



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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 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, Mr. Noah, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Hon. Don Stewart, Hon. Kane Tologanak

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Yesterday we had some unfinished business, a request from Mrs. Sorensen that the word "racist" be struck from the records. Mr. Curley, at that time we wished to have a look at the verbatim reports. Are you prepared at this time to withdraw your statement?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have not as yet read the transcript. Maybe the Member who asked me to withdraw it could confirm that. If it is in the transcript, then I am prepared to withdraw it, but I have not had time to look at it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. For your information, Mr. Curley, it is. I understand then, that you are asking that this be withdrawn from the records.

MR. CURLEY: I do, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 17th.

Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley's Reply

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in Inuktitut for a while. I am glad that we can meet again in the House where we are going to be dealing with the Northwest Territories budget which will be used for the coming year. We can also try to help our people, and also, concerning the motions that have been made, I have been thinking that they have to be looked over, which would satisfy the Executive Committee, and I think the government administration has been given some priorities by the MLAs. We are not trying to make them work too hard. We are not saying these things to them because we are not happy with them, but the thing is we want to let them know that even though we are far away we have to be listened to by the government administration. Even though we live far away from headquarters, we do not want them to forget about us. I just wanted to reply to the Commissioner's Address. Especially in the Keewatin district, the people going back and forth are meeting in different communities. I want to help the Commissioner and the senior government officials.

Good Co-operation In The Keewatin

The hamlet councillors are really doing their job well in the Keewatin. The regional government and the settlement councils are beginning to work together. We Inuit people, we are trying to work with the government. I can also state that right now I am very happy that -- please stand up, Michael Kusugak. I stated yesterday that his uncle died. I would like you to be aware -- his name was Ussak and he was helping a lot. I can state that he is the assistant regional superintendent for Local Government for the Keewatin region, and I can also state that he is a person, a native working as the assistant to the superintendent of Local Government, and looks after the communities and development in communities. For example, the Keewatin wildlife federation is co-operating, and I also would like you to be aware that as a spokesman for that organization, I would like you to recognize them. They will be needing some support because the organization is always short of funding, and when there are no funds available the mandate they have will not be finished. I will be talking in English to get my communications across. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be taking part again in the debates in this chamber. I think it is important that we are able to express our feelings and our concerns to this House without having to be inferior because our regions are so far remote and so on, and I would like to inform this House of the development of the region that I represent. Keewatin South is pleased to be able to report through me that there are a number of developments that must be recognized. I indicated some of them; local governments, Keewatin wildlife federation, but I would also like to state that in the Keewatin we have a very active chamber of commerce.

Keewatin Chamber Of Commerce

I think it should also be recognized by this House that the chamber of commerce is concerned with the Keewatin economy. They have made a number of representations to the Minister of Economic Development, and I would like him to know that if he is re-elected to this portfolio that he must and should be able to communicate with that body as regularly as possible rather than waiting for annual visits to the region and so on. They are concerned with a number of issues; improving transportation, improving the rights of the small businessman to enable him to have first choice in terms of acquiring contracts, whether they be government contracts, construction contracts. I think these are very serious issues that will have to be dealt with and improvements made, particularly with the Housing Corporation formal bids that the government normally issues. The small contractors are concerned that they are not being given proper attention when the contracts are issued to the government, or that there are perceptions in the region that the officials of the Housing Corporation tend to deal with tenders behind the scenes and make deals without asking for a fair share of consideration when they are bidding for the government contracts. I think we will have to look at that seriously, whether or not there are conflicts of interest, and the performance of the officials of the Housing Corporation in the field, because we have to get this kind of mistrust between the Housing Corporation officials and the contractors completely open and clean it up if we have to. I think that will be an issue that we will want to address when we deal with the Housing Corporation's estimates.

Private Entrepreneurs Should Be Encouraged

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned with an ongoing concern of my region, particularly shipping and freight-forwarding, that the private operators must be supported by this government, and that the government must stop paying lip-service to those private operators, and allow them to be able to compete in delivering freight and so on. This government must support them, whether it be through renegotiating the terms and conditions that they have for the Northern Transportation Company

Limited. The Commissioner, John Parker, assured me one year and a half ago in this House that he would go back to the Northern Transportation Company Limited and renegotiate that agreement to allow the private operators to have a role to play in developing that part of the economy. I think it is important that this government and this Legislative Assembly support the northern economy, support the Keewatin economy.

So far we have been supporting the federal government economy, federal government revenue by continuing to support crown corporations like NCPC and NTCL. I said the other day that it is about time we stopped supporting federal crown corporations and supported our own corporations in the Northwest Territories to provide that service to our people. I really believe that we should no longer be sitting comfortably in our offices in the headquarters and be satisfied with those contracts, those agreements. They should be redrawn to reflect the desires and the competition, the will of the private entrepreneurs, so that they can have a role to play in these very difficult economic times that we now have. That goes for other government supply services that this government supports. There have been cases in my region where the department of supply services issues a contract for oil delivery to some people who live down south. Once they get the contract, they go back down south and return when the summer months have come around.

I think we must provide opportunities for local operators, whether they be co-operatives or private northern community incorporated businessmen. That is the only way that we are going to be able to provide jobs and ensure that the revenues that should be accrued by the communities stay in the community rather than be taken out, which is a common practice, particularly with the Housing Corporation, the Department of Public Works, contracts issued by this government. If we mean what we say in supporting the northern economy, I think first of all we must redraw the government regulations and quit playing around, interfering with government interventions, anything against private interests, private operators. That, I think, we must take seriously if we are serious about improving the northern economy.

Air Service To The Keewatin

So these are the few concerns that I have, Mr. Speaker, but I also would like to talk about the air transportation. I think it is of continuing interest to the Keewatin people. Keewatin people have gone through a very difficult two years of frustration with regard to regional transportation, particularly with Calm Air. That, I think, should be recognized by the Assembly and the government that Keewatin people do not deserve to be treated in such a frustrating fashion. They recognize the only means to move passengers and goods and services is mainly by air transportation. The government should not condone that the kind of service that the Keewatin people deserve should be one of frustration and -- for all the other regions. People in Keewatin should not have to be angry about the regional carrier that they have. We are glad to say that we have a very good service between Yellowknife, Frobisher Bay, and to Winnipeg now, a number of times a week, through Northwest Territorial Airways, and we are glad to see that this Assembly supports that route and transportation as well as the Government of the Northwest Territories.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think we have very interesting visitors these days. We have just had a luncheon with the Science Advisory Board who are concerned with scientific matters in the Northwest Territories. I think they have a very influential role to play in influencing the federal government and scientific community as well as the -- you know, in this business of the resource development in the Territories, as well as the non-renewable resources, and the scientific -- in terms of medical research and so on. I would like to state as far as my region is concerned, we would like to bring them to our side of the North, to our part of the Northwest Territories, and to support whatever they must support for the Northwest Territories.

Regional Hospital For Keewatin

So far, I think the attention by the various agencies supported by this government tends to be in favour of either the federal position or the position of the provinces and so on. I could possibly relate, for instance, that we have in the Keewatin region great difficulty in establishing and in getting major support from the provinces or government agencies to establish a medical hospital in the Keewatin region. I think we should no longer at this time in the history of the Northwest Territories be squabbling about who should provide the services, whether the provincial governments should have control of these institutions that should belong to the people, that should be near or right where the people are. That goes without saying in southern Canada, but how about the more isolated communities? In Keewatin, we have been saying for a number of years, there must be a regional hospital in the Keewatin. It may be that we are asking for too much and that the time may not be right; but if it is so, I would like these experts to tell me that the federal government cannot afford to build an institution for that type of service. If that is the case, the only language that I can understand is "No", because that is clear to me. If it is not possible, then I can understand that, but if there are other reasons, I think they should explain to those of us that are not -- economically -- academically and intellectually able to communicate with these kinds of experts.

Constitutional Development Predicament

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote one of the important Members of a previous Assembly. I think it has some relevance to this predicament that we face today in terms of political development. We have been trying to make headway and improve this crisis that we have with the political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories. We are running into snags and unnecessary blocks here and there, and complications, mainly because we happen to have three different, distinct populations, the white people, the Inuit, and the Indians. But I would honestly like to be able to say to you, and convince you if there is any way that I can, just the fact that we are different, that you are a white man and I am an Inuit and you are an Indian, should not be blocking the future constitutional development of the Northwest Territories. I do not believe that I should be imposing my views -- and mine alone -- on the political and constitutional development ideas that I have. I should be able to sit down with you, sit down with you without mistrust, sit down with you without being suspicious about your motives. If I am serious about the political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories, I am first of all going to have to get rid of these kinds of notions and get on with the real objectives of improving and settling the kind of government that we want to have in the Northwest Territories.

I can honestly say and it is true that we have different political and constitutional development views, maybe, but I would say that it is always a good start that you and I have a different point of view, because when there are different points of view, it is always time for someone to do some kind of action and work toward this. That is when I am excited, when there is work to do. When there is not any work to do, what good is it for anybody? So if we have a different point of view, we should be able to sit down and not for any reason at all get hysterical about it, get all excited about it, and work toward resolving that difference. That is what I like to do in this House, and I say that, to all our Members from the East as well as the Members from the West. I would like to quote a former Member, and I quote, with respect to the Territories, he says, "I considered that three solutions could be envisaged concerning this 60th parallel. First, stay quiet, say nothing, be happy with development of the 10 other provinces."

So to me, I think that quote is relevant. Dr. Hamelin, who was an appointed Member of the Council of the Northwest Territories stated that. So is it better that we do nothing, say nothing, stay quiet and be happy with the 10 other provinces engaging in the great constitutional debate? That is precisely what is going to happen if we just continue to be suspicious of each other and accuse each other of not being represented when, in fact, we could have quite an interesting debate and action taken by this Assembly. I look forward to the day when we are going to be sincere with each other, and when we will move toward developing the Northwest Territories. So, Mr. Speaker, these are the few remarks that I have.

Federal And Provincial Control

I am also, again, concerned with the economy of my region. I think this government should be serious about initiating action before all the provincial governments and the federal government move in to take over some of the opportunities that this government has in terms of taking control of the northern economy. For instance, I referred to Keewatin as having a difficulty with where the hospital should be, because we happen to have a very good facility, as far as hospital facilities are concerned, in Churchill, Manitoba. So is it the position of this government that we continue to support that facility, and therefore not make any recommendations to build a hospital in our part of the area? If that is the case, I think we should be told that that is the position of this government; but if not, if we are concerned about improving the Keewatin economy in terms of freight-shipping and freight-forwarding, we should also look to maximizing Keewatin's economy.

I think that we could probably move to at least making a step forward before the federal government has deprived us of our right to control our own future. I think, for instance, that the Manitoba government is probably very serious in continuing to take all the benefits, as far as the revenues and so on are concerned, that could be accrued by the Keewatin region. They are interested in keeping Churchill, Manitoba as an outpost, a gateway to the Northwest Territories and to the Keewatin region. So, I think this government is going to have to take a very serious look as to how this government can realign some of the agreements that it has with federal and provincial authorities so that the Keewatin region benefits. If it wants to be more aggressive and more determined in protecting the northern interests, I would say that it could also challenge the federal government and all the 10 premiers by annexing Churchill, Manitoba as a part of the Keewatin region.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: You should be serious about that.

---Applause

I say that because Churchill, Manitoba can no longer survive by itself, without the support of the Keewatin people and that region. So, I think I would urge the Minister of Constitutional Development or the Minister of Justice to enter into negotiations with the federal government and 10 other provinces before the constitutional conference takes place and I think the case should be developed. I think Dr. Hamelin at one point had mentioned it in this particular quote that I referred to, but I have not had a chance to review all of it. I will table it once I have reference to it.

No Place For Racial Tension

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we could do a lot more for our people. First of all, the most important thing I think we should get rid of, is this racial tension I mentioned yesterday. It does not have any place in any given relationship

between people. I think if we can do that, that we can succeed in finding solutions to the very difficult constitutional and political development problems we have before Ottawa steps in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I would like at this time to recognize in the gallery Dr. Omond Solandt and members of the Science Advisory Board of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Returning to the orders of the day, replies to the Commissioner's Address.

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 27-82(1): Economic Development Officer In Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development regarding a question that I asked earlier, in 1981. I heard that the Cape Dorset residents were asking the Frobisher Bay economic development officer what was going on, but he did not know. The response he had was that the hunters and trappers needed some assistance from Economic Development. Secondly, about the sewing group in Cape Dorset, there were two questions and I will bring them to the Minister of Economic Development. The superintendent of Economic Development in Frobisher Bay -- can the Minister advise the superintendent that Cape Dorset has no economic development officer in Cape Dorset and they are requesting this for the same group. I am wondering if the Minister of Economic Development can transfer somebody to Cape Dorset from Frobisher Bay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 27-82(1): Economic Development Officer In Cape Dorset

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I remember the questions that the honourable Member put, I believe, at the last session and I answered both of them by letter. The general response, as I recollect, was that he should be best served by drawing the needs of the communities he is representing to the regional superintendent of Economic Development at Frobisher Bay. I am unhappy that it would appear that he has not received a positive response from the regional office. I will check out and determine just what action, if any, is being taken. I also will forward the query he had with regard to the stationing of an economic development officer at Cape Dorset. I will have to communicate with the regional office on both questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 28-82(1): Low Water Levels At The Snare Hydro System

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice and Public Services, who is responsible for the Public Utilities Board. Mr. Minister, I have come across some urgent information regarding the low water levels at the NCPC hydro site at Snare Lake. The Minister will remember that those low water levels have resulted in an additional low water surcharge of some 2.8 cents to the Yellowknife rate base. Mr. Minister, it has come just recently to my attention that the low water levels at this dam site are, perhaps,

not entirely due to nature -- that human error might, in fact, be involved. I admit that this information is based on rumour. However, it is of such significant importance that I would ask the Minister whether he is aware of the possibility of human error being involved and whether he has had discussions with NCPC officials about this possibility of human error?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 28-82(1): Low Water Levels At The Snare Hydro System

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Member will recall that when the issue of the low water surcharge was first raised some months ago -- I believe it was back in May or June -- the government followed very closely the action that was going to be taken by Northern Canada Power Commission. The Member will also recall that when the surcharge was levied the Government of the Northwest Territories, through myself, the Minister of Justice, took action to place an injunction on this surcharge by the Northern Canada Power Commission, because we felt the corporation had not gone through the proper regulatory hearings within the Northwest Territories. Those hearings were held in October, last year, Mr. Speaker, and it is my understanding that after a full investigation by our Public Utilities Board it was understood that a low water surcharge would have to be levied in order that the power corporation could provide the necessary energy to consumers who are on the Snare hydro system, as opposed to Snare Lake system, as my colleague indicated.

I would indicate at this time that I will, obviously, follow up on this rumour or this complaint by somebody that human error has resulted in low water at the Snare hydro system. However, I would just like to state that -- and I do not often do this -- in defence of the Northern Canada Power Commission, they have from time to time over the last few years tried to indicate to the federal government and to their Minister -- or Ministers as they have been over the last few years -- and Mr. Speaker, I assume that you are cognizant of this -- that there is a low water problem in some of the hydro systems in the Northwest Territories and that they did make proposals to the federal government that would have resulted in a diversion of some small rivers, in order that this low water problem could be -- if not 100 per cent corrected, at least addressed in some way. But the federal government has consistently stalled over the past few years in making a decision on this. So, Mr. Speaker, that is basically all I can say at this time. I thank the Member for bringing this matter to my attention. I will immediately approach the Public Utilities Board for additional background and evidence that they collected during their hearing in October, to ensure for myself and for this House and the people of the Territories that human error was not the major factor in the application for and eventual levying of the low water surcharge.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Supplementary To Question 28-82(1): Low Water Levels At The Snare Hydro System

MRS. SORENSEN: Supplementary to that, Mr. Minister, if, as you say, your investigation reveals that there was a significant portion of human error revealed with respect to the low water problem, obviously, there would be a good case for our government to challenge again the surcharge, either through having the Public Utilities Board reopen its case or going back through the courts. Would the Minister be prepared to investigate that as well when he is looking at the human error factor?

MR. SPEAKER: The difference between speeches and questions is sometimes very difficult to ascertain. Mr. Braden.

Further Return To Question 28-82(1): Low Water Levels At The Snare Hydro System

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, I will investigate the charge that has been articulated by the Member. I would, however, point out that with respect to the low water surcharge, it is understood that the corporation and the board will be in touch with each other over the next few months, because if it is the case that the low water problem is, in fact, being reduced, then it is my understanding, anyway, that the low water surcharge may be removed in whole or in part. But that is subject to further testing and investigation by the Northern Canada Power Commission and, obviously further scrutiny by the Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories. So, I guess what I could say in response, Mr. Speaker, is that we are monitoring the low water situation and the corresponding tariff that has been levied by the Northern Canada Power Commission. If, as a result of my investigation, it is shown that there is gross human error or incompetence, I would certainly bring this matter to the attention of the board and the Minister. However, I am not quite sure how successful I would be in having them drop the low water surcharge because of their own incompetence or in having consumers reimbursed for this. You know, quite honestly, we are dealing with a hypothetical situation and I thank the Member for bringing this to my attention and I assure her and this House that I will give it full consideration. Thank you.

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

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for our Commissioner, and I wondered if we could have him come in.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed to bring the Commissioner into the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Question 29-82(1): Airport And Terminal In Baker Lake

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Commissioner. I want to know what he has heard about the airport and terminal in Baker Lake. I was wondering when this would be built. Does he know anything about this? This is my first question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Local Government, who must be absent today with a previous commitment, may have that schedule, but I cannot answer that question at this moment because I am not right up-to-date on the schedule for construction of the terminal at Baker Lake. However, I should be able to have that answer for him by tomorrow at the very latest.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, then, Mr. Commissioner. You will take that question as notice. Mr. Noah.

Question 30-82(1): Construction Of Road To Blueberry Hill

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question about the airport. In the summertime when we have to go to Blueberry Hill, we have to go through the airstrip to have picnics, or if we just want to go to Blueberry Hill for a ride. It is getting too difficult to go to Blueberry Hill because we have to go through the airport and we have to follow the Ministry of Transport

regulations. There is a private road to another hill but there is no road going to Blueberry Hill, so I was wondering if the Northwest Territories government and MOT could make an agreement with each other or get somebody to contract to build a road to Blueberry Hill away from the airport.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

Return To Question 30-82(1): Construction Of Road To Blueberry Hill

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the distances involved, but I would certainly ask for the government to investigate the possibilities of an alternate route to Blueberry Hill and report back to the Member.

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

Question 31-82(1): Time Of Visit By Commissioner And Minister To Fort Liard

MR. SIBBESTON: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask Commissioner Parker when he and the Minister are going to Fort Liard to have a meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 31-82(1): Time Of Visit By Commissioner And Minister To Fort Liard

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am making arrangements right now for the Commissioner and myself and Mr. Sibbeston to travel to Fort Liard on Tuesday, February 23rd, for a meeting with the community on the many significant issues that the Member brought up concerning the RCMP. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 32-82(1): Information On Review On Disposal Of Tailings, Port Radium

MRS. SORENSEN: My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Minister of Justice and Public Services. Mr. Minister, in May of 1981 this Legislature called for an urgent review within the mine safety division in Yellowknife and Atomic Energy Control Board in Ottawa regarding the present status, risk level, and effectiveness of the disposal system used for uranium tailings produced during the 1940s at Port Radium on Great Bear Lake. Would the Minister indicate what information and studies have resulted from this motion and what action must be taken as a result?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 32-82(1): Information On Review On Disposal Of Tailings, Port Radium

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be making a statement later on this afternoon, under returns, which goes into a lot more detail on the whole issue of uranium exploration and drilling and the uranium tailings at Port Radium, so if the Member could wait until that time, I will answer her question in a more comprehensive manner. However, I guess I can just briefly give some information at this time, and we have tried to couch it in terms which I would hope the interpreters and many Members are familiar with.

Federal documentation in this area is incomplete, but the information provided by the environmental protection service states, in essence, as follows: In 1978, samples of the lake bottom sediment at Port Radium showed high levels of radium 226, lead 210, and thorium 230. The significance, Mr. Speaker, of this contami-

nation to aquatic life, including fish, cannot be determined without further detailed follow-up work study. Water samples indicate that there may be somewhat elevated levels of radium 226 in Great Bear Lake near the mine site. This, however, cannot be conclusively stated in the absence of a pre-development data base or adequate sampling on a year-round basis.

Third, the levels of radium 226 are below -- and I stress below -- the maximum acceptable concentration, and near the target concentration as set out by Health and Welfare Canada in their guidelines for drinking water quality, 1978. Finally, in response to the Member's question, we understand that follow-up work on sediment samples of Great Bear Lake is planned for the spring of 1982, and I would just indicate, Mr. Speaker, again, that I have more information which ties this together. I will be making a statement when we get to Item 4, where I believe I am permitted to provide a return.

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

We then go on to Item 4, written questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Written questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 33-82(1): Airstrip At Clearwater Fiord

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a long question and I am directing the question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

In December 1981, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs gave permission to go ahead and use an area of land to construct an airstrip at Clearwater Fiord, 80 miles north of Pangnirtung. The residents of Pangnirtung have not been involved with the planning of the airstrip nor have they been informed. Since the hamlet of Pangnirtung was not informed about the construction of the airstrip, they were not very happy about it. Can the Department of Economic Development and Tourism arrange to meet with the residents of Pangnirtung to discuss the construction of the airstrip?

Since the tourism study is incomplete the people of Pangnirtung feel it is premature to build the airstrip now. In the House, Joe Arlooktoo raised a question. The reply given to him was "Any application received by anyone has to be approved by the hamlet or the settlement." Will the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism do anything about the concerns of the people of Pangnirtung?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Written questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

Question 34-82(1): Lack Of Information From Nurse

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am directing my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. If I gave him an oral question he is probably not going to understand it, so I am going to give it to him in written form. This question is a concern expressed by the residents of Sanikiluaq. A resident had approached the nursing station, wanting information about a patient who was in a hospital down south. He was informed by the nurse that they could not give him the information. The nurse went on to explain that it was not in her job description to give information about patients out of their home settlements, and that it was up to the patient to call home. I would like the Minister responsible to clarify this, as I was asked to get an explanation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Written questions. Are there any further written questions? Returns. Are there any returns? Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 32-82(1): Information On Review On Disposal Of Tailings, Port Radium

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read into the record a report on uranium exploration drilling and uranium tailings at Port Radium. You are aware, Mr. Speaker, that for approximately two years this Assembly has been expressing its concerns over possible danger to persons and wildlife resulting from the exploration for and the mining of uranium. A study has been undertaken to determine what agencies are responsible for the regulation and policing of exploration activities and for the monitoring of the Port Radium mine tailings.

In addition, a review has been made of inspection reports to determine radiation dangers existing in both operating mines; that is, Echo Bay and Terra, and in mines now closed, Rayrock and soon to be Echo Bay, if I could say that, Mr. Speaker. These inspections were made at mines where radiation was present, even though the ore being mined is silver and not in itself radio-active. An attempt was made to determine what role, if any, the Government of the Northwest Territories should take and can legally take in policing the industry.

Now, with respect to a summary of findings in the area of exploration, and more specifically in terms of jurisdiction, our findings indicate that jurisdiction over uranium exploration is mixed, if I can use that term. Authority is shared between the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Atomic Energy Control Board and the federal Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Summary Of Present Situation Re Responsibility

I conclude in one respect, Mr. Speaker, by indicating that there appears to be very little co-ordination between the federal agencies and in our estimation the division of responsibility seems somewhat confused. If I could just briefly summarize what we feel represents the present situation:

- a) There is, of course, no moratorium on the exploration for radiation-producing minerals in the Northwest Territories.
- b) By the legislation, no rules presently exist which specifically address the protection of workers or the environment in uranium exploration and drilling activities, and I stress we are talking about exploration and drilling.
- c) The Mining Safety Ordinance has only in the past been applied where a mine exists. It does not cover all exploration activities -- only those where the ground surface is disturbed -- and the aerial surveys are presently not covered by the ordinance.
- d) The Atomic Energy Control Board no longer requires that a surface exploration permit be granted prior to surface exploration for uranium.

Now, the Science Advisory Board noted in a September, 1980, report that the control of possible exposure to radiation from drill cores and exposed ore or radon gas from drill holes and the containment of radio-active water and debris during exploration is a problem requiring immediate attention. If uranium exploration guidelines are to be developed, therefore, joint consultation needs to be undertaken between both federal and territorial officials. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, my officials have written the Atomic Energy Control Board requesting a meeting at which guidelines for uranium exploration can be discussed.

--Applause

Jurisdiction With Respect To Mining Safety

Mr. Speaker, with respect to a summary of findings on the mining of uranium, I have the following points to make with respect to jurisdiction. Jurisdiction over the safety of uranium mines resides with the Government of Canada. Jurisdiction over safety within other mines, including those in which a radiation danger exists, rests with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment briefly on the current situation in terms of mining, which is as follows. There are, of course, no active uranium mines in the Northwest Territories at present, although there are several inactive ones. Some mines producing other minerals encounter radiation problems, Echo Bay being the obvious case in point, of which we are all aware. Radiation readings have been taken of some, but not all mine sites, including mine tailings, either by officials of the Government of Canada, their employees, or the mining companies involved.

I will just read into the record one more time, Mr. Speaker, the information I gave earlier on. Federal documentation in this area is incomplete, but the information provided by the federal environmental protection services states in essence as follows: 1978 samples of the lake bottom sediment at Port Radium showed high levels of radium 226, lead 210 and thorium 230; the significance of this contamination to aquatic life, including fish, cannot at this time be determined without further follow-up work.

Second, water samples indicate that there may be somewhat elevated levels of radium 226 in Great Bear Lake, near the mine site. This cannot, however, at this time be conclusively stated in the absence of a pre-development data base, or adequate sampling on a year-round basis.

Third, the levels of radium 226 are below the maximum acceptable concentration and near the target concentration as set out by the federal Department of Health and Welfare in their guidelines for Canadian drinking water quality in 1978. I understand, Mr. Speaker, that follow-up work on sediment samples at Great Bear Lake is planned for the spring of 1982.

Area Of Human Health Hazard

The next area I would like to touch on, Mr. Speaker, concerns what I call the human health hazard. Now, a surface radiation survey of all mines known to have radio-active ore, including abandoned mines, was completed in 1980 by the mining inspection services of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The findings indicate that no significant radiation health hazards exist and that the danger to persons visiting abandoned mines varies significantly according to the length of their stay. The report also indicates that it is unlikely that there is any immediate danger in that most sites are located in remote areas and are very rarely visited for long periods of time.

Mr. Speaker, it is the view of the Department of Justice and Public Services that the situation should continue to be monitored, to ensure that environmental dangers do not increase and we are recommending this, Mr. Speaker, because, for example, the degree of erosion of the slag heap at Rayrock mine needs to be periodically checked to ensure that there is not excessive leakage into nearby watersheds.

Further, to ensure the safety of visitors to abandoned mine sites, warning signs must be posted and maintained annually. I indicated, Mr. Speaker, that these are at this time federal responsibilities, but the NWT government will continue to monitor existing active mines.

Radiation Readings At Echo Bay

Now, with respect to one of these mines, Echo Bay reopened, as many of us are aware, as a silver mine in 1964 and we expect that it will be closing in February or March, 1982, which is an unfortunate blow to the economy of the West. But throughout that period between 1964 and up to the present, the mining inspection staff has monitored the mine tailings for radiation -- and here I have to use some of those terms that confused us all during the uranium debate -- radon daughter and gamma radiation. Thus far the readings obtained have been

quite low or similar to the natural background radiation that is inherent to the area. The total mine camp area, including all dwellings, has been checked for both radon daughters and gamma radiation by the mine staff, as well as by mining inspection services. Minor radiation was discovered in one basement room of the nurse's residence and the source of that radiation, Mr. Speaker, was found in part in the concrete foundation of that residence and I am told it was replaced and the radiation level has reduced to normal.

Mining inspection will check the tailings areas for radiation during the summers of 1982 and 1983, at which time it is expected that radiation conditions should reach equilibrium. Samplings of the tailings material will also be taken and assayed for contained radio-active material. At present, Mr. Speaker, I am told there is no danger to the workers and camp residents from radio-activity in the tailings.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize for taking so long. I have just about another page and a half to go. I have some recommendations that I would like to read into the record at this time concerning uranium exploration and also uranium mining, including abandoned mines.

Recommendations On Uranium Mining And Exploration

In the area of uranium exploration, it was recommended that the Government of the Northwest Territories take the lead role in establishing within its legislative competence, and with the assistance of the federal agencies concerned, suitable legislation or rules governing the safety aspects of uranium exploration which would include, among other concerns:

- 1) proper ventilation of the core sheds; 2) the recording of the actual amounts of radiation to which workers are exposed; 3) the analysis of drill cuttings and water for content of uranium, and water which is used prior to its release back into the environment; 4) the sealing of drill holes; 5) the issuing of permits before underground workings or extensive surface exploration is undertaken; 6) the safe confinement of radio-active material unearthed through exploration; and 7) the safety of the general public who may visit exploration sites following their abandonment.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to mine tailings and abandoned mines, we recommend that all existing mine sites, where a radiation hazard may exist, be surveyed by NWT government officials and inspected at intervals to ensure that the safety of the public and workers is protected. In addition, the inspection of abandoned mines should be continued to ensure that danger does not result through the passage of time by natural forces such as erosion. This could also be performed by the NWT government officials in so far as surface monitoring is concerned. We indicate, Mr. Speaker, that sediments and water supply monitoring should be maintained by the federal government.

Guidelines And Formal Reporting System Should Be Established

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, in view of the volume of uranium exploration currently being undertaken in the Northwest Territories, we feel it is imperative that clear guidelines be established and enforced. The mandate should be seen as an extension of the mining inspection services division of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The environmental monitoring required to ensure adequate protection at all mine sites where radiation is present, active or inactive, should be adequately co-ordinated by the federal agencies concerned, and a formal reporting system established which will keep our government, this Legislature, and the people of the Northwest Territories informed. Thank you very much.

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

Reply To Member's Question On Taxation Of Old Age Security Benefits

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may have some indulgence. It is not a reply to a formal question. It was a question raised by the Member for the Western Arctic during the discussion on the budget for Health and Social Services. I would just like to read into the record the reply.

The question dealt with the taxation of old age benefits. I believe I may have misled her as well as the committee on certain particular facts and I would like the opportunity to make that correction now.

I would like to clarify for the information of the Member some issues relating to the taxation of pensioners resulting from the November federal budget. There is a change in the budget which provides for including provincial and/or territorial old age supplements as income, which previously were not included as income for tax purposes. The federal government is aware that this could result in reductions in eligibility for guaranteed income supplement benefits, and the federal government is therefore introducing a consequential amendment to the Old Age Security Act to ensure that such supplemental payments do not lead to the reduction in eligibility. I should also add that even though these supplements are to be included as income for income tax purposes, the payments are also fully deductible.

The end result of all of this is that Health and Welfare Canada is definitely aware of the potential for reduction in the GIS eligibility and are taking steps to correct it. In the final analysis, there should be no increase in taxation or reduction in benefits. I would want to also point out that of old age pensions and GIS, only old age pension payments are declarable as income. The GIS payments are not considered to be taxable.

Housing Corporation Will Use Northern Businesses For Rehabilitation Program

May I as well, then, Mr. Speaker, respond to a comment that was made earlier in my colleague's reply to the Commissioner's Address? The Member for Keewatin South indicated something about the Housing Corporation getting into utilization of northern contractors to provide services. I would like to indicate to the Member and to other Members of this House that the Housing Corporation will be embarking upon a \$14 million rehabilitation program this coming year; 50 per cent of that work is in materials, and I am pleased to indicate to the Member that this year, the Housing Corporation will not be advertising for tenders outside the Territories. They will be only advertising for tenders within the Northwest Territories to develop the contracting business and the building supply business. I think that that is a very big move on behalf of the corporation and the government, seven million dollars worth. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Item 5 in the orders of the day, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 18-82(1), Uranium Mining in Port Radium, NWT; Old Wastes, New Concerns. It is written by Heather Myers for the Native Women's Federation, Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, October, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 19-82(1), Motion Adopted by Constitutional Conference. It is the constitutional resolution passed with no dissenters and only one abstention at the constitutional conference held January 19th, 20th, and 21st in Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. McLaughlin.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to advise you that I wish to withdraw my Motion 23-82(1) dealing with the Public Utilities Board.

Notice Of Motion 25-82(1): Amendment To The Public Utilities Ordinance

I would like to give notice that I will be replacing that motion with the following motion on Friday, February 19th, and I would like to move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it introduce amendments to the Public Utilities Ordinance at the next session to increase the size of the Public Utilities Board.

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

Notice Of Motion 26-82(1): Negotiations To Annex Churchill, Manitoba

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February the 19th, I will move the following motion. Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Frobisher Bay, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it immediately initiate serious negotiations with the appropriate federal and provincial authorities in order to effect the transfer of the town and port of Churchill, Manitoba, and all lands lying north of them within the province of Manitoba, to the Northwest Territories.

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

Notice Of Motion 27-82(1): Sympathy To Newfoundland For Loss Of 84 Lives

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to serve notice that I will be asking for unanimous consent under motions to the following motion. Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik that this Legislative Assembly request the Speaker to convey to the Premier of Newfoundland and to the Speaker of the Newfoundland Legislative Assembly this Legislature's most sincere sympathy in this matter of deep and tragic loss. I am referring to the loss of 84 Newfoundlanders off the coast of Newfoundland.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion.

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

Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

Motion 7-82(1), Review of Rules, Decor, Dress and Practices of the House.
Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion 7-82(1): Review Of Rules, Decor, Dress And Practices Of The House

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for the Western Arctic, that the Speaker or the Members' Services Board, whichever is the appropriate body to deal with such matters, do the following:

- a) To review all rules, decor, dress and practices of this Legislative Assembly with a view to making such rules, decor, Legislative Assembly staff and Speaker's dress and practices more appropriate to the custom and tradition of the people of the North instead of continuing the British practices and styles thus far adopted;
- b) To review the form and style and symbolism of the Mace and consider travelling throughout the Northwest Territories to obtain the views of the people of the North as to an appropriate symbol of authority of the Legislative Assembly;
- c) To report back to the fall session of the Legislative Assembly on its findings and recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, with regard to your paragraph a), to review all rules, if you understand that the rules do not come under the Members' Services Board nor the Speaker, but under the rules committee chaired by Mr. Noah, and it would be our job, then, to turn this part over to Mr. Noah, I will accept your motion as you have given it to me with that understanding. We do not have control of rules.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, this motion is similar to a motion that was made in Baker Lake in 1980. It has been almost two years since the motion similar to this was passed, but not much has happened. So, that is the reason that I am raising it again.

I will say it very clearly, Mr. Speaker, that as a representative of an area of the North with a majority of Dene and Metis, I am, as a representative, not satisfied with the style, decor and practices and dress of this House as it is. The Dene Nation, who represent...

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry Mr. Sibbeston. Do I have a seconder for this motion? I do not see it on my paper. Did we get one? Fine. Thank you. Sorry to interrupt you.

MR. SIBBESTON: The Dene Nation, who represent Dene people down the Mackenzie Valley, are also not happy with this Assembly in respect of dress and decor and the trappings that exist here. In fact, the Dene Nation makes fun of this House and is very cynical of this House as it is. I wish to just point out to the House a poster here that the Dene Nation has published a number of years ago which shows, on the one hand, on the top, the Dene Nation. They show a picture of a meeting which was headed by James Wah-Shee, in fact, when he was president of the organization -- where they show members at the meeting showing their hands and a very informal arrangement. On the bottom they show the territorial Council as it existed. At the time this picture was taken Mr. Hodgson was the Commissioner and it shows him at the front. It shows RCMP all uniformed. It

shows the Speaker and staff members all dressed in black clothes and very formal, a rigid kind of setting. The caption is, "Dene Nation or Colonization?" If any Members want to see it, they are free to do so here. You may ask or wonder, Mr. Speaker, why I am so obsessed or so preoccupied with the issue. Why not deal with substance...

MR. CURLEY: Yes.

MR. SIBBESTON: ...things like budgets, you know, issues that arise in my communities and so forth and forget about the environment in this House here. But my answer, Mr. Speaker, is that I am human, I have a conscience, I have emotion and I have a heart, a very big heart, and I have a responsibility to my constituents and I am affected by the House.

MRS. SORENSEN: You sure do not like mine. You have no heart as far as I am concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Mr. Sibbeston, you have the floor.

Formality Lacks Spirit

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I must say that I grit my teeth every time -- every day that I hear "Order" and see, you know, yourself and officers of the Assembly march in here with black robes, carry some strange instrument and I will say that I do not like the prayer. To me it is meaningless. It is so formal. It is so mechanical and it has no spirit to it and, of course, during the opening days of the territorial Assembly there is more regalia. The RCMP become involved and very much a military element and these days, I must say, some of my constituents in Liard do not appreciate the RCMP very much. So, it is very dazzling, but in all of this dazzlement and so forth, where is the Dene element? Where is the Inuit element? Where is the Metis element in this House, apart from, of course, being here in person?

What it makes me realize, Mr. Speaker, is that someone -- maybe Mr. Hodgson -- but certainly one segment of society, the white people of the North, have imposed their style or their concept of what the Legislative Assembly should look like. They have imposed that on the people of the North and what is at issue here is whether amongst the native people, amongst the Dene, Metis, Inuit, there is a desire to have an important institution like the Assembly more reflective of their culture, customs and so forth. I think the answer that we as native people make, the answer that we give is important, because it says a lot about ourselves and about our future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, every group of people, whoever they are in this world or in this Canadian society -- be they Ukrainians, Polish, Scottish, British, French -- have pride. Their language, their culture, their music is able to survive in this free society and do we in the North want our language, dress, music and customs to continue and flourish? I think that is an important question. Or do we let these things go or let white people, whose language and customs and practices are very different to us, overtake us? I think this is the issue.

Some of you may not think it is as basic or as simple as this. I find some people very impatient and, in fact, rude at times and they should be patient. So, Mr. Speaker, you must remember that people that come to this Assembly get impressions about this House. Now, we have today, as an example, some native people here who are present in this House. We have, for instance, Mr. Herbie Norwegian, the vice president of the Dene Nation. We have Dene Nation staff, Helene Paulette. I have a couple of my constituents who are here, Mrs. Ethel Lamont and I notice Maggie from Fort Providence. There are a number of Dene people from organizations in the House. I ask them, what do they see in this

House? What can they identify with in this House that makes them feel good, that makes them feel proud of themselves, apart, of course, from seeing us? What is in this House that they can identify with? In contrast, the white people that live in the North I think feel very comfortable with the setting. I see a lot of white people in here and I am sure they must feel very comfortable, because all the things that are in here are from their culture.

MR. CURLEY: Why should they not? Why should they not feel comfortable?

Identifying With Surroundings

MR. SIBBESTON: I think they should, but Dene should also feel comfortable. That is what I am saying. Of course, people from the South too -- yesterday we had a number of white people from the South, I believe from the Globe and Mail or some such organization -- who were here and what was the impression they would have had? I think they would have had an impression that "Gee, it is just like the South." We have the same type of chair. We have the same type of characters sitting around with black robes, the same type of Mace, you know, and pictures of the Queen and King and the trappings really are all the same as they see in Ontario and in the South. So, the people from the South feel comfortable, identify with this. The white people from the North here feel very comfortable, but what about the Dene and Metis people? This is my point. I would say that there is nothing in this Assembly at the moment for them to identify with to feel proud about.

So, I would say that a Dene that comes in here to see this Assembly, if he or she has pride about himself, would ask about themselves, "Well, what is the matter with the Dene and Metis people that are Members of this House? Are they so weak? Are they so washed out? How come they are so dominated by white people? Are the native people in this House not able to insist that some of the decor and regalia here also comes from the Dene?" I am sure Dene people must wonder about that and they must wonder about people like me, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Nerysoo -- are we a bunch of weaklings, are we scared of the white people or are we afraid to insist that our culture be part of this House here?

Dene Culture Rich And Strong

I am sure some Dene people wonder and this is where I begin to think and I say no, the Dene are not so weak. They are not so washed out. The Dene do have their culture. It is rich and strong, particularly in the communities where the effect of the white technology, the white culture, has not been so imposed. I see the Dogribs, for instance, as a very strong and proud bunch of people. I had the good fortune to see Chief Arrowmaker here at a meeting last week and he is a great orator. He is great man. I know Chief George Joachim, who is from Mr. Fraser's constituency -- he is also a good and very strong Dene leader. Jim Antoine was here a couple of days ago and I have a great deal of respect for him, because I think he is a good, though be it younger, Dene leader. William Betthale from Fort Liard -- we are going to be seeing in Fort Liard in a few weeks -- he is a strong Dene person. I had occasion to talk to John Snowshoe, the head of the settlement council for Fort McPherson, a couple of weeks ago. He is a very proud and strong man. Herbie Norwegian, of course, is a very strong and good man and Georges Erasmus. I would say that Mr. Erasmus was one of the outstanding native leaders in all of Canada, at this show when we were down in Ottawa. So, I just think there are a lot of -- you know, the Dene people; Dene culture and so forth is very strong and alive and I think should be beginning to express itself in this Assembly.

Ability To Change Procedures

The answer, of course, is white people are not going to do it for us. The answer, of course, is that we, as native people, have to do it ourselves. We must insist that our culture be reflected in this House. We have the ability or

means to change or tear down some of the decor, practice, and change, you know, the procedures that are used in this House so that it is more reflective of the Dene, Metis and other native people's cultures. The House is one place. This Assembly here is one place that we can make changes. We do not need the federal government. We do not have to go to Ottawa and ask the federal government to change things. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very ironic that these days the Dene, Metis, the Inuit leaders are taking the lead and organizing and getting constitutional changes for people of the North and the Dene and Metis people say that they want a form of government more in the style and tradition of the Dene. Native people are the majority in this House, but here we are in this House set up on the British colonial system.

It seems to me that we ought to at least be changing and deal with a matter like decor and stuff in this House. We are not even, it seems, able to do this or there is not the spirit or desire amongst native people to do this. They are talking of changing and setting up a government, you know, which is much, much more difficult than simply changing a few pictures and putting a few more native items in here.

So, I say to talk of change in the constitution for the North and do nothing about the things that we can change here is being hypocritical and it is not being serious and you are just simply playing around with native groups who have just suggested forming an alliance with this Assembly. It is just an attempt to appease them or make individuals look good. It reminds me of a slogan of Alcoholics Anonymous, which is God, help me to change the things I can and help me accept the things that I cannot change. So, I just feel we are in a situation where we can, in fact, change things, but for some reason it just does not get changed.

Changes Member Would Like To See

Now, I would like to deal with the types of changes that I would like to see. Sometimes it has been said that, well, you do not -- you just criticize. You just always knock the government. You do not tell us precisely what ought to be done, so I will give you the steps that I think ought or could be taken. Firstly, in respect of interpreter services, I feel that this Assembly should have interpreter services so that all native people now and in the future who wish to speak their language can in fact do so, not in a little haphazard or a very crude manner that we have now -- it is not working very well -- but much like what the Inuit have, booths for simultaneous translation. So there may be some of us here who do not want to use a native language, but there are other people who will be coming behind us, who, I am sure, will be perhaps a little braver or will insist on speaking their language.

The second thing that I think could be changed is that of dress. I think that the rules at the moment are unfair. I say that they are a bit stifling. I think the rules should be amended to state clearly that all people, all elected Members of the House, have a right to dress according to their culture and customs, and that such dress is more appropriate than even wearing suits. Somewhere in the past some impression was given that it was better for everybody in here to wear a suit, like maybe it was even more civilized for people, even if they do not come from the white people's culture, to all wear ties, like on page 500 of Simpsons Sears.

Suggestions For Decor

Third is the decor, Mr. Speaker. I think that the Speaker or the Members' Services Board should commission Dene art, particularly in the area of sewing. The Dene in my constituency, in Jean Marie River, are renowned for their moose-hair tufting, and all tribes in the North have special sewing arts. I think we should get some Dene art from the five regions of the North. I cannot afford myself to buy a big piece of sewing that is done by the ladies in Jean Marie River, so this is why I suggest that the Speaker or the board commission such sewing and other art that they may think of.

Another aspect that could add greatly to the decor in here is hides. I think the North is famous for its polar bear hides, and we should have a few of them draped in this House. Maybe a polar bear hide can be used for the Speaker to sit on, or else he can have it to lay his weary feet on...

---Laughter

For the Dene and Metis, we do not have polar bears, but we have beaver skins and we have black bears -- Mr. Fraser knows about black bears in Norman Wells, and he tells us stories about that. Why not capture one, shoot one, get its hide and bring it to this Assembly, because it is something from our part of the North and from the people. Of course, we have moose, we have caribou hides, I think, which could be very evident in this House. From the Delta, Ms Cournoyea, we could have muskrat or we could have musk-ox. I do not know what you could have in Yellowknife. I do not know what animals exist in Yellowknife...

AN HON. MEMBER: Ravens.

MR. SIBBESTON: ...wildlife. So there is just a lot of good material, I feel, that could be used to colour up and make the Assembly here a little bit more northern.

Chair Of Northern Materials

Now, I must say something about the chair that Mr. Speaker is sitting on. I think it is nice in many ways. It looks nice, and it is rather impressive, but really it is not from the North. I understand it was made in Ottawa a number of years ago. That in itself should be revolting to many of us, just the fact that it came from Ottawa. I would say, true, that it was presented to this Assembly at a time when the Assembly and Ottawa officials thought we were on the way to the British Westminster model of government. They really thought we were headed down that road, much like the provinces had done; but of course all of this has changed for the better, and I really think we should have our own chair made in the North. As far as ideas for the chair, there is lots of good material that a chair could be made of. It could be made of spruce or birch. From my area, there is a beautiful diamond willow, a very ornamental type of wood that is being used by some people in our area for making decorative things. You could have gold inlays on it. You could even have, for those like Mr. Butters and others that are really concerned about the oil and gas industry in the North, you could have an encased pool of oil and gas.

---Laughter

For Mr. McLaughlin, from Pine Point, he could have a little lead and zinc somewhere. From Fort Smith, my good friend, Mr. McCallum, he could have a buffalo head mounted. For the Inuit, maybe some Inuit can go hunting and bring back a polar bear head and mount it on a chair. For the Dene we could have a teepee style of canopy; there is a bit of canopy, but for the Dene, maybe a little bit more teepee fashion. So, you know, we can use a little imagination. We could even have the territorial tartan that Mr. Parker likes and was involved in, I believe, some years ago. We could have that somewhere. So generally I guess my point is that we can use our imagination and do things ourselves and colour up the place, make it a place where people can see things, can identify with, and so forth.

Now as with regard to the dress of the Speaker, I feel that our Speaker should have the fanciest formal wardrobe in the North. He as the Speaker represents all of us here. I must admit now that the present cloak is pretty drab and unimaginative, more like a judge or lawyer in England. I think we should get the best clothes makers in the North and sewers to design a wardrobe for our Speaker. We could have a combination of ordinary material -- we could have a little bit of the black robe now, just for old times' sake...

---Laughter

...or you could have some caribou, a little bit of moose hide, you could have some furs, some beadwork. I daresay, Mr. Speaker, that you could be pretty dazzling. You are good-looking. You could be even more dazzling.

---Laughter

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: It would be pretty hot, too.

MR. SIBBESTON: We could have a little fridge underneath you.

---Laughter

I know that during the time that Mr. MacQuarrie was the Speaker, he had started to design -- I understand that he had Mr. Sikyea design a nice wardrobe, but that never came to pass. He abandoned the ship before it got to shore. I was going to say, too, that the staff that are sitting in front of us, here, to me they look like ravens.

---Laughter

Or else little black penguins. I say Mr. Remnant, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Fuglsang and the aide could be similarly-suited to the Speaker, but not as fancy. I am sorry, Binx. If we do all these things, this place can be a very colourful place.

Now, the Pages. It is good to see them with their new vests. Their performance, I think, has picked up by 50 per cent as a result of those nice vests, and I must commend the Speaker and the officials that made that possible; but I think that they actually could be a little bit more fancy. I noticed the decorations are down there, and they are often hidden. They actually should be up here. I think, so I think between this session and next session, we should send them back to where they were made and get the women to put more designs on them, really jazz them up, fancy them up. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am just about finished.

MR. PUDLUK: What about the court reporters?

Traditional Style Of Mace

MR. SIBBESTON: I am just about finished here. I must have a drink.

---Laughter

MR. McLAUGHLIN: That is Decho water.

---Laughter

MR. SIBBESTON: Now, about the Mace. Now, I do appreciate that it is a symbol of the authority of this House, and there is a need for something that symbolizes authority, but I would like to suggest to the Speaker or the Members' Services Board or whoever, the Commissioner, Mr. Braden, whoever, to review the Mace. Take a good look at it and review it. I appreciate that it is in the style and the tradition of the British Westminster model. I think in all provinces and certainly in England they have them, I believe; if it is not the Queen herself, they have the Mace. So the Mace is something from the British and from the South, and I do believe that this Mace was made from some materials from the North, but I do not know when it was made. If it was made without public knowledge, without public consent or input, it was as if it was made in hiding, so I think we should publicize the Mace and see if we can improve on it and give the people of the North a chance to have input into it. So that is why I suggest in my motion, which I am sure you will all support, that the Speaker or the

Members' Services Board travel to all regions, the far corners of our dominion, to get the views of the people, of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, get their views on a Mace and see what they think about it. Maybe the end result will be something quite different and could have more meaning to us. At the moment, I shall not say it too loud, but I do see it as a bit of brass that the past Commissioner has installed or instilled some magic into, and it is cared for very reverently, I notice. The officials there guard it with their lives, so it means a lot to some people, but I must say with due respect that it does not mean too much to me as yet.

Now, as far as the beginning of each day -- now, the practice of yelling "Order" and marching in like a troop is a practice that I think has been established by...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, you have had five minutes overrun. How much longer are you going to be without unanimous consent?

MR. SIBBESTON: I have about half a page.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed.

---Agreed

Continue, please.

Daily Procedures Could Be Changed

MR. SIBBESTON: Now, the practice, as I said, of yelling "Order" and marching in like a troop is a practice, I think, that has been established by Stu Hodgson, the past Commissioner, and I know Mr. Hodgson has a military background, and he likes the military type of formality. Of course, he is gone and we should not think that we must now follow the procedure that he established forever. We should dispense or do away with any trooping in, yelling "Order". I think, in its stead, the Speaker should simply walk in casually to his chair by himself without due procession, and we can stand up when he comes in to show him our due respect and recognition, and then have a very nice prayer, a more simple prayer, Mr. Speaker, than the one we have now. I notice the prayer now is a bit -- you have some big words that I have a hard time understanding sometimes. I think with God you have to be pretty clear and simple, otherwise there may be misunderstanding. I think, too, that the prayer should be in three languages, English, Inuktitut, and one of the Dene languages, and I think the Speaker surely could be asked to learn a few verses of various languages in the North. It would not be very much, of course, but it would show something, a token, it would be a sign that -- respectful of the various people in the North.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are all my comments now, and I look forward to hearing what the other Members have to say. I look forward to their overwhelming support. I notice that a few of the persons that would normally give me wholehearted support are not here, but I trust that we will have a good discussion and a good ending to this. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. This Assembly will stand recessed for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the Assembly back to order. Ms Cournoyea, as seconder, do you wish to speak at this time?

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as seconder of the motion, I do not believe that there is any more to be said, and I would call "question" on the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Question has been called. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may be allowed just a minute to make a point here, I would like to speak in support of the motion and congratulate the Member on an excellent speech. I really enjoyed listening to him talk. I would just say that I think we really have to make a concerted effort for the next few years to pull together decorum and to bring together some of the artifacts, art, and so forth, which I know all Members will agree will look very nice in the new Legislative Assembly building that will one day be built here in Yellowknife as our capital city. Thank you very much.

---Laughter

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

Design And Decor An Unimportant Issue

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a comment that we can do away with all the formalities of the Assembly and design it in such a way that the Dene can be more comfortable with it, but I do not believe that that is going to be a guiding factor in developing the North. I think Dene, Inuit, and white people should not be worried about what kind of designs or decoration they walk into in the Assembly. It is how they represent their constituency and what kind of proposals they bring forward to the critical issues that we face -- that will make the difference, because they are going to have to work, and it is not going to be easy. I am just fed up and tired of fooling around with too many little things when we could be trying to improve the economy and employment opportunities for people and other urgent things that we are faced with. This is not a serious issue and I am going to abstain from it.

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

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to make a short comment concerning the motion that is on the floor. It seems that the motion is trying to say that we should follow the traditional culture of the Inuit and the Indians. We Inuit in the Baffin region -- our ancestors never had cloth material as clothing. If we are going to follow the motion to the letter, we are going to have to be in the House with our traditional clothes, but when we are in the House I do not want to be wearing that clothing because it is very hot.

---Laughter

If we are going to symbolize the Northwest Territories, within the Baffin region we consider Yellowknife not part of the Northwest Territories because it is totally different from the land that we live in, in the Baffin region, and it does not concern me at all what we wear and what artifacts we have in the House. Tagak Curley talked about representing the people who elected us. I think I am going to abstain because in my region when there are Christmas festivals or when somebody gets married, we wear two and three-piece suits. It is not saying that we are trying to be higher than anybody else; it is just that we are following the changes. Therefore I am going to abstain, because it does not affect me at all. Thank you.

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

Nunavut Legislative Assembly

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the people of the Northwest Territories are about to endorse the dismantling of this Legislative Assembly, and its reconstruction in two different and unique parts, and I think the debate I will be most interested in participating in on decor and dress and customs and practices is the one that is going to occur at the first session of the Nunavut legislative assembly. I respect the Member's very strong feelings about these symbolic matters and about appearances, but I am concerned that we are about to embark on an historical decision which will make this House a relic of history, and I think at that time it may be a lot more easy for Members from the western territory to decide what appurtenances and symbols should be part of this House. I find it kind of incongruous to think about mixing up caribou and muskrat and beaver and polar bear and sealskin. I think if one thinks about it, it is just another argument for dividing the Territories into more workable units.

I also think that the people of the Eastern Arctic probably are in my experience perhaps less concerned with appearances, and what they will be interested in is finding a Speaker who can speak Inuktitut and can carry on the business of the House in Inuktitut and find a Commissioner who can speak Inuktitut -- and this is no slight on our present Commissioner, but I think that the Commissioner of Nunavut will have to be fluent in Inuktitut. I also think from my experiences with royal visits in the Eastern Arctic, there is going to be a place for remnants of the colonial times in the Eastern Arctic. There is some affection and reverence for the British Crown and that aspect of history, so I think that while I respect the Member's concern about discarding these remnants of what he calls colonial days, I think perhaps the Inuit might feel a little bit hesitant about discarding references to the past. I think rather they...

MR. CURLEY: Question.

MS COURNOYEA: Question, please.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Carry on.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I think they would prefer, Mr. Speaker, to take over these institutions and people the offices with their own people, so I feel, too, that it is inappropriate for me to support or not support this motion. I believe it is appropriate to abstain. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? One, two -- oh, pardon me. You have the right to close the debate, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Assembly Should Reflect Society It Represents

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the opportunity to make a couple of remarks before the debate is closed. I disagree that it is an unimportant issue. Maybe it is not as important as some other issues, but there is no question at all that dress and decor and symbols mean something and the Member has made a serious request that they be reviewed and I respect that and intend to support it. I do so unstintingly -- that is, support the motion -- while I perhaps could not agree with certain specific suggestions that the Member has made for change, but I do feel that we ought to be open to

developing an Assembly that in some better way, perhaps, reflects the society that it represents, and is open to the development of symbols that are more meaningful to all of the people that are represented by that Assembly. But I do say that in any assembly certain standards of dress and decorum and procedure are necessary, and that all Members should, once having agreed to them, respect them.

In addressing this issue, I would only say that I regretted a couple of weeks ago, when the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard made some dramatic moves with respect to these issues of language and dress, because the truth is -- whether the honourable Member likes it or not -- that those are matters that this House can decide. They are not relics of colonialism in that sense. No, the Commissioner cannot determine what languages we will speak in this Assembly, he cannot determine what clothes we will wear, and so the appropriate thing for anyone who would like to change them is to adopt this approach and try to persuade other Members that there ought to be changes. So I do commend the Member for having attempted to do that in bringing in this motion, and while it appears that there may be others who do not support that kind of initiative, I can assure him that as long as he pursues the matter in this way, that he will have my full support, because I am open to changes in that area.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Anybody who has not spoken and wishes to speak at this time? Mr. Sibbeston, you have the floor to close the debate.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I just am kind of disappointed with some of the remarks made by the Members, particularly native people from the North -- particularly people like Mr. Curley. I just find that some Inuit Members are very impatient. All they seem to think about is themselves. Mr. Curley yesterday talked about racism in the North. He said he could see, he could feel the racism in the West here. Well, racism is here because native people in this part of the North were not treated fairly. White people in this part of the North have not dealt with the Dene and Metis people very fairly. They have imposed their system on us and the Dene people, largely through liquor, have just driven themselves in the...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, you must keep to the motion and summation, please.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I also cannot understand why Mr. Patterson says, "Well, we in the East are going to have Nunavut, so there is no need to deal with matters such as this." He dismisses it and says he is not even going to vote. I just cannot understand how he can say that and simply dismiss my very serious motion. I am serious to the point of crying on this issue.

MR. CURLEY: Cry, cry -- tears...

MR. SIBBESTON: You had better watch out or I will go and give you a punch. All right.

Mr. Sibbeston Expelled From The House

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston! Mr. Sibbeston, you will leave the House. You are expelled for the remainder of this day.

MR. SIBBESTON: What stay?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Sibbeston. What I said was you have no right to inflict -- or touch any other person in this House. You are now being asked to leave the House for the rest of this sitting day.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, can I say something? Point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Sibbeston. Point of privilege.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry for having done what I did, but as Speaker I think it is your responsibility to make sure that there is nothing said by other Members, as was done by Mr. Curley, to so incense one to, in my case, hit him. I think it is your responsibility to make sure that there are no comments made out of order and I believe Mr. Curley made some comments which were very insulting and caused me to act the way I did. I said I am sorry for that, but I just think that it was caused by Mr. Curley insulting me.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, I heard no remarks whatsoever from Mr. Curley from here. This sound system up here is not that good, but I did not hear anything he said today and I did not hear it yesterday. However, I cannot tolerate people using physical violence within this House, so my ruling must stand.

MR. SIBBESTON: So for how long? Could you please indicate?

MR. SPEAKER: For this sitting day.

MR. SIBBESTON: Sure. Thank you. I will say I am sorry. I will leave for today.

MR. SPEAKER: That matter is now closed. Are we ready for the question or do you wish to have this set aside to allow Mr. Sibbeston to close off his remarks tomorrow?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Set aside.

MR. SPEAKER: Set aside until tomorrow.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order or privilege, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I certainly do not have anything against Mr. Sibbeston. I would just like to put that on the record, that Members tend to say words that sometimes can possibly be misunderstood, but I do not feel anything against Mr. Sibbeston and I regret that he had to leave.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. We will then go on with the orders of the day. Motion 18-82(1). That is Mr. Sibbeston's motion and it will be set aside until tomorrow. Motion 19-82(1), Tabled Document 15-82(1) to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Tologanak.

Motion 19-82(1): Tabled Document 15-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, Motion 19-82(1).

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for the Western Arctic, that the document, Report of the Workers' Compensation Task Force, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration at a time to be set by Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Motion 20-82(1), Mr. Tologanak.

Motion 20-82(1): Tabled Document 16-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE that the Administration and General Expense Budget of the Workers' Compensation Board, which I tabled earlier this week, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration at a time to be set by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Have you a seconder?

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Seconded by the honourable Member for the Western Arctic.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Tologanak.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: I just might mention, Mr. Speaker, that the general expense budget of the Workers' Compensation Board is under the Executive in our budget book and perhaps that is the time we should discuss it. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Motion 21-82(1), Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion 21-82(1): Arctic Pilot Project Representatives In Committee Of The Whole

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS this Legislative Assembly at its last session considered the matter of the Arctic Pilot Project in committee of the whole;

AND WHEREAS although the Arctic Pilot Project was invited to send representatives to appear before the committee of the whole when this matter was considered, it was unable to do so because of prior commitments;

AND WHEREAS representatives of the Arctic Pilot Project have requested an opportunity to appear before the committee of the whole during this session;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Legislative Assembly consider matters relating to the Arctic Pilot Project as a first item of business in committee of the whole on Wednesday, February 24th;

And further that representatives of the Arctic Pilot Project be invited to appear at their own expense before the committee of the whole when this subject is being considered.

Mr. Speaker, my seconder was Mr. Nerysoo, but I see he is not in the House. I have a seconder, Mr. Pudluk.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, when the Hon. Dennis Patterson brought his motion forward during the last session which invited representatives of ITC and Canadian Arctic Resources Committee to speak to the Assembly on matters concerning the Arctic Pilot Project, I amended that motion and asked that we also hear from the representatives of the Arctic Pilot Project. As I said in the motion, they were unable to attend because of the short notice and this motion just merely gives them the opportunity to present to us their side of the story and the opportunity for Members to question them on concerns that have arisen over the past few years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Pudluk, as seconder, do you wish to speak on this?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, that is a good motion. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will support the motion, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, I will not be able to be here on that particular day, but I am sure that it has been set because that is the only day the company can come. I do think it is very important that they appear so that we can ask such questions as: What security of supply is being planned for the Northwest Territories as a result of this project? Why should Canadian taxpayers subsidize a project which is going to deliver gas to the United States? "Pilot" means a forerunner -- a forerunner of what? Why is Dome Petroleum involved? Why did the Arctic Pilot Project oppose hearing Inuit witnesses on stage one? There are many other questions, but I am sure other Members will ask those, so I would agree. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 21-82(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mrs. Sorensen, do you wish to close the debate? Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I am requesting unanimous consent to consider my motion concerning the Newfoundland disaster.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been requested. Are there any nays?

---Agreed

Proceed, Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion 27-82(1): Sympathy To Newfoundland For Loss Of 84 Lives

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS 84 persons serving on the offshore oil rig Ocean Ranger are believed to have lost their lives in the tragic sinking of this vessel on February 15th in Newfoundland waters;

AND WHEREAS these tragic and irreplaceable losses will seriously affect their families, their friends and their home communities now and for all time;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that this Legislative Assembly request the Speaker to convey to the Premier of Newfoundland and to the Speaker of the Newfoundland Legislative Assembly this Legislature's most sincere sympathy in this matter of deep and tragic loss.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your seconder on that, Mrs. Sorensen? Mr. Butters. Mrs. Sorensen, it is in order.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, there are many Newfoundlanders -- former Newfoundlanders -- in my constituency. I know that there are many former Newfoundlanders also in the Baffin region. I suspect that they are also in other regions of the Northwest Territories, and I would suspect that there are some that have experienced the loss of relatives or close friends in that tragic accident. Mr. Speaker, there is a special relationship that this Legislature and indeed the people of the Northwest Territories have with the people of Newfoundland, and that is that we have workers working on offshore oil ships, just as the people of Newfoundland have people working offshore on man-made floating islands. Mr. Speaker, I think that even though we did not have a special type of relationship, I think that as Canadians we would wish to extend our sincere and deep sympathy with the people of Newfoundland for this tragic loss. So I would ask that Members join with me in expressing that through the Speaker to both the Legislature and to the Premier of Newfoundland.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) I support the motion; however, I think it is too soon to express our sympathy. There was news on TV and they showed some family or some friends on the news and they do not want to blame themselves. They still want to wait to see if their relatives are still alive or not. There was something on the news about one person saying that he still can wait to see if his relatives are dead or alive. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 27-82(1), Carried

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

---Carried

That then concludes motions for today.

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

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

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

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

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

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

Department Of Education

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Patterson, would you care to bring in the witness?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I wonder if I could have permission to have Mr. Gerard Mulders, my assistant deputy minister, appear with me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Student Residences

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Student residences, on page 17.06, O and M, in the amount of \$3,880,000. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can go back to general questions, it is going to be a brief question to the Minister. I want to ask a general question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Proceed.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was absent yesterday and I want to ask about this. In my constituency there is no adult education centre in Lake Harbour and I am wondering -- do we have to make a request to have an adult education centre? My question is, can we get an adult education centre when there is enough of a population in Lake Harbour?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, we have a total of 35 positions devoted to adult education throughout the Northwest Territories and in the Baffin region there are 12.5 positions. There are 3.5 new positions that were made available that have been distributed throughout the Northwest Territories, one to each region, with the exception of Fort Smith, and as I mentioned yesterday, the new position allocated to Baffin has been planned for the headquarters in Frobisher Bay with a view to providing extension courses to all the communities in the Baffin region providing a link with Thebacha College and a link with programs that might be offered in Frobisher Bay. If the Member wishes to have that position allocated to Lake Harbour, it is a possibility which could be taken up with the regional superintendent, as I promised to take up the question of allocating another position to Pangnirtung with the regional superintendent. I guess the best answer I can give is that we do not foresee being able to offer any more than one position in the Baffin region in the coming year and those 3.5 positions that we were able to get over last year were hard enough to fight for because of the demands in other areas of this government. It might also be a matter that Lake Harbour could take up with the Baffin Region Education Society. That is about all I can say at this point. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the communities do not have a permanent adult education centre and I think there could be one in Lake Harbour. Maybe if you could visit or come and see my constituency for the first time, maybe you can meet with the adult educator over there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had the pleasure of visiting Lake Harbour several times but not in my capacity as Minister of Education. I know the Member also has other concerns about the size of the school and the programs offered in the school and I have already asked the superintendent to visit there and meet with the local education authority to discuss those problems and report back to me and report back to him. Maybe this would be an appropriate concern to be added to that visit. I will do that and I look forward to visiting Lake Harbour myself for that purpose as well. Thank you.

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

Matron For Student Residences

MR. CURLEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to state something about student residences. I think they play a very important part of young students educational needs in the Territories. I would like to give the Minister a chance to see if he can review the very important need to have, for instance, a matron in these residences. I think the nurses are probably called -- I believe they are called matrons in most residences. In Frobisher Bay, for instance, there are a lot of students who sometimes could not get an appointment with the doctors in Frobisher Bay and places like that to get a short prescription for necessary drugs to resolve their immediate needs.

I can give the Minister an example. Here in Yellowknife, right after Christmas, a student from the Keewatin, when he got there, had caught quite a flu here in Yellowknife and I was told by a couple of students that when they asked the supervisor for aspirin, for instance, in that residence, they were just laughed at and they had to stay in bed for a few days but no kind of medical treatment was given to them. I do not think this kind of thing should be allowed and therefore I am asking the Minister if he would assure this House that this kind of thing will not be allowed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, I am sorry to hear about that experience, Mr. Chairman. There is an assistant administrator at Akaitcho Hall who is a woman, a person who is supposed to fill that function and I do not know how this particular incident occurred. I had not heard of it to date but I am concerned and I will look into it. I agree that students should be cared for in the residences the same way they would be looked after at home. Thank you.

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

MR. CURLEY: Yes, could the Minister indicate whether or not he would eventually find a way to have nurses for students in this kind of residence? No doubt there will be one more hostel built in the Keewatin and I do not think we should expect that an influx of students from other regions should not create a problem with the community because they always experience a shortage of nurses in communities such as Rankin Inlet. Could the Minister indicate whether or not he will attempt to resolve that problem and see if he could provide a nurse at residences that do provide service for the whole region?

Telephone Availability At Student Residence

I also would like to ask him to see if he would improve this particular problem with the Yellowknife hostel as far as communications with the regions are concerned. I notice that a number of parents have tried to phone the Yellowknife hostel here and almost every time that a parent would try to phone, that line is busy and there is no bloody way that they can get through to the hostel sometimes. I suggested it to the Minister one time through a note that I sent him that he should try to call the hostel here to see whether or not he could get through at all to the number listed in the phone book. It is not always possible and I think that parents should be given an opportunity to be able to speak when they want to and that one particular telephone should be reserved specifically for long distance incoming calls. Could he assure the House that he will do something about this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the telephone matter, yes, I have had problems getting through to the residence myself. I usually call there to try and find a babysitter and I think I know what the Member means. The solution obviously which I think I can now undertake to effect, would be to install another phone specifically for incoming calls. I think the Member can appreciate that the real reason the phone is tied up is because students usually like to talk on the phone and we should not inhibit them from doing that, but as I say, we will install another line which can be set aside for incoming calls specifically and make this known to parents.

Hiring Of A Nurse For Student Residence

Now, I must be frank as far as the nurse is concerned. I find it very hard to believe that hiring a full-time nurse in the residence would give that person anything more than a few days work or a few minutes work a day and I think the solution to the problem is to make sure that our staff are informed that students are to be accommodated in medical facilities in Yellowknife when they require attention and treatment. They can be taken to the hospital, they can be taken to a doctor, and that is the solution rather than to have a nurse there. I think I would be working to see that occur because I would not want to waste a nurse's time. I do not think a nurse could be fully occupied with 150 students. The Member may disagree but that is my first reaction to your proposal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. One more short one. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not suggesting at all that that nurse be a full-time nurse. For instance, Whale Cove has only about 150 or less population, and the Department of Health and Welfare provided a full-time nurse for that settlement, so I suggest that 150 students is quite a lot. I do not believe that the administration staff should be given any responsibility for prescribing drugs of any sort or trying to diagnose sickness. They should not be given that responsibility. If they are going to be given that responsibility, they should have specific training in that field, and should not just be allowed to by the Department of Education. What I would like to suggest is that the students should have an equal chance to go to a nurse or a person who knows about prescribing particular drugs if they need it. One way would be that the Department of Education should have, certain times a week, a clinic for those students rather than just relying on the students to tell the administrator that they may have a particular sickness because not many of the Inuit students, the native students that I do know, will go to an administrator when they have a sickness because so often they will not say anything, and it takes someone specialized in the medical field to understand that they do have a problem. Could the Minister make a response to that right after coffee break? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We will give you 15 minutes to think about that one, Mr. Patterson. Precisely.

---Laughter

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Some of the Members sit down. Anybody in the coffee room? Mr. MacQuarrie, you are upstairs; come on down. The Chair recognizes a quorum. Mr. Patterson, your answer to the question from the Member.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, there is a public health nurse who goes to Akaitcho Hall every Tuesday and holds clinics as the Member suggests, and she is also available when required. I hope that answers his concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Curley, have you a subsequent question?

Breaking Rules In Student Residences

MR. CURLEY: Yes, thank you. Mr. Chairman. That certainly answers part of my question. I do not know whether that applies in a place like Frobisher Bay or any other student residences in the Northwest Territories. However, I have another concern, Mr. Chairman. The experience that I have now as far as the Akaitcho Hall is concerned -- recently there have been quite a number of students being sent back home because of infractions of the student rules or the residence rules and so on. I do not know about the rules, but to me it is very important to try and keep students continuing to go to school, whether they break one rule or not. Although I realize that it is very difficult to control students from getting into some party somewhere and consuming some liquor or alcohol when invited to a friend's place here and there. I think it is common that this kind of thing goes on in Yellowknife with students who are attending Sir John Franklin High School here. I notice that some students are probably given a good chance to shape up or improve, and then I do not know how often they have to break a rule with alcohol, but I do know that students have recently been sent back to the Keewatin for breaking certain regulations. I would like to ask the Minister to elaborate a little bit about the rules, you know, when students break them, exactly what they are, what they mean. Do they solve the problem with particular students to not do it again? I am not sure whether the rules in the Akaitcho Hall solve the problem of students engaging in this kind of thing or not.

I also would like to know what type of controls or rules the hostels have to try to prevent some sort of a drug abuse in those residences, because these are the concerns of the parents. I think sometimes the parents from the regions like myself are reluctant to send their kids to Yellowknife, because they know that they would get mixed up with drugs and so on, which I think is common in places like Yellowknife. So could the Minister indicate whether or not he will try to assure the parents that the students are not allowed to have an easy access or get involved in this kind of a drug problem? Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the administrator of Akaitcho Hall is here, and I would ask the permission of the House that he answer that question, Mr. Roy Menagh. If he heard the question, I would prefer that he answer it, if that is agreeable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Does the committee agree that we bring the -- agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We recognize Roy Menagh, administrator for Akaitcho Hall. Am I correct, Mr. Minister?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Did you get the question, Mr. Menagh?

MR. MENAGH: I think so, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Proceed with the answer.

Alcohol And Drugs In Student Residences

MR. MENAGH: I believe that the kinds of concerns that Mr. Curley has about drugs and about alcohol are well-taken. It is something that in administrating a student residence is a constant worry, at all times. We take the position that the possession and consumption of any narcotic or alcoholic beverage in the government residence is strictly forbidden. Many of the times that we have dealt in an extreme way, by sending a student home, have been in addressing this very important issue in a student residence with young people that can be affected by this kind of involvement. I take an extremely firm position, and in the supervision of these students, we take an extreme position, and consider expulsion or suspension from the residence right away. The parents are contacted constantly and it is something that really concerns us. In every case, the parents have been contacted and have more or less agreed with the decision to deal with them the harsh way.

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

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I really do not agree that the extreme steps to expel the student immediately, are any encouragement at all to the young person. I, for instance, as a young person once, did not have an opportunity to go to school in places like these, I know for one thing when I did make a mistake my dad or mother did not immediately give me an extreme licking or whatever to correct me for the mistake. I do not know. Maybe you do that with your children. Maybe the immediate step that you do to your youngster, when they make a mistake is to do it in a harsh and extreme way, but would that encourage a young person to have an interest in challenging the future and to be proud of his own identity if the person takes extreme steps? I am not sure it is an answer. I do not believe in extreme steps for the first or second time that the student has caused an offence as far as the rules are concerned does not help the student at all, because he or she might become more or less of a problem in the community rather than trying to contribute to the community as a citizen, so could I ask the administrator of the hostel what in his view is an extreme offence for students to do before a young person is expelled? Thank you.

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

Extensive Counselling In The Area

MR. MENAGH: I think that in the matter of a second chance -- quite often there is a second chance. What has to be assessed is the individual case of each student who is involved. Every student, in dealing with the problems of growing up in a city like Yellowknife, and particularly students from isolated communities that come into this environment in Yellowknife, who have the opportunity to drink -- a student can drink here -- drugs and alcohol are available in Yellowknife, there is no question about that. We have developed in the residence a counselling program for this matter. As a matter of fact, one of our supervisors has just recently attended a major marijuana workshop in Edmonton, and the first stage in dealing with any student that is involved in this matter is an extensive counselling session with that student. All students know that it is a position that we take that is very firm, and that it is serious when a student is considering getting involved within the confines of the dormitories, because the last thing we want is the attitude in the communities or in the North that Akaitcho Hall or other such places are places where it is readily available. I just do not believe that that is true. This workshop, I understand, was extremely worth-while for this supervisor. We had subsequent meetings since she returned, and as I say there is definitely counselling in every case.

As far as a second chance, some students do not get a second chance. Some students, we find, know the difference. Some students, though, if they have not been here very long, they have just come this semester, then we -- as a matter of fact, we are dealing with one or two students right now, and they have not been sent home. There are phone calls that are being made constantly to keep their parents informed of what is going on. So I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that everything is being done to give extensive counselling first in this area.

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

Old-Fashioned Love And Affection

MR. CURLEY: Yes, the last one, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate, you know, the initiatives taken by the administrator and his staff to try and understand through all types of training courses to resolve the kind of problems the students normally face in everyday life throughout the school year.

I remember when I was in Ottawa, a lot of students come to Ottawa to continue their high school education. I went there a long time ago but even up to now there are a lot of students from Arctic Quebec and some parts of the Keewatin and Baffin who go to Ottawa. I was not a counsellor but I was asked to speak to a person who had an alcohol and drug problem and I went in there as an ordinary citizen just to encourage a couple of young boys and today I can see that they were not expelled even though they had quite a serious involvement with drugs and alcohol. We did not expel them. You know, I did not encourage that Ralph Richard and his shopping -- send him back home, and these particular people called me not because I was trained as a counsellor and I had training in alcohol and drug prevention and stuff but because I care. I think that nobody can replace that affection and concern and care for a young person. My question is, do the personnel in Akaitcho Hall and student residences have any kind of understanding, that is so common in the Inuit communities? I know we are a problem. I was once a problem and I can tell you I am a proven problem, as a young person growing up and so on. Even right now I am a problem in this Assembly, right?

---Laughter

The thing is I do not get discouraged from trying. I do not hold grudges against other people that deal with me because my training has been to challenge what is before me and I am wondering whether or not there should be special courses given to administrative and supervisory staff in the hostels to be able to have a little more old-fashioned affection, love and care to deal with these youngsters in this kind of a place, because I have a number of relatives here. I do not get involved with them and I think they should walk through the hot water if they must. I only see them once in a while because I would be discouraging them. They probably would get homesick if I see them too often. But the thing is, would you not feel that there is a special training needed to bring about human contact and needed to encourage the youngsters? You people are trained like a military, I say. You know, if rule one is broken, here is the punishment. If rule two is broken, here is the step, but I do not think that will encourage a young person to continue to have an interest in the educational system if we are just going to continue with this type of action. So I would like some assurance that the Minister and his staff will try to assure that the students are better cared for, particularly when they are so far away from home. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do certainly recognize the challenge that faces us in dealing with students who are so far away from home and I do look forward to the day when we will not have to send any student away from home to go to school. I think we must keep them in their

home communities as long as possible and avoid sending them away whenever funds and resources permit. I think the matter of training is being addressed to the best of our ability. I know there was a workshop given last summer for the entire staff of Akaitcho Hall, in the area of counselling. I hope our staff are sensitive, but probably there is a lot more we can do and I will take it as advice and pursue it further. I think, if I may, Mr. Menagh may wish to add something to that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Menagh.

Success With Counselling Program

MR. MENAGH: Mr. Chairman, one of the points that I think is very important for Mr. Curley to understand is that in our process that we have used this fall, we have had a number of successes in our counselling program. I know of one specific case where a student did go home because of a drug related incident and this boy was, I think, deeply affected by the decision to send him home. When he returned he has and continues to have in the residence at this time a significantly changed attitude regarding his schooling and I think that the firm position in not tolerating this kind of activity in the student residence is one that -- the communities that I have talked to and local people and local educators in places like Coral Harbour and Baker Lake, they appreciate the strictness in this area very much in the position that we take because it is so easy to get out of hand if it is allowed to go on beyond that point. So we do have a number of cases in which there have been successes of students that have come back and thanked me. "I understand what you are trying to do now." I hope that some of the students that have returned to the Keewatin area feel, as they sit at home thinking about some of the things that they have done, that school is important and it is worth fighting for and working for and on this matter they should not be abusing their privilege of being in Yellowknife.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I will withhold the question I have to the Minister for another time. However I have a question when you come to schools, on the capital.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we on page 17.06?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 17.06.

Private Boarding Homes

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Concerning student residences in this budget, I have known that there are some people, like in the Frobisher Bay residence, that they reside in a friend's place rather than the residence in Frobisher. I am not exactly sure how they pay the people that are boarding them but I know that Frobisher Bay residents -- when one of the students stay in a private place that the person is not paid. Do you pay for the accommodation of the students when they stay in private accommodation or how exactly is this worked out? I just want to find out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not quite sure why a student would not be staying in the residence in Frobisher Bay. We unfortunately cannot afford to administer costly residences with 24 hour supervision and offer private boarding at the same time, so I would be interested in more details about just who the Member is referring to. However, I can say that in the circumstances where we do authorize a student staying privately, that is, where

it is authorized by the department, then the policy is to pay boarding rates, but I believe that students who came to Frobisher Bay and chose not to live in the residence would be responsible for looking after themselves. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, that was not so recently. I think it must have been about a year or two years ago, but I know of this incident where a boy was expelled from the student residence so he went to board over at my son's place because he wanted to further his education. So he was allowed to go to school but he was residing in private residence because he was expelled from the school residence. I just wanted to find out further about this, but if they are going to have to go into private accommodation when they are not in the residence, I think there should be a study into this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

Department Cannot Pay For Private Boarding

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. That helps me to understand the question. It would be possible -- and that must have been what happened in that particular case -- for a student to be expelled from the residence in which case the Department of Education would offer them a plane ticket home but that person might not be expelled from the school itself, in which case, if they wished to remain and find their own accommodation, they could continue attending school.

I guess the view that the Department of Education takes as far as our residences are concerned is that it is a privilege for a student to be able to stay in a residence and if they are unwilling to follow what I hope are reasonable rules associated with that residence, then the privilege is withdrawn until such a time as they might return and be able to live with those rules. I have heard many petitions about making a private boarding home available for students who have special problems or cannot fit in with residence life, and so far my feeling has been that desirable as that might be in special cases, we cannot afford to pay for private boarding and at the same time have a residence. The costs are just too much. So I do not feel that we need to really study the matter unless the Member feels that this policy is completely unacceptable. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) If it is going to be in the future, I would just like to let you know that I make these comments. I felt that I had experience with previous school residents having to go back home and the money that was supposed to be used for the students schooling when they go to school. What happens to the money that is not used for the students that were sent home, because there is quite a number of students that just go home? What happens to the money that was supposed to be used for the student? What happens to it? Are you familiar with that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We prepare the budgets for hostels on the basis of what we expect will be the enrolment and, unfortunately, we do have to build in a failure factor, which is about one out of every five students in Frobisher Bay. That is the reality. We hope to do something about that, but we prepare our budgets considering that some students will leave and those estimates are sometimes not quite accurate, but they are not considered on an individual student basis. We just look at the expenses over the year and if we have money left over it may be diverted to some other area. If we do not have enough money, we usually can find it from within some area in the Department of Education and this is the job I have to do from time to time throughout the year, when the House is not in session -- is adjusting the budget as requirements change. I hope that answers the Member's question. Thank you.

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

Food In Student Residences

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for answering my question. My last question might not really be a question. In Frobisher Bay the people -- the students in that residence tell me that the cooks who cook caribou meat, cook the meat too much, so that it does not taste like cooked meat. They just let the taste deteriorate. I just want to let you know that. They should get better cooks. Thank you.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Have you got a new cook, Mr. Patterson? Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: I think the Minister wants to respond to Mr. Kilabuk's comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I do not think there was a question there. It was just a matter of the meat being raw or not cooked too much or something. Do you want to respond to that, Mr. Patterson?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, just to say that I appreciate the comments. I think I know what the Member is stating. My wife always says that the problem with white people cooking caribou meat is they always "boil the piss out of it", as she says, and if that is the problem in Ukkivik with our cook, he should be instructed accordingly. I would say, though, that I am pleased that the problem now is how the meat is being cooked, not that we do not have any country food in Ukkivik and I am pleased that the Member realizes we now have country food in the menu. There is quaq available for the snacks in the evening, but we should make sure that the cook knows how to cook caribou meat. I recognize that it is delicate meat and it cannot be treated like beef. If it is going to be cooked, it has to be cooked just a little bit for it to taste good. So, I will pass that advice on and appreciate hearing it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Mr. Noah. Student residences on page 17.06.

Insults And Teasing

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. A short comment. I am not sure exactly what we are on now, but I have four communities in my constituency -- Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour. I have heard somebody say that the students that go to the residence for the first time are insulted. Is this true, when they go into school in Yellowknife or Frobisher Bay, when they arrive there they have been teased and insulted? They tease them quite a bit, you know, like you do not want to take liquor or you do not want to take marijuana or cigarettes and they keep saying to them, "Are you trying to be different from somebody else?" They make comments like that.

Maybe this has been said before by other Members, but when you have been teased like that, they start taking the stuff that they are teased about. They start taking liquor and they start taking marijuana, just to be the same as everybody else. This has been said to me before by the communities. Sometimes if they tell their supervisors, their supervisors will just laugh at them. If I hear it from two people, I do not know which one to believe.

Maybe they are young and that is the way they do it. When you are young people you want to get into everything. We always want everybody else to be the same as us. I would like to know whether this is true or not, about the teasing part. We all know that the adult people go ahead and take liquor or they smoke marijuana and if that is the way they are going to be laughing

at the young people -- even though they are much stronger and have more willpower, I do not think that they should be laughing at the students like that. Is what they have been saying true? Maybe the Minister can find an Inuit person to go to look after the students at the high school. I feel that there should be something done. If it is true that the supervisors just laugh at students when they tell them what is going on, maybe they should get them replaced by other supervisors.

I know that if we have a problem we always try to look for somebody who has the same problem. I think young and old are alike. This is how life is. Whether you are white or Inuit, I think that is how life goes. If you want to be a good person, you always look for people who are good. Life is the same from young age to middle age to when you die. I think my colleagues have talked about this before, but I wanted to get some clarification as to whether this is true, because I have heard about the incidents.

The other question is when young girls go to school here in Yellowknife or in Frobisher Bay, away from their homes, they have been sent home at times after they get into trouble, which is not their fault, but somebody else's fault. I want to know whether this is true or not. These questions that I have are quite similar and either to the Minister or to his assistant. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we would be very happy if an Inuk, a qualified Inuk person were to apply for one of the supervisor jobs in Akaitcho Hall. They are available from time to time and we are disappointed that no one has applied. Perhaps the Member can help us to encourage someone to work there. There is a Dene supervisor at Akaitcho Hall. I think there is no doubt that the students are -- especially if they are just coming into the residence from a small place, there is no doubt that they do get teased and I think that is the way teenagers are, they put pressure on those who are new and perhaps unfamiliar with a particular situation.

We are informed that no student would ever be sent home or is ever sent home when the incident that got them into trouble was not their fault -- when it is clear that someone else was involved in leading them on or putting them in a situation where they got into trouble. I think those incidents are very carefully researched to make sure the student himself or herself is responsible for what went wrong if, in fact, drastic measures have to be taken.

Providing Meaningful Programs

I think a lot of the problems that the Member is concerned about -- drinking and abuse of drugs and this sort of thing -- can be answered by providing a meaningful program for the students, if they have to be away from home, provide them with a meaningful program outside the residence and I think we are making some progress in that area with an on-the-land program and recreation program and this sort of thing. Probably we could go further. I do invite Members to visit the residence any time they want and I am hoping this session that the MLAs, particularly from the areas where students are sent, can join me at an appropriate time on a proper tour of the residence and lunch there and maybe there will be some opportunity to meet with the staff and talk to them at that time as well. I am sure I have not answered all the Member's questions, but we are trying and I realize these problems are just not going to go away. Mr. Menagh might have something to add.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Menagh.

MR. MENAGH: Mr. Chairman, I think the direction that we are trying to take at this time in dealing with the kinds of problems that are being raised is in the area of program development. We now have in place in the residence

in Akaitcho Hall five program co-ordinators who are taking a land program. There are students going out camping this weekend. We have been fortunate to get some money from our local education authority in Yellowknife -- \$4500. Sleeping bags and camping equipment have been purchased, and they will be used on a regular basis by a supervisor taking students out to hunt and trap and fish.

Another program is an exchange program in which we are trying to offer the opportunity to the residents that come into Akaitcho Hall of interacting with other students in Yellowknife in their own homes, and that is on a volunteer basis. They can go and live for one week in a home. We also have a major exchange occurring at the end of the year in which there will be Inuit and Dene students involved in a trip to southern Ontario. There are work programs that are beginning, and generally we are trying to fill those long hours on the weekends, and so on, with meaningful, relevant activities so that students maybe have an alternative to the kinds of temptations that they undoubtedly will come up against in a city so much larger than their own.

So when the Minister mentions that we are trying, those are the ways at present that we are trying. There are other programs that are beginning, too, a noon hour lunch program, and so on, a music program. Guitars are being purchased for students. All of these things are happening.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Menagh. Mr. Noah.

Supervisors Should Show More Compassion

MR. NOAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there is a little bit of misunderstanding between Inuktitut and English, so I shall see if I can say it in English, our national language. I am not trying to be radical toward what your nationality is. I am just simply saying, maybe, find a person who is very, very honest to supervise students at Akaitcho Hall or Ukkivik. I have received a complaint from a student's parents from my riding that some supervisors just laugh at students when they come for compassion, you might call it "compassion" or whatever, saying that they are being laughed at because they are trying to be different from the other students, or are not taking drugs or alcohol. That is the point that I was trying to bring up before. I think there was a little bit of misunderstanding between Inuktitut and English. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If the Member can provide me with the name of the student and the approximate date and the name of the supervisor involved in this incident, I would certainly look into it for him, because I can assure you that while we do not believe that that sort of thing is going on, where a supervisor would ridicule or laugh at a student, if it did happen, it certainly will not be tolerated, and I think that the best way that I can respond to that would be to ask the Member to inform me privately of the details so that we can investigate and report back to him. Thank you.

Total O And M, Student Residences, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Student residences on page 17.06 in the amount of \$3,880,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Capital, pages 17.08, 17.09, 17.10, 17.11, 17.12, in the amount of \$15,727,000. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in previous budgets there was an allocation for planning a school at Holman Island in the 1982-83 budget, and then moving forward in 1984-85 for the construction stage, and I do not see any indication within this budget that that project is even on stream.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The planning funds for Holman Island school do not appear in the capital in this estimate book because they are in the capital plan for 1983-1984 in the amount of \$250,000, and in the amount of \$2,500,000 for the construction phase in 1984-85, and \$500,000 in 1985-86 to complete the construction.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The question that I put to you was why was it taken off the original forecast? A couple of years ago, it was in the 1982-83 forecast, and I am wondering why, since that community has made a fairly good representation for the school, and during your visit there as well -- the school is a very old school and does not have any facilities at all for any recreation opportunities. It does not have a gym. On top of that, their community hall is very limited in capacity, and is closed down most of the time. The community hall burns a tremendous amount of fuel, and the school must pay for the use of that hall, and the budget is tight as it is, and since all those facilities are related to the school it would appear that the budget allocation could be kept as it was previously. I am wondering why, with those circumstances, the budget allocation would be put off in order to allow a lot of the capital expenditures for larger centre funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I should make it clear, Mr. Chairman, that the Holman Island school is considered part of capital planning for the Central Arctic region, and therefore I am not sure if the Member was suggesting that there are other priorities in the Inuvik region that are coming ahead of it. We try to consider priorities on a regional basis, so what we are doing is proceeding with the construction in the Central Arctic that was ahead of Holman Island in the coming year. Now, I recognize that this planning money in Holman Island has been set back a year. The reason for that, Mr. Chairman, has nothing to do with the merits of the project or the need for building a school there. I have seen the need myself. It just reflects the fact that we cannot do everything that we wish to do in each given year, and when the plan is finalized, some things have to be put back so that we can meet our overall target. Holman Island was one of the many projects that was put back a year, but it does not mean that we are not committed to building that school. I guess this may reflect the fact that, overall there were fewer capital moneys available this year than there were last year and therefore we had to make certain trade-offs, and that is the only explanation that I can offer to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions on capital? Ms Cournoyea.

Funds For Proceeding With The Holman Island School

MS COURNOYEA: In looking at the budget again, do you see any hope that perhaps in re-evaluating -- I understand that the Education department did lapse some money from last year. I do not know what the total amount that was, and I am wondering if you could see any possibility of proceeding with the plans by using the lapse money. I appreciate that other projects have to go ahead, but certainly when you look at young people, the priority is in getting people

through the primary grades. I would think that that is a priority. The need was expressed, and I am wondering if the Minister could see if he could find the funds to proceed with that school.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I meant to say was the capital planning process usually sees no funds lapse, and I guess Mr. Pilot probably knows better than I do -- but the reason we make the best use of funds available in capital planning is that throughout the year we are able to assess exactly where we are, through what is called the "outlook process". This allows us to review where projects might not be going ahead as fast as we had hoped, and where we can thereby transfer funds and move something ahead. It is always possible that the Holman Island planning phase could start earlier than next year. It would have to be at the expense of another project, but that is a possibility that I will certainly keep my eyes open for. I guess that that is all I can assure the Member, that in the living process of this capital planning throughout the year, I will be vigilant to see if there is a way that we can move this project forward. It may be that another project has to be delayed for some reason, and if so, I will certainly hope to get this one moving, because I realize that the people of that community are anxious to get on with it. I have noticed that attendance has improved in the school this year, and I was impressed with the active local education authority that is in that community. I guess that that is about all I can promise, that I will see what I can do in the capital outlook process.

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

New School For Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just one question. Do you have any early plans for Resolute Bay to build a new school, I mean a whole replacement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is a plan for replacing the Resolute Bay school. I might say that one thing we are doing this year currently is studying the feasibility of taking advantage of the water treatment plant building in Resolute Bay and using that structure -- which we know is not being used as a water treatment plant -- using that structure as a basis for a new school. We are studying that this year and if that does not appear to be feasible, we just do not know at this point -- the Department of Public Works is doing a study for us -- if that does not appear to be feasible, then we have budgeted, in 1983-84, \$200,000 to plan a brand new school and two million dollars in the following year to build it. So either by converting the existing structure that is not being used, which is a brand new building, or if that is not feasible, planning a new school in 1983-84, your constituents will have a new school. I recognize that school is very inefficient in terms of heat and is also poorly located because of the polar bear problem. So we are moving to do something about that. Thank you.

Detail Of Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Detail of capital, \$15,727,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 17.01, total O and M, \$62,921,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We would thank the witnesses. Have you a final comment, Mr. Patterson?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes. Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman, this was a matter raised yesterday by Mr. Sibbeston and I will just give the answer for the record. I am sorry he is not here. I did check into his concern about no students from his area being in Thebacha College and I am pleased to report that in fact there have been 10 students from his constituency at Thebacha College beginning this fall. There were five from Fort Simpson, one from Nahanni Butte, one from Jean Marie River and three from Wrigley. So although we need to go further, it is not true that there are no students from his area at the college. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We would like to thank you and the deputy minister, Mr. Mulders.

---Applause

Department Of Justice And Public Services

I would advise the committee that the next department is the Department of Justice and Public Services. Mr. Braden, any opening remarks? Page 9.01.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to present the budget estimates of the Department of Justice and Public Services for the consideration of this House. As Members are aware, the department's functions can be broadly divided into two categories. The first category is justice, under which several functions relating to the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories fall. These include such functions as court services, legal aid, our legal division, and the legislative division.

The second category is public services, into which fall a number of varied functions such as safety and occupational health, mine safety, museums division, motor vehicles and consumers division. Since my appointment and over the present fiscal year, the justice-type functions have been enhanced within the department. In keeping with this, changes have been made in the senior management of the department. The Department of Justice and Public Services is regarded as a service department and there is no doubt that its primary function is to carry out and to provide services to the residents of the government, the Legislature and the residents of the Northwest Territories. In view of this, however, like other service departments, it does not always receive the same priority in allocation of funding as do program departments such as Economic Development, Education and so forth.

Yet, Mr. Chairman, the enhancement of activity in the program departments or other areas of the government has a direct impact on the services to be provided by the Department of Justice and Public Services. Program activity generates its complement of legislative and regulatory activity which has to be produced from within the department. It is therefore important that corresponding increases be allocated to a department such as Justice and Public Services so that it can meet the needs of the government, the Legislative Assembly and residents of the Northwest Territories.

The budget that has been presented to you does, in my opinion, reflect the direction given by the Legislative Assembly and is in keeping to the extent possible with government priorities. The additional person years allocated to the department have been placed in areas that have been given high priority within the department such as constitutional development, legislative drafting, industrial safety, court services and motor vehicles division. I am hopeful that with increased efficiency in the department and the impact of additional person years, it will be possible to meet the growing demands of the residents of the Northwest Territories for services being provided by this department.

Achievements And Projections

Before I invite you to consider the budget of my department in detail, I would like to mention some of the significant events that have occurred over the current fiscal year. In June 1981, the department received the transfer of the mine safety function from the federal government. As Members know, mining is a very important industry in the Northwest Territories. It is therefore equally important that the workers that this major industry employs are given the protection that they are entitled to through enforcement of mining safety laws and rules. My department officials have been working with representatives of the mining industry and unions in developing suggested legislation to meet the needs of this industry and its employees.

In October last year, a territorial conference of justices of the peace of the Northwest Territories was held in Yellowknife. During the conference considerable time was devoted to training of JPs. A conference for territorial coroners was held immediately after the JPs conference in Hay River. Justice of the peace training will continue to be a priority within the department and it is proposed to increase the number of training sessions for JPs.

My department is also involved in increasing public information in respect of all areas for which the department provides services. In the very near future there will be new information made available to the public on compensation for victims of crime, labour standards, services available to persons who find themselves in trouble with the law, rights under family law, maintenance enforcement and the public trustee. I believe that residents of the Northwest Territories will find this public information material very useful.

With these opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, I invite Members to deliberate on the Department of Justice and Public Services and I would request at this time that I have the permission of this committee to bring in my deputy minister, Mr. Stien Lal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Will the committee agree that we bring in the deputy minister for Justice and Public Services? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Stien Lal, as deputy minister. Mr. Braden, it is the practice of the House, when you are dealing with the budget, to open the floor for general comments on the complete budget so we cannot split it in two right now. We will deal with it page by page. So we are open now for general comments on the budget of Justice and Public Services. Any comments? Does the committee wish to go to detail, page by page? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Directorate, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 9.02, directorate, total O and M, in the amount of \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Legal Division

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 9.03, legal division, total O and M, in the amount of \$772,000. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) On page 9.02. Mr. Chairman, this is concerning my constituency and I am going to be asking a question on it. When the judges were in Pangnirtung, we were discussing the RCMP and we told them that we had too few. Now they know that two RCMP in Pangnirtung are not enough because of the crime. If the hamlet council requested money from Justice and Public Services, would you allocate some money to the board so that they can get a special constable?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I can provide a bit of an answer to that question at this time and I would encourage the Member to raise it again when we get to the police services section of the budget, but we have with the RCMP what we call a special constable program. There are vacancies in that program, in the number of positions that are allocated for that program now, so I think that I would be prepared to initiate on behalf of the Member discussions with the RCMP for the purposes of allocating a native constable position to his community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page 9.03, legal division. Mr. Noah.

Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officers

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask the Minister of Justice and Public Services a question concerning the by-law officers who are working for the hamlet councils. Do they have the same responsibilities as the RCMP or are they only doing the by-laws? I am going to explain it some more. This fall there was some crime in Baker Lake and the RCMP and the special constable appointed the two by-law officers to help the RCMP. We know that the RCMP wear bullet-proof vests and the by-law officers do not have these protective vests. If somebody shoots at you, you get shot since they are not wearing bullet-proof vests. Can the RCMP appoint by-law officers to help them in their work? Do you have any regulations or ordinances saying anything to that effect?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Municipal by-law enforcement officers are not generally defined under the criminal code as peace officers and therefore they do not carry the kind of authority and responsibility that peace officers or members of the RCMP carry. Their authority and their responsibility is obtained from the municipal council and they are charged with enforcing by-laws of the municipal council. Now, all that said and with respect to the particular situation that my colleague has noted, RCMP or peace officers have the authority to obtain the assistance of by-law officers in a situation where that assistance is deemed necessary or required to enforce the law. Now, in the particular case that has been referred to, I would assume that if it was of such magnitude that bullet-proof vests were required to enforce

the law, it would fall upon the RCMP to provide that kind of equipment to the by-law officers who they ask to assist them in conducting their work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Noah.

Special Equipment For By-Law Officers

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what you said, but the RCMP are working for the federal government. They are employees of the federal government and the by-law officers are working for the hamlet councils. They are appointed by the hamlet councils and they only have responsibilities within the boundaries of the settlement. Their salary comes from the hamlet council and they are not being paid by the government. I was just wondering and I wanted to know if the RCMP could appoint by-law officers since they are not going to be paying for their salary or if there is a dangerous job that they have got to do. I thought it was not right and if they are not going to be lending them vests or equipment, and give them some kind of insurance, to make sure that they are going to be all right, I think that they should just leave the by-law officers alone. The RCMP are working for the federal government and the by-law officers look after by-laws like dogs and traffic, but these little things are their responsibility, and if somebody is going to be doing any shooting, I do not think the by-law officers should take over the responsibility. If the by-law officers are going to be appointed by the RCMP, I think their salaries should be paid by the RCMP and they should have equipment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Noah. Mr. Minister.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the Member's question, the RCMP do not have the authority to appoint by-law officers. However, as I indicated previously, in times of an emergency the RCMP can call upon the services of the municipal police force to assist them in carrying out their duties and responsibilities. With respect to the equipment, I believe that it would be incumbent upon the RCMP to provide, as I said, Mr. Chairman, the special type of equipment that the Member has referred to. I will certainly bring this to the attention of the commanding officer here in Yellowknife to ensure that if in the future, such a situation arises, that an unnecessary burden or danger, which as the case may be in this example, is not put upon municipal by-law enforcement officers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Quite a while ago there was a case of a by-law officer not very pleased because of the dangerous situation. He did not know what was going on, I found out later when people started to tell me about it. If that is going to occur again, the by-law officers should be supplied with bullet-proof vests and some kind of insurance because they are not trained to handle these kinds of situations. They have been trained a little bit but they do not have these kinds of responsibilities. Later on the RCMP came in to assist in the settlement. These by-law officers were requested to help the RCMP and they were not supplied with the vests or any other equipment. They did not give them any guns or anything and it is quite a concern when you start thinking about it. I do not want to see it happen again. To me personally, I was sleeping at that time but thinking about it again, it became a concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister, no question there. Legal division, in the amount of \$772,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

RCMP Interpretation Of The Law

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, there have been some instances in the northwestern Arctic about the interpretation of the law. For example, the RCMP in themselves would take legislation from the NWT government system and the legislation is there but it appears from time to time that their interpretation of the law is different than what I understand or what I get from the Legislative Assembly. For example, for the changes that were recently made in bootlegging or availability of peace officers to go and search and be able to pick up evidence on bootlegging charges, the one area that was unclear and perhaps you can clarify, is the RCMP in Inuvik made the sort of internal ruling that an owner of an airplane service could actually go to the liquor store and could pick up a load of liquor, put it in his plane and deliver it to a community and the RCMP felt that they could not do anything about that. I suggested to them that they call the legal division and ask for that interpretation. I am wondering if you could clarify what the process is, if there is a law, and it is a territorial law, who is responsible for interpretation of the law and why would there be that particular discrepancy in that interpretation at that time.

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The legal division here that we are considering now provides legal advice to the Government of the Northwest Territories and to the Legislature as required. In the case of the RCMP, they receive almost all of their legal advice through the federal crown attorney's office, and in this case it is here in Yellowknife. From time to time they do get legal counsel from the Attorney General of Canada's office or through the Solicitor General's office in Ottawa. Now, because of our constitutional position in this area where we do not have authority over prosecutions, our legal service is not in a position where it can provide legal advice to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Now, in a province situation it would be that lawyers in the attorney general's office would provide this advice and assistance in interpretation to provincial police forces.

Now, in respect to the particular example that you have brought up, I could say generally and then I will ask my senior legal counsel to comment a bit, but it may have been in this case that the RCMP were advised that they just did not have sufficient evidence to prove that a crime was going to be committed or had been committed. Mr. Chairman, I would ask my deputy minister to just comment further to Ms Cournoyea's point.

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

Proving An Offence Was Committed

MR. LAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member had raised this matter with me and I had discussed it with the RCMP in Yellowknife and was given to understand that there was difficulty with obtaining the necessary proof required to convict the persons involved in this matter. As Members will appreciate, in a criminal case one has to prove that the offence was committed beyond reasonable doubt and in order to do that it is essential to have reasonably good evidence to base your case on. The police, in this particular case that the Member is referring to, felt that the way the transaction was designed it would not be possible for them to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt. Thank you.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, away from the case and in the interpretation of the law as it presently is, can an airplane owner-operator go to a liquor store by himself, pick up a plane load of liquor and deliver it to a community and pass it on? Is that within the law for him to do that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Lal.

MR. LAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Liquor in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Chairman, can only be sold through the authorized outlets. However, where the pilot of an aircraft is acting merely as a conduit to carry the liquor as a common carrier for a party he does not commit any offence. He will commit an offence if he carries the liquor, having purchased it from the liquor store, and then resells it to an outside party. That was the kind of difficulty that the police were involved in in the case that Ms Cournoyea referred to earlier on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you very much, Mr. Lal. The hour now being 6:00 o'clock, I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-82(1) and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow at the Northern Heritage Centre there will be a display of my sketches. I am sorry that those are the worst type of sketches I have ever made, but they are going to be displaying them at the Northern Heritage Centre. I think the better ones have been bought by the American citizens and the Canadians. They are going to be showing the worst part of my drawings and I am a little embarrassed. I am embarrassed for the residents of Yellowknife and the MLAs, but that cannot be helped. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Announcements for Thursday, February 18th. There will be a meeting of the CPA branch executive committee in room 301. That is a change from the previous location. It is room 301 at 10:30 a.m. There will also be a meeting of the standing committee on finance in Katimavik A at 10:30 a.m.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, 1:00 p.m., Thursday, February 18, 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: Matters Relating to the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories; Bill 1-82(1); 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., February 18, 1982.

---ADJOURNMENT

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