaker

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

P.O. Box 1877

Hay River, N.W.T., X0E 0R0

(Hay River)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Officers

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

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

Law Clerk  
Mr. Peter C. Fuglsang  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0

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

Sergeant-at-Arms  
S/Sgt. David Williamson  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X0E 1H0

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 December 1981

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	439
Replies to Commissioner's Address	
- Mr. Noah's Reply	439
- Mr. Kilabuk's Reply	440
- Mr. Evaluarjuk's Reply	441
- Hon. Dennis Patterson's Reply	442
- Mr. Fraser's Reply	446
- Mr. Curley's Reply	447
- Mr. Sibbeston's Reply	450
Oral Questions	456
Notices of Motion	461
Motions	461
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Motion 22-81(3) Position of Legislative Assembly Toward the Constitution of Canada	473
- Tabled Document 5-81(3) Our Land Our Future	474
- 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance	474
- Motion 18-81(3) Task Force on Dene Housing	476
Report of the Committee of the Whole of:	
- Motion 22-81(3) Position of Legislative Assembly Toward the Constitution of Canada	487
- Tabled Document 5-81(3) Our Land Our Future	487
- 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance	487
- Motion 18-81(3) Task Force on Dene Housing	487
Prorogation	488

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Friday, December the 4th.

Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

Item 3, oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) I would like to get unanimous consent to go back to Item 2.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Noah. I did not have my machine running here. Could you state that again, please?

MR. NOAH: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 2.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Right, Mr. Noah.

Mr. Noah's Reply

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank you, Mr. Commissioner, and the chairmen of the constitutional committee, Mr. Braden and Ms Cournoyea. I want to say thank you very much to the special committee on the constitution, especially Mr. Braden and Ms Cournoyea, because we worked very hard and we worked together in Ottawa and they have done a lot for the Territories. And to Members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to say thank you very much. When we were in Ottawa, we worked very hard every day, and we know that it was very tiring, but even though we were really tired, we really accomplished a lot for our future. When we are Members, when we have to work it is very hard and tiring, but we have to follow the wishes of our constituents, and this tiredness that we felt was worth it. I just wanted to say

thank you to Mr. Commissioner, Mr. Braden, and Ms Cournoyea, because they worked very hard on this aboriginal rights claim and I would like to say thank you to Mr. Ittinuar, the Member of Parliament for Nunatsiaq, and the Prime Minister is not here, but I would like to say thank you to him, too, because we had a chance to meet with him, and we had to meet with him and I am very grateful for that. Also, in the winter, in February and March, if I am okay and in good health, I will be coming back to Yellowknife. Thank you very much.

---Applause

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

Mr. Kilabuk's Reply

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to make a brief statement. We worked very hard during this Assembly. The hard work is behind us now, and we are going to have to be looking into the future to see what we are going to be doing for our constituents, to meet the wishes and the needs of the constituents. We are going to be working on trying to get our own government, and we are going to be working hard on that. The people have been working pretty hard, trying to bring up things that are the wishes of the territorial residents, and I think that they are doing a very good job. We have been able to help each other, MLAs and the Executive Committee, and the legal advisers helped a lot in this area, too, and I say thank you to them, too.

Several of my constituents asked me to say in this reply that there is some concern regarding the rental increase by the Housing Corporation. They were shocked to hear of it, the people of Pangnirtung. They heard it through the radio in Pangnirtung from Yellowknife. The housing association was shocked that they were not told of the rent increases. They said if the Housing Corporation needs the rental increases, the people of Pangnirtung expressed that they wanted to hear about it first, and let the housing association know the reasons why they wanted to increase the rent. That is what they requested, to be informed first. They wanted to be informed on that subject before the increases went into effect.

People from my constituency are very glad of the subsidy for going hunting there. I was able to give them a little bit of information about the gas subsidy, and some of the Pangnirtung residents got their subsidies but Pitok River would like to know how they can get gas subsidies for hunting and also about furs and skins which are sold. I think that 15 per cent was added onto the subsidy, but the hunters north of Pangnirtung said that gas is very expensive now, and they only get five per cent for the gas. They were thinking that maybe it would be better if they got 25 per cent from the government for the gas subsidy.

There are a lot of payments that people have to make and mostly they were talking about the Hudson's Bay Company. One of the residents felt that it seems like there is not any money. If a person has to charge it to the bank like with Chargex, the interest is added every month to his charges. This was one of the concerns. It seems that when people have credit at The Bay, interest charges are added on every month.

Also they were talking about having to pay income tax. I was told by some of the people in my constituency that the hamlet or co-op or anybody who is an employer should really be paying income tax because they are not paying as much; and not to the individual person. The people that they are working for should be paying for the income taxes instead of the individuals. Several people mentioned that from my constituency. They said that I should inform the Assembly especially about the income tax, about having the employers pay for the income tax instead of the individual.

Mr. Speaker, these are the main concerns that I was told to voice to the House. Thank you very much for taking care of us when we were here in Yellowknife. We are glad to be going home, and I am sure that we are going to be back when the time comes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

---Applause

Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Mr. Evaluarjuk's Reply

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to make a brief comment. We were not here on November 27th when the House started, but when we were in Frobisher Bay, we were looking to the needs and we heard about what was going on in the House. It was very interesting coming back from Ottawa, and also I would like to thank my colleagues and also Nellie Cournoyea and George Braden first of all.

Replies to the Commissioner's Address. In the Commissioner's Address, he was opposed to the aboriginal rights being taken out of the constitution, and when we were in Ottawa, even though he worked for the federal government, he was helping us here, the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories, and I thank him very much for that. My fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to say thank you very much, and our staff, if they were not around, we would have been unorganized when we were in Ottawa, and I would like to say thank you very much to the staff and to the interpreters. We would not have been able to go down there because we could not speak any English if it were not for the interpreters. I say thank you very much to everybody, and I say thank you to ITC, the different organizations. We did not all have the same thoughts, but we were working together, even though we were opposed to different ideas. I do not want you to misunderstand, that we were not trying to criticize anybody outside of the Northwest Territories. We were not trying to be anything special, but we were only concerned about what the federal government was trying to do. We were not trying to criticize anybody. I am not trying to criticize the non-native people.

I want to say that ever since I became a Member in 1978, the first Assembly, we were working together, and I thought that we were going to be like that forever, but this week, we are opposed to each other now, but it always has to be like that in the Legislature; we cannot all agree amongst ourselves. Also we were talking about the BNA Act. We worked very hard, but I think that it helped us to work together, because we all had our own feelings, whether we were Inuit or Dene or Metis or white, we all had the same feeling, which made us work together and work a little bit harder.

Lastly, I started thinking that if the aboriginal rights were not reinstated, all my clothes, my pants, my ties, I would wear them backwards on my way home to my community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: If you ever decide to put a show on like that, we can sell tickets, I think.

---Laughter

Thank you very much. Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address. Mr. Patterson.

Hon. Dennis Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The close of this session has just visited itself upon me so suddenly, I have not prepared a lengthy address, you will be happy to hear. When I was first elected, Mr. Stewart gave me some wise advice about trying to learn to be brief in speeches and I think I am making some progress in that regard, Mr. Speaker.

Tribute To Mr. Justice Calvin Tallis

When we passed this legislation so efficiently this week, I did not take the opportunity then to comment on Bill 8-81(3), An Ordinance to Amend the Judicature Ordinance. There is a perhaps seemingly curious provision in there to allow for the appointment to the court of appeal for the Northwest Territories of a judge of the court of appeal of Saskatchewan. I would like to pay tribute now publicly to the great judge of the supreme court of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Justice Calvin Tallis, for whom this amendment was made, Mr. Speaker. He has been appointed to the court of appeal of Saskatchewan, and as a lawyer who practised before him and appeared in his court many times, I would like to, and I am confident on behalf of all the bar, pay great tribute to what he did in his quiet way for the justice system in the Northwest Territories. He was not perhaps as well-known or, if I may say, as flamboyant as some of the judges who have occupied that post. He operated with great humility and great modesty but he accomplished a number of remarkable things, particularly in the area of his profound concern for the native people of the Northwest Territories and their need to be treated fairly by the justice system and their need to be involved as much as possible in the administration of justice.

He is an extremely hard worker and I know that Saturdays for him were like any other day. Many of the results of his work are perhaps not known to the public but he built up a very excellent court library here in Yellowknife. He also was concerned that the library services to the outlying areas, the courts in places like Inuvik, Frobisher Bay, Hay River, and even the smaller places, were given adequate legal resources so that the court and lawyers who would be visiting those places or even practising there would have a good opportunity to do research if it was required.

He also, I think, did a great deal for ordering the operation of the court for assisting the bar for reforming the practice in the court and he always sent decisions to lawyers. I was especially grateful for that because I was practising in Frobisher Bay where there was no access to a large library and he regularly sent out interesting decisions from all across Canada. These little things are very much appreciated.

He was the kind of man who really wanted to find out how people lived and really wanted to get to know native people. I will tell you a small story about Judge Tallis. Very early on in his term, he wanted to find out how the Inuit hunt. He is a farm boy basically who hunted as a boy and he wanted to go hunting with the Inuit. So I was able to arrange for him to go hunting in Frobisher Bay on a day that he did not have to work. It was a Sunday as a matter of fact. He had never driven a skidoo for any length of time before and was not at all familiar with the land, of course, and when we got up on this particular morning, we discovered that it was just a very, very nasty day. It was the kind of day that Inuit hunters go out as a matter of routine, but it was so bad that all day it was barely possible to see the skidoo in front of you, but the hunters were willing to go so Judge Tallis was willing to go. We went all day about 60 miles, did not see a single animal. He and his clerk were so sore the next day they could hardly walk, but he was the kind of man who wanted to have that sort of experience and was very happy to have had it and his respect for the Inuit and all native people developed through that sort of effort of familiarizing himself right at the grass roots level with people. I think

that he will be missed in the Northwest Territories greatly, but I am very happy that this Legislature has acted so quickly to permit him to return because I know he loves the North and loves the Northwest Territories and I am very happy that we have honoured him in this way by allowing him to be appointed to our court of appeal so that he will be able to return to the country he loves.

#### Constituency Concerns

Briefly, Mr. Speaker, I have some constituency concerns but now that I am on the Executive Committee, I am in a position where I do not have to raise matters in the Legislature and I can pursue them privately. This is one of the advantages of being on the Executive Committee. I will just mention briefly that I am concerned about the cost of living in Frobisher Bay and particularly the tremendous disincentives that are still present for private home-ownership and home construction and I am very concerned about that and would like to do something about that.

I also think we still have progress to make in how the government does business, particularly with northern contractors. There are some serious problems still present, although I think we have made a lot of progress in many areas and this is another matter of concern to my constituents.

#### Party Politics

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I do want to just briefly touch on this issue of party politics. I know I have spoken at length about it before, but there have been some developments since our session in Hay River with the resurrection, I guess, of the so-called Western Arctic Liberal party and Mrs. Lynda Sorensen's election as president, a very small group I understand, but none the less she is the president. By her pious public pronouncements on her definition of development and progress in the Northwest Territories and by her declaration at that time, the Liberal party was preparing to field candidates, not just in the Western Arctic, but they have generously offered to assist candidates in Nunavut. It was interesting that they used the word "Nunavut". One of their platforms apparently was non-support for the creation of Nunavut but they used the word "Nunavut" to describe the location of their Liberal party candidate assistance program.

I personally believe that none of the MLAs in the Eastern Arctic and none of the candidates for election are going to be very interested in getting help from Mrs. Sorensen to run under the Liberal party banner, or indeed under any party's banner. I certainly am not interested in running under a party banner. I have said this before. I do not think we need another distraction in this House, another source of confrontation and division, and I am also very worried that if Mrs. Sorensen persists and is able to organize candidates on party platforms in the western Northwest Territories, which appears to be a more right territory for this kind of step, I am very worried, Mr. Speaker, about what is going to happen to those of us who are going to be running on an independent ticket, who are going to be running on our own names.

The reason I am worried, Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, is -- and I am not worried about us, I am not worried about the dozen or so Members from the Eastern Arctic or from Nunavut who I am almost certain will not run on party politics, I am worried about what is going to be left over in the western part of the Northwest Territories. Unless the Liberal party is successful in winning in all ridings, which I think is a very long shot, there is going to be a group of people in this Assembly who are Members of political parties and committed to the discipline that party politics is supposed to impose, who are going to be trying to form a government, but the independents are going to have the majority.



I do not know what we would do in a situation like that. I would like to warn the Liberal party of the Northwest Territories right now that we could very easily step in, pick up the pieces, take over the Executive Committee, and send them into oblivion.

---Laughter

#### Confrontation And Dissension In The House

Now, I do not want to do that. I do not want to see that sort of confrontation going on in this House. I think Mrs. Sorensen and Mr. MacQuarrie alone provide more than enough confrontation and dissension and it really did distress me yesterday that a subject that we had discussed at such length publicly in Frobisher Bay -- the residency requirement -- and a subject, which is no secret, we made an agreement about in caucus, that one Member had to waste so much of this House's time grandstanding for the press and her constituents. I do not really know if the people of Yellowknife have given their Member a mandate to constantly oppose the consensus that has been reached in this House.

I think Members must learn that one of the duties that a MLA must perform to be responsible to his constituents is to work effectively in the House and to do that, one must learn to get along with the other MLAs. It requires compromises; it requires abandoning your principles now and then and I say this particularly to Mr. MacQuarrie. He is full of principles, Mr. Speaker, but he never gets anywhere with them because he manages to state them in such a way that he seems to be able to antagonize Members in the House and you cannot get anywhere with your principles if you cannot get support from other Members.

MR. CURLEY: Go easy on him.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: He is never easy on me. Mr. Speaker, I only raise this issue because to me it underlies this problem of party politics and I very much wish that the Members who may be considering party politics -- I very much wish that they could actually see how consensus government does work. I agree that we are having problems in making consensus government work in this Assembly, but I very much wish that Mrs. Sorensen, for example, could attend any kind of a meeting that is held in the Eastern Arctic, the Baffin Regional Council or the Keewatin wildlife federation or the meetings of local councils in any of the settlements in Nunavut. There are very difficult problems that are created in all these meetings. There are situations where members of the council and people from communities disagree. One very good example was an issue that I was involved in, in the Keewatin, the location of the new regional high school. It was a source of great concern because one community had to be picked and the point I am trying to make about the process as it works in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, is that people have learned how to work together. They have learned how to make decisions without confronting, without even being argumentative, and I think particular Members of this Assembly could learn a lot about how to get along with other publicly elected officials.

I would like to make it very clear that although I have been accused of being the leader of the Eastern Arctic caucus and I have been accused of leading a party -- I am quite flattered she thinks I am the leader, but I know that Members from Baffin Island would be very surprised to hear that I am a leader of any group, because I am not a leader. The fact that Members from Baffin and Keewatin and Central Arctic tend to vote together is not evidence that we are a party, by any means. It simply reflects the fact that we happen to agree on most issues and that Members consult with each other on issues as they come along, but there is no party in existence. There is no party discipline. No one is obliged to vote in a particular way or say a particular thing. There are no membership requirements. No one is ejected from the party for not voting in a particular way and I think that is a very transparent reason for forming the Liberal party or any party. There has to be a much better reason than that.

I think we only need to look at the experience in the Yukon, Mr. Speaker, to see that party politics, particularly in a small Legislature, would be an extremely dangerous experiment. One of the problems they are running into in the Yukon is they are running out of executive members. The Conservative party cannot produce enough people to form an executive committee. Well, there are many reasons why this occurs and I do not pretend to know a lot about what is going on in the Yukon, but one of the reasons is that there just are not enough people in a party to form an executive committee and have any caucus left over.

So, I urge Members in this House who are going to run in the next election to run as independents and I detect, Mr. Speaker, that Mrs. Sorensen is softening on her conviction that party politics is the answer. I know that she stated to the press in Whitehorse that she was very disappointed that party politics had prevented the Yukon government from taking the kind of action that we took. The government opposed a motion introduced by the opposition, not because it was a good motion, but because it was introduced by the opposition. This is the sort of nonsense that happens in party politics.

#### Effective System Of Government Needed

I think in the Northwest Territories we can develop a system of government that is different from the model in Canada in that respect, but a system of government that is more effective and that represents the character of the people of the Northwest Territories. The people in the area where I live are not interested in conflict, in confrontation. They work co-operatively to make decisions. Sometimes it takes hours and hours and hours, but they all leave friends and this is the kind of government that the Nunavut government will be. I do not really care what happens in this part of the world as far as party politics is concerned but I do care what happens in this Assembly before the Northwest Territories divides. If this Assembly is still in existence at the next election, as a 22 or 25 Member Assembly, I hope that Members will represent themselves in their own capacities and will not try the experiment of party politics. There is a serious price that those who insist on pursuing this idea are going to pay if they take this step. I think they are going to accomplish exactly the opposite of what they intend, which is control. I think they are going to lose control if they try that.

Mr. Speaker, I was very interested in Mr. Curley's motion that we dissolve the House and have an election. My own reaction was that on the issue of constitutional development I have a mandate from my constituents. I ran on a platform that featured division of the Northwest Territories and I feel that I have been given a mandate to pursue that goal. Perhaps other Members did not make constitutional development or that issue part of their platforms and perhaps they should have and perhaps they now should consult with their constituents, but I would like to say that my constituents, both the native and non-native people, have given me clear instructions on that particular aspect of constitutional development. In that regard, I am very happy to report to them that the government has acted promptly and produced a Plebiscite Ordinance and we will be able to consult the people of the Northwest Territories on this most important step. I look forward to debating the question in more detail in our forthcoming session. I think there is a need for public discussion and I look forward to participating in it.

I also think the impact study has answered a lot of concerns that that division was going to be a terribly costly and wasteful thing and we found that it is not going to cost all that much money. It is true, it is six per cent over our existing O and M budget, but that is not as horrendous an amount as some might have been led to believe. I also feel that any concerns that public servants in Yellowknife have about losing their jobs or having to transfer back to the hinterlands are quite unnecessary. I feel that if jobs are to be moved out of Yellowknife it will be done by attrition and we seem to have no problem with finding vacancies through attrition in this government and this, of course, is

one of our problems -- transients. So, no one is actually going to be told that they do not have a job any more or that they have to move because of division, as I see it.

I also know that there are many public servants who would be eager to move to work in the Nunavut government, who would see it as an exciting challenge. Undoubtedly, the people of Nunavut are going to need a lot of help in the early years. The impact report made it clear that there would be a reliance on the bureaucracy, as we rely on the southern people here to operate government, but many of those people I think are eager to participate in that new government and I think it will be a matter of a very short time before people in the barrens will become interested -- even more people will become interested in pursuing a career in the public service. We are already doing exceptionally well in that regard in Baffin and Keewatin, where approximately 50 per cent of the work force at any given time are Inuit, and particularly in the Keewatin, great strides have been made in not only employing Inuit, but in employing them in senior positions, and this is happening in Baffin as well. I think the new government will be exemplary in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

---Applause

Mr. Fraser's Reply

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not have any plans to reply to the Commissioner.

---Laughter

If my friend over there across the street wants to reply before me, go ahead Mr. Pudluk.

Last night we had a very interesting group in here, just at the closing of our session, and I thought I could give them a little encouragement. The people in the North here, some of them do not realize what damage has already been done and what damage could be done in the future if exploration and mining -- the way it is going nowadays.

Mr. Speaker, I have been around this country for a few years and I have worked in all of these communities. I have worked with the federal government for 30 years and I know how they operate. Mining companies and exploration people come into the country and they think they own the country. If they do not find anything they are not worried about how they leave the country, but the government should be more responsible for that. The group of people that was in here last night are concerned. If the money is given to them, I am sure they will come up with a better report than lots of these people that have come up with studies.

The three major lakes in the North at one time had plenty of fish. With not only exploration work but pollution, these lakes are slowly dwindling -- Great Slave Lake, Lake Athabasca. Bear Lake -- they have not had too much of a chance to get at that yet, but I imagine that is coming. Most of these people who are doing this pollution work in the North are Americans, Mr. Speaker. Just a few years, or a couple of years ago we had seven fishing lodges on Bear Lake and there was only one that was Canadian owned. They were all American owned. The United States at one time were in the same fix as we were. They had plenty of fish but because of public pollution, all the lakes and rivers are so polluted they cannot even drink the water, let alone eat the fish. Surely, with all the expertise they have in the South, Mr. Speaker, they should have done some type of research as to saving their fish. Now they are worrying about ours because they are afraid there is not going to be enough for them.

Mining exploration. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the federal government is the worst offender of pollution, when it comes to pollution itself. They bring people in from the South to do studies and the studies are released, but the people who do the studies, they do a study of what the government wants to hear, not what the people want to hear and in most cases those studies do not affect us at all. They have nothing to do with what we really want the study to look like. If they were to hire some consultants or some people from the North to do studies and see what they are doing, maybe we could get results that way, Mr. Speaker.

Like I said Mr. Speaker, I did not have anything prepared. I had something on pollution. That group that came in here last night are very concerned and feel that with a little support from this Assembly that they might be able to do something. You see in that poster that they passed around and this little card that they sent to you with a ship that is going through breaking the ice, the dogs are on one side and the sleigh on the other, well, that is a good example of what the government does when they do their studies. I have nothing further, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to speak briefly on pollution. So I will just let it go at that. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Mr. Curley's Reply

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a brief comment while we are still in session. I would like it to be known that the first time I had talked about when we were meeting, it was made to a bill, the hunters and trappers by-laws, that they would be looked after. It was made into an ordinance yesterday. I was wondering if the Wildlife Ordinance -- or the Renewable Resources -- do the hunters and trappers have the right now to have a say about training, and I was wondering about this. There was a big concern whether we were going to have a group meeting toward the ordinance matters.

I have to thank everyone, George Braden and Nellie Cournoyea especially. When we were meeting here before we went down to Ottawa, on the aboriginal matter it had to be worked out what we were going to do, because we had to go down to Ottawa. I want all the MLAs to recognize that when there is something of an emergency nature going on and a decision has to be made, we have to do it right away. Mr. Speaker, in the North we are quite far from the federal government, and some of the communities are too far away in order to be conducted very well by the other regional offices. So as soon as we can all agree on something urgent, it shows that we can do something about it. I will say it in English. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, it was a very gratifying experience for me to take part in the national unity of the Northwest Territories. I never thought that the honourable Members from the other side and Members from the East would join together and really have a united position as when we went down to Ottawa. I always thought it was impossible. I did almost tend to believe that it was not going to be possible because we did not have preparation time, but I was not able to be convinced that the preparation was the most important. The conviction was more important to me that we had to agree and that we had to go down to Ottawa. So for that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank each one of the Members here for speaking out in Ottawa for the people of the Northwest Territories, for the political development and for the aboriginal rights issue. I was amazed, really.

You know, I never thought some of the guys would speak that strongly when dealing with the aboriginal rights and section 34, including our Member for Fort Smith and you, Mr. Speaker. It became obvious that not only were the native spokesmen on the Assembly radical, I must say that the Member for Yellowknife was the most radical one when we were in Ottawa; so he had a nickname that he was a new white radical.

---Laughter

There was another thing, though, that I was a little disappointed with. I really thought that we would have been able to persuade Ottawa to delete section 41(1)(e) and (f), if only we had an agreement from Mr. Bob MacQuarrie. He was not able to take on the proposition. I think that would have really got the thing deleted out of the constitutional act. Some of the Members that were left behind, we urged him to go on a hunger strike...

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is the one thing I could not do.

MR. CURLEY: We wanted him to demonstrate every day in front of the House of Commons centre block. He would be there and sit there until he finally got the agreement from the federal government, but he still may have one position that will work on that. I do not think he has given up yet, so that is good to hear.

#### Concerns Over Division Of NWT

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of continuing concerns with respect to the division issue in the Territories. I am grateful also that the Plebiscite Ordinance has been adopted by this House, and that we are going to go ahead with the plebiscite; but, Mr. Speaker, I really do not think that relying on the plebiscite itself is the only way to deal with the constitutional development of the Territories. I really believe the Executive Committee must also play a very important leadership, as far as the Northwest Territories constitutional development is concerned. I do not think we should be sitting behind the scene and wait for the possible crusader to come around and tell us what kind of a government we should have as far as the Northwest Territories is concerned. I think there must be a demonstration of leadership by the Executive Committee. If there are some Members who feel today that the timing might not be a good time today to divide the Territories, and if there are people in this Assembly, or even in the Executive Committee, now is the time to speak about it, because there may be people who want to hear that proposition.

I know there are many who would like to see the division, but I think we must be practical, pragmatic about it. Is the time for division the right moment in the history of the Northwest Territories? I think these are the questions I must answer also, but at this time, the view from the Eastern Arctic is that we must proceed. We must proceed with the division of the Territories, but at the same time, I think we should develop in this House whether or not we agree with the timing, today, next year, or within five years. These are the kinds of things that I look forward to dealing with.

One reason I really feel today that this Assembly should not seek to try and wait until the remaining two years to get a mandate from the Northwest Territories, from the public, is because if we proceed and try to complete our term with the same sort of not really serious approach to the constitutional development of the Territories, we are really going to create a lot more frustration to those people who expect some leadership of this government, and of this Assembly. So I feel that we should be prepared to dissolve this House and go back to the people, and we would get a mandate from the people, and there would be possibly many who would say, "Look, the timing is not right for the division", and we would also be able to either speak for or against the division during the campaign.

So that is why, even though my motion was out of order, at this time I really feel that today that I cannot succeed through this House in speaking strongly about my own convictions about division, because I know that the Executive Committee and some Members of this House are not totally committed yet to deal with the issue of the division, because if we are going to deal with the division seriously, there must be conviction from each Member. It is too easy to put it aside and say, "Look, we will send it to another consultant, or a native organization," or that we want to hear first the results of the plebiscite. To me, that is not good enough. That is really abdicating your responsibility as an official and as an Executive Member to somebody else. There must be a demonstration of leadership, and that is the most important problem that we face today, is the lack of serious commitment, I believe.

#### Mandate From The People

To those of us that are sitting here, I am prepared to go back to the people, and if my constituents are not satisfied with my performance, I would like them to see that they have an opportunity to elect somebody else. I may be overreacting, but I do not really feel so, because there is a will today from the public to see that this government perform, that it not be seen to seem to be performing and practising good government. It is too easy for us to say that we must hear from the public, that there are people in the Eastern Arctic who do not understand the case for division over there, that they do not understand the positions of ITC, or those of us who speak for division.

So if that is the case, I say that the best way to get a clear mandate from them is to dissolve this House, go back to the people, and get a mandate from them on that issue. That is the best way. Sure, we still have a plebiscite in April, but would it not be better with a fresh Assembly coming back and then proceeding to continue and work toward the constitutional development of the Northwest Territories? Not only that, I think the Members from this House would probably want to speak and gain more powers from Ottawa, such as provincial status. There may be some Members who want to see one single territory actually applying for provincial status, and work toward it, so I say the best way to get the mandate is from the public.

#### Unemployment Problem

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we still have a long way to deal with those particular issues. I have a number of concerns. One is that in spite of all those important issues we talk about regarding the Canadian constitution and division, I regret to say that the employment opportunities for our people in the North are still not solved. There are many people who are unemployed. The cost of living is high. The hunters and fishermen in the Territories these days can hardly afford to pay for their gasoline to pursue their livelihood. I also regret to say the public is not being provided with answers that they should have with respect to the shortage of housing in many places, because this Assembly is too preoccupied with those issues that are not necessarily the most important priorities of the ordinary person walking on the street today.

So when are we going to resolve those important issues so that we can get on with administering programs and serving the ordinary, common people on the street? So that we eventually can start finding jobs for those people who do not have jobs, and find jobs for those people who have been laid off as a result of government cutbacks or some industries in the Northwest Territories who, these days, because of the high interest rates, cannot operate their business? When are we going to deal with those? I say there might be some Executive Members who say, "We will be able to deal with those when we have resolved the question of division and the constitutional crisis," but my belief is that as a Member, I think we can do a lot today, parallel with the constitutional development and division issue, at the same time dealing with the problem of unemployment and housing problems and trying to find ways to serve the small businessmen a little better than we have today.

Mr. Speaker, I did not want to go too long because we are anxious to -- are we going to dissolve or prorogue?

---Laughter

Let us get on with the business of the House. Mr. Speaker, I leave these few notes for Members to think about because we must continue to represent them and we must try and find ways to agree what the best possible agenda is for the remainder of our term, not only on the constitutional side, but on the basis of the program that we should be attempting to develop for the benefit of the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Sibbeston.

Mr. Sibbeston's Reply

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will try not to be too long but I will just try to highlight some of the things that are happening in my constituency. I see this exercise as a useful one, and I hope that the result of things that are said here, that government officials take note and maybe they will make appropriate changes when they do have the chance.

One of the first things I want to say, I am very pleased with the Slavey language project that is being started in Fort Providence. In our area there is general feeling by native people that the native language has to be encouraged, enhanced. There is no government ability to translate. We do not have interpreters. A lot of the schools do not have Slavey classes being taught. So in the next few years, there is a whole area of work that has to be done to get more Slavey into the classroom, to get more native people working for government who speak the language, to get better communication facilities when meetings are held so people can speak in Slavey and white people can understand through the means of translation services. So there is a great deal of work to be done.

In Fort Providence they started something in the school which is very encouraging to a lot of people. The Slavey language project, which was initiated by the band council in Providence, is presently headed up by a person named Ethel Townsend. So at the moment, in the school in Providence all of the various grades are being taught -- I think one period in Slavey. I happened to be in Providence this fall when this Dene woman was teaching a class and I thought it was music to the ear. It was not just a dull, dry class situation where kids were, you know, asked to colour an animal and underneath the animal it says "gold" or something like that. It is a very exciting vibrant class situation where there was dialogue between the students and the teacher. I just thought "Wow. That is the type of thing that I have been saying. That is the type of Slavey teacher and programs we should have in Slavey." In Fort Providence the kindergarten class is being taught in Slavey and they have a number of teacher assistants.

In order for this to expand, the government will have to double the money for that project in the next coming budget. So I serve notice to the government that, as to the Slavey project in Providence, they are putting out materials in the Dene language, materials to use in classrooms. They are developing ways of teaching Slavey in a real vibrant and exciting way. I would like to see the budget for that at least doubled or tripled.

Liquor Restrictions In Fort Simpson

The other thing concerning an area in my constituency is that of liquor restrictions in Fort Simpson. The Commissioner, Mr. Parker, was in Simpson last

November and it was one of the best meetings that was ever held in Fort Simpson. The community hall was packed and everybody was there and people raised their concerns about alcohol and as a result of this, the Commissioner decided that there would be restrictions. I am very pleased to say that as far as we are concerned, the restrictions have really helped. There are fewer people being thrown in jail as a result of drinking, there is less crime and nobody has died from overconsumption of alcohol since then. Just generally, the leaders of the community, the band council, are pleased with the effects. The mayor himself, Mr. Watsyk, is very pleased with the effect of the restrictions. There was a bit of a problem with bootlegging but the police did catch two or three of them so that has helped the situation.

So the general feeling is that it is not likely that in Simpson and the area that we will ever go back to a situation where liquor is freely available. Liquor is a problem amongst native people and it must be controlled, just as drugs are a problem to white people and the government controls it. I can say that in the communities surrounding Simpson, for example, Nahanni Butte is dry; Fort Liard has restrictions; a number of little communities do not have any restrictions as such but they are very happy with the restrictions in Simpson because people cannot go to Simpson and buy 20 cases of liquor and fly back to the community and just all chaos breaks loose. So the thinking is that the Commissioner did make a commitment to come back. It was for a one year trial basis. So we do expect the Commissioner to come back sometime in the spring and at the moment there will be an attempt made to get a liquor alcohol program going. So once that is in place, that will even be a better time to deal with the issue again.

Now as to economic development for native people in my area, the last two years have seen quite a change in the economic situation in Fort Simpson. As a result of various programs aimed at helping native people, native people are getting into business in Simpson. One of the largest contractors in Simpson now is a native person. There are native people involved in the taxi business. The band itself is getting into business. I am pleased to say with the help of this government, Nogha Enterprises is presently in business. This is a band-owned company and at the very moment, they are doing 100 miles of highway maintenance between Providence and Simpson. They have got two graders and one large truck working and there are four or five native people that are working on that. So I think it is just a commendable move by the band and thankfully this government did help.

#### Situation In Nahanni Butte

Now, concerning Nahanni Butte, I talked about that community in the past. I said the alcohol situation was terrible. Well since this time they did vote for prohibition. I talked about the poor housing situation. I never saw such terrible houses in all my life and I have been helping the community to get some help and we did manage to get some help through the SSHAG program where people could build their own log houses. The provision was for providing for two houses out of one SSHAG allotment. I am pleased to say that one house has been completed. More recently, this fall a repair program has been started and thankfully again through the Executive Committee, Mr. McCallum and the Executive Members did come through and provide us \$50,000 and right this very moment, houses are being repaired in Nahanni Butte. I think this will greatly increase the quality of life, it will increase the morale, the outlook toward life and so forth. So I think you will have much happier people in Nahanni Butte as a result of this help.

I must say though that it has been difficult dealing with the Housing Corporation, in trying to get people help. Once there was a commitment for them to provide funds, I found that it was difficult for them to deliver the materials. I worked hard with the Housing Corporation to arrange to have housing material



brought to Nahanni Butte. There were delays all along the way and often me having to phone them almost threatening them to move. To this day there are still a lot of complaints because eventually when the material was sent to Nahanni Butte, there were a lot of things missing. So I just feel there is not that strong commitment and concern that there ought to be in providing services to people. I think the Housing Corporation's Hay River office has to smarten up.

#### Development In Fort Liard

Now, as for Fort Liard, I am pleased to say that this fall Mr. Wah-Shee and Mr. Nerysoo and I went on a bit of a tour to Providence, Liard and Simpson and that was very good. At the meeting in Fort Liard, the people raised the concern about providing something for the kids and what they have thought of was a chicken farm so the kids can have something to do, the kids can see some kind of development, some kind of industrial type of development in their community. The government, again, has helped with providing funds to provide a bit of a chicken farm. So the people there have a few hundred chickens and they plan to have pigs and a horse and cow this coming spring. They were \$10,000 short of what they needed to launch the program and I understand the government has come through again. So I am very pleased about that and the people of Liard are happy.

#### Government Housing Policy

Now, in the last few weeks I have had a chance to meet with the teachers of Fort Simpson because they were concerned about the government's housing policy. As you know, the government plans to get out of housing and Simpson is a level two area so the government is planning to get out of government housing in November of 1982. Some of the teachers were very concerned about that, but after I have had discussions with the band, I have had discussions with the mayor and other people in the town -- it was decided that the leadership of Simpson should support the government in its policy to get out of housing. In my meetings with the teachers I told them this and I told them that I agree with government, that they should get out of housing. So I encourage the government to go ahead, that this government get out of housing. I feel that it will do a lot to make native people in particular feel that -- white people come from the South to those communities. The government provides them with everything, good housing, good jobs, oftentimes vehicles to drive around town. So it makes people have a negative attitude toward government people. So when the government is out of the housing business, government employees will have to fend for themselves, provide their own housing, and I think it will do a lot to make people feel that it is just a more just society, that white people are not getting everything and them nothing. So I encourage the government to launch full ahead on their program.

#### Hunting Along Liard Highway

The other thing that I must mention is that of hunting. At our meeting in Fort Liard this fall -- Mr. Nerysoo was there -- the people said that the Liard highway from Fort Nelson will be finished probably this year and they expect just hundreds of people to flock into the Liard Valley to hunt, particularly in the fall, and people are very concerned about this possible effect. So people in Liard have asked that the government not permit any hunting at all along the highway when the highway does open.

In other parts of my constituency, in Fort Simpson and Wrigley -- we had a regional meeting in Wrigley this fall. The people there took the position that only general hunting licence holders should be able to hunt along the highway.

So I said that I would do my best to see that this happened. So the position that I am taking is that every fall this government should shut down the highways for hunting except for general hunting licence holders. I must tell you about a situation that happened with a Dene person, not this fall but the fall before. He was living along the Liard highway, and the section is already open, he had a bit of a camp there and he considered that his hunting and trapping area. He was aware that there was a cow moose and a young calf that were living in the area where he had his camp, and he had opportunity to shoot the moose in the summer but he was thinking he would wait until the moose is really fat in the fall. One day a white person came in, he did not know where from, and just saw this moose along the highway and shot it. So this native person felt very badly because he felt that that was really his moose that this other guy had shot. Would you believe the person never even gave him any meat because when people shoot the moose I guess they figure it is theirs? So that is the sort of situation that can happen. It has happened in the past.

The other factor is that in the fall you see just literally hundreds of people going along the highway hunting moose. There was another situation where a couple were living along the highway and were walking and they heard a vehicle coming from the South and it stopped and they were shot at. I guess they thought they were moose. So it is a bit hazardous in the fall to go along the highway in our area because there are so many hunters. There is a feeling that it ought to be closed except for people who really look to and depend on moose for their living.

#### Government Communications

The other thing I want to raise is in the area of communications. I really feel that there is still a large gap. There is presently an inability in this government to communicate with the people. I really feel that the government in the next months in the year has to better its capability of dealing with the Dene people. With the Inuit people they are fortunate. They have interpreters and they have materials that can be written, but for the Dene people the government spends very little money and because the Slavey language is not readily written, the government has to do something in the audio and visual area. The government people that work for the Department of Information have to think of some way that the government and the people can communicate with one another. Of course, if you cannot write it, you have to figure out a system of either taking pictures or else being heard and I really feel that it is a real challenge for the government. I have ideas. If I had the task it would begin next month, but it is a real challenge that the government has to find a way to communicate.

As I said at a recent meeting where the Dene Nation were meeting -- meetings amongst native people, amongst white people, are going to increase in the next few years, as there is more discussion about public governments, changes in government and aboriginal rights and so forth. So, there is need to better the communication system between people. If this is not done there is going to continue to be a gap. I really strongly urge the government to take this request seriously and do something.

Now, in the last few weeks we have had the Dene Nation and Metis Association make public its proposal for public government for people of the North and I must say that it has given native people in particular a great deal of hope for the future. I can say that I am aware that the proposal has had involvement of grass roots people and has had a lot of input from people who have been on the negotiating team who are directly chosen from the people, so I feel that it is a document that has wide support amongst the native people. I must say that I am very pleased with the reaction of the non-native people. My understanding is that in meetings in places like Fort Smith and Yellowknife the public, non-native people, they have not been outright critical of it. The response generally has been good. So, I am very pleased about that.

### Northern Society Is Changing

I really feel that northern society is changing. The people that are here -- particularly those that have been here a number of years -- are beginning to understand the native desire, native aspirations to have a change in government. There is more willingness to give and take and I am really, really optimistic and pleased about that. I look forward to the day when I can be involved in a government that has the broad support of all people of the North. I guess yesterday, when Mrs. Sorensen was talking about making the Plebiscite Ordinance subject to just a one year residency clause, I could not help but react as I did because I know there is no public support for the idea of just one year. I guess I begin to wonder at people like Mrs. Sorensen, because we all went down to Ottawa and fought for aboriginal rights. That means we fought -- native people, white people -- we fought for aboriginal rights. That is the rights of people who have been here from time immemorial. I think that was commendable and that was good. It has really made me feel good toward the white people, because I have never seen them support this kind of thing as they did when we got to Ottawa. I cannot understand how Lynda Sorensen can have done that in Ottawa, come back a few days later and fight for people who have not even been here one year. It is incomprehensible. I just cannot understand that logic at all, to fight for aboriginal rights, then the next day, almost, fight for people who have just been here one year. It is just mind-boggling as far as I am concerned.

I must say too that as far as the Dene Nation and Metis Association proposal, I have been very pleased that they have gone to a lot of the communities. They have been in Simpson, they have been in Smith, they have been in Yellowknife and I think they are doing a very commendable job of circulating and getting public reaction. I think this government, with its own document "Our Land Our Future" has to do the same type of exercise in order that they can get public input, public reaction and discussion.

### Norman Wells Pipeline

Mr. Speaker, I can also tell you that last week there was a leadership meeting of the Dene Nation and Metis Association here in town to discuss, of course, a variety of subjects, but one of the things that was discussed was the Norman Wells pipeline and just two days ago there was another regional meeting in Simpson about that. I am pleased to say that the decision of the native people has been that the native people will take part in the Norman Wells pipeline, on a number of conditions. The federal government, when it announced its Norman Wells pipeline along with a two year delay agreed that there would be funds available for native people, that they can be trained, that they can be involved in that development and there was some concern about that, but I am pleased to say that the people, particularly those in my area, have agreed to accept the money, have accepted taking part in the training program and the community development program and the planning, but it is still on the condition that the environment is protected, that there is reasonable progress on the aboriginal rights negotiations, that there is a monitoring agency in effect to oversee the project. So, I think one can say that a giant step has been made to show that native people are not always just against the government. When the development is proposed on a reasonable basis, when they are going to benefit, they will take part and I think that is the way to go for the whole future of the North.

I can say too that the Dene Nation will begin immediately, in the next few days, to negotiate the Norman Wells resources. I will be involved in those negotiations. In the next few months negotiations will take place in Simpson and in the area where people will be most affected by the Norman Wells pipeline and our hope is that in the next six months that the Dene and Metis people can come to an agreement with the federal government on the Norman Wells resources, on the

ownership of the oil, so that eventually when a pipeline is stretched south some of the oil can be owned by the people from the North here, the native people in particular, as part of the aboriginal rights claims. So, I look forward and am optimistic to that possibility.

Assembly Setting And Decor Should Be More Reflective

So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I look forward to the next two years in the life of this Assembly. I will work hard to improve life for the people in my constituency and I could say that inasmuch as I still have some major reservations about this government, generally things in this government are getting better. I do look forward to when there is a better government in place where both native people and white people can be more equal and I look forward too to some day sitting in an Assembly that is more reflective in setting and in decor of the country.

I must say that just last week, I guess, when the Dene Nation and Metis Association had their leadership meeting, when they welcomed back Georges Erasmus, I understand it was a very heartening, very emotional type of undertaking. I was very pleased to see that even Mr. Parker was there and other government people were at the Elk's Hall when Georges was invited back. As part of the ceremony, when Georges Erasmus came into the hall they had six drummers who began beating and went with Georges up to the front of the hall. I could not help but think that was amazing and that is the sort of thing that we should have in this Assembly -- that we could do things that, you know, have the support or the respect of the people. As I said I look forward to the day when this Assembly -- we are sitting here -- can be more reflective of the people of the North. I am not saying have it all one way. It has been all one way up until now. What I am saying is that it ought to be reflective of all people of the North, the Inuit and the Dene. Maybe that will not happen. Maybe you will not hear drums in here during this session or during the next two years, but I hope you will hear drums in the next session when there will be maybe more Dene people and when you will have people that feel stronger than us about that. Okay. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any more replies today? We will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Replies to the Commissioner's Address.

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Fraser.

Question 59-81(3): Funding For Native Women's Association

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice and Public Services, or Leader of the Elected Executive Committee, Mr. Braden. The Native Women's group have requested an operating grant from the Executive Committee. Has that grant application been reviewed, and what decision has been made with respect to funding?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Partial Return To Question 59-81(3): Funding For Native Women's Association

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret I cannot make any statement to the Member at this point in time with respect to the request. I would note, however, that over the last two years the Executive has provided assistance to the Native Women's organization, and that I have had a couple of meetings over the last few months with representatives from the organization, and I guess all I can say to the Member now is that I will give him my assurances that the request for assistance will be reviewed, along with others that have been submitted thus far to the Executive Committee.

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

Supplementary To Question 59-81(3): Funding For Native Women's Association

MR. FRASER: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Native Women's group has written a letter to all Members indicating their need for an increase in their funding. I understand this House gave them \$50,000 for 1981-82. They have presented us with a proposed budget for 1982-83 of \$148,000. Is the Minister prepared to seriously consider this request for increased funding, and meet with the Native Women's group before the next session?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Further Return To Question 59-81(3): Funding For Native Women's Association

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the Executive Committee will be considering the allocation of executive grants prior to the next session, and I certainly will give the Member my assurance that I will meet with the ladies of the Native Women's organization. I think they have done a fine job thus far in establishing a number of programs in the Mackenzie Valley, so he has my assurance that I will personally follow through on his request.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns. Mr. Fraser.

Question 60-81(3): Motorcycle Trip By Minister Over Canol Road

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had questions for the Minister of Renewable Resources and the Minister of Economic Development, but I do not see either one of them in the House. I want to present the written question, and

and maybe hopefully get an answer when they get back from Ottawa. My first question is to the Minister of Economic Development. I would like to know what the Minister accomplished by his trip over the Canol Road as part of the black jacket motorcycle gang.

---Laughter

Will he be doing some follow-up on this expedition and some day make it possible?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have another written question?

Question 61-81(3): Money Spent On Organized Caribou Hunts

MR. FRASER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. I would like to ask the Minister how much money was spent to date on organized caribou hunts, and what settlements received the money, and how much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further written questions? Are there any returns for today? Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 34-81(3): Government Employee Housing Purchase Policy

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written Question 34-81(3). It was asked by Bruce McLaughlin on December 1st, 1981, and I am making this reply on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner. The question concerned the government employee housing purchase policy. The return reads:

Policy P2-78, policy on sale of staff housing, was an experimental initiative in home-ownership, initially applied only in Yellowknife. Having proven so successful there, it was expanded to include Hay River and Fort Smith. After being in effect for four and a half years, and clearly establishing that government employees do want to own their own homes, Policy P2-78 was rescinded and replaced by the new staff accommodation policy to be applied across the Northwest Territories. The financial implications for the government are such as to necessitate new financial requirements in the policy. It is not possible to reinstate the financial terms of the old policy from now until the deadline for compulsory home-ownership. It should be noted that the community of Pine Point, a level I community, has received an extension on government provision of staff accommodation until November, 1983. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further returns? Mr. Wah-Shee.

Further Return To Question 28-81(3): Pavement Of Road Between Yellowknife And Rae

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have the return to oral Question 28-81(3), asked by Mrs. Sorensen on December the 1st, 1981, regarding paving of highways.

Paving of highways in the Hay River area has been based on traffic usage which is much higher than on the Yellowknife highway. Costs can be quite variable depending on the quality of pavement required to suit traffic conditions and the base preparation needed to support the pavement. These can range from \$16,000 to \$54,000 per kilometre for pavement using asphalt oils in the mixture, and additionally \$11,000 to \$85,000 per kilometre for granular base preparation. The project forecast for the Yellowknife highway between Yellowknife and Rae-Edzo is scaled on a low cost pavement type similar to the type used on the Fort Smith highway between Hay River and Pine Point. This results in an estimate of approximately \$100,000 per kilometre, including base preparation. Asphaltic

surface stabilization, low type pavement, is proposed between Rae and Edzo for 1982. The balance of the highway is presently forecast for commencement in 1983 and completion in 1985. However, this schedule is subject to revision based on the funds made available for highway reconstruction and the relative priorities of projects.

Further Return To Question 29-81(3): Pavement Of Road Between Pine Point And Fort Resolution

Mr. Speaker, I have a return for oral Question 29-81(3), asked by Mr. McLaughlin on December the 1st, 1981, regarding the Pine Point to Fort Resolution highway. Due to the relatively light traffic usage, this highway has been scheduled for asphaltic surface treatment commencing in 1985, with base preparation intended to start in 1984.

Return To Question 36-81(3): Community Hall, Cape Dorset

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written Question 36-81(3), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on December the 1st, 1981, in regard to a community hall at Cape Dorset. The matter of the design for the Cape Dorset community hall has still not been finalized. Next week, a recreation officer from my department and an architect from Public Works will be visiting the community to further discuss the design of the community hall and obtain first-hand the community's feelings. The final decision on the design, when it is made, will be taken with the full input and advice of the community.

Return To Question 16-81(3): Widening Road, Arctic Bay To Nanisivik

Mr. Speaker, I also have a return to written Question 16-81(3), asked by Mr. Pudluk on November 27th, 1981. This is in regard to an update on the highway between Nanisivik Mine and Arctic Bay.

Other than annual scheduled road maintenance, the Department of Public Works has yet to undertake steps to widen the road between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay. Widening of this excessively hilly and curved road would prove extremely costly and would have to be paid for out of the same federal funds available for the upgrading of other Northwest Territories highways. An examination will be made this winter to determine which sections are in most need of widening for safety reasons, and costs estimates will be prepared.

The road was designed to pioneer road standards of a 12 foot width with passing turnouts. The road was actually constructed in varying widths from 12 to 18 feet. During routine summer maintenance improvements are made to the road as time permits. Such improvements are expected to include the increased frequency of passing turnouts. The latest traffic statistics available on this road indicate an average of 20 trips per day. Cautious driving is considered the key to safety on this low travelled road. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 22-81(3): Polar Bear Quota Chesterfield Inlet

Further Return To Question 32-81(3): Questions Not Being Answered

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Noah of the Hon. Mr. Nerysoo, and I would like to make that return for him. Written Question 22-81(3) and oral Question 32-81(3) concerning the polar bear quota in Chesterfield Inlet.

On 9 November 1981, Mr. Stilwell, regional director for the Keewatin, wrote to Leo Mimealik, president of the hunters' and trappers' association in Chesterfield Inlet, on my behalf. It was pointed out in that letter than an agreement in principle had been initiated by ITC and the federal government. Therefore, I did not want to consider any changes that might violate the spirit of the agreement and he asked for additional time to have the matter researched. I expressed regret at the delay but asked for support and indicated I would provide an answer regarding their petition for a quota increase by the end of December.

I have some further replies to questions that were asked of me, Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Health and Social Services. These questions were all asked by the Member for the Western Arctic, Ms Cournoyea, and I would like to read those if I may, sir.

Return To Question 33-81(3): Social Services Takeover By Town Of Inuvik

The first question was a written Question 33-81(3) concerning what authority was given to the regional superintendent of Social Services to write the town of Inuvik offering to develop social services. The letter to which the honourable Member refers, contained an invitation to the mayor and council of Inuvik to visit social service facilities and an offer to attend a council meeting to discuss Social Services programs. This included an offer to discuss devolution of Social Services programs, if the council was interested. Devolution of programs is a policy of this government. Social Services managers are expected to liaise and consult with community councils and other groups to explain programs, departmental objectives and philosophy. This is ongoing within the department. Any devolvement to the town, should it occur, would be strictly that -- to the town. It would not absolve the Social Services department of its responsibilities to the rest of the region. No devolution would occur without the involvement of other interested groups. I have a copy of the letter as well, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to table with the reply.

Return To Question 45-81(3): Training Of Social Services Staff, Inuvik

A further question, Question 45-81(3), concerned the lack of training of Social Services staff in Inuvik. The Department of Social Services currently have 29.5 per cent of the total Government of the Northwest Territories training man years. Inuvik region has four persons in trainee programs. Two attended Thebacha College and the other two are completing the social services diploma program at Red Deer College. Additionally, two of the current staff in the Inuvik region are graduates of this program. All are native employees. The Red Deer College social services diploma program has limited enrolment thus many applicants are turned away. The Inuvik region has a staff trainer position to provide in-service and staff development programs.

Since February 1981 there have been eight workshops held for staff. Four of these specifically to orient new staff to the major program areas of the department, social assistance, child welfare and probation. Training modules have also been developed to assist supervisors in the training of new employees on the job. A training needs analysis was completed in September 1981 based upon individual and group interviews. This will help serve as a basis for developing training programs for staff in Inuvik region.

Return To Question 49-81(3): Staffing Position Of Superintendent Of Social Services, Inuvik

A further question, Mr. Speaker, of the Member for the Western Arctic on the staffing position of a superintendent of Social Services. The position of superintendent of Social Services, as are all others within the public service, is advertised throughout the government to give experienced government employees an opportunity for advancement or change. If suitable candidates are not forthcoming the competition will be extended to persons outside the public service.



Return To Question 52-81(3): Foster Homes And Receiving Home, Inuvik

The question was also directed, Mr. Speaker, Question 52-81(3) dealing with foster homes and the receiving home in Inuvik.

Foster homes: It is the policy of the Department of Social Services that all potential foster homes must be studied and approved prior to the placement of a child. I assure this House that this policy will be strictly adhered to. The department actively seeks out foster homes, in particular native homes and is in the process of putting together an advertising campaign in the native languages to encourage potential foster parents.

Inuvik receiving home: It is the intention of this department to provide a continuum of care as close as possible to a child's own community. In the Inuvik region as elsewhere there has been an increase in the number of older children and children with special needs coming into care. These children have needs which are difficult to meet in foster homes. As a result of this changing need receiving homes must take on a different role; that is to provide care for hard to manage children as opposed to babies and toddlers. We feel it is preferable to provide this type of care in the child's home community. While it may be stressful for employees of receiving homes to adapt to new demands, my department has and will continue to provide training to assist the staff with this changing role.

Return To Question 53-81(3): Promotions Within Department Of Social Services

As to promotions within the Department of Social Services, Question 53-81(3), the Member for the Western Arctic asked the question: Will I assure and confirm to the House that promotions within the Department of Social Services will be carefully scrutinized by me and will not be given to people who have an established record of incompetence? Well, I want to assure the Member and this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that vacant positions within the department are filled by open competition. The Department of Personnel is primarily responsible for the establishment and selection of the interview board but we do have a role to play. All candidates are screened by departmental and regional managers and I want to further advise the House that over the past few years we have obtained a great number of training positions. A number of these staff people have had their training, they now hold responsible positions within the department and we have an ever increasing number of native people in positions with some great degree of responsibility. With the exception of one person, all current training opportunities have been given to native people within our department.

I have as well, Mr. Speaker, an establishment list that indicates, within the Inuvik region, who has been on hire over the past year or two, where these people are working, their experience, the number who have left and why they have left, and it indicates to me that the particular reasons that have been given of the 11 people that I count to have left over that particular period of time, two are still working within the community -- oh, no, more than that. One has resigned because of personal reasons. Others resigned to look after people, their children, a relocation of a spouse, going into other departments of the government, working in the community of Inuvik, and taking additional training. So, all in all, Mr. Speaker, I think that if the Member would want to have a list of these, I would be more than pleased to provide that to the Member and that kind of information in reply to the questions. Thank you.

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

Item 5, petitions. Are there any petitions today?

Item 6, tabling of documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 22-81(3): Position Of Legislative Assembly Toward The Constitution

MR. MACQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for the Central Arctic, that this House adopt the following as the formal position of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in respect of the matters recited above:

1) That the proposed Constitution Act, 1981, be amended to delete paragraphs 41(1)(e) and 41(1)(f) so that the Northwest Territories will be accorded the same rights and privileges as were accorded to Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan relating to the attainment of provincehood as provided in the British North America Act, 1871; and

2) That the elected representatives of the Northwest Territories be invited to participate fully in all future conferences on the constitution of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for unanimous consent to proceed with that when we reach the item, motions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion? Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion 23-81(3): Follow-Up Tasks, Special Committee On The Constitution Of Canada

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice that I will move a motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard, that will give specific direction to the special committee that this House has established on the constitution of Canada. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that when we get into motions, that I would be able to get unanimous consent to move that motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion?

Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Motion 20-81(3), Postponement of Implementation of Staff Housing Policy.  
Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion 20-81(3): Postponement Of Implementation Of Staff Housing Policy

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS there is a severe shortage of rental accommodation in Yellowknife;

AND WHEREAS high and uncertain interest rates are discouraging the building of rental accommodation by entrepreneurs;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is a large employer in Yellowknife;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories employees face being thrown into the open housing market at the worst possible time;

AND WHEREAS the uncertain accommodation prospects facing staff are affecting morale;

AND WHEREAS entrepreneurs would be willing to construct rental accommodation with certain minimum guarantees of assistance;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that this House recommend to the Executive Committee that it postpone the full implementation of its new policy on staff housing, if within a certain reasonable time there is no concrete proposal for the construction of new rental accommodation in Yellowknife;

And further that the Executive Committee investigate and act upon means it can use to ensure that sufficient rental accommodation is constructed in Yellowknife, including as a last resort, instructions to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to construct and make available such accommodation.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak but very briefly because I did talk about this problem when I gave my address on the day after this session opened.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. MacQuarrie. Your seconder is not present in the House. Did you have another seconder? I am sorry. You may have mentioned it and I missed it.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. McLaughlin will second it.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. My apologies.

#### Implementation Of Policy At Worst Possible Time

MR. MacQUARRIE: The aim, Mr. Speaker, of the government's new staff housing policy was to get out of the housing business with all of the headaches that are associated with it and I can understand that, and also to try to stimulate local market for the ownership of homes. I recognize that the task force that has made those recommendations was a long time at its work and that the Executive Committee discussed the matter for a long period of time and decided to embark on certain objectives, and once having embarked on them, they are reluctant to delay or postpone. Again, I can understand that.

The unfortunate thing is that while the process of thinking about this was going on, and it needed thorough review, there were also economic factors at play that were not very desirable and the unfortunate thing is that the policy was implemented at about the worst possible time, at a time when interest rates are so very high that they discourage the construction either of private accommodation by individuals or rental accommodation by entrepreneurs.

So we see this situation then of many staff members being compelled or facing being compelled to find their own accommodation, whether that is rental or purchase, at a time that is simply very difficult for them. Here in Yellowknife, over the past year there has been a resurgence in population so that accommodation is in very short supply. There is overcrowding in accommodation and, in fact, some people are simply unable to find accommodation, people who already had jobs but were not able to take them because of a lack of accommodation or in one case that I am very familiar with, a young employee of the territorial government, who some time ago had decided to rent a small home which was not owned by the government and had lived there quite happily for more than a year, but then just recently had the home sold out from under her and she was unable to find any

other accommodation at all. So, there are those kinds of problems and of course the problem with soaring rental rates is accompanying all of this. So, that is one thing that has contributed to the problem and the other, as I said, is the high interest rates, not only that they are high, but unpredictable and this is what makes people who might otherwise invest be a little bit leery about investing and so there just simply is not new rental accommodation being constructed.

So I am asking that the Executive Committee consider delaying the full implementation of their new policy if after a reasonable time it still appears that there is not going to be new rental accommodation built and then on the other hand, actually looking into ways and means -- and I know that some of this is being done already -- to try to encourage the building of rental accommodation, whether that is through land tax arrangements or guaranteed occupancy or whatever. As I said, I do know that some of that is being done already, and if it is successful, that is great, but if it is not, then we do have a very serious problem. So, further than that, I would encourage the government to move the Housing Corporation in that direction, giving them a mandate -- well, they do have a mandate to provide public housing everywhere as a last resort and they have done that in communities all over the Northwest Territories and if it can be done elsewhere in the Territories, surely it can be done here as well, particularly if it is in fact a measure of last resort, if there just is not accommodation available through other means. So I would ask all Members to recognize the seriousness of the problem here and to be sympathetic to it and at least -- this is not a motion that makes demands, but a motion that recommends and encourages, and I hope the Members would see it in that light and act to support it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To Motion 20-81(3). Mr. McLaughlin, as seconder do you wish to speak?

MR. FRASER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Do you wish to close the debate, Mr. MacQuarrie?

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is fine, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 20-81(3), Carried

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

---Carried

Motion 21-81(3): Public Inquiry Into Regional Economic Development Operation, Inuvik

Motion 21-81(3). Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Great Bear:

WHEREAS concerns have been expressed on numerous occasions on the inability of the Inuvik region Economic Development operations to respond effectively to the business aspirations of the people in that area;

AND WHEREAS this specific region is a complex one, in that the rate of development is compounded by the intense pressure by oil and gas development, the desire to develop renewable resources;

AND WHEREAS this particular area could receive positive benefits from these developments if the necessary support is given;

AND WHEREAS ways and means must be found to allow the upgrading of this important government service;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that a public inquiry be established under the Public Inquiries Ordinance, March 28, 1977, to investigate the past and present operations of the Inuvik regional Economic Development operations in order to make recommendations with a view to develop a comprehensive plan to build an effective and responsive capability to deal with the critical demands to meet the objective of involving the residents in that area to meaningfully and effectively participate in the industrial development economic opportunities.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Proceed, Ms Cournoyea.

MS. COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have brought this concern up on many occasions. On March 10th it was referred to in terms of restrictions on employees. On March 11th I asked for an independent investigation and study to be conducted into the Inuvik region office and I understand that the Minister of Economic Development has travelled through the district to talk to the employees and I certainly commend them for doing that, but with the major development going on in that area and the fluctuation of personnel in the senior areas of responsible government agency, I believe that the department continues to suffer from ills and those ills have not been cured as of yet. The people who are living in that area very much want to have a resource that can help them in taking part in this major development, such as the Norman Wells pipeline, Dome/Canmar, and the consortium of Gulf and Shell, Arctic Transportation and these are the desires of the community to be involved. However, the resources available to them to become involved and secure funds to get involved in business enterprises is just not there.

We have a new regional director of the office. The previous one was able to stay less than one year and recently the new superintendent of Economic Development resigned and the workers who are in that office -- the one area office worker that we had has also left the Inuvik region. I believe it is not enough for the Minister just to travel to see if he can talk to the employees and find out what is going on. There are many people in my area who would like to take part in making submissions and recommendations on how that government operation can be mobilized to suit that particular area. The Inuvik area is one of the most intensely impacted by development and I believe that it is not unkind to ask that the major support service be upgraded to meet those commitments.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The seconder, Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize problems of the mover of this motion. We have a problem also in my constituency, which is handled out of Inuvik, and we never seem to get any results. It was brought before the Minister a couple of times and he said that it was going to be corrected, but nothing has been done to date. There was a woman sent in there as an Economic Development officer and she was from the outside -- into Norman Wells from Saskatchewan -- and she did not know what she was supposed to do. She did not know why she was sent in there. I think it is maybe lack of information given out in the first place, why these Economic Development officers are having problems, but possibly a study like this into the complete program, dealing with the economic development in that region, might help. I urge the Executive Committee to get a study done and maybe have a reply for us before the next session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Motion 21-81(3). Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have been asked by the Minister, the Hon. Mr. Butters, to read a statement out at this time on his behalf in regard to this motion and I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, that these are the Hon. Mr. Butters' comments. "I regret my absence from the House at this moment. However, matters related to my finance responsibility required my presence in Ottawa yesterday evening." And I have agreed to provide the following remarks on behalf of Mr. Butters to the motion of the Member for Western Arctic.

"Were I present, I would have indicated to the House that the Member's motion is untimely, unfair and irresponsible. It is untimely..."

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, my point of privilege is that it appears that Mr. McCallum is simply stating something on behalf of another Member and I feel that it is unfair and that if, in this case, Mr. Butters is not here himself, then it is unfortunate. I can understand Mr. McCallum speaking if he were speaking for himself, but he is obviously speaking for someone, which I submit is not appropriate.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just one moment, please. Technically speaking, Mr. Sibbeston, your point of order is well taken. The rules are not clear on this matter as far as this Legislature is concerned and by way of memory, I think several precedents have been set in the past relative to statements being read in. I believe on one occasion -- I recall that Ms Cournoyea read a statement in on behalf of somebody or somebody read one in on her behalf. So, on the point that it has been done before, I will allow the document to be read in. It is a type of a situation where the Minister cannot be here because he is on House business or on business of the government. He wishes to make a statement and surely it is basically the wish of this Legislature to hear any comments that might be of interest regarding the subject at hand. So, I will allow the statement to be read in.

Comments From Minister Of Economic Development Read

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker:

"It is untimely because I have in the past and as recently as Wednesday last in discussions with the Member, both as a representative for the Western Arctic and as a senior executive officer of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, solicited her advice and suggestions in developing a positive and effective response strategy to economic development opportunities in the Inuvik region. I regretfully must see in her subsequent action and this motion a rejection of that offer.

"It is unfair because I have taken action on the concerns and suggestions that the honourable Member and this House has referred to me and my department for consideration. As the regional office of Economic Development is my direct responsibility I have, since Motion 30-81(1) was approved during the last budget session of this Assembly:

"a) Personally looked into the operation of the regional office of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism over a two day period in March of this year and intensively interviewed all staff members of the Inuvik regional office of Economic Development;

"b) I have also responded by letter to some 15 questions regarding specific concerns of the Member relating to the management of the regional Economic Development office. As the charges being levelled by the Member were very serious in nature, I requested the assistance of the legal services of this government to carry out examinations of the matters raised by the Member.

"c) I have had instituted a site-specific covenant, implemented to apply to new-hire Economic Development staff in the Inuvik region, which requires of them guarantees that they will not become involved in or take on business opportunities or enterprises in the Inuvik region for a period of two years.

"d) Over the last nine months I have had developed for my reference and advice an overview study of the Beaufort Sea petroleum resource development activities, with particular emphasis being placed on methods for increasing and encouraging participation by local people and businesses in the economic opportunities occurring in the region.

"e) I have set up an ongoing process by which I, through regular meetings with the general manager of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation can relate to and assist that organization in achieving its development objectives. Since the honourable Member for the Western Arctic has just recently become the senior executive officer for the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, I have assured her on two occasions that I will continue this process with her.

"f) I have requested and received from the Inuvik regional office a note and a record of all complaints received by departmental officials from clients and Members will recognize that some of the complaints received from individuals directly relate to the fact that Economic Development officials were not able to respond positively to their particular requests for financial assistance.

"g) On September 16th, I met with representatives from most of the Delta communities for an afternoon with senior members of the regional Economic Development staff and discussed perceived shortcomings of the regional office and improvements recommended by community delegates. It was noteworthy that while there was much general complaint there was only one specific item of criticism brought to my attention that could be attributed to departmental inaction or omission. When I checked the matter out I found that the criticism was not well substantiated.

"In closing, I would stress that the Member's motion is irresponsible. It is irresponsible because it completes a destructive action and process against the regional office and a cycle of unsubstantiated criticism instituted by the honourable Member in the budget session earlier this year. When I met with the regional office staff of my department late in March I found them overworked but with good morale and able to shrug off the criticisms and challenges of the honourable Member for the Western Arctic. When I met with my regional officials earlier this month I found to my sorrow that a significant number of them had left or were planning to leave our employ. If the Member for the Western Arctic is truly serious in her desire to build an effective and responsive capability to deal with the critical demands to make the objectives of involving the residents of that area to meaningfully and effectively participate in the industrial development economic opportunities, then I suggest she offer her considerable talents to me and my departmental officials in a positive and productive sense and cease her constant stream of unsubstantiated charges and ill-informed criticism. There are no present grounds for a public inquiry at this time." That is Mr. Butters' statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Motion 21-81(3). Mr. MacQuarrie.

Need For A Public Inquiry

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First, I would have to say that I do regard the Delta and Beaufort area as an area of very great concern, because it is an area that faces, in the very near future, extraordinary development. I do not claim to have, and do not have first-hand knowledge about how the Department of Economic Development is handling the matter there, although I see that where there are extraordinary demands, a normal approach to whatever is happening may not be adequate. Unlike some other Members in this House, I am not afraid of public inquiries. I think that when there are unresolved issues, when there are two sides who seem to have a different assessment of what a situation is, that the best possible way you can resolve it is to have an open and public inquiry, and public inquiries of this type are just as capable of vindicating one side as the other. In fact, if the allegations that Ms Cournoyea continues to make about the way the matter is being handled in that area are true, that would be substantiated, and perhaps in an area of critical concern what is necessary, what is extraordinarily necessary, will be done.

On the other hand, if the honourable Minister's statement of great concern and attention over the past year is complete and proper in every sense, that would come out at the inquiry as well; but whichever way, what is obviously a sore point between people in the area -- some people, we may say -- but unlike other Members, it does not have to be great numbers to make me believe that somebody might have a legitimate concern. Sometimes only one person can have a legitimate concern, and so I would certainly support this measure. Public inquiries; I think that is what frightened some of you yesterday. A public inquiry does not have to mean nine supreme court judges frightening a lot of people; sometimes it can be one very competent person who takes the trouble to get at the facts. I regret that you did not act properly when you had the chance yesterday. You have a chance to do it right today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Pardon me. Order, please. Motion 21-81(3). To the motion, please. Ms Cournoyea, do you wish to conclude? This will close the debate.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would not have asked to speak a second time, but I also agree with Mr. Sibbeston, I do not believe that a person should not be facing me if he has something to say. In any remarks that I have made about any person or any department, the people have been present. To say that this is unfair and untimely -- how can it be unfair and untimely at a time that the area that is most impacted by development is at its most critical stage to respond to those development measures? Surely, in my position as the Inuvialuit Development Corporation executive officer, I have agreed to help Mr. Butters in his job, but we are only one corporation. There are many other businesses that relate to the Economic Development regional office in that area, and I can get, in my position -- perhaps a favored position; however, there are other businesses that we actively compete against, and these are the businesses and the involvement of individuals who want to be involved in business, it is their complaint that they are not properly served. It seems to me that if we are talking about this government to be responsive, we must be successful in the prime area of concern, for I maintain if you are not successful in the Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea area, nowhere will you be successful.

Now, a public inquiry is not a negative thing. I am not saying that everything is negative, but I believe that there are people from Fort Good Hope, from Fort Franklin, from Fort Norman, from Norman Wells, from Fort McPherson, from Arctic Red River, Aklavik, Sachs Harbour, Holman Island, Paulatuk -- excuse me, Holman Island is not served from the region -- but these are the communities that have a stake in how they are going to be involved in the economic development, and Tuktoyaktuk is a major area that is impacted by that development, and I do not believe that it is unfair and untimely at this time to put in a public inquiry to respond and perhaps come out with some very useful recommendations...



MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: ...from those people who have the ideas on how they feel they can be best served.

I would like to complete my statement by saying that there are some good people in Economic Development that have left because they felt that they could not do their job adequately, and they have made recommendations that were a little unique, that were not acceptable; and I believe those people who have left would take that opportunity in the inquiry to place their concerns and their direction to the inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Motion 21-81(3).

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Recorded vote being requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour of Motion 21-81(3), stand, please.

Motion 21-81(3), Carried

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Sayine, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Fraser.

MR. SPEAKER: Those opposed to the motion, please stand. Abstentions, please stand.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Great show.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion 21-81(3) is carried.

---Carried

Now, for the matter of record, I have taken Mr. MacQuarrie's motion and numbered it Motion 22-81(3), and the motion that Mr. Braden put in that is now being handled by Mr. McCallum as Motion 23-81(3). I presume, Mr. MacQuarrie, that you are asking for unanimous consent to proceed with your Motion 22-81(3)?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there unanimous consent?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion 22-81(3): Position Of Legislative Assembly Toward The Constitution

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the law of the constitution relating to establishment of new provinces in any territory forming part of Canada was enacted more than a century ago by the terms of the British North America Act, 1871;

AND WHEREAS the said British North America Act, 1871, empowers the parliament of Canada to establish such new provinces, and, at the time of such establishment, to provide for the constitution and administration of any such province, and to enact laws for the peace, order, and good government of such province, and for its representation in parliament;

AND WHEREAS neither the British North America Act, 1871, nor any other constitutional enactment provides for obtaining the consent of existing provinces to the establishment of such new province except, and to the extent that, the boundaries of an existing province may be changed;

AND WHEREAS there has been no constitutional practice or convention seeking or obtaining the consent of existing provinces to establishment of such new province, save with respect to boundary questions, but on the contrary, the practice has been not to seek the consent of existing provinces;

AND WHEREAS in the case of establishment of the new provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, and also in the case of addition to portions of the Northwest Territories to adjoining provinces by northward extension of the boundaries of Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba, the constitutional law and practice has been as recited above, that is to say, consent of existing provinces has not been sought or obtained save with respect to boundary issues;

AND WHEREAS the amendments proposed in the form of resolution approved by the House of Commons and Senate in April, 1981, and submitted to the Supreme Court of Canada for purposes of the references on amendment of the constitution of Canada would have preserved the constitutional procedures recited above by providing that the general amending procedures therein proposed would not apply to an amendment to the constitution of Canada where there is another provision in the constitution, defined to include the British North America Act, 1871, for making the amendment;

AND WHEREAS the form of resolution approved by the House of Commons on December 2nd, 1981, would effect a radical change in the constitutional law and practice recited above in that section 41(1)(f) would require consent of at least seven provinces to the establishment of a new province, notwithstanding any other law or practice, and section 41(1)(e) would likewise require the consent of at least seven provinces to the extension of existing provinces into the Territories;

AND WHEREAS this new requirement of consent of at least seven existing provinces is likely to complicate, delay, or even prevent the establishment of a new province and thus frustrate the legitimate aspirations of the inhabitants of the Territories to obtain provincial status in the same way as have other Canadians under the law and practice of the constitution that has prevailed for more than a century;

AND WHEREAS the elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories are entitled to speak for the people of the Northwest Territories, and are entitled to represent them at all constitutional conferences, the outcome of which obviously affects the rights of the people of the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for the Central Arctic, that this House adopt the following as the formal position of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in respect of the matters recited above:

1. That the proposed Constitution Act, 1981, be amended to delete sections 41(1)(e) and 41(1)(f) so that the Northwest Territories will be accorded the same rights and privileges as were accorded to Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan relating to the attainment of provincehood as provided in the British North America Act, 1871.

2. That the elected representatives of the Northwest Territories be invited to participate fully in all future conferences on the constitution of Canada.

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

A Demand For Justice

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion before the House is couched in careful formal language but let no one for that reason mistake the meaning of the motion nor the intensity with which Members of this Assembly feel aggrieved. This motion is our assessment -- and we are confident that it is an assessment that would defy successful challenge -- of what has been considered right and just and proper by all Canadians for more than a century in the matter of fundamental political development for territorial peoples. This motion is our condemnation of secretive backroom dealings that have allowed the economic interests of provincial governments to supersede the fundamental democratic rights of more than 80,000 northerners without a single one of those northerners being present to defend their legitimate interests.

This motion is our proclamation that we will neither rest easily nor sit idly by while this disgraceful clause remains a part of the constitution of Canada. This motion, Mr. Speaker, quite simply is our demand for justice in this matter and sooner or later, Mr. Speaker, we will have justice.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Seconder, Mr. Tologanak.

MR. FRASER: Question.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to second this motion of importance to the people of the Northwest Territories in their pursuit to let all Canadians understand our position. Just two weeks ago we were in Ottawa talking about the very positions that this Legislature has taken in regard to our rights and most of the parliamentarians in Ottawa understood our position on former clause 34. I am quite surprised that most of the parliamentarians in Ottawa did not understand the implications of the 41(1)(e) and (f) which are presently in the new accord.

They did not understand the implications not only to the people of the Territories but also to the federal politicians themselves, the Government of Canada itself. We know that the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada are tired of this constitutional package. They were quick enough to pass it through the House and it is before the Senate but our position is quite clear. So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say that I support fully that we wish, as members of Canada as well, to follow the same direction as taken in our past Canadian history. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Motion 22-81(3).

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Motion To Refer Motion 22-81(3) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the motion in principle, but however I think some of the wording should really be reflective to the northern constitutional development possibilities of creating more than one province. I have some problems with some of the wording here where it just refers to possibility of creating a new province in the Northwest Territories. So as a result of that, I would like to be given an opportunity to ask some questions about it. I would like to move that this motion be referred to the committee of the whole -- the first item in committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor to move this Motion 22-81(3) into committee of the whole. Is there a seconder? Mr. McLaughlin. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour of the motion to refer? Opposed? The motion is carried. Motion 22-81(3) is referred to committee of the whole.

---Carried

Motion 23-81(3). Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the motion has been passed around. I would like to indicate that there is one small change in the resolution on page two under item b). Now I will read it out correctly but I would like to make sure that everybody knows that there is a change to come there, Mr. Speaker, and I would not want the motion to be done away with because I have to make a change in it. Would you want me to indicate what the change is now or to read the motion in its entirety?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, if you would like to make a note of the change and then we will ask for unanimous consent to proceed with it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Come again? Read the change?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, just read the change please, Mr. McCallum.

Motion 23-81(3), Reworded

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: On page two, b): Instead of the word "Take", it should read "Make immediate recommendations to the Executive Committee...."

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent being requested to proceed with Motion 23-81(3).

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Any nays? Proceed, Mr. McCallum.

Motion 23-81(3): Follow-Up Tasks, Special Committee On The Constitution Of Canada

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS this Assembly by Motion 3-81(3) has formally established a special committee on the constitution of Canada;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly feels that it is desirable for the special committee to continue its work related to various aspects of the constitution as they affect the people of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly desires a full and comprehensive report from the special committee prior to and during the next session of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly recognizes that the special committee requires assistance in responding to the direction provided;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard, that this Assembly direct the special committee to:

- a) Respond to the general direction provided by motions of this Assembly, particularly as this direction relates to deletion of sections 41(1)(e) and (f) in the Canadian constitution and enhanced representation at future constitutional conferences;
- b) Make immediate recommendations to the Executive Committee to upgrade the constitutional capability of the Northwest Territories government in order that the committee and the government can better advise this Assembly;
- c) Establish a small subgroup of the committee to assist the co-chairmen in the conduct of their work;
- d) Prepare a comprehensive report for distribution to the public and to this Assembly on the activities of the committee since its formation, such report to be released at the latest by the beginning of the budget session; and
- e) Develop the required administrative and financial documents for formal approval by the Legislative Assembly's Members' Services Board.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Question. I do not have any comments.

Motion 23-81(3), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Let the record show it was passed unanimously.

---Carried

That concludes motions.

Item 10, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters.

ITEM NO. 10: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

Motion 22-81(3); Report of the special committee on the constitution of Canada; Our Land Our Future, discussion paper on political and constitutional development; 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance; Motion 18-81(3), Task Force on Dene Housing, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 22-81(3), Position of Legislative Assembly Toward the Constitution; Tabled Document 5-81(3), Our Land Our Future; 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance; Motion 18-81(3), Task Force on Dene Housing, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MOTION 22-81(3), POSITION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TOWARD THE CONSTITUTION; TABLED DOCUMENT 5-81(3), OUR LAND OUR FUTURE; 12TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE; MOTION 18-81(3), TASK FORCE ON DENE HOUSING

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Coffee time -- 15 minutes please.

---SHORT RECESS

Motion 22-81(3), Position of Legislative Assembly Toward The Constitution

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. We are considering Motion 22-81(3). Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would this committee agree to my deputy minister coming into the House to advise on any questions concerning wording or interpretation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): It is agreed.

---Agreed

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you see the witness in to the witness table?

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

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: I note that the honourable Member who wanted clarification is not now in the House and since we have just reconvened, could some attempt be made to get him?

AN HON. MEMBER: Here he comes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): There he is. Dealing with Motion 22-81(3), Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would just like the legal adviser, Mr. Lal, to explain the references in the preamble where it referred to "a province" rather than provinces. If there is no problem with such wording, then I will not have any further objections for getting this approved. Thank you.

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

MR. LAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the recitals in the motion paraphrase the present constitutional law of Canada as it applies to the creation of new provinces. As you will see from the second paragraph of the motion, the word "province" is used in the plural. The reference to "a new province" in later paragraphs is used to explain the application of the existing constitutional law, to the creation of new provinces. In my view, the use of the word "province" in the singular in the recitals does not imply that this House has committed itself to the creation of only one province. Thank you.

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

MR. CURLEY: No, no further questions. I am satisfied with the explanation and I am in support of the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Progress? Is it the wish that we go to the next item on the orders of the day and continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, just on a matter of procedure, would it be appropriate for us to move a motion that this committee of the whole accept the motion as referred and then as we did last night, to indicate that the Speaker would read into the minutes that it was formally accepted?

Motion To Express Approval Of Motion 22-81(3), Carried

If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, I would move then that this committee formally express its approval of this Motion 22-81(3).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question is being called. All in favour? Down. Opposed? Unanimously, let the record show.

---Carried

---Applause

Tabled Document 5-81(3), Our Land Our Future

The next order of business is Tabled Document 5-81(3), Our Land Our Future, the discussion paper on political and constitutional development. Is it agreed we deal with that discussion paper or do you want to go to something else? Could we report on this one too then, and go to something else?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

---Agreed

12th Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

The 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance. The finance chairman is not here. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the chairman of the finance committee has given the 12th report to the Legislative Assembly on the cost of living with a recommendation for a pilot project and the basic thrust of her report was a need for an overall approach for the cost of living to be addressed and the fact that many important questions had to be answered yet before we could proceed with any assistance programs, and these programs that have been directed toward the finance committee have still got to be reflected on how best they can be met in terms of moving forward in providing those programs. As a result of the work that has been done, we have a couple of recommendations that we would like to make and I would like to know if there was any other requirement for explanation on the cost of living, freight subsidy report that Mrs. Sorensen, the finance chairman, had made or may I proceed with two motions that I have in regard to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): What is the wish of the committee? Proceed with the motions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Proceed, Ms Cournoyea.

Motion That Executive Examine Alternatives And Make Recommendations To Offset High Cost Of Living, Carried

MS COURNOYEA: On behalf of the standing committee on finance, I move that this committee recommend to the Executive Committee that it proceed to examine, evaluate alternatives and make recommendations to offset the high cost of living in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The motion is in order. To the motion. Do I hear a question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question being called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? Thank you.

---Carried

Proceed, Ms Cournoyea. You have another motion?

Motion To Designate Pelly Bay As Pilot Project And Institute Method Of Assistance To Lower Costs Of Certain Items, Carried

MS COURNOYEA: The second motion: That this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it institute a program:

- 1) That Pelly Bay be designated as a pilot project over a two year period;
- 2) That a suitable method of assistance to lower the cost of certain food and non-food items be instituted;
- 3) That a specific target group be identified;
- 4) That careful monitoring to determine the effects of this assistance be conducted with a view to answering such questions as:
  - a) What is the most effective or efficient administrative process for the assistance program?
  - b) What is the impact on the target group? Does it meet expectations?
  - c) Is the assistance program meeting the needs of the people, in their opinion?
  - d) What is the impact on free enterprise that might be involved?
  - e) Are there areas where the government might be taken advantage of?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The motion is in order.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the suggestion or motion in regard to Pelly Bay being a pilot project has been discussed with the Executive Committee and they have been consulted on the matter and from our understanding it appears that they may be supportive of this pilot project being undertaken for a two year period. In view of the fact that many suggestions have been brought to the Legislative Assembly with regard to cost of living, it is assumed that if we go ahead with the pilot project, many of the incidental questions that have been brought forward will be answered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question is called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed?

---Carried



Does this conclude the 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance?

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, it does.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Does the committee wish to report and go to the next item of business?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

---Agreed

Motion 18-81(3), Task Force On Dene Housing

Motion 18-81(3), Task Force on Dene Housing. Nick Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering at this time if we could invite Mr. Bob Stevenson in for a brief statement only without thinking we are going to spend the next few hours with him. I will move, if necessary, to have him come in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it the wish of the committee that we invite the witness in to deal with this motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

---Agreed

Thank you. Mr. Bob Stevenson, maybe you already know, but if you are answering a question, you have to talk slowly because of the interpreters. How do you wish to deal with this, Mr. Sibbeston?

MR. SIBBESTON: I thought Mr. Stevenson can be of assistance to this committee by generally stating some background as to why a task force has been called. I, of course, have given some information but Mr. Stevenson has been more involved in the housing and he was there at the conference a number of weeks ago when Dene housing was discussed. So I would like, if possible, for him to give some general background information on the need for a task force on Dene housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Stevenson, would you like to proceed with a little background on the housing situation?

Presentation By Mr. Bob Stevenson, Metis Association

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, thank you for allowing me to make a report to you about our housing conference. If there are any further questions, I would be pleased to try and answer them.

For a number of months the Dene Nation and the Metis Association have wanted to bring community people to a large assembly to face the issue of housing. You all know that there have been a number of problem areas that all of you have discussed in the past. Simply in our own area, which is the Mackenzie Valley and Great Slave Lake area and south Slave area, we wanted to have the opportunity to try and assist the Housing Corporation and other agencies that deliver

housing programs in trying to better the working conditions for our people and also the construction area. For the first time we were able to bring together every major community and territorial group in the Mackenzie Valley and Great Slave Lake area that is concerned about housing, to a meeting. I must say that it took us seven months to finally receive the funding to bring everybody together and that was provided by the federal government through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The community groups included the band council, the Metis local community council, the housing association and the log builders' federation. There were a total of 51 delegates, official delegates that is. We brought the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation staff, the Canada Mortgage and Housing staff, from both Yellowknife and Ottawa, the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association staff, Energy, Mines and Resources who now deliver some insulation type programs, the Dene Nation and the Metis Association. Along with these groups, there were business people who deliver materials to the North, basically to give an idea to our people who were at this conference as to prices of houses, prices of materials, and the opportunity for these business people to cheer or promote their own businesses with the community people. There was the Woodstove Shop from Yellowknife, Igloo Building Supplies out of Hay River, Manton Building Supplies out of Fort Smith, Norsemen Enterprises out of Edmonton which happens to be a native-owned company, and the Bank of Montreal.

You have a letter from both Georges Erasmus and Jim Bourque dated November the 27th, which asks this Assembly to follow up the wishes of our meeting, which asked to set up a task force, and you also have a copy of the resolution, number 11.

There was also -- I do not know whether it was included by motion number 29 at that meeting which also relates to that specific resolution asking for a task force, and it simply states that: "Resolution number 11 to be amended to include 'that the representatives on the task force are mutually agreeable to the Dene Nation and the Metis Association'." What they were specifically asking was that this task force, if it were set up through the territorial Legislative Assembly, that our regional groups -- the Dene Nation and Metis Association operate under five regions in the valley and the south Slave area -- they simply wanted to have the opportunity that if the territorial government or the Executive or whoever is directed to set up this task force, that they be allowed to give names of people who could be on that task force.

I do not want to get into a too political argument with Mr. McCallum, but yesterday he did mention some things that the corporation is doing, and his comments to me meant that it was like saying, "Leave us alone in the Housing Corporation. We are trying to do our job. We are doing our job." But at the meeting that we held -- there were quite a few areas that people were not happy with as far as the corporation and staff and how they are operating and so on are concerned, and that is not only at that meeting, but over the years. That is why we attempted to try to work with them, and we continue to try to work with them. This is one way the task force is hopefully to be set up; to look into the areas where we can better organize ourselves in the valley, how the corporation should be better set up to serve the people, how the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association itself can be set up to better serve the people, or what areas can we take, rather than going through a number of different agencies, if it is possible that we could work under one, and how we can do that.

#### More Funding Needed For Home-Ownership Programs

The way we see it, in our area there are millions of dollars spent on rental units, yet very little less than a million dollars spent on home-ownership programs. There has been an announcement also yesterday made by Mr. Arnold McCallum that they have set aside one million dollars for two projects, at Fort Resolution and Fort Good Hope. We simply see that as not being enough, because you are only satisfying two communities who have asked for \$750,000 for those two pilot projects. What about the other communities? That is what we

are saying, and that is the issue that this task force has to look into. Which is more feasible? Is it better to pour in money in our area for rental units, or is there a possibility of putting in more home-ownership type units, which is what a lot of people want in our area?

Tagak Curley asked about not restricting it. We are not asking that it be restricted; we are simply saying "Allow us to do what we want in our area," and if the Inuit people want to set up something similar for their area, if their concern is home-ownership, or whatever the housing concern is in their area, then we should set up something like that, too, and we are agreeable with that. That is all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stevenson. You are prepared now to answer any questions. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the witness, are there housing associations or housing boards or whatever in the communities that you want this Assembly to inquire into? Or do you have housing associations that have some link with the Housing Corporation in the community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Stevenson.

MR. STEVENSON: There are housing associations in every community. There are band councils, there are Metis locals. The problem is that they are not geared to work together. For example, as you know, housing associations are either appointed, or the authorities are appointed in the communities by the Commissioner through suggestions from community groups such as town councils. Then there are associations that are elected by tenants. That leaves anybody who is not in a rental housing unit out of the housing association. So you have cases where, sure, they are elected by the tenants, but they are not on the housing association, because they happen to have their own houses, or other housing. That is the case, and they simply want to be able to -- there is a recommendation that says there should be community groups included on those housing associations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stevenson. Any further questions? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have some difficulty supporting a study where we know what the problems are already, and where I think we know what the solutions are. I think in Education we know what the problems are but we do not necessarily know yet what the solutions should be. Is the problem not that the SSHAG program needs more funds, and should we not -- I would like to ask the witness this -- should we not be spending our precious dollars -- and, you know, I am finding out, now that I am on the Executive, there are limits on how much money there is to spend. Should we not be spending our precious dollars on actually building houses, rather than studying a problem when everybody knows what the solutions are already? That is my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

MR. STEVENSON: Well, yes, I guess that would be the answer all right, if we all know that and if we are going to be able to do that, maybe there is no need for a task force, if you will. The task force chores would be to outline in detail how that could be done. Also, the fact that the communities would be the regions in our area, would have that input. They want to do the job as opposed to trying again to trust the Housing Corporation staff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Any further questions? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Again -- I am sure you will correct me if this is an ignorant question, because I do not know much about the western area -- but is there not already a Mackenzie Valley Housing authority which is designed to reflect the needs of those communities that we are talking about? Is that authority not doing its job, or do I misunderstand its mandate? That is my question, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. STEVENSON: Yes. The Mackenzie Valley Housing Association -- the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation itself -- that is the funding agency for both of these groups. Neither of them are doing their job to the wishes of the people in terms of home-ownership programs. There is an attempt to deliver a SSHAG program, but it falls very short fundingwise. We know that, as you understand it.

#### More Community Representation Needed

Mackenzie Valley Housing Association happens to be originally the idea of getting community representation at a larger scale. For instance, they were supposed to hold annual assemblies initially. It did not happen for a couple of years. The board got smaller, and there were a lot of problems. It is the same with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation where people are saying we should get more community representation in terms of elections on that board, too. They are not saying anything against specific Housing Corporation board directors that are on the territorial board, but they feel that a better route would be to have them elected. So, there are all kinds of questions that this task force would look at in the short term; plus look at all the other -- I know that there are a couple of task forces that have been in place already since 1971 and later on. This task force would look at all the studies and all the task forces that have been in place and come to this Assembly and present their findings and recommendations as to how not only the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association, but also the territorial Housing Corporation itself and CMHC should react in terms of programs. Most of these programs are geared in Ottawa, and simply filtered through the existing organizations, such as the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association. In other words, they have to follow everything in detail as it is implemented in Ottawa.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Stevenson, I guess from time to time I am not really sure why people want to embark on certain task forces and it seems to me we have the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association and I certainly have a deep regard for them and they have been in the process -- is it possible that without a task force you can easily make one page of recommendations? Now, even if you went into a task force and you went to all the people you would only hear all the things that the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association has been saying already in working with people. I am on the board of directors of the Housing Corporation and, you know, we would like to make the recommendation that there be no more money for low rental housing and the money just be given to people in some manner or form or as maybe a 50 per cent share. But that has to be worked out with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the way they give money out.

I just feel that the whole area of low rental housing or home-ownership has been discussed so very much. It would seem to me that you yourself could sit there, and with all your accumulated knowledge and the work that you have been doing, very simply write up what has to be done. At first you can say that it is already established that home-ownership makes better people and everybody would agree with that. Then you could go to the next stage, saying that low rental housing -- as the next principle -- ties people to an agency and they have not much control over their lives. You can say that and everyone will agree with you.

Now, I think the only thing that we must do is try to get the funds to expedite a program where people have home-ownership. I do not think a task force is going to help us do that in any way, because everybody agrees. There is a certain amount of money expended in the whole North and certainly the area of the Mackenzie Valley has been designated as a housing area where people can own their own homes. So, we have a designation of the Mackenzie Valley housing area. I do not think there is a lack of support for what you want to do. Certainly the bureaucratic arrangement we have with Ottawa in supplying a program -- it does not matter who is supplying that program -- the problem is, how do we get the capital money or the lease money or the loan money into those communities for individual people? I just do not see where a task force is going to come out with any more than what everybody already knows. If I could find out what you feel would be gained by that, perhaps I can understand, because we all know the problem. It is difficult. People have a difficult time getting loans because they have no collateral. They have no base on which to justify a bank loan and go to the bank and say, "Well, I need a loan of \$50,000."

So, with all that said and well-known, what more would a task force come up with that you could not do yourself very simply with your years of knowledge in that housing field? Maybe you can explain that to me.

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

Task Force Specifically Requested By Native People

MR. STEVENSON: Well, first of all, I guess as you well know and pointed out that there has been a number of task forces and studies done. This particular one that we are pursuing now, simply, we feel comes from the wishes of the people that we were able to bring together, which has never been done before by anyone in terms of that type of a large gathering consisting of chosen representatives from the various organizations in the community. Simply, it is their wish that makes us approach this idea. We attempted to work with the problem of Mackenzie Valley Housing Association in terms of maybe electing a new board and trying to set it up in a better manner, but the people at the meeting said we should look at not only Mackenzie Valley Housing Association but the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation too and then to see to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation -- on a much broader scale. Then to try to simplify it and bring it back for the Legislative Assembly to deal with, in hopes of trying to work with one rather than a whole bunch of agencies that are in place now. They did not agree with us and our idea in terms of setting up Mackenzie Valley Housing Association in a better manner of a new native housing corporation, as was one alternative.

This just basically means that we should be able to have a way of working better with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, which is the responsibility of this Assembly. If we can do that -- right now it is not possible. There are no elections for the board and so on. There are all kinds of areas, the administration areas, that have to be looked at, in the offices, and there are all kinds of problems. There are five districts, no district managers that are of native ancestry and stuff like that. That is what the native people have been saying at that meeting and they have asked us to pursue this task force in this manner. That is why we are doing that. I might be able to attempt to answer some questions, as you point out, but I would sooner get it from the wishes of the people. That is why they asked too, specifically, that their regions be involved as well. By that I mean they have regional meetings periodically and at one of those -- or each of those regional meetings they will choose some names or a name to present to the Housing Corporation or the territorial government Executive to name as that task force.

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

Federal-Territorial Funding Arrangement At Fault

MS COURNOYEA: But, Mr. Stevenson, would you not say that the plan of action then -- really, the recommendation that has to be put forward to the federal government is that the total lump of money that is normally allocated to the Northwest Territories be assigned to the Northwest Territories in such a manner that the Northwest Territories can dispense that money in a way that they see fit. If you have \$10 million, then the total fund should be transferred over and if it requires a fairly substantial injection into an individual's pocket or toward his home, that that is the best plan of action. Certainly in my dealing with housing if we talk about housing -- home-ownership -- that seems to be the only recommendation that can be made and it seems to me with all the regulations and the criteria for receiving funds from the federal government the hang-up really is on the kind of program. So, we can set up any kind of task force and we can make any kind of recommendations, but if that relationship between the territorial government and the federal government is not changed to assigning a total lump of funds to the Northwest Territories it does not really matter what kind of recommendations we make. That has been the fault of the federal-territorial arrangement right from the very beginning.

I feel that the people already know what they want. Unless you feel it is -- oh, I do not know what the word was -- Mr. MacQuarrie had it the other day -- it is something that is therapeutic to have people have another task force about housing. But I think people really do know what they want and I believe that we all know that the whole low rental housing program that ties people into a program where the government dictates their lives is a blow to the dignity of people. We know that. Now, a task force will only show you that in another -- you know, more people saying the same thing. The recommendations certainly have always been that you support people who want to help themselves. You give the injection into their personal economy so they may do so and you try to find ways and means where, when the people are on their own they get the proper subsidies to give them an even chance of making a success of it. I do not know what more will come out of the task force. So, therefore, the next stage was the federal-territorial arrangement, but I really feel that we are leading people astray to say that if you come together in another task force the solution is going to come out of it, because it will not. The solution is a much more serious situation, the federal-territorial relationship. So, if we impose another task force on people, it will build up their expectations that something could be achieved by that task force where in fact it will not. That is the concern I have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Was there a question there? I did not get it if there was. It was just a comment, Ms Cournoyea?

MS COURNOYEA: I think the one question was whether -- because the knowns are there, does Mr. Stevenson feel that it would be therapeutic to have a task force for the people to once again state their feelings?

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

MR. STEVENSON: Well, I think that the task force -- again I must mention that, sure, the recommendation of better funding arrangements for CMHC and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation -- that very recommendation may come out of this task force again. The only difference, as I see it, is that the community people have requested this approach and we are just simply trying to fulfil their wishes, as opposed to other task forces that have taken place before. It may be a duplication -- I do not know -- but that still remains to be seen as to what specific areas the task force will recommend. There is not only the funding area that they have to look at, there is the whole organization structure or structures that are in place. That has to be looked at too. It is not a simple matter of pouring more money into the Northwest Territories, into one program or a couple of programs. It is the way that it is going to be delivered too -- the delivery mechanism of the housing program or programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Stevenson. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would just want to make a few comments along the lines Ms Cournoyea had indicated. Maybe I would be allowed first to say that I am sorry that Mr. Stevenson took my remarks yesterday to indicate that people should leave the corporation alone. I did not mean that at all. I had indicated that we are in the process of doing something and, as he has indicated, that the Dene and Metis associations are willing to work with the Housing Corporation, then let me make it perfectly clear that we are more than willing to continue a relationship, a working relationship with the Dene and Metis housing associations or regional areas as well as the parent bodies.

#### Borrowed Capital Must Be Repaid

I would like to indicate, though, so that it is perfectly well understood by everybody, that the funding that we receive -- that is, the government receives -- for housing comes from a lending institution, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and we are able to get capital funding under two particular sections. We have to pay back when we borrow that money; that is, the government has to pay back that money. We get it; we have to pay it back. We do not have the capital funds in this government to provide for home-ownership funding. Some of the things that we, as a corporation, as an Executive, are pursuing and some of the things that we have been talking about for the last two years are first of all, trying to do exactly as Ms Cournoyea has indicated, make an arrangement with the federal government to get capital funding for housing, regardless of the kind, into our capital budget. We have been working toward trying to get a proposal that the CMHC would accept or the federal government would accept. In other words, to have our capital voted to us by Treasury Board, but we have not been able to do that. The only capital money that has been put in, has been put in by the government and albeit not very much, but we have increased it over the years and that is for SSHAG homes. We have today in this committee accepted a motion that we should be building more rental homes, specifically, in Yellowknife, and the only way that we can build these rental homes -- that is if it is not being done by a private entrepreneur -- is, as the motion suggested, that we, the corporation, should go into the public business as the last resort to build rental homes.

We would hope, as well, that within the housing policy of the government, we may very well as a government be able to set up a new mortgage fund within the government for people.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

#### New Capital Funds From Sale Of Staff Housing

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I have indicated that, I think, in the past. If we can sell government housing to staff members, we would be able to realize a certain amount of funding that we may very well be able to use as mortgage funding, and offer those mortgages at a very minimal mortgage rate, much lower than the present mortgage rate that exists across the country. I will agree that a million dollars put in to look after two pilot projects is not very much, but we do not have the capital money. Members of the committee know that when this government requests funding, over a million dollars, it has to be approved -- a capital funding has to be approved by the Treasury Board. Until we can get some arrangement with the federal government that Treasury Board instead of CMHC will be that source of this capital funding, then we are always going to have the difficulty of providing funding for people to build their own homes.

Those are the kinds of things that we have been attempting to look at as a government and within the corporation. We would hope to be able to come to some agreement with the federal government on these sources of funding, but so far, we have not been able to. When we borrow money from the federal government

through its lending institution, CMHC, we have to pay back that money. It has to be amortized over a period of years. When we get money under another section, we pay back part of that capital money. No matter where we get the money, we have to pay it back when we borrow from a lending institution. The crux of the problem is, as Ms Cournoyea says, it has to be a different financial arrangement for those capital funds. We are working towards that, and again, hopefully, if our staff housing policy goes through, we may very well be able to generate new capital funds that can go out to people at a very low interest rate so that we would be able to have all people in the Territories be able to borrow some of this kind of money. We would hopefully make it a little bit easier.

One of the recommendations, Mr. Chairman, in the motion that I want to draw attention to would be the third paragraph, where the recommendation was that the report and the recommendations should come before March 1st, so that it can be adopted in the 1982-83 budget. That is going to be very difficult in terms of trying to get increased capital funding into our 1982-83 budget. We have already made arrangements with the federal government for our capital funding, and as I said in terms of getting that money from the federal government, when it is over a particular amount, we have to put in Treasury Board submissions, and they have to approve it. Again, I would simply like to say that I have no difficulty in indicating to the Members of the committee that the corporation is very willing to work with the Dene and Metis associations, and to have them work along with us. We would very much like to make use of the kind of expertise that is available in the five Dene and Metis regions in the western part of the Territories, and anybody else, and hopefully we would be able to work together to bring about some kind of finality to the kinds of problems that do exist in housing.

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

#### Task Force Suggested To Deal With Concerns

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, my guess as to whether we really need a task force or not, I suppose, is a bit questionable. When I talked with Mr. Stevenson and other persons from the Metis Association about the problems, and when I went over the 30-odd resolutions that had been passed at the Dene-Metis housing assembly just a couple of weeks ago, I had come to the conclusion that indeed there was a problem for native people. Native people from throughout the North came together and met and quite a number of resolutions were made -- 31, in fact -- and all of these -- going through the list -- all were serious resolutions, serious concerns that obviously people have identified. You must remember that these are just ordinary community people that are either involved with housing, that are affected by housing, who got together and indicated all their concerns, and you have all these resolutions. So I suppose there was a feeling amongst the people that there was a need for somebody to take all these concerns, find out more precisely what these concerns are, and then all together in one lump, tell the government, "Here. These are the problems. These are the concerns. This is the way you should resolve it." I suppose that was the desire and hope and I guess they looked to this Assembly hoping that we could be of help to them.

You know, I am at a bit of a loss, really, as to what to do, because you do have Mackenzie Valley Housing Association, you have all these housing organizations that are supposed to be supplying houses to people, and I suppose government and so forth think that they are doing a reasonably good job. But obviously, there are some problems and I think community people are really looking for a way that their concerns can be dealt with by government. The task force approach, or a committee of this Assembly was suggested as a way of dealing with the problems. I suppose if I was sitting here in Yellowknife, and if I was Mr. McCallum, or maybe if I was on the board of directors of the Housing Corporation, maybe I would think, "Well, there were not that many problems. Everything is in place, so that everything can work well." From the high epitome, high view from up on top of the hill, things look relatively good down below.



Everything is in place, the machinery is in place, we have hundreds of people that are employed, so from that vantage point, it might seem that things are okay, but obviously, that is not quite the case. We had a gathering of people from the communities, and they say there are some problems. They want a way to express these concerns so that government can change things around, so that things can become better for people.

#### More Funding Needed For Mackenzie Valley Housing Association

From my own little experience, my knowledge of Mackenzie Valley Housing Association, for instance -- I think our chairman here is the chairman of that -- I think it is simply a repair program. They get money from CMHC, from the Housing Corporation, to do emergency repairs for people, and I think that they are just limited by lack of funds. The case of Nahanni Butte is a good example, where two years in a row, persons from the Mackenzie Valley Housing Association went to Nahanni Butte and talked to people; it sounded as if something was going to happen, that they could help the people, but two years in a row, they finally said, "Well, there are no funds. We cannot help you." It was in a case like that that I went straight to the government, the Executive Committee, and got \$50,000 for them. The Mackenzie Valley Housing apparently is supposed to service all people from Fort Smith to Inuvik, 29 communities. Apparently all they have is two staff, so there is a great need for more moneys for them so they can do a better job.

#### Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Lacks Commitment

Now, as for the Housing Corporation, it is set up, structurally, administratively into regions. For example in our area, you have a regional office in Hay River, and that office is supposed to look after Housing Corporation business throughout that area. They have a number of people working for them, but in my experience, they are not doing a very good job. I just really sense a lack of commitment on their part.

I tried to help them as much as I could on that by getting SSHAG into Nahanni Butte, and I had to just drag them there. They were very reluctant to come. I had to drag them there, and once there, I had to practically fight with them to get them to understand the problem, how they could be of help to people. Then once you get a commitment from them, they take off. They say "Well, we'll be back in touch with you", and they never do. Then I have to get on the phone again. It is just a constant battle on my part to try to get them to do things. Eventually, I got them back to Nahanni Butte; we went about to see how the materials could arrive in Nahanni Butte. I told them, "This is exactly how you can do it." It seemed to make sense to the guy. The guy takes off back to Hay River, then months later no material arrives. I have to phone again, phone two or three or four times. I have to phone Yellowknife. People here phone the Hay River people. You get down to somebody that finally is prepared to do something. So eventually, another arrangement is made for the housing material to arrive. Finally, late in the fall the stuff arrives. Then not all the stuff you need is here -- no doors, no windows, not enough long two-by-fours to make a roof, so there are problems again. It is just a constant battle. The people that work for the Housing Corporation for some reason do not seem to have the commitment necessary, do not have the interest in people, do not seem to have the common sense in order to do the job. So people are frustrated.

We have the SSHAG program, which has just started. It is a good program. Last year in Simpson, there were four houses built, log houses. It was the first time in Simpson, and we got four houses built, but it was troublesome all the way with getting materials, there were delays. This year, there were supposed to be four or five houses built in Simpson. Not one was built, because there are problems. There were delays in getting the logs, there were delays in getting the materials, delays in getting labour money.

So there are problems that people are experiencing. They got together and made 31 resolutions and want something done about it, and you know, I do not particularly like task forces or having people talk about something seemingly on a continuing basis, but maybe if there is a task force, maybe the task force will say clearly that the corporation, the way things are set up, is no good. Maybe native people themselves will be interested in taking over the SSHAG program, home-ownership log-building program by themselves. Maybe that will be the solution, where they just get the money, and nothing more to do with this government or the Housing Corporation. The native people themselves will look after the housing program. Maybe that will be an outcome. Maybe that is an improvement. Maybe that is what native people want. At least if they do it themselves, they cannot bitch to government; they can only bitch to their own leaders.

So, I do think there is merit in having a task force and they look to this Assembly to help them. If we reject them and we say "No, no, you are silly, you do not need a task force. Everything is okay", then I think this Assembly will look badly, that we will not have the respect of the people. That is how I feel. Mahsi cho.

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

Legislative Assembly Already Addressing Housing Concerns

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I really hope that my lack of support for this motion will not be misinterpreted because I do recognize the very valid concerns that Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Sibbeston have. I think if we do not support this motion, we will not be saying "It is a bad idea" or "It is silly" as Mr. Sibbeston said. We will not be saying that we do not care. I think this Assembly has shown a great deal of concern about housing. I can recall the very first budget session of this Ninth Assembly. We spent, I believe, a good week on the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation estimates and a lot of that time was devoted to discussing problems in the area of home-ownership, problems with the SSHAG program, problems with late delivery of materials. Believe me, Mr. Chairman, the Dene communities have no monopoly on problems with the Housing Corporation but I do believe that this Assembly is a place where these problems can be addressed and we can take another five days when the budget estimates come up again this year and Mr. Stevenson can prepare Members for the sorts of questions and inquiries that the task force would be addressing.

I think it was clear at the budget session this year that the corporation is clearly -- I hate to use the phrase "on trial" because Mrs. Sorensen has already told us the Assembly is on trial -- not necessarily on trial but, rather, under close scrutiny and that there is new management. The Assembly has clearly asked the corporation to come back this year with a report on the problems that we all discussed at length at that session. Yet it was also clear, from my understanding of the debate, that the Assembly is open to new forms of control over the corporation and new ways of solving these kinds of problems. I agree that there may well be ways of finding out how to more effectively involve the communities in the operation of the corporation, how to more effectively involve the Dene. I do recognize that we particularly appointed a member of the board to represent the interests of the Dene but that the board, despite the reference, have got a big problem in addressing all these concerns. I guess I quite frankly feel that there is a task force on housing going on all the time and Mr. Sibbeston's efforts as an MLA prove that there are ways of addressing these problems. I am using my position as an MLA and as a Member of the Executive to try to address some of the problems that I am aware of in our region.

I quite frankly just feel that at this point a task force, particularly with these terms, would only further complicate the situation. I think there are enough demands on the corporation now in the sense that this Assembly is

reviewing its operation and it is clear that they are going to have to report to us this coming session on progress. So I am afraid -- and I hope Mr. Sibbeston will understand this -- I am afraid that for those reasons and for the fact that I believe we should spend government revenues on housing construction where there are clearly not a lot of funds to go around, I am going to have to vote against this motion. Thank you.

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

MR. SAYINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to point out a few things here. I would just like to comment on a few things that Mr. Patterson and maybe Ms Cournoyea had said earlier about the Housing Corporation and this government knowing all the problems, and probably even the solutions to all the problems, that do exist within the housing situation in the Dene communities. I remember from way back in the mid-60s when this low rental housing started. This is the excuse that this government and the corporation has always used, that they know all the problems and the solutions and everything else, but to date there has been nothing done about it. This task force is sort of a study which is very similar to the one which the Inuit people last night brought to our attention, where they were saying that they need a development study, which I agree with, and they also say that to suit their lifestyle and so -- another area was so that no costly mistakes were made any more and also that this government should be working with native organizations that are concerned about such problems. So I support -- I seconded this motion and I still support it because I feel that this is one of the problems which is similar to the ITC problem that was brought up yesterday. I still have to support that motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sayine. There is no motion on the floor. The motion here was referred to committee so somebody will have to make a motion to accept this motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion To Accept Motion 18-81(3)

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, then I will just move that the motion that had been referred to this committee be accepted and reported.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to correct the last speaker. The two issues are totally unrelated. One has to do with the application of the Arctic Pilot Project proponents and ITC's position is clear that they oppose the application and that they are seeking some support from the Assembly in terms of financial support so that they can proceed with filing their objections through the National Energy Board. I think the last speaker would be more correct if he were to say that this particular motion is much the same kind of an exercise that the Dene Nation conducted throughout the Mackenzie Valley with respect to the education committee's work where they were given over \$100,000 to do the same kind of work which the special committee on education was doing. So I would just like him to maybe think that that would be a more appropriate kind of an example when comparing it to something. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion To Accept Motion 18-81(3), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question being called. All in favour? Down. Opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

I would like to thank the witness at this time for making your presentation. Thank you.

---Applause

Wish to report now? Is it the wish of the committee that we report? We have no further business. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF MOTION 22-81(3), POSITION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TOWARD THE CONSTITUTION; TABLED DOCUMENT 5-81(3), OUR LAND OUR FUTURE; 12TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE; MOTION 18-81(3), TASK FORCE ON DENE HOUSING

---

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Motion 22-81(3) and wishes to report this motion adopted, and Our Land Our Future and wishes to report this matter concluded. Mr. Speaker, your committee also considered the 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and the report was adopted with two recommendations carried; also, Motion 18-81(3) and wishes to report this matter concluded, as recorded in the proceedings of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that Our Land Our Future was deferred, not concluded.

MR. SPEAKER: Inasmuch as the House is adjourning the matter is basically concluded as far as the order paper is concerned. It will be put back on if requested at the next meeting. So, that point I do not think is relevant. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion Of Formal Concurrence With Motion 22-81(3), Carried

MR. MACQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I will move formal concurrence with the motion on the constitution of Canada that was supported in the committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. Do I have a seconder?  
Mr. Tologanak.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner is available?

Commissioner's Closing Remarks

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, when this session convened I outlined the concerns of the Executive Committee over the question of aboriginal rights and the Canadian constitution. I did not know at that time what action would be taken by this House. As we all know it took the form of a special committee making a working trip to Ottawa. The Assembly achieved a high level of success, considering especially the timing of the act before parliament. What occurred in Ottawa was a demonstration of the

strength of all Members working together and concentrating on the issues at hand. I wish to offer my congratulations to each and every Member and to members of the staff who assisted in the operation that took place, and I would like also to add that I was very pleased to be part of that initiative.

---Applause

On another matter, I must advise that the Executive Committee will not be able to meet all of the various requests for special funding which come forward with surprising regularity. Our budget for this year is very tight and will continue to be restricted next year. Over the past two months we have been fighting for our financial lives and I am pleased to say that the Hon. John Munro was successful yesterday in gaining Treasury Board approval for a funding level which, although austere, will permit us to continue current approved programs. It appeared for some weeks that we would be seriously underfunded. All Executive Members and our Finance Minister, the Hon. Tom Butters, have worked hard to get the funding level raised and I am pleased to say that we have achieved at least a degree of success.

My final comment concerns jobs. It is clear that a major task of this government is to try to find meaningful work for a growing work force. I am pleased at the reaction of the Dene and the Metis Associations to the Norman Wells project. I am pleased that they have agreed to take part and to try and gain benefits which are due unto them from that project. The Inuit Development Corporation has several projects in operation and some of these are in the resource field. The Inuvialuit Development Corporation has made real progress on renewable resource projects in particular. There are many positive signs and actions taking place today. These must continue and expand. When development projects are being reviewed, their impact on northern employment must be kept in mind.

#### Time And Place Of Next Session

Mr. Speaker, one of the functions which falls to me is to name the time and place for the next session. The seventh session will open at 2:30 in the afternoon of February 2nd, 1982 in Yellowknife. Bearing in mind Mr. Sibbeston's remarks on a new style for the Legislature I had better prorogue this Assembly before I am drummed out.

---Laughter

#### ITEM NO. 11: PROROGATION

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories I prorogue this session of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

---PROROGATION

Available from the  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories,  
Yellowknife, N.W.T. at 50¢ per day, \$5.00 per session and \$12.50 per year.  
Published under the Authority of the Commissioner  
of the Northwest Territories