

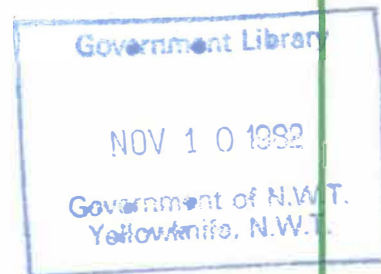


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

9th Session

9th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1982

Pages 30 to 70

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1982

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

Resignation Of Mr. William Noah

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): I have received a communication from the Commissioner that I will read into the records.

"I wish to advise you that I have been informed by William Noah, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Keewatin North, of his intention to resign his seat, effective immediately. His seat will be declared vacant upon receipt of the necessary formal statement. Would you be kind enough to inform the Members of the House of Mr. Noah's intentions?"

"It is with regret that I convey this information to you, because Mr. Noah has served as a Member with distinction. John H. Parker, Commissioner".

Orders of the day for November the 3rd.

Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO THE COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation Seconded

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) I am very sorry to hear about the resignation of William Noah, and we are very sorry that we will not be able to sit with him during this session. First of all, I would like to say that William Noah -- we have dealt together with a lot of difficult things, and he has assisted greatly in many of these. I very much regret that he will no longer be together with us. I know it will be very hard for us, because we have a heavy load to carry and this will be harder to do without our friend. I know that William Noah really loves the Assembly and cares about it, yet we can understand one of the reasons for his resigning being to devote more time to his family. He will have to be replaced so that the people of his constituency will continue to be represented, and if the ordinance is going to be amended we should be able to have a by-election shortly. I know that the people of Keewatin North will want to be represented in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some people in the gallery: Louis Pilakapsi, mayor of Rankin Inlet; John Quasa Tinashlu, mayor of Repulse Bay; Jack Anovak, speaker of the Keewatin Regional Council; and Kathy Torotonqie, who is not in here right now. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my regret for hearing that Mr. Noah is resigning from this Legislature. William Noah is a devoted family man, and I can understand that he wants to take that part of his life as a priority in his life, to take care of his family. He is a very

dedicated family representative. The issues in Keewatin North are pretty demanding -- and I am sure these are factors as well -- but I think that, as long as there are issues to be dealt with, we know for sure that we will have a by-election soon, because we cannot allow that to go on.

Need For Amendment To Council Ordinance

It is within our means to, in this Assembly, amend that part of the Council Ordinance which states that there cannot be a by-election when there is only a one year period left for the remainder of the term of the Assembly. So, I think we can fix that up, put it in line, where the other provincial legislatures are concerned. So I look forward to the government tabling an amendment to the Council Ordinance so that the by-election can take place as quickly as possible. I was born in Keewatin, I am from the northern part of the Keewatin region, although I am representing the South and I know Keewatin North will not accept the fact that they cannot have a representative. So I look forward to the House leader here introducing an amendment to that part of the Council Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker, as I said last night, I always enjoy being back in Yellowknife. Although the Member for Yellowknife Centre was not at the dinner last night, I indicated to them that I have acquired many friends in Yellowknife...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: ...particularly my friend from Fort Smith here.

---Laughter

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I like you, too.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that Mr. Noah has left I am feeling a bit uneasy these days, not having someone in between myself and the Member for Fort Liard. So, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to have the Member from Fort Smith move over here so that I can have protection in case an incident should occur again in this House.

---Laughter

Fatal Aircraft Accident In Eskimo Point

Mr. Speaker, I must announce too that I was very profoundly affected when a couple of accidents happened in Keewatin region this summer. Our local air line up there, Calm Air, had an accident in Eskimo Point during the month of September, where one man died as a result of the accident, and this man was a young man, 24 years old, part of the ground crew. This particular DC-4 arrived, unfortunately, as far as the information that we received is concerned, with a certain weight that was sitting too far to the back of the tail of the aircraft. As it was taxiing in, they could tell that there was something wrong with the freighting side, because the front wheel would be lifting up as they were trying to taxi it into the terminal. No sooner had the plane shut its engine off when the ground crew backed up to unload the freight. The pilots were already on the ground, the truck had backed in to open the doors, and one man was sitting in between the truck and the aircraft fuselage. As soon as the man stepped in to open the doors to start unloading, the aircraft fell back, the tail dropped down to the ground, and this particular individual was crushed between the truck and the aircraft.

Inquest Delayed

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the fact that the Government of the Northwest Territories is responsible for investigating industrial accidents. The Minister of Transport has no authority to investigate the problem because they do not consider it as an aircraft accident, as the aircraft was not in the air. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that there has been no inquest to date -- it is almost two months now -- although I have received information from the government officials, while they are waiting for certain things to happen. The question is, Mr. Speaker, how long does it take? How long does the government need to ask the coroner to have an inquest for any particular death or accident? I have received information that the government is waiting for the autopsy report; but I am not convinced whether or not that must be conditional before going ahead with the inquest.

I have received information also from the government official in Rankin Inlet. The cause of the accident was due to the amount of weight as well as the wind factor; the plane had tilted over to one side, and therefore caused the accident. I have received information from the officials of the local air line, Calm Air, that ground crew was the cause of the accident, or the fault of the accident.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I could stand here and accept all of those justifications for why the inquest has not taken place, and the fact that the Calm Air president has announced publicly on radio, when interviewed by CBC, that it was the ground crew's fault; but, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned, as the person responsible for representing my constituency, that I do not need to accept justification when the inquest has not taken place. Now, we must put that record straight and put the blame and fault exactly where it lies. The only way to do that is to proceed immediately, if this government is in any way responsible for keeping records of accidents, and no longer have any delay as to why there has not been an inquest for a particular accident.

We will be introducing a Mining Safety Ordinance. I believe the government seemed to be concerned that there ought to be safety, and all the guidelines required to ensure that the workers are safe in the work place. But how about ordinary municipal workers? So I say, Mr. Speaker, the government ought to proceed immediately, and announce very quickly here, during this session, that the information will be put in proper perspective and that the inquest will take place immediately.

This particular young man came from a very close-knit family. He was an adopted oldest child of the family. Unfortunately, they had to wait even a week after the accident. The fact that the body was sent to Yellowknife without even contacting the parents involved -- now, who in the world would accept the fact that the person can be sent to Yellowknife, approximately 800 or 1000 miles away, for an autopsy, without first contacting the immediate family representatives?

I say there is something wrong in the procedures. I say the government is going to have to correct that, so that there can be a relationship of trust between the community and the government officials. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the government will quickly resolve that situation, because it is one area that the community is very concerned with, the fact that the particular air line seemed to have accepted the fact that all is well over there. I think there must be a serious inquest taking place before too long, before the community, or the region, takes the handling of these kinds of situations into their own hands.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited also and look forward to dealing with completing the particular report that we tabled yesterday, the report titled, "Learning: Tradition and Change", because the communities and the regions are very anxiously waiting to see some of the changes that could take place before too long. So I look forward to dealing with the report, item by item, as soon as possible.

Appreciation Of Former Regional Director

Mr. Speaker, we also have a concern in the region: that fact that our former regional director, Mike Stilwell, had to leave after spending only two years in the region. Mike Stilwell was a very respected gentleman of the region, and I am sure the mayors from Keewatin can support that view. We regret to see him leave so quickly. I would certainly hope that the Commissioner will always consult with the communities and the mayors in the region before taking away some of the people that are respected in their jobs. Although the Commissioner has no obligation to consult with a region when moving his top officials in the government, I would think it would be good practice if he would seek the views of the mayors in the region before moving people who have made such a great contribution to the government affairs in that particular region. Since he left, the communities in the region have slackened off as far as their relationship with the government in the region is concerned, so at this moment I am not sure exactly how everything is working.

Government Restraint Measures

I had a constituency phone-in show in Eskimo Point recently, where many of my constituents expressed concern regarding many government issues like housing -- housing rental scales is always a big issue -- as well as education and jobs and opportunity for jobs in the region. Many of the communities and the people are wondering exactly what the six and five program is really all about. So, I was not surprised last night, when we were having a dinner hosted by

the Commissioner, that there were many individuals who wanted to find out exactly what the six and five program was all about and no officials in the government seem to really know exactly. So I am not surprised that our community representatives do not know all about it and they ask us to explain it. That is not surprising, but seriously though, Mr. Speaker, the communities and the people affected do wonder. They see some benefits in that, but I think if we are going to proceed justly we have to, at least, equalize some of the disparities as far as some of the municipal salaries are concerned. I think we must be fair in that and then we can move on to implement justly and to respond forcefully to the government's restraint measures.

I also was very glad to hear, in spite of all the negative reaction across the country and the North, territorial wide, about the government relations and the political issues continuing to highlight the issues of the Northwest Territories. Very seldom do we see these days any individual or any leader talking favourably about the government. I would be surprised to see or hear, other than an Executive Member, maybe -- any individual speaking in favour of the government. But there was one lady in Eskimo Point -- and I told her I had to report this to the Assembly -- an elderly woman, who was very grateful for the kind of services that she was receiving from the government. She could no longer do the kinds of chores that she used to do and live on in her own way, but she was in a government-provided house and receiving old age benefits and so on. She was very grateful for the kind of treatment she gets from the government and for the benefits that she receives from the government programs. I told her that I would tell the Commissioner, and the Commissioner ought to thank her for that, because she may be the only person left that is grateful for the government services.

---Laughter

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Shame, shame!

Employment Opportunities At Cullaton Lake Mine

MR. CURLEY: Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I also want to indicate to the Assembly and to the government here that my region is very concerned with employment opportunities, the fact that jobs are beginning to get pretty tight and more and more people are holding on to their positions because of the lack of opportunities everywhere in the country. I think as a result of that we see a pretty tight situation as far as the mining industry is concerned and I am concerned that the Government of the Northwest Territories, particularly the Department of Economic Development, has not come to an agreement with the only mine in that region, Cullaton Lake. As far as a socio-economic agreement is concerned, I do not think they have settled that yet.

I am very concerned with it because Manitoba is very much becoming a main work force for that particular mine site, particularly since the nickel mine at Thompson is starting to slow down and there was a recent announcement that the Thompson nickel mine would be shut down for four weeks next summer. I believe that the Government of the Northwest Territories should take a stronger and tougher position with that particular mine and come to an agreement with them as far as a socio-economic agreement is concerned and, therefore, try to protect the job opportunities and ensure that people in the region have at least the right of first refusal for any positions vacant at that mine site. So, I would urge the Minister responsible for Economic Development to proceed and negotiate with them as quickly as possible to try and protect the northern people's interests, particularly in the Keewatin region.

Disparities In Municipal Salaries

Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I would be bringing up the issue of disparities in municipal salaries, and I do have documents from Whale Cove, where their top salary, in that municipality, is still below \$25,000. So, in view of the six and five measures, even if we were to look at them separately, the top salary of the municipal secretary manager would not even reach the \$30,000 level. I think that is outdated and I think the government ought to proceed soon in trying to at least bring them up-to-date before we can effectively implement the six and five program at the community level. I will be tabling the particular set of documents that I have received from the community, where they compare their present levels with some of the other communities and the kind of increases they would expect if the six per cent program is applied to them this year and five per cent the following year. So, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing the results of the government's intention that they would correct those disparities.

Proposed Increase In Housing Rents

Besides that, Mr. Speaker, I was also very surprised to see that the government or the Commissioner has sent a directive to all the civil servants who are living in government accommodation, that their housing rents would be increased by 12.5 per cent by January 1st, 1983. Although the government attempted to justify that because they did not put on any increases during the previous year, the question I would ask is: Are all the government expenditures and proposed increases conditional upon what they will be receiving as far as the revenue is concerned, or the fact that they have not made any increases during the previous year -- are they justified, in the restraint program, in proposing an increase of more than 11 per cent, even, putting six and five together?

My view is that regardless of whether the government people may be paid more than any others, if the government says that they are going to practise restraint, I would want to be convinced that they are going to practise restraint and proceed with the six per cent this year and five per cent the next year. Now, the reason I say that, Mr. Speaker, is that I would find it hard to support that program when it is not applied universally, regardless of what the agreements are. So, I will likely be asking for support in my intention to put forward a motion that the government stick to its intention and practise what they say they are going to do. So, I look forward to your support in that area.

Rankin Inlet Accident Report

Mr. Speaker, I also have a concern, as I indicated earlier in my Inuktitut comments, that there was an unfortunate accident involving Rankin Inlet and Calm Air, and then another incident that happened was with respect to the armed forces helicopter at Rankin Inlet this summer. Mr. Speaker, there was a news item that was released shortly after the accident, that attributed the accident to crowded area, and the environment, and the wind factors, but I say, Mr. Speaker, these assertions were not correct. The area in that particular place has been able to maintain very heavy traffic throughout the last few years, ever since the airport and airstrips were completed. Now the armed forces came around and said that particular area was crowded and that there was a dust factor, so far as their information is concerned. Mr. Speaker, I do have a copy of that summary that they gave me, which I will be tabling here in the Assembly as well, but I am concerned that the community was not reflected positively as far as the nature of the accident was concerned.

I was informed by the particular contractor who looks after the refuelling of aircraft that he could service any aircraft and provide gas even as far as 150 feet away. Now, no wonder the Ministry of National Defence commented that they were in a crowded area, because they were within a couple of feet, or how many feet, and got so close to the pumps there that one of their blades, the tail blade rotary, had to knock off the lamppost. I say that that was not the fault of the community, nor was it the fault of the people who have designed that particular area. So, Mr. Speaker, I think the information has to be corrected and I believe that the government responsible for maintaining that airstrip, or the Department of Local Government, should at least ensure that the proper report is put into proper perspective. So, Mr. Speaker, that is the only comment that I have with respect to that.

Successful Regional Housing Meeting

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to report on a very successful regional meeting that happened just last month, when the NWT Housing Corporation and the representatives of the housing associations gathered to deal with a number of issues concerning the housing requirements of the region, and I also would like to congratulate Mr. Victor Irving, who has taken the position as the president of the Housing Corporation. I was impressed to see him responding very forcibly and positively to many of the concerns of the people, I must say that the people who were provided with the answers were quite satisfied with the fact that he was able to deal with them forthrightly. So, I look forward to that kind of a relationship with the region and I think if it continues we will go a long way toward establishing our working relationships with the communities. Although they have many disagreements with the Housing Corporation as far as the proposed housing rental increases are concerned, I think they were able to advise the government what their particular areas of concern were and I look forward, again, during this session to dealing with some of them and maybe even attempting to correct some of them, so that they will be able to reflect more of the communities' and the local housing associations' priorities or concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I do have some other concerns with housing associations or the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. I was a bit disturbed to see the way in which the local district headquarters have been dealing with some of the tenants in the region. I recognize fully the fact that the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay once introduced a motion that the people who do not pay their rent ought to be prosecuted or that the issue should be put to the small claims court so that they can be dealt with by the tribunal or through the judicial process. I suppose that is fine when you were trained that way, if it is your profession in the first place, but let us look at it from the other perspective. Let us look at it from the tenant's point of view -- in trying to implement a government policy we tend to look at one approach, I think, and that is the government ought to get what it wants and it is going to get it at any price, whatever happens.

Reluctance To Disclose Sources Of Income

Considering that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate one particular example, where a particular tenant was reluctant to provide all of his sources of income because when you are running a small business operation you are never really sure, particularly in the last two years when the interest rates were so high and business is very difficult in the communities, of being able to provide exactly what you are going to be making this year, compared to last year. So, as a result of this, this particular individual was finally going to be assessed a monthly rent of \$1800, because he and his wife were both working.

Now, let us look at it from Dennis Patterson's point of view. Supposing Dennis earns about that much, maybe he is entitled to pay that much -- \$1800 a month -- combining his income with his investments and his short-term deposits in the bank and so on. Considering all of his sources of income, maybe he is entitled to pay that much rent. So, this particular individual, even though he never had arrears for any length of time, was pressed so hard by the district office that they threatened to take legal action against him. So, the fact is that even though the community association had attempted to settle the problem with this particular individual, he was reluctant in some ways because he really did not see the rules of the game applied here. They really were not all that fair. Maybe the legal adviser ought to look at this for me and I will likely be asking him later whether the demand to disclose all your sources of income can be backed up by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Ordinance or not. I say I do not think so, because that is the private privilege of an individual. I think the government ought to be concerned when individuals do not want to release all of their sources of income -- like you do not want to in Yellowknife as far as the means test is concerned, when dealing with a grants and bursaries policy, right? I believe that is correct. He did not want to do that, so the government threatened to prosecute him.

I would like to read one letter written by the district officer to him as a result of his reluctance to give all the details of this. He said, "To this date, I have not received a signed lease, a family income form, or four months of rent. Accordingly, I am forced to turn over the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the building to yourself. This does not exclude you from being assessed rent. I am prepared to wait until August 30 for your payment, and I will consider you a tenant in good standing. I would also suggest to you that you look into the possibility of home-ownership under the northern rental/purchase program, as have tenants in Rankin Inlet." This was in August.

Requested To Vacate Premises

There were exchanges of correspondence between them. Then, in September, he wrote again, and said, "As you are aware, your rent has not been paid for many months; and, accordingly, please accept this letter as a formal notice pursuant to section 66 of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, that your tenancy is hereby deemed to be at an end. You are required to vacate your premises within five days hereof." Now, I say, Mr. Speaker, that is going to an extreme.

I would now like to ask the Member for Frobisher Bay, who initially gave that power to the Housing Corporation, whether he would want to be sitting on the other side of the machinery of the government, and be told to vacate his premises at a certain date, and therefore be responsible for maintaining his house? That probably means the fuel, utilities, whatever else. He went on to say, "If you do not vacate the premises, we will be proceeding by way of an application to court, to have the court issue an order for possession of the premises, and we will be having the sheriff evict you from the premises. In addition, the court will ask for an order directing that the balance owing by you for rent be paid by you."

Now, Mr. Speaker, can I look at this from another angle? In spite of the housing association's concern, I was not sure that the rules of the game were handled properly. I think there could have been a better way, without the housing association and the regional district office ganging up on this individual, and therefore reacting on, I think, an emotional side of the situation.

I know that the government tends to wait until all the emotions have sort of settled down, like they are probably doing with the accident I referred to in Eskimo Point. Wait until the dust and the waters have cooled off, and now let us proceed with the inquest. They may not be comparable, but I am comparing this case to that.

Now, he went on to suggest, "Should you decide to vacate the premises, you are still obligated to pay the arrears in rent, which are in excess of \$2000; and the sources of income that you may have may be garnished in order to collect this debt."

Lack Of Incentive To Work

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have tried to communicate and inform the government that this particular policy of requiring release of all their sources of income has been a lack of incentive for people to work. This particular individual was being assessed at \$1800 a month, because he had acquired a new position in the community as a hamlet foreman, and his wife happened to be working as well. Because of this pressure, he finally had to resign from his position, and still, at this moment, is unemployed in the community.

Now, if you were Dennis Patterson, understanding the legal system, you would probably claim that part of the loss of wages as a result of the government action -- or any other individual who has been abused to the point that he had to resign in order to bring about affordable rent being assessed to his family. So, Mr. Speaker, although the government is going to look at this particular information, and no doubt they will want to follow it up, I was not sure whether the policy was really fair or not; and I think there must be a restitution made to this particular individual.

I think this example sends a message that the government ought to put a ceiling to those rental scales, because you do not do that to any other individuals throughout the Northwest Territories, where you threaten to prosecute them, and evict them. I have heard of people owing in excess of \$6000 in some places, and they are still living comfortably today. They have not received any threatening legal action against them. Now, if the government was practising that universally, right across, then I would say, "Fine. This guy had a fair chance, and therefore he is being treated fairly as far as the government is concerned."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to go on and read another letter from the district office, October 4, 1982. He says he received a justification for what had been happening. This man and his wife were trying to explain exactly what has been happening, where, in a word, my "view" was the right way to try and resolve the differences with the local housing association; but the Housing Corporation got back to them again, saying, "Thank you for your letter of September 23rd. I wish to make clear my requirements in this matter. Regardless of the reason..." Now, that is going too far, I think. "...why you came into disagreement with the housing association, it was suggested by the housing association, agreed by yourself, that your account would be handled directly from the district office. Accordingly, I must treat your tenancy strictly within the terms of the policy and guidelines of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. These terms include the completion of the household income form, now done, the completion of release, and the prompt payment of rent on the basis of your household income." That is after he resigned from his job. "Your monthly assessment is \$254." Now, that seemed to be a little more sane than the previous threatening assertion.

Difficulties With Maintenance Of Unit

He went on to say, "I have adjusted your previous assessment to this total. I have notified our legal counsel to suspend eviction action at this time. However, I expect by October 15, that you will have complied with the terms of tenancy -- completion of these documents. Two, the payment of all rent to date, \$1,524. If you do not comply, I will instruct our legal counsel to resume legal action. I would urge you to come to a reconciliation with the housing association. The present situation complicates your tenancy. For instance, you have, and may continue to have, difficulties with the maintenance of your unit."

Mr. Speaker, I spoke with this individual, and he had a particular problem with his house, where certain maintenance had to be done by the corporation. They refused, and to this date they have refused to carry out maintenance in his house. He had to find a particular part, without telling anybody, and adjust the household furniture on his own. I looked at it the other day, and I certainly would want to see that the Housing Corporation officials take a look at it again.

This particular kind of treatment is very curious to me, because, in view of the fact that this official went on to state further, "If you are dissatisfied with the board of directors, you should consider running in their next election. However, by choosing to operate outside of the housing association, you are not eligible. I look forward to your full co-operation in this matter."

Mr. Speaker, perhaps, if this official was dealing with me, I would be able to deal with him professionally. But he looks forward to the co-operation of this gentleman. As far as I read the correspondence, he does not seem to be co-operating at all. So I would say, Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely something wrong with the way the Housing Corporation has looked at giving certain responsibilities to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I was therefore, rather relieved, to hear that this official has since been transferred to another region. I just hope that he does not practise what he did in my region, because I do not think anybody would tolerate such a man.

Better Relationship Could Be Established

So Mr. Speaker, having cooled off a bit, I would look forward to seeing that the officials in the Housing Corporation at least try to resolve whatever remaining difference they have with this gentleman, because I believe they can work with him. I believe there could be established a better relationship with the community and that individual -- because I have known him, and I know that he is not at all an unreasonable gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I also have a concern with another part of the Housing Corporation. In my region, for the last few years, there have been many dissatisfactions with the technical side of the Housing Corporation's operations in Keewatin district.

Letter From Local Keewatin Contractor

Before I go on, I would like to again refer to a letter that I received from one particular contractor. I think if I read it you will be able to understand a little bit about our relationship with these kinds of officials that we have been dealing with in the region. This letter is addressed to me. I will not mention the names at this time. "I hope to explain in this letter the problems our company has had with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation in general, and specifically Mr. A. Our problems all started in the month of July, 1981. We were low bidders on the project in Eskimo Point, but we were not awarded the contract because we were 20 per cent lower than anybody in the entire Northwest Territories.

"After we lost the four-plex contract to another contractor, I tried to reach Mr. A by telephone, to ask for specific reasons why we were not awarded the contract. I could not reach him, and he failed to return any of my calls. I then wrote Mr. A a letter, of which you received a copy. In his answer to my letter, he stated that he received no phone messages from our office. As you can see, I have enclosed copies of our phone bill for that month, and have marked the calls which were made to the Housing Corporation in my efforts to reach him.

"Just before the corporation awarded the contract officially, I was given the impression by their Yellowknife office that I was sure to be awarded the contract. Knowing the sealift with the materials would arrive here at any time, I left for Baker Lake to complete another contract I had with the RCMP. I wanted to finish that before the sealift, and be back in Eskimo Point.

Contract Awarded To Another Contractor

"While I was gone, my wife called and said that we lost the contract to another contractor. She also told me that officials of the Housing Corporation flew down to Eskimo Point in the other contractor's private plane -- who, by the way, was awarded the contract in Rankin Inlet. They apparently were here to inspect both the local contractor and my company's previous work.

"I then learned that Mr. B had taken Mr. A to the last unfinished unit -- only the last unfinished unit, which we were not working at, at the time, because of the material shortages. The major portion of the materials we were short was material Mr. B had borrowed from the Housing Corporation, months before, for Tri-D development, promising to replace them immediately. The material was never replaced. There were nine completely finished units that Mr. B could have shown this official from Yellowknife. As a matter of fact, there were four units within 200 feet, all of which were never locked. The local housing association representative was then on this tour, and was somewhat shocked to hear a Housing Corporation official degrade our workers and their workmanship, after praising it not more than three weeks before.

"It is my impression that Mr. A had no intent of letting me get the project, even before he came down. After this incident, the Housing Corporation official said he would make it hard for me, and he did. I feel they should have given me an opportunity to defend myself and my price for the four-plex. The Housing Corporation then turned around and awarded me a rehabilitation contract, in which I was again 25 per cent below their budget. I have a hard time understanding their ethics.

"This year, in order to avoid this same problem, we bid another rehab project, only this time we bid what turned out to be in line with all other northern contractors; but again the Housing Corporation did another flip-flop, by awarding it to a company from Hay River, who were 10 to 15 per cent lower than all the other local bidders. Mr. A, from the Housing Corporation, has a relative in the organization.

"This company also has the advantage of having five units to work on at one time. The Corporation has gone to extreme trouble to get the local housing association to release more houses than last year for tenants to wait in while their own units are being renovated. The most we were given was two to work on. The Corporation seemed to want to make it hard for companies if they do not fit their image. I do not believe in patronizing to get contracts, but it is something that seems to be widely accepted and almost seems expected by the Corporation, but frankly, I would rather not work if I had to stoop to get work.

Resupply Contracts Not Out To Tender

"Another point I would like to raise is that many resupply contracts did not go out to tender. In most cases, when material was needed it was purchased from this particular lumber company in Winnipeg or from Yellowknife. A Housing Corporation official's son-in-law works for this company. You will notice that there is a copy of a waybill. All of that material was just purchased, without a tender call. Although we have finally convinced the Corporation to use local suppliers in Eskimo Point, most of the resupplying comes from this lumber company in Winnipeg for the other Keewatin settlements, in which your official in the Housing Corporation has an official.

"Tagak, I know there is no concrete evidence here, but I mainly wanted to inform you of the problems we have faced with Mr. A. Above all else, I still fear the repercussions of his power over people in Yellowknife. He seems to be so sincere in person. To this day I have no copies of any of his inspection reports on our 1981 rehab project, even after asking for them in writing. I have to wonder what he tells his superiors about the project. With no copies, it would be easy for him to say anything.

"I do not like to sound like a bleeding heart, and I hope you do not get that impression, but there seems to be a serious problem here. I know business is tough and it should be fair and we should all have to play by the same rules. In a private conversation with Mr. A, he made it clear to me that if I did not rock the boat he would not rock me. I do not believe what he says any more. Anyway, I think I speak for quite a few people when I say we would be better off in the Keewatin if he was gone. I hope this gives you more insight into this matter."

Mr. Speaker, I know I went somewhat out of line in reading a lengthy letter like this, but I believe that the people who actually experience this kind of treatment are better able to express the frustration and the unfair practices that are being practised by officials in the government, and I believe that if there are any inconsistencies with the guidelines of the Housing Corporation they ought to treat them like this tenant was treated and take the necessary legal actions if necessary. If the Housing Corporation has conflict of interest laws with respect to awarding of contracts, and if they are being violated, I believe the Housing Corporation ought to proceed with legal action, as their officials threaten to do with the housing association tenants in the region.

Establishing Good Relationships And Trust

I know I will likely get some reports from the government that they have demoted or transferred this individual, but will they be justified in taking just that kind of measure? I have also received, Mr. Speaker, verbal complaints where certain properties of the Government and the Housing Corporation were taken and given to certain individuals and I can vouch for them in person if I am asked to do that at any time. I believe that that is not an ethical way of doing business in any area and I think we ought to stop this kind of thing so that the businessmen in the region, particularly the small businessmen, again can have trust and fair respect for the government. The small contractors or the small businessmen I know are looking forward to establishing a good relationship with the government, but unless we correct some of the inconsistencies and the problems that we experience both in the administration and in construction and engineering aspects and technical aspects of the Housing Corporation or our government in general, we will not establish that trust which so many of the small business people want today.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go on forever. I again would just like to indicate to you that I will be at least asking the government, either privately as an MLA or through the House, to see that all these inconsistencies are corrected.

Appreciation Of Mr. Noah

I would like to conclude my remarks by again expressing my appreciation for being here, but like I said before, I will be missing a very strong ally, who I believe has been a very forthright and strong representative of the Keewatin region. To me, Mr. Noah was like an anchor. I do not know whether any of you know what an anchor is. To those of us who were born on the coast, we need that particular anchor whenever the bad wind comes around, when you are out on the sea. William Noah was that kind of a person to me. He sits there and when he makes up his mind about pursuing his goal he does not waiver and is not rocked by all the pressures around him. I will be missing that support and I look forward to seeing that the vacant position is filled before too long. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Am I right in assuming that you rose to second the motion of appreciation for the Commissioner's Address?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, that is correct, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address.
Mr. Sibbeston.

Mr. Sibbeston's Reply

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have a number of concerns, as well as a number of comments which I feel are very positive, in regard to some of the things that are happening in my constituency. Firstly, though, I would like to deal with the concerns, so I can end on a positive note. Most of the concerns, Mr. Speaker, actually concern you, in regard to the way that you are performing your duties as the Speaker of this Assembly, and I must say at the outset that I have tried to deal with this matter in caucus in September and for two or three days we met and you did not come to the caucus meeting for the last two days and the matter was dealt with in caucus yesterday, but not to my satisfaction.

The first concern was in regard to a number of statements that you have made or which it is reported that you have made at a public meeting in Hay River on September 9th. As I understand it, the meeting was a public meeting in Hay River in preparation for the constitutional conference which was held in mid-September and I must say that when I heard the reports of this public meeting, as it was aired on CBC and as the results were reported in The Hub newspaper, I was very surprised and shocked that such statements would emanate from the Speaker of this Assembly.

Media Reports Of Speaker's Statements

I would just like to read from a verbatim report from CBC News made on September 10th by Dave Anderson of CBC News. The transcript indicates as follows: "The Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly says some native leaders are trying to kick white people out of the North. Don Stewart was speaking at a public meeting on constitutional development last night in Hay River." In The Hub newspaper of September 15th there is a report which is headlined, "Stewart Blasts Native Leaders". It says: "The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has accused native leaders of trying to drive white people out of the Northwest Territories. Don Stewart, who is also Hay River MLA, told a public meeting in Hay River last week there was no doubt in his mind that both the Nunavut and Denendeh government proposals are oriented to see the white man leave the North." It goes on to say: "'It's an invitation for us all to leave', he said. Stewart claimed that native leaders had said on many occasions that if you don't like the way they are going to run it, leave." Now, Mr. Speaker, as the Speaker of this Assembly, which has a majority of native leaders, I guess we can call ourselves leaders, I think you are expected to represent all people of the North and you ought not to attack one group as you have done. I also feel that many of the statements which are reportedly made by you, are unfair and untrue. I would like to just deal with some of the statements you have made in turn.

In regard to the reports that I have read in respect to your saying that native leaders want white people to leave the North, I have never come across any native leader that has said that white people should leave the North. I am aware that occasionally native leaders, in our part of the North, anyway, do feel frustrated and wish some of the white people would listen and try to understand the native people and their aspirations, but never have I heard Georges Erasmus or Mr. Wah-Shee or Tagak Curley or anybody like that say that white people should leave the North.

It is generally recognized, of course, that white people are welcome. I, for one, married one and a few other native people have. It is recognized that this land, this North, though, is the homeland of the native people and I guess it is just an attempt to have some say in the government and the way things are happening up North. I will state again that I believe that Nunavut and Denendeh governments are proposals for governments, for public government in the North. They are not proposals for native governments where white people would be excluded.

Denendeh And Nunavut Government Proposals

Now, in respect to another aspect dealing with both the Denendeh and Nunavut government proposals, Mr. Stewart is reported to have said: "Both government proposals are unconstitutional and there is no room for negotiations on constitutional development, Stewart felt." This is reported in The Hub. The report goes on to say that Mr. Stewart was disappointed that people were even wasting their time talking about it. The Denendeh proposal the Speaker found particularly provoking because it did not include a map of the proposed territory, as the Nunavut proposal did. "The proponents of Denendeh want everything", he said. "Communities such as Yellowknife, Hay River, Pine Point, Fort Smith and Inuvik will become satellites with rings around them."

Now, I ask Mr. Stewart whether he believes these are the things that the Denendeh and Nunavut proposals are attempting to do; that both of these proposals are unconstitutional? The constitutional committee of this Assembly, of which Mr. Stewart is a Member, prepared a working paper for the constitutional conference in September and this paper dealt with many of the more controversial features of Denendeh and for the most part, most of the things that are contained in the Denendeh proposal are indeed possible under the new Canadian constitution. This is the conclusion of the working paper and the working paper was put together by people that work for this government and the lawyers that work for this government and that is their conclusion, that, as I said, many of the features that are proposed in the Denendeh proposal are possible under the Canadian constitution. So I wonder, Mr. Stewart, where are you getting your legal advice from to state that the Denendeh and Nunavut proposals are unconstitutional?

Another point that concerns me is your impressions about the ordinary native. The Hub report states: "But in spite of everything, Stewart has nothing against the ordinary Indian" -- it is not Dene, but an Indian -- "such as those living in the Hay River Dene Reserve. The ordinary natives, according to Stewart, neither support nor understand the Denendeh and Nunavut proposals."

It continues to say: "Just because a native person is told at a meeting he had better put up his hand or something would happen to him does not mean he supports the leadership, Stewart pointed out. The Speaker said the Indians" -- the Indians -- "are our brothers, but sometimes brothers fight and maybe it is time for a damn good row."

Native People Are Politically Aware

I believe, Mr. Stewart, that this is cynicism at its best, or worst, depending how you want to interpret it. I must say that I disagree with your analysis of the ordinary native people's understanding of all that is happening with respect to the Denendeh and Nunavut proposals. Native people in the North, the ordinary native people, I find are very politically aware. The Dene Nation, in particular, has gone to great pains to get input and information to the people with respect to the Denendeh proposal. I was involved this past spring, in March, when the Dene Nation had its annual assembly. I was involved for two days in workshops with people where the whole Denendeh proposal was discussed very thoroughly. Five different regions of the Denendeh area broke into workshops and, as I said, for two days just talked and had very intensive discussions about the Denendeh proposal.

I must say, I have been to many, many meetings; and I have never, ever seen a situation where the Dene leadership have coerced or in any way forced the membership, or the native people, to vote a certain way. I find that any time that there are meetings dealing with the Dene people, there is a great deal of time spent discussing issues. These meetings take a long time, and eventually some consensus is reached, in the Dene tradition, and eventually there is a vote on it, and people vote voluntarily. I simply cannot understand, Mr. Stewart, where you get your views that the followers, the ordinary native person, is coerced into following the leadership, or something is going to happen to him. I am aghast, and frankly amazed, that you would think this way.

Constitutional Conference Successful

I would like to just deal with the last matter that is reported concerning that public meeting, and this deals with whether the constitutional talks will ever amount to anything. In the report, again referring to The Hub newspaper of September 15th, it is reported that you said that you were disappointed that people were even wasting their time talking about it. And it continued to say, "Although Stewart had some hope when municipalities were invited to participate in the constitutional conference in January, he felt the present move toward developing a constitution would not get anywhere -- if it went on for 15 years." Again, I feel, Mr. Stewart, that this is untrue. The constitutional conference which was held September 16 to 18 was very successful. There was general agreement from amongst all of the delegates who were at that meeting. There were general agreements on, I would say, three very controversial areas. The first is in respect of the Denendeh senate. The delegates agreed that some mechanism was necessary to make sure that aboriginal rights contained in the settlement are protected. Another general agreement at this conference was that there ought to be an extension of the residency requirement beyond one year to a reasonable amount of time permitted by the Canadian constitution. Lastly, there was agreement in respect of a guaranteed representation. There was unanimous agreement that some form of guaranteed representation for native people should be included in any new form of government developed in the western Northwest Territories.

So I feel that, despite your pessimism, it is possible for all northern people, if they work together, to come to an agreement on constitutional matters very quickly in the next few years. I certainly believe that the constitutional conference route of dealing with things is not a waste of time.

Speaker Ought To Take Conciliatory Role

So, Mr. Stewart, I guess I can appreciate that as an MLA elected just like myself you have constituents and that you have views, and that you, in this case, may have wanted to express, and did express, these views at the public meeting; but I do believe that, as the Speaker, you are expected not to say things about native leaders. I believe that, as Speaker, you ought to have been more conciliatory. I notice, in the newspaper report, that Mr. MacQuarrie was at that meeting, and his role was very conciliatory. Right alongside the report about Stewart blasting native leaders, there is also a picture and a headline which is, "MacQuarrie Takes Conciliatory Stand." I believe that that is the kind of role that the Speaker of the Northwest Territories Assembly should be taking, not attacking one group of people and certainly not attacking native people who, in a sense do form the majority of this Assembly.

One must recall that these statements were made in advance of the constitutional conference, and the Speaker ought to have known that some of the statements were very inflammatory, could have resulted in more confusion, people being scared as to the process that we are entering in, in such meetings as the constitutional conference. I would say, as the Speaker of the North, rather than being conciliatory, you could have added to the chaos and confusion that sometimes comes in issues such as this.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are simply reports which say you said certain things, and I would like to invite you to either deny these statements, make corrections, or elaborate further on them if they were taken out of context. Even if they were true, I do think that you owe the Members of this Assembly an apology for your derogatory statements about the native leaders in the North.

You must remember, Mr. Speaker, that the position of the Speaker is a very prestigious position. You are given a nice, big seat -- to sit up there, and kind of dwell over us. You are up there, and held up as being fair to all people of the North. You derive extra pay. You also derive extra fringe benefits. You stay in the Queen's palace -- or the suite up on top of the high-rise whenever you are in town. You have a chauffeur to drive you around anytime you step into Yellowknife off your charters from Hay River, and you have the opportunity to travel far and wide -- all over the world for that matter. You are in a very prestigious position.

Mr. Speaker, you must not forget, too, that native people are the majority in this House, and that, in a sense, your position depends on native people supporting you and believing that you are fair. I believe, if you continue making these kinds of remarks, that you could be replaced. So I look forward to hearing from you about the statements that you are reported to have made.

Native Staff For Legislative Assembly Office

Now, one other matter that concerns me is the staff of the Legislative Assembly office. At the moment, there are no native persons working in the Assembly office here in town. Again, I feel that the Assembly office ought to be representative of all people of the North. Is there just white people living in the North? People walking into the Assembly office could get that impression -- that in the North only white people live; or, in the North, only white people are capable of being a receptionist, or being a secretary, or driving people around with vehicles when they are provided.

When I raised this matter in the caucus yesterday, Mr. Speaker, you said that you turned all of these lowly matters, I suppose, over to your secretary, and suggested that he was responsible; but I do not agree with this. You are the Speaker, you are the person that is responsible for the office, and you are the one that ought to take the blame if there are any concerns.

I think it is ironic in some respects that in this Assembly Members have raised issues about this government hiring more native people, and increasingly this government is doing better in hiring more native people. I think it is ironic that we have our own little Assembly office where there are no native people working. I think it is very ironic, because we say this and, in a situation where we can have influence, we are not doing what we tell the territorial government to do. So I really feel, Mr. Speaker, that you ought to change that, and that in the next few weeks -- not months or a year -- that there be definite changes to the staff of the Assembly office, to hire more native people -- and I see Binx and some of those other characters, snickering, which I do not appreciate. I just said, as I said in the caucus meeting yesterday, that if Mr. Remnant does not feel that he is able to attract -- or get native people to work for him -- maybe it is time to consider changing him.

Decor, Dress And Practices Of The House

Now, one final matter in this area of the Assembly, is that pertaining to a motion which was made and passed with a great deal of effort last winter. That was the motion dealing with rules, decor, dress, and practices of this House -- and you know all the effort that I went through to have this motion supported and passed, and the motion dictated that there ought to have been a report back to the fall session of this Assembly, on its findings and recommendations. So, quite a number of months have passed since this motion, and I expect that if the Speaker, the Members' Services Board, or whoever is responsible for this matter, is responsive to this House, that we will have a very extensive report about their plans for changing decor and dress in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I did note yesterday the addition to your cloak, and that of your Clerks, and I thought that that was very nice. One of my colleagues sent me a note asking me what I thought about the new addition to your cloak, in writing back, I said, "A small step for me, but a big step for those who resist change and insist on their ways." I did notice the addition, and I am very appreciative of that, and I think that you could gauge the public response to that. When it was mentioned yesterday, I think, the public indicated its response, a very agreeable type of response, to these kinds of changes. So I think it is very good that this change has been made.

Opening Ceremonies

Now, as to yesterday's opening ceremonies, I do not know what the other Members thought about it. I must say that I was not impressed. I guess we are back to the Stu Hodgson style of military entrances, if I may say. It seems, as we make one small step forward in having the Speaker and his Clerks have a little something northern and native as part of their dress, that we make three steps backwards in bringing the Stu Hodgson type of military entrance that we witnessed yesterday. So it is one step forward, three steps back, I believe.

I guess I have to really think about this and examine my own self as to why I think so unkindly of these ceremonies with the RCMP marching in with flags. I was wondering if maybe I am not very cultured. Maybe I am missing something that is very obvious to other people. I am maybe missing something very obvious about the significance of having the RCMP dressed up in their scarlet uniforms marching in here. What is it that obviously supports this type of approach? What is it that they like? Is it the colour? Does it represent authority? Does it represent power? Are we to be impressed by the nice physiques of the RCMP, their strength, their build, and all that? I am really wondering what is the essence of such a demonstration as we saw yesterday. Can someone please tell me, so I too can maybe come to appreciate these things?

All I can say is that I have been to many native meetings. I have been to many Dene assemblies. We just had one last week in Fort Simpson. The type of meetings, the type of ceremonies, that I have seen amongst native people is that usually the meeting starts with a very solemn prayer, sometimes a chant, sometimes a bit of drumming, and that is what I have experienced amongst native people. I must say that I prefer that to a bunch of RCMP marching in here as they do. I would just say, is it not time in the North, here, that we exchange some of these ceremonies? It is something to think about. Mr. Speaker, I would like to now go on to things concerning my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: I wonder, Mr. Sibbeston, inasmuch as it is coffee break, are you going to be much longer, or shall we break?

MR. SIBBESTON: We break.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will stand recessed for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come to order. The Chair recognizes a quorum. Mr. Sibbeston has the floor. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, generally speaking I can say that I am very encouraged by the many positive things which have been happening in the Deh Cho area this summer and fall. I guess some of these positive things are the direct result of the actions and the decisions of this government. Other results are simply the results of people feeling good and being able to do what they want to do.

It was a delight this past June to have Mr. Parker and his wife, Helen, tour our area. All of the, you know, significant or large communities in our area were visited: Jean Marie River, Trout Lake, Liard, Nahanni, Simpson, Wrigley and Providence, and after three days of tours -- I was hoping Mr. Parker would be here to hear -- my conclusion was that Mr. Parker and his wife were truly sincerely interested in the people that they had seen and that Mr. Parker was, indeed, a very democratic Commissioner, if such a thing is possible. I guess in being so democratic, I must say that it sometimes became a bit frustrating, because he would all the time have to refer matters, saying that this is a matter that I have to refer to Mr. Wah-Shee or Mr. Braden. It was a bit frustrating because these people who ought to have been there to make the decisions were not there and Mr. Parker's role was simply to transfer the messages to the relevant decision makers. It was certainly different from the Commissioner's tours that Mr. Hodgson used to make, where often in the course of meetings he would grant houses here, snowmobiles here, and tractors here, and all sorts of things and in this way kept the lid on the things. I must say I much prefer this approach, because it does give the elected people the final say and it puts the onus on the elected people to get to the outlying areas and get them away from their offices, because I do feel that Yellowknife, in contrast to the remoter parts of the North, is a bit of an unreal world, and it is far removed from the very fundamental, very basic day to day concerns of local people. So I do believe if you sit in your office for a week and months at a time you become removed from this reality.

I must say something about the Housing Corporation. I must say that the Housing Corporation this summer has done reasonably well, unlike the previous summer when things were just absolute shambles, disorganized, and nobody around to deal with any of the SSHAG houses. This year, in contrast, was a bit more co-ordinated and consequently there were better results. There were more houses started and on their way to completion. So I think Mr. Jack Conroy, the closest man to the scene, and his staff must be commended.

I must also say that it takes the government and the people jointly to build houses and there were some beautiful houses being built in the communities in my area. In Fort Liard there is an old fellow and his son who worked jointly to build two log houses for themselves and they are just beautiful. There was three houses in Wrigley being built, one in Nahanni Butte this summer and five in Fort Simpson, and in Providence houses that were started last year were completed.

Fort Liard Constituency Concerns

Now, about Fort Liard, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the RCMP in Liard are behaving themselves, that there are no more problems as we encountered last winter when we had to have the Commissioner and all our forces, as it were, to Liard to try to rectify the situation. There has been a change of personnel in the RCMP staff and the relations between the people and the RCMP are greatly improved.

I must say, talking about Fort Liard, that I was very pleased to have Mr. Patterson travel to a few of the communities last week. Mr. Patterson, of all the Ministers, has been to our area the most. Believe it or not, he has been there twice in the last year and we are considering making him an honorary MLA for Deh Cho.

---Laughter

The way we look at it is the more he is in our area, the less time he is spending up in the Eastern Arctic giving things to the people up there. I will say I was very glad that Mr. Patterson had a chance to meet with the people of Fort Liard about the old school in the community. Fort Liard up to now was just a little, primarily Dene community of 400 people and up to now the parents have not seen the need to send their children to school, because life on the land in Liard is very good. The climate is milder, big trees, there is lots of

wildlife, the price of fur has been reasonably good, so people, for the most part, have been living off the land, but in the last couple of years there has been a bit of trend away from that. As a result of the band council there, Harry Deneron, Beaver Enterprises, they have been taking part in the economic opportunities there. They have been doing some work for some of the oil and gas exploration companies in the area, they have been involved in the Liard highway which we now have finished. So Liard is open to the whole of North and South America, and in a road sense they are part of the 20th century. So, the life and the activity of the people there will undoubtedly change in the future and people will spend more time working for wages. As a result of the band council's effort, particularly this summer, they have been able to convince the parents that they ought to send their children to school more regularly. Two years ago the attendance rate at the school was 28 per cent in Fort Liard. This fall it is 80 per cent...

---Applause

...but the people want a new school and so I wanted to talk to you gentlemen and ladies about that.

New School Needed In Fort Liard

Liard, too, has a new principal. Apparently, he was from Fort McPherson and is approaching his job very enthusiastically and was out in the bush with the people this fall and visiting camps and very active and trying to make the school program for the kids very interesting and exciting. He is accomplishing this to a certain extent, but there are limits. Liard has an old, old school. I do not know, it must be about 200 years old or 20, 25 years old and the building is practically falling down. This fall, while the kids were at school, there was a bit of breeze -- not a very big breeze -- and a portion of the porch fell down and nearly hurt one or two of the kids and that is the state the Liard school is in. As long as I can remember, when I first became elected back in the early 1970s, when most of you were just kids...

---Laughter

...no, I am just kidding, but one of the concerns even then was that Liard should have a new school. I remember it being on the list, so each year I would think, well, the government is going to build a school in Liard, but each year no school would be built. It would be dropped down on the list, I guess because there were so few kids at school, but now this has all changed and there is about 80 per cent attendance, so I think with this that the government ought to respond and provide the people of Liard with a new school. So, I am looking to having moneys provided in this years budget. I know Mr. Patterson toured the school extensively. He saw the crowdedness of the school and how old everything was and that they were using the dark recesses of the basement for workshops and classes. So I know he is convinced that Liard needs a new school and sort of hoping that together he and I -- since he is the honorary Member -- we can work toward providing Liard with a new school or at least start on it next summer -- start planning it and get the land ready and so forth.

Deh Cho Regional Meeting

Now, a very positive thing happened in our area last week and I am referring to the Deh Cho regional meeting. You may have heard about that. In the Deh Cho area we have communities right from Hay River. The Hay River reserve, the Dene band there, is part of our regional area. They come to all the meetings. Last week we held a meeting in Fort Simpson for two days and it has to be considered the best regional assembly ever held in our area in our long history. People from Wrigley, Liard, actually all the communities attended. Even persons from the village council -- the mayor attended. So, it was a very well attended meeting and just generally very good. I must give my thanks and appreciation and pay recognition to Mike Stilwell. He was mentioned earlier. He is now regional director of the Fort Smith area and welcomed very much. He helped financially and his local government officials were very helpful in our meetings last week.

I must say that part of the reason why we had such a good meeting was that the liquor outlets in Fort Simpson were shut down completely for two days and I must say that the band council made use of a new provision of the Liquor Ordinance which was passed by this Assembly last spring, where community band councils can apply to the NWT Liquor Licensing Board to shut down all outlets in a community when there are important meetings. So the band council did this and so did get the licensing board to shut down liquor outlets for two days and I am pleased to say

the results have been very beneficial. The meetings were well attended and everybody was very satisfied with that. I must say that there was a bit of concern expressed by the village council, not so much in that this was done, but it was done without their participation. So I met with the village council, as well as Mike Stilwell, and we agreed that for future meetings where it is desired that liquor outlets be closed that we ought to and will consult with the village councils, so that they are aware and supportive of these measures.

Deh Cho Regional Council

I must say that the Deh Cho Regional Council is in its very early formation. A constitution was passed and the people of the area look to me to have an ordinance -- Deh Cho Regional Council ordinance presented before you either this Assembly or the winter Assembly. So I look forward to being involved in that.

In regards to the types of things that our Deh Cho Regional Council dealt with -- we dealt with all sorts of things, such as the IPL. Some of you may know that Interprovincial Pipelines is interested in doing some pre-construction work earlier than what had been authorized by the federal government and the Deh Cho Regional Council did approve that IPL not be opposed in its application to start pre-construction work -- not to build a pipeline yet, but just to do the clearing, slashing and so forth...

---Applause

...but on certain conditions: that native people get 75 per cent of the jobs, native businesses get 75 per cent of the work and so forth, so it is not without a price, of course, and you would naturally expect this of any rational...

AN HON. MEMBER: Good capitalist.

MR. SIBBESTON: Right. There were also discussions about Cadillac Mines and a proposed grant. There was some talk about the federal government giving four million dollars, would you believe, to Cadillac Mines to help them with their winter road. Again, there was not opposition to it, except that the people in our area felt that the government ought to finish the road to Wrigley and then build one to Jean Marie River first. So if these are done, of course, there is no problem.

There was also a bit of concern at that meeting about pollution. It was asked of me that I seek from this government some money to have an independent study done of the extent and nature of pollution of both the Mackenzie and Liard Rivers. There was also at that meeting discussions about the joint needs assessments and such things as Mr. Wah-Shee's attempt to have a cultural policy drafted for the government. So, on the whole it was just a very worth-while undertaking and very positive in nature.

I must say that I met with the village council shortly before attending here and the village council does have some very real concerns. They are at the moment doing some research about whether they ought to revert back to a hamlet status. They are examining their status as a village council. They are also having some information provided to them to see the types of benefits, the types of capital moneys that could be provided to a place like Fort Simpson if they were a hamlet, because there is a feeling that hamlets get a whole bunch of money for all sorts of things and a poor little village council in Simpson with a small tax base has to struggle without sufficient funds to do what it is supposed to. So that is being considered. I must say that at the meeting we were at they raised a whole number of concerns and in the end it was decided that we ought to ask Mr. Wah-Shee and his deputy minister, Mr. Moore, to come to Fort Simpson sometime in December to deal with the village council about many of the concerns that they have.

Nat'senelu Society

I will not go on any longer. There are so many things that could be talked about. I just want to mention in passing about the Nat'senelu Society -- you will recall, in May, I raised the concerns of the Nat'senelu Society that they had made a presentation to the government but it was simply being ignored -- passed along from one government to the other, without any decision on it. I am pleased to say that both governments have responded. The Secretary of State, Indian Affairs, the honorary Member's department, the Department of Education is giving some money, so they are providing Nat'senelu Society with a few dollars -- not as much as they had wanted, but they are satisfied with the amount given. So it is very encouraging to see government respond when asked to. I notice Tom Butters smiling, so he must have been involved.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to this session, I look forward to receiving reports about all the wonderful changes that are likely to happen in the remainder of the life of this Assembly, with respect to this House here -- the decor, dress, and so forth. I look forward to dealing with the establishment of a boundaries commission. My constituency is very big. I do try to get around -- I frankly ran out of money around July -- to cover my area; so I have been skipping and counting on Ministers to come to visit their area so I can catch free rides.

People in Providence, in particular, are extremely anxious to have their own MLA, so I am anxious to have the boundaries commission set up so they definitely can have 25 Members. We should not leave it up to them to decide -- we ought to just say to the commission, "Suggest to us 25 seats."

I look forward to dealing with the education committee report. I believe that the report has received sufficient public discussion. When Mr. Patterson was over in our area we had extensive workshops and meetings about it in Fort Simpson, and I have had other meetings in the communities regarding it, so I feel sufficiently armed with information and my constituents' views to deal with it. So I look forward to being here the next few weeks, and thank you very much. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. For the matter of the record, Mr. Sibbeston was out of order on his address. However, inasmuch as I knew the text of what he was going to deal with, I allowed him to speak. Under Beauchesne, page 38 states, "The Speaker", his actions, "cannot be criticized incidentally in debate, or upon any form of proceedings, except by way of substantive motion." Erskine May: "Certain matters cannot be debated, save upon a substantive motion which admits of a distinct vote in the House. Among these are the conduct of various officials, including the Speaker."

So I would assume that Mr. Sibbeston's remarks with regard to the Clerk of this House were also out of order. However, to save time -- Mr. Sibbeston had these on his mind, I knew what he was going to say, basically, so I did not stop the speaker. I feel that every man has a right to speak; but, however, in the heat of debate, if somebody should rise, then I will use these rules and stop them from speaking. So I do not want it to become, by way of precedent, the rules of this House -- so that is the reason I am trying to explain it at this time. Are there any further replies to the Commissioner's Address?

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Commissioner would enter the ropes, I would like to ask him a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Is it agreed to invite the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner inside the ropes?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you join us, gentlemen, please? Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 4-82(3): Letter From Saputik Corporation, Payne Bay

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question for the Commissioner comes from Quebec, northern Quebec. I received a letter from people in northern Quebec. It is sort of a corporation, called the Saputik Corporation. They are from Payne Bay, in Quebec. They have asked me to express their concern to the Commissioner, in the House, and they said they had written to the Commissioner in September. I just wanted to know whether you received the letter from them, because I would like to talk on a topic, during our session, dealing with something in the letter that I received from them. They are talking about hunting in a place called Akputuk, an island in Ungava Bay. Have you received that letter, Mr. Commissioner?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have received that letter.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo, supplementary.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I am not sure what I am going to say about it, but is it my job or is it the job of the Executive Committee? I would like to know what action is going to be done about it, if you are going to deal with it?

MR. SPEAKER: Commissioner Parker.

Return To Question 4-82(3): Letter From Saputik Corporation, Payne Bay

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the opportunity to provide a written response which will deal with the letter from the people of Payne Bay, and explain what action this government either intends to take or cannot take; but I would like to provide a written statement in answer to this question.

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

Question 5-82(3): Executive Committee Meeting In Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question for either the Commissioner or Mr. Braden. I am wondering whether the Executive Committee would consider coming to Fort Simpson to hold one of their executive meetings in the next few months. They do travel to other portions of the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 5-82(3): Executive Committee Meeting In Fort Simpson

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for extending the invitation. It might be a bit difficult this year, in November and December, but I am certain that we would entertain such an invitation, possibly in the new year some time. I am sure Fort Simpson can accommodate us for a couple of days. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Last call, oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner.

Item 4, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 6-82(3): Assessment Of Housing Situation In Yellowknife

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a written question for the Minister responsible for housing. Will the Minister describe what steps have been taken by the Executive Committee to assess the severity of the housing situation in Yellowknife, what means have been examined to encourage the construction of rental accommodation and/or privately owned dwellings in Yellowknife, and finally, what measures if any have been decided upon? If the Executive Committee has decided not to take any such measures, will the Minister please explain why?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. There do not appear to be any further written questions. I do not presume there are any returns.

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 2-82(3), a letter which I received from some students at Akaitcho Hall. The Members maybe recall that at the session in Inuvik the honourable Member for Keewatin South, Mr. Curley, made some disparaging remarks about the Akaitcho Hall residence, which is in my constituency; and a letter from quite a number of the students was sent to me at that time, but unfortunately it did not reach me until we had left Inuvik, and so I would like to take the opportunity to table their response at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table Tabled Document 3-82(3), Northern Participation in Northern Energy Decision Making: The Policy and Planning Process, by Don Gamble. I received it in the mail just yesterday, and I find it a very powerful expression of concern with respect to energy decision making. I would like to table it, and commend it to all Members to read.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 4-82(3), An Ordinance to Incorporate the Keewatin Regional Council, this is a proposed ordinance and I would ask that the Executive Committee study the proposal and respond as quickly as possible to incorporate it into ordinance. Thank you.

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

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 5-82(3), a telex from the Keewatin Regional Education Authority, which is not incorporated, as far as the ordinance is concerned, giving its full support to the special committee on education by way of a motion during the recent Rankin Inlet meeting, October 26 to 29, 1982. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 4-82(3): Extension Of Sitting Hours

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Friday, November the 5th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin South, that notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Rules of this Assembly, that, during the present session, additional sittings be held on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mr. Speaker, because it is important to yourself and the administration of the Assembly to know specifically which days and how soon it is going to happen, I will ask for unanimous consent later today at the appropriate time.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a neat way of making your point, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 5-82(3): Extension On Replies To Commissioner's Address

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Friday, November 5th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that notwithstanding Rule 34, the period for replies to the Commissioner's Address be extended so that such replies may be presented throughout this session, and the appropriate item be shown daily on the orders of the day. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for unanimous consent to deal with this under motions.

MR. FRASER: No way.

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

Notice Of Motion 6-82(3): Baffin Region Education Society Witnesses

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 5th, Friday, I will move that guests from the Baffin Region Education Society be invited to participate in the debate on the special committee on education.

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

Notice Of Motion 7-82(3): Electoral Boundaries Commission

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Tuesday, November 9th, I will introduce the following motion, seconded by the honourable Member for the Central Arctic, that the Executive Committee introduce the necessary legislation at this session to allow the Commissioner to immediately appoint an Electoral Boundaries Commission to study the existing size and number of electoral districts, and to present its recommendations regarding any changes before the next session of the Assembly; and further, that the Executive Committee be requested to introduce legislation during the winter session, 1983, to implement the recommendations of the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Improbable.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion.

Item 9, motions. I do not think there are any motions ready for today. Those seeking unanimous consent.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker...

MR. FRASER: No way!

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...I would like to ask unanimous consent to deal with the morning sittings, as this motion was requested of me by caucus and so, therefore, I would like to proceed with it, if I can get unanimous consent.

MR. FRASER: No way, no way!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: It is fairly evident you are not going to have unanimous consent. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I would ask unanimous consent to deal with the notice of motion that I introduced earlier.

MR. FRASER: No way!

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: Okay.

MR. SPEAKER: Anybody else want to try it? Motions. That concludes motions for today.

Item 10, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 10: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 21-82(3): Council Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, the 8th of November, 1982, I shall move that Bill 21-82(3), An Ordinance to Amend the Council Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. This item appears to be concluded.

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

ITEM NO. 11: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS FOR FIRST READING

Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could get unanimous consent to move first reading of Bill 21-82(3)?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested. Do I hear any nays? Proceed, Mr. McCallum.

First Reading Of Bill 21-82(3): Council Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre that Bill 21-82(3), An Ordinance to Amend the Council Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. McCallum, there was a seconder on that, was there? Mr. Wah-Shee. Thank you. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 21-82(3) has had first reading.

---Carried

Any other bills for first reading today? /

Item 12, second reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 12: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the consent of the House to move second reading of Bill 21-82(3).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Would you indicate by raising your hand? Proceed, Mr. McCallum.

Second Reading Of Bill 21-82(3): Council Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that Bill 21-82(3), An Ordinance to Amend the Council Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the time limit for issuing a warrant pursuant to section 10 of the Council Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 21-82(3) has had second reading.

---Carried

Any other bills for second reading today? Item 13, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

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

Considering in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters, Tabled Document 1-82(3), report of the special committee on education. Mr. Fraser.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 1-82(3), LEARNING: TRADITION AND CHANGE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Tabled Document 1-82(3), Learning: Tradition and Change, the report by the special committee on education. Before I go into any report, I would like to recognize the Dene translators, communicators that are sitting in the galleries today, I think by a motion that was made by Mr. Sibbeston to bring in the Dene interpreters. I think they are all here in the chamber, if we could just recognize them.

---Applause

Could we go to one of the co-chairmen, whichever one wants to make some opening remarks.
Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee in Inuvik suggested and received the agreement of the rest of the Members in the Assembly that we would go through the recommendations one by one and explain any concerns and answer any questions that Members would have and we got as far as, I believe, number 14. So, it would be the committee's intention to continue with these recommendations where we left off in Inuvik and give Members the opportunity to ask detailed questions on each recommendation.

The other thing is that because there has been a time between that session and now, we have suggested perhaps we could start out by giving Members the opportunity again to make some general comments before we proceed with the individual recommendations again. Then after we have gone through all the recommendations, either in total or at least by section, then the committee would like to introduce motions to deal with the report and to gain some sort of approval or to finalize the debate during this session of the committee's recommendations. So that is basically the procedure and maybe Mr. Curley would like to add something to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Curley, would you care to add to those opening remarks?

MR. CURLEY: Yes. (Translation) I am going to speak in Inuktitut for a while, Mr. Chairman. Wherever we went, to all of the communities, we let it be known that there would be amendments to the Education Ordinance. We would like to hear what the communities have to say and what their feelings are on this and that is what I would like to hear about, if it is possible. We will try and do a better job on it. I do not think we would want to do it over a long range. We would like to find out how we can improve it and we would like to hear anybody's concerns about this report. If people would prepare before they make their speeches about their concerns it would be better, because then we would be in support of everybody. (Translation ends)

Mr. Chairman, I am looking forward to finally dealing with those recommendations. Although we have been delayed somewhat in dealing with those recommendations item by item, I believe we are finally going to get into this area. There is a possibility that we may want to deal with the main subject by subject areas, I do not know whether it would be appropriate to do that or not. Many of the Members may want to deal with all the 49 recommendations or whether they would be in favour of just dealing with the main subjects. I believe there were four major categories in these 49 recommendations. For instance, many of the administrative and structural changes are going to be difficult to deal with and the language and cultural programs may not be as contentious as some of the others -- and special services -- so I believe we may want some ideas from the other Members as to how they want to proceed with dealing with the recommendations.

I do not really have any major ideas for carrying out this process, but what I would just like to say is many of the communities in the areas, I believe, are looking forward to some of the changes and I would again like to state that I believe the task force has been busy trying to plan out a strategy for implementation, but as far as their progress or how successful they are, I really do not know. We may have to have the Minister report to us as to how his officials are experiencing the progress of the task force. There might be the possibility we may want to change the way the task force is operating -- whether or not, I do not know, but that will be one area that might want to be considered.

I believe in other provinces, like New Brunswick, when they did a major overhaul with their educational system in the remote areas of the province, that they did it with enthusiasm and support of the civil service and I think it is going to be important that we have that support. Unless we have the support of the civil service, it is not going to be possible to really see any of the major changes that regions are asking for and I think it is going to be exciting to compare that with how well the other provinces have dealt with the changes. I do not think we have to be antagonistic. I think we can do it professionally and reasonably. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I am uncertain as to how the committee wants to deal with these. Do we want to go into general comments on the recommendations or do we wish to start at recommendation 15? Mr. Butters.

Consultation With Constituents

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to accept the invitation of both co-chairmen to make a few remarks on the process which we might follow at this time. Members will recall that at Inuvik none of us here was able to really speak on behalf of his constituency because the document had not been available to the constituencies before being tabled. Therefore, there was no or little opportunity to get any indication from our constituents regarding concerns. So, I wonder if by way of process we could not go back to some of the elements that have already been discussed. As Mr. McLaughlin pointed out, I think we got to 14. I would suggest that we go back to the beginning. I think we can move over those areas very quickly, but by returning to the principles again and those 14 recommendations will allow those Members to make a contribution that they were not able to make before, since they had not consulted with their constituents. I would also suggest by way of process that as we come to each of the sections into which the report is divided, that we could make general comments on the particular initiatives and objectives being sought after in those sections, but that we do look at each of the individual recommendations and provide opportunity for Members to make comment when we arrive at them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. That is one Member's opinion. I cannot accept it unless it is the committee's wish that we follow that process, or should we -- Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, you know, it is the desire of the committee to make sure that each recommendation is dealt with by itself, so that Members can be assured...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...to have had the opportunity. So, we are certainly willing to allow Members to go back over those 14 again, if they want.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Is it agreed, then, that we go back? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, generally I like that idea. I think that the opportunity should be given immediately after coffee, if someone has a few general remarks again and then begin the procedure, recommendation by recommendation. I think that is very good.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Okay, we go back then to page 17, overview of recommendations. So, we will take a 15 minute coffee break and come back and we will start in on page 17, overview of recommendations. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Might we just take a quick look at page 14, because I have some comments I would like to reintroduce with regard to the principles?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it agreed that we go back to page 14? Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The committee is agreeable to having general comments made, so that would fit easily into that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): General comments. 15 minutes for coffee and we will come back on general comments. Mr. Smith, did you hear that?

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. We shall start off with Mr. Butters. General comments. Mr. Butters.

Standards Of Graduates Of Our Present System

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the opportunity to once again re-examine the goals as presented on page 14. I wonder whether, in the interim since we discussed these goals and objectives in Inuvik, whether Members of the committee have looked at

them and felt that maybe they could be broadened or maybe changed to more correctly describe what it is that they are seeking to achieve for the total system. I guess the major concern I have on this point that has been indicated to me by people in Inuvik, is that the objectives does not seem to reflect what is already an important element of our system, and that is that graduates of our system would be able to compete and to take jobs anywhere in Canada, and hopefully anywhere in the world. The objective for the system is just that it shall provide residents with opportunities for training to secure employment in the Northwest Territories.

A number of people who looked at the report obviously gave a lot of attention to the objectives, and there is a real concern and a real fear that this might signify a quantum leap backward from the education system which we currently enjoy. Some of the comments I heard with regard to the report suggested that the document seemed to be interlarded with comments raised by Members who had attended the meetings of the committee and expressed their opinions with regard to the current system of education, and in the main, the criticisms were critical of the current education system. A number of people that I talked to felt that without too much difficulty, you could collect a number of people's comments which would be approving of or complimentary of the existing system. Now, I am not saying that the existing system is not open for change, but what I am saying is that there is a feeling that the system may be a lot better than many people are currently giving it credit for; and speaking to the point of our students being able to compete in southern situations, we really have available to us a test tube situation in my constituency, because there is in Inuvik a defence base which has a very large staff with many dependants, dependants who attend the Inuvik schools, not only for two or three years, but probably would attend our schools three times during the term of service that their parents are put in the Northwest Territories. Interestingly, I have found that a number of members from the military group have questioned the standards of education being offered in the Northwest Territories, and I can recall these questions being raised as far back as 1964; and when an examination was made of the students who left the Northwest Territories to go to school in other jurisdictions in Canada or elsewhere, happily, and in some cases very surprisingly, they found the student equal to or maybe a little bit ahead of the students in these other jurisdictions. This situation, I think, prevails today. I think we have recognized that the students being taught in the Northwest Territories are receiving a quality of education that is comparable to and even better than that provided in many other Canadian jurisdictions.

So there was a fear, I guess, that the objectives here might signify, as I say, a quantum leap backward. Now, I told the people that raised this with me that I saw that this would not happen, that the Minister of Education, my colleague, Mr. Patterson, has assured many people -- has assured me -- that in no way would any move to implement certain aspects of this report -- or the report itself -- would diminish or depreciate or destroy the relatively high quality of education being offered in the North today. That is the only comment that I have on the principles. I guess I would ask Mr. McLaughlin or Mr. Curley whether or not they feel that it might be necessary to remove concerns by adding a few words to the principles to assure that a student who takes his education in the Northwest Territories will be as well educated as and as able to compete as any other student receiving their education in other jurisdictions of Canada, as currently is the case.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Before I ask for a reply to that, I think there was a motion made in Inuvik to set up a task force for implementations to this report, consisting of a chairman, Mr. Brian Lewis, who is not here right now; Joe Handley, from Winnipeg; Ethel Townsend, from Fort Providence; Bill Stapleton from Fort Smith; and Mark Cleveland from Frobisher Bay.

---Applause

Thank you. That is the task force to deal with this. They were appointed by the Minister of Education. Mr. Curley, would you care to respond to Mr. Butters' comments?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I certainly agree with Mr. Butters' statements. We certainly do not want to see the degrading of the present standards of education; I do not think that is our position at all. I think the reason that is there is because presently in the Northwest Territories our system does not always allow people to compete with all the various positions that are available within the community. If we look at the civil service, often we find civil service positions for which not many of our residents are qualified, because of their lack of educational achievements. Before we start competing in the whole of Canada, we are probably going to have to do better in our own area, and I think that is what we attempted to communicate in that principle, but if Mr. Butters would like, during the course of the recommendation, to correct that particular section, I think it would have a unanimous support in the committee here. Thank you.

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

Real Educational Problems Not Addressed In Report

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like very briefly to reiterate a concern that I expressed when I presented a brief to the special committee on education, and later when we first discussed these in the recommendations in Inuvik, and that is with respect to the type of report that I thought should be brought in, and finally, as compared to the type of report that was brought in. I see it not only as a fault, but also perhaps as a strategic error on the part of the committee, because I feel that they have run into difficulties, and will continue to run into difficulties with the report and subsequent legislation, because too often they have not dealt with the real issues of education, but on the one hand with what might be regarded as a peripheral issue -- and that is administration. Many of the recommendations tend to be in that direction and I can see that administration certainly can have an impact on substance, but I think rather there should have been another approach taken.

Also their recommendations deal in large measure with culture, which is very important, and ought to have been dealt with; but as I said, I feel that certain fundamental educational questions were not asked and answered. I feel if these had been addressed directly by the committee, questions such as, "Why are we bringing children together in a formal school setting? What do we hope to accomplish by doing that? When we bring them together, what should they be learning?" We could have given that direction in a general way. What standards do we expect them to achieve when they go through our educational system? What goals do we have in mind? If the committee had addressed very directly that kind of concern, I suppose that certain administrative changes would have become apparent in order to try to effect whatever was decided was important. But at that point, the committee with the support of the Assembly could have said, "This is what we want our educational system to be like. This is what we hope our youngsters will achieve when they have passed through our educational system. This is what we want it to be", and then turned those recommendations over to professionals to find ways to implement those recommendations to our satisfaction. I feel that has not been done as well as it should have been done, and that a lot of other things have been introduced that disperse people's thoughts and give targets for criticism and this kind of thing, and maybe drag away the attention of people from the real educational problems.

At any rate, we have the report, and we will deal with it as it is, and in looking at it again, and thinking about it over the summer, I still have deep-seated concerns about the possibility of winding up with a fractured curriculum across the Northwest Territories. I have fears about winding up with a very parochial or inward looking curriculum. I have fears that despite the good will of committee Members, and that has been expressed before and reiterated again just by Mr. Curley a few minutes ago, that the intention is not to erode standards at all. Despite that good will, I am afraid that we might get into a situation where that is what happens, whether we want it to happen or not. I have that concern, and I have a concern after reading the recommendations that although the Minister continues to have responsibility for curriculum and standards and so on, that I do not see yet the kind of mechanism in place that will enable the Minister to discharge that responsibility effectively. In other words, the kinds of officials or inspectorate or whatever is necessary in order to make sure that standards are maintained and that curriculum is enlightened curriculum, and so on. So as we go through the recommendations, and later in the legislation, I will be trying to make sure that amendments are brought in that will ensure these things.

Participation from Senior Public Servants

Briefly two other points. A little while ago, Mr. Curley expressed his thoughts about the importance of having support of public servants in the area of education. That ultimately is crucial to the success of what we are trying to do, and I agree that that is so. There is no question at all in my mind that support is always best gained through participation; that is what we are told with respect to resource development in the Territories, and a lot of other issues that arise in this Assembly, that people must have direct and full participation if you expect them to support whatever you are urging. I feel that we ought to have had that direct and full participation from the senior public servants who are engaged at the present time in education in the Northwest Territories. I believe that we have not given the opportunity for that full and direct participation, that in many instances, these people were ignored, not consulted. First of all make the observation that in effect the open participation of such people has been effectively blocked by virtue of the fact that the Minister of Education was

for a long period of time a Member of the special committee on education, and that made it virtually impossible for senior public servants in the area of education to express very frankly what they believe ought to be happening in education and how they view the report of the special committee on education. So I would ask Mr. Curley in a little while if he would explain how we can still secure that kind of input publicly so that we can hear it without causing embarrassment to those officials, which is a very difficult thing to do now. I do not know how it can be done, but I would like to hear how it can be done, and that leads me to one other matter as well.

Just a few minutes ago, the task force on education was mentioned. I understand that they have made a report. I recognize from the motion that was passed in Inuvik that they do not have an obligation to report to this Assembly, but rather to the Executive Committee; but I must say, in the interests of winding up with as good as possible an education system, I would like to know what these people have said about the recommendations to this point.

I heard Mr. Patterson say on the radio that he did not want to prejudice the debate -- I believe those were the words. In one sense, I could understand how that might have happened if the report was no more than the superficial opinions of people of the task force; because we have our opinions here, and we can wait to hear them; but if the task force has done some analysis on the recommendations, then I think that what they have had to say about them may very well be germane to what we are doing here. Consequently I would like to hear what they have to say. To deny that in a sense would be -- if someone said, "It should be denied," that would be sort of like the person who says, "Do not confuse me with the facts," you know. Now, I do not think that we want to make our recommendations apart from whatever facts can be gathered, and I would hope that the Minister of Education will table the report very soon, and trust the judgment of Members of this Assembly to take it in the total context and to trust also that we, as well as the committee, and yourself, are interested in improving our educational system, and in getting the best possible system that we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. McLaughlin will want to respond further to that, but I am curious as to the opening statements of Mr. MacQuarrie. He already has concluded, pretty well, that the committee will run into difficulty getting its report through the House, because of our strategy not being quite "in line with" his philosophy as to how things should be developed. I remember debating the issue of inquiry; why was it necessary to inquire into whole problem areas of the education in the Territories?

I think we could probably go back, then, to the earlier debates and find out why it was necessary to go to that extent, to inquire and consult with the ordinary people of the NWT. We have to accept the fact that for ordinary people in the community, who have no access to the education officials in Yellowknife like Mr. MacQuarrie does, the only way they can communicate effectively without being threatened by harassment or suppression, is through the Legislative Assembly process, political process. We have to give them that protection -- the teachers, parents, whoever. I remember when the committee first sat down, I raised the issue as to where we see the education direction likely to be heading the next few years, 10, 20 years from now. We debated that issue, and we pretty well concluded that where we were heading was much the same as any other provincial education; it was very important that the final choice on educational assistance we are providing for children is left to the community, to the parent and the student. So that is why I would disagree with Mr. MacQuarrie on his question, "Where do we want our children to be?" I do not think they can be legislated. I do not think the political process should dictate as to where the Commissioner's children should be in future. That is up to him and his children to decide and choose. What we are dealing with, I think, in this report, is how we want the people to be able to play a role in running the affairs in the school and education and at the same time, giving them the standards that are necessary to compete in the whole system. We did not, possibly, make this clear in the report, because we are dealing with, mainly, the mechanics of running the school curriculums and so on.

Minority Cultures In School Programs

Although I am probably going on repeating the same thing which we have said in Inuvik, I have faith in the educational system and this government, and the Ministers of the government, and this Assembly, that they will guide, that they will never compromise the standards of education. The culture and the language may be the problem; but, as far as the school boards are concerned, like the ones in Yellowknife, I think they are going to be able to protect the interests of their members in the community. I would hope that they will do that. I think we are mixing some of our philosophical differences as to how the present system should really be operating in the NWT. I concluded, pretty well, that the minority culture is really never going to dominate the educational system, even though these recommendations in the report are making it possible for the minority culture to help to provide maximum learning to the child. Not only do the native people have to learn the standards that are provided by the curriculum available through the present system, first of all they normally have to learn a second language. They have to learn all the various programs and requirements of the school. So we try to make it possible that our culture, the minority cultures may help the child to learn the subjects of the school. That may be something new, but I think it can help. I do not want to go too far.

Another point I want to make is that, somewhere along the line, I think this Legislative Assembly and its Members are going to have to set the first example to others, that we have to learn to trust each other. What we are doing, I think, in this report, is that we are not downgrading anything. You know, there have been many studies done by the Department of Education, for instance the internal document on education that was done by department officials. That was internal. It did not involve the people in the regions, in the communities, or local education committees. Yet the people did not create any uproar, or complain because of the fact that they were not involved. They just accepted and said to themselves, "Well, that is the way the government operates. We will take it as it is."

We went further through this process, where we try to communicate with anybody, including the senior officials of the government. You know, we are not going to convince Bob MacQuarrie, or some of maybe the civil servants in Yellowknife; but our people, our committee Members, our project director, have tried many, many times to communicate and try to brief them. These were informal, these were not documented, but they tried -- but the thing is, we try. We wanted to communicate, and we had a number of meetings with the deputy minister of Education. I remember meeting with him a number of times; in fact, we made it known to him that we want to co-operate, and we expect his co-operation. We had to stress that. I must say I have been disappointed, really, that we did not get much co-operation from the deputy minister of Education. He has not been enthusiastic to see that the recommendations of the report are really understood.

Legislature Has Final Authority

I do know that there has been a defensive position taken immediately, without really trying to understand the lower, short end of the stick, as far as the communities and the regions are concerned. I can understand that. I probably would be threatened too, if some inquiry went into my turf and tried to make recommendations contrary to what I had been doing. I probably would react the same as they are. But I must say any Legislature should have that final authority for developing certain principles and guidelines as to how the system should run. That is the rule of this Assembly, and your recommendations are going to help shape that, as to how education should run. We did not want to get into establishing a philosophy that is contrary to the Canadian system, Canadian society. That was because, after all, we are living in the Canadian society, where we, even myself, have to accept the standards that were not my own priority in the first place. I must put up with them, I must use them. We are making it possible for many of the smaller communities to not only be able to use the southern system, but they will incorporate it into their way of life, at the same time that their language and their culture are going to help reach that goal, and be able to compete, not only in the NWT, but throughout. We want to bring that confidence back to them. I think many of the smaller communities are in favour of that; but I do realize, through the report, that the Minister is going to have to have the final authority always. That is not going to be taken away. Maybe our Minister is not convincing enough sometimes, in communicating that he has the final authority in protecting the interests of the whole population of the NWT. I know, if I was Dennis Patterson, I would probably be a bit more political sometimes. As a Minister, he is a good administrator -- sincere and really dedicated to his work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley, your 10 minutes are up.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, unlike some of the other Members here, he is not as political as some of them are. In the political arena, in order to gain some credibility, sometimes it is necessary to take a political position. So far, Dennis Patterson has not taken advantage of that possibility. I am sure he will before too long. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must first thank Mr. Curley for paying me what I think many of my constituents would consider a compliment. I think sometimes politicians and political strategies are not seen in the best light; so I do not take offence at that, although I would always welcome advice on how I could better discharge my responsibilities. I will look forward to following this up with Mr. Curley.

Two Recommendations To Executive Committee

I would, Mr. Chairman, just like to try to reply to some of the comments, particularly in reference to the task force, and remind Members, first of all, that in the eighth session in Inuvik there were two recommendations to the Executive Committee: one that legislation be prepared before the next session -- that is, this session -- to enable changes to take place in the education system, taking into consideration the report and the debate held in committee of the whole during the Inuvik session; and, secondly, that a task force be appointed by me to monitor the action research projects of the committee, consult with NWT residents concerned with education matters, and advise the Executive Committee regarding proposed education legislation. These two motions were, I think, in some respects, a bit of a tough order, due to the fact that the debate in Inuvik only hinted at how the report would be treated by this Assembly. Also I was asked to take advice from a task force about legislation -- and yet, all at the same time, prepare legislation for this session.

Appointment Of Task Force To Implement Legislation

Let me say that the task force was appointed; and I would point out to Mr. MacQuarrie that the task force is chaired, by the deputy minister of Education. I think that whether or not the department was as fully involved in the preparation of the report as they might have been -- due to my participation in the committee -- I think it is fair to say that, by appointing the deputy minister to the task force which will implement the report, at least now the department can be seen to be very much involved in the implementation of the recommendations.

I must say that I had some anxious moments about conflicts between my membership in the committee and my holding a post on the Executive Committee. I know that Mr. MacQuarrie's colleague for Yellowknife South called for my resignation from that committee, at least once, in this House; but I had stated to this House, when I was given this responsibility of Minister of Education, that I felt it important that I follow through with my work on the special committee, that I felt it a very important way of familiarizing myself with the challenges of the job, and that, although there were possible conflicts, it was not unprecedented for an Executive Member to sit on a committee of this House. At any rate, I took that action, and I take responsibility for any limitations that were imposed on my staff as a result of that. I think we have now repaired that by having the deputy minister involved, and also having active working educational professionals in the NWT system on this task force, with the exception of Mr. Handley who, of course, brings the perspective of the research arm of the special committee to the work of this task force.

The task force has worked very hard over the three meetings since they were appointed, and I think, particularly recently, have worked very well together. They have prepared an action plan for responding to the report, changes which should be implemented in the near future, and changes which should be legislated. They have prepared for me a work plan as to what tasks need to be accomplished in the coming year to effect these changes, and what problems have to be solved. So although I have not prepared legislation as such, the task force report provides a very pragmatic action plan. I would like to say also that I have asked our legal advisers to the government to analyse the very comprehensive draft legislation prepared by the education committee which was tabled at our last session in Inuvik, to see how it might fit in with our existing legislative regime and existing government policies, and generally to provide me with comments on the suitability of that legislation.

Task Force Report Will Be Tabled After Translation

Now, I have today received the task force report. They have met over the last two days to finalize it with this session in mind, and I have submitted the report for translation. I have no difficulty at all with tabling their report at an appropriate time this session, but I must say that the Executive Committee will take its fundamental direction from this Assembly. The task force views are most valuable, coming from professional educators actively working in the field, but I would not want to give MLAs or the general public the impression that the government's response to the education report has already been determined, and that this task force report represents what will be done. The government will take its direction from the Assembly and my response to the task force recommendations will also be very much coloured by the Legislative Assembly debates. I have discussed this very issue with the members of the task force just this morning, and I think they accept this approach. They, I think, agreed with my suggestion that we should first get our teeth into this debate while we are awaiting the translation of the task force report.

I would ask that Mr. MacQuarrie wait for some time at least until MLAs can state their views and those of their constituents before I table this report. I will, naturally, as always, follow direction from the House on this, but I do feel that sometimes reports from experts can influence the way people think, and that it may well be advisable to approach this debate fresh, with views of our constituents and the public presented first before the task force report is tabled. So that is how I propose to proceed, and there is the matter of time for translation, anyway, which I think is a practical reason for holding off for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just respond briefly to a few of the comments that Mr. MacQuarrie made, and I realize that he put a lot of time into the submission that he gave to us, and it did question the basic values of why you have schools and why you have teachers and why you should learn anything. Several times after we had maybe already had about 10 public hearings, when a meeting did not get going too well, we asked people, "Do you really want to have a school here? Do you really think your kids should go to school?" I will tell you, and all of the Members of the committee that were at those public hearings will tell you, too, that the overwhelming response from all the communities was that people wanted to keep the school and their committee, they realized the value of education. The main concerns that they showed were that they did not know a lot of times what was really going on in their schools because of two reasons. A lot of them had not themselves gone to schools, or even in communities where most of the people had gone to a high level of education in school, they had no control over what was actually happening, and were concerned about that.

Competency Of Public To Be Given Local Control

That is why we have recommended a public awareness program for adults in the community as to what education is all about and what it could be. That is why we suggested that divisional school boards be created, so that people in the bush and barrens of the NWT, if you want to call it that, can have the same control over what happens in their school as the people in Yellowknife do, and like people do in the rest of Canada. After holding three meetings, now, regional meetings, on the south side of the lake, and with the representatives in the Central Arctic education regional committee and with the people in the Baffin, the debate that went on and the questions asked of those people remove any doubt I ever had about the competency of those people to run their own school boards. So there is no doubt in my mind that we can operate a system up here where the people have local control over their education. Once again, as I said in Inuvik, I trust that when the recommendations are implemented, the same mechanism to make sure that the Yellowknife school board follows the curriculum will be also applied to the eight new boards that we create.

Education Programs For Northern Jobs

I think the thrust mentioned earlier -- maybe we are taking a new thrust and heading off in a new direction, or maybe taking a quantum leap backwards -- is just not right. I think what we found is that people in the Northwest Territories could not understand -- and it came up several times, and some of the biggest comments were made on it by people in Yellowknife in the Department of Education and in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism -- that we had to do something to have northern people able to take all these northern jobs. The development of the Northwest Territories is leaping ahead all over the place, and northerners do not have the trades or qualifications to get those jobs. If -- and I hope we are not -- people seem to be worried about the academic status of our system, I am not worried that we have gone too far in that direction. I think we should maintain that high quality, and I think it has been proven that our students going through our academic programs who go down south do well. But what we want is for the other students who do not take the academic programs, who are now dropping out of the system, we want to have something for them, to keep them in the system and get an education so that they can take those jobs in Norman Wells and the Beaufort Sea that right now are being taken by people from other parts of Canada while our people are on unemployment and social welfare, or maybe even have not worked long enough to qualify for either of those two.

Submissions From School Staffs

As far as hearing from people within the system -- teachers -- we had lots of verbal submissions from teachers when we met with the staff in several of the schools. At the public hearings, teachers were just as outspoken as other residents were, and in fact, the deputy minister, early after the committee was formed, sent a letter to all the staff in the education system asking them to feel free to talk to the committee Members and tell us what they thought. I will tell you, we got our ears burnt by people within the system several times, and so I do not think that there was a problem there. The whole objective of the task force is to deal with the people concerned with education in the Northwest Territories -- all the groups -- and that certainly has to involve the teachers and the people in the headquarters and regional offices as to how these recommendations are going to be implemented.

Funding For Technical Programs

Further, Mr. Munro, at the recent caucus meeting, certainly agreed with us that something has got to be done in the way of an Arctic college type of concept in order to get northern people qualified to take these northern jobs. He also said, as all Members who were present will verify, I am sure, that we can re-examine the financial arrangements made between the federal government and our government in order to look again at the funds we might need if we feel that there are areas that should have been funded all along and have not been. We want to make up for that right now with some fast funding for two or three years to get some of these things which we do not presently have, like good special services and more technical programs to allow a lot of our students, especially in the small communities, to participate in the job programs that are developing in the Territories, and to make sure that people from the North can fill those jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, just a brief response to some of the points that were raised. First of all, with respect to Mr. Curley's comments, there is no way that I am suggesting that we legislate specific ends for individuals when talking about goals, but that we certainly can legislate to ensure alternatives and opportunities for those who wish to take advantage of them, and more could have been directed toward that end. Also, despite what has been said, I still feel that the committee did not take as much advantage as it could have and should have of the expertise of senior members of the educational administration. These, after all, are the people who rose to those positions because of their exceptional ability and knowledge...

MR. CURLEY: Like who? Let us hear it directly.

MR. MacQUARRIE: The people who headed up the department and who do head up the Department of Education. That is self-evident. I need not go any further into that, and I think that perhaps there were meetings to brief them, as somebody said, or to explain what was going on, or to elicit factual information, but not to draw on what was obviously...

MR. CURLEY: Substantiate it.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...a very important resource. It is difficult, since I was not privy to the meetings. As I said earlier, it is unfortunate that more of that input was not public.

With respect to Mr. Patterson's comments, I respect what you have said, and am willing to wait until an appropriate time to hear the task force report. My own opinion would be that an appropriate time is after we have discussed all the recommendations and tried to clarify them, and so on, and before we make binding decisions. At that point I would hope to hear what they have to say.

Power Of Divisional Boards To Create Curriculum

Then, with respect to Mr. McLaughlin's comments, I would like to make it clear that I have no problem at all with placing the administration of education in the hands of local school boards. That is a tradition in Canada, and it is one that has a great deal of merit and probably should have been done here long ago, but the recommendations go beyond that. Mr. McLaughlin at one point said, "All of the boards, just as the Yellowknife school boards are expected to follow the curriculum, would be expected to follow it." But the way I read the recommendations, the new divisional boards would not just be following curriculum but creating curriculum, and that is a new and different problem, and one that has significant implications, and one that I would want to examine very thoroughly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Any further comments of a general nature? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to indicate here that it would help to have these accusations substantiated -- the fact that the government civil service or the teachers in the region have not contributed or were not involved. That is really a cheap shot at the work of the committee. In no way were the committee or any of the people involved trying to limit the involvement -- after all, this was not an internal housekeeping job. The civil service is not able to carry out a territorial-wide political inquiry -- as much as they may like to -- maybe the deputy minister would have wanted to do that, but he is not a politician; he does not have that privilege as the Members of this House have. If he wants to, I say he should run against you, and maybe it is about time you voluntarily stepped down so that you make some opportunities to be engaged in the political process.

I am getting tired of being told that we attempted by design to limit the involvement of the civil servants -- never in my lifetime, never in the life of my co-chairman or the Minister. So if there is evidence to support what the Member says, I say he should make it known. I say that the only way that he can prove what he is saying is by actually providing evidence to substantiate his assertions. Otherwise, it is just going to be hearsay; he is trying to protect something which we do not know about. I would indicate to him he should make it known, and clear, so we understand exactly what his problem is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, once again we seem to be having an educational process for Mr. MacQuarrie. Many of his comments were similar to the ones he made in May and I would like to recommend that we begin to deal particularly with the recommendations and perhaps in going over them his fears will be alleviated.

Success Rate Of Native Children Is Low

One of the things that Mr. MacQuarrie, not being a long-time northern resident, might not know is that the parents of the people who are receiving education were not asked in the first place what kind of educational system would be best for their children. I believe that what we have to do is look at the system, look at the success rate. I do not believe that we can be totally happy with the success rate. Perhaps in the non-native sector you are able to adapt and move ahead with a large percentage of the ones who first enter school at grade one and finish grade 12, but these young children of this ethnic group or non-ethnic group, whatever we call them -- "others", I guess -- I do not believe that they will ever not be successful in the present system, but at the same time we have to realize that the majority of native children are not making it and the success rate is very low. I guess perhaps Mr. MacQuarrie feels that the success rate or the numbers and percentages that are presently completing grade 12 are quite satisfactory, because apparently we are a primitive native group and what little we are able to achieve is quite stupendous. But you have to realize that people are capable of much more if they are given the environment where they can co-exist in the system of assimilation and if you do not assimilate then, of course you do not fit in. So we are spending a lot of time with our young people trying to make them over again before they even start learning the academic nature of the system they are in. So you have to realize that maybe you do not believe it or maybe you are apprehensive about it, but I would like to plead with you that if you give some responsibility to the community and to the regional authorities, you will find that they will really not make any more mistakes than are presently being made. They will probably get more children through the system, because they will feel that they are a part of it and they can make the changes that are necessary to encourage their children to participate and go on.

Right now we are picking up the pieces, putting a few band-aids on the system, and if you are happy with that -- well, as a Member of the education committee, I am not happy with the band-aid treatment. Maybe "Learning: Tradition and Change" does advocate a lot of changes that may be fearful or you may think that the people are not capable of handling that extra responsibility. Certainly, I feel when we have been discussing the education report in the last few months within the communities, when I have met with them, for some reason they have a fear that they will not be able to do anything or they have a fear that, gee, the white guys really did a good job and they can keep it together, so what can we do. That is always put on to the communities. You have to take care of every little detail in order for you to participate, even to the fear of throwing at them that they have to organize the financial capability to carry out that change, and that is going on and on.

Teachers Voicing Discontent

As for the teachers, I would like you to name at least five teachers who are discontented, who did not have a chance to be heard individually and why they were not able to be heard. Certainly, with our group, we were always open to people who wanted to participate in improving the bureaucracy. The meetings were open. I do not remember any closed meetings and I think it would serve a lot better for us if you could name maybe five people individually who felt that they were not able to voice their opinion and to what degree they felt left out and to what degree you feel they were stopped from voicing their opinion and giving advice.

Particularly, I have experienced the educational system myself. I do not need a lot of people to tell me anything about it and a lot of the parents do not need anyone to tell them about it, particularly from their experience. After all, you have to recognize the educational system is supposed to serve the children, not the bureaucracy, and not the teachers. If we have not got a success rate, then it is not the children who are to blame, because certainly they have no influence over the system; it is not the parents to blame, because they have no influence over the system, and we are trying to change that. There will be mistakes made. People are not always going to make the right decisions, but in making those decisions, if they fail, they will know where they fail.

The Northwest Territories is broad, it is different, the regions have different opinions and are at different stages of development and they have to grow. You do not have to pull the whole guts of the Northwest Territories if one region wants to do something and they make slightly different decisions than another region. Certainly, Mr. MacQuarrie, I feel that we have a Minister of Education and I think we have got criteria and standards that we have to function under no matter what. Those criteria and functions should not have to be detailed and outlined, because that is the general rule that we have to follow and all the changes are taking place to enhance that, to do a better job, and also to allow the communities to respond, make their mistakes, and act on behalf of their children. The teachers and the bureaucracy should be happy to respond to that kind of direction.

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

Praise For The Recommendations

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I do not have much to comment on, but the recommendations of the special committee on education have made me feel that I am here and alive. We know that it will satisfy the people in the outpost camps a little bit more in following their traditional way of life and the recommendations will help our future.

Bob MacQuarrie mentioned that there was no educated person when these recommendations were being made and I do not believe him. The special committee on education visited the communities and asked the people that are knowledgeable on their children's schools. It has been mentioned here in the recommendations and I am very pleased with it. The people of my constituency were very happy about the recommendations that came from my constituency. They would like to be able to do the job that they know and that they have learned. They mentioned that they would be able to do the jobs that they know, following the recommendations, if the recommendations are passed and implemented.

We are going to be asking what every little bit of every recommendation means and we should be asking about that and get clarification. I know that these recommendations come from people who know what they are talking about, because they come from the communities. I feel that the recommendations are good the way that they are, because they are going to give the aboriginal people their goals. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Any further comments? Is it the wish that we go to the recommendations, then?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

---Agreed

Recommendation One

Starting from number one. Recommendation one, page 18. Do you want to start with general comments or just move each recommendation? What is the wish of the committee? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I think, Mr. Chairman, it was not the intention to move the recommendations right now but to see whether there was any further discussion with respect to them and just move through them in that way. That was my understanding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Any further questions on recommendation one? Agreed? Just discuss each one? Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, I do have some comments regarding the first recommendation. I am not opposed to it, but I just want to make a change or an addition to the recommendation, to establish 10 divisional boards. Is this the right time now to make these changes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We are not moving the recommendations right now. We are just asking for any further questions, so if there are further recommendations -- Mr. Butters, on recommendation one.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Possibly my comment might be raised under the Arctic college, but I would not want this recommendation to go by without noting the fact that the 10 divisional boards, as recommended in this recommendation, would only include from kindergarten to grade 10. I would suggest that that concept requires a great deal of discussion and I think we should say kindergarten to grade 12, where appropriate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Any further questions on recommendation one? Mr. Sibbeston.

Names For Divisional Boards

MR. SIBBESTON: Just a general comment. I notice in naming the 10 school divisions that there is not very much originality in terms of naming them. In our area there is southwest and northwest and so forth. They are pretty stale and unimaginative type names. Are there going to be much more meaningful names given to these boards do you think, because I have a suggestion for our area that it ought to be called Deh Cho divisional board or something of that nature? So, I am wondering what some of the Members feel about this, whether it was simply an attempt to be non-political or non-controversial, so just name them in the normal English way. Maybe some of the Inuit Members will be wanting to name their divisional boards in the Inuit language and I know I do.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although some suggestions were made in the report on page 44 about the titles of these recommendations, I certainly do not see that the ones we have suggested here would be the final titles of the divisional boards. I would think where the Minister has come forth with the bill to establish the divisional boards, then it is really up to him and the region, particular region, to give a title to a particular school division. So, I would think that that really has nothing to do with the committee, because the region and the Minister should settle that amongst themselves. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Butters, go ahead.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the co-chairman's comments and again on recommendation one I would suggest that the recommendation as provided to us should not read "The Minister of Education shall delegate...", but, "The Minister of Education may delegate...", and I think that is in keeping with the assurances which the co-chairman just provided us.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thanks, Mr. Chairman. Just further to Mr. Butters' and Mr. Sibbeston's comments, I certainly agree fully that the names are probably our smallest problem in implementing this report and I would be delighted to see an appropriate name chosen by residents of any area for a divisional board.

Assuming Divisional Board Status

I would like to say that I agree with Mr. Butters that there is an element that suggests that divisional boards will be forced on people, through the use of the word "shall". I have been around, I think, most parts of the Territories since Inuvik and it is clear to me that some areas are very eager to take on divisional board status and divisional board type of responsibilities, but it is also clear that some areas are not necessarily opposed, but cautious and hesitant and some feel unprepared. I certainly got that message clearly in the Hon. Mr. Butters' constituency when I attended a meeting of regional education chairpersons, who said they wanted more time to think about this idea, that they had not had the opportunity in the past to work together on a regional basis as much as, perhaps, other areas and they wanted more time to consider it. So I feel that there should be a process developed which would allow regional committees to apply to assume divisional board status, similarly to the way we now allow committees to petition for society status and that the Minister should be satisfied that there is willingness and readiness to create such a board before that is done. So I think the point is well taken and I think it has been confirmed by my discussions in various regions. Thank you.

Recommendation Six

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Are there any further questions on recommendation one? Recommendation two? Recommendation three? Recommendation four? Recommendation five? Recommendation six? Mr. Evaluarjuk, recommendation six.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I would like somebody from the committee to clarify for me. Some of the communities we were not able to visit, like Hall Beach, had a concern on recommendation six; but the other communities were clear on that. Maybe if we can have this in the record, the reply to my question could be understood.

Some people feel that if a child is four years old they have to go to school, and some of the communities had a concern on recommendation six, but most of the communities did not have any concerns. Maybe somebody from the special committee on education can clarify that it is not compulsory for a four year old to go to school. Or is it compulsory? I would like some clarification for my constituency from the committee. Thank you.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I will make my response in this way. School will start when the child is four years old. The point is that a child who turns four in January will not be able to go to school for a whole year. So that was a problem, and that was the concern by the communities, and so the people were against it.

If the local communities do not want their children to start school when they are four years old, then the parents can certainly make the decision in the local area. If the parents do want their children to go to school when the children are four, that will also be up to them. That is up to the parents. Even if the children were not to go to school and if it would be better for them not to go to school until they are five, then that is up to the parents.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I think the Member understands. His question is answered. Recommendation six, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will speak to recommendation six, Mr. Chairman, but I would also like to return to number three. You are moving quite quickly. On recommendation six, I just wonder on what research basis this recommendation has been made. Were the committee Members assured that opening kindergarten to youngsters of a very young age would not create some type of trauma which might affect them through the school term? Are they absolutely sure, in their own minds, and from the research they have examined, that leaving the home situation, the family situation, at a very young age, will not be damaging to them later on in their academic life?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I think, Mr. Chairman, when the committee made this recommendation it was in response to requests from several communities that the children be allowed to attend kindergarten at the age of four years. In considering those requests, we did, as well as we could, take advantage of the resource people we had, and ask them what happened, and what the theory was about this. The theory is one of those things like is it better to have a benevolent dictator or an august body like this deciding what should happen in the future? It is one of those questions that you could debate forever. There is a school of thought that four would be too young. In other cases, a lot of people thought that four was all right. Primarily, the best advice we got was that it has a lot to do with the individual child's situation, and where they are at, and also has mostly to do with what will actually be taught in those kindergarten classes.

Two Levels Of Kindergarten

I think, in Inuvik, I mentioned that in a lot of cases what might happen in the end, if this process goes on, is we might end up having to have two levels of kindergarten, a first year and a second year program, and the first year program might have to be lighter. It could even turn into the preschool or day care situation that was also requested in several communities. The answer really is that there is debate in the professional field, about how young a person should attend a school, and what they should specifically take.

I think what we responded to was the practical problem that in fact, in several communities in the Northwest Territories, four year olds are attending the schools. We felt that where the parents wanted it, the teachers and the principal felt it was all right, and the system could accommodate the children, we would amend the legislation to allow that to continue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Curley, do you want to respond to that?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think what we should also remember is the fact that education at the present time in the NWT is not compulsory. We did not tinker with that at all, the fact that it is still not compulsory to send your children through the school system. I remember specifically, in Eskimo Point for instance, many of the parents were concerned that many of their four year olds, who were going to be five years old by January or something, will not be able to enter into a kindergarten program. So they felt that that particular section was important enough to be amended, so that those kids that are going to reach age five during the course of

the school year should be given an opportunity to enter as a part of the class of kindergarten, right at the beginning of the session. So that was one area that we felt was responding to some of the communities' concerns. I take pleasure, though, that education, sending kids to schools, is not compulsory, and therefore parents, I think, would not have to send their children, unless they really want to send them to kindergarten. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, I look at the recommendation and wonder whether the word "shall" is a little too strong, in view of the remarks by both co-chairmen of the committee. Am I correct in believing then, that under this present recommendation a child could enter kindergarten at age four, then could enter grade one at five years of age?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Right now, as far as I know, it is compulsory for children to attend school when they are six years of age. It is not compulsory to go to kindergarten at all.

MR. MacQUARRIE: An in-depth analysis.

Financial Burden May Be Considered

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Right. So the thing is, I think we responded to a practical problem, that there are children four years of age attending some of the schools, and there is a desire in several communities that that should continue, or begin, in their communities. We really feel that if it is acceptable to the Minister, and there is some sort of a decent program for those children and staff in the school to accommodate them -- in other words, if there were only six children going to kindergarten, if one or two more come in these small communities, it is not going to be an added financial burden on the territorial government.

We do realize that if it becomes a situation across the Territories where everybody demands this, then it is going to be a financial consideration. The Minister may have to say, "We cannot allow you to do that right now until we find the funds." Basically, we have just agreed that where the parents and where the teacher and the principal involved feel that the child is mature enough to attend the classes, and it would not cause harm to the rest of the children by delaying them because they might have advanced further, then we would allow it to go ahead.

I think on this question, you can say whatever you want on it. The committee, when we looked into it, was fully aware that there are schools of thought that say you should not put four year olds in school. There are schools of thought that say you should. What we have done is just recommended that we go along with the existing situation -- it is that in some cases where there are four year olds in the schools we do not want to put them or their parents in jail or penalize them in any way. One thing in a lot of these small communities is trying to encourage people to send their children to school is a good problem, and it just did not make sense to us when parents wanted to send their kids to school, that we should tell them "No", especially in communities where we were having a heck of a time getting the attendance up to start with.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just a supplementary comment, then. From the responses that I received to my questions, I would assume that the committee Members feel no more strongly about allowing students of four years to enter kindergarten than they would to implementing a good community preschool program or a home training program such as is current in Alberta. I have no further questions on six, sir.

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

Recommendation Four

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to recommendation four, where it says "All educational staff working in the communities shall be employees of the divisional boards of education." I take it when we are saying "all educational staff", we are talking about teachers as well. Is that correct? To say that all educational staff, including teachers, be employees of the divisional boards of education. I guess my question, then, is would they be public servants under the Public Service Association or Northwest Territories Teachers' /

Association, if you like, as the case may be, or would they be excluded? We have two pieces of legislation being proposed and there may be some conflict with that recommendation and with the legislation that is being proposed.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the committee discussed this in detail, before we made the recommendations, we definitely wanted to have the teachers be employees of the school board, just like they are in Yellowknife. This would allow them still, of course, to be members of the NWTTA as the teachers in Yellowknife are.

As far as being in the PSA, that would probably be something that we would want to phase out. These people would be employees of the individual school boards and would negotiate their wage package with that board, but there are other systems that could be considered in the implementation of this. In Saskatchewan, where they apparently negotiate provincially-wide on the basic package, each individual board negotiates its own individual northern isolation allowances because some communities have different housing problems. So as to exactly how it is implemented would be up to the task force. But it is definitely our opinion that the teachers should be employees of the individual boards, that they should remain in the NWTTA, just like the Yellowknife teachers are, but I think the ultimate objective would be to phase out the PSA. Maybe if something could be done similar to what was done in Saskatchewan, that would not be necessary.

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

Compulsory Education

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, just a point of information for the co-chairman who, with the assistance of senior officials in the Department of Education, made an exhaustive analysis of the system. I am looking at the Education Ordinance, section 96(1), students, "In this section child means a person who on the 31st day of December of an academic year was between the ages of six and 15 years, inclusive", and subsection (2), "Except as provided in this section, every parent, guardian or other person having charge of a child shall cause the child to attend school during the academic year in which the child is resident in an education district". So, for Mr. Curley's information, the situation presently is that education is compulsory.

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

MR. CURLEY: Yes. I am aware of that, but there are no teeth in that to back it up in any way, shape or form. It is just a good written provision in there, but no way to implement it.

Mr. Chairman, further to Arnold McCallum's response, we did deal with that one time in Edmonton when we met with the lawyer who was drafting the proposed ordinance regarding the Department of Education. As far as the Northwest Territories teachers are concerned, we felt this was going to have to be the responsibility of the Minister and the union to settle eventually. In our report, on page 51, I would just like to quote the present reference to that. It says that: "At present, Yellowknife Education Districts No. 1 and No. 2 are the only educational units in the Northwest Territories controlled by elected boards. All of their staff are employed by the two districts, but these employees belong to the same professional association as other teachers in the Northwest Territories. It is our intention that any rights or privileges gained through the collective bargaining process not be violated, and that wherever change is necessary because of our recommendations, the co-operation of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association will be sought."

Further to that statement, we did conclude eventually that the Minister would have to, if the report is finally approved, have a continuing working relationship in trying to find ways to come to an agreement, which there must be. I remember discussing that with the Members of the committee, that I think the teachers' association is in favour that there should continue to be one union and that the union would negotiate with the school boards in the regions and we felt that we could not make a definite recommendation at that time, but leave it up to the Minister and the union eventually to settle the appropriate way to handle that. Thank you.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong the debate. I just wanted it recognized that that may be a difficulty with that particular recommendation, notwithstanding what has been said. I fully understand that the teaching personnel or the education staff of the Yellowknife Education Districts No. 1 and No. 2 at present are employees of those districts. The point is that other teachers in the Territories outside of those two districts are public servants. That is the exact point, and they use the NWTTA as a negotiating agent in negotiating their conditions, but they are public servants and I just raise it. I do not want to prolong any argument. I just want to make sure that the committee is aware of it.

May I at the same time, Mr. Chairman, simply indicate that I think a lot of the concerns that may be talked about here or raised are raised because of the connotation to the recommendations where it says they "shall be" -- the use of the word "shall". I think reference has already been indicated that it should be "may". I understand full well the situation about kindergarten ages, because it was explained very well in Inuvik, at least to my satisfaction. It is the business of "shall"; I think it is not that these things shall occur but that they may be allowed. I think that is the difficulty in a lot of the recommendations that we are talking about; in most all of them the verb "shall" is being used and that means they are to be.

Now, I recognized when we were in Inuvik that there was a consideration by the Minister, as well as the chairman, that it would be changed to allow it -- it may be allowed. I think if we get away from that, looking at the recommendations, in the terminology that they are put before us, where there would be a change in the term "shall be", to there "may be", then I think we would be able to move along with some of them. A lot of these recommendations have been discussed to a great extent previously.

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

Clear Recommendations To The Minister

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can understand the concerns of some of the Members with the word "shall". When I am on the other end of the stick, I remember, dealing with the proposed legislation of the government that you people normally introduce, in order to get things done you always include the word "shall". When you want to receive and collect taxes you must state that the Minister "shall" so and so, in order to achieve what you want. That was somewhat behind this particular word, that in order to ensure that the legislation be changed to that effect at the moment, the Minister must be given clear recommendations and when it is time for him to introduce the legislation, which the government's legislation committee no doubt will have an input into, they may likely change the word "shall" to "may". But at this moment, in this stage of the report, I think that in order to get any assurance that the Minister will take certain actions, that we must try to present him with the maximum influence in getting that change into effect. I think that is why we are using that word "shall", but it would be important, though, to compare that with the actual legislative document that we have tabled, as to exactly what kind of wording they do have. They could probably be consistent with that wording, but I would have to check that. Thank you.

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

Submission From NWTTA

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, I still want to go back to recommendation three, but on recommendation four, with regard to the NWTTA and the collective bargaining approach, which Mr. McLaughlin has described, before I ask my question, on May the 18th a telegram was sent, I think, to this Assembly, by Christopher Reid, regarding the position of the NWTTA supporting in principle the committee's report, but they had a number of contingencies which they wished to have addressed. I have not seen any follow-up from the NWTTA reflecting their reaction to the report. Has such ever been produced or been received by either committee Members or any Members of this committee of the House?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: I made inquiry with respect to that perhaps a week ago and I am informed that it is on the way. We should be receiving it, hopefully, in a day or two days or whatever. It is on the way.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think that the NWTTA should be informed that response is not very helpful. They had the report in May and they knew it was going to be discussed as the first order of business at this Assembly. They knew the date of this Assembly and I think it is regrettable that their statement is not before us at the present time.

I understand how the two co-chairmen have indicated that the collective bargaining approach would continue much along the same lines as is the case with Education Districts No. 1 and No. 2 in Yellowknife. I guess if such is the case, then the current mobility which is permitted within the Northwest Territories would be protected and maintained within the profession, moving from settlement to settlement, and that any benefits or pension rights or any other things that have been obtained through the collective bargaining process by the total group would also be protected. I understand that Members have said that, but I just wish to be assured that that is the case.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. I guess you will wait until tomorrow for your answer. It is 6:00 o'clock and before I leave the chair I would like to recognize a past Member, Mr. Richard Whitford. Do not keep coming back, though, Richard. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 1-82(3), LEARNING: TRADITION AND CHANGE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-82(3), Report of the Special Committee on Education, and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please. Sorry, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, just a quick point of privilege, if I may, Mr. Speaker. I would like to correct some factual errors that I made yesterday in my reply to the Commissioner's Address concerning the CBC; mainly that a CBC North film crew has only travelled once to Frobisher Bay, not twice as I had said and, secondly, they have not yet this year doubled the length of the series "Tarqravut", although I am informed they plan to do so next year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Announcements for Thursday, November 4th. The standing committee on legislation will meet in Katimavik A at 9:00 a.m., the Members' Services Board will meet in Room 211 at 12:00 noon.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, 1:00 p.m., Thursday, November 4.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to the 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 1-82(3); Bill 21-82(3)
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., November the 4th.

---ADJOURNMENT

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