



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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**Pages 606 to 657**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

22 February 1982

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	606
Oral Questions	606
Questions and Returns	607
Tabling of Documents	609
Notices of Motion	609,656
Motions	610
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-82(1) Appropriation Ordinance, 1982-83	614
- Department of Finance	615
- Department of Information	639
- 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance	616
Report of the Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-82(1) Appropriation Ordinance, 1982-83	655
- 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance	655
Orders of the Day	657

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1982

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Just prior to turning to the orders of the day, the Chair would like to recognize in the gallery the Hon. John M. Turner, Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Mr. Robert J. Fleming, the director of the administration of Ontario.

---Applause

And Mr. J. Thomas Mitchinson, executive assistant to Mr. Fleming.

---Applause

Orders of the day for Monday, February 22nd.

Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Curley.

Question 41-82(1): Protecting Native Hunters From Seal Hunting Ban

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In view of the recent announcement by the common market that they might possibly ban seal hunting in Canada, I would like to ask the Minister what efforts he is doing to try and protect the interests of the hunters, particularly the native people, which require that part of the economy in the Northwest Territories to survive. Could the Minister indicate whether he has any plans to try and do something about it and what assistance he might seek from this Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 41-82(1): Protecting Native Hunters From Seal Hunting Ban

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are at the moment planning a trip. We hope one of the Inuit Members of this Assembly will travel to various centres in Europe -- Brussels, London, to meet with various members of the European Economic Community, the European economic market and also delegates from London who are associated with the motion to ban seals. I hope to get advice from the honourable Member and the other Members of the House as to who may attend these meetings.

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

Supplementary To Question 41-82(1): Protecting Native Hunters From Seal Hunting Ban

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the Minister. It might take more than just discussing this particular major problem with me. I would ask the Minister if he is prepared to table the government's position to the House so that we can consider it in committee of the whole before proceeding on a public relations type of show.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 41-82(1): Protecting Native Hunters From Seal Hunting Ban

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Presently we do not have a paper on the issue. It is just that a suggestion has been made that an official from Mr. Ittinuar's office in Ottawa and members from the Hudson's Bay Company would be part of the delegation and certainly I would be prepared to discuss this in committee of the whole at some time that may be indicated by the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Are there any written questions today? Returns. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 11-82(1): Contract Between NWT Housing Corporation And Baffin Building Systems Ltd.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, on February 8th the Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. MacQuarrie, posed written Question 11-82(1), concerning the contract between the Housing Corporation and Baffin Building Systems Ltd. I propose to reply in the following manner.

Early in 1980 the NWT Housing Corporation committed itself to a bold, innovative, social program in Frobisher Bay. Pursuant to section 46(2)(c) of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Ordinance, the corporation defined a five year construction trades training program for local people, in conjunction with the ongoing capital investment in new and rehabilitated housing projects. This program was developed to serve three main factors: 1) the training of local people to deliver housing in their community; 2) an economic base and employment within the community; and 3) better housing and an independence from the southern contractors.

The Frobisher Bay five year plan was a result of the community demand and was based in part on the successful Pangnirtung training program. As a result of the Pangnirtung experiences, it was learned that conventional techniques of project delivery made the incorporation of social commitments into capital projects very difficult. To overcome this, the 1980 Frobisher project was developed using a construction management contract which specifically incorporated the objectives of the program into the contract.

Schedule A, Construction Management Agreement Between NWT Housing Corporation  
And Baffin Building Systems Ltd.

Baffin Building Systems Training Contract

The corporation is involved in three major construction skills training programs in 1981-82 at Frobisher Bay. The second year training scheme was continued at the request of the housing association and the town of Frobisher Bay. Twenty local trainees were being trained in the skills of construction while working on capital projects. The program has been successful in providing employment, increasing the economy and providing basic training as well as responding to the political aspirations of the area -- greater employment and hiring of local people.

NWT Housing Corporation Contract Number 81-42

Due to Baffin Building Systems' past experience in the training aspect of construction projects in the Baffin region and the town of Frobisher Bay's desire to continue training -- Baffin Building Systems did 20 units the previous year in Frobisher Bay, the former vice-president of construction discussed with Baffin Building Systems the possibility of entering into a second year construction management contract for the erection of 10 Wolfenden units, two demo units and one fourplex. An agreement was reached between Brian Heacock, vice-president, construction NWT Housing Corporation and Jack O'Neil, president, Baffin Building Systems resulting in the execution of the existing management contract on May 10, 1981.

On May 20, 1981, the formal construction management agreement -- contract Number 81-42 was signed on behalf of the NWT Housing Corporation and Baffin Building Systems, copy attached herewith. Total proposed budget, as indicated in appendix B, page three, construction contract Number 81-42, \$1,398,860. As of January 21st, 1982, contract, with change orders, is \$1,648,988.60.

Comments On Tabled Document 6-82(1), Zoning, Sanikiluaq

Mr. Speaker, I have a further reply to another oral question asked by the honourable Member from Sanikiluaq, Mr. Appaqaq, on February 9th, concerning the zoning of the community of Sanikiluaq.

The five cost zones of the NWT are established and maintained by the Department of Social Services. Sanikiluaq is, and always has been, in cost zone three. The information Mr. Fawcett passed on at the meeting referred to, was information given him by the Baffin regional superintendent of Social Services, which was in error. The Department of Social Services cost zone document attached to the letter from the Sanikiluaq Housing Association in fact shows that Sanikiluaq is in cost zone three, and is still included in the Baffin region but in a different cost zone than the other Baffin communities.

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

Minister's Statement Re Contributions For Community Organized Searches

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is in regard to contributions for community organized searches for missing persons. During the second session of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly at Baker Lake, in June 1980, the Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Noah, requested that one-time-only grants of \$500 be issued to the Keewatin hunters' and trappers' associations to assist them in stockpiling fuel and materials for community activated search and rescue operations. In response to this request, a new policy has been developed which establishes a contribution of \$500 which the Government of the Northwest Territories may provide to communities to allow them to undertake searches for missing persons. In developing this policy, we have recognized that the



responsibility for conducting searches rests with the RCMP. There are occasions, however, when the police are unable to react to a request, and our policy will allow municipal councils or an organization designated by them, such as hunters' and trappers' associations, to undertake a search prior to and after an official search by the RCMP. The contribution will be administered by the regional director, and it is intended to provide fuel and food for the search party. This is not a one-time grant, but a contribution which the regional director can authorize when a request is received from a community or band council.

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

Item 5 on your orders of the day, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 22-82(1), 27th Annual Report, Liquor Control System and Liquor Licensing Board, April 1st, 1980, to March 31st, 1981. Thank you.

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

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Pudluk.

Notice Of Motion 30-82(1): Television Reception At Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am going to give notice of two motions for February 24th. They are very easy. The first is: Now therefore, I move that the government's administration extend the antenna so that the people can receive the reception from the antenna without purchasing antennas.

Notice Of Motion 31-82(1): Radio Station For Resolute Bay

The other one is: Now therefore, I move that the government's administration establish a community radio station in Resolute Bay and have it done as soon as they can. These motions are both going to be seconded by the Member from Sanikiluaq, Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Notices of motion. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion 32-82(1): Tabled Document 20-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of two motions for which I will seek unanimous consent under Item 10. I wish to give notice that I shall move that Tabled Document 20-82(1), Report to the Council of the Northwest Territories on the Examination of the Accounts and Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1981, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration at a time to be set by Mr. Speaker.

Notice Of Motion 33-82(1): Tabled Document 21-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole

The second notice, Mr. Speaker, is to give notice that I shall move that Tabled Document 21-82(1), Report to the Council of the Northwest Territories on "Any Other Matter" Arising from the Examination of the Accounts and Financial

Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1981, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration at a time to be set by Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

Motion 26-82(1). Mr. Curley.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS excellent medical, transportation and communication facilities exist at Churchill, Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS this quality infrastructure primarily serves the residents of the Keewatin region of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS these facilities are of major economic importance to the future of the Keewatin region;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable 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: Your motion is in order. Proceed, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I shall be speaking to my motion in Inuktitut. I stated earlier that we have heard that one of the MLAs, Dr. Hamelin, stated that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories could stay quiet and say nothing and be happy with the development of 10 other provinces. Concerning the future, I think that we will have to be looking at the Northwest Territories. For example, the Western Arctic is being more and more touched by southern Canada, and regarding that, I am trying to tell the Executive Committee that they should negotiate with the federal government regarding Churchill, Manitoba. It is useful to the Keewatin region. Perhaps cargo and shipping should be carried through that area, but for other areas, they have to use air transportation, and they really are a base for the Keewatin. When there are changes in transportation or no transportation -- when the residents request cargo facilities the government just seems to reject that area. I think the Government of the NWT should be negotiating to have Churchill to be part of the Northwest Territories.

Also, I want to make a statement. For example, the Western Arctic and the Mackenzie are having good transportation even in winter weather. Other industrial areas are having benefits to their transportation, and they never seem to worry about their transportation or cargo and the high costs. In summer, they come up here and other cargo goes up to Yellowknife; however other transportation is not of benefit to the Keewatin, and I would like some support for the motion. I think we will have to look in the long run to see what is going to happen in the Keewatin in the future, and as we have seen the constitutional agreement, we have some control over -- the provinces have control over -- according to the constitutional agreement -- they can go up to the NWT. Now I will speak in English. (Translation ends)



Importance Of Churchill To Economy Of Keewatin

Mr. Speaker, my motion may seem far out to some Members from the western part of the Territories but I would like to advise the Members from that part of the area here, the Mackenzie, that this particular port of Churchill is very important to the economy of the Keewatin region. I think Churchill, Manitoba, has benefited quite a lot because of the Northwest Territories and because of the supply needs of the Keewatin region and transportation needs as well. I do not think we should continue to try and ignore the fact that we could possibly improve the economy of Churchill if it were to be annexed to part of the Keewatin region. I am not saying this in the fashion that we are better off than a provincial government, but recently the town of Churchill has been complaining to the province and federal government that it is slowly dying out -- the economy is way down and the population has dropped from 12,000 or so at one time, down to 1000.

So I think it shows that this government should be able to look ahead for the future, because after all, you have good transportation here. Transportation and supply services are very well established in your part of the area, and it might be that we have to wake up and realize today that Yellowknife may not be able to, after all, serve other regions like Keewatin and Baffin, that it certainly does not serve them in terms of transportation. I did say in Inuktitut that Keewatin people, the businessmen, are now discouraged these days by the various government policies and federal crown corporations to be able to engage in competitive transportation, to be able to deliver goods and services, because the Northern Transportation Co. Ltd., has a monopoly in terms of that. That means that the residents of Churchill primarily benefit with that kind of economy, because they are at that port where most of the supplies are delivered to that region.

So I am not saying to you that we are going to possibly resolve the problem, but I am saying to you today that the Executive Committee should approach the federal government and various provincial governments, particularly the Government of Manitoba, and see whether or not we can enter into a serious discussion with them and negotiate with them and see what are the possibilities. If we cannot resolve it, then at least we could untie the federal regulations to allow the people in the Keewatin to be able to take part in the free enterprise concept. I would urge that all Members support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Patterson, as seconder of the motion.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to support this motion. Geography and history dictates, I think, Mr. Speaker, that Churchill has a logical connection with the Northwest Territories. The NWT government already has a significant presence there and has had in the past, particularly in the area of education. I also support the motion, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is entirely appropriate that provincial and federal governments, who have recently conspired to allow expansion of provincial boundaries into the NWT without our participation, should now be told of the logic of extending the NWT border a few miles southward into a province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: So, I urge other Members to support this motion. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 26-82(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Do you wish to summarize, Mr. Curley? Question. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 28-82(1). Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion 28-82(1): Motion Of Appreciation To Gordon R. Carter

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Gordon R. Carter has been chairman of the Public Utilities Board since 1977 and of the Highway Transport Board since 1972;

AND WHEREAS in both positions he has carried out his responsibilities in a most outstanding and most effective manner;

AND WHEREAS Gordon R. Carter has very recently resigned from both these positions;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Legislative Assembly request the Speaker to convey to Gordon R. Carter its most sincere appreciation for the outstanding and most effective manner in which he carried out his responsibilities for many years as chairman of the Highway Transport Board and as chairman of the Public Utilities Board.

Mr. Speaker, my motion is seconded by the Hon. Mr. Braden.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your motion is in order. Proceed.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I first became involved with the Public Utilities Board when it was totally under the government, in that Mr. Parker, now Commissioner, was the chairman. In 1977 the government made the decision to privatize the Public Utilities Board and appointed three members from the general public. I for one, as a member of the Consumers' Association, at the time fully supported that move and followed from 1977 to the present the chairmanship of the Public Utilities Board under Mr. Carter. So, I speak from firsthand experience, when I say that Mr. Carter has done an outstanding job. I found him and the rest of the board very supportive of the role that the Consumers' Association and individual businessmen and the mines had to play in the whole role of advocacy and found that very interesting that our Public Utilities Board would, in fact, take that supportive role, but it was through Mr. Carter that that came to be.

NCPC, our Northern Canada Power Commission, never missed the opportunity to try the patience of Mr. Carter when each time that they came before him and the rest of the board they made it quite clear that they were there only because they had good will and that they certainly did not need to be there, because they were not within the jurisdiction of the territorial Public Utilities Board. However, Mr. Carter took that in his stride and his strategy always was to push a little but not go too far, so that NCPC never had the opportunity to walk out of a hearing and say, "Your Public Utilities Board is a waste of time," or "Your Public Utilities Board is too radical for us," and I admire him for taking that position. Sometimes as a consumer advocate I did not always agree and wanted him to be much more radical. However, I think he was wise in that strategy.

Now that Mr. Carter has resigned, he has said in the news media that he is tired. I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that it is not so much that he is tired, but rather, like myself and other Members of this House, disgusted with the lack of action and concern regarding this monster that we call NCPC. I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Carter, when he says he is tired, is merely being

discreet and I further suspect that we will never know the real reason for him retiring at this point. In any case, Mr. Speaker, I hope that Members will join with me in conveying this Legislature's sincere appreciation to Mr. Carter for the work he has done on both these boards. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Braden, as seconder. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 28-82(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Motion 29-82(1). Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the following motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard. Whereas the leaders of the major native associations and I have had a conference to discuss political and constitutional reform and will be meeting again on February 23rd and 24th, 1982, to finalize a proposal on a framework for...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Wah-Shee. I do not have that in my book, the motion. All I have in my book is the "Now therefore". There are no pre clauses to it whatsoever. Has this been something that has been added since it was put into the book?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: What did I do?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Mr. Wah-Shee, you are having problems with this motion and your time schedule for a meeting on February the 25th is already tight. Is there any way that you can get this matter cleared up so that we can handle it?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize for this. Perhaps I could come back and ask for unanimous consent to straighten this out. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. That clears up motions for the time being. I understand that unanimous consent is going to be requested. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would request of the House unanimous consent to move the two motions that I gave notice of today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Unanimous consent is being requested to move on two motions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. Butters.



Motion 32-82(1): Tabled Document 20-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE that Tabled Document 20-82(1), Report to the Council of the Northwest Territories on the Examination of the Accounts and Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1981, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration at a time to be set by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Butters, your motion is in order.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Butters.

Motion 33-82(1): Tabled Document 21-82(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE that Tabled Document 33-82(1), Report to the Council of the Northwest Territories on "Any Other Matter" Arising from the Examination of the Accounts and Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1981, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration at a time to be set by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Nerysoo. Your motion is in order. Mr. Butters.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Question.

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

---Carried

That, then, concludes motions. When Mr. Wah-Shee gets his Motion 29-82(1) back into shape, we shall ask for unanimous consent to go back to motions.

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; 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-82(1), APPROPRIATION  
ORDINANCE, 1982-83; 13TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Department Of Finance

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the Department of Finance on page 6.01. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, may I be permitted to sit at the witness table and from that vantage point request permission of the committee to bring into the House the senior financial officer of this government, Mr. Eric Nielsen?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed, then, Mr. Butters, if you want to bring in your...

---Agreed

Thank you, Mr. Butters. Opening remarks, please.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to get this on track. We will, I understand, be doing the Department of Finance first, Mr. Chairman, and then when that is completed, move into the Financial Management Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: On the matter of the Department of Finance, the primary responsibility of the department is to provide central direction and financial management in support of government operations. In addition, it manages the government's consolidated revenue fund through collection and reporting of all revenues of the government, and is responsible for financial accounting systems and the preparation of the territorial accounts.

During the past year, significant effort was directed at the implementation of the government's new financial systems. With the addition of a new tax manager's position, the department is placing major emphasis on development of new tax and other revenue sources. The department's 1982-83 budget, which is within the guidelines, provides for a new financial office in the Kitikmeot region, in addition to strengthening the comptrollership activity at headquarters with two man years.

The direction for 1982-83 includes:

- 1) the completion of systems modifications to the financial information system and a phasing down to maintenance over the year;
- 2) to continue the 1981-82 emphasis on developing revenue -- a statistical data base for the Government of the Northwest Territories, and improvement to revenue-generating capacity of this government;
- 3) expected improvements in internal control systems, procedures and documentation both at headquarters and in the regions;
- 4) that there will be support and training of headquarters departments and regional finance organizations;
- 5) to develop and implement procedures for co-ordination of all accounting functions and procedures throughout the Government of the Northwest Territories.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Nielsen, have you anything to add to that? Mrs. Sorensen.

Report From Standing Committee On Finance

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance reviewed this department, and we have no recommendations to make other than we, as has been stated before, are concerned about the financial information system, but we understand that an arrangement has been made with the Auditor General for a comprehensive audit. That is to take place as soon as the financial information system is up and running. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to confirm that we have acceded to the direction of this House and Mrs. Sorensen's committee to establish and arrange such an audit of the financial management system in the near future, hopefully to get it started by May.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. General comments, Department of Finance. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Could we just have an update on where the financial information system is at at the present time; how much of it is implemented; the scheduling of reports -- which ones are out at the present time; and when it will be completely caught up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

Present Status Of Financial Information System

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to provide a status report on the financial information system as of this date. Members will recall that the system was implemented in Yellowknife in June of 1981, and in the regions by August of the same year. Parallel operations were discontinued after processing four month ends. The financial information system is now operating as a stand-alone system, is functioning correctly and appears to be gaining acceptance in the user community.

The backlog of financial transactions which had accumulated during implementation of FIS has now been substantially cleared away to the point where Finance were scheduling the production of the December month end reports on February the 16th. In fact, I think Executive Committee Members depending on this information received that report last week.

The FIS project team is continuing in its efforts to finalize the development of some of the remaining system features. This work is expected to be completed by the end of April of this year. Approximately 40 reports have been developed and implemented. Many of these are printed each month, and form part of the management reporting package. Considerable effort is still required, however, to complete the development of all the FIS reports. The budget preparation programs are in place and will be used to set up the fiscal 1982-83 budget data into the FIS. In the entry of these budgets, the Kitikmeot region will be shown as a separate region.

Briefing Members On Flexibility Of The System

I would also advise Members that when we appeared before the standing committee on finance, this matter was raised at that time. We did provide Mrs. Sorensen's committee with an indication of the flexibility of the system and the type of information which it would provide us as managers of this government's moneys. I feel that if Members of this committee who have not had an opportunity to be so briefed, we could arrange a briefing and indicate that we are moving along toward implementing this total system quite satisfactorily.



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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, did I understand from the remarks that the Minister made a few minutes ago that revenue is an area that is still cloudy, or accounts receivable, and so on; that that is an area of the system that yet has to be developed and implemented? If this is the case, when can we look forward to that being done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Chairman. If I gave that impression, it is incorrect. The revenue aspect of our total finance is in the system, and that has been implemented.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. General comments, Department of Finance. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, in his opening remarks the Minister made reference to the fact that revenue sources and new means of taxation were going to be a major thrust of the Department of Finance over the next year. One of the five points of the motion that this House passed for the negotiation on the Norman Wells pipeline was a revenue sharing agreement, and the need to negotiate, particularly with respect to the Norman Wells pipeline, some type of revenue sharing. I know that you had a study, but could the Minister indicate to the House what further steps you are taking now that you have a study in hand. Obviously you have taken some time to come up with a position. What steps are you taking now to put to the federal government this government's position on revenue sharing so that we may be able to partake in the revenues that will accrue to the federal government when the oil starts flowing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

Approach On Resource Revenue Sharing Is Interdepartmental

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as the Member will appreciate, the approach on resource revenue sharing is not an initiative only of the Department of Finance. There are a number of departments which have an interest in this area and are working co-operatively and collectively to develop -- I guess at this time you could call it a strategy to approach the federal government on developing the revenues which the Member has indicated are so important to our continual financial good health.

The general approach, as I say, so far is being conducted under the chairmanship of the energy and resource development secretariat and that group now is putting together a timetable and I believe will be suggesting strategy options to us. My expectation is that we would be moving toward developing a negotiating timetable in the very near future, but as I say, it is not something that this Department of Finance is undertaking alone. Finance is working co-operatively with a number of other departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Well, Mr. Butters, I think you would agree with me that there is some urgency on this matter. It has been an outstanding issue for some time and we really need to get this matter at least to the negotiating table.

Now, with respect to other measures of taxation, it is my understanding that the Government of the Northwest Territories has been attempting to tax the dragline at Pine Point. I wonder if you could familiarize the House with the details of that and what other measures might you be investigating? For instance, I also understand that there are some measures that might be taken to tax offshore drilling rigs or, at the very least, offshore islands. Can you give us enough data on those measures?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, answering the Member's last question first; yes, we are seriously investigating the possibilities of taxing capital infrastructure that exists in the Beaufort. With regard to the Pine Point equipment, the taxation is occurring under the Municipal Ordinance and would really be a matter for my honourable colleague, the Minister of Local Government to answer. However -- and maybe our Law Clerk knows about this -- I believe the matter is still before the courts and it would be improper for me to make any comments on that case until some disposition has been made thereto.

Negotiation Of Fiscal Formula A Priority

I would like to also make a comment on the priorities of this department in its negotiations. We still have outstanding the requirement to negotiate the fiscal formula for funding this government. I guess that probably is the major priority of the department right now, to attempt to receive from the federal government agreement that our funding henceforth can be determined under a formula analogous to that which is enjoyed by the provinces.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, we will be seeking later in this session to increase the revenue that this government collects by increasing taxes on certain items. What guarantee do we have, if we are to raise this additional revenue, that the federal government will not in turn, next year, reduce the grant that we obtain from them? Can you assure this House that the federal government will not, in fact, just reduce our grant if we increase our revenues at this end?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Before I answer the question, might I look to my colleague in Justice and Public Services, who I think may have a response with regard to the Pine Point equipment? May he answer?

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as we know Cominco has not appealed the decision that was made concerning the Pine Point dragline. So, the dragline will be assessed. Taxes will be levied.

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Good corporate citizens.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

Raising Taxes Indicates Fiscal Responsibility

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is good news, Mr. Chairman. In response to the question of the chairman of the finance committee, no, we have no guarantees that taxes raised by this government will do any more than reduce the grant, but what it does indicate to the federal government is a fiscal responsibility which enables us to negotiate a much better position vis-à-vis the federal government in terms of our fiscal needs. Over the past year, when we have gone to Ottawa or approached the intergovernmental committee and asked for more money, the constant response we get from the federal fiscal authorities is, "How come the trend in your expenditures keeps increasing and the trend in your revenues does not seem to follow suit?" Well, this would indicate to them that we do have a high degree of fiscal responsibility and are seeking in every way possible to pay our own way and meet the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories. We have to do both.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): General comments. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I have had an opportunity to read the paper that was produced by the government on taxing benefits. In that paper the government suggests that a certain approach be taken and that is just generally a universal provision for a reduction of taxes for people of the North. Where is that? I want to know whether serious negotiations have been taking place recently with the federal government and is it likely that such a scheme will be eventually agreed to by the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

No Negotiation In Area Of Remission Of Taxing Benefits

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, Members will recall that, I think, we tabled a document in the summer and indicated to the House at that time that we had sent it to the federal Minister of Finance, with a covering letter indicating that this was our response to the suggestion that the remission order would cease at the end of the past year. I think we received a couple of acknowledgements of receipt, but nothing substantial, so that, no, there have been no negotiations going on in this area yet. Recently, with the budget announcement last November that the remission order will be extended only to the end of the current calendar year, there have been many other groups keenly interested in putting forward some kind of a position to the federal government. We have offered to work with such groups to co-ordinate the efforts of such groups, to participate with such groups, and at the present time are awaiting some response from them.

Early in December last, the Minister of Indian Affairs, the Hon. John Munro, indicated by press release that his department and he himself personally accepted the mandate to bring together the arguments from the North, to put to his colleague, the federal Minister of Finance. As yet, this government has not met with federal officials to discuss our position, but we would expect to in the very near future. We are expecting that our position and any joint position would have to be in the hands of the federal Minister of Finance early this year, say May, but, no, there have been no serious negotiations going on as yet on this matter of consolidating and co-ordinating an approach from northern peoples.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further comments? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to bring about the issue of the computer again, because I think the Minister of Finance's director is the real promoter of that hardware, which is really, I think, taking away the job opportunities we could have in the civil service. The records show that this government has not improved the monthly, or whatever, reports required to keep up the particular budgets of each department accurately and I believe that we continue to lag behind in our financial statements. I think this is one area that we could possibly not allow to happen in this government. The private sector can balance their books every month and they are allowed to do that on a monthly basis. I am wondering why the Director of Finance feels that by spending a huge sum of money for the government's inventory on computers, they would provide the best possible service for the people and the employment opportunities to the people of the North?

Do you not share, Mr. Minister, that we could possibly be served better by privatizing that junk that the Department of Finance is accumulating and, therefore, not have to bother about tinkering around with the financial information, which is normally not kept up-to-date? We are behind three months on every statement. Could you people justify why you are accumulating that huge capital inventory there when private operators, computer operators, could possibly do a better job in this part of the North? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

Financial Information System Is Highly Sophisticated

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I reject the notion, the idea that this government has accumulated a pile of junk. I think we probably possess the most sophisticated financial information system that exists in the world today. I would point out to you that while we have only now printed out the December records, by the end of the fiscal year, we will be up-to-date. The Member will recall that during the implementation stage we had to carry a book record system. That system is no longer required and I think the proof of the pudding in this case will be in the service which it provides to the managers of this government and the Ministers of the various departments.

I think that for me to respond now to many of the criticisms being made by the Member really presumes upon the report that will be carried out by the Auditor General and his staff on the system. I am convinced that the report will be a positive one and that the innovators and the initiators of the system will be recognized to be forward looking and be complimented for the work that they have put into place. I do not know if the Member has taken advantage of an opportunity to go through our computer system. I do not know whether the Member has taken advantage of an opportunity to be briefed on what has occurred over the past year, but I would suggest to him that I would be delighted to arrange such a briefing. I think that when he sees what the computer can do and is doing now, he will be a little less concerned that we are cluttering up office space in this government with sophisticated junk.

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

Justification Requested For Not Using Private Operators

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, there were rumours going around last year, when we were dealing with the estimates, that the regional offices were also supplied with the computer junk and they apparently were not even in the accurate kind of a machine. Now, I would like to know on what basis can the government justify spending money on what is not even the right type of equipment in that area and, therefore, I think creates a problem for job opportunities for accountants and small bookkeepers, who could probably keep the records of each department up-to-date. It is being done in the private sector and you can get their records a lot quicker than you normally would in each department or the government agency, because this government -- although it sounds like they have great respect for the Auditor General, experience is that the government never pays any attention to the Auditor General's report. If they make a statement that the government or each department is abusing certain rules of the accounting procedures, the government rarely, I think, tightens up its belt to try and better reflect the accounting procedures required, compared to the private sector.

So, will the Minister reassure me, why he feels he can do a better job than the private sector, the private operator operating the computer for the government records on that part? Does he not feel that the government really is wasting its time, when it could be done, possibly cheaper in the long run and better -- handled better -- on the monthly basis to reflect and to balance the books of the government when they are needed? I believe this Assembly should be the ones that should make your particular department accountable. I think it is concerned. So, I would like to see what further assurance he can give me that the government will do a better job in keeping the building that it has invested money into, as well as the computer maintenance required for future? So, I would like some assurance on that, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.



HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, this department and this government is accountable. It is accountable to the standing committee on finance of this House. It is accountable to this committee of the whole for annually it comes before you and presents the expenditures of this government and two or three times a year it comes before you and presents its supplementary estimates. So, we are accountable to this House.

Let me assure the Member that we do pay careful attention to what the Auditor General says. To ignore recommendations and suggestions of the Auditor General would be extremely foolhardy and foolish on our part and we attempt to implement and correct any omissions or sins of commission which he may draw to our attention.

#### System Could Be A Model For Other Jurisdictions

The honourable Member asks for my assurance that the system that is being put in place will do much more than what we might be able to purchase from private enterprise. Well, in terms of computer sophistication, you cannot buy it. It is not available on the shelf anywhere in the computer world at the present time. I think that this government has embarked on and has produced a system which will be a model for many other jurisdictions, major cities and provincial governments.

I shared the Member's suspicion and concern some years ago. Yet when the consultants came around I indicated, as a manager, what I would want that computer to do, want that computer to tell me. I have been very impressed with the print-outs that I see coming out of that machine. It not only looks at pay rolls and the ongoing administrative requirements of the government, but it gives you instantaneous information on revenues, on expenditures, on collections, on manpower. It is a very important managerial tool. I would ask the Member to join me and go over the type of material it does provide and I do not think I would have to give him any reassurance. I think that he would be reassured to see the type of material that it would put into his hands on the pressing of a few buttons.

I mentioned a sophisticated system. We have put into place a system that serves the needs of a total government and all the needs of a total government and not only a government that one may find in the provinces, but a government that has taken very, very seriously the recommendations of this House for decentralization, for devolution. The FIS computers that exist in the regions do operate independently, do have their own data base, do provide their own reports to the regional managers. We can access that system, but it is in place and it is out there to assist them to manage. I would like the Member to come with me sometime, to go through the computer and just see what is available to us.

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

MR. CURLEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will at some point; I do not know whether I will be able to do it this session or not. But if I am then convinced that this new toy that the government is experimenting with these days is good for the future of the North, then I would possibly want to share in its -- what do you call it -- the excitement over the progress. I would like to ask the Minister whether, in fact, the computer, this FIS system knows exactly how much money the Government of the Northwest Territories has spent on it up to now during the last three years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

#### Computer's Answer To Question On Its Cost

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just so I understand the Member's question, he wished to know what the cost of this system has been to this government over the last three years. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, my question really is, "Does the computer know how much money the Government of the Northwest Territories has spent on it during the last three years?"

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am advised that the computer does know.

MR. CURLEY: How much?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I think the question is, "How much money has been spent on that FIS system in the last three years?" That was the question.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: If Members will check the debate record of a year ago when we were before this committee, I think we indicated that our projected expenditure on the system would be \$1,996,000. A year later, the projection is a little bit higher but it is now \$2,053,000, so there is a minor increase over the year; two million dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I do not think that the question has been answered, Mr. Minister. I think the question was "How much money was spent on the computer system in the last three years?" Is that the question, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, what I was trying to get at was, if this FIS system is so accurate, it should be able to know how much money this government spent on it. That is what I am trying to say, but the Minister is attempting to tinker with the computer's records. I am trying to get the exact record of what the computer says -- how much money this government has spent on it. That was the information, and I would think if it is so accurate that it would know how much money this government has spent on it during the last three years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we know how much has been spent, and as I said, it is around two million dollars, the figures that have...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Could the computer tell us that, I wonder? Mr. Curley, has your question been satisfied?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, if it is not readily available, it might be helpful to at least provide it to us before the session is over, anyway. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I guess I still have trouble with the question. Is the question about total government expenditures, can the computer provide that and break that down, or does he wish the expenditures that this government has made for the system to date?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to ask a very simple question. In simple terms, it could be summarized, "How much is this -- equipment -- cost -- has the government -- how much is it, really?" You know, how much inventory has the government accumulated with this equipment? That is the question, but to be more precise, if it was working all right, accurately, then it should be able to break down how much money was spent on it during the last three years in each year, up to this fiscal year. Thank you.

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



HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think maybe I had better take the question as notice and get the information. I think the computer can provide that information. I think we can satisfy the Member that those figures do exist, because we will have to satisfy the Auditor General that those figures do exist.

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

Proposed Fuel Tax

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, the other thing I am concerned with is the government proposal to create fuel taxes. I wonder if the Minister could be more specific in exactly what type of and what fuel he is proposing to tax. I also would like to know why he is not proposing any increases in taxes on liquor, because that seems to be the most common item that the government could probably benefit from if it wants to increase its revenue. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the liquor is taxed on an indexed basis. That means that it automatically goes up as the price increases effect upon us. With regard to the fuel tax which is being proposed, I suggest that the Member be patient until the second reading of the bill and reference of that bill to committee of the whole for discussion. I think it would be presumptuous of me to attempt to respond or answer to something which still only remains a bill in first reading.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Sibbeston. Comments.

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, just a general question. I guess as just an ordinary MLA representing a fairly distant, rural, isolated part of the North, one always wonders whether government spends money as it proposes, and as we pass the budget. I know that government in certain cases does not spend all of the money that it is authorized to do. I know in my area there are quite a number of government positions that are simply not filled. So what happens with this money? Now, with regard to the capital areas, certain moneys, certain capital expenditures are identified, but there are others that are not specified as to just how they are going to be spent.

Computer Print-Out Of Detail Of Last Years Capital Expenditures

Now, these computers are so fantastic and so good, it seems to me we should be able to have a complete breakdown of all the expenditure of government for the past years. Can such information be retrieved? It seems to me that it would be of some use to know. For instance, last year we had passed a budget of \$371 million. Just how much of that money was spent, how much money of it was spent, perhaps, for different items or activities than those which had been authorized, and how much money lapsed? I wonder, can that sort of information be provided? Last year I know that there was a computer print-out that was provided of a capital plan for 1981-82. This year, it is not provided, and I am just wondering if a similar type of capital plan can, in fact, be spun out or spit out by the computer for us; whether it is possible to have a computer print-out of all the money that was spent by the government last year, which identifies what it was spent on and whether it was for the expenditure authorized or not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that information requested by the Member can be retrieved. The expenditures record is found in the Annual Report of the Territorial Accounts. I tabled this last week, and tomorrow I shall be seeking unanimous consent to move it into committee of the whole for discussion here. But this is the document that the Member is seeking and I think it contains the information that he wants with regard to our actual expenditures.

The capital print-out -- I remember that document as well, and I believe we should have no problem in providing that for him and for other Members.

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

Request For More Detail In Estimates

MR. SIBBESTON: The budget booklet and the estimates that come to us I find are fairly general. Is it not possible to produce a document that has more detail than what it has now? I know in the capital area a fair amount of information is provided as to what is going to be, what the money is going to be spent on, but in the O and M, for instance, I find that it is fairly general, and there is a lot of miscellaneous categories. I am just wondering if a more detailed estimate can be provided for next year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I think so. I think we could probably accede to the Member's request. We do provide the standing committee on finance with more detail than is presently before Members. Possibly the chairman of the standing committee might be able to determine whether she believes that information would be helpful and valuable if it were circulated and made available to all Members of the committee of the whole, or alternatively, suggest another way in which the detail might be provided to satisfy Members' requirement to examine our expenditures and our proposed expenditures.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he could be a little more specific about the kind of increases in taxes on fuel and liquor normally imposed by the government. You seemed to indicate to me that they are automatically increased. Could the Minister say by what percentage they are increased automatically? Do they not require approval from this House before the taxes are automatically imposed by the government? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, I guess I may have used the word "tax" incorrectly. We index our profits so, in effect, that whether our profits could be said to be analogous with taxes or not, I do not know, but those revenues increase as the price goes up.

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

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Well, you know, I was trying to compare that in my mind. I am quite confused about, maybe, why would the fuel prices -- they normally automatically go up, you know, as far as the regular increases on fuel costs are concerned. But this government continues to impose further increases on taxes on fuel and I am wondering why does that not also apply to the liquor, as it does with the fuel tax?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would still prefer to leave even a comparison between fuel and liquor until the matter on the taxation of fuel is before the House and ready for debate. I feel that by answering, again, would presume on that debate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will take a 15 minute coffee break and then have Ms Cournoyea on.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We have a quorum. Mr. Minister, have you some glad tidings to bring to the House?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to say, Mr. Chairman, that during coffee break I was informed that the decision on the Pine Point dragline has been appealed. Therefore, it is again before the courts and discussion should not take place with regard to that particular item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms Cournoyea, I think we have you on the list first.

Taxation Of Northern Benefits Affecting Transfer Payments

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the finance committee, I wanted to ask or have a little more information on exactly the job of negotiations with the federal government. In negotiating with the federal government on taxation of northern benefits, is that going to be a positive thing for the budget financing of the Northwest Territories in terms of money allocation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, at the moment it would appear to be a separate issue. We are approaching the requirement on the basis that our original proposal of some 10 months ago was equally beneficial to all northerners and benefits, if they might be obtained by a tax break, would accrue to all northerners, but we do not see that as affecting our tax regime and tax relation with the federal government at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Well, there seems to be an assumption that the taxation of northern benefits would eventually cost this government more money. Is that true?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, in response to that question, there has not been a full evaluation of that situation, but we do not necessarily feel that it would cost this government more money. However, as I say, the final answer has not been developed at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Who was instrumental in finally getting the moratorium on northern benefits?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I do not recollect, but it would appear that that moratorium resulted from the outcry that occurred across and throughout the North when it became known that the federal government was intending to tax benefits that were then not taxed. I think Members all appreciate that, as the act is written, such benefits are taxable. I do not think we are arguing that point, nor were any of the people that raised an outcry at that time, but they did feel that there should be another way of recognizing the penalties which are paid by people who live and work in the more isolated communities of the North by way of their geographic location.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.



MS COURNOYEA: I realize that there was an outcry and there were certainly a lot of people who were affected by such a change in the taxation system, but from time to time the finance and negotiations do state that the taxation received from northerners always infiltrates into what the actual financial statements are going to be in the end and how much transfer payments we are going to get. Would you say that from the human outcry and the people involved, who were very concerned about being taxed, that your department lobbied extensively to promote the fact that there should be a moratorium?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

Representation To Federal Government

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I do not know that we lobbied extensively, but we did make representations, along with other people, to the federal government to examine the historical evolution of such benefits in the North and urged them to develop what we felt was a pragmatic and practical response to taxation in the North. We feel that the proposal that we made to the federal Department of Finance some 10 months ago is just that and would hope that the Department of Finance would look favourably upon it.

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

MS COURNOYEA: How did these negotiations take place or how was it approached? At what level and where was the most concern in those taxations, that they should be eventually brought forth?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, this government has not taken part in any negotiations on the behalf of any particular group or collective, as it were. We have only examined the problem and recommended to the federal government what we determined to be a satisfactory and practical solution; and not only to the federal government, but it was a document which we tabled in this House and indicated that we would be forwarding to Ottawa as a general position of our government.

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

MS COURNOYEA: In the taxation of northern benefits, what was this realistic approach that you talked about, and a practical approach? Could you just simplify that and clarify just what that approach was?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member realizes that I moved that document into committee of the whole for discussion independently of this particular debate. If the Member wishes to go into the philosophy of that proposal at this time, I guess we could do so. It would be up to the wish of the committee, but I might just ask Mr. Nielsen if he would give some background on the evolution of that proposal, where it came from and up to the point in time where it was tabled in the House, I think, a year ago. So, if I might just ask Mr. Nielsen to advise the Members of the history and maybe we could leave the debate proper to an examination of the proposal in its detail, which is before you.

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

Background To Proposal Regarding Taxation Of Northern Benefits

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman and honourable Members. The problem first came to this government's attention -- at least, to the administration's attention -- some two years ago or perhaps even longer ago than that, when it was learned that the

Department of National Revenue intended to start taxing or enforcing the current Income Tax Act. It was at the time when a number of mining companies learned that their employees were starting to have their income tax returns reassessed, on the basis that they had not included a number of benefits paid by those mining companies. It was at that time in investigation and in anticipation of the fact that the Department of National Revenue would, in fact, be enforcing the Income Tax Act, that this government -- the administration -- initiated a study of the problem and developed a proposal.

That proposal, in its final form, was approved by the financial management board or Executive Committee, was tabled at the Legislative Assembly approximately a year ago, and was then forwarded to the federal government, Department of Finance and Department of National Revenue. Subsequent to that time, there have been a number of discussions -- not negotiations -- but discussions on the paper, but the level of administration influence that we have had has likely been very small in that the real issue is the federal government's policy with respect to taxation and expenditures.

With the onset of the November 12th budget, it was made clear to this government that the federal government did not wish to use the Income Tax Act as a vehicle for recognizing taxpayer expenditures in the North, and, in fact, it was communicated that the federal government wished to introduce an expenditure plan rather than a taxpayer expense plan. At that time, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development was charged with the responsibility for developing an alternative expenditure plan. That department has been working to develop such a plan, and the Minister of Finance of this government was advised by the Minister of DIAND that they would be getting together with our government in an administrative capacity to develop, or at least to refine and prepare a proposal for an alternative measure. That has not yet taken place.

The second major initiative being undertaken by our Minister of Finance at this point in time is participation in a working group involving the mining industry, labour, the chamber of commerce and the chamber of mines, to prepare a paper which would be presented to the federal government and which would be representative of a position which could be endorsed by all the major groups North of 60. That paper is currently under development. The success of the presentation of that paper, I think, will not depend on this government's representation or one individual's representation, but very likely a combined and concerted effort on the part of senior industry representatives and political Members in this forum today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nielsen. General comments. Mr. Curley.

#### Liquor Profits

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question -- really a clarification. In the summary of sources of income on page (iii), it says that liquor profits during 1981-82 were \$6,976,000. Does that include tax on the liquor, or is that just profit? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Might the Member repeat the question again? We have the reference now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): That is on page (iii), I think, in the beginning of the book. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, the Minister replied to my question that liquor taxes were automatically -- on an average basis -- based on whatever formula that they use, but in the summary of sources of income, revenues for 1981-82, total liquor profits were \$6,976,000. My question is, does that include the taxes on the liquor for the fiscal year 1981-82, or without taxes?



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I might have used the word "tax" incorrectly. What I indicated was "indexed" -- was the profit that accrues to this government on alcohol. That is indexed, and that figure referred to by the Member, the \$6,976,000 is a profit figure, and that profit figure is indexed annually on the basis of the increase in expenditures to us -- increase in costs to us of the product.

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

MR. CURLEY: A final question, Mr. Chairman. How is the decision arrived at by the Executive Committee as to what items they should increase taxes on? Does the Executive Committee itself make the decision, or do you as the Minister make the decision, or do you make the decision that you would increase taxes on certain items and pass it on to the consumers of the Northwest Territories, or do you do it on the basis of recommendations of the finance director, or -- and if you have not been increasing the taxes on liquor or imposing tax on liquor, why are you not doing that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I indicated that the costs of liquor are indexed, and the costs of liquor to people in the Territories are indexed and go up annually. I think that the Member, if he compares the cost of liquor in the Northwest Territories with any other jurisdiction, will find that our costs are already very much higher than other jurisdictions. While it may not be a tax in the direct sense of the word, it is a revenue source to this government, and it is increased annually on an indexed basis, so I would suggest that it is doing exactly what the Member requests, in the sense of taxation. We are increasing the cost of liquor to the consumer, the revenue from which accrues to this government and is used by this government for its programs and projects.

#### Assessing Sources Of Tax Revenues

I would like to answer the Member's question relative to how we develop and approach this matter of taxation. The Executive Committee does not examine it. The matter of taxation is examined by the financial management board. Our financial advisers and officials do an assessment of methods of seeking and assessing such revenues in other jurisdictions, in the provinces, and we also would use recommendations and suggestions from other sources, including this Assembly. In fact, when we took our proposed taxation package to the standing committee on finance, we received the recommendation for a new source of taxation, which we will be giving very serious consideration to over the next few months.

I would point out to the Member that because we live in remote and isolated areas, we are very loath to impose taxation on northern peoples. The imposition of such taxes is done with a great deal of soul-searching, and we attempt to impose taxation in the most humane, and practical and pragmatic way we can, taking into consideration the extremely high costs of living in the North. Do you consider a sales tax in the North, a common tax found in the other provincial jurisdictions? Obviously no sales tax has been imposed to date, and the main reason for that, I believe, is because we feel the imposition of such tax would be most unfair. So we attempt to consider and look for any source of revenue in the taxation area that is reasonable and realistic, and attempt to implement them with the concurrence and support of this House. Obviously, without such support and concurrence, such taxes cannot be imposed, so that we make up our presentations remembering that we must bring such recommendations to the Members for consideration.

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



MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, the last point that I wanted to make was that my limited understanding of taxation is really that, besides taxation -- the fact that all items of consumer goods in the Territories, whether they are indexed or not, are normally increased yearly, whether they be fuel, tobacco, or whatever, they automatically go up, and no doubt this government profits from the annual increases of consumer goods on which this government has the responsibility of imposing taxes, whether they be private property taxes or whatever. What I am trying to understand is why is it not possible as well as the annual increases that the liquor -- generated by this government -- is it legally impossible to impose further taxes -- since they are already indexed, is it then impossible to impose tax on the liquor?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Comments. General comments. Finance.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

FIS Up-To-Date Accounting

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. Just following up something I asked earlier. I did not get the chance to follow it up. With respect to revenues and accounts receivable reporting in the FIS system, do I understand, for instance, that we would know at any given moment the amount of revenue that each department has generated in the government? For instance, would we know at any given moment the amount of revenue, let us say, that has been realized from vehicle registrations and that sort of thing? Is that part of the system?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, yes to both questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: What about customer accounts, then? If I were a customer of the Government of the NWT and asked for an accounting -- you know, where I stood with the government -- can I get an up-to-date accounting of where I stand with the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I understand that that was one area in which the old system was not very effective. I think that the Member will be quite pleased with the speed with which such accounting response can be generated. When I say "with the speed with which" now, I am looking at when we get the system fully in place. As I mentioned, we have just got, as of last week, up to the end of December, the information the Member has requested. So, I could not provide the January records at the present time, but by the end of March we will have the March records.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on the good job and hard work he did to get us the increase in the budget this year. I know some people in Ottawa in Indian Affairs and Northern Development who said that the NWT got nearly everything it asked for, except for possibly your B level submissions. There might still be some of those out, I am not aware of that. Normally nobody gets

everything that they ask for and they were really surprised that you did. So, I would like to thank you and the rest of the Executive. I know you did a lot of hard work talking with the elected officials, finally, in Ottawa, rather than the bureaucrats and I think it paid off.

Capital Taxes On Projects Within NWT

I would like to talk about your proposed taxation in areas that we know presently do not get very much revenue. For example, one thing that has always bothered me is the Pointed Mountain pipeline which runs through B.C. The province of British Columbia gets more revenue from that than we do, just by taxing the pipeline. So, I would like to see us get into any areas we can where we have an advantage in taxing equipment and projects in the Territories. I would like to know if this can be done in such a manner that if we impose the taxes on these companies, would it allow them to deduct that tax as an operating expense or directly off what they would have to pay the federal government so that we are not adding a tax on to these operations, but we are getting it instead of the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Member for his very kind, courteous remarks. I get so few that I am just delighted with his positive words.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Do not let it go to your head.

---Laughter

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Obviously, it was a team effort. I think we were very successful. I am very grateful to my deputy minister, Mr. Nielsen, to members of the financial management board and also to the Hon. John Munro, who was very helpful and is very interested in this government and this Assembly.

In response to the question of the Member, the answer is yes, and I understand it would be most advantageous, because such capital taxes are accrued to the balance sheet of this government, so that they would come back to us -- such taxes on capital.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments, Department of Finance. Do you wish to go to detail, page by page? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Administration, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 6.02, administration, O and M, in the amount of \$859,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Treasury, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 6.03, treasury, O and M, in the amount of \$1,994,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Comptrollership

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 6.04, comptrollership in the amount of \$2,485,000. Agreed? Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Nielsen was not here on Friday afternoon when I brought up that it only cost the department of education for northern Manitoba, who has a \$35 million budget, \$20,000 odd a year to get up-to-date monthly print-outs. During that discussion Mr. Commissioner mentioned that whatever figure the Member quoted for the production of that report cannot possibly reflect the initial cost of writing the program and the initial cost of gathering information. I took the time, Mr. Chairman, to phone the northern Manitoba school department I was talking about and found that it cost them the work of one employee for a year or part of a year, to what they figure was a total of about \$7000, in order to set this program up, and that the company they used only charges them 14 cents per unit and that there was no set-up fee charged by the data processing company itself. I would like to give Mr. Nielsen the opportunity to maybe make some general comments about what I said the other afternoon.

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

FIS Provides All Types Of Information

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nielsen was not in the House, but he certainly heard of the question. I would just like to say a few words before I turn the mike over to Mr. Nielsen. This question was discussed in part about 50 minutes ago and there was some disbelief that a system such as we have purchased would cost that amount of money. Members realize that the financial information system which has been implemented by this government is not an off-the-shelf purchase item. As I indicated earlier, it provides all types of information for a very complicated administrative system, a government which handles and is required to handle many, many programs of diverse and varied nature. I think to compare our system to the northern Manitoba system is analogous to comparing a little pocket adding machine, to a computer itself. It is very interesting, in our examination of systems that have been put in place in other jurisdictions, and while I am not going to reveal the name of this particular jurisdiction -- we do know of an organization, a very sophisticated organization, which bought an off-the-shelf system for some \$100,000 and by the time they had in place their financial information system their bill was something over \$2 million. I think that the comparisons are not quite fair in terms of the work that each system is expected to do, but I will ask Mr. Nielsen to respond.

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

MR. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister of Finance has answered the question quite well. The issue is really one of comparability of two pieces of software and hardware. I think, without investigating the specific application that Mr. McLaughlin has referred to, I would suggest that it would really require a summarization of the types of things that we are doing with our software and the size of our operation, the numbers of transactions.

Other Systems Investigated

There is a number of issues that I think Mr. McLaughlin could investigate and then make a comparison with this government. First of all, as Mr. Butters pointed out, this government is a very decentralized government and there is not a piece of software on the market that takes this type of thing into consideration. There is not a piece of software on the market that will accommodate a centralized data-based type of operation of the size of this government with the type of equipment that is appropriate and necessary for a regional data base environment, again, recognizing the numbers of transactions.



Before we embarked on the custom development of this system, we very thoroughly investigated all of the software pieces that were on the market and discarded them. One jurisdiction, as was pointed out by Mr. Butters, that we are aware of utilized one of those software pieces and subsequently has ended up spending substantially more money than we have spent simply adding to that system, because it was not capable of providing a government-like structure of the size and with the types of requirements that are normal for government operations.

The types of things that could be examined in comparison -- does the system have a variance reporting system? Does it provide aged accounts receivable listings? Does it provide man year reports? Does it provide commitment reporting? Does it provide up-to-the-minute retrieval of information? Is it flexible in allowing for changes to be made to the system without major delays and without major rewrites? Does it allow for a very complex but user-simple method of entering data in such a way that it is almost impossible to enter a wrong transaction to our financial information system -- something that was part of the original design on this and something that is particularly important for systems in the North? Those are just a few of the numbers of items or features in the financial information system.

I should mention that this government had a financial information system in place five or six years ago, which was probably similar to the type of system that was put into this school, which provided a number of reports similar in design and structure to the one which Mr. McLaughlin was talking about, but it was determined that this system was inadequate for this government. I suppose the final point I would like to make is that this government does not operate in an independent environment. It is still subject to considerable federal influence. The type of information that we require, the detail, the speed with which we obtain that information, is critical to our federal negotiations and critical to developing substantiation for those negotiations, and this system has been designed with that in mind.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nielsen. Before I recognize Mr. McLaughlin, I would like to recognize Mr. Raddi, president of COPE.

---Applause

Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin.

#### Tremendous Amount Of Money Spent

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I realize that at this stage of the development of FIS that any objections to it are kind of like standing on the bow of the Queen Elizabeth holding up a piece of kleenex trying to slow the ship down. The problem I have is that there has to be a bottom line somewhere to just how much you are going to spend to find out what is going on in government, which is really only controlling the lives of 45,000 people. It seems to be a tremendous amount of money being spent. I realize that the demonstration I gave Friday afternoon was a monthly computer print-out that only gave you up-to-date figures by the month, but still it was a type of system that gives most private enterprises enough information to get by on. It also was for an operation about one tenth the size of ours, so one could project that if an operation grew, that it would have 10 times the amount -- you know, it might only be \$200,000 or \$300,000 to get print-outs like that.

What bothers me is that we seem to be building a situation that I hope does not have to be passed on. What I am worried about is when we have organizations like the town of Frobisher Bay taking over social services, Baffin Regional Council would take over education or social services, are we going to FIS all over them for information?

---Laughter

I am wondering if the Minister could answer what type of accountabilities are we going to place on these people when they take over our programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to repeat for the Member that our cost projections have increased only in a very minimal degree from what we indicated to the House that we would be spending last year. I think the figures I quoted were something like \$1,996,000, and I indicated that this year, the revised figure after a years implementation and almost operation -- that we have increased that projection by some \$55,000, so that the figure is remaining fairly constant. I think that what we should do with regard to the system is be patient and let the Auditor General and his audit staff get at it and go over it thoroughly and indicate to this House the degree of success or failure that we have had in implementing the objectives that the programmers and planners originally had in mind for it. I am hopeful that we will have that report available to the House by maybe the fall session; but as I say, this is up to the Auditor General and his staff.

#### Complexity Of Programs

The Member would appear to be influenced by the fact that we only have 44,000 people to serve, but what he must recall is that the complexity of the types of programs and the transactions which this government is required to carry out are just as demanding and as numerous as those imposed upon a provincial jurisdiction. We offer and provide similar programs to what you find in any other province of Canada, and that is what fiscal equity is all about. A Canadian travelling across Canada into various jurisdictions hopes to find and does find the same type of programs in place as he enjoyed in his home jurisdiction, and that is the same in the Northwest Territories. Just because we only have 44,000 people does not mean to say that the complexity of the government management is not just as great as that found in other provinces, other jurisdictions. I forget what the Member's final question was.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the last point I made was, what type of expectations are you going to have of regional boards or regional councils if you turn programs over to them? Are you going to expect them to have to follow suit in this area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as the Member indicates, there are regional systems in place, and they are using their own data. We have not looked at the service possibilities that the Member has identified. We will obviously have to do this, and we will be proceeding to answer the Member's question. At the present time, we have no basis for providing him with a satisfactory answer beyond saying that we will be looking at it.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your note asking me to get to the point and wrap it up, but unfortunately you are outvoted by the two other Members who sent me notes saying "Good stuff" and "Keep it up".

I would just like to say that I think what I would like to do is ask the Minister and the deputy minister if they could assure us in the House that they will be able to report back to the finance committee and show us some of the cost saving advantages of this once this computer is on line and you are getting your monthly reports on time, and prove to myself and other members of the finance committee



that it saves us money as well as giving us some more information. Apparently there are people in all the regions and areas who are doing manual books in order to make sure that they really know where they are, and once the computer is on line, could you pinpoint where those jobs are and whether we still have to continue having those positions in the public service?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: The deputy minister mentioned a little earlier that we certainly had a financial information system in place before these changes were made. I do recall reading a document at one point that indicated that the financial information that was being generated by that system was adequate, although there was possibly need for additional management information, and that the financial information we were getting was comparable to the kinds of information that other jurisdictions received; but I agree with the Minister that I do not feel that I need to go into that now, because I am very willing to wait for the comprehensive audit that the Auditor General is going to do on the financial information system.

#### Capital Expenditure For New Facility

However, I do have one question with respect to costs. I think it was Friday we had a capital expenditure of, I think, more than \$3 million for a facility to house computers. Can I just ask to what extent that capital expenditure was necessitated by the new system? I know that we had computers before; would that have been necessary anyway, or is it an outgrowth of the FIS system?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the accommodation that is presently available for computers is inadequate, and it was never designed to house computer technology. The building which it is proposed that we will be establishing is not being developed for the financial information system only. It is for our total system, and it is our expectation that not only will we have an adequate and properly designed building in which to run computers, but we will have space to add ancillary items as and if required. However, that capital item is not a direct reflection on the purchase and implementation of FIS.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: So I gather that when you are talking about the costs of the FIS system, you do not include any items like that that might be related in some way and in some part necessitated by a more complex financial information system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the figures I have provided of some \$2 million relate solely to the FIS unit and not to the structure.

#### Total O And M, Comptrollership, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Comptrollership on page 6.04 in the amount of \$2,485,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed



Total O And M, Debt Financing Cost

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 6.05, debt financing cost, \$2,024,000. Agreed?  
Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in this regard which I would like to ask the Minister. These fundings that are used for capital, do you have to pay over that when you are paying for the capital? When you are paying for capital for the Government of the Northwest Territories? I am wondering, my first question is do you have to pay for the capital?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I expect the Member is referring to the figures on page 6.05, which is our debt financing costs. The figures reflected here cover the servicing costs for loans that this government has taken on from other sources, but which we devolve to municipal governments; therefore, what we pay out is really a recoverable item. We pay out the interest in the loans that we negotiate, but collect interest on the loans which we devolve to municipalities.

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

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Just a moment. I do not quite understand in Inuktitut about interest and loans. However, when you have loans that are too big, it seems that this is the first time I have seen this in this statement. However, in the communities in the Keewatin region, when they are purchasing vehicles, sometimes the vehicles are very old and they just get repainted and sent to the communities.

Also, the Government of the NWT could assist in that area, about purchasing some heavy equipment vehicles. When the NWT government buys some vehicles, they can transfer them to the communities. Sometimes they are very, very unhappy when they receive an old vehicle that has just been repainted, and that they should not cost more than they look. I think the Department of Finance should look over that problem when purchasing a vehicle, and sometimes you have to see the high cost of purchasing a vehicle, when you just see them -- you see them as new ones, because they are painted, and sometimes the new ones, the physical year model, are not more expensive, but when they get repainted, they are just sent to the communities, and that costs a lot of money. That would be my question, and a supplementary, is that understandable, Mr. Chairman?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the moneys reflected here do cover those dollars allocated to municipalities for expenditure in the areas that the Member has indicated. However, the Department of Finance's responsibility ends when the debenture request is approved and it comes to this government from the communities. The loan arrangement is negotiated and the money, then, made available to the municipality. The Department of Finance would not get into the area of examining the purchases that were made on behalf of the community or by the community. I would suggest that that process or policy would fall more directly under the Department of Public Works and possibly the Member may wish to ask that question again when the Department of Public Works budget appears in this House in the very near future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms Cournoyea, I think you had your hand up.

Loans To Municipalities

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the loans provided to municipalities, could you provide a breakdown on what is outstanding and to what communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is a breakdown in the Territorial Accounts booklet up to the end of last March. I will see if we can indicate the page to the honourable Member, but it is in that document, sir. It looks like in schedule 1, beginning on page 15 of that document where the loans are numbered, the maturity date, the interest rate. It does not indicate though for what the loan was requested but I think all the material is in that document.

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

MS COURNOYEA: That is fine.

Total O And M, Debt Financing Cost, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 6.05, debt financing cost, in the amount of \$2,024,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Noah.

Detail Of Work Performed On Behalf Of Third Parties

MR. NOAH: (Translation) In the capital, O and M, I do not think my question is necessary but in that area, the study which is being taken in the Eastern Arctic -- is \$4000 -- is that only toward the Baffin region? That is my question, Mr. Chairman. That is all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Noah, are you talking about capital? There is no capital in this budget here. Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It is at the present time only in the Baffin region. It is a five year old project and we are carrying this out on behalf of the federal government and really acting as almost a post office, paying the federal government people for carrying out a federal government project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does that answer your question, Mr. Noah?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mrs. Sorensen.

Workers' Compensation Board Administration Fees

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I notice on page 6.06 that under recoveries there is some \$35,000 for Workers' Compensation Board administration fees. I do not notice that we deal at all with any of the dollars that the Workers' Compensation Board collects. Could you maybe tell me what happens to that money and I know that Mr. Braden tabled the report but we still do not have it, but are you aware of how much money is in the Workers' Compensation Board's coffers right now and who has ultimate control over that?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, Members will recall that my honourable colleague, the Minister responsible for Government Services, tabled the annual report of the Workers' Compensation Board which, I think, addresses that question and

provides a complete answer. The Department of Finance has not been in the business of recoveries for such programs for a long time. I do not think it really is our responsibility. I am not quite sure what that item is but it falls more within the ambit of the honourable Minister of Government Services who has the Workers' Compensation Board responsibility also.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, before we approve this total O and M, I would like to ask the Minister on what basis and how soon would he be able to provide the information I requested on the total cost of that new gadget that you talked about earlier and I was mainly interested in the hardware costs -- not so much the operating expenses. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Member asked how soon. I think we can have the hardware costs available for him this week, say no later than Thursday. We will try for Wednesday.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, one last question. Has the Minister any plans to further expand that computer FIS system for next year? I notice you do not have any capital plans here but how about next year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, we have enough problems as it is just getting it implemented and up and running, so we will leave it just as well.

MR. CURLEY: Agreed.

---Laughter

O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 6.01, O and M, in the amount of \$7,362,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Financial Management Secretariat

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We will go to page 5.01, Financial Management Secretariat. Mr. Butters, do you have any opening comments?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. The Financial Management Secretariat's prime responsibility is to serve the financial management board of the government's operating budget and in the examination of departmental submissions. I think as Members know, the financial management board is headed by Commissioner Parker as chairman of that body. It is a body which is analogous to a treasury board in a certain respect and it includes the seats on that board for all the members of the Executive Committee. Over the past year the secretariat has concentrated on improving the form, timing and content of information as significant improvements have been incorporated into the process and the financial management board handbook has been developed to aid program managers and the board to evaluate proposals.



The secretariat's budget before you is within the guidelines recommended. During 1982-83, a capital analyst position was transferred to the secretariat as part of the overall plan to move financial responsibility for capital under the Financial Management Secretariat. Members will recollect, I believe, that that has been an ongoing recommendation of the standing committee on finance and we are seeking to bring those two elements of our budget together.

Funding has been included in the secretariat's budget to provide for an examination of the revenue area in the Department of Finance. Staffing continues to be a major problem as turnover was high during 1981-82. However, the secretariat is now fully staffed with the exception of the manager of program budgeting and analysis position. Direction for 1982-83 includes participation in a task force or in a tasking group to complete the accountability based budgeting system through development of performance indicators. Members will recollect that that also has been a major ongoing recommendation of the standing committee on finance. I had hoped and so advised the chairman of the committee a year ago that we might be able to implement that element of our accountability based budgeting system using the secretariat personnel solely. This has not proved possible and we are now looking at a tasking group which I hope will be providing recommendations so that we can have that requirement in place in the next fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments on Financial Management Secretariat in the amount of \$655,000. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in the negotiations with the federal government, in discussing fund allocation to this government, would you say that the policy of the federal government has some bearing on how this government will operate? Say, for example, if the federal government says that they are putting a freeze on employees, would they insist or feel that it was necessary for this territorial government to do likewise?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: As the Member implies in her question, the guidelines which are imposed on the federal government are also extended to this government. In the case of employees or increases in wages, ceilings, we are certainly advised what the federal ceiling is, and are expected to recognize that ceiling as and if possible. I think that while that is the direction, if we can justify an increased need, as we did last year, the federal government does accept that and did accept that requirement.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions? Comments? Page 5.01, total O and M, in the amount of \$655,000, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I want to thank the witnesses now.

---Applause

We shall have a 15 minute coffee break and come back with the Department of Information.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Information

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. Department of Information, page 7.01. Mr. Parker, opening comments, please.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Members realize, the Department of Information is a service department that responds to the stated needs of the Executive, government departments, and the Legislative Assembly in areas of public affairs, language services, audio-visual work and printing and design services. Two of its main program areas are the interpreter translator corps and the NWT satellite communications program that provides radio and television facilities to northern communities. The department will be able to complete the satellite program in 1982-83, the coming fiscal year, some 12 months ahead of schedule at savings of about \$600,000 over the original forecast, and \$500,000 a year from now on in continuing operating costs. Those are very substantial savings, and they have come about in large measure because we have been able to work with private television companies and have not had to pay the full rates of Telesat. I am delighted to be able to report that the program is indeed being advanced at a great saving and ahead of schedule. When completed, every community with a population of 150 or more in the NWT will have the benefit of a radio station and at least one television channel. The communities to receive the service during the final year are Whale Cove, Paulatuk, Wrigley, and Rae Lakes. The department, since the program began, has been encouraging community broadcasting societies to establish local radio stations making use of the transmitting equipment provided by the satellite program. This relatively inexpensive process allows the communities to provide local programming in the languages of their choice. Of the 16 communities serviced to date 12 have taken advantage of this process.

Dene Language Services

During the past year, the department has attempted to address the matter of Dene language interpreting services and Dene language public affairs programming. It submitted a proposal on Dene language services last fall, and I have that proposal, which will be advanced shortly to the Executive Committee. The reason that the particular program has not been advanced before this time is that we have also, through other parts of the government, been reviewing the possibilities of a language commission, and through the Department of Education we have been carrying out very extensive amounts of work in language research. We are just now to the stage where all of these various elements are coming together and I think we shall be able to make a very proper and useful decision with regard to enhanced usage of the Dene languages.

In the meantime, that is while all of these things were under discussion, the department has had preliminary discussions with the Native Communications Society of the Western NWT which has also been considering establishment of a Dene language interpreting and translating service. The society -- and, it is understood, the Dene Nation -- is examining the feasibility of developing a Dene interpreter corps to assist with its own needs and to enter into contractual arrangements with government and other parties in an attempt to provide a revenue base for operations. In considering how we will handle Dene language matters, one of the options available to us may well be contractual services with these organizations, and we have left that option open at the moment.

Film Projects

The department's public affairs division recently completed a half hour film on the impact of sealskin boycotts, on the Inuit Traditional Life Series. In addition, it provided its audio-visual program manager to the Native Communications Society to enable the production of a film on the construction of a moose hide boat. The film is in the final stages of production and will be available in all Dene languages.



I meant to say earlier that the film on the sealskin matter is called "You Can't Grow Potatoes Up There", and I think Members will have an opportunity to see that film. We believe that the film will be one of the strongest pieces of evidence that we can use when we are advancing the cause in Europe for a continued seal harvest, against the forces that are trying to shut down seal hunting.

Film projects include a joint effort with the Slavey Language Institute in Fort Providence. One film will portray the activities of the centre, and the others will involve a series of animated films on traditional topics. The department has been in discussion with Access Alberta, which is interested in the animation project and is considering financial input.

Members may be interested in knowing the department over the past year produced some 90 Anik Info television spots in seven languages, and about 50 separate spots for radio. At the moment, it is working on a series of 72 radio and 56 television announcements that will be broadcast in all languages. The multilanguage approach will be continued in the new year. In addition, staff of the audio-visual section will be assisting Nunatsiakmiut in Frobisher Bay with the training of Inuit film makers and is working with the CBC to arrange a film seminar in April.

The department's publications division completed its Traditional Life Series, which consists of separate packages of 24 archival prints portraying early day lifestyles of the Dene and the Inuit; and they also assisted ITC in the production of that organization's publication, "Inuit Organizations".

The Traditional Life Series, Mr. Chairman, that I mentioned consisted of two parts. One is the Inuit Traditional Life Series, and the other is the Dene Traditional Life Series, and at the completion of the debates I have asked that each Member be provided with a set of these, because I think it is excellent material, and the Members should be well aware of what has been produced.

Mr. Patterson has just advised me that the film, "You Can't Grow Potatoes Up There" will be screened at the caucus meeting tomorrow.

In addition to the day to day printing and publishing workload for client departments, the publications division has placed emphasis on the marketing of government publications. Current year revenue in this area has already reached \$65,000 -- up about \$20,000 from the division's total year forecast. I underline this as simply following good business practices in making available such things as Hansard, the Annual Report, and so forth.

#### Allocation Of Moneys

The department's O and M estimates reflect an increase of \$548,000. Salaries and wages account for \$368,000 of the total increase. There is a reduction of one man year. The department devolved the position to the hamlet of Rae-Edzo, which has since hired Mr. Ernie Camsell as a Dogrib interpreter for that area. The remaining increase is due to an enhancement of the community radio station grant program from \$70,000 up to \$100,000; a hike of \$63,000 to cover ongoing utility servicing and maintenance needs of the satellite radio and television installations, and general inflationary price increases in the area of paper and printing supplies.

The department's capital budget shows a decrease of \$230,000. The decrease has resulted from the department's ability to provide satellite services a year early in Sachs Harbour out of savings it achieved in last years capital program, and a slight reduction in equipment costs. Capital estimates for the year 1982-83 provide for installation of satellite equipment, simultaneous interpreting equipment for the Keewatin region, and a microcomputer with syllabic capability for the Baffin region. Money is also allocated for print shop equipment and camera and film equipment for the audio-visual section. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to make these remarks. I hope to be able to field any questions that come up.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. General comments, Department of Information. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Department of Information on the publications division. They have done a very good job. I would like to thank the interpreter corps especially for the translation services they provide in the English and in Inuktitut. They have been a great help to us. Even though the job is difficult, they have been able to come to work every day. This goes for the Legislative Assembly Members, the Members who do not understand English, who are very grateful for the interpreter corps. Some of us do not understand English or speak English fluently. They have been helpful to us. The interpreter corps help us every day and I would like to thank them very much for providing their translation services. Also they have to come to work every day and they are trying their best to do a good job. Sometimes it is very tiring. Back in the Keewatin and the Central Arctic, they do not speak the same language and they do not always understand each other in their own language. Some of us speak a little bit of English and understand a little bit but we are limited. So, first of all, I would like to thank the interpreter corps for the translation services provided, the interpreting services provided from English to Inuktitut and Inuktitut to English.

#### Older Native People Should Be Encouraged To Become MLAs

Looking into our future, we are going to have elections again in 1983. When people are interested in becoming candidates, we should encourage the older native people even if they do not speak English. I know that the older native people are smarter than we are and wiser than we are. They are much wiser than us because of their age and because of their traditional lifestyle. The native people would do a very good job if they were interested in running for the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and they are the ones who understand their own lifestyle. I think they would be able to help the interpreter corps also in the original languages.

From the election year 1983 to 1987, they should do away with the fear of not being able to understand English. They should encourage anyone who is interested in running as a candidate because they have the right to do so without fear because the translation services are provided. Some of us speak and understand English but we choose to speak in our own language. Because we are not English speaking people originally, we prefer to speak our own language. If a person does not understand English and he cannot communicate in English, that person should not have any fear of running for the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories because I want to encourage older people who do not speak English to go right ahead and run as candidates if they want to for the next election in 1983 to 1987. We should be encouraging older people to run because translation services are provided and we should not have any more communication problems.

In Baker Lake in the Keewatin, they can listen to the CBC now in our own language and also watch television so I am very thankful that the Department of Information provides the communications which we would lack without them. Thank you very much. That is all I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): General comments. Department of Information. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: When we get to this subject of course it gets me very excited and so forth because really I think the information provided by the government in its budget estimates on Information is really deceiving because when one reads it, one might get the impression that the government is really communicating properly with the Dene people, but really, truthfully, this government is not communicating very much with the Dene people. It is doing, it seems, a good job with Inuktitut and I learned for the first day today that there was a Dogrib translator in Rae but for the Dene people in my area and

down the valley, the McPherson area, I am not aware that there are any really good means for this government to communicate with the people. I noticed the other day that Arnold McCallum was showing me a nice poster that had a nice picture of a Dene person and his family and some writings underneath it, which is supposed to be a Dene language but really I cannot read it and for the most part Dene cannot read it because it is a new way of reading the language and very few people know it.

I do not want to be overly negative, I want to be optimistic about the future but during the consideration of these estimates I want to be satisfied that the government is going to take new energy and new initiatives in really trying to communicate with the Dene people. I do not want to take anything from the Inuit people. I guess they are lucky. They have interpreters, a lot of money for interpreters, a lot of money to expand the programs that they have and I do not want to take away from that but I really think it is about time that the Dene people had as much as the Inuit people, to be fair. So I have got a couple of motions that are just hot and ready to go and I will deal with them as we get to various departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. General comments on the Department of Information in the amount of \$2,631,000. Mr. Appaqaq.

#### Sanikiluaq Language Dialect

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make a brief statement concerning the Department of Information. I would like to thank the Department of Information for providing communication to the Territories. They have to cover a vast area of land and they have been doing a good job. Sometimes I do not agree with a lot of the things they do but we cannot have it every way we want. I myself have to admit that I need an interpreter. If anybody wanted to run for election, everyone should have that right to do so. Language should not be a barrier. I have to admit that I have worked and I have had many problems because my dialect is different from the Baffin region and the Keewatin region. I speak northern Quebec dialect which is quite different from the rest of the dialects.

There is one item I would like to mention. Last fall when they met in Pangnirtung, they had two representatives at the meeting from Sanikiluaq and they made a motion that they wanted one of the interpreter corps translators to go to Sanikiluaq to learn their own dialect. They wanted an interpreter to go to Sanikiluaq in order to learn the Sanikiluaq dialect because Sanikiluaq people go to meetings and other people have a hard time understanding the Sanikiluaq dialect. They are not able to participate in meetings as much as other delegates because we have dialectic differences. At the meeting we made a motion that one of the interpreter corps members should go to Sanikiluaq to learn the dialect. We were not originally part of the Baffin region. We belong to Hudson Bay but Sanikiluaq I feel got lost and ended up somewhere in the Baffin region.

When I was coming here the Department of Information made a slight mistake. I was delayed coming here for two days for this session and people in the Baffin region were informed that I was sick and that I was hospitalized and that was not true. I could not get out of my community because of bad weather. Also, I would like you to think about something. Before I left my community I wanted some information. I heard from the CBC radio before I left my own town that that the session was to start February 10 and that we get home at the end of February and that we would be able to come home for two weeks and then come back here the second week in March. When I got here I found that that was not the case. I would like to know how that piece of news came about.



I do not have very much left to say but I just want to say thank you very much to the Department of Information for being able to relay communications in the NWT and for you to think that the interpreters cannot be left behind. They have to be kept going so that our culture and our language might be kept going and the only way that we can have our culture going is through the interpreter corps. They work very hard and they should be supported. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. General comments. Mr. Arlooktoo.

#### Television Services

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions and I already asked some of them the last session that we were at. In Cape Dorset they have had some television, but they only have one channel. Also, in Pangnirtung they only have one channel. I wonder if this is going to be considered by the Department of Information? That was a request of my constituency. Will they get more than one channel in the future or will they only have one channel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, under the Northwest Territories government system, there will unfortunately only be one channel. The community would have to apply to the private firm, Cancom, that is commencing to offer television services in the North and the community would have to in some fashion raise its own money to do that, but the government can only take the responsibility for offering the one channel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Any further comments? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

#### Salaries Of Interpreters

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have a question. I do not want to elaborate too much, as I think I have asked this question before. There was supposed to be action with the interpreter corps. The money that the interpreters make here in the Legislative Assembly should be the same as in the House of Commons in Ottawa or any legislature in Canada. Are they trying to consider their wages being the same as any other interpreters in Canada, because sometimes when the interpreters go into extensive training and when they find out how to interpret, they just quit sometimes, because of the money they are making. Is the money that the interpreters are receiving right now the same as any other interpreters in any other legislatures in Canada? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we believe that the salaries that we offer are very much comparable to the salaries paid to interpreters in Ottawa, for instance, in the House of Commons. There are interpreters there who have very specialized training, who are particularly trained to interpret in cases to do with the law or in some highly technical aspects, who would earn more money than our interpreters, but looking at an average trained interpreter, we believe that ours are pretty well competitive. Our interpreters will be receiving a salary increase, which has been a long time in coming because of the union negotiations, but they will be getting that increase early in March and then they will be getting another increase again, after the first of April.

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



Training Of Interpreters In NWT Schools

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) One question, Mr. Chairman. What the Members are talking about took a long time to do. We have witnessed it from -- before 1970 there were no interpreters, but now, up to today, they have worked hard to learn their trade and it has been very hard work for them. For the Inuit Members they have produced the interpreter corps and to enable the Inuit people to work in the Assembly. My question is, and I have mentioned this question before -- the people who go to school here would like to learn different subjects. Have you talked with the Department of Education as to whether the students here might be able to learn to be an interpreter?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. The Department of Information. General comments. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I just wanted to ask Mr. Commissioner whether he, I guess, agrees with my assessment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I am sorry, Mr. Sibbeston. I think there was a question there. We will let the Commissioner answer that question first. Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that Mr. Kilabuk was seeking to find out if the interpreters could take additional training in subjects other than interpreting, in different subjects. Was that the question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, my question was, there are students in the school that would like to take different subjects, as to what kind of jobs they would like to take, such as in the vocational school, like the school in Akaitcho Hall -- say, like a person going to school in Frobisher Bay Ukkivik Hall, if he or she would prefer to become an interpreter and be trained in that. Have you talked to the Department of Education as to whether the students going to school in the North would like to take different subjects, such as interpreter training?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, most certainly. Yes, we try to keep in close touch with the high schools in particular to see if there are students that are interested in becoming interpreters so that they can know that when they finish high school they can start training as interpreters. We are attempting to recruit interpreters almost constantly, because there is a fairly high turnover. It is a difficult and demanding job and we realize that the interpreters at times like to take a year or so off to get refreshed. So, yes we are inviting the students to consider becoming interpreters through the school system and now that Mr. Kilabuk has raised the question with me, I will make certain that we continue to do that and that we continue to advise the students of this possibility.

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

Communication Services To Dene Speaking People

MR. SIBBESTON: I guess one of the things that is important when you are discussing a matter is to understand or come to the same conclusion about things as they exist. I just wanted to ask the Commissioner whether he agrees with me or my assessment about how the government communicates with the Dene, that for the most part really it is very little or nothing. I suggest that on the first page, 7.01, that it is a little bit deceiving to say that the department informs residents of the NWT. I think it would be more correct if it said the

English and Inuit residents. I am just wondering if he thinks what I am saying is false or I would just like to know what? For all I know, the government thinks they are doing an excellent job and doing all they can. I do not really know. So, let us try to come to an understanding about where Mr. Parker thinks the government is in respect of its services to the Dene people.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I certainly agree in part with the Member. The government is not doing a good job in communicating with the Dene people. However, having said that, I think there are many people within government that are working on this subject, that are in fact doing an excellent job, and that although we have been rather late in coming around to providing services and information directly to the Dene speaking people -- we have been late to coming around to it, but we are putting on a very strong move to catch up.

I think it is well-known that one of the very basic difficulties that we have had has been mentioned by the honourable Member, and that is that the Dene languages were not written languages -- at least they were not well understood or well developed as written languages -- and so we have had to go right back to the beginning and to assist the people through workshops and training sessions and research programs to create the languages as written languages. So, we have had a lot of catching up to do and I think that we are really now starting to make headway. We have people within Education who are specialists in the language working hard. We are co-operating with the Dene Nation. We are working closely with the Native Communications Society of the Western NWT. We are prepared to take advice even from people outside the Territories, if there is expertise available, and, certainly, information, to an increasing extent, is experimenting with and drawing up announcements that are both on TV and on the radio. So, we are not just relying on the printed word. In summary then, we have had a lot of catching up to do and we have a long way to go before we can claim that we are communicating effectively with the Dene speaking people.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Just generally again I appreciate Mr. Parker's assessment of the situation too. Is there any plan -- I am wondering, if this is the case and there is a lot of catching up to do, then what sorts of things is the department planning to do this year which will help the catch-up? I know in past Assemblies I have mentioned just generally that obviously if you cannot write the language, then the only way to communicate is either to speak or to see somebody speaking on TV, so the radio or TV obviously has to be the way, or else just tape cassettes, or some way. If you cannot write to someone, the next best way, it seems to me, is either to send the person a tape with your voice on it, or else send him a TV program about what you want to tell him. I am just wondering if the department has done anything. Since saying this, I think last fall, or other times, whether they have taken my suggestions seriously or simply have written me off as being stupid or foolish or some other notion. I just want to know what has happened in this regard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we always take Mr. Sibbeston seriously.

MR. SIBBESTON: He laughs, see.

#### Moneys Allotted To Dene Languages

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Seriously, we do. Yes, we have done a lot of things. I think that we drew up a list of things that we have been doing and in the past year, through the Education department on the Dene languages we have spent over \$600,000. We spent \$70,000 or \$80,000 directly from the Department of



Information, which is a relatively small department. We have identified in the budget right now \$120,000, which is specifically there for Dene language work, principally, I think, to be used for interpreters. My intention is, having got the groundwork done, to go to the Executive Committee and through one means or another to identify another 200-odd thousand dollars to bring the budget into line so that we will be able to have about 10 more people engaged during the coming fiscal year in Dene language work. Now, they will not all be interpreters, because there is some need for continuing research, and there is some need for a certain amount of administration, but they will mostly all be interpreters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. General comments, information services. Mr. Wah-Shee.

#### Co-ordinated Approach To Developing Dene Languages

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, regarding Dene languages, it would appear to me that we do not have a well thought-out approach in developing Dene languages. The reason why I say this is that in giving support to Dene languages, some of the funds appear to be in the Department of Education, and some of these funds are in the Department of Information. I wonder if we could work out a more reasonable approach to developing Dene languages. What I am thinking about is that it should be a co-operative effort between the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Dene Nation and the Native Communications Society and the other two departments who are primarily responsible for native languages -- Education and Information. This is because it would appear to me -- and I sit on the Executive -- I have not been very happy with the development of native languages, and some people say, "Well, Nick Sibbeston is always making noise about it", and I happen to concur with Nick Sibbeston in this case because I feel that we have to do something in a more -- logical approach to it, instead of dealing with it in an ad hoc approach.

James Ross, from Fort McPherson, as a matter of fact, did a paper on the development of Dene languages, and I thought that it was a really good paper to start off with; and what he recommended was that it should be a co-operative approach between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the native organizations. So I wonder if we could come up with a better approach. If we need to do a study into this, then we should do it; but to continue on this basis, I do not know whether we would be able to come out with a real well thought-out development on the -- particularly the Dene languages. I believe we have five dialects in the Mackenzie Valley, so I wonder if we could come up with a better approach than we are doing at the present time. I would like to ask the Commissioner if you could reply to my statements.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I said earlier, I think -- perhaps before Mr. Wah-Shee came in -- that we have had a very scattered approach in our efforts in working with the Dene language, and I think it is now starting to come together, because the Department of Information has been working closely with the Native Communications Society of the Western NWT and some overtures to the Dene Nation. I think that we are just now at the point, having done a certain amount of research, that we can describe a proper Dene language program which may be delivered by different departments in the government, but it will be fully co-ordinated. I think that that has to be our goal for 1982, for us to bring these programs together and actually make them work. I agree with him that a co-ordinated approach is absolutely essential.

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



### Pressing Need For Dene Interpreters

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a real pressing need for hiring Dene interpreters. I realize there are two Dene interpreters at the present time -- that is not only in the Rae area office, but there is also a Loucheux interpreter that works out of the Inuvik regional office. However, what I am thinking about is in the Hay River area office; it services Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, and the Hay River reserve, and I think they should have a Dene interpreter there. I do not think that this particular interpreter has to be well trained in order to do that; I think it could be part of his trainee position. The other one that I am thinking about is the Fort Simpson area office. I think we should have an interpreter there because it services a huge area, like all the way from Wrigley to Liard, Jean Marie, and Trout Lake and all those other small communities. The other one is -- at Yellowknife headquarters, we do not even have one Dene interpreter in the whole bureaucracy in the city of Yellowknife, which is rather unfortunate, because I can recall when my constituents would come in to meet with the Executive, I ended up interpreting. So I think that there is a real pressing need at the present time. Since there is a pressing need, I think we ought to really try to do something to ensure that this government starts communicating with the Dene people, because, after all, there are many Dene people that cannot speak English, and I would hope that we can do something, either this year or next year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): General comments. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say at the outset that I certainly support the aspirations of the Dene people, to see if they can have a recognized group, or official written language, or at least a regional language in this part. I want to say one thing, though, that might surprise some Members, as usual, but I want them to understand that I think both sides have to be patient with each other, and when I say "both sides", I mean the native population, Inuit and Dene people. I do not want the Dene people represented on this Assembly to say to the Inuit that you are using more money on this area. We might be, because populationwise we are probably a larger number in that area, and possibly more united in terms of the languages concerned. Also, the fact that we have never boycotted this government when it first came to the Territories, so that allows for us to be -- in my mind -- to be developed a little further than the Dene languages in the Western Arctic. I say this without prejudice or without malice or any grudge for anybody. It is a fact that we are a little ahead in that development because we did not try to avoid having any formal relationship through -- political organizations that we created in the Eastern Arctic.

### Language And Culture Should Be Developed By Non-Political Organizations

I think if the language and the culture is going to be developed, the written language as well, it must be done by non-political organizations, and I do not think it can be done in a political process. What we did in the Eastern Arctic was to create -- and I worked hard to create them. One was at first a political organization because we had to create, number one, leadership of our people. That was the objective. Once the people were able to stand on their feet and defend themselves, we went on to create other things, a non-political organization, Inuit Cultural Institute, to be engaged in non-political educational cultural issues. It then set up a language commission just to merely consult with the people in the Eastern Arctic, to see what kind of a consensus it could reach about the written language and the kind of language that they liked to have. They did find out that many of the Inuit people in the Eastern Arctic want the syllabic system to remain in use so that is still used today. Although they did find out that the Roman writing system was able to have a lot more access for technology, that was not really accepted by many of the Inuit speaking people, particularly the older people, so we remain today with the majority of the Eastern Arctic using syllabic writing system, because they wanted to, although the language commission group found out that technically it was better to use the Roman characters with an improved revised system.

So what I would say is that if we want to -- I am saying this because I was very interested in Nick Sibbeston the other day when he was giving advice to the Eastern Arctic what kind of costumes Inuit from the Eastern Arctic should wear, when he was advising us how we could contribute to the decor of this Assembly. I am saying to the Dene people, I think just to look to this government and this Assembly to find out how it could establish a writing system is not the only way. I think they should create a non-political group and seek funding from this government supported by this Assembly and establish a non-political group permanently who will advise the government, sort of like an official languages commissioner who was appointed by the federal government one time. But we are not going to talk about maybe official language, but a regional native language out here, and see whether or not we can get it to at least exist until the day we can have a much better contribution that we can get from this government in terms of financial resources that they are going to need. Because if we have to hassle continually each year in this Assembly to work toward that, someday we may have some Members who will not be too receptive to the native culture and so on. We could get into a lot of political disagreement, and I do not think we can afford to do that any more. That is why I am speaking in that way, because I think there needs to be a non-political agency established, whether it be by the Dene people or by government. I think they should work toward that and let us politicians get out of having to exercise our disagreements publicly in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): General comments. Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion To Outline Plans For Providing Dene Translators And Information To Dene People And Delay Passage Of Information Budget

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will just make a motion and the motion is that the Department of Information outline to this Assembly its plans for providing Dene translators and providing information to the Dene people for 1982 and 1983 and for the next three years, and that we delay passage of the Department of Information budget until such information is provided and debated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Can we get a copy of that, please?

MR. SIBBESTON: Sure. Can I just speak to the motion, then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Just one second there, until we check the motion. Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Go ahead. To the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: I just want to say generally that I think such an outline by the department would be useful for us to know and see in writing precisely what is being planned by the department. A lot has been said about Dene languages. Motions have been passed in the past but I think it would be good to see on paper, in black and white, just what the department is planning for this coming year and for the next three years, with all the money they are getting. This way we could have something to gauge them by, see what their plans are and see where they are going. Also, it would indicate to them that we are serious about having something done about Dene languages.

I do not believe that the department has one Dene person on its staff in headquarters here and it is like asking white people to do something for native people and I can appreciate that it is very hard. Maybe there is not the commitment or the concern. So, obviously, I think there is a need too for the department getting a native person, maybe somebody like James Ross, who had initially done a study for this Assembly on Dene languages or there are other people -- Gerry Antoine. There are people in the Mackenzie Valley who can be of great help to the department. So, it is not with the intention of delaying unnecessarily or unreasonably. It is just to see what the department can come up with and if they have a suitable plan, maybe we will pass the budget. If not, we will withhold the budget.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. We have a motion on the floor.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question being called. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the motion.

#### Funding For Development Of Languages

MR. MacQUARRIE: The matter of Dene language development has been raised a number of times previously in the Assembly and I see it from two different aspects, one of which I have supported in the past and one of which I have opposed. In Hay River there was a motion calling on the Assembly to make Dene language development a priority of the Assembly and I voted against that at that time, because I believe that if you are talking about fundamental development of the language, that there is an extraordinary expenditure involved in that. I believe that it needs to be done, certainly, but I feel that extraordinary funds for that purpose -- you know, developing writing systems and so on -- should come from some source other than the ordinary budget of this government and I suggested at that time at Hay River that I felt that an appropriate source of funding would be through the lands claim settlement and that that specifically should be one of the aims. I could agree with the idea that Mr. Curley advanced a short time ago, that once that funding is acquired, that there should be specific institutions set up by the Dene to do that developmental language work.

On the other hand, I have agreed with a motion calling on this government to use to the extent that is humanly possible at the present time Dene languages and to provide those interpretation services that could be provided given the present development of language and I do not think that that has been done to the extent that it could be done. So while I am a little reluctant to support the motion on the basis that it wants to hold back the budget until that is done, but nevertheless, I believe that it is a reasonable request to ask for some specific plans and I would support this motion on that basis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. Mr. Noah.

#### Attracting Dene Interpreters

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question to the Member. The people who want an interpreter -- the people who want to study are sometimes reluctant. I am asking, if you wanted to recruit interpreters would you be able to find interested Dene people who would be interested in linguistics and being interpreters? If it also means that, then I would support you -- that you also have interested people.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are interested Dene people who would like to be interpreters and I just want to say -- because I am sure that some of the Members are wondering what had happened to the Dene interpreters program that was set up once and it did not continue -- although the government did start a Dene interpreters program once. For various reasons it did not succeed. I can say that it is not because of the fact that there is not need and it is not because there are not people available. It is for other reasons, like having them just sit in the office and do nothing or else maybe lack of pay, where there were more interesting jobs and, perhaps, more pay. So, definitely, if the government were to undertake a Dene translators program, it would go, it would work, but it has to be done in a way that attracts people and makes the job a useful and meaningful job. So, things will have to be different than it was in the past and they can get a lot of free advice from me. They are paying \$20,000 a year to me. I can give them a lot of advice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Patterson, to the motion.



Increasing Need For Dene Interpreter Corps

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I also believe that one of the reasons the Dene interpreter corps that was started some years ago did not get off the ground was that -- from what I know -- there was not a strong enough demand for interpretation services being expressed from the communities and from the public. Maybe it is possible that for a period of time, anyway, some people gave up on the idea of Dene languages ever being saved and sort of resigned themselves to English being the working language of government. I am mentioning this, Mr. Chairman, because I believe that things have now changed and that we will find in coming years, and I think largely as a result of what has happened in this Assembly, that the general public will now begin to realize that they can expect and even demand that government services be offered in Dene languages as well as Inuktitut. I sense a determination on the part of the Dene people and their leaders, like Mr. Sibbeston, but also their organizations, including the Native Communications Society and the Dene Nation and the Metis Association, to tackle this problem and I think, with them working in partnership with government and this Assembly that we can make major progress in this area.

Budget Should Not Be Delayed

I am quite confident that we can expect Mr. Parker to follow up on his commitment to commit funds and a program in this area in the coming year. I have a little bit of reluctance in supporting the part of the motion that calls for us not to pass the budget until this program has been presented. If I do vote against it I think it will be just because of that particular reason. I do not think a way to make the government move is to withhold funds. Funds are the lifeblood of the government and I think I would rather see the budget passed, and Mr. Sibbeston and others will have an ongoing chance to hold the Executive Committee to this commitment that Mr. Parker has made. So, I am a bit concerned about the tactics. I think the result of Mr. Sibbeston's motion might be to -- in case we are not able to come up with a detailed program in time -- might be to see no funds at all allocated to any interpretation or information services of any kind and I do not think he would want that, really.

So, I would say that I agree with the principle of the motion, but not the approach of calling for delaying the budget. I think we should pass the budget and get on with the work of meeting Mr. Sibbeston's challenge and I believe that he will have support from the Executive Committee in this area. Maybe he can wait until the May session to have a well considered, carefully developed plan, rather than one that is brought forward in a hurry to meet this tactic which is a bit like holding the government to ransom, I would suggest. So, I want him to understand that if I do not support the motion it is not because I do not support the principle, but rather, the tactic he is suggesting. Thank you.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I think I can appreciate the intent of the motion. However, I find it difficult to support the motion and it is not to indicate that I do not support the development of Dene languages, but I just think that it is not a proper procedure to hold up the whole budget of a department. I think what we can do is ask the Department of Information to submit to this House and Members what they intend to do in the area of development of the Dene languages so that we can see what kind of plans they have and not only that, but also, we should probably ask for their plans for the following year as well, so that we can see the kind of direction that they would go. I can appreciate the intent of the motion, but I think that if it was amended I would be prepared to support it and I would hope that Mr. Sibbeston will appreciate that the desire to support it is there and I think that all Members would be prepared to support it, but I just feel that it is not a proper way to go about it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. General comments. Mr. Curley. To the motion. I am sorry.

Delaying Budget Not A Motion Of Non-Confidence

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I suppose when the federal civil servant is in charge of this particular agency, then it is probably appropriate to say that you cannot hold the federal civil servant's department at ransom, as a Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. If that is the case, then I would concur with the Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Education in saying that you cannot hold this agency in ransom for what this Assembly is about to do. I think that is interference in the free and democratic right of the elected representatives.

I do not believe we are here to be a token representative of the government agencies. If that is the case, then we might as well just approve the whole budget in one vote and not have to go item by item, because we are just wasting public money. Then I would feel, you know, what the two Ministers are saying is accurate, if that is the case. This motion is not a motion of non-confidence at all. It just says, let us hold it back a bit. We will vote on it before this session is over. "Before it is over", that is all it is saying. It is not putting the Department of Information's budget out. It is not a vote of non-confidence. So, do not tell me, as a Member elected to represent the people and the Member from -- what is your riding?

MR. SIBBESTON: Mackenzie Liard.

MR. CURLEY: Mackenzie Liard -- do not tell him, as a civil servant and the Ministers say, "Look, you do not have the right to exercise your democratic right in asking for a deferral -- at least a delay in voting on it until the government comes up with what they said they would do." This Assembly said what it would do last May in Hay River. Now, one Minister wants to go back to May, which would put the whole question of the Dene languages exactly one year before the government can at least come up with a plan. That is not fair. We are here to study the estimates presented by the departments detail by detail, item by item, and if we are not satisfied, can we vote against them or is it wrong to do that as an elected representative of the people of the Northwest Territories? So, I say that it is just asking for a delay and gives the government an opportunity to present to the people something a little more representative of what this Assembly has been trying to say. So, I will support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I also would like to speak in support of the motion. I do not believe we are holding anyone up to ransom. The issue of Dene language has been with us for a year and a half now and I would not be surprised if the Department of Information and the government has their policy all mapped out in their back pocket and would not take that long to present it because we have been going over and over the issue and details have been outlined so I feel that we are not doing anything that is not exercising our ability to deal with the language and get things put on the table that have been discussed over a long period of time. So I would like to state that I support Mr. Sibbeston's motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.



Motion To Outline Plans For Providing Dene Translators And Information To Dene People And Delay Passage Of Information Budget, Carried

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

---Carried

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, pardon me for asking to speak now, but I am delighted to have the opportunity to present a specific program for the Dene language matters, but I would ask if we could not complete all the rest of the discussion on this department and then at some appropriate time -- I would say next week -- come back with the information that has been requested and then you could call the final vote one way or the other.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is that agreed? Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, can I suggest that we go through each aspect of the budget without voting on it because we might want to make changes in each part.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Sure, sure.

MR. SIBBESTON: Sure, sure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it the wish of the committee that we go through detail, Information budget? Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Directorate, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 7.02, then. We have directorate, total O and M, \$467,000. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Just a question that I have been asked to bring forward to the Legislative Assembly and to have answered officially on the legalities of changing the channel of the feeders that are available on the services that are provided by the territorial government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, it seems that as a government we do not have a difficulty with that but the community would have to apply to the CRTC, Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, for appropriate licensing in order to switch from receiving the CBC to receiving the Cancom package. I suspect that we could be of assistance in making the application for licensing. I would have to look into that though.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if possibly then the Commissioner could -- perhaps he cannot do it right now -- provide to the Legislative Assembly the policy or what the territorial government is willing to accept if in fact a community wishes to change what they receive on the facilities that the territorial government is providing, if they chose to change to receive another feeder other than the CBC.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think it best that I get a statement prepared on what we can do and what the mechanics of doing it would be and provide that for Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Directorate, \$467,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Public Affairs, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 7.03, public affairs, total O and M, in the amount of \$357,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Publications And Production

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Publications and production, total O and M, in the amount of \$717,000. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I take it this is the area where government occasionally prints things for distribution to people so they can see them or gives out messages and government -- it is not propaganda -- but government policies and so forth. I would say that the Dene people are not getting very much from this section of government because the stuff that they put out generally is written and a lot of Dene people, particularly in the smaller communities, cannot understand any written language. They do not understand written language in either English or in their own Dene language. So I had mentioned the possibility of the government finding an innovative way of communicating with the Dene people. I had suggested that maybe little communication centres or little outfits, packages sent out from government either where you could hear or where you could see the messages that government wants to get to people. I believe in the fall session I threw it out as an idea. If you cannot communicate with people by writing, putting stuff on paper, what do you do?

I really honestly and sincerely have come to the conclusion that the government must do something. They have to either speak to the people in the native language or else make TV programs in the native language so they can hear and see. As an example, if I say -- (speaks in Slavey) -- if you cannot understand me, you get someone between you and me. If I cannot write it, then the only hope of communicating is either speaking it, translating it, or else take pictures of me talking and send it out to people. So in this day of advanced technology, sputnik slang around the world and Cancoms and satellites, what have you, tape recorders and little video equipment, I am just a little bit disappointed that the government has not really done something because most of this money really goes to Englishspeaking people. It is not fair that a group of people whose language is not written are not getting some of the services that the government provides. So I really would like to see government be a bit bold, be innovative and try to come up with something so people can understand what government is saying and what it is doing. I would just like to see if Mr. Parker or Mr. Sorensen -- if they are game or if they are open to trying something or maybe they have done something in the last few months, I do not know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

Communication In Seven Languages Through Anik Info And Radio

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the Member was in the House when I was explaining earlier that the department, over the past year, has produced some 90 Anik Info television spots in seven languages and about 50 separate spots for radio. So we understand very well the need for verbal communication with the people and we intend to step that up considerably. In addition, we have given some support, as I explained, to film production, both at Fort Providence and the moose hide boat film and so forth and we will certainly continue those efforts.

We had a program -- I guess it was perhaps two or three years ago -- of using cassette tapes for communication with chiefs but to the best of my knowledge it did not seem to work out very well and I am not just sure of the reasons, but it was tried. We are prepared to be innovative but as far as I can see, there are really two major ways of communicating, either in writing and pictures or verbal. We are certainly working on the first one through the language development as a written language or written languages and we are stepping up what we are doing in the verbal side as well. If the Member has any suggestions, specific suggestions that he would like to make at any time, we would be glad to hear them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I said it before and I will say it again, that one idea that I have is for the government to build an audio-visual centre here in Yellowknife, hire Dene people who can speak the language and read all the announcements, read all the public relations, all the material that the government wants to put out to people, put it on tape or else put it like TV so you can see it on a TV screen. Make it audible or visual and establish communication centres in all of the little communities down the Mackenzie Valley so in each community there would be a government communication centre where every day or every week or whatever time, all these tapes would come in from Yellowknife, as I said, either to just hear or see and put those little tapes in the slot and people can see. They can be located in the government office or else in the community hall or if it is not a very big package, have it organized so it can go more or less from house to house. This way you will be able to communicate or provide information to people.

Hiring High-Profile Dene People

At the moment the situation is that there is really nothing happening and because it is difficult, nobody is up to doing anything. I really think that the Department of Information have to get some Dene people hired and they have to get some fairly high-profile, heavyweight Dene people. I know they just hired or are hiring one Dene person for a fairly high level in government. Well, I should think that they ought to be able to get people like -- what is his name?

MR. CURLEY: Like you!

MR. SIBBESTON: ...James Ross, for instance, or Gerry Antoine. Pay them \$30,000 or \$40,000 or \$50,000, whatever it takes to attract them, but you get somebody and do something. I notice that the Dene Nation and Metis Association are presently in the process of more or less stealing a lot of government civil servants -- good Dene people ought to work for the government -- so they are obviously paying them more than what the government is paying or else they are offering them exciting jobs. Well, the government can do the same. Pay what money it takes to get good Dene people to work for the territorial government. Do something, please. Mr. Chairman, can I ask whether Mr. Parker, or Mr. Sorensen thinks my idea of communication centres is a realistic idea?

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, I think that it is. I would think that a package of some sort could be developed, particularly since it does not call for new facilities. It could be operated through schools or government offices. I would like to have the opportunity to follow up on that and report back.

Total O And M, Publications And Production, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Publications and production, \$717,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Interpreter - Translator Corps

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Interpreter-translator corps, total O and M, in the amount of \$1,090,000. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask what happened to the northwestern Arctic region's second position for the information interpreter program out of that area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Sorensen is prepared to advance that position. I am not just sure what needs to be done, but the position can be instituted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Interpreter-translator corps. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I thought we were not going to approve the sums under each program, that we were just going to deal with it without voting on the sums of each, because if we do what is the purpose of waiting until some more information is provided, because we would be stuck, in a sense, with not being able to change anything. So I would suggest we not vote on the sums but just vote that we have dealt with each section.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We are not going to vote on the total budget until we are finished. It is just page by page that we are going through, and then the total budget will come up at the final.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, just as long as we understand that we do not necessarily approve each individual funding, because then we would be stuck with it, and we cannot change it after.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Is it the wish that we report progress, the time being 6:00 o'clock?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed? I have no alternative. It is 6:00 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-82(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1982-83; 13TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. I understand that Mr. Wah-Shee was requesting unanimous consent to deal with a motion. I think inasmuch as your motion has been altered slightly, Mr. Wah-Shee, that to keep within our rules you should give notice of motion and then ask for unanimous consent to go to motions so that it is properly documented.



HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, do you want me to give notice of motion?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I think you should give notice, because you have changed, I think, essentially the meaning of the original motion. Unanimous consent is being asked to go back to Item 8, notices of motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

---Agreed

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Proceed, Mr. Wah-Shee.

Notice Of Motion 29-82(1): Referral Of Political And Constitutional Development  
Subject To Committee Of The Whole

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of motion in regard to political and constitutional development, the subject to be discussed in the committee of the whole. Now therefore, I move that the subject of political and constitutional development be considered in the committee of the whole as the first item of business on Thursday, February 25, and further that the representatives of the major aboriginal associations be invited to appear as witnesses during that discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, Mr. Wah-Shee, I presume that you are asking for unanimous consent to proceed with the motion without 48 hours notice. Is that correct?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Could I just clarify one point?

MR. CURLEY: Stand up.

MR. FRASER: Stand up.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Dear heavens, breaching protocol. Earlier the motion that had been in the book indicated that native associations and others would be invited. Did I understand in the reading of this that the "others" had been dropped?

MR. SPEAKER: That is correct. That is the change. That is why I wished new notice to be given, Mr. MacQuarrie. Unanimous consent being sought to proceed with the motion without the 48 hour requirement. Is there unanimous consent?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Nay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: No unanimous consent. Unanimous consent has been denied. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): There will be a caucus meeting at 9:30 tomorrow morning in Katimavik A.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 23, 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: Tabled Document 15-82(1), Workers' Compensation Board Task Force Report; Bill 1-82(1); 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 23, 1982.

---ADJOURNMENT

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