



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1982

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Tuesday, February the 16th. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. Yesterday, I moved a motion with respect to postal service in Keewatin, and this morning CBC distorted the report by suggesting that I had stated that my request was to move the postal facilities either to Rankin Inlet, to Churchill, Manitoba, or Thompson, Manitoba. I did not state that, and the report went on to state that the present Keewatin postal headquarters was Frobisher Bay. That is not at all true, and I would like to clarify that by giving the CBC a copy of the motion which actually states: I move that this Assembly recommend to the Canada Post Corporation to move its regional postal facilities and district office to Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories, from Churchill or Thompson, Manitoba, as soon as time permits, without delay. That is where the present regional and district offices are for the Keewatin region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley.

Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

Item 3, oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Are there any returns? Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 12-82(1): Use Of Business Licence By Households

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 12-82(1) asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on February 9th, 1982. It concerns business licences for lotteries. The response is to the question raised by Mr. Arlooktoo. Lottery licences are issued to religious or charitable organizations for non-profit religious or charitable purposes. Licensed businesses are not eligible for the issue of lottery licence. On occasion, a charitable organization may rent a business premise for the purpose of holding a bingo; it is the charitable organization that has the lottery licence, not the business. Thank you.

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

Item 5 on the orders of the day, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 17-82(1), Fish, Fur and Game for the Future, a summary of presentations and discussions from a conference sponsored by the Science Advisory Board of the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, February 23rd to 25th, 1981. A summary is included in Inuktitut.

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

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 23-82(1): Increase In Membership Of The Public Utilities Board

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Thursday, February 18th, I will be presenting the following motion: That the Executive Committee Member responsible for the Public Utilities Board undertake to increase the membership of that board so that it might better serve the varied interests of the residents of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Curley.

Notice Of Motion 24-82(1): Responsibility For Departments Of Personnel, Public Works And Regional Operations

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 18, 1982, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Liard, that this House support the immediate assumption by elected Executive Members of responsibilities for the Departments of Public Works, Personnel, and regional operations.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Notices of motion.

Item 9, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 9: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 6-82(1): Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February the 18th, 1982, I shall move that Bill 6-82(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 7-82(1): Tobacco Tax Ordinance

While I am on my feet, I would like to give notice, Mr. Speaker, that on Thursday, February 18th, 1982, I shall move that Bill 7-82(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Tobacco Tax Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

Motion 7-82(1). Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to delay dealing with this motion until tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Motion 12-82(1). Mr. Nerysoo.

Motion 12-82(1): Tabled Document 9-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE that Tabled Document 9-82(1), Energy Strategy for the Northwest Territories, 1980-2000, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion at a time to be set by Mr. Speaker. The motion is seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Question.

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

---Carried

Motion 16-82(1). Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion 16-82(1): Feasibility Of Extending The Alberta Power Grid

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Alberta Power Corporation generates and distributes diesel generated power in Hay River;

AND WHEREAS consumers in the Yellowknife-Rae NCPC system can no longer afford the skyrocketing power rates and have no choice but to look for alternatives;

AND WHEREAS the Alberta Power Corporation has indicated, in press reports and in a recent public hearing held by a subcommittee of the standing committee on Indian affairs and northern development that it would be interested in the generation and transmission of power in other parts of the NWT;

AND WHEREAS the Alberta Power Corporation grid extends as far as High Level, Alberta, and could under certain conditions, be extended into the NWT;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that this Legislature strongly recommend that the Executive Committee discuss with Alberta Power Corporation the feasibility of extending the Alberta Power grid into the southern Mackenzie region, including the Rae-Yellowknife district.

Mr. Speaker, my motion is seconded by Mr. MacQuarrie, the MLA for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Your motion is in order. Proceed, please.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, the time has come to seriously look at alternatives to the Northern Canada Power Commission, but when one begins to look around, Mr. Speaker, for alternatives, one begins to realize that there is no easy answer to the high cost of power in the Northwest Territories, and certainly Mr. Braden and I discussed that with our constituents last evening at a constituency meeting in Yellowknife. However, in a few short years, there will be, Mr. Speaker, a pipeline carrying crude right past our doorsteps -- literally past our doorsteps -- even as we pay perhaps as high as 20 to 30 cents, perhaps even higher, per kilowatt hour for such things as lighting our homes and generating our power. It is because that crude will be leaving the NWT that I say northerners are completely justified in asking for and receiving assistance as a type of trade-off for the cost of living, particularly for our fuel and power costs. It makes no sense to me, nor serves no sense of fair play or justice to see that crude leave the Territories, even as the general public and our business sector is going bankrupt.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have called for a rate increase freeze, and by now I hope that the Commissioner has drafted a letter which should be sent to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, alerting him that this Legislature feels quite strongly about the necessity for such a freeze. We have measures within Government Services whereby individuals and businesses can obtain grants to explore alternative forms of energy such as solar, battery, wind, propane, and gas alternatives, and we plan later in this session to discuss certain tax concessions or incentives in order to help offset some of the costs of energy. As I said, we shall be debating that later in the session, however Mr. Speaker, I think you will agree with me that that is not enough. We have to look beyond NCPC, and I think the time has come to do so now.

Competition May Give Us A Better Deal

We in the lower Mackenzie have an opportunity here at the very least to explore the possibility of tying into the Alberta Power grid system. As I said in the preamble to my motion, the grid comes as far as High Level, which I believe is about 80 miles south of the NWT border, and I think we should look at it now. I do not propose that we should skulk around and hide the fact that we plan on doing so from NCPC. There is no reason not to involve the corporation in these discussions. I think Mr. James Smith, the chairman of the NCPC board, has to be worried about the rising costs of producing power, even hydro power. Surely if there is a way that NCPC and the Alberta Power Corporation could strike a deal -- one that might contribute to a lowering of power rates -- I think we will all agree that it should be at least explored.

Now, there are those, Mr. Speaker, who will say that NCPC will never give up its monopoly, will never agree to chopping up its responsibilities. Now, that might be so; however, the real decision maker in the business of power generation and distribution is not NCPC, it is not the board, it is not James Smith, the chairman, but rather it is the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the federal cabinet. Surely, the Minister of Indian Affairs would be willing to explore alternatives with our government and with NCPC and will, assuredly, hope to keep an open mind in this situation.

At the Penner inquiry hearings last summer, Mr. Speaker, Alberta Power Corporation made it quite clear that they wanted to be given the opportunity to offer alternatives to northerners and in recent interviews on CJCD the corporation spokesman said that they wanted and were waiting -- literally waiting for an invitation to come North and to have a look -- with no commitments, assuredly so -- but to have a look. When asked at the Penner inquiry if they would consider

looking at communities perhaps in the Eastern Arctic, communities that are now under diesel generation power, they even indicated that they would be willing to go in and look at those communities with a view to perhaps offering an alternative to NCPC.

Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting that we throw all our business at the Alberta Power Corporation. I do not even know whether it is feasible to do so and that is really what this motion is all about. I think, however, that we need to know if any other company can give us a better deal in the North. That is what we call competition and I think that this motion is merely giving another company an opportunity to come in and talk with us about generation of power. I ask that Members support this motion and that the Executive Committee support it as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. As seconder, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I would like to briefly make some comments in support of the motion, Mr. Speaker. As a Member of this Assembly, certainly in recent weeks I have been presented by some of my constituents with sample power bills that are really shocking and exorbitant. There is no doubt that many ordinary people and small businessmen are being sorely pressed by the rapidly rising power rates particularly this year, because of the low water surcharge raising the rate to more than 11 cents a kilowatt hour, and because we have had such a cold winter -- a prolonged period of cold that meant that a great many people have used much more power than they might have in other winters -- because of that situation, I really believe that we must explore all the alternatives that are available. I feel we would be negligent as a government if we did not do so.

Alternative Should Be Explored

This is another alternative. As the honourable Member for Yellowknife South said, we do not know whether it is one that would be an answer, but at least it is a possible answer and so it should be explored. We may know a little bit more about whether it would be a successful answer when the Minister for Justice and Public Services returns with information that compares the rate structure in the Alberta Power Corporation jurisdiction in the Northwest Territories -- with NCPC rates in adjacent areas. At any rate, the motion does not call for binding action. It calls for initiating discussions and, therefore, since Members yesterday supported the motion calling on a freeze on power rates until the NCPC subcommittee of the standing committee on Indian affairs and northern development brings down its report, I would hope that all Members would also find it possible to support this motion as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, would the Member who just spoke permit a question from the floor? If it is possible, sir, I would like to have him indicate to the House just the amount of the bills that were made known to him by his constituents. Just what are they paying for power per month at the present time in Yellowknife?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, I am going to let you get away with that once, but you know that that is not allowed in a motion. Mr. MacQuarrie, if you have the answer, because it is of such importance to the people of the Northwest Territories, I will allow it.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I do not have those figures here with me, but I can simply say that it is 11.4 cents per kilowatt hour and, of course, in various homes there is a difference in the amount that is used, but many people are paying \$150, \$175 in one pay period -- and some beyond that -- for their power.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the mover of the motion a question, to clarify her motion. I wonder if she could indicate to the House what type of differences there are in terms of power rates, because I am afraid that if we are not careful we might be introducing Alberta's power base to the Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: The rules of the House are if the mover speaks it closes debate, so I think probably she can answer that question on her summation. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to briefly speak in support of the motion. I appreciate that there are some of us in the House whose philosophical bent is to encourage free enterprise and development of the private sector and it is nice to see Mrs. Sorensen speaking to that point. Perhaps with an enhanced presence of Alberta Power we could produce the necessary competition to force the federal crown corporation to deal with people of the Northwest Territories on a much fairer basis. I will be meeting with the vice-president of Alberta Power next week and I will raise the issue with him. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 16-82(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Motion 17-82(1). Mr. Noah.

Motion 17-82(1): Funding To Co-operative Associations

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

WHEREAS in certain areas of the NWT the existing renewable resources are underutilized;

AND WHEREAS unemployment is a serious problem in many NWT communities;

AND WHEREAS the co-operative associations in the communities could assist in solving the problems of unemployment;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it consider the inclusion of an amount in the 1983-84 appropriations to fund co-operative associations in the communities to enable them to employ local native people as hunters and fishermen to utilize the existing renewable resources.

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

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The uneducated people in the communities are lacking a lot of jobs and they are receiving unemployment insurance. The people who are hunting are having a lot of hardship -- the people who are uneducated -- and I wish to help these people and have the government help them. They are having problems with the high cost of living -- clothing, gas, etc. I have seen problems that have arisen and these people can be helped. I wish to have support from the Legislative Assembly on the motion that I have made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Noah. Would you give us your seconder on that motion, please? Mr. Curley, as seconder of the motion, you have the floor.

MR. CURLEY: No thanks.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not wish to speak at this time, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: No.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like very much to spend a couple of minutes speaking in support of this motion because, as I said a few days ago when Mr. Noah hinted that he was interested in introducing something like this to the Assembly, I stated then that it was in some ways similar to suggestions I made last year with regard to food production co-operatives being established. There is some relationship between these ideas and I feel that if I cannot see accomplished precisely what I want, then I certainly will settle for second best and support a partial measure, at least, because I feel that this would be an important beginning toward the kind of thing that I envision. I really believe that with determination and imagination subdivisions of co-operatives in a number of communities in the Northwest Territories could employ four or five people for considerable periods of time each year...

SOME HON. MEMBER: And perhaps give Mr. Curley some profitable employment instead of what he is doing now.

--Laughter

MR. CURLEY: Are you running for office?

Food Production Capability Underutilized

MR. MacQUARRIE: This could provide a small amount of employment in the matter of food production for local use and I believe, along with Mr. Noah, that these efforts could begin with traditional pursuits of hunting and fishing, using the employment of a few people to provide that kind of food to others in a community. Personally, while I support that extent, I would not feel that the efforts were finally concluded until that effort was gradually expanded with advice and support from institutions such as the Science Advisory Board, from various universities across the country, from the Department of Manpower, the Department of Agriculture -- with that kind of advice and support and using the latest knowledge that is available with respect to the recovery of waste heat, hydroponics and so on, so that the effort would finally include food production in non-traditional areas as well. I would hope that that gradual expansion would be made.

Mr. Noah's motion refers to the underutilization of non-renewable resources and I absolutely agree that that is the case in the Territories. Particularly when I note the kind of efficient food production that is common in a place like Japan, I can only believe that we are nowhere near to achieving a maximum capability in providing food for ourselves in the North. While efforts in that direction may not mean lower prices necessarily, I think that the matter of local employment, the matter of self-sufficiency and the matter of immediately available nourishing foods is very important and something well to be considered.

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

Amendment To Motion 17-82(1)

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an amendment. In the third line from the bottom, where it says "to fund co-operative associations", I wish to add "hunters' and trappers' associations or band councils".

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. McLaughlin. I understand that the motion as amended now reads: Now therefore I move that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it consider the inclusion of an amount in the 1983-84 appropriations to fund co-operative associations, hunters' and trappers' associations, or band councils in the communities to enable them to employ local native people as hunters and fishermen to utilize the existing renewable resources. Is that correct? That is as amended. To the motion as amended. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask a question regarding the amendment. Maybe there is no co-op in your community. Maybe they only have hunters' and trappers' associations. There are a lot of co-ops in the Western Arctic. If it is regarding co-ops, I fully support the motion, and I would like some clarification as to your amendment. I want to know whether there is a co-op or not in your community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am supporting the amendment to the motion. In my constituency, there are some communities that have no co-ops, and the local hunters' and trappers' associations -- I fully support Mr. Sibbeston's amendment because some of the communities do not have co-ops in my constituency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment. Mr. Sibbeston, do you wish to close debate on your amendment?

MR. SIBBESTON: (Translation) I am going to say it in Slavey. The reason why I want to put hunters and trappers and band councils in the motion is because some of the communities in the Northwest Territories do not have co-ops. That is the only reason why. What Mr. Noah said is if natives are out hunting like that, they want to get paid. A lot of natives in the Northwest Territories would probably like that. In some of the communities of the Northwest Territories, they have hunters' and trappers' associations but they do not have band councils.

Amendment To Motion 17-82(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. To the amendment. All those in favour? Opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Motion 17-82(1), Carried As Amended

To the motion as amended. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried as amended.

---Carried

I understand that we have a request from Mr. Wah-Shee to have unanimous consent to deal with Motion 22-82(1). Are there any nays? Do we have unanimous consent?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Wah-Shee.

Motion 22-82(1): Constitutional Alliance

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to read out the motion. The motion reads:

WHEREAS within the life of this Ninth Assembly there shall be major initiatives by Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, Dene Nation, the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, and the Legislative Assembly to reform the constitutional, political and administrative arrangements within the Northwest Territories and between the Northwest Territories and the federal government;

AND WHEREAS, based on the principle that constitutional change for the Northwest Territories should originate in the Northwest Territories, a constitutional alliance has been formed;

AND WHEREAS the formation of the constitutional alliance represents the expression of the will and determination of the majority of each of the members of the alliance that initiatives for political and constitutional change must not be impeded by preconceived policies or initiatives adopted either publicly or privately by the federal government;

AND WHEREAS the constitutional alliance will seek full support of the Legislative Assembly and major native organizations and shall be appointed by and represent equally each of the following: the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories; the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement; Inuit Tapirisat of Canada; the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories; the Dene Nation;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly express its support for the constitutional alliance in pursuing the following objectives:

- a) Invite full public participation and debate in all parts of the Northwest Territories in the process of constitutional reform;
- b) Provide a forum and a means to assist members of the constitutional alliance in areas of common interest;
- c) Initiate the development of common positions and negotiate constitutional reform with the federal government;
- d) Initiate political and administrative reform within the Northwest Territories where the jurisdiction rests with the Northwest Territories Act.

Mr. Speaker, as Members are aware, I had the occasion to meet with the native organizations indicated in the motion, in line with the mandate that I have been given by this House under the sessional paper which was tabled in the past, which has given me the mandate to meet with the native organizations, to find out ways and means...

MR. SPEAKER: Just one moment, please, Mr. Wah-Shee. We need a seconder for your motion, please. And then would you like to know whether your motion is in order or out of order?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Right.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder for this motion? Mr. Sibbeston. All right, Mr. Wah-Shee, your motion is in order if you consider that we can have full public participation in a debate without spending any money. The assumption must be there that you are not going to. Proceed. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Expressing Wishes Of Native Organizations

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate that I had the occasion to meet with the major native organizations. The general idea was to come up with an arrangement whereby we can deal with the whole

question of constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. As Members are aware, we Members of this House have already agreed to the idea that the native organizations should be given the opportunity to participate in the question of constitutional development. I think from the point of view of the native organizations, they feel that in dealing with the question of constitutional development that it is not necessarily only the exclusive jurisdiction of the Legislature nor the Government of the Northwest Territories, when dealing with the constitutional development question of the Northwest Territories. The native organizations have expressed that they also wish to participate in the question of constitutional development, so this idea that I am bringing forward at this time is on behalf of the native organizations that some arrangement has to be made whereby the representatives of the Legislative Assembly and the native organizations should come together to have a co-operative arrangement in dealing with the complex question of constitutional development. If there are any questions regarding the motion, Mr. Speaker, I would be more than pleased to answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. As seconder, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: (Translation) I would like to say that I am in favour of Mr. Wah-Shee's motion and will be so voting. James Wah-Shee is in charge of aboriginal rights and the constitution. Last Saturday there was a meeting with the Dene Nation and I am -- I am one hundred per cent behind James Wah-Shee. (Translation ends)

Federal Government Does Not Wish To Deal Solely With Native Groups

I just want to further elaborate, Mr. Speaker, to give reasons why I support Mr. Wah-Shee. As Members know, constitutional changes are much discussed and debated in the North these days. The aboriginal rights groups, various of them -- COPE, of course, is through its aboriginal rights negotiations trying to effect constitutional changes, and in their case are suggesting one. I know the ITC, when their negotiations began, attempted to deal with Nunavut. I know the Dene Nation and the Metis Association, when they began negotiating aboriginal rights, attempted to deal with constitutional changes. However, all of these attempts by the native groups thus far have met with a certain amount of resistance, the government saying that these organizations could not, in fact, deal with constitutional changes. More recently in January this Assembly, through its constitutional development committee had a constitutional conference which was very successful in getting all people of the Western Arctic together to begin discussion.

However, it has become very clear to me that on the one hand, the federal government does not want to deal solely with the aboriginal groups. The constitutional conference that we had was very large and it will take 15, 20, or 30 years for that committee to function and get consensus. It is a very clumsy type of arrangement. So I have come to the conclusion that an alliance is the answer for the major native organizations that have aboriginal rights in the North and this Legislative Assembly, as the representative of all people in the North. I have come to the conclusion that an alliance between all these parties is the solution to dealing with constitutional changes in the North.

I commend Mr. Wah-Shee for taking the initiative he has in trying to get agreement with the native organizations, and I will support this motion wholeheartedly. I appreciate some Members will ask what will come of this constitutional development committee. From my own little perspective, I am just the chairman of it. Other Members have greater say, in a sense, in the functions of the committee, but in my view, the constitutional committee can still play a very important part. It can go through with the suggestion that was made at the conference to set up a committee to deal with providing information to communities, providing public discussion. It can have a function in holding a conference again at some time where all of the issues that have

been started to be discussed can be continued to be discussed. At that constitutional conference that could be held in the future, the major alliances, the major members of the alliance can all be there and participate.

In respect of the municipalities, I feel that they have an important part to play in constitutional discussions in the North, but solely in the area of municipal matters. So I wholeheartedly support the alliance that is proposed to be formed, and encourage Assembly Members to support it also.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. I shall just take this opportunity to recognize a group in the gallery. I understand that they will be leaving very shortly. Would you just withhold your welcome until I have completed the introductions? His Worship Mayor Mike Ballantyne of Yellowknife; Mr. Roy Megarry, publisher of the Globe and Mail; Richard Doyle, editor-in-chief of the Globe and Mail; and Bryan Johnson, feature writer of the Globe and Mail. Gentlemen, would you stand, please?

---Applause

Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie, I believe.

Motion To Refer Motion 22-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I move that this motion be referred to committee of the whole for discussion on a day to be set by the Speaker, but sometime after the Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development tables his report following the February 22nd meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mrs. Sorensen. Would you make a copy of your motion available to the Clerk? The motion to refer reads as follows: I move that this motion be referred to committee of the whole for discussion on a day to be set by the Speaker, but sometime after the Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development tables his report following the February 22nd meeting. The motion has been moved and duly seconded. It is in order. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a complex motion. There are four clauses in the resolution, each of them with a variety of implications, and that certainly means that it is the kind of motion where many questions would be asked and answers sought, and in a formal session it is just too difficult to have that kind of interplay. So I would hope for that reason that Members would agree that it should be referred to committee of the whole.

Secondly, I feel that it is a little premature to deal with the motion right now because the process is not complete. In other words, it is most unusual to debate a motion that has arisen out of a conference for which many Members had no notice that it was taking place, and from which there has been no official report. The honourable Minister did reply to a question I asked the other day, but in that reply he said that he would be tabling a report following another meeting that was coming on February 22nd, and so it seems to me certainly to be premature to debate a motion before we have heard that report and had the benefit of knowing precisely what occurred at the meetings, what positions this government took, and so on. Of course, we also have not had a report from the constitutional development committee yet, either, and it seems to me that we would want to have such a report in this House before committing ourselves to something such as this motion calls upon us to do.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mrs. Sorensen, as seconder.

Subcommittee Established From Constitutional Conference

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I shall not repeat what Mr. MacQuarrie said, but I would like to re-emphasize the fact that I believe it is very important that we hear from Mr. Sibbeston's special committee on the constitution

-- the Northwest Territories constitution -- I was in attendance at that meeting. There was a subcommittee established at that conference to look at a process for discussion and negotiation of constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. Now I see that we have another new group being formed called the constitutional alliance, which is also talking about a process. Therefore, I think it is important that we, in committee of the whole, discuss the contradiction that I see developing here. It will provide for much freer debate and some of the questions that are outstanding can be answered by the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, and by the chairman of our constitutional committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion to refer. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I do not support the motion to refer. I see it as an attempt to delay decision in this matter. I just think that if there are certain things that are uncertain, Mr. Wah-Shee, I am sure could answer a lot of the questions as they are raised by Members when they deal with the substance of the motion. I feel that the basis or the reasons why the constitutional alliance should be dealt with now are clearly set out, so I support the idea that we make a decision on the constitutional alliance today and not refer to a date very uncertain. So I oppose the motion to refer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion to refer. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not support the motion either. We have had two and a half years to deal with the constitutional development of the Northwest Territories. Any further attempts these days to refer motions in the House is really playing with the -- and filibustering...

MRS. SORENSEN: Shame, shame!

MR. CURLEY: ...as far as political development is concerned, so I would suggest that anybody who wants to continue to defer on political development through this Assembly should resign from the House and do the kinds of things that they should be doing outside of this chamber. So I will not support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion to refer, please. Order. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Tabling Of Future Proposal Would Enable Debate In Committee

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the motion. At this time, the motion that I have put forward is to ask this House to give their support to the concept of establishing a working relationship between the representatives of this Assembly and the native organizations. I feel that once a proposal has been worked out between myself and the native organizations, what I intend to do is table the proposal which can be debated in committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion to refer. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Just a point of clarification if I could, Mr. Speaker. If the mover of the initial motion could indicate, in part a) where it says, "invite full public participation and debate in all parts of the NWT in the process of constitutional reform;"...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin, we have enough confusion here now. We will deal with the motion to refer and you can bring up your point later. To the motion to refer.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to find out is what the motion means, because if it means what I think it does in a)...

MR. CURLEY: Read it.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...then I need an answer on this. Does a) include a proposal of having Mr. Sibbeston's committee meet? Is that part of what they call...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin, we are debating a referral motion and you must stay within the confines of that. Now, in asking questions relative to the original motion, it is not in order.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for clarifying my position. To the motion to refer then, Mr. Speaker, I will have to vote in favour of the motion to refer unless somebody can indicate to me that Mr. Sibbeston's committee will be involved in what they call "full public participation".

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. That was not so difficult after all, was it?

---Laughter

To the motion to refer.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

Commitment Will Already Have Been Made

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, just a couple of points. The first is to reject the idea that this motion is simply a matter of trying to delay constitutional development. That is, with respect, a ridiculous suggestion. I know that the honourable Member himself may from time to time use that device if he wishes to delay, but on the other hand accuses others, who want sincere examination of a very serious question, of that type of tactic when it is not true at all. The second point that I want to raise is that it would be ridiculous to say that we will have full advantage of debating a report that comes in two weeks from now or something like that. When a decision and a commitment has already been made, what is the point of discussing it at that time? So, I do urge Members to refer it to committee, where it can be discussed thoroughly and properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the question. All those in favour of the motion to refer?

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: A recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: A recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion to refer, please stand.

MR. CURLEY: Feel better?

MRS. SORENSEN: We look after the people we represent.

MR. CURLEY: Me too Lynda.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed to the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Tologanak, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Sayine, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden, Mr. Butters and Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Fraser.

Motion To Refer Motion 22-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Defeated

MR. SPEAKER: The motion has been defeated.

---Defeated

To the motion. We are back now on the contents of Motion 22-82(1). To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If...

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

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley, I recognize your point of order in that Mr. MacQuarrie did ask a question to refer. By way of precedent in this House, we have allowed that on occasions. The rule is not very clear, but other Members have been allowed to speak to the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. CURLEY: You are changing your rules every time.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I do see the need and a very great desirability for a common front in dealing with the federal government in the matter of constitutional development, and I am genuinely pleased to see that there is partial progress toward that goal in what is happening there, however if this motion cannot be referred to committee of the whole for more thorough discussion, then I cannot support it at this time. I do find the motion unquestionably premature because the meeting from which it arose, if it was not secretive, and I do not say that it was, but it was certainly a surprise to a number of Members. Personally -- and I am not surprised at that; I am not apprized of a number of things, particularly from the Executive Committee at times, I guess -- but at any rate, personally I had no advance warning that there would be any such meeting at all, no knowledge of the circumstances or purpose, and first found out about it when...

MR. CURLEY: Where were you?

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...the Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development indicated that he would be excusing himself from the House for some reason and at that time I did not even know what the reason was.

Lack Of Knowledge Of Meeting And Report Thereof

Now, I guess that it could be said that if I did not know there was a meeting, maybe that is my fault, but on the other hand, I discover that there are Members of the constitutional development committee who did not know that there was such a meeting taking place. I discover that there were some Members of the Executive Committee who did not know that a meeting was taking place or what it was for and so that is rather surprising. Another concern that I have with respect to it and a reason why I cannot support it is that there has not been a report. That is a most unusual procedure, that you are asked to make a decision on something and we will tell you the details later. That is an unacceptable way of doing business. We simply cannot effectively vote on a motion when we do not have the proper benefit of a report that would give us the basis for making an intelligent decision about it -- when we do not have the opportunity to discuss the report.

I am also opposed to the motion then, because I agree with the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that it does confuse the issue -- perhaps not in some people's minds, but it certainly confuses it for me. This Assembly, through its constitutional development committee, had taken an initiative recently to call a constitutional conference and there was a committee set up at that conference to look at the process and I understood that there was another...

MR. CURLEY: What about the East? What about the East?

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...that there was another conference intended. The honourable Member for Keewatin South asks, "What about the East?" That is another confusing element in all of this.

MR. CURLEY: They were not there.

MR. MacQUARRIE: We were told very definitely by Members from the East over the past two years that they would like to go their own way, that they had a certain purpose in mind and it would be resolved for them when they had the chance to vote on whether or not there should be a separate territory in the East. That left us in the lurch, with the necessity of trying to come to some conclusions about what would happen in the Western Arctic. In fact, in Frobisher Bay a committee was set up specifically to look at constitutional development in the Western Arctic and all of the Members, as I recall, from the East said, "That is a great idea. Do not interfere in our business." So, it is confusing as to why now suddenly there is representation from the East by...

MR. CURLEY: You do not understand at all.

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is just what I am saying, Mr. Curley, but I do not think it is because I am dull-witted...

---Laughter

...I think, rather, Mr. Curley, because people are doing things behind closed doors. It is absolutely unclear now where the initiatives that were taken by the constitutional development committee stand in relation to the initiatives that have been taken by the Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, since his initiative appears at least on the surface -- and that is all I have to deal with, is superficial appearances, regrettably -- it appears on the surface to ignore and perhaps even work in contradiction to the initiatives that were taken by the constitutional development committee.

MR. CURLEY: He was there.

Constitutional Change Without Interference Of Non-Aboriginal Peoples

MR. MacQUARRIE: A third very important reason to me is that when I look at representation on the constitutional alliance, that representation is not even in the body of the motion where it might be amended and therefore appears to be intended as a fait accompli. When I look at that list -- the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Metis Association of the NWT and the Dene Nation -- when I look at that list and again it is from surface appearances, but it is difficult to find anything in a more substantial way, it appears that this is an attempt to effect constitutional change without what might be seen by some as the interference of non-aboriginal peoples and which, in fact, would not be interference at all, but just a fundamental democratic right to participate in constitutional change.

This appears to be an effort to avoid delay talking about details so that some semblance of a united front can be presented to the federal government. Well, I have said it before, but I will say it again, that while I would never accept constitutional development, constitutional change, without the direct participation of aboriginal peoples in the Northwest Territories, I am just as determined that I will never accept constitutional change in the Northwest Territories from which non-aboriginal people are excluded, because non-aboriginal people have legitimate interest in this part of Canada and certainly that includes an interest in fundamental constitutional development. I say that any attempt to do an end run, if that is what this is -- and, again, it has to be on superficial appearances, since I have not more substantial information than that -- but any attempt to do an end run around the concerns of the people that I largely represent I say simply will not succeed and in the final analysis, a short-sighted attempt in that direction will not succeed. It certainly will not achieve the kind of progress that may be desired with the federal government. That attempt to secure a fait accompli will only undermine and delay the realization of the aim that all of us have in mind, which is greater control over our own lives and less control for the federal government in Ottawa.

Interests Of Non-Aboriginal Peoples Not Adequately Represented

It is not enough to say, as many Members have, that the interests of non-aboriginal peoples will be adequately looked after by the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. One might as well have said that the interests of the aboriginal minorities of Canada would adequately have been looked after by the Government of Canada down through the years, but those interests were not adequately looked after and that is why native associations were formed from one end of this country to the other.

MR. SIBBESTON: You forgot the chamber of commerce.

MR. MacQUARRIE: There is a native majority on this Assembly and rightly so. I do not lament that at all. It is desirable because it reflects the reality of the population in the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

So long as this situation obtains, there should be a native majority. So long as there is a native majority, I have no doubt whatsoever that a native person will be the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development and that is as it should be as well. That person at the present moment is the Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee and I can say very sincerely that I respect both the abilities of Mr. Wah-Shee and good will from him toward non-aboriginal peoples. However, I still say that it is simply true that he cannot adequately represent the interests of non-aboriginal peoples, because he does not fully and directly share those interests.

MR. CURLEY: Could you do a better job?

MR. MacQUARRIE: If it is a legitimate argument that the Assembly can fully represent non-aboriginal interests because it represents everybody -- and that is the argument I know that at least Mr. Patterson has presented. He has insisted that that is the case. Well, if that is the case, that you do not need non-aboriginal participation because the Assembly represents them, then it is obvious that there is no further need for any other representation, because in that case the Assembly...

MR. CURLEY: Why do you not resign?

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...also represents Dene, Metis, Inuit; and so, if that is in fact true, then let the Assembly do it all. There is no need for any other cultural organizations to become involved. However, I know that letting the

Assembly do it all is not acceptable to native organizations who insist that there be special cultural representation in addition to the representation of the Assembly. Well, I simply say that if that is the case for aboriginal people, it is absolutely the case for non-aboriginal people as well.

I hope, even if this motion should pass today, that those who are determined to move ahead in a united front, which I do support, will not try further to leave out a significant portion of the population of these Territories because that attempt would be detrimental to everybody, because, I say, it will not succeed in the long run, and that would be most regrettable.

MR. CURLEY: It will succeed. It is not gloom and doom. It is not gloom and doom.

MR. MacQUARRIE: So with that, Mr. Speaker, I say again then, I must regretfully vote against this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. The hour is 2:30. We shall recess for coffee for 15 minutes. There will be a photo taken at 2:30 in the Snowshoe Lounge which is just around the corner. The coffee, I understand, is there. That is for the group photo of the Legislative Assembly Members. The Assembly stands recessed for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the Assembly back to order. We are dealing with Motion 22-82(1). Our last speaker was Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

Difficulty Determining Representatives

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would just want to speak to the motion, but at the same time comment on some of the "whereas" clauses. First and foremost, I would believe that it is a proper thing for this House to give the Minister its support in pursuing the means on trying to find the means by which a common alliance of native organizations would come together to initiate a common position and define consensus. There will be others, of course, who will put forth positions and who would want to be part of the negotiation process for constitutional reform in the Territories -- not just the native organizations. I would agree that there should be full participation and public debate in all parts of the Territories in the process of constitutional reform. I would hope that the Minister would be able to bring about a consensus within the groups that he indicates will make up this alliance, in order to get a consensus among them so that there can be a common front put forward. I wholeheartedly agree that any kind of constitutional or political change cannot be impeded by preconceived policies or initiatives adopted either publicly or privately by the federal government. I think we in the Northwest Territories -- and I say "we" because I mean all peoples in the Territories -- should be part of the change that will take place in regard to political and constitutional reform.

I would have some concern as to the process by which this will take place. I think that we may very well have a difficulty determining who will be our representatives in this alliance. However, I would wholeheartedly support the Minister attempting to meet with various groups, with various native organizations such as he has indicated will make up this alliance, to come together, to bring about a consensus of their positions; and not only to do that, but to involve as well this House in the kinds of negotiation for constitutional reform. If the Minister with this particular motion is to get that kind of mandate from this House to pursue that means, to meet with the people, I have no difficulty, because I have every confidence that the Minister will then take back to this House that common agreement among the many organizations, and then to bring it together with what this House will perceive to be its particular position on it.

I would speak in favour of the motion, notwithstanding that I have some concerns about the process itself and about the extent -- one of the major concerns I would have is that there will be other concerns put forth as well but basically, Mr. Speaker, I would be in support of the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Good, good!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

A Process Of Developing Consensus

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, if the process which the previous speaker has described is what will happen, then that is very admirable and should be very productive, that is that the result of any consensus or alliance is returned to this House, to this Assembly. Although the motion is in English, I have very great difficulty in understanding the meaning of the motion, and if you will just pause with me or take time with me to just listen to what the motion says...

MR. PUDLUK: I have it in Inuktitut here, if you want it.

---Laughter

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes. The motion says "I move that this Assembly express its support for the constitutional alliance in pursuing the following objectives". Now, the way that reads is that it is the constitutional alliance which will pursue the following objectives. The Assembly then would support the constitutional alliance in inviting full public participation, providing a forum, initiating the development of common positions, and initiating political and administrative reform within the NWT. I suggest that the motion is improperly worded. I suggest that the drafter was really referring to the role of this House and this Assembly and not the constitutional alliance because I do not know where the alliance will find the means to develop this forum in all parts of the Northwest Territories. I find the motion extremely confusing, and I would like to be assured by the Minister that the intent is to move in the direction as described by the Hon. Arnold McCallum, a process of developing consensus, which consensus would be returned to this House for examination and full debate. But as it presently reads, I am not just sure who is doing what.

MR. CURLEY: We will give you a question mark, Tom.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in favour of the motion. I am definitely in favour of getting a process going by which all the people in the Northwest Territories can have an alliance. I said during my election campaign and in this House on a few occasions that I think the federal government is the enemy of all of us, as to having an autonomous government or governments in the Northwest Territories. I would have liked to put the motion into committee of the whole to discuss it, but I am confident that Mr. Sibbeston will take the direction of the constitutional conference held here and reconvene such a conference again. I am also confident that the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development is definitely going to take into consideration in part a) to "invite full public participation", and he has also indicated to me that he would accompany me to Pine Point to hold a public meeting and discuss constitutional development. So I am generally confident that this is the right direction to take, although I would have liked to have gone into committee of the whole with it. I would like to have this Assembly at some time discuss what our role will be in this alliance and how many people we shall have involved in this alliance...

MRS. SORENSEN: Do that before you agree to the alliance.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...that is what I would like to work on. I think we...

MRS. SORENSEN: It is putting the cart before the horse.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...delayed the process too long, and that some people, trying to be all things to all people...

MRS. SORENSEN: Like you?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...are unable to perform. So I would like to support the motion. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

MR. PUDLUK: Question.

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

Minister Needs Support Of Assembly

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker. I must say that I am getting frustrated with the degree of suspicion and paranoia and negativism that we keep hearing in this House.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Here our Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development who we elected to that position -- Mr. MacQuarrie says he respects him -- has come forward with I think an historical announcement that he has been able to achieve, and is working to achieve, a measure of consensus between the major organizations of the Northwest Territories and this Assembly. There is nothing in here about trampling on the rights of non-native interests. There is nothing in here about undermining the work of the constitutional development committee that was set up by this Assembly. We are asked to support the principle of the major native organizations working in concert with this Assembly, and certainly, Mr. Speaker, as long as people like Mr. MacQuarrie are in this Assembly, one need not fear in any way that the non-native voice will not be heard. We can be assured of that. Mr. Wah-Shee seeks our support for the alliance pursuing an objective which includes the invitation of full public participation and debate in all parts of the NWT, and I just cannot see how we cannot help but welcome that initiative.

This is the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that from its very first days in office rejected the notion that it alone can be the one spokesman on the question of political and constitutional development. We very early on rejected a position that implied that there was no place for the native organizations as representatives of the majority of long-term residents of the Northwest Territories, those people with special aboriginal rights and interests. Here we have, really, a request for support for the Minister pursuing those objectives, and he has already made it clear that there will be ample opportunities to report to and consult with the House. In fact, the fourth "whereas" specifically states that the alliance will seek full support of the Legislative Assembly, and I think that that is what we should give it right now and trust our Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development to keep us informed and involve this Assembly and involve all the interests in the Northwest Territories; but let us be grateful, Mr. Speaker, that finally something is starting to happen. We have the beginnings of a strong, united voice in the Northwest Territories, and let us not be afraid or negative or paranoid. All of us here are quite capable of representing our constituencies; some, I think, with perhaps a louder voice than they should have...

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSON: You do not like what we say?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am just getting tired of the negativism and confrontation that some Members seem to encourage with elaborate teleological, philosophical arguments that certainly escape me, Mr. Speaker, and I think...

MRS. SORENSON: Try harder.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...we should just give the Minister our vote of support; that is really all he is asking, is support for this alliance, and wish them all the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Applause

Mr. Wah-Shee, if you speak you will close the debate. Are there any further persons wishing to speak? Ms Cournoyea.

Working Together For A Common Concern

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe there was a question placed by Mr. MacQuarrie asking for a report from Mr. Wah-Shee. I believe Mr. Wah-Shee gave his report and the report is in terms of the motion that is in front of us. There has been a great deal of suspicion among the native groups and this government as to how the working arrangement can be set up and put forth in a manner where people feel comfortable with that working arrangement. This motion is not making any preconceived ideas on the exact breakdown of that working arrangement as of yet, and Mr. Wah-Shee has said that he will report after the next meeting. However, it should be understood that through all this process it was difficult enough to get the native organizations to sit down and come up with some kind of formula that they were happy to work under.

I do not have a problem in saying that "others" are going to be represented and I will bring to you the basis of why I feel non-natives will always be represented -- because they are the majority of the bureaucracy, they are the majority of the senior representatives in the government. The federal government, in negotiating any change, has every department represented for their common interest before you can get anything or anything can be established.

Negotiations from this point are not going to be easy. They are going to be extremely difficult and I do not believe that any of us sitting here can be so worried about getting a group of people together at this point in time because you are going to need everybody together if you really want change. Now, if you do not want change, then you keep frustrating any kind of forum that can be developed -- keep adding and adding and adding until it gets too confusing. Just ask yourself, who are the people who are saying "Let us do something about it"? Who has put the position forward? Who is always fighting for some change? Has this not been the past Legislative Assembly's position? Is there a record of this Legislative Assembly's position where they have fought and tried to make a change? The changes come because the native people have said "Where is the place for us in the long term with all these changes going on?" and they should be given due credit for that kind of fight and initiative. What kind of funding have these agencies got to bring forth their positions, as opposed to the territorial expenditures for the status quo?

I believe right now we have to have that alliance, because I believe most of the people who are working in the government system would like things to stay just as they are. Now, if we are going to provide a forum and bring these people together, it is a tremendous force. We went down to Ottawa. We worked together for a common concern and it was not so painful after all.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MR. SIBBESTON: It was not, it was fun!

---Laughter

---Applause

Fears And Doubts Should Be Put Aside

MS COURNOYEA: I could have small little fears about this coalition, this alliance, myself. I may have little shadows creeping out from under the table, wondering what is really behind it, because I myself could not attend the meetings, but I feel that in that one day if Mr. Wah-Shee was able to achieve what he has done in this motion, that is a remarkable achievement and we should support this motion to allow the next step to be taken without fear...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: ...without prejudice...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MS COURNOYEA: ...and the quicker that we are able to do that, without trying to dig up every little shadow of doubt -- because you will never be able to do that -- the quicker we will be able to move ahead, because we will always have those fears and they will never all be resolved, but let us move forward in this step. It is a very small step. It is not determining your future. It is saying let us begin working with the people who have been involved, not picking up people off the street, because the federal government and the bureaucracy will quite adequately make sure that no native claim, no constitutional change will take place unless every little person is represented, in order not to do anything.

MR. SIBBESTON: Right!

MS COURNOYEA: That is their position and I support this motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Good!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to support the motion, but find that I am not able to, mostly because I do not feel that I was represented when this process was put together. Maybe that is suspicion on my part, but you see it is easy to be suspicious because...

MR. CURLEY: You are never suspicious of white people, though.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...because you just have to say to yourself, why were the non-native members of the constitutional committee not included in Mr. Wah-Shee's meeting? Why were they not there? Why was Mr. Stewart not invited? Why was Mr. MacQuarrie not invited? You know, who went? Mr. Patterson was invited.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I was protecting your interests.

MR. CURLEY: He is a non-native.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Patterson was invited, so he was the token white person there. Was our government leader invited to that meeting? No, he was not invited.

MR. CURLEY: How does it feel to be a token, Dennis?

Accusation Of Being Racist

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, the other point that I raise and why I am suspicious and I do agree that I am suspicious and I do not apologize for that one little bit -- Mr. Speaker, I object to being called racist, and I ask that that be stricken from the record on a point of privilege.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was not on the record.

MR. SPEAKER: Can you name the Member?

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Speaker, called me racist...

AN HON. MEMBER: No, he did not.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...or my comments racist and I feel, Mr. Speaker, that everyone has the opportunity in this House to put forth on behalf of their constituents their views and to rebut any statements that any Members have made and I feel that I have been unjustly accused. I do not know what rule it is, but on a point of privilege I will request, Mr. Speaker, that you have the Member take back his words and that those words be stricken from the record.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just one moment, please. Thank you. Mr. Curley, the Member has charged that you used the word "racist" in reference to her. If this is the case, if you did this, Mr. Curley, I would require an apology or withdrawal of that terminology. I did not hear you say that, I am sorry, but if it was said, then you should withdraw it. Would you do so at this time?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether it is on the record. I have not seen it in the debates yet, so I do not know whether I could withdraw it, because I have not read the debates and I would probably be able to withdraw that accusation tomorrow. As far as I can recall the Member used the word "maybe" she is suspicious and my recollections say that I interjected and probably said "maybe racist", rather than "maybe suspicious". So, until I read the record, Mr. Speaker, I cannot withdraw my remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: Inasmuch as the Chair cannot rule because I did not hear the remarks, I will await the debates tomorrow. My decision shall be if the debates so read, then the words must then be withdrawn. Mrs. Sorensen, you have the floor.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege, Mr. Patterson?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to ask you to call Mrs. Sorensen to order for having imputed false motives to me in suggesting that I was attending the said meeting as a "token white" and I would ask her to be called to order pursuant to Rule 20. Thank you.

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I will withdraw those remarks. I do not believe he is "token" anything.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. You have the floor, Mrs. Sorensen.

Negotiations With The Federal Government

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, the other reason that I might be suspicious about the motives of this motion is the fact that the motion does not say, Mr. McCallum, that the alliance will come back to the Legislative Assembly before it begins to negotiate with the federal government. To me what the words say is very, very important, not what you think the words say or what you would like the words to say as an MLA, but in fact what the words actually say. Because six months down the road, who is going to remember that Mr. McCallum rose in the Legislature and said "I agree with this motion, because to me it means the alliance is going to come back to us..."

MR. CURLEY: You will remind them.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...and it is going to say "Legislative Assembly, do you agree with what we are doing here?" That is not what it says. Part c) of the "now therefore" clause says: "initiate the development of common positions and negotiate constitutional reform with the federal government." It does not say "discuss" as the Dene Nation process says. It says "negotiate". That is an important word to me. Where does it say "and come back to the Legislative Assembly"? We may hear a little bit with respect to what the alliance is saying through our Minister of Aboriginal Rights, but my experience with his reports is that he tables them on the last day...

MR. CURLEY: Move an amendment.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...and we do not really get the opportunity to debate them. That has happened several times. That is a tactic that a smart Minister uses. I admire his tactics, because they work, so he gets away with it.

Mr. Speaker, we are agreeing, when we agree to this motion, to two fundamental issues here. We are agreeing to a process for constitutional change, and I agree with other Members who have said it is about time that we have a process and, had we gone into committee of the whole, had I had the opportunity to ask Mr. Wah-Shee questions, to discuss Mr. Sibbeston's report on the constitutional committee proceedings in January, perhaps I would have been able to agree with this motion, but I did not have the opportunity to fully debate and explore alternatives.

MR. CURLEY: We are not through yet.

Negotiating Body Independent Of The Assembly

MRS. SORENSEN: The other fundamental issue, as I said before, is that we are agreeing that this body, this alliance will be the negotiating body, independent of the Legislative Assembly. Now, there are those that agree -- and I agree with them -- that the native groups must be involved in constitutional change. We have set up a constitutional committee and we have called for another constitutional conference. Yet I heard Mr. Sibbeston earlier saying that he does not think that the constitutional conference will ever agree on anything, that it will never come to a consensus, yet Denendeh is all about consensus. You are trying to sell a government on consensus to the people of the North, particularly to my people. This is foreign to the people that I represent. I am willing to listen and I am willing to try it. Here you have an opportunity to use that process to come to a consensus with respect to process and a negotiating body yet you are trying to do an end run. That is what it looks like to me.

The chairman of the constitutional committee is now saying that that conference that he put together in January and has agreed to call again in May is hot air -- is a waste of time. I think there is a very big contradiction in that. Mr. Speaker, I say just at the point where we are getting things together in the North, where the municipalities, where the white people that Mr. Sibbeston so often maligns are sitting down across the table from Mr. Sibbeston and seriously considering proposals like Denendeh and Nunavut -- just at that point I see a motion here that speaks to exclude them. I agree with Mr. MacQuarrie that the Legislative Assembly does not appropriately reflect the white or the non-aboriginal people in the North, simply by the fact that it has a majority of native people. So, we need another body and perhaps that has to be the Association of Municipalities. Had I had the opportunity, I too would have amended the motion to include representatives of the larger municipalities in this alliance and that would have been a type of compromise to me...

MR. SIBBESTON: We can still do it.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...so that we would have been able to hear what they had to say. Mr. Speaker, I really do believe -- and I guess maybe it does sound paranoid and suspicious -- but I really do believe that we are trying to railroad something through here. We have an opportunity to come together again in May as a constitutional conference where all Members of the Legislative Assembly can attend and can speak, where we can bring people in from the regions -- not just the members of ITC or COPE, but people from the municipalities, people from the community councils -- to discuss constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. I believe that that is the proper process. I would urge Members to really think about what they are doing with this motion, because it is not only that something must be done right, it must appear to be done right, and it does not appear to me that we are moving in the correct way.

Mr. Speaker, I feel bad that I always appear to be in the opposition or to be setting up a white/native barrier. I certainly do not set out to do that, but all I say is that the federal government is watching us very closely, and unless this Legislature involves absolutely the non-aboriginal people, the native groups will never realize constitutional changes as they wish to see them. That is as plain as the nose on my face to me. I would ask that Members seriously consider what they are doing today if they move to adopt this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. To the motion. Mr. Curley, next.

Tension Between Races

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, it is getting to be very tiring hearing about the native organizations and the western organizations trying to implement or trying to consider political changes. A lot of times they have tried very hard and sometimes they agree with each other. We are discussing offering this Minister support, and as we all know, this is not finished yet. I am wondering what we have to do at the Legislative Assembly. What is the problem here? I am confused. There are more Dene and Inuit, and I do not think there are no "other" people but there are more Dene and Inuit in the Northwest Territories. Some of the people on the opposite side try to say that they have made changes in the political area, and they have never done anything. I am getting tired of hearing this. If we could change me to a non-native, I would appreciate it, but there is no possibility of changing this, and I cannot say I am sorry. (End of translation)

Mr. Speaker, I think we are not only faced with the complicated issues of the political development and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories, I think there are other very critical problems that we face. I think we are faced with the tension between the races, between the native people and the non-native people. I think that that is where the precise problem is, but I am glad to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that kind of tension does not exist in the Eastern Arctic. However, I am afraid to say that I suspect it exists in the Western Arctic, particularly in the headquarters of this government. I think once and for all we must get rid of this tension. You can hear it crackling as you listen and watch the gallery and the Members from the West, particularly from Yellowknife Centre.

If it were possible to find a solution and find a miracle that I can become like you and become a white man, I wish I could become like you, and become a white man, and therefore contribute to the solutions and the problems that we face today; but unfortunately and sincerely I must tell you I cannot become like you, and I cannot become a white man, and therefore I cannot say to you that you are eventually going to trust me as a native person. It may mean that you will

continue to have a suspicion against me, but I will indicate to the record, Mr. Speaker, I do not have any motives or any conspiracy plans to discriminate against the white people in the Northwest Territories, even though they may be a minority in places like the Eastern Arctic. I welcome working with them, and I always have been able to relate well with them, and I will continue to pursue that.

I remember once upon a time when the Minister of Indian Affairs, Hugh Faulkner, when he travelled -- he sensed there was a tension between the races; and I do not believe that that has ever been dealt with in the public eye. It always has been tried to deal with it by other means, by really not raising the issue that there is a tension between the native people. If James Wah-Shee were a white person, it probably would have been easier for him to succeed in getting a mandate from the Assembly, from the non-native people of this particular Legislature. I think that that is where our problem is. I do not think that we are faced so much with the impossibilities of finding solutions to constitutional development. I think it has to do with the issue of racism in the Northwest Territories. I think we must be square about this. I think we must be fair about it until we finally find a way for the direction of the political development in the Northwest Territories. I am afraid that that is where the major problem is.

Problem Of Racism In The West

I indicated to the caucus this morning that I cannot join the Executive Committee, even though I was invited to the Executive Committee, mainly because of the principles that I have had that I have never said to this House. Earlier, two years ago, I did not want to join the government as an Executive Member because I was aware there was a tension, and it was too thick a fog for me to join them. Eventually we will have to deal with this problem of racism in the Northwest Territories. The timing would not have been right. I would have probably contributed -- to the non-native Members from the Western Arctic -- more tension, more suspicion, if I had been an Executive Member today. Again this morning I said to the caucus I cannot join even if I am invited now, because I still feel from my own principles that if I were to join I am going to create a further tension between the white people in the West and the native people. I do not want to contribute to that assumption today. You people in the West have to deal with that, and unless you deal with that you are not going to find a solution to the political development in the Western Arctic.

So I would like to suggest that there are a few things that we can resolve today. I am not altogether satisfied with the way the constitutional alliance is worded. I think it gives the perception that native people and the government are joining together to conspire against the non-native people in the Western Arctic. It seems to be that in the eyes of some Members in the Assembly -- because to me the alliance has to really be that a political party joins one political ideology to pursue an objective. I think that that is where the mistake is in drafting this motion, that they say they create a constitutional alliance. I would like to then, Mr. Speaker, suggest that a better wording -- since it is not a political party -- a wording like "working group", that could possibly be a better one, because it is not going to exist beyond the term of this Assembly.

Assembly Will Always Be Consulted

Mr. Speaker, if there were any way that I could contribute to the problem in resolving this, I would like to take part, but I am not sure whether I am going to be able to do it. I will leave it to the Minister of Constitutional Development to try and direct a course for that, and the only thing that I can do in this House is at least to try and persuade the Members from Yellowknife and the people in the gallery, non-native people in the West, that I will never, never, as I am a Member in this House, see any political development that would

discriminate against the non-native people. I will never let that happen. I am not worried at all that it will happen during the life of this Assembly, either. There have been problems with native people and native organizations and the government before. Even though this motion states certain directions and seeks directions from this Assembly and support from this Assembly, I do not believe the Minister of Constitutional Development, whether it is in the paper or not, will ever proceed to negotiate a major political change without confirming and consulting with the Assembly before it goes to Ottawa. You guys are too bloody strong, too intelligent to allow him to take off somewhere and try to negotiate something that the people of the Northwest Territories, including the non-native people and native people, would not agree with. It would never happen. I for one will want to watch that he does not do that.

So in order to resolve this suspicion, I think we have to give in a little bit. I gave in, and I did not want to join the Executive Committee Members -- not because I am afraid to join them, not because I feel that I cannot do the job; mainly because I would create -- I know today -- a further tension.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not speaking to the motion, Mr. Curley. I have been very, very lenient with you, but can you come back onto the subject? The Executive Committee is not part of this motion.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, one Member of the Executive Committee is involved in this motion, and again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to be given the privilege of speaking to the motion like any Members from the other side are normally given the freedom by you, Mr. Speaker.

Amendment To Motion 22-82(1)

I think this perception of believing that there is a conspiracy against the non-natives in the West is wrong, and I will attempt to resolve that by amending this motion. I do not want to tire you out, Mr. Speaker, so I will move first of all that the heading "constitutional alliance" be changed to "constitutional working group" and any other reference to an alliance be changed to "working group"; and the final amendment in my motion is after the last line, on the first page, I would add further a representative from the "Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities" be included in this working group.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a moment, Mr. Curley, until I have a written document here. I have to read it. Okay, Mr. Curley. I understand your amendment. You are changing the title to "working group", and wherever else throughout the motion that the term "constitutional alliance" appears, that the words "working group" will replace them; and at the bottom of the list on page two, after "Inuit Tapirisat of Canada", that you would add the term "Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities". Is that correct, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I did not take out the "constitutional"; I just changed the word "alliance" to "working group", so it would refer to "constitutional working group", and the bottom line is correct, representative from the "Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities".

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Constitutional working group. Now, there are several places, then, in this particular motion that will be changed, but it is fairly easily understood. Is the Assembly prepared to accept this, or do you want it retyped so that everybody has a copy of it? If there are no objections, I will be prepared to accept it because I think it is fairly straightforward. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder, then, to this motion? Mrs. Sorensen. That is correct, to the amendment. Your amendment is in order, Mr. Curley. To the amendment.

Discontinuing An Atmosphere Of Suspicion

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Speaker, very briefly, with all due respect to any arrangement that the Minister proposed to development of the constitutional issues in the Territories, I do not think we should be too concerned about what kind of titles we give them, because they are, after all, just part of the administration, the concerns of his departmental responsibilities in that. So I think "working group" -- they may want to find another title which would be more acceptable to them, but I think that we should not be afraid to include a Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities representative, because if we do not, then we will continue to create an atmosphere which nobody wants, and there will continue to exist this suspiciousness which does not have a place in any kind of attempt to resolve things, so I urge the Members to support this very simple amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the amendment. Mrs. Sorensen, as seconder. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate very much the intent. While I did not earlier accept the remarks of the honourable Member for Keewatin South with respect to us intending to be obstructionist, I would say that always in history minorities have appeared to be obstructionists in the struggle to make sure that their interests were taken account of. With respect to this, latterly I very much appreciate the honourable Member's remarks and his intention to ensure that the interests of non-natives are represented, and I thank him for that.

The only problem that I have -- I certainly will vote for the amendment, but I am not sure that it will have any effect, because, and that is what precisely gave me concern about the motion, we did not determine who would belong to the alliance in the first place. Therefore can we make an amendment that changes the make-up? We did not name the alliance in the first place, therefore, can we make an amendment that changes the name of the organization? You see, it is because of those very things that I was concerned about all this in the first place, that we have not had that kind of input. We are simply being asked to endorse what somebody else has already done. However, in the hope that it will have some impact, I certainly will support that amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment. Are you ready for the question on the amendment? Mr. Sibbeston.

"Constitutional Alliance" A Good Term

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I do not support the amendment. I think that everything of what Mr. Tagak Curley is saying in terms of the background that he gave for his reason to change it to a different word, I appreciate that; but to set up a working group kind of takes away from the importance of the body that has been formed. Really, it is not just this Assembly that is in it alone. There are four other groups involved, so it may be that the other groups may not like themselves to be considered simply a working group. I would say that "constitutional alliance" is a good term, good word, good form to describe the group that is proposed to be set up. I am aware that constitutional coalition has been suggested at one point, but in the end after some consideration the word "alliance" was established, and it was established after a great deal of consideration and thought, so I do not support relegating the important group that has been formed to a little working group.

You also have to consider how Ottawa sees it. If they see it as a little working group, then it does not seem too important; but the word "alliance", the idea of an alliance, coalition, that has much more effect and meaning, and it is a better description of what has been set up. It was not just a little working group that was established. It was an alliance. Finally, after so many years of attempting to get native organizations and this government together, an alliance was established, and I think it should be seen for what it is, to deal with constitutional matters. So I do not support the motion to relegate what was established to a little working group.

Now, on the matter of adding the Association of Municipalities, I do not agree with it because the Legislative Assembly does represent everybody in the North. That is what the government has said up to now. Finally, when there is a native majority on it, some people are saying now, they are beginning to doubt whether this government represents everybody. They are suspicious, in fact, of the whole Assembly. So I feel that the white people in the North are properly represented by this Legislative Assembly and it is not the intention eventually when representation from this Assembly is placed on the alliance to just simply have Mr. Wah-Shee. The intention is to have white people involved also, and as has been said so many times today, there is an accountability, there is going to be a way that whoever is involved in this will have to report back to this Assembly, so there is an accountability factor built in.

The other thing that I want to say is that the type of constitutional changes that are being dealt with are of a provincial-type change. They are dealing with constitutional changes at the highest level, dealing with jurisdictions and powers that the government in the North will have. It is further down the road, as it were, that the matter of municipalities comes in. So I am aware that there is a consciousness of where the municipalities fit in. Where they will fit in is when municipal matters are dealt with by the alliance, then the Association of Municipalities will be consulted. So I feel to have the Association of Municipalities stuck in with the same priority, the same importance as this Assembly, COPE, ITC, and the Dene Nation, is giving it much much much too much recognition and too much status. The Association of Municipalities need not fear that their interests are not going to be looked after. There will be opportunity for them to have their say when municipalities matters are dealt with. So I do not support the two amendments that have been proposed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. To the amendment. Are you ready for the question on the amendment?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Amendment To Motion 22-82(1), Carried

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

---Carried

To the motion as amended. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. Wah-Shee. I believe, however, I did have another speaker that wished to speak. Mr. Nerysoo, do you waive your right? Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify some of the concerns expressed. First of all, the motion primarily is asking the Members of this House if they agree to establishing a formal working relationship with the native

organizations and other groups which have been included as part of the constitutional working group. What we have in mind, and I am sure that the native organizations would agree, and the Members of this House, is that we have to have public participation. Public participation is essential.

The other thing is that I cannot do something without the support of the Legislature. Whatever comes out of the meetings with the native organizations in terms of a proposal will have to come back to this House for your consideration.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Once you have given your consideration and changes and directions, then I, in turn, will have to discuss this further with the native organizations. However, the idea primarily is to establish a working arrangement and I would hope that you would give some serious consideration to just the idea that we ought to establish a working relationship among ourselves, among the various groups in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. To the motion as amended. All in favour?

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee. Pardon me. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Can I make an amendment, please?

MR. SPEAKER: I believe when we had called the vote on the amendment, and we were then dealing with the motion as amended and Mr. Wah-Shee gave the final -- just one moment. There is a double shift in here. I want to make sure I am right, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Clerk. Yes, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Wah-Shee closed the debate when he took the floor. I am sorry if you had indicated you wanted to speak before him, but I did not see you.

Motion 22-82(1), Carried As Amended

Then the question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The orders of the day.

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

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

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

Bill 1-82(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1982-83, and the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 1-82(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1982-83, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-82(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1982-83

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this committee will come to order. Coffee time, 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Education

Total O And M, Schools

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The Chair recognizes a quorum. We are on page 17.03, schools, O and M, \$42,579,000. Mr. MacQuarrie. I am sorry, maybe we should invite in the deputy minister for Education. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Minister. Welcome back. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just at the close of the day yesterday I had asked some questions about the health and social services program which is part of the new high school certificate program and first I would like to commend the Minister and the department for developing this type of program. I think that it is very desirable. In the interim since yesterday I was provided with some written material from the assistant deputy minister and I appreciated it very much and it largely answers the concern that I had. I had asked about the nature of the program, because one of my own constituents thought it very important that there be a child care program and saw the possibility of developing a program in Yellowknife, in conjunction with the main day care centre. So, I wanted to know whether child care was going to be part of the program. I see that it is and so I am very pleased about that, but I notice that in the first year it is only in Inuvik. So, perhaps if the Minister could just clarify something for me in that respect; that is, I understand then that the procedure would be that if the child care or the health and social services program were to become part of a system in Yellowknife, that could be effected if the education society in a subsequent year said, "We would like to have that as part of our program." Is that a correct understanding?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

Programs Eventually Available To All High Schools

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the plan is to make these programs available to all of the three major high schools in the Northwest Territories over the long run. Our first task is to develop it and implement it in various locations where we see the greatest priority and then once we are satisfied that the program is successful and have evaluated it, we would be implementing it elsewhere and, of course, we would certainly be guided by advice from the local education authority concerned. The Member is correct in his general summary of our plans in that area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. Yes, I will certainly relay that to my constituent then and indicate the appropriate channel to follow if she would like to bring about that change. Just one other question, if I may, Mr. Minister. You did mention that the local education authority in Yellowknife for the Sir John Franklin school had petitioned for society status. Have you made a decision with respect to that? Can you tell us how you intend to proceed in that matter?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just received a petition from the community education committee in Yellowknife asking for society status with a very large number of signatures. I was, I think, perhaps a bit surprised,

but pleased to see that the chairman of the public school board, Mrs. Louise Nielsen, was also one of the persons who had signed the petition, because the Member will know that that board is now considering -- I think, over the long term -- the desirability and the implications of assuming control over the high school in Yellowknife. However, Mrs. Nielsen signed the petition. I had a brief opportunity to communicate with her about that and she feels that this is an important step for the community education committee to take and that it would not necessarily foreclose other options in the future. So, my reaction is very favourable to that petition and to giving them the society status that they request. I also have received a positive recommendation from the superintendent concerned, whom I consulted, naturally, once I had received the petition. So, I will say that I support the granting of society status to the committee here. They are a hard working committee and I feel generally that everywhere in the Northwest Territories, if we feel that the local education authority is capable of handling greater responsibilities, we should not inhibit them from going in that direction. I also will say that the applications I received from the Baffin region as well -- I have been satisfied that those local education authorities are quite capable of assuming greater responsibilities and I will be acting as quickly as possible in the new fiscal year to effect those changes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLaughlin. Schools, page 17.03.

Community Input To Regional Schools

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is relevant to the conversation just carried out between the Minister and the Member for Yellowknife Centre. I was going to bring this topic up as well, if he had not, because when we held our public hearings on education throughout the Territories, as the Minister knows full well, there was great concern expressed in the small outlying communities that they should have an input into these regional schools. When I saw that petition for signing in a few of the places of business in Yellowknife I was concerned that if the Minister did approve society status, he would make some conditions with that society that would formalize some sort of input from the outlying communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do appreciate the question and I really should have mentioned that I had also received motions from the CEC and Sir John Franklin school stating precisely their desire to have the parents of children from outside the Yellowknife area represented and specifically they have proposed that we finance the inclusion of representatives from outside Yellowknife -- their attendance at a significant number of meetings throughout the year. I feel that is essential and I think it should be part of our response to their desires in connection with this school. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

Basic Funding For Small Schools

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, yesterday I talked a bit about some of the little schools in my area not getting very much funding for the basics, some of the essential things we need in the school. I take it now the government gives supplies and provides resources based on the number of students in a school and I am just wondering if this is fair, because in a small little school there would not be, of course, very many students and yet some of the basic requirements are needed, much like a larger school. So, I have stated how the

little schools really do not have very much resources and I am just wondering if the government would consider dealing with small schools in a different way, perhaps providing a base initially and after that some moneys on a per student basis, because in my area I have three little tasks, some small communities. I have Jean Marie River, which has really one classroom, Nahanni Butte, one classroom, Trout Lake, one classroom, then Wrigley, I think which has two classrooms, and Liard, three or four; but the three little ones, I think, are the most impoverished. I wonder if Mr. Patterson would re-examine the way that these little schools are funded and instead of dealing with them on a per student basis, consider giving them an initial amount and then after that funds based on a per student base, because obviously there is a problem there which should be rectified.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I fully appreciate the Member's point. I think really what he is saying is that there are what you could call economies of scale associated with the larger schools whereby applying a per student formula gives them all kinds of flexibility as to what they can purchase, whereas the smaller school with the relatively smaller budget may not have that kind of flexibility. I think it is a good point and I have been thinking it over since yesterday. I have heard the same point made in some meetings with regard to the cultural inclusion fund, that in a small school there just is not enough money to hire even one person, whereas a larger school has advantages in using limited funds. So, I think it is a good point and I thank him for the suggestion and I will look again at the whole basis on which we provide operating and maintenance assistance for schools and look particularly at the problem of a small school.

Just further to that, Mr. Chairman, I did check this morning into the incident of shortages referred to by Mr. Sibbeston at Thomas Simpson School and to the best of my knowledge that incident where supplies had to be borrowed, I believe from the hostel, occurred in 1980-81, when there was a cutback in all schools in the NWT in the materials and supplies budget. In fact, I recall needing the Hon. Mr. Butters about that when he had this job, but the budget was restored to its proper level in 1981-82. Mr. Butters did that and I now understand there are no indications of shortages such as those which occurred in some areas in the 1980-81 school year, but none the less, I do recognize that we should take a close look at the situation of the small school and I will do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 17.03, schools, \$42,579,000. Mr. Curley.

Expansion Of School In Eskimo Point

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he could confirm to this House that he will in the near future look into the possibility of expanding the present school in Eskimo Point. I believe this coming fall, next fall, that school will be probably handling very close to 400 students. I do not know whether or not he has any plans to increase that school, because as he knows, it is very crowded and the community has been asking for additional classrooms. Could the Minister indicate whether he has any plans through the capital planning in this budget? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, there are no plans to add new school facilities in Eskimo Point in the capital plan. I did make a commitment yesterday to look immediately at the need for more staff in Eskimo Point and report back to the Member as soon as possible, but our capital plan in the Keewatin region is devoted to the Keewatin educational centre, and finishing the replacement school in Rankin Inlet. However, I think when these concerns are raised, it signals the department that we should look at the enrolments and make sure that we are not overlooking any needs that might be coming up, so I will do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.

Proposal To Move School In Pangnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that I raise from my people in Pangnirtung, may not be so good to hear. There is an airstrip in the middle of the town. They have concerns about small children going to school, whether they can move about the school at the end of the strip. We have never heard any concern expressed by the education people. There is one portable classroom and it is very crowded. I would like to ask whether they can move the school away from the airstrip. We have never had an answer. They have answered, but they keep saying that the government has no funds for this type of thing.

The bus for the school children is not in running condition. The kindergarten children have to walk to school in very cold weather. I wonder if the Minister can give this problem his consideration and find funds, maybe. Perhaps next year. I want this to be considered because I have concerns for the young children starting school.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister, can you answer the question?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am informed by Mr. Lewis that this is the first time that the department has heard of a request that the school be moved. I am aware of the problem with the airstrip and concern of people in Pangnirtung about its closeness to the town. I can say for certain that it would be extremely difficult to allocate money to this project this summer as the Member suggests, and I say that not because I feel there is no merit in his suggestion; I think it is certainly something we could look at. However, because there are more pressing needs in the Baffin region, and particularly I feel I have a very strong obligation to another community in the Member's constituency, in Clyde River, to add an addition to the school there -- they were delayed one year on that already and are expecting action to take place in the coming year -- I think we can look at the request, but I would not offer much hope that we can do anything this coming year. Thank you.

MR. FRASER: We lost the quorum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Minister, I am not asking you to take action right away, but to take consideration for the year 1984-85. Each school year there will be more students, and of course...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) We have lost a quorum. Proceed.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, action does not have to be taken right away, but I am concerned in Pangnirtung that there will be some more preschoolers going to school in the next year, so I would like the Minister to take this into consideration, and whether it would be possible to put the school on the other side of the airstrip. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I agree thoroughly with the Member, knowing the situation in Pangnirtung, that when it comes time to build a new school or add a classroom, we should certainly put those buildings on the other side of the airstrip so the young children who live on that side of town do not have to cross the strip to go to school. I think that that is a good suggestion, and I will make sure that that is in our future plans. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Evaluarjuk. Schools, page 17.03.

Maintenance Of Schools

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry that statements I have heard -- I shall continue to make statements on schools. The first concern, it is not only concerning Igloolik, but concerning the schools in the Eastern Arctic. They are having some problems in some communities. Perhaps the Department of Public Works are looking after this, or they are not doing their work very well. For example, in Igloolik school, and including other schools -- Pond Inlet -- this year there have been some students who were unable to go to school because of the weather. If there is bad weather, sometimes it is difficult. Also during the spring or summer days. I think you are well aware of that as you are Minister. That is the first concern that is causing problems. I think you are well informed of that.

Secondly, you are also informed about the request from the Department of Education. You have responded to that, that it was impossible. People in Igloolik are not happy with that. The school in Igloolik is getting to be quite small, and also after three years are over it is well known that there is not going to be an additional school there. I think some of them will not be able to go to school. There is also a problem which you are aware of concerning this huge problem, and if we are going to have to look after our children about diseases, that can be brought up. I think you are aware of that. That is the second statement.

Also, this is not really concerning the schools, but rather the teachers. There have been some requests for additional grade 10 in Igloolik, but when I was informed -- in the year 1981, that is when we can get the results for receiving grade 10 in Igloolik. However, we were told that there are no additional teachers coming to Igloolik. Even though if there has to be a grade 10 in Igloolik, I do not think that is necessary. Your people have to respond to that. In the meantime, there is a need for additional teachers, but I think that it is in the ordinance. That is the third statement.

Also, fourthly, you are well aware that in Igloolik there is a teacher who is a full-time Inuit cultural inclusion teacher or instructor, and that really helps when there is an instructor like that. However, regarding the curriculum on Inuktitut, Inuit cultural inclusion, it is very hard to get some textbooks in Inuktitut, but the Eastern Arctic has been taking consideration of that, and that person who is making the curriculum is taking a lot of time to finish this work, and some of the people are concerned about that. This concern is not concerned with Igloolik, but with other communities, if you understand me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Would you like to respond?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, I would like to try to respond. I am aware of some of the problems that the Member has referred to, as far as the school buildings and structures themselves are concerned -- particularly in Pond Inlet and Igloolik, and there are other communities. In fact, this, I think, is the year of the roofs, as far as schools are concerned. As the Member knows, responsibility for this kind of repair and renovation really rests with the Department of Public Works, and I think he would probably get better answers to his questions if he would agree to ask those questions when the Department of Public Works comes up.

We are kept pretty well informed of what is planned, but I would prefer that the questions be asked at that time. I would ask the Member if he would agree to holding those questions until Public Works comes up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Is it possible that you could bring this up when DPW is at the witness table?

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) I agree with that, Mr. Chairman. Those statements I made earlier about additional teachers requested, I wonder if the Minister will respond to this question, if they will have that or not. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have received a request from the Igloolik education society for additional support for the cultural program in that school, and Mr. Lewis also is aware of the request there concerning grade 10, as I am, but I would like to ask him to respond on my behalf. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Lewis.

Additional Teachers For Igloolik

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, regarding the issue of staffing at Igloolik and many other places, we tried to find a solution to that problem two years ago by allowing communities to decide what kind of staff they would like to have. That resulted in some moneys being made available for people to hire people to provide the program that the community wanted. However, that resulted in six teachers being lost, and this House gave us direction that they would not like us to proceed in that fashion in future, and as a result, the staff that people have asked for have not been made available.

The request that we have received from Igloolik is to provide \$55,000 so that a better program can be offered in cultural inclusion, which would increase the amount of money for that program from \$28 per student, as it was last year, up to more than \$200 a student. In order to provide that program in the Northwest Territories, we would have to ask for an additional \$2.5 million so that other communities could have the same.

The way we could solve the problem for Igloolik, if the society were to agree, would be to return to the agreement that we had two years ago whereby the \$55,000 could be made available and they would then manage with the current level of staffing that they have, but would have that money to hire the cultural instructors that they want. If they wish to have the grade 10 program, which we have been working on for three years now, we had anticipated that only one more teacher would be required to offer that program. However, if a society wants to offer a grade 10, the same as a grade 10 in Yellowknife or in Frobisher, then they would require to have more than one teacher to provide a full academic program. That is why the grade 10 program has not been extended to as many places as have asked for them, simply because to have the same program as exists in the regional centres we would have to have more than one additional staff member because of the wide variety of subjects that would have to be taught. However, if Igloolik would agree to offering the community program that we have been working on, then we could find that extra staff position to deliver that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. On page 17.03, \$42,579,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to pursue further the very important and critical school and classroom space problems in Eskimo Point. I do not think they can be ignored any longer. I am not expecting any solution to the classroom space problems this fall, but I believe the Minister is going to have to have guidance from the local education authority to examine the very essential requirements to be able to carry out a school program in Eskimo Point. They are having a very critical classroom shortage and space problems. It does not look like they will solve that either this coming school year. It could be that they may not be solved by the coming year either, like a year after.

Motion That The Minister Of Education Examine Shortage Of Space In Eskimo Point School, Carried

So I would like to recommend and I do move that this Assembly recommends to the Minister of Education that he consult with Eskimo Point local education authorities and examine with them the present critical school classroom space shortages, taking into account the present enrolment of school children and next years projections.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Can we have a copy of that motion? Your motion is in order. Do you want to speak to your motion, please?

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, the present facility is a big school which was built sometime in the late 60s. It is not like any modern school where you can add an addition to it easily. It is very complex, sort of scientific -- the machinery there, eh? It is not a very decent facility to be seen in a Northwest Territories community. So I would ask the Minister to take a good look at that school and consult with the local education authority to see whether or not they can find a way to improve the critical space problems that they do have. Presently, I think, the Department of Education has been trying to find old buildings here and there and renovate them, and therefore it is not a strange thing to see a number of little buildings around that red complex in Eskimo Point. So I would ask him to consult with them very soon so that they do have a plan sometime this spring, if they are to expect any kind of capital plans to be included in next years budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour of that motion? Down. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Total O And M, Schools, Agreed

Page 17.03, O and M, schools, \$42,579,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Continuing Education

Thank you. Page 17.04, continuing education, O and M, \$2,402,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I just have one short question on continuing education, and it has to do with the Edmonton office and the services that it provides students. I was just wondering if the Minister could give us the details on which people and positions are being moved out of the Edmonton office to the Territories; which are staying in Edmonton; and exactly what the people that stay there and that move will be doing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

Edmonton Positions Transferred To Yellowknife

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am not sure if this is in continuing education, but I do not want to quibble with the place this question is asked. Mr. Chairman, to answer the question we are consolidating student services -- or repatriating student services to the Northwest Territories and to the headquarters of the Department of Education. The Edmonton office will continue to have one counsellor available to deal with handicapped students, and certain needs of students in the Edmonton area for counselling. The remaining positions will be transferred and integrated with our existing headquarters staff in Yellowknife in an attempt -- or to the effect of providing some savings. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I thought that you had just approved page 17.04 and that we are now on page 17.05, but...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): You stopped me at page 17.04.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes. Everybody said, "agreed", and I thought we had moved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): That was me.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: If it is all right, I shall just continue. When you move the people from Edmonton to the Northwest Territories, do you intend to continue some sort of a counselling process for the first year students, and for students that are going to be going into post-secondary education, will you be advising them while they are still in high school, taking advantage of Mr. Servant and the other people in the Edmonton office who have experience in this area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Where are we now? I am lost. I am on page 17.04, still. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There will continue to be one counsellor in Edmonton, as I suggested. Our man years in the area of student support will be concentrated in the Territories. We are hoping that we can retain the services of Mr. Servant, but that position will now be based in Yellowknife, and will continue to function as a supervisor of the student financial aid program. Also supporting this program will be a manager of student services and the loan clerk and financial clerk functions, which we will be integrating with our present expertise in the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are you on page 17.05?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Sure.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Do you want to get approval of page 17.04 first?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Somebody else has a question on page 17.04, I believe. You finish your question, and we will go back to 17.04. Okay. Mr. Kilabuk. Page 17.04.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, continuing education, page 17.04. My question might not be too much of an emergency, but the people that want continuing education in my community, they usually want to go to the adult education; they are very interested in getting further education, but the adult educator went to school for a whole year and in February he is going to be finished. I think that one adult educator is not enough for the whole community for people who want to keep continuing education. Some adult education association asked for an additional educator. Would the administration agree to their request, because there are a lot of people in Pangnirtung who would like to have more adult educators? Can I get an answer, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, last year, due to financial restraint, there was a requirement that we reduce the number of adult educators throughout the Northwest Territories, mainly by freezing vacant positions. However, this year we have been able to add three and a half new positions to the adult education or continuing education program throughout the Northwest Territories, and they have been very carefully parcelled up throughout the regions in the Territories. In the Baffin there will be one new position. The regional superintendent has advised me that the very best way, in his view, to take advantage of this extra position that will be available in the coming year would be to have a person serving the whole region whose job would be to try and co-ordinate requests from the communities for extension programs which could be delivered from Thebacha College in Fort Smith, or, indeed, from Frobisher Bay, and his view is that this would be the very best way of improving the service to all communities.

The superintendent accepts advice from the Baffin region education society and that, if Pangnirtung were to bring to that society a request that that position should go to Pangnirtung, this would be seriously considered, but his opinion now is that it would be best to try and use that new position to benefit all the communities in Baffin. I will take note of the Member's suggestion and discuss that with the superintendent. I would suggest that he should pursue it through Pangnirtung's representation on the regional education society. Thank you.

Total O And M, Continuing Education, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Continuing education, page 17.04, total O and M, \$2,402,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, College Programs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Okay. Page 17.05, college programs, total O and M, \$5,961,000. Do you want to continue, Mr. McLaughlin?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only other thing in this part that concerns me is the issuing of cheques to the students for their living allowance which right now is done I think on a monthly basis. How will you disburse this money to the students after March 31st?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, we are planning on using the mail and if there are problems, there are ways of getting around those problems with courier service or transfers. I am aware that students in places like Labrador, where I visited two students attending district vocational school this year, had experienced considerable delays, and I have tried to act on every one of those problems as they came up, but we will certainly endeavour to mail the cheques early enough so that the students are assured of receiving them well in advance. It certainly would not appear to be a problem with the majority of our students being in Alberta. It certainly would not appear to be a major problem getting cheques to them on time, but I am concerned about providing a good service in the other, more far-reaching areas. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin.

Counselling Services For Students From The North

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Just one other general comment in this area is that, when talking to Mr. Ritcey in Ottawa, he emphasized to me how important it was to have counselling for students from the North, especially native students to make sure that they are able to find housing and for all the other problems that can happen to anybody who goes out to the South for the first time. He really emphasized that you had to have a lot of counselling service for these students -- and he was always in a battle to have a lot of money -- and I know he spends a lot more money per student than we do. Then, going back to this Carcajou report that was done by a company in Edmonton, to evaluate the Edmonton office, their recommendations were that, in order to better serve the students of the Northwest Territories, the number of counsellors and staff in the Edmonton office should increase; in fact what we have done is decrease those people. I was wondering why the contradiction from what Mr. Ritcey advises, who you yourself, Mr. Minister, have said runs an excellent program in Ottawa. His advice is certainly that you need lots of counsellors and help for students. Then an evaluation of the Edmonton office says we need more people and your department goes and takes everybody out of the Edmonton office. I was wondering what the logic of this is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: First of all, not everybody is being removed from the Edmonton office. There will be a counsellor there. Secondly, the rationale for establishing the Edmonton office admittedly was to look after native students who might have, perhaps, special problems adjusting to the urban life. Unfortunately, to date -- I hope this situation improves -- we only have a very small portion of the total number of students leaving the Territories for higher education that are native students. I could dig up the figures here, but I think it is probably no more than 10 or 15 per cent. There certainly will be one counsellor there who could, I think, quite adequately look after their needs.

Transfer Of Administrative Functions To Headquarters

The main functions that have been transferred are administrative functions and they will continue to be carried out. Hopefully, it will cost us less than it is costing now, since we are able to consolidate it within our existing headquarters function and blend some of the functions of other staff members in the accounting clerical area with those duties.

I agree that it would be desirable if we could have a personal cheque delivery service and more and better counselling availability for the students, but this is an austerity measure in order to try to meet some of the other demands that are being placed on the department. I might also mention that these institutions often do have counselling available to them -- to students -- as part of the institutions themselves and we will just hope that our students can avail themselves of the services in those areas. This was not an easy decision to make, but I am confident that it is the right one, notwithstanding the recommendation of the Carcajou report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Just one more thing. The people left in the office in Edmonton, actually two of them will be employees of the Executive and one of them will be an employee of Economic Development and Tourism, is that right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that various departments of government, principally Education and Economic Development, but also, I think, to some extent Information Services, are co-operating in a fashion to maintain that office. I hope students from the North will still feel that it is a place that they can drop in and visit, read northern newspapers and the sort of things that they have always done. But we are hoping that locating the office in Yellowknife will provide an even better level of service, in the sense of cost, than we have been able to provide to date. It is in no way a reflection on the performance or dedication of those employees in that office. They have -- we all know -- done an excellent job, but this is a move at administrative efficiency. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard. College programs, page 17.05.

Few Mackenzie Valley People Attend Thebacha College

MR. SIBBESTON: (Translation) In Fort Smith they have Thebacha College. A lot of people in the Mackenzie Valley, they do not go to Thebacha College. I do not know the reasons why it is like that. At Thebacha College and AVTC in Smith, they are probably spending a lot of money to get education -- people in education to have better facilities. I do not know why in Mackenzie Liard there are not enough students going to AVTC. In Simpson there are quite a few people that they are going to apprentice in AVTC courses, but they get these people from the government, but not the native people -- the government people are the ones who need to take the apprentices. They have, at Thebacha College, good schooling, but not enough of our people -- they do not know about it. I have seen the head man of Thebacha College and had a good talk with him. How would you get our people to go to Thebacha College in all Mackenzie Liard? Sometimes when the government talks, the native people do not know what the government is talking about. Some of the government people they have cannot talk Slavey to the native people, so that is the reason why it is no good. In Mackenzie Liard they have a lot of people from Education. I want them to be going to communities of mine to discuss with the people they have, how the people from Mackenzie Liard will go to Fort Smith to Thebacha College. Last spring I went to Fort Smith for one day. At Thebacha College there are hardly any native people that go to school there. I wonder if you could tell us how many Inuit or Slavey in our region they have got going to school in Fort Smith in Thebacha College.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Statistics Of Native Students Enrolled At Thebacha College

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, it is not true that there are few native people attending Thebacha College. In fact, I would say that there are only a few non-native people attending Thebacha College. There are a majority of native students at Thebacha College most of the time. The enrolment, of course, changes from one month to the next, because people are finishing courses and starting courses, but as of September, 1981, for example, we had 155 students enrolled in various courses. Of those, only 40 were non-native people, or about a third. The rest were native persons. There were 53 Inuit and a total of 62 Dene taking courses such as basic training for skill development, clerk typist, graphic arts training, housing maintenance, heavy equipment operation, social worker. There were five in the first year of the teacher education program, three Dene in the second year and four Dene in each of the two years of renewable resources and the Metis, who have been sort of segregated in this particular table I have, also were particularly well represented in renewable resources, with five in the first year and two in the second year. So, I would have to take some issue with the Member's comments. In the area of apprenticeship the native people may well be underrepresented. That is a matter that does not fall under the responsibility of this department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, I will just say again that in my area or from my area I know that for some reason there are very few people that go to AVTC. Either people do not know about it or are not up to it, but I know from our area -- I really believe this -- that there are very few Dene and Metis people that go to Thebacha College. I think at the moment there is one person that I am aware of from Fort Simpson that is there and from Liard I suspect there is nobody; from Wrigley, nobody; Jean Marie River, nobody; Trout Lake, nobody; Nahanni Butte, nobody; and on and on. So, sure, there might be through your statistics a certain number of Dene and Metis people, but not from our area. I really feel they must be from Smith, they must be from Yellowknife, they must be from Inuvik. I really feel that there are not very many Dene people from the Mackenzie Valley, as such, taking part in the training that is available in Smith.

Communication On Thebacha College Programs Is Lacking

I am not saying this simply to be critical but I am really challenging the government to do something about it. I keep saying this government does not communicate very much with the Dene people. There is no communication going back and forth. There are no TV programs in Slavey about AVTC. There is nothing on the radio about AVTC. The press releases that are sent out are in English. So, really there is no communication between this government as such and the communities. I suppose maybe it is my job to provide that and I certainly do what I can when there are meetings with government, but I just really feel that Thebacha College needs to do a major job of selling itself, telling the people in my constituency about all the wonderful programs that are available, all the things that they can learn.

Part of the problem is that there is a lack of apprenticeship positions in our area. The territorial government in Simpson has a number of apprenticeship positions open and they are usually filled with native people, so the government is doing as best they can in Simpson. Peter Worley is in charge of DPW and I think he has to be commended for the good work he is doing. The government in Simpson though, in the area, can only take one carpenter apprentice, one mechanic apprentice, one painter apprentice, and that is it. I know there is one government carpentry apprentice in Simpson -- well that is over in AVTC now. There was a mechanic one in the fall. I am telling you the truth when I say there is nobody from our area and down the Mackenzie Valley and I think the government should take it seriously.

I spoke to Ron Holtorf, who is the principal of the college, about this just last week and what I suggested is that he get in personal contact with the band in Simpson, with the vocational education teacher in Simpson, and make a personal effort to convince people that they should go to AVTC and I am sure he will. But obviously a major job needs to be done. I must say that I did go to Smith last spring. I went to AVTC and I toured the place and I did not see very many Dene people in the trades. At that particular time there were about 20 Dene people that were involved in the log building program. So, that aspect was good, but in the regular trades -- carpentry, electricians, electronics, welding, there is just a very few Dene people. I see white people there and I see a few Inuit people. So, I just feel that millions of dollars are going to Thebacha College but the Mackenzie Valley, the Dene people, are not taking advantage of it. Maybe the Dene do not want -- maybe there is a certain reluctance or maybe it is not the government's fault, but I do think that if the government did a job of telling people about it, communicating with the people, that people would go.

Training Funds For Dene Nation Questioned

The other thing I think that concerns me is that I am aware that the Dene Nation, as part of the Norman Wells deal, are getting \$10 million for training and one has to wonder why they are getting this money. I mean, the government has Thebacha College, which is supposed to educate everybody in the North and for some reason the Dene Nation has deemed that they need their own special funds in order to educate and train people. So, I would like to see what the government has to say about that aspect and also what fantastic or what wonderful things Mr. Patterson and his department can do to get more Dene over at Thebacha College.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank the Member for suggestions that we do more to encourage people from his area to attend Thebacha College and take advantage of these programs that are available. I am not sure where all the Dene and Metis who I mentioned were enrolled in September, 1981, came from. I welcome the suggestion that we should seek applicants and we will follow up on that. I believe generally that we must make the public aware, particularly if they do not speak English, of educational opportunities that are available and make sure that language is not a barrier to them acquiring some trades or skills. I will hope that by this time next year the Member will say that we have been able to attract more people from his area. I take that as a challenge.

Training Funds Administered By Government Of The NWT

Now, I want to very directly correct the statement which the Member made that the Dene Nation are getting \$10.5 million for training as part of the Norman Wells impact. This is not true at all. In fact, the Minister announced that training money would be made available to prepare people for jobs and employment opportunities that might come from Norman Wells, but that money was to be made available to the Government of the Northwest Territories to administer in co-operation with the representatives of the Dene and Metis and that is precisely what we are proposing to do. There has been a joint management committee set up with a working partnership of representatives of the Dene, Metis and this government. They will be very shortly conducting a detailed community by community needs assessment to determine exactly what needs are the greatest, what the communities want in the way of training to deal with these new jobs that are arising and the money will be spent jointly by this management group. In no way should it be seen as an erosion of the territorial government's primary responsibility and jurisdiction in education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that clarifies the question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: The Minister did not deal with why this \$10 million or so was being granted as part of the Norman Wells pipeline project. I mean, is not Thebacha College sufficient? You have a big college in place. If it was doing its job, why, as part of the conditions for Norman Wells, did the Dene Nation and Metis Association press for education funds? Obviously, I think it must be because they think there is a deficiency in the government's training. Otherwise, I suppose they would just fill up AVTC and say that it is doing a great job; no \$10 million is needed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Training Funds For Upgrading To Meet Entrance Requirements

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think the real problem that we face, particularly with adults -- and the Member for the Western Arctic mentioned it, I believe, yesterday -- the real problem that we face is upgrading people to reach the entry levels where they can either have the skills required to perform

a job or else be eligible for some of the courses that are offered here. It is getting to be these days that you have to have at least grade 10 to take even the most basic trades training. I foresee the majority of these training funds being spent simply on that, as providing the allowances to adults so they can afford to attend, hopefully mostly in their communities and get basic adult upgrading so that then they will be eligible for the courses. I think perhaps the Member may recognize that even in his own area, unfortunately, a lot of his constituents who might want to go to Thebacha College need help if they are to obtain the entrance levels. So, there is a great challenge and I think we welcome these funds as a way of making more students available to the course that we already do offer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: Just so I am very clear and can expect a lot of action, can the Minister assure me that there will be special concentration on trying to get Dene and Metis from the Mackenzie Valley into AVTC or else extension programs brought to the communities where such is warranted? I just would like that assurance, because I really do not want to see that situation continue. There is a real void. There is a problem. You have a big school there that is not being used by Dene people. I think you should find out why and take all steps to rectify it and that is why I raise the matter too, about the board of directors.

Mackenzie Valley Not Represented On Thebacha College Board

It just seems, again, the valley gets screwed, because nobody from the valley was named to the Thebacha College board. You know, you have a couple of native people, one from Smith and one from the other end, Inuvik, but what about the valley? I am telling you that this is happening. You are getting native people from the two ends, but nothing from the middle and you had better do something about it and not just a routine kind of an undertaking that, "Well, maybe I will speak to Mr. Lewis or maybe I will speak to Mr. Ron Holtorf -- give him a little phone call." I do not mean that. I mean recognize the situation as a major problem, a crisis, and do something definitely. Have AVTC flood the communities, Dene communities. Get interpreters. Get video. Get sound out to the people as to what is there. Let us have some real Dene action.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I agree. I think we should strive to fill the place to capacity, and I think we know why there are not more native people in Thebacha College already. We do not need to ask why they are not there. They are not there, in large measure, because for no fault of their own they have not had an opportunity to reach the entry levels. So my first priority and I think our government's first priority in participating in this joint management committee which is going to administer these training funds, is to give people the basic education so that then they can decide what they want to do, whether they want to go into the teacher education program, or whatever they might want to do.

The other aspect, I agree, we have to inspire people, particularly in the smaller communities where employment is not readily available -- inspire them to educate themselves and they will find that the world is at their feet. I agree with the Member that there is a lot more that we can do, and I will be working toward that over the coming year. I expect to get a lot of assistance from the new board, and I will certainly make sure that they are aware that they were chosen to represent more than the communities they happen to live in. They were chosen with the viewpoint of representing the interests of all the people in a particular region, and I am confident that they will be of great assistance to us in getting the message out to the communities that these opportunities are here for the taking. Thank you.

Total O And M, College Programs, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. College programs, page 17.05, total O and M, \$5,961,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Student Residences

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Student residences, page 17.06, total O and M, \$3,880,000. Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, I must talk about the student residence in Fort Simpson. The student residence is run fully by Dene people, and I think it is wonderful that it is. They are not without some problems, though, and a lot of it is financial. The board had a meeting this fall with Mr. Patterson about the financial difficulties that the student residence was having; primarily, things like not having enough money to pay their supervisors well, not having enough money to pay housing subsidies, and not having enough money for some of the things, I guess, that other hostels just take for granted. I need not tell the Minister because he was at that meeting and he was told about some of the problems. I understand that he has responded in helping out the student residence to the extent of about \$75,000 for this fiscal year.

However, there is still the large problem of getting enough money to pay supervisors on a par with other student residences in the North. The administration and board of directors, too, have thought that there need to be extra moneys to provide more supervisors than are presently hired, because the students that go to Simpson come from the little communities and it is quite a cultural shock, quite a change for the students that come to a residence, so they need more attention, more help in adapting, in coping with the school, for instance. So it is not like a normal hostel like, maybe, Yellowknife, where the students that come are generally older and have experience so can cope fairly well without needing a lot of personal attention.

Students In Fort Simpson Hostel Need Extra Supervisory Help

The other thing is that some of the students that are in that hostel in Simpson are students of parents who are having difficulty, a lot of alcohol problems, or else students that Social Services has placed in the residence, so some of them are not normal and need extra help. So I know the board of directors asked the government to at least provide enough money so the supervisors working there can be paid the same as a supervisor in other hostels, particularly those in Akaitcho Hall here; and also some money to provide extra supervisors. Also, money to provide a bit of a housing subsidy, because the residence is having a hard time keeping good employees because their pay was so piddly with no housing subsidy. Other companies or other agencies in town could provide them with more pay, so they would invariably leave. Certain things were needed to be done so that the hostel could be brought up and in a real good working condition. I just wonder if the Minister, in his present budget, has budgeted for an increase in the things that I have talked about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am well aware of the problems that the Member has raised. It is a very complicated question. I am not trying to dodge it. I think Mr. Stapleton, the superintendent there, is working with the society to try and come up with a revised budget to meet their needs, but as I told the society when I met with them -- I guess it was this summer -- on a per pupil cost, we are paying far more to look after one student in Fort Simpson

than we are, for example, in Akaitcho Hall or Inuvik. Now, that is not to say that there are not real needs, but I think we are going to have to have some hard talks with the society about just what level of staff that they feel they should sustain there. For example, with an enrolment last year of 58 students, there was a total staff of 16 people. Yet with 173 students in Yellowknife we had 20 staff, and 16 staff looked after 150 students last year in Grollier Hall. I recognize that there may be special needs with younger students in Simpson, but these questions are going to have to be considered carefully.

Problems With Budget Funding Of Koe Go Cho Society

The other problem that I see with Koe Go Cho -- I should not say it is a problem -- but the other thing that we have to separate from the residence budget is the cost of operating the society. Right now, the society administration, travel for society meetings, and all that sort of thing is considered as part of the residence budget. I really think, as I have told the honourable Member, and as I have asked the society themselves to consider, that what they should do is incorporate themselves, or offer to become an area educational authority. Then they could be funded as an education advisory body similar to other bodies that the department supports in other areas and regions of the Territories. We could split off the costs of operating the society from the operating costs of the residence and deal with them separately and thereby not confuse all these costs in the one budget. I think that would solve a lot of the problems that we are facing now with the budget.

I feel confident that before the coming year these matters can be worked out with my staff in the region with the society. I am sure the honourable Member will continue to aid that process. In other words, we need to develop a new budget in the coming year, and the solution of finding \$75,000, which we were able to do out of the regional budget within the last couple of weeks to cover a deficit, is no real solution at all. We have to look at the whole overall costs for the year realistically, establish a new budget and make sure that the society feels they are able to stick with it. I think that can be done over the next couple of months. I am sure I will get some help if I need it from the honourable Member. So that is the solution as I see it there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley, do you want to speak? You have only two minutes. Take it or leave it for tomorrow. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion. All those in favour? Did you hear the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-82(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1982-83

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-82(1) and wish to report progress with one motion being adopted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Are there any announcements? Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just make a brief statement concerning one of our Members. Mr. William Noah, the MLA from Baker Lake, will be having an exhibition of early drawings at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre on Thursday, February 18th, at 10:30. It is gratifying to know that we have an artist in addition to Mr. Wah-Shee in our midst, and I would just like to take this opportunity to invite all Members to come to this official opening of Mr. Noah's exhibition. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow, Wednesday, there will be a meeting of the special committee on education in room 301 at 9:30 a.m. Members will recall that at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow is the luncheon meeting in Katimavik A with the Science Advisory Board.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 17, 1982.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Address
3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Notices of Motion
9. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
10. Motions
11. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
12. Second Reading of Bills
13. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bill 1-82(1); 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., February 17, 1982.

---ADJOURNMENT

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