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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 March 1982

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	998
Replies To Commissioner's Address	998
- Mrs. Sorensen's Reply	998
- Ms Cournoyea's Reply	1003
- Hon. Dennis Patterson's Reply	1004
- Mr. McLaughlin's Reply	1011
Oral Questions	1016
Questions and Returns	1019
Tabling of Documents	1024
- Minister's Statement on Student Financial Aid Program	1024
Reports of Standing and Special Committee	1026
- Report of the Special Committee on Education	1026
- Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation	1033
Notices of Motion	1036
Motions	1037
Orders of the Day	1046

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1982

MEMBERS PRESENT

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. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Hon. Don Stewart, Hon. Kane Tologanak, Hon. James Wah-Shee

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

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

Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mrs. Sorensen.

Mrs. Sorensen's Reply

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, like Mr. MacQuarrie, would like to devote my reply to the question of division, because I feel that the whole question has not been discussed enough in the public domain. The date is some six weeks away, and if we are ever going to discuss it, we should begin doing so as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, in June, 1980, I gave a speech in Baker Lake calling for some creativity in the structure and operations of this government. In that speech, I called for the creation of ministers of regions, for greater consultation and involvement of community councils and the people in the regions, and for a budget format change which would reflect this Legislature's priorities being given to the regional areas. Having been an MLA at that time for only nine short months, I had confirmed in my own mind that if the territorial government was to build and increase its credibility with the citizens of the Northwest Territories, and in particular with the native leaders, it did, indeed, have to change, and it had to do it fast. As early as June, 1980, it was very clear to me that we were, in fact, coasting into division. Mr. Speaker, that bothered me, particularly because with a definite native majority in this House and with the various strengths that the individual MLAs had, I felt that the Legislature did, indeed, have a chance to mould and shape the territorial government into something truly reflective and sensitive to the northern citizens. I guess I was somewhat naive, because I soon learned that that was not the objective of some of my colleagues. It may have been my objective, but it was not the objective of all 22 of us, and in particular not the objective of the Eastern Arctic caucus.

The Eastern Arctic caucus, Mr. Speaker, developed a plan and a strategy right from the beginning, following very closely behind the 1979 election. Through determination and hard work of its Members, through their rigid discipline when it came to voting on motions dealing with the question of division or unity, through their membership on the so-called unity committee, and finally as a result of the failure of the Executive Committee and the Commissioner to experiment a couple of years ago with regional ministers, to get out into the regions and show their faces as often as possible, and to really take the territorial government and evaluate its effectiveness, and to introduce changes that might address the problems of communication. As a result of all these things, we find ourselves six weeks away from a plebiscite which will ask northerners, who have lived here for some three years or more, whether they are in favour of dividing the North.

I gave a speech to Rotary last week, Mr. Speaker, and in that speech, I told the Rotary members that I personally still had not made up my mind on how I would vote; that I was still not finished with the research and the soul searching that one must give to such a crucial determination. I did, however, in the recent past, lean very much toward the yes vote; but then, Mr. Speaker, I read the ITC "Vote Yes" propaganda, in which they say, and I quote, "If the people of Nunavut vote 'Yes' in this plebiscite, the governments in Yellowknife and Ottawa will then be assured that the people want Nunavut."

Crucial Question Of Boundaries In Division Of NWT

Mr. Speaker, the very next section of that information sheet defines Nunavut -- and I quote again -- as "the name given to the land lying roughly north and east of the tree line". Now, I am a westerner, and the boundary is crucial to me. It is uppermost in my mind, and in my humble opinion, it is crucial to any government which evolved in the western part of the NWT, should we divide the Territories. It is clear that any future government evolving in the West has the responsibility and in fact, the obligation to protect its access to salt water. Modes of transportation, while not crucial to economic activity now in 1982, because we have very little economic activity, will be absolutely fundamental in the future; perhaps some 50 years away, but fundamental to the future, and legislators, MLAs, must look ahead when they make crucial decisions like this. That is why the Yukon government fought the provisions in the COPE claim which they claim could prevent access to salt water for their territory. It is a fundamental issue.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that boundary is crucial, and having read the two page document entitled, "Nunavut, April 14, 1982, Vote Yes" released by John Amagoalik of ITC and Thomas Suluk, who is the land claims project director, I am concerned that not everyone will be clear on exactly what it is that they are saying yes or no to. Obviously, to ITC a yes vote will mean that the people want Nunavut, and again the definition is "that area lying roughly above the tree line". If the vote is yes, that is how they will prepare their documents and their letters and their lobby when they go to the federal government calling for division; but, Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, that is not what a yes vote will mean. A yes vote, in my opinion, will mean that the territorial government will approach the federal government to agree to division and ask it to establish a boundaries commission. However, already in the space of the last couple of weeks, we have two conflicting arguments as to what a yes vote means.

Now, Mr. Vince Steen, the mayor of Tuk, attended the western constitutional conference held in Yellowknife in January of this year, and I detected from what he said that he and the people he was representing were not really sure of what they would be voting for.

MR. CURLEY: They can abstain.

MRS. SORENSEN: His question was if he votes yes, is he voting for Nunavut? Well, that is what ITC says. Vince Steen, you vote yes, you are voting for Nunavut; but that is not what this Legislature is saying.

MR. CURLEY: What does the question say?

MRS. SORENSEN: That is not what we are saying, and I think it is extremely cruel and unnecessary for this Legislature to put the people in the Western Arctic constituency in such a difficult position, and particularly cruel of ITC. I regret that this has happened when it could have been avoided were we to have thought this through clearly, and it will be particularly cruel if they think -- and that is the people particularly in the Western Arctic -- that as a result of a yes vote they will become a part of Nunavut. That is far from clear, Mr. Speaker. I think this Legislature has an obligation to make that very clear to the people of the North, and we are being prevented from doing so on the impact committee when Members vote against that committee getting out into the regions and talking to the people about what the plebiscite is about and what the impact report has revealed.

Immediate And Long-Term Implications Of Division

Mr. Speaker, setting aside for a moment the whole question of where the boundaries will be, it is my opinion that there are really two levels to the discussion of whether the division of the NWT will be beneficial or not. The immediate short-term implications, and they are primarily positive, at the very least very much so in the East and, perhaps, given a favourable boundary, even more so for the West, and the more distant, but in my opinion far more important long-term impact.

With respect to the immediate impact, division would mean the creation of a new territorial government, with its capital somewhere in the East. The spin-offs to the eastern economy would be significant and certainly more jobs and business opportunities would result. However, what would division do to the evolution toward responsible government and eventual provincehood, definitely a long-term goal of the present territorial government and a stated goal of ITC in their Nunavut proposal?

The impact report reveals that two opposing views were expressed. One view held that the ensuing greater degree of consensus in each territory, should division take place, would enhance the ability to gain responsible government, but the opposite view suggested that fragmentation of northern interests and political clout would retard the process. One has only to look at the population figures to see why the latter view might make sense. For instance, take the 1963 federal boundary proposal, more or less straight up from the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border. The population in the West with that border would be nearly 33,000 people, the majority being white. In the East the population would be a mere 14,000 people, give or take a few hundred. The majority, it is true, would be Inuit, but over half would be under 16. I ask you now, can you imagine that the federal government will ever hand over ownership of land and resources, prerequisites to provincehood, to 14,000 people, but then I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether that should be my concern as a westerner? Should I be and should the people in the West be concerned that the East might never obtain provincehood if they do separate? Well, perhaps not. Perhaps we have no right in the West to be concerned and historically, as Mr. MacQuarrie pointed out yesterday, as the people in various parts of the northwestern territory felt ready to break away from the territory and establish their own unique jurisdiction, the federal government was consulted and after a fashion that separation took place.

The NWT as we know it today has achieved its present geographical boundaries because of the creation of Manitoba, because of the admission of all remaining British territories and islands, except Newfoundland, to the Canadian union in 1880, because of the creation of the Yukon Territory in 1898, because of the creation of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905 and because of the alteration of the borders between the NWT and Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba in 1912. So that, in fact, one could say that because the Eastern Arctic is now stating its readiness to separate, that it is only part of the continuation of what we have called in this House the chipping away of the Northwest Territories, and perhaps that is as it should be, and why should I or any other westerner attempt to hold these people back?

Trading Short-Term Gains At The Expense Of Long-Term Profits

I have said it before and I will say it again, I do not detect a rising no vote in the West. I do not hear calls for unity and nearly everyone has agreed that division is inevitable and everyone has said that it is difficult to govern such a large expanse of land. However, I would like for a moment, Mr. Speaker, to raise certain questions and concerns and while it may be, in some eastern Members' opinion, none of my business, because I am a westerner, I would like to play devil's advocate for a moment and I do this because I think it is healthy to discuss every issue from every side -- to look at any issue, not only passionately, but logically as well, and we have had a lot of passion -- maybe it is time we threw in a few hard, cold facts and a bit of logic.

Mr. Speaker, if I were an eastern Member -- if I were a citizen of that area of the Eastern Arctic, I would begin by demanding why my leaders are pushing for division before the NWT has achieved responsible government and provincehood and at the very least why my leaders are pushing for division before a revenue sharing agreement has been negotiated with the federal government. I would question that, simply based on common sense. If division comes, fewer people might have less chance at responsible government and even less chance at provincehood and probably no chance at revenue sharing.

I would question my leaders very closely, again if I were an easterner, on whether they might, in fact, in pushing for a new territorial government with no increased responsibility, be making the same beads-and-blankets deal that Indians across Canada made a hundred years ago when they signed their treaties and gave up their land. I would be concerned that in supporting the division of the North, that the Eastern Arctic leaders would be, in fact further entrenching the federal government and I would further wonder if Nunavut might not become nothing more than a large federal reserve, where, because of small population and the South's increasing need and demand for our resources, the federal government would call all the shots forever -- that in order to have their own territorial government, I would ask the leaders whether they were in fact trading a short-term gain at the expense of a long-term profit, that of being the masters in their own house through provincehood. I do not know whether that is in fact true, but I think it bears some thought.

Division Would Mean Loss Of Present Political Power

Mr. Speaker, there is an issue to which few people have made reference to date and I believe Mr. McLaughlin first raised this issue at a Yellowknife constituency meeting in the fall of 1980, when we held a public meeting on unity in the NWT. I have thought about this issue a lot since then and I think it is something that both eastern and western politicians and, indeed, the general public should think very seriously about, and the issue is this. If the federal government were to decide, if the vote on division was in the affirmative, that it would allow the Northwest Territories as we know it to divide, what

guarantee would we have in the West that we could retain the power and responsibility that we now have and what guarantee would the Eastern Arctic have that the newly created territory in the Eastern Arctic would be given the same or more powers now enjoyed by the present Legislative Assembly? I submit that we would have none. Neither would we have that guarantee in the West, and they would not have it in the East, because the first thing which would be done to create a new territory would be for the federal government to amend or repeal -- most likely repeal -- the NWT Act, and that is the act which grants the powers now held by the Legislative Assembly. We have no guarantee that if your act is repealed and two new acts were created, that they would be anywhere similar to what exists now; so that in fact what we may see is history repeating itself.

The North Western Territory had far more power, even had responsible government in the pre-1905 era, but when Saskatchewan and Manitoba were created from the Territories, the remaining part eventually became known, it is true, as the Northwest Territories, but had a federal administrator appointed, and it has taken the Northwest Territories from 1905 to 1982 to achieve what very limited powers we have now. I say we may be taking a great risk; we may be doing ourselves in, given the small population and the huge resource potential which obviously the South has an eye on, in moving toward division now. Again, it is something to think about, to throw out for discussion among the people of the North.

Mr. Speaker, I have experienced, as all Members here, the power and influence that Indians, the Metis, the Inuit and whites have working together to achieve a goal. The Legislature's trip as a constitutional committee to Ottawa did make a strong impression, and proved to us that we would come together on a single issue and work hard on that issue. That is the kind of unity that we must have; I sincerely believe that is the kind of unity we must have if we are going to achieve responsible government in the Northwest Territories, and eventual provincehood.

Mr. Speaker, unless we have those two things in the North, we are not masters in our own house. Political power is so essential if we are to gain that independence from Ottawa and get away from the colonial status that we know exist under. I do not think that we have tried hard enough to achieve that kind of unity in the Northwest Territories. I begin to feel that we can do it. We have had a sampling of how it can be done, but I think that we are giving up too soon. However, it may be too late. Obviously, six weeks from now, we are going to go to the people and ask them whether they think we should be divided.

I do know, however, that we can achieve that kind of unity in the West should we divide, and who knows -- perhaps if the federal government sees that it could remain a force forever in the Eastern Arctic -- and the very real possibility of that exists -- it might be prepared to allow the West to move toward provincehood at a very much faster rate than it would have allowed the entire Northwest Territories, and I would like to take the opportunity to caution my Eastern Arctic friends to be careful. I am not convinced it is in their best interest to divide the Territories, but the more I think about it, it just might be in the West's best interest. Mr. Speaker, the nice thing about that is that we in the West did not initiate it.

Cost Of Conservative Boycott Of Parliament

Mr. Speaker, there is another very urgent matter that I would like to discuss today. Most of you will have heard that the bells have been ringing for two days in the House of Commons summoning the MPs for a vote. I believe the vote is a motion to adjourn that was put forth by a Conservative Member, and,

Mr. Speaker, we have heard on the radio that the Conservative leader and his caucus are boycotting parliament. As a taxpayer, Mr. Speaker, I phoned down to Ottawa this morning to find out how much this little game that the Conservative caucus is playing is costing me...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: They turned the bells off to save power costs.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...as a taxpayer, and I determined that it is costing Canada \$400,000 a day -- that is what a daily session costs in Ottawa. So we have now lost \$800,000 because of the stupidity of the Conservative caucus.

MR. SIBBESTON: Take it easy.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, we in the North are desperate for dollars. We have been crying for impact funds so that we can address our very real problem in the Western Arctic with respect to the impact of non-renewable resource development, and I am shocked and appalled that the Conservative caucus would be able to do this kind of thing and get away with it. I suspect that the real reason that the Conservatives are doing it is to detract from their leader's very real problem of dissension within his own caucus, and so he is attempting to hold the majority government at ransom. I would like to now publicly say that I think that the Conservative caucus should get back into that House and get on with assisting the House of Commons to govern this country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Ms Cournoyea's Reply

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to make a reply to the Commissioner, but I would like to say just a few brief words, mainly because I guess I am one of those people who like to see a certain group of people exult in what they believe, and perhaps I oftentimes, when I am doing that, appear to exclude others.

I have never in all my life, in all the history that I have been taught, in all the books that have been distributed, ever read that a country was built on cool calculation. From my understanding, a country is built on belief, guts, and sometimes doing something a little bit wrong. I do not believe that knowing every answer or every little thing is very important unless you believe in what you are doing and you have that objective. When I move ahead on behalf of my people, I do it with passion, deliberation, and pride in what they are.

---Applause

It may not be the most right thing, Mr. Speaker, but I will tell the Commissioner and this Legislative Assembly that I shall continue to conduct myself in that manner. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I shall wait for Mr. Patterson.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Hon. Dennis Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid I was unable to attend in time to hear Mrs. Sorensen's reply to the Commissioner. I did hear the end part of it, and I thought that perhaps it was a good speech, but it was in the wrong House, and I hope someday Mrs. Sorensen achieves her ambition of going to the House of Commons so that she can make that sort of speech in the appropriate Assembly...

MRS. SORENSEN: Are you trying to get rid of me?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...because I do not believe we want party politics in the Northwest Territories for a while yet, and...

MRS. SORENSEN: We have already got it.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...I know that Mrs. Sorensen is dabbling with pursuing that path, and I hope that she will direct her energies toward the federal scene where her obvious talents lie if she insists on going in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I was very interested in hearing what Mrs. Sorensen had to say today, because I am still stewing over reports in the Yellowknifer of yesterday, whereby she charged -- and that is what the headline says -- that Eastern Arctic MLAs are deliberately seeking to block any growth in the territorial government's credibility. On the very same page, there was an article by the same reporter which accused the Assembly of fooling around with high-profile issues instead of doing any work, and I would like to very briefly respond to these serious allegations, as I see them, and try and refute them.

Response To Yellowknifer Newspaper Allegations

Mr. Speaker, we, as a Legislative Assembly, Ninth Assembly, have achieved some major accomplishments, I believe, and I would like to briefly outline some of the things that I think have happened and hope to persuade Mrs. Sorensen that, indeed, some of the major accomplishments of this Assembly have been in large measure initiated by Members from the Eastern Arctic and that if this Assembly does have credibility, that in large measure it is Eastern Arctic Members who deserve some credit.

I think the Ninth Assembly will be characterized in history as an Assembly which made the committee system work more effectively than perhaps ever before and in that regard I would particularly commend the finance committee, under its very able chairperson. I believe that in the first months of this Ninth Assembly that committee met more often than the Eighth Assembly finance committee had met during its entire term. The education committee, which I have had the privilege of participating in, which will table its report today, is really, in my view, the first made-in-Northwest Territories royal commission type of inquiry, under the auspices of this Assembly, initiated to study all aspects of education in -- may I remind Mrs. Sorensen -- all parts of the Northwest Territories. It was initiated by Eastern Arctic Members to study all parts of the Northwest Territories and travel in all parts of the Northwest Territories, and I think that committee provides a model of public consultation and, I trust, enlightened legislative and program reform.

The article in the Yellowknifer alleging that we are dabbling with high-profile issues and not getting down to work mentions the lack of progress on the proposed community government ordinance and I would like to remind Members of this House that the community government ordinance arose out of the work of the Baffin Regional Council, who took the initiative of reviewing the hamlet ordinance on their own back in 1978 and I would like to make it clear that the Baffin Regional Council has gone on record as supporting that new ordinance

and is anxious to see change occur. There has been no attempt to hold back this ordinance from the Eastern Arctic. We have not, in this area, deliberately sought to block any growth in the territorial government's credibility, as Mrs. Sorensen is quoted as charging.

The Baffin Regional Council Ordinance itself is another example of initiatives from these allegedly retrogressive Eastern Arctic MLAs, whereby capital planning and devolution of government services to the Baffin region is to be accomplished and I think the fact that the Baffin Regional Council Ordinance was accepted by this Assembly and was proposed to this Assembly shows that people from my area have faith in the territorial government and are not seeking to sabotage it, as is charged.

I will just mention also the soon-to-be-established board of management of the Frobisher Bay hospital, which will be a contract with the Northwest Territories government and the federal government, which will allow Eastern Arctic people to have control over that regional hospital and this is a first. Again, it shows that the people of the Eastern Arctic, including the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, do have faith in this government and do give it credibility.

The wildlife agreement in principle recently concluded with the federal government and now waiting for their approval features joint federal, territorial and ITC management. I have spoken many times in the past of the only example of true devolution in the Northwest Territories that I am aware of, in the area of social services in Frobisher Bay and, again, I think this shows that Eastern Arctic Members -- my predecessor and myself -- do give this government credibility and have sought to promote growth.

Sacrifices Of Eastern Arctic Executive Members

Now, I do agree that there was great reluctance on the part of Members from the Eastern Arctic to sit on the Executive Committee when we first came to Yellowknife for our first meeting, not, I suggest, because we did not want to serve, but because we felt we needed more experience and we were naturally very worried about the sacrifices involved in leaving our homes and our families to attend meetings in Yellowknife. But two of our number were finally persuaded to join and I think we have made some sacrifices in leaving our constituents and our home environment to attend meetings of the financial management board, the priorities and planning committee, the legislation committee of the Executive Committee, which 99 per cent of the time meet in Yellowknife, where the departments are headquartered here. I think, in my case particularly, I can say that I have made considerable sacrifices to become involved in this government, to give the Executive Committee I think increased credibility by having membership from the far East, and I can say the same thing for my colleague from Kitikmeot, Mr. Tologanak, and now I am told by a Member of this Assembly from Yellowknife South, who I am now charging, that Eastern Arctic Members are blocking the territorial government's credibility deliberately. If that report is wrong in yesterday's paper, then I would challenge Mrs. Sorensen to rise right now -- I will be happy to yield to her on a question of privilege -- to say that is not what she said.

That is what I thought. Now, my view is that to say we are deliberately blocking changes that would give this government credibility is a very insidious charge and my reaction was to really wonder whether I should continue participating on this Executive Committee if this is the sort of thanks I am going to get from the Member for Yellowknife South.

In order to gain support from the Members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, while we were debating the unity committee report in Frobisher Bay, it was Eastern Arctic Members, I would like this House to recall, who proposed, against the

recommendations of the unity committee and against their chairman's strong views, particularly, which we have heard yesterday, that people from the western part of the Northwest Territories should be able to vote as well. It is Eastern Arctic Members who, I think in a very respectful but effective way, demand and receive ministerial accountability. They are not afraid of asking questions -- challenging the government, I think in a way that has made this Assembly lively and effective. Even when we determined that we were unable to participate immediately on the Executive Committee, Eastern Arctic Members decided that they work to offer constructive criticism and aid to the Ministers of the Executive by establishing what were called, perhaps erroneously, shadow ministers, in an attempt to provide a monitoring and watchdog capacity.

There is not a deliberate attempt to block the credibility of this government. If we had wanted to block the territorial government's credibility in order to promote division, we could have done it long ago. We could have refused to participate in this Assembly; we could have refused to attend; we could have refused to sit on committees; we could have refused to offer people the chair in committee of the whole, such as Mr. Pudluk and Mr. Noah and Mr. Tologanak.

Mr. Speaker, I was also very alarmed with the suggestion in Mr. Titterington's article in the Yellowknifer that Members of this Assembly are only interested in promoting issues which define political decisions on the grounds of racial lines, pro and contra-development lines, or by which part of the Northwest Territories one happens to represent. I am aware that there are people who have these approaches in this Assembly. Mrs. Sorensen has said that she is not a racist and demanded withdrawal of those charges, but then a few minutes later she turned around and called me a "token white". Now, if that is not a racial appellation or allegation, I do not know what is. Nobody is a token anything if you see people as they are and not races. Mrs. Sorensen has also charged that the Legislative Assembly is on trial, and I guess if we fail the test, then the Liberal party will sweep to control over this Assembly at the next election; but I would like to ask really who is on trial?

Party Politics Not Effective In Territorial Form Of Government

I would like to consider for a moment what my position might be as a Minister of a Liberal government. I suppose I would not be eligible for membership in the party because of these kinds of remarks that I am making. However, if I were, would I be able to speak critically of the government of the day? I think we must be very careful, Mr. Speaker, to recognize that the relationship of a Liberal Northwest Territories government to a Liberal federal government would be quite different than the relationship -- if there were such a thing as a Liberal provincial government and a Liberal federal government, because here, until things change, we are very much under the control of the federal government, and I think while provincial parties might have much more freedom to differ with their federal counterpart, the same would not be true in a territorial form of government where the Minister of Northern Affairs still has a very large say over the policies and directions taken by the government through the Commissioner. If this were a Liberal government and I were a Minister of that government, would I be free to say that I was appalled by the behaviour of the Minister of Indian Affairs special adviser on constitutional development, Senator Austin, who came recently to Yellowknife and in one breath told a constitutional conference which had convened in this room, actually, that he was only there as an observer, he was there as a student, he did not want to participate, he did not want to influence what was going on; and then turned around in a luncheon to the Rotary Club and told the people there with the press in attendance that the Northwest Territories consensus style of government is incapable of dealing with anything more than single-issue politics, whatever that means.

If the position that we took after significant deliberations and compromises and discussions on the Norman Wells pipeline, on a formula for respecting the interests of the aboriginal peoples affected by that project, the interests of other peoples in the Northwest Territories, environmental concerns, our interest in energy self-sufficiency and the realities of development in the North -- if that position was an example which we took, and if the five points of the Executive Committee, which this Assembly approved and adopted -- if that is an example of single-issue politics, then I am even more clueless as to what Senator Austin meant. My feeling is that what he was implying in those remarks -- and I have tried to understand what he meant -- what he was implying was that this Assembly is hung-up on the issue of native rights, and that is the single issue that dominates these discussions. However, I think that the Norman Wells debate, the unity debate -- which took a full eight days -- show that this Assembly is capable, and I would suggest more capable than a party system would be, of accommodating various interests and coming up with a consensus. We were able to do so, I think, in strikingly effective and swift fashion when the crisis of section 34 and section 41(1)(e) and (f) was visited upon us this fall, and we were able to act swiftly in a way that the Yukon government, with its party system, was unable to do.

Division Only Alternative

However, Mr. Speaker, I have with some sadness, I think, in this session learned that indeed the Assembly is already divided in many ways. I do not blame people like my colleague from Mackenzie Liard for this frustration and his belief that the Inuit are getting everything, for his allegations that Inuit are somehow ingratiating themselves with the government for short-term gains; and although these suggestions on his part have been very provocative, and sometimes difficult for us to deal with, I think that is the price that we are paying with trying to have an Assembly which tries to represent so many diverse interests, and such a very large territory where there is a fundamental historical difference between the East and the West.

I, for one, do not look forward to arguments about who is getting more and where the priorities should be placed. I do not want to try to compare benefits that come from roads and highway systems and highway maintenance contracts and some of the facilities which we have in the Western Arctic which are not present in the East, because I do not think you can compare apples and oranges, and basically, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is the issue that is confronting people in the plebiscite debate. I have been convinced, and I think particularly with the tension that arose in this particular session I am now more firmly convinced than ever that it really is fruitless to keep trying to stay together as one House.

I would respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this kind of provocative remark from the Member for Yellowknife South is proof that we must form a new territory in the Eastern Arctic and form our own Assembly. I am also aware that Mrs. Sorensen gave some very gratuitous advice to people of the Eastern Arctic, that really division was going to probably be better for the West, that there is no hope of provincehood for the East, and let me say publicly that we in the Eastern Arctic -- and you will find this out on April 14th, I believe -- we are not afraid to go it alone and we do not like to be told we have no chance of survival or of provincehood. Let us worry about that. Look to your own concerns.

I think the role of the Inuit of Canada and our MP, Mr. Peter Ittinuar, and, I would humbly suggest, Members of this Assembly from the Eastern Arctic, in assisting in the reinstatement of aboriginal rights for the native peoples of Canada, proves our strength and our power and may I remind Members of this Assembly that it was, once again, eastern Members who suggested that we take this drastic action and pressed some of the western Members of this Assembly to act quickly and decisively in a move which I believe has gained us a great deal of credibility...

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...throughout all parts of the Northwest Territories.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Right on!

Holding Of Plebiscite Logical Approach

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Now, I have worked very hard for the day that we vote on this plebiscite and I think that whatever the result, once again, people of the eastern part of the Northwest Territories and, yes, Eastern Arctic MLAs in this Assembly deserve a little bit of credit for having for the first time in our history given the opportunity for all the people of the Northwest Territories to be consulted on this major issue and the question, Mr. Speaker, is very simple. Is the Northwest Territories too large to be governed by one government or not? I do not think there is a problem about boundaries. I know that Mrs. Sorensen and others have suggested that it is going to be difficult for her to make up her mind, because we do not know what the boundaries are. Well, let me ask, how could we possibly otherwise consult the people of the Northwest Territories than by starting with the fundamental question of principle, should we divide the Northwest Territories or not? Would those people who say the boundary issue is confusing people ask us to establish a boundaries commission and spend probably hundreds of thousands of dollars to come up with an acceptable boundary proposal only to be told by the people of the Northwest Territories, "Well, we may or may not want to create two new territories"? I think the way we are approaching this, Mr. Speaker, is the only logical way and people like the honourable MLA for Yellowknife South should understand that you have to make the fundamental decision of principle before you can take the other steps, and to confuse those second and third steps with the first process does not make sense. I wonder, really, whether or not this is a way of avoiding addressing the fundamental question, is the Northwest Territories too big for one government or not?

Division Not A New Issue

There are also many people -- including Members of this Assembly, including the Inuvik Chamber of Commerce -- who say "Wait. We are not ready." Now, I would like to know how long-term residents of the Northwest Territories could not be ready for this issue. It is not just that this Assembly dealt with this issue in a very public way in its first year in office through a major debate in Frobisher Bay, but this is not a new issue, Mr. Speaker. This issue was alive and well in the Northwest Territories in 1963 when the federal government was on the verge of giving third reading to a bill which would have created a new territory called "Mackenzie" and at that time the initiative came from the West and people from the East were said to be unready and unsophisticated and unprepared. This was the conclusion of the Carrothers Commission, that in 10 years the matter should be reviewed again. Any of those long-time residents in Inuvik who belong to the chamber of commerce, who called for a delay of this vote, will remember that the issue is not a new one and not a strange one and not one in which any long-term residents can have any excuse for not making up their minds.

Mr. Speaker, this plebiscite vote is of great importance to me and my constituents. I have said before that I ran on a platform -- and so did the other candidates in the election in Frobisher Bay -- of working toward the day when the Northwest Territories would be divided. If this plebiscite does fail to achieve significant support of people in the Eastern Arctic, then I will personally find it very hard to consider participating again in this

Assembly. I have, I believe, along with my colleagues, tried to work hard to make this Assembly effective, to use this Assembly as a vehicle for responsible change, whereby the public can be fully involved and consulted, but I have been involved, and I have been involved on the Executive Committee, because I am working for the day when we can go back home.

Establishing Two Legislatures

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, at this time, although it is probably premature, that I believe if there is a significant vote in the Eastern Arctic for division, for the creation of a new territory, that this House should give very serious consideration in the next election to establishing two legislatures and I would even suggest that if we might need more time -- and I realize these things cannot happen overnight; we are going to have to give the federal government some time to respond -- but if we are to move in this direction, I would not want to see yet another NWT single Assembly elected at the next election and we may even have to give consideration, if it is legally possible, as I understand it is, to asking the federal government to give serious consideration to delaying the next election until we can set up the mechanism to establish two assemblies, two legislatures -- to lay the groundwork for organizing two governments, and I know that my colleagues from the Eastern Arctic will be leaders in that government. I think we have gained a great deal -- and I can say this, particularly as a new Member to this Assembly -- we have gained a great deal of experience from the Ninth Assembly, which I am grateful for, in the operation of government, how to participate in government, and I hope we too have brought something to this Assembly.

Native Responsibility For Wildlife Management

Mr. Speaker, I would like to very briefly address some matters that are of great concern to me, unrelated to the plebiscite, and one of those matters has to do with the issue of wildlife management in the Northwest Territories. I have been very distressed at certain statements that have been made by persons associated with the wildlife or nature federation movement in southern Canada to the effect that native people are not ready to take responsibility for wildlife management. I would like to commend the Minister of Renewable Resources and this government for having participated in negotiations which have led to an agreement in principle on wildlife in the Eastern Arctic, which will give the native people a very significant role in wildlife management.

To say that southern biologists and southern experts have all the answers on the animals is preposterous, and I would like to see some of these officials who make these statements -- I think patronizing statements -- that native people do not have the ability to manage wildlife, I would like to see them come to the Northwest Territories and tell that to the Keewatin Wildlife Federation, tell that to the Minister of Renewable Resources, tell that to this House. I think that they would find very quickly that they would be in a very indefensible position.

Arctic Pilot Project An Invasion Of Arctic Waters

Mr. Speaker, we are being visited with very significant megaprojects, particularly in the Eastern Arctic, and I would like to briefly refer to the Arctic Pilot Project. I am very pleased that this House has taken an interest in hearing both sides of this very significant project. I believe that it is not a pilot project at all, that it is the beginning of an invasion of Arctic waters to international traffic; that it is a very dangerous precedent, and if this project goes ahead Canada will be opening its Arctic waters without the capacity to police and protect those waters. We do not have the ice-breaking ships necessary at this moment or in the near future to protect a jurisdiction that

we assert, and I am very concerned that this little pilot project will be a route for the invasion of northern waters, not just by Dome Petroleum, but also by the international tanker traffic of the world. We know that the Americans are interested in bringing petroleum resources through the Arctic Islands, and I am very concerned that this project might be given hasty approval at this time, and I am very concerned that the argument that it is merely an experiment will be accepted by the National Energy Board. I think it is an experiment to test very little. Canadian taxpayers' money is being used to subsidize a project which is essentially designed for the export market, and the same can be true of Dome's activities in the Beaufort Sea.

I was very disturbed at the attitude of the Arctic Pilot Project that Inuit witnesses should be excluded from phase one of the hearing, where it is to be decided whether or not the project should go ahead. The position of the Arctic Pilot Project was that the appropriate place for Inuit and Greenlandic witnesses was phase two, which, once the decision was reached on whether or not to go ahead, would deal with a policy phase, how to do it, how best to cushion the impact; and I am pleased that the National Energy Board did not accept those arguments of the proponent. I also recognize that the Arctic Pilot Project is projected to raise revenues of \$100 million a year under the current formula, and I believe that it is very important that this government, if this project is to go ahead, is taking a position whereby it is asserting in the National Energy Board hearings that it is essential that we get assurances of energy supply and assurances of a share in resource revenue.

Importance Of Uranium Mining And Exploration Debate

Mr. Speaker, another issue that was addressed by the Yellowknifer was the fact that the territorial government or the territorial Assembly is wasting its time on issues like uranium mining and exploration in favour of doing actual real business in the House. I would just like to say at this point -- and I believe that many Members would agree with me on this -- that the time we spent studying this major question was not wasted, and that this House, before it finishes its life, will have had an opportunity to study the information and evaluate the information we have received, and that we will make recommendations to the federal government on the pace and form of uranium mining and exploration, and that we will make recommendations to our government on much more stringent controls than we have seen anywhere else in this country, if, indeed, we determine that our advice would be that uranium exploration and mining can, indeed, take place. I think this is a matter that has yet to be resolved by this House, and I am looking forward very much to touring some of these facilities.

My own view is that we should not only see the most modern facilities in Saskatchewan, but we should also go and take a look at Elliot Lake, where 50 miles of river have been polluted, where 10 lakes have been destroyed, where the effects on the native people of that area can be dramatically seen. One aspect of uranium mining and exploration that has come to my attention in northern Saskatchewan is that the slaughter of caribou, which has cast doubts on the ability of Inuit in the Keewatin to conserve the Kaminuriak herd, I think quite unfairly -- but the slaughter of caribou which took place in northern Saskatchewan, I understand, can, in large measure, be attributed to the access to those herds which was permitted by the construction of roads in the process of uranium exploration and mining. So I think it is very important that this House consider very fully the implications of this kind of development, and also the moral implications. I do not think that this is a casual issue that we are wasting our time on, or an issue where we are looking for public visibility, as the Yellowknifer article says, to give us a better chance of re-election.

Intense Involvement Of Eastern Arctic In Constitutional Issues

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot more to say, but I think we are about to conclude our business, and you have taught me to seek the virtue of brevity in replies to the Commissioner's Address. I do very much look forward to April 14th. I am going to be spending some time in my constituency making sure that people there are well informed of the issues. I am sure other MLAs are going to be doing that. I very much look forward in May not only to discussing the issue of the plebiscite and its results, but also to considering the recommendations of the special committee on education, which I think will be another accomplishment of this Assembly. I am pleased that those recommendations are designed in such a way that they will not prejudice future constitutional and political development in the Northwest Territories.

I cannot tell you, Mr. Speaker, how keenly interested in political development the people of the Eastern Arctic are. I felt it very much when I returned after our trip to Ottawa to the Eastern Arctic, and started hearing stories about the intense involvement of people in the Eastern Arctic communities in the constitutional issue. I visited Igloolik at Christmastime, and I saw a beautiful wall-hanging on the wall of my colleague, the Member for Foxe Basin, Mr. Evaluarjuk, and it said, "Mark Evaluarjuk, 1975-1981", and there was an igloo and dog teams and a beautiful sun rising. Mr. Evaluarjuk very modestly explained to me that this wall hanging had been presented to him by the best tapestry maker in Igloolik on behalf of the people of Igloolik in gratitude to him for what he and this Assembly had done toward protecting their political future in Ottawa.

There were parades in Cape Dorset. Even the town of Frobisher Bay declared a civic holiday, and I think this kind of intense interest in the political future disproves any suggestion that the people of the Eastern Arctic are now unready or uninterested in political development. I predict that we will see the extent of their interest in pursuing their own political futures in their own consensual way when the plebiscite vote takes place on April the 14th, and I very much look forward to that day.

May I say that I am grateful to Members of this House for permitting and encouraging this historic event to take place. I think I can respect Mr. MacQuarrie's principles, although I sometimes find them hard to follow myself, and I suppose if he inspires a lower turnout in the West or in his constituency, that this should not prevent us from moving ahead. So thank you for the opportunity to reply, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to making a new future in the Northwest Territories after the historical event which we are all about to participate in in April. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Mr. McLaughlin's Reply

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had intended to speak tomorrow, but as there is a chance we may wrap up our business today, I just have a few notes and I will be fairly brief. I have had the opportunity now to represent my constituency of Pine Point for two years and it has been a very good experience for me, and I think for the community of Pine Point it has been very good to have an MLA to represent them directly in this House, rather than have people from other communities. It has been more than two years now and this is our second budget session which we have actually had an influence on. The first budget was really made up before we had any influence on it. The finance committee, which I serve on, is indicative of the way consensus government, I think, should operate. I think that the finance committee, under the leadership of our hardworking chairman, Mrs. Sorensen, Member for Yellowknife South, has done an excellent job...

MR. CURLEY: Do not go too far.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN: ...in its mandate to look after -- and "all other matters" which come up...

MR. CURLEY: She will start crying.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...under finance.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The role of committees in this House, including the Executive Committee, which now has seven elected Members of this Assembly out of the nine -- the role of the Commissioner being lowered -- and it has also been a good experience for the whole Northwest Territories, I think, to see these elected Members or Ministers in action in the Territories. Sometimes maybe it has not been a terrific experience for the Members or for the people of the Northwest Territories on occasion, but in general, I think it has been very good that we have made this progressive step in the Territories.

I am sure that the legislation committee, under Mr. MacQuarrie, is beginning to take on a role and I am sure when we see the Mining Safety Ordinance and other ordinances which are going to have major amendments made to them -- in the future I think you are going to see that the legislation committee is going to demonstrate to the Northwest Territories how a committee system can benefit them.

Going back to the role of the Commissioner and the Executive Committee, as I said, the Commissioner's role in the Territories has sort of been devolved to elected Members and there was a reference by Mr. Pudluk at one supper the Commissioner held, I believe it was last year about this time, that he was happy now to have a "little Commissioner" in comparison to the tall one we had before and it also struck me that the Commissioner's role is somewhat smaller now than it used to be.

The devolvement of the government out into the regions does give me some concern and I have tried to describe to some of the consultants that we have hired for the education committee how the Government of the Northwest Territories is administered. After I completed this description, they thought that the regional directors were actually the Commissioner's hit-men in the field and I went back to Mr. Pudluk's thought that what they are is really little commissioners. They have a fairly good control and handle over the situation in the regions and I realize -- knowing some of them personally -- that they are doing an excellent job of bringing government to the regions. I would like to say that their job should also be to devolve their powers and responsibilities to regional boards when those regional boards are formed and begin to take on roles or are interested in taking on roles in delivering programs in the communities.

Work Of Education Committee

I would like to thank the Assembly for appointing me to the education committee and I would like to thank the Members of that committee for allowing me to serve as co-chairman with Mr. Curley. The people in the Northwest Territories showed a great deal of interest in education -- a lot more than I think some of the Members of the committee and myself in particular realized -- how great the issues were and how strong the feelings were about education. I think that the way we went about conducting our inquiry into education in the Territories is something that maybe should be followed by the standing committees on finance and legislation. Mr. Curley's motion the other day -- which I made previously and did not get support for and hopefully maybe we can get support for that now -- making the standing committees open to the public will do a great deal in that area.

While we were travelling around to these communities I realized the vast disparities in the Northwest Territories between what communities have in the way of capital works and what communities do not have and I realized the vast difference between what the people in the Northwest Territories want for their own areas. It gave me a good feeling for the people of the Northwest Territories in these communities and it really makes me sorry in a way that division has to occur, that the territory is so big and the issues so varying and the ability for people to come together is very difficult because of the different ethnic and other problems separating us, but I believe that it is inevitable that this division is going to have to take place.

Mrs. Sorensen is right when she quoted me. I had attended one of her constituency meetings in Yellowknife and I did say that I had a fear that when they opened the Northwest Territories Act up, that the federal parliament might do some things to us that we might regret later, but since our trip to Ottawa and the high profile we took on nationally and the hard work that several of the committees have done and the Executive Committee has done -- for example, the Minister of Finance in his dealings with the federal government on a politician-to-politician basis -- I think removed that fear I had. I do not think the federal government would dare create a new territory with less powers than we have right now, although it definitely was a fear I had at that time.

Problem Of Determining Boundaries If Division Occurs

I also think that the boundary, of course, in division is going to be a problem. I myself feel that a strict east-west division by extending the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border straight north is the way to go and I am hoping it will be this realistic manner that parliament will take when they deal with the issue. What some people in this area fear as the worst scenario would be if the tree line south split occurs -- the area would still be larger than that of Ontario -- although I am sure parliament will look into the fact that having the Mackenzie waterway and Delta not entirely in one jurisdiction could cause problems, having possible pipelines in the North crossing different territorial boundaries could be a difficult situation and I am hoping they will respect an east-west split when it comes to the boundary.

Regardless of how the plebiscite goes on April 14th, and I intend to vote yes, and I intend to give as much information as I can to the people of my constituency, and I am fairly confident that when they seriously look at the situation and the size of the Territories, that they will vote yes in the plebiscite; which brings us to the fact that I think after that plebiscite takes place, with only a year or so left in our mandate, that we are going to be together again as an Assembly. I find it difficult to believe that the federal government will move fast enough to solve that problem, so I look forward to us being together in this House, I hope with 25 Members instead of 22, and I hope with no party politics.

I was interested in what Mr. Patterson said about Senator Austin. I find it very difficult to believe that the person who is supposed to be reporting to the Prime Minister's office on constitutional development in the Northwest Territories would come up here and make political comments in public about the way the Northwest Territories should operate, and it was fairly disgusting, I thought, and I was glad I was at the Rotary Club luncheon and had the opportunity to tell him a little bit about what I thought about that in public. I believe that consensus is better for the Northwest Territories while we are in a situation where we are being hand-fed financially by the federal government, and I think that our trip to Ottawa proved it.

Trudeau Government Undermining Parliamentary System

I cannot help but comment on Mrs. Sorensen's mentioning what is going on in Ottawa right now. I think that what is happening there right now -- the problem being the omnibus type of legislation that is being put to the House, forcing Members to vote on three or four things at one time without being able to separate the issues, typifies the Trudeau style of central government which is, I think, helping to destroy this country as a nation. The Prime Minister's staff and the cost of operating his offices -- it has become such a large administration that they have undermined the whole parliamentary system in Canada. The Prime Minister's position has become too much like that of a president in the American style, and I think that the rest of the regions of Canada will not put up with this, and I do not think we can put up with it much longer up here, and I think the recent election of a person from the Western Canada Concept in Alberta scares me into thinking that that could happen. Alberta is pretty flexible and pretty volatile when they switch governments. It happens very fast, and I really fear that the present federal policies might give that Western Canada Concept party an edge that I do not want them to have. If we split in the Northwest Territories, maybe it will make us more able to join a western country if such a thing comes, because we might end up being stuck in the middle of nowhere if we do not have the opportunity to join a western Canadian country if it ever comes into being, and I hope that never happens, either.

The federal government way of operating, as far as I am concerned, proves to me that we should not have party politics up here. I do not think that any federal party, including the one to which I belong, federally, has policies which will serve the people of the Northwest Territories until we can become an autonomous government like the provinces. There is no way we can do battle under the party politics system if we have to be fed by hand by the government in Ottawa. I do not believe that we would have gone to Ottawa if there had been a Liberal majority -- that would never happen here -- but if we had had a Liberal majority in this House we would not have gone to Ottawa because the chances to become a senator -- the troughs would have all been pulled away, and the majority of the Members would have decided not to go there. So until we have a firm grip on our own future through consensus government representing all the people in the Territories, party politics is definitely not the way to go up here.

---Applause

Concern With Norman Wells And Arctic Pilot Projects

In general, and in summary, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that although there are some specific areas that I am concerned with, one of them being the Norman Wells and Arctic Pilot projects, the very fact that we seem to be quite complacent as a government on what is going to happen to us, I cannot believe that the Yukon government or any of the provincial governments would let a large resource of natural gas or high grade crude oil leave the territory without refining going on to create permanent jobs in their jurisdictions. The very fact that that is going to happen -- and I think all Members can come together on this issue of Norman Wells and the Arctic Pilot Project, because it involves both the eastern and western areas of the Territories -- no land claims will be any good, no aboriginal rights will be any good, if the federal government continues to pump the resources out of the Northwest Territories and removes our future. So although Mr. Sibbeston and I do not agree on why the pipeline should be stopped, we certainly agree that the pipeline should be stopped, and I would rather see a refinery than a pipeline any day.

So generally, although there are some areas like that that I have concerns about, that I think we could be doing an awful lot more in, I would like to say that I am really generally very happy with the manner in which the Executive Committee conducts its business, and the way the Members in this government consult with each other to solve major issues. There are regional differences that crop up now and then, but in general my dealings with the Members of this House have been very good. I feel that we are all here to do the best we can for our constituents, and I look forward to the next two years, and I look forward to a 10th Assembly -- if we have to have the whole Territories together -- that we will still have a consensus government like this that does the best job it can for the people we are supposed to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any other replies to the Commissioner's Address for today? The House will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the House back to order. Oral questions.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: We have no interpreters. I am sorry. We will just have to wait a few moments. Point of privilege, Mrs. Sorensen.

Alleged Statements In Yellowknifer

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I rise, I guess, under Rule 38, which says a Member may complain to the Assembly of a statement in a press report referring to him personally. There has been much talk over the last two days with respect to an article in yesterday's Yellowknifer concerning alleged statements that I made in a speech to Rotary and in particular to the first paragraph of the article that says: "Eastern Arctic MLAs are deliberately blocking any growth in the territorial government's credibility, Yellowknife South MLA Lynda Sorensen said Thursday."

After reading that newspaper article, Mr. Speaker, I sent my speech over to Mr. Patterson and I sent it over to Mr. Curley and I said "You tell me whether I was misquoted or not." Both wrote back and said that they thought I had been. I debated, at that time, rising in the Legislature on a point of order. However, I ended up instead giving that speech to a member of the Yellowknifer newsroom and asked him to evaluate it, to discuss it with the newspaper man who wrote the article and he promised to get back to me with respect to how they felt. I did that for a specific reason and that is that I seem to be yelling that I am being misquoted quite frequently and I decided to take another tactic and that is to give my speech and have the newspaper or the CBC decide.

I have just been informed this afternoon that the newspaper will print next week, what I really said and also, Mr. Speaker, I did not rise when Mr. Patterson challenged me to, simply because I did not want to become an integral part of his remarks, such as they were. I feel that if I wish to rise, I will rise on my time, when I am perfectly ready and not in the middle of his speech. I know where I belong and...

MR. SPEAKER: Please, Mrs. Sorensen. You have risen on a point of privilege with regard to the newspaper, to make a statement, but other things are irrelevant at this time.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: I have finished anyway. Thank you.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Way to go, Lynda.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Curley.

Question 80-82(1): Plebiscite Vote On Division Of NWT

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Justice and Public Services. It concerns the plebiscite vote and the question is, does the plebiscite question in any way, shape or form ask eligible voters to commit themselves to any boundary proposal, such as the Member for Yellowknife South has been alleging?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 80-82(1): Plebiscite Vote On Division Of NWT

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No. The question, as Members will recall, merely puts before the residents of the Northwest Territories the concept of division. I think Members will recall that during our debate in Frobisher Bay it was clearly understood that we must first go to the people of the Territories with the concept and ask them if they feel that the Territories should remain as one unit or be divided into two. I think my colleague from Frobisher Bay articulated this very well in his response to the Commissioner's Address. Members will also recall that in the preamble to the actual question it is stated that if a majority of the people of the Territories feel that the Territories should in fact be divided and presumably we get support from the Government of Canada, then a boundaries commission would be established to hear the views of residents of the Territories on this very key second step.

As the Minister who has been responsible for drafting the Plebiscite Ordinance, for preparing the question and the preamble, I was always under the impression, Mr. Speaker, that the Assembly, after its debate in Frobisher Bay, wanted the concept to be put to the people of the Territories and that we had to take this important step first, to put that question generally to the people and to get their views and that then, recognizing we have a lot of work to do after, we would follow through with a boundaries commission and development of a suitable boundary to divide the new territory of Nunavut from Denendeh or the Northwest Territories or whatever it is going to be called. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Supplementary To Question 80-82(1): Plebiscite Vote On Division Of NWT

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary to the Minister responsible for Justice and Public Services. I am asking the question because it concerns the legality of the question. The question, as I understand it, merely asks, "Do you think the Northwest Territories should be divided?" I think your reply answers that possible confusion. The other question I have is, does the question in any way commit eligible voters to vote "Yes" or "No"? Is that compulsory, that they must vote, if they do not know which way to vote? There seems to be the impression that -- the Yellowknife South Member, particularly, is saying to us that people really do not know and if they do not know, how are they going to vote? Do they really have to vote if they not want to?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 80-82(1): Plebiscite Vote On Division Of NWT

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, there is no law that requires eligible voters to come out and vote in the plebiscite on division of the Northwest Territories. At this point in time, if there are residents of the Territories who are confused or do not know, I would hope that through some of the information that is available or through discussions with their MLA that their confusion could be clarified, but if by April 14th or by the time of the advance polls they have not made up their mind, there is no reason that they simply have to vote. It is not required of them. I would hope, however, as Mr. Curley indicated, I believe it was last session, that the MLAs and others would communicate to the greatest extent possible with constituents or Members and explain some of the straightforward facts involved with this particular issue and, again, to reiterate, that we are asking the people of the Territories to consider the concept of division and that more work obviously has to be done thereafter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Curley, I do not want this question period to develop into a debating forum and that is what is happening on these last two questions. Now, if you have a question and we can get a "Yes" or "No" from a Minister, fine, but that is enough of that debating procedure. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I value your advice, but I do not think you should stop me from asking a question, because I am not this time asking a supplementary. You should have waited to see whether or not I am going to ask a supplementary.

Question 81-82(1): Executive Committee's Views On Blocking Of Progress

Mr. Speaker, I have a question also for the Minister responsible for Justice and Public Services. I would like to ask him a question, as Leader of the Elected Executive. There seems to be a view that we from the East are blocking any changes for the government. Does the Executive Committee share that perception? If so, could he explain whether or not we are in any way, shape or form blocking any progress for the policies adopted by the Executive Committee?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, that question can be ruled out of order. However, I will accept it on the basis of "if you think the Executive Committee feels that they are blocking".

Return To Question 81-82(1): Executive Committee's Views On Blocking Of Progress

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 82-82(1): Financing Of Airstrip At Clearwater Fiord

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, you may be getting tired of this question, but I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism about Clearwater Fiord's airstrip. Is the Department of Economic Development going to finance the construction of the airstrip? If you are planning to finance it, I would like to know how much you are going to finance it and in what other ways you are going to help them build the airstrip. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 82-82(1): Financing Of Airstrip At Clearwater Fiord

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge, and I would say at this time, no, it is a private project.

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

Question 83-82(1): Update On Motion Passed On NCPC

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice and Public Services. The Minister told me yesterday that he would get back to me today and I should ask an oral question today with respect to the federal government's response on the motion that was passed concerning the rate freeze on NCPC rates until the larger question of NCPC had been addressed. In addition he mentioned that he would be speaking with the chairman of the subcommittee of the standing committee on Indian and Northern Affairs that was looking into NCPC with respect to when its report would be out. I wonder if he has further information for us today.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 83-82(1): Update On Motion Passed On NCPC

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the matter of my colleague's first question, Mr. Penner advised that he would make representation to the Minister on the rate freeze, although he did not really hold out too much hope that much could be achieved at this time. On the matter of the report that the subcommittee of the standing committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been working on, Mr. Penner indicated that the data and analysis that was required has been received, and that it has been possible for the subcommittee's working group to complete some of the financial calculations that were required in order that a comprehensive report could be completed.

Mr. Penner indicates to me that a first draft of the report will be presented to the subcommittee of the standing committee in one week's time, and that they hope to complete their review of it as soon as possible, and have it to the standing committee and into the House of Commons prior to the Easter break. I am not quite sure what dates those are, Mr. Speaker, but he gave me his assurances that the work and the delay was necessary, because the subcommittee wanted to present a complete and comprehensive report to the House of Commons and to cabinet, which would hopefully contribute to more expeditious decision making. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Are there any written questions today? Are there any returns? Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 25-81(3): Public Committees, Boards And Councils Booklet

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of returns. The first -- and you may rule me out of order on this, sir -- is in the form of a document. I did not want to table it, but it was requested last session, and the document is entitled "Public Committees, Boards and Councils", and I would like to have this distributed to all MLAs.

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

I have a return, Mr. Speaker, to oral Question 28-82(1), asked by Mrs. Sorensen on February 17th, and it concerns human error in the Snare hydro system and the Public Utilities Board. The return reads as follows:

Based on testimony presented at the October, 1981, NCPC low water surcharge hearing, there was no evidence presented to suggest that the management of the water was not carried out in accordance with accepted NCPC and water resource procedures. The Public Utilities Board felt that the best use of the water had been made, taking into account spillage which had occurred due to work being done on the system and in meeting water flow requirements of the water licence.

Return To Question 35-82(1): Information Requested On Proposals To Raise Water Levels

I have another return, Mr. Speaker, to oral Question 35-82(1), asked by Mrs. Sorensen on February 18th. It concerns water diversion at the Snare hydro system.

At the public hearing in October, 1981, NCPC undertook to supply to the Public Utilities Board a report on the commission's study on the possible diversion of the Emile River. This study has just been received by the Public

Utilities Board and will form part of the investigation at the termination of the low water surcharge. The commission has been ordered to report to the board prior to June 1st with a full accounting of the expenses associated with and the revenue derived, as a result of the surcharge implemented. A copy of the Emile River diversion proposal has been supplied to Mrs. Sorensen. Other Members wishing copies may obtain them from the Public Utilities Board office.

Further Return To Question 57-82(1): Postal Services To The Northwest Territories

The third return, Mr. Speaker, is to oral Question 57-82(1), asked by the Member for Pine Point on March 1st, 1982. It concerns the Canada Post Corporation.

Officials in the Department of Justice and Public Services in response to concerns raised by the honourable Member, have contacted officials of the Post Office to determine whether any reduction in parcel post services to the Northwest Territories is contemplated. Postal officials in Yellowknife, Edmonton and Ottawa have been contacted and have assured my officials that they are not aware of any plans for a reduction in the parcel post service to the Northwest Territories. A letter has also been sent to Mr. Michael Warren, the president of the Canada Post Corporation, on this matter requesting a formal statement which will be presented to this Assembly as soon as it is received from Mr. Warren.

Further Return To Question 61-82(1): Lack Of By-Law Officers

Finally, I have a return to a supplementary to Question 61-82(1), asked by Mr. Noah on March 1st, 1982. It concerns the subject of by-law officers. In response to the honourable Member's question, the appointment and transfers of police officers within the Northwest Territories is an internal responsibility of the force. However, in special or exceptional circumstances, the officer commanding the force in the Territories consults with the senior officials within the department. The establishment of new detachments, however, is done with my concurrence. The size of the detachment and the number of personnel in a particular detachment is determined by factors such as population, the rate of crime, and any other special circumstances applicable to the area policed by the detachment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral Question 30-82(1), asked by Mr. Noah on February the 17th, 1982, in regard to a road to Blueberry Hill.

The Department of Local Government met with Transport Canada officials from Winnipeg on February 24th and 25th to discuss the road system serving the community's recreation area on Blueberry Hill. Transport Canada was advised of the community's concern about having to abide by federal MOT regulations in order to reach Blueberry Hill. Our regional Department of Local Government will be discussing with the community an alternative access road which will satisfy the Ministry of Transport's regulations as well as the people of Baker Lake.

Further Return To Question 73-82(1): Recreational Facilities In Norman Wells

Mr. Speaker, I also have a return to oral Question 73-82(1), asked by Mr. Fraser on March 3rd in regard to recreational facilities at Norman Wells.

For a start, I am prepared to commit the Department of Local Government to funding the recreation plan which is needed for Norman Wells. As far as further assistance is concerned, I have already explained to the House that funding for the new recreational facilities policy is not scheduled until the 1983-84 budget, but I did say -- and I had in mind examples like Norman Wells where the requirement is so obviously urgent -- I will be approaching my colleagues in the financial management board to see if the policy could be phased in with some preliminary funding during 1982-83.

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

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in response to the written Question 33-82(1) asked by Mr. Kilabuk on February 17th and to which I responded orally yesterday, regarding the airstrip on Clearwater Fiord. While this government would have liked to have delayed the building of the Clearwater airstrip and involved the people of Pangnirtung in the decisions, it could not do so, as the airstrip is 80 kilometres from Pangnirtung and is therefore under federal jurisdiction. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism requested the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to delay any decision on the Clearwater Fiord airstrip until they had completed the biological overview on the Clearwater Fiord area, which was being done as an adjunct to our Pangnirtung tourism pilot project. This request was turned down and the federal government issued a permit on the 30th of November, 1981, for the airstrip. DIAND, according to their policies, had no grounds for refusing the permit. There were no demonstrated negative ecological consequences associated with the airstrip and there would be no wildlife disruption. Apparently they cannot consider socio-economic factors when granting permits under land use regulations.

The tourism pilot project currently being conducted at Pangnirtung by this department will show community residents how they can substantially improve their community's attractiveness to tourist visitors and how they could have two benefits: 1) Clearwater visitors will want to visit Pangnirtung because of the tourism offerings of that settlement; and 2) Pangnirtung will be less dependent upon Clearwater patrons because it will be able to attract increased numbers of visitors on its own and also derive increased benefits from those who do visit Pangnirtung. As I mentioned yesterday to the Member, I will be speaking to Mr. Peyton on his proposed project and doing what I can personally to bring the community and this individual closer together.

Liabilities Of The Paulatuk Co-operative

While I am on my feet, I have a response to a question asked me yesterday during the review of the supplementary estimates by the honourable Member for the Western Arctic, Ms Nellie Cournoyea, regarding the Paulatuk co-operative.

We are informed that the Paulatuk co-operative's liability to CACFL was written off by the federation on December 31, 1981. The Paulatuk co-operative's debt to the territorial government is in addition to the co-operative's account with the federation and represents petroleum supplied by the government to the community, to the co-op as agent. The co-operative federation did not assume all of Paulatuk's liabilities. All creditors lost in the bankruptcy.

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

I have a further item. This is not in the usual form. It is in response to an oral question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo some three weeks ago, relative to an economic development officer at Cape Dorset and a couple of other projects. I have been in touch with the Frobisher Bay office and this morning received this wire, which I would like to read into the record.

Area economic development officer advisory services to Cape Dorset: Cape Dorset has been without an economic development officer advisory service for approximately five months, due to a lengthy recruiting process. An officer has now been hired and took up the position on March 1. He will be travelling to Cape Dorset in the near future to commence his work. We have been obliged to locate this officer in Frobisher Bay, due to housing shortages in Cape Dorset. It should be noted as well that the officer is also responsible for the communities of Lake Harbour and Sanikiluaq.

With regard to the hunters' and trappers' association country food store, I am advised that the regional office has corresponded with the hunters' and trappers' association and advised them that the officials of that office will examine the feasibility of their proposal for a country food store during their next trip to Cape Dorset. They emphasize that the financing programs are applicable only to businesses which hold out the prospect of viability without requirement for ongoing subsidies. They will also be encouraging the HTA to examine the possibility of having existing businesses, such as the co-op, meet their retail requirements, if the problems of viability, which have been demonstrated with other HTA stores in the region, prove insurmountable at Cape Dorset. As far as the sewing centre is concerned, my staff will also be speaking with the interested persons with regard to that in the very near future.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, there was a written question asked by the Member from Sanikiluaq, Mr. Appaqaq, on February 17th. The Member is not in the House.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Order.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: You are not Speaker any more, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: At least I tried.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I thought you said it. I am sorry. I beg your pardon. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the Member is not in the House. I do not know whether it is necessary for me to read it into the record. I would table the reply, unless I have to read it into the record.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a written question that you are replying to?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes, it is, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Then you have to read it in, I am afraid, Mr. McCallum.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the question concerned information on hospital patients. The honourable Member for Hudson Bay asked a question concerning the difficulty residents in Sanikiluaq are having in obtaining information on patients in hospitals in the South.

The situation has been reviewed with Mr. Peter Reid, medical services, branch zone director in Churchill. At the present time there is no system for relaying patient information to the nursing station in Sanikiluaq on a regular basis from Moose Factory hospital and other hospitals in the South. Certainly, in the case of emergencies or when information must be relayed on an urgent basis, there is no difficulty in having this information transferred to the relatives. The problem occurs when patients merely wish to speak to relatives on a non-urgent basis. In such cases the nurse has told residents that it is their responsibility to make contact with the patients. I understand that language is not a particular problem in speaking to these southern hospitals.

Mr. Appaqaq is correct in that there is some difficulty in relaying information on a non-urgent basis. The zone director will be contacting Moose Factory hospital in an attempt to establish a means of relaying information on patients on a regular basis. It has been suggested that this should be done weekly. Relatives of patients in Sanikiluaq would then be able to obtain this updated information from the nursing station. Systems of this kind are in place in other hospitals in the Northwest Territories. With such a system of regular reporting, it will make it much easier for relatives to obtain updated information on patients in southern hospitals. If relatives wish information on a non-urgent basis at other times than the regular reporting, then the nurse may request that relatives contact patients themselves. The requirement for this, however, should reduce with the new system.

Return To Question 64-82(1): Medicine For Hunters And Trappers

Mr. Speaker, the Member for the Western Arctic asked an oral question regarding medicine for hunters and trappers and I would want to give the following reply. I was in contact with Dr. Martin regarding Ms Cournoyea's question and Dr. Martin indicates that he will look into this, but there should be no problem in including penicillin in the medical kits that are made up for such circumstances. In fact, it appears that this was done in the past and is currently in practice in the Eastern Arctic. It may be necessary to review the current practice in the West to ensure that medical personnel are aware of what can be included in those kits.

Further Return To Question 71-82(1): Clarification Of Return To Question 20-82(1)

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Curley asked a further question of a reply to his original written question regarding the rental scales for public housing or low cost housing in the North. He indicated that he was having some difficulty with the reply that was given. His original question -- I will send it to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns for today? Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 38-82(1): Need For Adult Educators, Pangnirtung

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to written Question 38-82(1), from Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk. In a letter to the chairman of the Pangnirtung local education authority, dated February 11, it was pointed out that there was the addition of only one adult educator man year for the Baffin region for the 1982-83 fiscal year. After careful examination of requests from a number of local education authorities for adult and home management educator positions, for example, Cape Dorset, Lake Harbour and Pangnirtung, it was determined that the greatest programming requirement is in Frobisher Bay and as a result the position was allocated to that community. However, the need for additional man years in adult programs in the Baffin region is apparent. Certainly the size and growth of Pangnirtung suggests an additional position be allocated to the community should such a position become available. Pangnirtung's request will remain current with my office and, should positions become available, will be seriously considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns for today? Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, may I have permission to go back to written questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Ms Cournoyea.

Question 84-82(1): Selling Government Owned Housing

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for letting the item pass. I have been asked to present these questions. In the matter of the Government of the Northwest Territories selling government owned housing to present employee occupants, is this matter being transacted by government employees? If so, does this not mean government employees selling to themselves, in effect? Should not the Assembly's Executive Committee appoint an independent qualified body to carry out these transactions? Should not such a team be accountable to the Executive Committee and not to senior bureaucrats? Should not such an independent body appointed by the Executive Committee set out the parameters governing these upcoming transactions, with the parameters sanctioned by the Executive Committee? Should not the parameters approved be made known to MLAs? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further written questions? Are there any other returns?

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in response to a question from the honourable Member for the Western Arctic, I agreed to table documents received by the Commissioner from Tuktoyaktuk, so I table on the Commissioner's behalf, Tabled Document 29-82(1), a letter from the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk supporting the investigation of the Department of Economic Development. There was no correspondence from the Sachs Harbour settlement council.

Further, I would wish to table Tabled Document 30-82(1), the first issue of Economic Development News, Winter, 1982. This is the department's quarterly newsletter and it is published in English and Inuktitut.

Then, as the Member for the Inuvik constituency, I wish to table a document which I received earlier this week, and which has been translated. It is Tabled Document 31-82(1), a telex from the mayor of Inuvik, Cynthia Hill, outlining the position of the Inuvik town council relative to the imposition of a ration regime on the sales of the territorial government liquor store in Inuvik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

Minister's Statement On Student Financial Aid Program

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 32-82(1), Proposed NWT Student Financial Aid Program Basic Principles. A summary in Inuktitut is also provided. Financial assistance from the Government of the Northwest Territories for post-secondary education has been available to NWT students for more than 15 years. The Student Grants and Bursaries Ordinance, 1967, made provision for a grant to cover tuition, books, a living allowance and the cost of transportation. It was available to a student for a maximum of four years of training provided his parents were resident in the NWT for a minimum of two years. The ordinance was administered by the Commissioner with the help of one or more advisory boards. The Student Grants and Bursaries Ordinance, 1979, was more restrictive and linked eligibility for a grant to the length of schooling taken in the NWT. The maximum grant was for four years of training and required eight years of residency and schooling in the NWT. A student who had less than two years of schooling in the NWT was not eligible for a grant but could apply for a very limited number of bursaries. The grant, again, covered the costs related to tuition, books, living and transportation expenses and was to be administered by an appointed student grants and bursaries board.

The special committee on education, established by the Legislative Assembly during the first session, Ninth Assembly, took as its first task a complete review of the financial assistance that was provided for post-secondary education. Eighteen recommendations were submitted to the fourth session of the Legislative Assembly in March 1981, and after a lengthy debate, the Assembly approved 13 recommendations and submitted these to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has carefully examined these recommendations and I am pleased to table this paper on which a new student financial aid program can be based.

Summary Of Tabled Document 32-82(1)

The paper can be summarized as follows, briefly: The proposed program recognizes that students graduating from the NWT school system require financial assistance in order to continue their education or training. The types of assistance available will be grants, loans, and scholarships. The task of screening and assessing applications for financial assistance will be decentralized to four regional student aid boards. These boards will consist of a superintendent of education and members chosen by local education authorities. The chairmen of the regional student aid boards will be members of a student aid review board chaired by the deputy minister of Education. Administration of the program will be the responsibility of the Department of Education in Yellowknife. Counselling will be available to those students who need it. All students eligible for a grant under the old regulations will continue to be eligible for a basic grant which covers the cost of travel and tuition and the cost of books up to a certain maximum. NWT students of Dene, Inuit or Metis descent will be eligible for the same level of financial assistance available from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to native students in southern Canada.

Special provisions have been made for mature students in this category. The program also makes it possible for the Minister of Education to authorize financial assistance to students who enrol in priority occupation training programs or in native language or second language study programs.

An NWT student loan program will also be established. Loans from this program will be available to students who are eligible for the basic grant but who need additional funding and students who are not eligible for any type of grant who have been in residence in the Northwest Territories for two or more years. Persons who have been resident in the NWT for less than two years may still be eligible for a Canada Student Loan. Students who have taken out an NWT student loan and who return to work in the NWT may have part of their loan forgiven for every year they work in the NWT once they have worked a minimum of two years. Scholarships are a new feature of the program. They will be available to students who graduate with first-class honours and who continue their studies. Undergraduate students will be entitled to \$500 whereas postgraduate students will be entitled to \$1000 at the masters level and \$1500 at the doctoral level. Legislation to support the new program will be placed before the Legislative Assembly during the next session in May 1982. Provided the legislation is approved by the Legislature, the new program will go into effect at the beginning of the 1982-83 academic year. Students presently receiving a grant and who are eligible for a grant during the 1982-83 academic year under the old regulations will continue to receive the same level of financial assistance for one more year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

ITEM NO. 7: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indulge on your patience. We have the special committee on education report to present today, Learning: Tradition and Change in the Northwest Territories. Before I read the introduction, I would just like to speak in Inuktitut a little bit.

(Translation) We are finally introducing this after two years. I am going to be reading the recommendations and, just before we start, I would like to thank the people of the Northwest Territories who helped us with the recommendations and the teachers of the Northwest Territories and their employees and the people who worked for the development of the recommendations. The Legislative Assembly know that our special committee on education -- they helped us when we went to the communities and they helped us with their concerns on education, as to how the future of education can be run smoothly. The employees of the territorial government have been able to help, such as the researchers. When we asked the government employees, they were open to us when we were working on the recommendations. I will be talking in English.
(Translation ends)

On behalf of the special committee on education, we are pleased to present the final report today, particularly Bruce McLaughlin, who is co-chairman of the special committee, Members Nellie Cournoyea, Robert Sayine, and Dennis Patterson. I would also like to announce to you that this is also a very important day for Nellie; it is her birthday. I think we should give her a good hand on that.

ALL HON. MEMBERS: Happy birthday to you;
Happy birthday to you;
Happy birthday, dear Nellie,
Happy birthday to you.

---Applause

MR. FRASER: How many years?

MS COURNOYEA: I have told you a thousand times.

Report Of The Special Committee On Education

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think I will begin the introduction, but I would like to stress to you a few points that I think should be remembered. It is that we do appreciate all the help that we got and we do appreciate the patience with which the public and the government, the school teachers, have endured to see the light of the day of this report coming out. I would like to caution the public and the officials of the government and Members of the Assembly, though, to hold back until the May session in Inuvik to deal with the whole thing which I will indicate to you a little later. I think, for the government side, the officials and so on, it is important that they read this report without fear because we consulted the public in a fair manner within the terms of reference that this Assembly approved exactly two years ago.

The committee did not begin to operate until the June session of 1980 but we have been able to travel quite extensively and I really appreciate the energy that my co-chairman, Mr. Bruce McLaughlin, has given. I will say a little bit more about that at the conclusion of the report to each Member of the committee, but I think before going on too long, I would like to read the introduction and we would like to also, at the conclusion of the introduction, read the recommendations for your consideration. I will not delay but go ahead and read the introduction.

Introduction

Growth, change and development are characteristics of any living society and, beyond question, the Northwest Territories is now experiencing an extraordinary surge in these natural processes. We cannot refuse the challenges they pose, but we can say something about the direction in which they may take us. Central to any society's efforts to influence the direction of change is its people's ability to participate in planning processes. And, beyond question, learning is the major factor in a people's ability to participate in such planning. We argue, therefore, that learning is the key to our future.

All of our lives we are learning, with and without help, whether or not we are aware of it. That certainly is true of me, Mr. Speaker. Education, as opposed to learning, begins when someone or some agency tries to create circumstances that will encourage or direct the process. We do not claim to know, as Members of the special committee on education, what are all of the needs for learning in the Northwest Territories, nor do we wish to direct the course of learning for all of our people -- indeed, to try to do that would raise fundamental ethical issues. On the other hand, we believe that, as Members of the special committee on education, we should recommend that our educational system should, as a primary goal, create life-long opportunities for the people of the Northwest Territories to learn. We may fall short of this desirable goal, but we have tried in this report, and we think we have succeeded, to identify ways in which our educational system can be improved and made more fully responsive to the varied needs of the people in our communities.

(Translation) The implementation of these recommendations is going to change the educational system in the Northwest Territories, and we should know here, because we worked on these things without fear, because we want to help and because we want to make it recognized, what is going on in the communities. (Translation ends)

I think, in order not to create confusion, I am just going to read the report in English, because the translation is not clear sometimes.

We are convinced that decisions related to the direction of learning activities in a school must be made at the community level. The community that a school serves should make as many decisions as possible about the nature and scope of the information presented, how it should be presented, and who should present it.

I would like to give you a quote from Igloolik, which says, and I quote: "We do not want to drop the school system, we just want a system appropriate to our needs." That is a quote from the public hearing at Igloolik.

History And Tradition Can Help In Planning Programs

The special historical and regional conditions of the Northwest Territories can help in the planning for future programs. In the past, our small population and the lack of a tradition of formal education have sometimes been regarded as disadvantages. We consider that the very smallness of our population should encourage the development of individualized programs, just as the lack of entrenched traditions should encourage the development of innovative responses to local and regional needs. An Arctic College, which will combine attractive features of universities, technical institutes, community colleges, and manpower-planning agencies is an innovative response to such needs.

We do not think that learning is limited to instruction that takes place in schools. People are learning all their lives. By "educational system" we mean all of the organized instructional programs offered in the territorial schools as well as kindergarten to grade 10 in-school programs. The educational system should permit individuals to join it and to leave it without seriously or negatively disrupting their lives. Adults must be able, at will, to use the system for further education or training.

We believe that well designed, specific programs, tailored, where necessary, to individual pupils, can and should provide effective and rewarding opportunities for learning. Instead of using theory or a model, the planner of an innovative program should base it on the community's actual needs and its own characteristics. Adequate planning can assist in the allocation of priorities, apportioning budgets, co-ordinating services, monitoring the effectiveness of programs and of staff, and identifying the need for specially trained staff. The educational needs of a community are the sum of its individual needs, and when they are added to a community's social, economic, and political priorities, the information necessary for a comprehensive educational program is available.

Commitments Government Should Make To Its People

Mr. Speaker, we believe that, in terms of general policy, the Government of the Northwest Territories should make these commitments to its people.

The educational system shall provide the residents of every community with the means to achieve basic grade 10 or the equivalent of grade 10.

The educational system shall provide residents with opportunities for training to secure employment in the Northwest Territories.

The educational system shall provide residents with opportunities for training to assume administrative and other responsibilities in community affairs.

The educational system shall provide the means for and assist in the development of programs to meet the educational goals of every community. Elected representatives responsible for education within the communities shall determine these goals.

Mr. Speaker, we shall continue, and Robert Sayine has a few comments to make.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Curley. The hour being 4:00 o'clock, we will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum, and calls the House back to order. Mr. Sayine, I believe you are continuing the report of the standing committee on education. Mr. Sayine.

MR. SAYINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The special committee on education has listened to testimony about the educational system in all parts of the Northwest Territories. We have been deeply impressed by our people's interest in the system and by their convictions that it should serve the student's needs far better than it does at present. Although, at first sight, our recommendations may seem to be little more than a long list of mechanical adjustments to the system, they are directed toward the creation of a school environment that will, we are confident, make learning an experience that is both interesting and profitable. We believe that the best way to achieve the common good is to work for the individual good. Our goal, in recommending these changes to the structure and organization of the educational system, is to transform our classrooms into friendly and comfortable places where well trained staff can help learners of every age to find out what they need to know.

Major Recommendations

The Minister of Education of the Northwest Territories shall introduce legislation to create divisional boards of education to govern schools. These boards shall seek the advice of local education authorities in making decisions that affect the communities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories shall create a secretariat for learning. It will respond to the demands for learning generated by the private and the public sectors.

The Minister of Education of the Northwest Territories shall establish two centres for learning and teaching. They will be responsible for curriculum development and teacher training.

The Government of the Northwest Territories shall establish an Arctic College. It will be responsible for all educational programs past grade 10. With this, Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to Mr. McLaughlin.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read the recommendations that the committee has, without the text around them.

Administrative Structure

1. The Minister of Education shall delegate the administration of education from kindergarten to grade 10 to 10 divisional boards of education.
2. Each educational division shall be guaranteed staff to administer, co-ordinate and implement all of its basic programs.
3. Every community shall be represented on a divisional school board of education.
4. All educational staff working in the communities shall be employees of the divisional boards of education.
5. Divisional boards of education shall, with the approval of the Minister of Education, establish the length of the school year from between 170 and 200 days.
6. Divisional boards of education shall, with the approval of the Minister of Education, lower the entrance age to kindergarten to four years.
7. The Executive Committee of the Northwest Territories shall establish a secretariat for learning.
8. A Minister's advisory council shall be established.
9. The direct administration of schools in the Northwest Territories shall be transferred from the Department of Education to the divisional boards of education.
10. The Education Ordinance shall be amended to enable the implementation of the recommendations of the special committee on education.

11. The Minister of Education shall establish two centres for learning and teaching.
12. The Minister of Education shall introduce legislation to establish an Arctic College.
13. Divisional boards of education, centres for learning and teaching, and the Arctic College shall have the power to establish their own priorities, programs and schedules of implementation.

The School Program

14. The Minister of Education shall delegate responsibility for program and curriculum to the divisional boards of education.
15. The Department of Education shall regard research into curriculum development as a funding priority.

Language Program

16. Each local education authority shall determine the language to be used in its classrooms.
17. The divisional boards shall run workshops to explain and demonstrate language programs to the communities and to teaching staff.
18. Local education authorities shall consider making the local native language one of the school's working languages.
19. Funds shall be made available to the divisional boards to develop native language programs in all subjects.
20. Two pilot projects shall develop teaching materials and techniques for at least one Dene and one Inuit dialect.
21. Funds shall be made available to the divisional boards to enable schools to develop English as a second language program.
22. Funds shall be made available to the divisional boards to finance a program to assess the proficiency of native children in English.
23. Funds shall be made available to the divisional boards to select and develop materials for teaching English to native students.
24. The number of professional development days should be increased and each divisional board shall establish an in-service English as a second language training program.

The Teaching Staff

25. Recruitment and selection of teachers and principals shall be the responsibility of the divisional boards of education in consultation with their local education authorities.
26. A teacher orientation program shall be established immediately; participation in it shall be a condition of a teacher's employment.
27. Teacher training programs shall be integrated with curriculum development and offered in the communities.
28. Communities that have chosen native language instruction should have teachers fluent in the language in charge of at least kindergarten and grades one and two.
29. Classroom assistants shall be encouraged to become certified teachers.

Special Services

30. Written plans or individual programs shall be developed for all students who have special needs.
31. Services for children with special needs should be provided in their own communities.
32. Local schools shall be legally authorized to deliver and co-ordinate all services for students with special needs.
33. The Education Ordinance shall be amended to guarantee the right of all children to an effective learning program.
34. Programs for the professional development of persons who serve students with special needs shall be based on local requirements.

35. Students with special needs shall be integrated into regular classrooms, not segregated.
36. Funding for students with special needs shall be allocated according to their individual program plans.

The Education Of Adults

37. A program of post-school education shall have a statutory basis.
38. An independent board of governors shall be responsible for post-school programs, collectively called the Arctic College.
39. Two principals shall be appointed to oversee the development of several eastern and western campuses of the Arctic College.
40. Post-school programs shall be offered on many campuses, with each one specializing in a major program.
41. Post-school programs of the Arctic College shall consist of at least the following: grades 11 and 12; all programs at present offered by the vocational and higher education divisions of the Department of Education; the training division, at present, in the Department of Economic Development; and programs created in co-operation with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, activities currently undertaken by the Science Advisory Board, and the licensing of scientists for research in the Northwest Territories.
42. The Minister of Education shall prepare a statement of policies on residences.
43. Each divisional board shall employ a supervisor of continuing and adult education.
44. Adult educators shall be employees of the divisional boards of education.
45. The learning secretariat in co-operation with the Arctic College and the appropriate divisional board shall be responsible for establishing training priorities in the plans of resource developers and it shall monitor their work.
46. Funds shall be sought by the Government of the Northwest Territories to assist adult academic upgrading and pre-vocational training.
47. The secretariat for learning shall take over the function of the manpower needs committee and of all similar intergovernmental review and planning activities.

Implementation

48. The Legislative Assembly shall revise the terms of reference of the special committee on education to enable it to establish a task force on implementation.
49. Significant funds shall be made available to the Department of Education for the implementation of these recommendations and these funds shall be under the control of the task force on implementation.

Mr. Speaker, those are the recommendations that the committee submits to you at this time for the future consideration of this House. My co-chairman, Mr. Curley, has some concluding remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Before I go on to concluding the final word, I would like to bring to the attention of the House here, all the students from the Keewatin, right through the Arctic coast and up to the Tuktoyaktuk area.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I was given a note that the students would also like to tell the Minister that they would like him to announce their plans to go home for Easter break this coming Easter.

---Laughter

Acknowledgment Of Those Who Assisted In The Project

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say to the House and to you, Mr. Speaker, that we have had great support from the MLAs, from the regions and the Minister of Education. For the work that he has been able to give us, extensive assistance, in spite of his heavy responsibilities, I think he should be given at least applause for that.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, when we started earlier, in Frobisher Bay, I remember when we were having a show through the Inukshuk program, we were communicating with Baker Lake and Eskimo Point and Pond Inlet through the video arrangement and Dennis Patterson was asked questions about funding and so on and he told them, "Do not worry about the money." So, I hope that he will not have to worry about the money when the implementation comes around. Thank you.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful also to all our research staff, who have worked hard to bring about the special advice we needed for all of these recommendations that my colleague just presented. It would not have been possible to get a conception of the kinds of real difficulties that we have without the help of all the expertise that was provided to us. Also, we are very grateful to the Members' Services Board, who have been able to give us a helping hand as we went through, particularly when we needed some money to carry on with the work. So, I would just like to acknowledge that.

We are also very grateful to our special project manager, Jack Loughton, who I think was the appropriate person for the job, because this particular work required a bit of courage and sometimes it was risky and he was able to continue his role without having to fear and so on, so we were able to continue to keep all our committee Members organized, as well as our research people all over the Territories and southern Canada.

A Final Word

So, Mr. Speaker, without delaying any further, we confidently expect that our report will stimulate and challenge the imagination of every person interested in education in the Northwest Territories, and we look forward to full discussion of the recommendations that we now submit.

We consider that the Government of the Northwest Territories must be willing to accord a higher priority, among its many priorities, to education. Both the federal and the territorial governments should be prepared to make available, on a shared basis, the financial support necessary to implement our recommendations. We believe that the people of the Northwest Territories must recognize and grasp the opportunities now offered them for local control of the educational system. And we have no doubt that the Department of Education and the teaching staff of the schools in the Northwest Territories will join with the people to create the innovative and responsive educational system that we have proposed. Co-operation among every interested party should lead to the establishment of an educational system that will help the people it serves by offering them many and varied opportunities for a lifetime of learning while recognizing the values of tradition and the realities of change.

Acknowledgment Of Departmental Officials

Mr. Speaker, before the final conclusion, I would just like to acknowledge also the co-operation that this committee has received from the officials in the department. There were many research people that have had to approach the department officials in every region, as well as the headquarters. We would not have been able to find out some of the problems and offer some of the recommendations without their support. I would like to acknowledge that to the Minister and the staff.

So, Mr. Speaker and Members, we have the privilege to submit the final report of the special committee on education entitled, "Learning: Tradition and Change in the Northwest Territories". This report is submitted in accordance with the special committee's terms of reference.

Motion That Report Of The Special Committee On Education, Learning: Tradition And Change In The Northwest Territories, Be Considered At Spring Session, Carried

The special committee has completed this report earlier than was originally scheduled so that Members of the Assembly and the people of the Northwest Territories can review the recommendations prior to the spring session of the Legislature -- respectfully submitted, Bruce McLaughlin, MLA, co-chairman and myself, Tagak Curley, co-chairman. So, Mr. Speaker, without delaying anything else, I would now like to move, seconded by the Member for Pine Point, that the report of the special committee on education be considered during the spring session of the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Report Of Standing Committee On Legislation To The Seventh Session Of The Ninth Assembly

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the report of the standing committee on legislation to the seventh session of the Ninth Legislative Assembly. Meetings of the standing committee were held on January 13th, February 8th, March 1st and 2nd, 1982, to consider bills being introduced at this session by the administration, and other matters falling within the responsibility of this committee.

The following bills, all within the responsibility of the standing committee on finance, were referred by us to that committee without examination. They were: Bill 1-82(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1982-83; Bill 2-82(1), Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, 1981-1982; Bill 3-82(1), Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1982; Bill 4-82(1), Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1982-83; Bill 5-82(1), Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance, 1982; Bill 6-82(1), Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance; Bill 7-82(1), Tobacco Tax Ordinance.

There were other bills, of course, which were germane to the work of our committee and which were examined by the committee and recommended for referral to committee of the whole for consideration, subject to various comments. These were: Bill 8-82(1), Vital Statistics Ordinance, amendment; Bill 9-82(1), Plebiscite Ordinance, amendment; Bill 10-82(1), Small Business Loans and Guarantees Ordinance, amendment; Bill 11-82(1), Liquor Ordinance, amendment; Bill 12-82(1), Legal Questions Ordinance, amendment; Bill 13-82(1), Municipal Ordinance, amendment; Bill 14-82(1), Wildlife Ordinance, amendment. Some of these have already been brought to the committee and our comments were made at that time. The ones that have not yet appeared in committee, we will make comments on at the appropriate time.

In addition to the consideration of bills, the committee also considered a number of other matters within its responsibilities during the meetings being reported on. For one thing, we have a new Member and the committee is very pleased to welcome to its membership the honourable Member for Foxe Basin, Mr. Mark Evaluarjuk, the MLA who replaces Mr. Peter Fraser, who resigned on November 10th.

---Applause

Difficulties Encountered In Reviewing Legislation

Under a heading, "Difficulties Encountered In Reviewing Legislation", the committee has consistently encountered difficulties in attempting to carry out an adequate and meaningful review of the legislation for each session prior to its introduction into the House. The committee continues to be faced with the task of carrying out its legislative review on short notice, a few days before or during a session and there is seldom an opportunity for committee Members to examine the bills prior to the meeting at which they are to be discussed. The Law Clerk is also unable, for these reasons, to effectively assist the committee in its task.

The committee concluded that if it is to perform its function effectively legislation must be in its hands six weeks prior to the session at which it is to be introduced and this would allow sufficient time for mailing proposed legislation to the Members, reviewing them prior to meetings, travel to Yellowknife, and for the meeting itself. Such an arrangement would permit Members to return to their homes prior to sessions and to avoid the necessity of continuing meetings of this committee during sessions when meeting time is urgently required for other committees and when it is difficult to review legislation adequately; when you are trying to fit into short time periods.

The committee also felt that some of the difficulties being encountered in the timely development of legislation and its referral to the committee may stem from the fact that no single Minister or senior government official appears to have been given the responsibility to ensure adherence to deadlines and achievement of results in this area. The committee agreed that the appointment of a Minister or senior official with co-ordinating responsibilities and relevant authority might help to resolve the difficulties encountered.

Conditions Agreed Upon By Committee Re Reviewing Legislation

The committee agreed, Mr. Speaker, that where legislation is not provided to the committee, complete with translations, six weeks prior to a session it would decline to deal with it until it can do so thoroughly and without haste. The committee also agreed that the Assembly should deal with no legislation that has not first been examined by the committee. In so doing, the committee recognized that this could mean that certain legislation might not be examined until after the session at which the administration had hoped to introduce it. The committee also agreed that exceptions would be made to the foregoing with respect to legislation: a) that has been specifically designated as urgent by the Executive Committee; or b) that has been prepared in response to a specific request by the Legislative Assembly.

Another matter we dealt with briefly was convening two sessions annually. The committee considered the possibility of holding only two sessions annually, approximately equally distant in time from each other. Such an arrangement it was felt would provide the MLAs with more time to attend to their responsibilities and for the administration to deal with matters raised at one session in time for the next. This matter was referred to the caucus which, however, decided against it.

Ongoing Review Of Commissioner's Orders To Be Instituted

With regard to delegated legislation, the committee agreed that it should carry out an ongoing review of all Commissioner's Orders, otherwise called delegated legislation, to ensure that they are in accordance with the provisions of the ordinances under which they are issued and meet certain other usual criteria. This practice will be instituted shortly and any concerns the committee may have with respect to particular regulations will be reported on to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Review Of Motions Requiring Legislative Action

Review of motions. The committee has also agreed to undertake on an ongoing basis a review of motions which apparently require legislative action, adopted in committee of the whole or in formal session. This review process will enable the committee to draw to the attention of the Assembly any of its decisions on which no action appears to have been taken. The committee will also undertake follow-up action with the administration.

Terms of reference. The committee is undertaking a review of its terms of reference to more accurately reflect its full scope of activities. The revised terms of reference will be introduced at the May session for approval by the Assembly.

Translation Of Legislation

There was a matter of verbatim translation of legislation. At the request of the Executive Committee, the standing committee examined the matter of whether or not verbatim translations of all bills are required. The committee noted that this is a very time consuming process which tends to delay referral of bills to the standing committees. Some Members were of the opinion that a comprehensive clause by clause translated summary of the bill would be sufficient, while others felt that both were required. The committee agreed, therefore, to recommend for the May session that a comprehensive clause by clause translated summary be prepared for one bill, on a trial basis, and that verbatim translations be supplied for all other bills.

Parties Affected By New Legislation

With respect to the Public Service Ordinance, there was a matter that arose. The committee received correspondence from the NWT Public Service Association, expressing that organization's concern about not being made aware of amendments to the Public Service Ordinance prior to their introduction. In reply, the association was advised that the committee would ensure that this does not happen in the future, and speaking more generally, the committee intends to ensure that all parties who will be impacted significantly by new legislation in any area of public life will be given an opportunity to comment critically on that legislation before it comes to the Assembly.

Under the Liquor Ordinance matter, the committee received correspondence from the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard concerning the lack of action on his proposal adopted at Baker Lake in 1980 respecting amendments to the Liquor Ordinance. The committee took the Member's concerns up with the Executive Committee, and it is pleased to note that the necessary amendment is before the House at this session.

Proposed Legislation

Hospitals ordinance. The committee received representation from officers of the NWT Hospitals Association respecting the matter of a separate NWT hospitals ordinance, and conveyed the association's concerns to the Minister. The committee was pleased to note that the Minister, in his reply, agreed with the association's position. Financial Administration Ordinance. With respect to

the proposed new Financial Administration Ordinance, the committee has agreed to propose to the standing committee on finance that both committees meet jointly to consider this bill when it is available. That, Mr. Speaker, concludes the report of the standing committee on legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. McLaughlin.

Correction To Debates Record Of Recommendation 41, Report Of The Special Committee On Education

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, it was just pointed out to me there is a small error in the summary of our recommendations. It is small in length, but it is very important in the wording, and I would like to read the proper recommendation number 41 into the record, if I may.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: It is recommendation number 41 on adult education, page 106 in the full report. The wording is "Post-school programs of the Arctic College shall consist of at least the following: grades 11 and 12; all programs at present offered by the vocational and higher education division of the Department of Education; the training division at present in the Department of Economic Development; and programs created in co-operation with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, activities currently undertaken by the Science Advisory Board, and the licensing of scientists for research in the Northwest Territories." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mrs. Sorensen.

Notice Of Motion 56-82(1): Stoppage Of Debate By Conservatives In Ottawa

MRS. SORENSEN: I want to serve notice of motion that on Monday, March 8th, I will move the following: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Inuvik, the Hon. Tom Butters, that this House call upon the Conservative leader to stop this attack on free and democratic debate...

MR. CURLEY: No chance.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...to stop this abuse of the democratic, parliamentary process, to stop thumbing his nose at the authority of the Speaker...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Save it for Ottawa.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...and the Canadian people that she represents; and get on with the job of being the official opposition in Canada's House of Commons.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Did McLaughlin second that?

---Applause

Do you second that, Bruce?

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion. Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion 57-82(1): Additional Hours To Conclude Sessional Business

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since I know we will not be here on Monday, March 8th, I would like to seek unanimous consent later today to move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin South, that this Legislative Assembly authorize Mr. Speaker to set such additional hours on mornings or evenings as may be necessary to conclude the business of this session expeditiously. Thank you.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I wish you had said that two hours ago, Dennis.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion.

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

Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

Motion 46-82(1). Mr. Curley.

Motion 46-82(1): Funds For Native Court Workers

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS it appears that contributions/grants to Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik and the Northwest Territories Native Court Workers for 1982-83 do not appear to include increases to account for inflation;

AND WHEREAS Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Society and the Northwest Territories Native Court Workers Association are providing valuable services for an increasing number of clients, including counselling services to those who need legal advice and public legal education;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Society and the Northwest Territories Native Court Workers be provided with funds to cover inflationary increases in their operating costs for 1982-83.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Ms Cournoyea. Proceed. To the motion, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Speaker, not very much. I think it is important, like I stated during my introductory remarks to Justice and Public Services as well as the Legal Services Board, that people who are in trouble with the law normally have the short end of the stick when government has all the support in terms of finances, as well. It is important that these organizations do have at least reasonable funds to carry out the work that they do require. I know, for instance, in my region in the Keewatin district, there are no legal services, nor are there any lawyers, let alone one lawyer; there are not any. I would appreciate it if the Members can give quick support to this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. As seconder, Ms Cournoyea.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 46-82(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Motion 47-82(1). Mr. Curley.

Motion 47-82(1): Funds For Legal Services Board

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legal Services Board of the Northwest Territories is composed of representatives from all parts of the Northwest Territories and is a funding agent for Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik and the Northwest Territories Native Court Workers which has as its stated objective that promotion of public legal education in all parts of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly is committed to meeting the expressed needs of people in all parts of the Northwest Territories for information about the law;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that more funds be provided to the Legal Services Board to promote public legal education in all parts of the Northwest Territories in 1982-83.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. CURLEY: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. To the motion. Mr. Wah-Shee, did you wish to speak?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Question.

Motion 47-82(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Motion 48-82(1). Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion 48-82(1): Amendment To Section 62 Of Education Ordinance

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not prepare a preamble to my motion and I will speak briefly to it afterwards. Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for the Western Arctic, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that section 62 of the Education Ordinance be amended so as to permit the Minister of Education to establish in his discretion at the request of local education authorities a school year of not less than 170 days.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members just heard our recommendations and the special committee on education realized that it is the intent of the special committee on education to implement a program in the schools that will increase the number of days for in-service training of teachers for their professional development. Also it has come to our attention in the public hearings that at the start of the school year right now, which is 190 days of in-class days, that attendance is very poor in the first couple of weeks and the last couple of weeks of the school year and in several communities it would be much more advantageous to use those days to aid the professional development of the staff and to make the other 170 days much more worth-while to the students involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. As seconder, Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I will speak later if you do not mind or do I have...

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

Decision Should Rest With Regional Authorities

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am going to vote against the motion merely because we have just received a great many recommendations from the special committee on education and I think that it is unwise to rush ahead with any one particular aspect, just as I felt it was wrong earlier to rush ahead with the move on post-secondary assistance. I am not opposed to the idea that is expressed in principle. As a matter of fact, I have expressed it myself on a number of occasions that I think...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Then do not vote.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...a shorter but more effective year in certain communities would be desirable but I wanted to discuss that in the context of the whole of the report of the special committee on education and I think it is unwise to -- in sense, if we make that decision now, we are saying, or at least the special committee's report on education is saying that these kinds of matters should be left to regional boards or divisional boards. So, again, we would be intervening, in a sense, in a decision that may properly belong to them if and when those types of boards are established. So, no, I will not just abstain. I will vote against the motion, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote against the motion as well, but for the opposite reasons, maybe, that my former colleague in the profession might have indicated. I am concerned that we now will have children out of school longer than we will have them in school. I have no difficulty in rearranging the school day to take into consideration the climatic conditions that we live under. I have been an advocate for 16 to 17 years in the Territories of rearranging the school year, but I am not in favour of reducing it to 170 days and having children out of the school or out of a learning situation for longer periods of time than they are in a learning situation.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will vote against the motion also, for the same reasons as the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. I think it is incongruous that the co-chairman of the education committee would put a massive recommendation on the order paper and not include it in his recommendations which were just read to the House. I think this matter should be discussed in Inuvik in May.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Time For Professional Development

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion, because that is one of the urgent requests of the societies in the Eastern Arctic, mainly because the government is wasting money by paying teachers when they should be doing something for them when all the school kids are out with their parents and so on during the months of May and June. So, on that basis, the motion is specific that the Minister of Education establish in his discretion, at the request of local education authorities. I think the motion speaks for itself, that some of the local education authorities and district boards like in Yellowknife or Hay River or Fort Smith will not want to decrease that part. But if in places

like Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour they would like to now effectively reduce that part, additional days can be used for professional development, so that the teachers, when they do come in during the summer months, will be able to understand the local community and its characteristics and attitudes of people and so on. So, we are trying to move a bit quicker on that. I think the urgency is there, not for the people in the Western Arctic, particularly the southern Mackenzie, but for the High Arctic and the far extreme parts of the Eastern Arctic. Thank you.

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

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I will vote for the motion, primarily because in my region, the Kitikmeot region, the people enjoy the spring, the people enjoy the fall and I have experienced it many times where the school pretty well has to close down because the parents are out on the land. Not all communities will take advantage of such a thing, but I just want to say for many years now the local education committees and councils in my area have been requesting fewer days for the school year, in order that the people can enjoy their livelihood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion. A lot of the people that go back out in the bush trapping would benefit from this shorter school year.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as seconder of the motion I would like to indicate to all people who are addressing this issue and particularly Members who have been with this government for many, many years that the primary concern in keeping young people in school is that they are just not there to be taught at the times that the teachers are. This is our ability to try to bring the teaching system to the people who are receiving, rather than trying to adjust the system to those who are employed by it. This has been a long outstanding problem that has been generating interest for many, many years and was only brought to this Legislative Assembly because it will certainly take the Executive Committee surely one year to move on it. So, I urge everyone to support the motion.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: A recorded vote.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Recorded vote.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin, you will close the vote then.

Intention Of Motion Is To Prepare For Legislation

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make it clear to Members who appear to be opposed to this that the object is not to lower the school year to 170 days for everybody. It is to lower the school year to 170 days only when a local education authority desires it to be done. The intention of this motion is to have the Executive Committee Member responsible, through the Executive Committee, prepare legislation by the May session so that we can debate it there with the rest of the recommendations of the committee.

It is important to have that legislation in place for debate at the spring session so that we can pass it -- and I am sure it will be passed -- so that education committees during the month of May will hear about this and be able to plan their following school year so that the 170 day school year can take effect in communities that desire it beginning in the fall of this year.

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

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: A recorded vote, please.

Motion 48-82(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: A recorded vote being asked for. Would you stand then? All those in favour of the motion?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Tologanak, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. Braden.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: The three wise men.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. McCallum, Mr. Butters, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Patterson.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 49-82(1). Ms Cournoyea.

Motion 49-82(1): Recognition To Cross-Country Skiers, Firth Sisters

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, a motion in recognition to cross-country skiers, Shirley and Sharon Firth.

WHEREAS cross-country skiers, Shirley and Sharon Firth are demonstrating through hard work and determination, continued success this year;

AND WHEREAS encouragement and good will from people back home is vitally important to build morale;

AND WHEREAS the very little we were able to do in the last year allowed Shirley and Sharon to compensate their instructor;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member from Fort Smith, that this Assembly give further recognition to cross-country skiers, Shirley and Sharon Firth, and recommend to the Executive Committee to continue the support for these two excellent Northwest Territories ambassadors and athletes.

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your motion is in order. Are you ready for the question or do you wish to speak to it?

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I realize this is going to pass unanimously, but knowing Shirley and Sharon I would like to just bring to attention that last year when the Executive awarded them \$5000 to have a coach with them and compensate him, it helped greatly in the kind of work that they were doing and in building up their morale; we did actually support them at this time. The coach is Anders Lenes and in the article in the Edmonton Journal, the girls directly attributed their success this year to the coach and the ability to have someone with them to assist them in skiing techniques and waxing.

Shirley, who placed 18th in the official World Cup standings last year, ranked ninth this year overall, after all this season, and after three races. Her best finish was eighth in the 10 kilometre race in East Germany, and Sharon finished 17th in the same race. Sharon said she plans to continue to ski until 1984. As well, they competed in the World Championship and I am pleased to say that on February 26th in the 20 kilometre, Shirley came in 12th and Sharon 18th.

MR. CURLEY: Question.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. McCallum, as seconder, do you wish to speak?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would want to reiterate the comments that the Member for the Western Arctic has said concerning these two territorial skiers. I think that they have led the way -- in fact, I think it was just last week that Shirley placed within the top 20, the first time a Canadian skier placed in the top 20 in the world, and as my colleague has said, the dedication that these two girls have shown over the years is what we should be paying tribute to. I know that all Members will join in this particular motion to recognize the good will that they have spread of the Northwest Territories.

It is no secret that they are much better known in the United States and in Europe than they are in Canada. I think we know them very well in the Northwest Territories, but as so often happens with, if you like, amateur heroes across the country they are not very well known in their own homeland and I think this would be one particular time when we could lend a little bit of credence to their visibility and accord them the kind of recognition they should have had over these many years. So I take great pleasure in seconding that motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 49-82(1), Carried

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

---Carried

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: I wonder if I could have unanimous consent to deal with Motion 54-82(1), Appointment of Charles Hoagak to the NWT Housing Corporation.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MRS. SORENSEN: I know. He is saying "No way" and he does not even know. Paranoid.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested to waive the time limit on Motion 54-82(1). Are there any nays? Proceed, Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion 54-82(1): Appointment Of Charles Hoagak To NWT Housing Corporation

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS a vacancy has been created on the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation by the resignation of Nellie Cournoyea;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that this vacancy be filled as soon as possible;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member of Pine Point, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner the appointment of Mr. Charles Hoagak of Sachs Harbour to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to it?

MRS. SORENSEN: Question.

Motion 54-82(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Motions. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In that there is a possibility that the seconders of my Motion 50-82(1) and 55-82(1) may not be here tomorrow, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to deal with Motion 50-82(1) today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion 50-82(1) does not show a seconder on my sheet, Mr. McLaughlin. Would you like...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The seconder is Mr. Patterson.

MR. SPEAKER: He will be here tomorrow. Unanimous consent is being requested.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, are you confident that we will be meeting tomorrow?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: If this continues, we certainly will be. There is absolutely no doubt.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Well, then I will proceed with my motion tomorrow.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, my Motion 55-82(1), the seconder is Mr. Evaluarjuk and I would like to know if Mr. Evaluarjuk will be here tomorrow or not.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Yes.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: He indicates he will be here so I will proceed tomorrow then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Motions. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to deal with my motion on extension of hours of sitting.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested on the motion.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Nay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Nay. That winds that up. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I had a notice yesterday and I would like to ask for unanimous consent to move Motion 53-82(1) today.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley is asking for unanimous consent to move to Motion 53-82(1).

MR. CURLEY: Agreed.

MRS. SORENSEN: Let us see what it is.

MR. MacQUARRIE: We want to see what it is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Nay.

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

Tabled Document 25-82(1), Bill 3-82(1), Bill 4-82(1), Bill 5-82(1), Bill 6-82(1), Bill 7-82(1), Bill 13-82(1), and Bill 14-82(1), Tabled Document 9-82(1), Tabled Document 15-82(1), Motion 51-82(1), and the 15th report of the standing committee on finance. Committee of the whole with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. Mr. McCallum, did you want to be recognized or did you have a point of privilege?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be recognized on a point of privilege. I would like to indicate to you what the government side believes we should be discussing at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Carry on.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would like us to deal with Bills 3-82(1), 4-82(1), 5-82(1), 6-82(1), and 7-82(1), if time permits, and do Bills 13-82(1) and 14-82(1). We would like to start with Bill 3-82(1), the Financial Agreement Ordinance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. A request by one of the Members was considered and put on the order paper to deal with Tabled Document 25-82(1) and that is the way it appears on the order paper. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would request that Tabled Document 25-82(1) be placed behind the bills mentioned by Mr. McCallum, that we deal with the bills first and we can do the Analysis of Freshwater Fish Marketing Options after the bills are concluded.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Butters, I take my orders from the Speaker and this is the way he put it and if you want to change that, I think you are going to have to go to motion or unanimous consent. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: May I have unanimous consent to stand down the Analysis of Freshwater Fish Marketing Options until Bill 14-82(1) is concluded?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would not think unanimous consent would be required but a vote of the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Are you challenging my decision?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Had you made a decision? I thought you had not, Mr. Chairman. You just said "might be", but it seems to me in committee the order of business would not necessarily require unanimous consent so I am asking now for a ruling, yes.

MR. CURLEY: Come on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: We helped you with a couple; 50-50, dad!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): My ruling is, Mr. MacQuarrie, that we leave it the way the Speaker gave it to me. If you want to change it, well, challenge my decision.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I will challenge...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In committee of the whole we were instructed to deal with Tabled Document 25-82(1), which was requested by one of the Members. The House leaders said that they wanted to deal with bills. I ruled that I went by your instructions to deal with Tabled Document 25-82(1). My decision was challenged and therefore, it is up to you. Let us go and have supper.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Laughter

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. With regard to the challenge, the orders of the day are the authority of the Speaker, and on a special request from a Member, this item was listed in the first position that it is today. A motion and by way of a majority vote could change the sequence that was set here if they so chose, but that would be the committee's action. You are quite proper, Mr. Fraser, in that you do not have authority to change it. It must be done by way of motion in the committee of the whole. However, I think the whole House is getting to a point that we are not going to accomplish anything in the next 25 minutes so I recognize the clock as 6:00 o'clock. Mr. Clerk, would you give me the orders of the day?

---Applause

Orders Of The Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 5, 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 25-82(1); Bills 3-82(1), 4-82(1), 5-82(1), 6-82(1), 7-82(1), 13-82(1), 14-82(1); Tabled Documents 9-82(1) and 15-82(1); Motion 51-82(1); 15th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance
14. Third Reading of Bills
15. Assent to Bills
16. Prorogation

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 5, 1982.

---ADJOURNMENT

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