



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1982

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, 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. Richard Nerysoo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Hon. Kane Tologanak, Hon. James Wah-Shee

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Fraser): Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Are there any replies?

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

Ms Cournoyea.

Ms Cournoyea's Reply

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I just need a few minutes to rearrange the workload of paper here. Mr. Speaker, it has been the experience of this Legislative Assembly to have a number of people spend many, many hours talking about the lack of tradition within this Assembly, and the lack of northern element in the decoration and the way that we conduct our business in this House, and unfortunately the honourable colleague, Mr. Commissioner, is not available today -- Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. CURLEY: The Commissioner.

MS COURNOYEA: No, the honourable Member who normally takes part in the lengthy debate about how our House is run is not present today, and I feel rather sad about that. I guess, from this side of the House, we have often had some differences of opinion -- what traditional dress is, and, Mr. Speaker, if I could take a couple of minutes I would like to put on a garment -- rather than take one off...

---Laughter

...and we have gone through a great deal of difficulty to bring to you what we consider something that was really traditional a long time ago. It is an item that was used between Melville Island and Sachs Harbour -- and is not in the best interest of comfort to have to use an item such as this in a warm climate like this and, with due respect to my other colleagues on this side of the floor, I certainly admire some of the statements in regard to the inefficiency of such garments in this environment. So, Mr. Speaker, I will take a few minutes -- my speech is rather long, and in the past I have tried not to be too lengthy -- I hope I can survive the time that I take to read my speech. So, in all due respect to everyone here, I probably will suffer through this more than you will.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: She is buried.

MRS. SORENSEN: Kill it.

MS COURNOYEA: Mind you, I was going to walk around Yellowknife the other day with this very nice, beautiful, northern fashion. However, I was worried about what one might do to me. So I would invite you, later on, -- and anyone else who would wish to try on the garment -- because it is not as heavy as it appears, and it is a bit big, so...

MR. PUDLUK: From this side, you look more like a monkey.

MS COURNOYEA: Well, some people would often say, whether I had the coat on or not, I probably would be one -- but I am having a bit of difficulty seeing the paper, so...

---Laughter

...so I will try to do the best I can in reply to the Commissioner.

Land Rights

So, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Commissioner, the first topic I would like to talk about is land rights, and to say that for some time there has been considerable doubt in the minds of the residents of the Northwest Territories that the federal government was not treating the negotiations of the land claims seriously. After prodigious amounts of work on the part of negotiators and native groups, when agreements were reached and signed the federal government appeared to treat them with contempt, and the very credibility of the negotiating process has continually been jeopardized, and this has been going on for a number of years. In respect to the Inuvialuit land claims, I interpret the appointment of this particular federal negotiator as a signal that the government is perhaps at last serious about settling this long outstanding claim.

---Applause

My view is that the settlement of the Inuvialuit claim could well give renewed confidence on the part of other groups to proceed expeditiously to the just settlement of their outstanding claims. There has been a lot of emotional talk about the question of overlapping claims, and in my judgment in most cases it is just more smoke than fire. In the interest of native groups themselves, who are each pursuing their separate land claims settlement, I believe that they should each use their good offices to co-operate with each other, to resolve these issues among themselves as quickly as possible. I believe it is to be in their best interest -- and in the interest of this government -- to have such resolutions between the native groups themselves, as quickly as possible, and I would call upon this government and its officials not to overreact to issues, to impede or frustrate the settlement of claims -- either in the specific, or generally. It is getting hot.

---Laughter

Control Of Health Services In The Regions

In regard to the health studies, Mr. Commissioner, we have noted that in your Address you give reference to the recent Inuvik regional health study. You draw attention to the report recommendations, and most particularly those suggesting increased local control of the health service and transfer of services to the responsibility of the territorial government. Where we find no objection in principle to the transfer of the health services to the territorial government, we are cognizant of the fact that the issue raised was not one that was very popular in the communities of the region. It was also given the second lowest priority by delegates to the September meeting on that report. The provision of social service in the region by the territorial government, of health and social services, has not shown itself particularly responsive to local initiatives. That department is the same one that would govern a proposed territorial health service. It is therefore imperative that any transfer of health services in the regions be carried out with full guarantees to the people of the regions that they will have control of their health services.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MS COURNOYEA: Any initiative by the territorial government to take over health services must unquestionably be accompanied by direct consultations and negotiation with the native organizations in the regions, as well as with local governments.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: The past century has seen the native health services of southern Canada being increasingly caught between federal and provincial jurisdiction. The service is unresponsive, unrepresentative, and inadequate. From the outset, we must ensure that there is not room for such a situation to develop here in the North. It is therefore of the utmost importance, that the needs and wishes of the native organizations of the region be fully represented in any takeover of initiative.

Adequate Staffing Prior To Takeover

The completed health study report was published five months ago. Among other things, the report was inspired by inadequate staffing practices by the health service. Since that report was made public, we have again seen staffing and financing crises in the Inuvik region. As a pre-condition to any territorial takeover, the federal government must clearly understand that it has a responsibility to bring its staff up to their proper working level. The territorial government must unequivocally demand that the federal government live up to that responsibility. It is pointless for our territorial government to even consider taking over a service that the federal government is running down. The service must be brought up to a standard prior to the takeover. There may be ways that the federal government may assist, as well as insist, with this process. One way would be through the provision of increased resources for health education. It might also increase the assistance in the nativization of some parts of the service. This latter suggestion might probably be carried out in co-operation with a native organization.

People In Inuvik Region Justifiably Cautious Toward Health Study

My final comment concerning the Inuvik health study, Mr. Commissioner, is that if priorities in the region are to be governed by the local people, then the process must begin now and although the people of the region have not rejected the takeover of their health service by the territorial government, they have not given it the priority that either the report or the Department of Health and Social Services has. The people are justifiably cautious. Their priorities lie far more with having a locally controlled nativized and responsive health service than with having a territorial health service. It is only by showing that the territorial government can be responsive for these health issues that the takeover can be justified.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: There remains very much yet to be done before a territorial health service can be countenanced.

Taxation Exemptions For Hunters And Trappers Should Be Pursued

Once again, Mr. Commissioner, I am amazed at the vigor this government expends in pursuing taxation exemptions, which mainly benefit the public service employees, while virtually no energy goes into the hunters' and trappers' need to have a comparable benefit extended to them by virtue of our political process. Perhaps this reflects that our political process is comprised of public servants, as opposed to trappers, and maybe what we need are a few more trappers in the public process. It is my view of the responsibility of our government to expend its energies in the direction of the greatest need and I feel that is the hunters and trappers.

Failure Of Political Initiative To Check Developers

Mr. Commissioner, with due respect to your Executive Committee, in trying to come forward with a responsible approach to this complex interrelated issue of non-renewable resource developers, settlement of native claims, political and economic development, I still remain unimpressed. I feel all too often that personal political expediency frustrates any initiatives that show promise. The failure of political initiative in this regard leaves the territory and our people in a passive position and at the whim of the unchecked self-interests of such large, sophisticated developers and, for example, Gulf's recent and continued actions to gain their corporate ends has resulted in the undermining of what little that has been accomplished by the Inuvialuit. This gives little hope that the large corporations on their own, without such political leadership on the part of this Legislature, will deal in a fair and equitable manner and if Gulf wants to be a good corporate citizen of the North, there are reasonable ways they can proceed.

Perhaps this Legislature should embark on instituting a watchdog role, with a view to encouraging these rather large corporate immigrants to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the traditions of the North. Large projects should be used as springboards for the development of long-term industrial development and the long-term economic development and stability of the

region is not met by just employment by the companies and a few job opportunities and businesses. This preoccupation, excepting a few jobs, does not promote self-sufficiency. As a policy, what we should be striving for during the time of extraction of non-renewable resources is to develop industry and economic activities which will continue to contribute to the country and the region. A truly healthy economic development is where everyone is engaged in activities not associated with the megaprojects. While megaprojects can indeed be used to stimulate long-term self-reliance, this government should be cautioned to look to the longer term benefits that will last past the short-term non-renewable resource extractors.

Responsibility To Promote Development Of Strong Private Sector

Mr. Commissioner, I am still quite concerned about the image of our government service and our Assembly, in that it appears to the public as if on all fronts our government and others -- the public service and politicians -- are using their good offices to take care of themselves, often even at the expense of the private sector. My view of our future economic self-reliance is the development of a strong private sector and our responsibility as government at this time is to promote that end.

Economic Development Officials In Western Arctic

I would like to call your attention to other matters familiar to you and this Legislature, which are further examples of my general concern. I raised in this House the concerns generally felt in the Western Arctic of Economic Development officials using the privilege of their position to take care of themselves. This was a generally-held public view which, of course, distressed me very much and should distress every public servant with a conscience. We categorize such activities as conflict of interest and it was my wish at that time, Mr. Commissioner, that we should gather the facts and sanitize our operations. We were not to embark on a witch hunt. We were to embark on the process of fulfilling the responsibility of our mandate, which in the eyes of many has been subverted. As a result of these efforts, a report has been delivered, which carefully avoids dealing with that fundamental issue. I think I would categorize the recommendations of building up a government bureaucracy which would well just add to the problem expressed earlier. In fairness to the report, they suggest the bureaucracy should not be built up until clear policy objectives are defined. However, the fundamental assumption is that the policy objectives for the department in themselves are not going to overcome the problems I expressed. I believe that assumption to be naive.

Personnel Hired On Contractual Basis

My recommendation, therefore, is that no bureaucracy be built up and, in fact, I would recommend the present public service in the Inuvik region be dismantled to a large extent. In its place, the fulfilment of the worth-while goals and objectives of the department could be facilitated by personnel hired on a contractual basis. Such contracts must contain restrictive covenants, including provisions on engaging in personal economic activities within the region for that period of time under contract and five years following their term of work. I would view such an action by the government as a significant demonstration of will to remove the present stigma. However, concurrent with such important policy there is a need for this government to address the same concern in other departments, where other remedies might be appropriate.

Domestic Fishing Rights

Another matter in the same vein I wish to bring to the attention of the Minister of Renewable Resources, and he will be pleased that my concern relates to federal government employees, as opposed to his own. It has been reported to me, and I have verified to my own satisfaction, that a handful of RCMP personnel out of Inuvik flew into Paulatuk in an RCMP Twin Otter for the sole purpose of exercising the privileges of their domestic fishing licence to procure their personal supply of char from the Hornaday River, at the same time and place where the community of Paulatuk was fishing under quota for their domestic and commercial supply. I bring this to the attention of the Minister, Mr. Commissioner, that in our Wildlife Ordinance and the case of the NWT fishing regulations and in many cases, the same rights are extended to the RCMP that are enjoyed by the indigenous residents. Obviously, this made good sense when they were living with the indigenous people, in their lifestyle and travelling by dog team. I think it is perhaps time, Mr. Commissioner, that this government review such legislation and policy, to bring them up to date.

Viability Of Co-ops Threatened

Mr. Commissioner, over the years, with the development of co-ops in the Northwest Territories, Canadian Arctic Producers and the federations have contributed greatly to the establishment of community co-ops. I think it is fair to say without these organizations there is a very good chance the community co-ops generally across the Territories would not be in such a healthy position. I am concerned, however, that at the present time the community co-ops are facing a new range of problems which may be threatening their future viability, as, with most large founding organizations, they may do a good job at the outset and, through the passage of time and changing circumstance, may become obsolete.

I make this as a general statement and not necessarily a specific judgment as to the performance of the federation. There is, within my region, the Holman Island co-op, for example, which depends greatly upon the production of seal products. As we know, both the private and public sectors within Canada who have interests in seal products have not been effective in retaining international markets for such products. I suspect that our lack of effect reflects a certain lack of ability within those organizations.

Regardless of whether this is a fact or not, the existence of the Holman co-op -- and I suspect many others in the Territories -- depends upon the successful marketing of the present products and our future products. I do not see the necessary efforts in the public and private sectors to deal with this situation. Therefore I suggest we should look at all options for maintaining what I believe to be a viable industry within that community and within the Territories generally.

Support For Recommendations On Western Arctic Fisheries

In respect of other matters of economic development and renewable resources, I would like to call attention to the efforts of the honourable Minister of Economic Development, with respect to the Western Arctic fisheries and the FFMC. I would like to say I wholeheartedly supported his judgment and recommendation tabled in his reply last week, and what was remaining to be done is to implement such recommendations, and the honourable Minister can be assured of my support in executing that task. I would call upon the Minister to table, at his earliest convenience, a timetable for implementation.

Mr. Commissioner, these are some of the concerns that I would like reflected in the future policy of this government. In closing I would like to say thank you to the Members of the special committee on education, in their work and in their travels, and in the perseverance that they all went through to finally be able to table a report and have the recommendations of the special committee on education accepted.

Funding From Federal Initiative Program

As well, I would like to say that in my last travels around to my communities, I was able to announce to three of the communities I represent an announcement for funding from the initiative program under Minister John Munro: for Sachs Harbour, \$15,000; Paulatuk, \$21,000; Holman Island, \$54,000; for the roads and campgrounds, \$18,500. I feel in our region that we are an impact zone. We wish to participate, and we require assistance from time to time, and surely, if at all possible, we like to do it on our own and have that opportunity to do so. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. McLAUGHLIN: You will make the centrefold of Cosmopolitan this time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. There are no further replies. Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 56-82(3): Tabling Of Resource Development Policy

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, the Minister of Energy. Mr. Minister, the Legislature is anxiously awaiting the tabling and the discussion of the resource development policy which has been covered in the news recently and which concerns our government's action with respect to the socio-economic aspects of non-renewable development. I wonder, Mr. Minister, if I could have an indication of when that long-awaited policy is going to be tabled in the House for discussion in committee of the whole? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 56-82(3): Tabling Of Resource Development Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I intend to give a speech tomorrow, as well as table the documents, and hopefully it will suffice the honourable Member.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Sayine.

---Applause

Question 57-82(3): Game Officer Trainee For Fort Resolution

MR. SAYINE: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I also have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. There was supposed to be a position for a game officer trainee in place in Fort Resolution. Can the Minister tell me how far this plan has gone?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sayine. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 57-82(3): Game Officer Trainee For Fort Resolution

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the item raised by my honourable colleague has been dealt with. It is now, I do believe, before the Department of Personnel to review a training program for the position he has personally identified.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 3, oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 58-82(3): Tabling Of Northern Preference Policy

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the honourable Minister of Economic Development, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Minister, the territorial government has approved its new northern preference policy, and it is my understanding that that policy will give northern businesses increased opportunities in providing goods, services and construction contracts to the Government of the Northwest Territories. My question is when will the Minister table this long-awaited policy so that this House can discuss it, also, in committee of the whole?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 58-82(3): Tabling Of Northern Preference Policy

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the government has indeed adopted a policy, now known as the northern preference policy, and as the Minister responsible for some major government departments and agencies involved in contracts, I have already sent out letters to every chamber of commerce and in some cases to places that do not have a chamber of commerce indicating what the policy in fact is. It would be the intention of the government to place, as well, ads in northern newspapers outlining the various pertinent points of this particular policy. The Member is correct; the purpose of the policy is to permit the government to provide a preference to northern contractors, to promote the use of northern labour and materials purchased in the Northwest Territories, and to encourage development and competitiveness of northern business. It is my intention, as Minister of Economic Development, to make a statement to this House before we prorogue, in my reply to the Commissioner's Address, at which time, then, I will highlight various pertinent parts of that policy. I do not think it has been the usual modus operandi of the government to table policies; nevertheless, I think that in terms of the government, I have no difficulty in presenting to this House the policy on northern preference that I am sure each and every one would agree to, so I will be making that kind of a statement in my reply to the Commissioner's Address.

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

Question 59-82(3): Economic Development Study In Inuvik Region

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is again for the Minister of Economic Development. Mr. Minister, this Legislature called for a study to be done on the Department of Economic Development and in particular the department's ability and this government's ability to respond to the difficulties now being experienced in the Inuvik region with respect to the impact of resource development. When will the Minister table that report so that we can discuss that, also, in committee of the whole?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 59-82(3): Economic Development Study In Inuvik Region

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, that particular report, the Mair report, as it is being referred to because of the author -- I think a copy of that has gone out to each and every Member of this Assembly. I will be tabling that report as well.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 60-82(3): Land Pricing Policy Paper To Committee Of The Whole

MS COURNOYEA: It is a question to the Minister of Local Government. Could the Minister of Local Government indicate whether he plans to move the new land pricing policy paper into the committee of the whole today?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 60-82(3): Land Pricing Policy Paper To Committee Of The Whole

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I do not plan to move the policy paper to the committee of the whole. However, if other Members wish to do so, then I will support it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Does that answer your question, Ms Cournoyea? Thank you. Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Sayine.

Question 61-82(3): Bus Operation, Fort Resolution

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. It is now over one year since the Minister made a commitment to the community education committee in Fort Resolution to supply parts and mechanical assistance to the school bus, help with the high cost of insurance. Can the Minister tell me what his department is doing or will be doing to help the community education committee get back their bus in operation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sayine. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 61-82(3): Bus Operation, Fort Resolution

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret to say that, notwithstanding some efforts on my behalf, nothing has happened to see this bus repaired, and I am disappointed that nothing has happened. I had understood that someone from the Department of Public Works or Thebacha College would have by now looked at the bus with a view to finding out what repairs are required, and when I discovered this had not been done, I started the wheels turning again. As I told the committee in Resolution, I do believe that this is the kind of project that Thebacha College should be willing to undertake in the trade shops there, in that it is for a public purpose and not a private matter, and I will continue to see that this assistance is provided through my offices. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 3, oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 62-82(3): Tabling Of Audit Of Financial Information System

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Butters, the standing committee on finance called for a comprehensive audit of the financial information system over a year ago, and the Legislative Assembly supported that motion, and, indeed, we know that the audit has been done. My question is, will the comprehensive audit be tabled during this session so that it can be referred to the standing committee on finance for detailed review during January in preparation for the budget session?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 62-82(3): Tabling Of Audit Of Financial Information System

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, it will be tabled if it is received. I believe it is the intention of the Auditor General to have it in the hands of the Speaker before this session closes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Item 3, oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns, written questions.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 63-82(3): Government Staff Housing

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question first for the Minister responsible for staff housing. Will the Minister prepare a simple, clear statement explaining the situation that occupants of staff housing in Yellowknife, both multi-unit and detached dwellings, will find themselves in on November 1st, 1983?

Among questions that might be answered are these. Who, in a general sense, might be compelled to move? Who, in a general sense, might be allowed to remain in present premises but begin making rental payments to a different landlord? Is there any initial guarantee with respect to rental rates? Which units will be reserved for new hires? Finally, is there any consideration being given to delaying implementation a further year because economic circumstances have prevented the housing market from opening up -- an expectation upon which the housing policy was predicated?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Item 4, written questions. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Question 64-82(3): Whale Quota Increase, Pond Inlet

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no Minister for Fisheries and Oceans here so maybe I can direct this to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have been asked to ask this question by the Pond Inlet hunters and trappers. I know that you are probably not in the jurisdiction of looking after the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, but maybe you would be able to look into it. They would like you, as the Minister of Renewable Resources, to talk with Federal Fisheries and Oceans and inform me on this item. The Pond Inlet people have a quota of 100 narwhals. Due to the fact that the population of Pond Inlet is increasing and this quota has not increased for some time now, and due to the fact that there is quite a number of young people getting their hunting licence now, a quota of 100 is not sufficient any more. They would like their quota increased by 50. As you are aware, the settlements of Spence Bay, Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Frobisher Bay do not have narwhals in their communities and they have been given quotas on them although some settlements do not even have any whales. I do not think the Fisheries and Oceans people are aware of this. Even if they do know, maybe they do not want to know. I am asking if you, as Minister of Renewable Resources, can talk with the Fisheries and Oceans people and inform me as to their decisions. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. Item 4, questions and returns. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 65-82(3): Electrician For Pangnirtung Housing Association

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am going to address this to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. The Pangnirtung Housing Association would like to say that they no longer have an uncertified electrician for the housing association's buildings. Not all the communities have their own electricians. Who would pay the electricians' way to do some electrical work in a community and who would be responsible to pay their wages -- the housing association or the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Written questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 66-82(3): Hunting Regulations In South Mackenzie

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Is the Department of Renewable Resources considering the establishment of restricted hunting corridors along highways in the south Mackenzie area? If so, which areas in particular are being considered, and which species of game will be protected in these corridors? Also, will the department take advice from interested local and territorial organizations as to the merit of particular regulations before they are implemented?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Written questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 67-82(3): Warehouse Facilities, Pangnirtung Housing Association

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, from the housing association in Pangnirtung. The Pangnirtung Housing Association would like to know why they have not received a warehouse as the NWT Housing Corporation said they would in 1982. Presently, they have inadequate warehouse facilities and supplies are exposed and damage occurs due to lack of a sufficient warehouse. When is the NWT Housing Corporation planning to put a warehouse in Pangnirtung, for the housing association to store those materials? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Item 4, written questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 68-82(3): Hook Lake Bison Herd

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. When the Minister visited Pine Point recently, he was advised of a concern that the Hook Lake bison herd was being overhunted, and I would like to know what he and his officials have done in this area. In particular, how many bison have been taken annually for the last five years, and what is the estimated population of the herd now? Also, has the Minister made any effort to increase protection of these bison?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Item 4, written questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 69-82(3): Government Air Charter Services

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister responsible for Government Services. Whereas the Government of the Northwest Territories should surely support the legitimate aircraft industry in the Northwest Territories where charter aircraft are required, and thereby support safety in the air, will the Minister indicate what measures our government takes to ensure that its employees do not hire what are commonly called "chisel charters"? Does our transport section demand contracts that have operators affirm that they are registered as charter operators and have the necessary licensing, insurance, and so on? If the present system does not have adequate checks, is the government taking steps to improve the situation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Item 4, written questions. Are there any returns? Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 28-82(3): Regulations On Wood Cutting In The NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, I have a return to written Question 28-82(3), asked by Mr. MacQuarrie on November the 5th, with regard to regulations on wood cutting in the Northwest Territories.

The average annual volume of fuel wood cut since 1974-75 is 2737 cords. In 1980-81, 2520 cords of fuel wood were cut. The regulations that govern cutting in the Northwest Territories are legislated by the Territorial Lands Act on federal crown land, and by the Commissioner's Land Ordinance on Commissioner's land. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development administers the Territorial Lands Act and issues timber permits. The Department of Local Government issues timber permits for cutting on Commissioner's land. Operating conditions exist in order to manage the type and quantity of timber harvested and the location of harvest areas.

No reforestation programs are in place at the present time in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development feels that the current level of harvest for firewood does not justify a reforestation program. However, reforestation projects have been developed as part of the operation plans for the proposed Liard River Valley forestry program, to aid regeneration after large commercial logging for saw logs. This program is not expected to be implemented until 1986 at the earliest. The Canadian forestry service does maintain experimental research plots near Fort Smith to monitor regeneration which will, in part, guide future forest management programs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Any further returns?

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 19-82(3), Learning: Tradition and Change, Implementation: Stage 1, Executive Summary, the education task force on implementation report. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 6, tabling of documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Pudluk.

Notice Of Motion 21-82(3): Funds For LEA Employees' Benefits

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce a notice of motion, which I will move on Wednesday, November 17. Now therefore I move, seconded by the Member for Foxe Basin, that this House recommend to the Executive Committee that funds be made available for the LEA employees' benefits, and that these funds be made available by April 1, 1983.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Item 8, notices of motion. Ms Cournoyea.

Notice Of Motion 22-82(3): Financial Assistance For Adult Vocational Training And Educational Upgrading

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on November 17th I will move: Be it resolved that the Government of the Northwest Territories make special financial assistance available to adults wishing to take vocational training or educational upgrading.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Item 8, notices of motion.

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

Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

Mr. Curley.

Motion 15-82(3): Home-Ownership Financial Assistance Program

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories established a policy for a home-ownership financial assistance program for people of the western part of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS equal opportunity should be provided to people living above the tree line, taking into consideration the following factors: a) higher transportation cost; b) higher utility and energy cost; and c) less alternative sources for heating and energy sources;

AND WHEREAS the people of the Keewatin, during a recent joint Housing Corporation meeting with local housing associations, strongly urged the Housing Corporation and Executive Committee to provide a similar home-ownership financial assistance program for people living above the tree line;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Foxe Basin, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it create and establish a home-ownership financial assistance program, which would include technical and permanent utility and energy subsidy, for people living above the tree line and the eastern part of the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER, that this home-ownership program be put into effect by April 1, 1983.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the motion is quite clear. I have heard from the people in this area that they do have quite a generous home-ownership financial assistance program, which I think many people in this part of the area are taking advantage of. I also have heard that this home-ownership program might be increased, also, this coming fiscal year. So I would think that, in order for the government to provide an equal opportunity for people in other parts of the area, they have to take into consideration the factors I outlined in my preamble to the motion -- that the home-ownership program should take into consideration higher transportation costs and less sources of alternative energy, and the fact that there exists, I think, a critical need to have a home-ownership program that would at least encourage those who want to, by instituting a permanent energy subsidy.

Technical Assistance For Home-Owners

The reason I urge the Members to support this motion is because I think there should also be a policy established to include technical assistance, because in some parts, in the remote communities, it is not possible to hire an electrician, or meet other technical requirements in smaller communities. In order for an individual to try to bring in an electrician, for instance, or draftsman, it requires quite a bit of time. I think that the government should consider putting these requirements into part of the home-ownership package, prior to transferring the title to an individual, particularly when considering the existing buildings that are now being transferred to the government. These particular units that are being eventually transferred in some parts of the community, to home-owners, require quite a bit of renovation, and the government, at this moment, has put that responsibility on the individual who wishes to buy that particular unit from the Housing Corporation. So, the government is urged by the people from Keewatin that they should consider taking that part of the technical responsibility -- of paying that cost prior to transferring the unit to the home-owner. I urge the Members to support this motion, although I realize there are cost implications. There are cost implications in any assistance, regardless of how large they are. The government now has a home-ownership program for people in this part of the area, which no doubt is enjoyed by many civil servants of the government and if they can come up with a program attractive to its members, they should at least consider establishing a program that would be attractive to people living in other parts of the NWT. So I urge you to support this motion. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Secunder of the motion, Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have very many additions to make on this, but since I am secunder of this motion, I will make a brief report. I have heard complaints around the Baffin region and they are doing some sort of research in regard to this and asking questions in regard to -- what I am supposed to do if I am going to get into a home-owner's unit -- what procedure should I go by and how do you buy the houses, etc? This is becoming a great issue in the Baffin and a lot of times one inquirer cannot purchase a house because the price is too high and they do not have that much money. Just recently I was asked what happens if a person is an employee of the government or a married couple hired and working for the Government of the NWT. They would be sponsored and their rent would be supplemented by the government. A lot of times the price of the rent is too high and this is why I have seconded this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. Mr. McCallum, to the motion.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on the motion. I would simply like to indicate that the territorial government does, indeed, have a home-ownership plan. It is a plan that has been developed to enhance what used to be known as the small settlement home assistance grant, the SSHAG program. It started off at \$15,000; it grew from there to \$18,000. Last year it was available to people, regardless of where they lived in the Territories, up to \$30,000. The government, through the Housing Corporation, intends to bring forward in January or February, at the budget session, a greater enhanced program. We have been able to make arrangements with the federal government for assistance for the labour component. The labour component of these small settlement housing grants used to be delivered by the LEAP programs. Unfortunately, a year ago, as all Members will recall, the review board of LEAP decided not to get involved with the labour component. I was able, along with my federal counterparts, Mr. Axworthy and the Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Munro, to try to enhance that program by getting a labour component put into it.

A fundamental part of this home-ownership grant is the inclusion of sweat equity -- that is, that the individual who applies for and receives a grant must put in a great deal of his or her own work. The home-ownership grant, as it currently exists, provides no extra money for utility subsidies. It involves locally harvested materials. It does not just involve log housing, but it is for locally harvested materials, and it is not just for the West. The program is available to anybody, across the Territories. In addition to that, my colleague, the Minister of Local Government, this year provides a subsidy and a tax rebate of \$300, or up to a maximum of \$300 for this particular year in a tax rebate. What we are attempting to do as a government is to promote home-ownership. We are not restricting it specifically to the West. It is available to anybody, across the Territories, but there are certain criteria -- the criteria being that one must provide some of one's own self in an effort to build that house. It is not a make-work project. It is to help people own their own homes. Additionally, as I had indicated, there is a criterion of having locally harvested materials.

Further Financial Assistance To Meet Greater Costs

I recognize that the motion is indicating that there should be some consideration for financial assistance, in addition to what it would cost to provide the materials of whatever the house would be made, that would include technical and permanent utility and energy subsidies and I recognize that the further north, and possibly east, you go, the greater are these costs. But at the present time our home-ownership grant does not take that into consideration. The program has a greater attraction for people in the West, primarily because they can get either logs or wood and erect a stick-built home, because the materials are available. We do not provide, then, an ongoing utility, technical or energy subsidy to that home-owner, and we would have to look at what we are now proposing and will propose in February or March to this House, in order to enhance that. Whether, in fact, we can provide this energy or utility subsidy, which is very costly, is a moot point. I have no difficulty in taking the motion and suggesting that it should be available to everybody across the Territories. That, in fact, is the primary goal of the government, through its Housing Corporation -- to provide this for everybody. The added cost -- and the Member for Keewatin South has indicated that he recognized that there will be an added cost with this subsidy -- this is something that is in addition to what we already have now.

I understand full well that the Member is suggesting that the government should take a look at enhancing what we now have in our housing program. I know that in certain communities in the West the cost of providing housing -- or an individual building his own home under this home-ownership grant ranges anywhere from \$25,000 through to \$50,000. There are particular homes that have been built within the last two years that are energy efficient -- R40 insulation in the ceilings and walls -- that are now habitable by people and these people have really put a great deal of effort into them. I just would caution the mover and the seconder about the extra costs of providing this utility subsidy, in light of the fact that we provide the grant to buy the materials -- the locally harvested materials -- in light of the fact that we are, in addition to that, working with the federal government to provide labour component moneys, and, in addition, we provide a \$300 subsidy to a home-owner on the taxes in a particular community.

I would give assurance to the House to look into whether it is conceivable that we could provide this additional energy or utility subsidy, but knowing full well of the great cost in northern and northeastern parts of the Territories, it may be that we will have to try to work some kind of an arrangement, if in fact, we can, to provide some kind of a basic subsidy. I am not promising or indicating that that is, in fact, what we will do, but I just want to make Members aware that the government has responded over the last three years in promoting home-ownership, through these kinds of grants and with my colleague, the Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee, through Local Government providing this tax rebate. I think the goal of home-ownership is a commendable goal. I am not too certain that we can provide the extra utility or energy subsidy. Thank you.

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

SSHAG Program Successful And Should Be Expanded

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say briefly that I support the motion, because the SSHAG program, as it exists now, is a very successful program, and it is a program which uses logs that grow very abundantly and very well in the area of the North that I come from, and these logs are cheap. They do not cost anything standing in the bush, but people have to get them from the bush to the place where they are going to be building the house, and so there are some costs involved. But it is a good program because it uses northern natural resources, and the major portion of the government's assistance is for the material such as the plywood, the two-by-fours, the windows and doors that are necessary to complete the house. The person who

gets a SSHAG grant has to put in a lot of his own work, and his own money in the end, because usually the money for materials provided is not enough. So it is just generally a good program. It uses local and northern resources. It counts on a person's initiative to do a lot of the work himself. It is a good program, it is good for the person who eventually gets a house, and it is good for the government, too, because once the house is built, then the government does not have to continually provide utilities and power and so forth.

I may mention that in our experience in our part of the North, it is not the civil servants that generally make use of this program; it is people who make their own way, who live off the land, who have made use of this program, people who just simply live in communities and work. It is not the well-to-do people in the communities. For the most part, it has been native people who have benefited from the program, so if this approach to house building is going to be encouraged and expanded into the Arctic, then I think it would be very good, because it seems to me there is not a great deal of future in the government just continually building houses for people, and having the government pay the shot forever thereafter. So any program which will help people own their own houses and be independent of government is welcome, and this program does that, so I support the motion.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have some concern with respect to it.

MR. CURLEY: Look out. Look out.

Government Should Promote Building Of Energy Efficient Housing

MR. MacQUARRIE: The aim of trying to help people across the Territories become independent of government and get their own housing -- I do like that, and I also like the aim of wherever support is given, that it be given on an equitable basis right across the Territories, not a greater amount of help in one area than in another. In earlier sessions where the question came up of government assistance for private detached dwellings, that is where I begin to have difficulties, because I believe that in the Arctic -- particularly on the barren lands in the Eastern Arctic -- where there is an extreme climate and where costs for utilities are very, very high, it seems to me that it is irresponsible for our government simply to promote the building of individual detached dwellings. I would like to see more thought go into it, where in some way people could be encouraged to build in a more energy efficient way with assistance from the government to do so. That kind of approach I could support, and in some sense I support the intent of what there is here, but because it refers to this permanent utility and energy subsidy, I do feel it is irresponsible just to say yes to that and let the whole program go, and then find that down the years we have made a mistake, that we have not done very well in trying to ensure that energy costs are held to a reasonable level. Therefore I feel that I must vote against this specific motion.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 15-82(3): Home-Ownership Financial Assistance Program, Carried

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

---Carried

Motion 19-82(3). Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to stand this motion down until Friday, November 19.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. You wish to stand down Motion 19-82(3) until Friday. Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

ITEM NO. 11: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS FOR FIRST READING

Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 23-82(3): Wildlife Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 23-82(3), An Ordinance to Amend the Wildlife Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? First reading of Bill 23-82(3) is carried.

---Carried

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading. Item 12, second reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 12: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get consent for second reading of Bill 23-82(3).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Nerysoo.

Second Reading Of Bill 23-82(3): Wildlife Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 23-82(3), An Ordinance to Amend the Wildlife Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to allow the Commissioner, by regulation, to exempt presidents of hunters' and trappers' associations from being wildlife officers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? Second reading of Bill 23-82(3) has been carried.

---Carried

Item 12, second reading of bills.

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

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

Motion 7-82(3), Electoral Boundaries Commission; Bill 6-82(3), Public Service Ordinance; Bill 12-82(3), Education Ordinance; Bill 1-82(3), Apprentices and Tradesmen Ordinance; Bill 3-82(3), Transportation of Dangerous Goods Ordinance; Bill 10-82(3), Society of Management Accountants Ordinance; Bill 13-82(3), Marriage Ordinance; Bill 14-82(3), Vital Statistics Ordinance; Bill 16-82(3), Mining Safety Ordinance; Bill 21-82(3), Council Ordinance. We will go into the committee, now, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MOTION 7-82(3), ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this committee will come to order. Before we deal with Motion 7-82(3), let us take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The Chair recognizes a quorum now. Motion 7-82(3).

Motion 7-82(3): Electoral Boundaries Commission

To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to repeat what I said in formal session when introducing this motion. I think that one of the objectives that this government has to have, and that the people in the Northwest Territories have, and the Members of the Assembly have, is to have responsible government in the Northwest Territories, and one of the best ways of achieving that is to represent the people in the Northwest Territories in the best way possible. The federal legislation allows us to have 25 Members in our Assembly, and right now we have 22. I believe that the last Assembly was very correct in only initially describing 22 constituencies, even though they had the opportunity to develop 25. They were responsible in that in two ways. First, by increasing the House from 15 to 22, they protected the possibility of having at least a reasonable number of experienced Members in the House, so that you would not have a House too dominated by inexperienced Members. Secondly, by doing this, whether they intended it or not, they allowed the opportunity for this House to take a look at any difficulties or problems that could be involved in some of the existing constituencies regarding boundaries, major population shifts, or actual mistakes where some Members were maybe given too much to do.

I believe that a few things have to be addressed and corrected, completely within the goals and objectives and concepts that were used by the last Assembly, which have given the small and remote communities good representation in this House. I think this principle should be maintained. Certainly the Hudson Bay riding, I feel, personally, should remain as it is. That is a very difficult community to represent. It is a long way to travel from the Belcher Islands to Yellowknife, and that Member has a unique riding that only he could represent, that somebody from another riding could not. However, I also believe that there are two or three ridings which have several communities in them, which are very difficult to represent. I believe both the Member for the Central Arctic and the Member for Mackenzie Liard, when they say it is very difficult for them to represent their constituents. We held public hearings in the Northwest Territories and I can vouch for them first-hand in saying it is hard to travel in these areas, and that it is an onerous responsibility to represent constituents in several communities, especially when they have different dialects or cultural backgrounds -- that makes it even more difficult.

More Members Needed If Executive Committee Is Expanded

Further, the development of responsible government, I believe, requires that we need one or two more Members on our Executive Committee, so that we can take over the departments now being run by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. I think that in order to make some of our committees more effective it would be good for us to have a few more Members. I would hate to see an expanded Executive Committee without more Members in the House, because already I think the Executive Committee is just at the point of being sometimes too large in proportion to the rest of the Members. I would not want to see a situation like the House in the Yukon where I believe seven out of nine Members of the government party are all on the executive.

I think that you have to remember, also, that in representing the various constituencies Members have committee work to do as well as constituency work, and Members of the Executive Committee are hard-pressed not to live in Yellowknife. It is a very difficult thing for a Member to represent his constituency and also live in Yellowknife, and to carry out his responsibilities as a Minister. So I think it is very important that we correct these two or three ridings which have several communities in them, to enable those Members to participate on the Executive Committee, and also guarantee improved representation of the constituents that those Members represent.

Major Population Shifts

The other area is where there has been some major shifts in population, in particular in Yellowknife, where the riding, Yellowknife South, is just about as large as the other two ridings together, so that the boundaries in Yellowknife should be moved, or another riding established in order to make that better.

MRS. SORENSEN: I can handle it all right. Speak for your own area.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mrs. Sorensen thinks she can...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Let him speak for other areas, Lynda.

MRS. SORENSEN: What are you defending him for?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: You never hesitate to speak for the...

MRS. SORENSEN: Keep your mouth shut.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order, please! Order, order. Mr. McLaughlin, you have the floor.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Members for Yellowknife...

MRS. SORENSEN: The more, the merrier.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...as demonstrated in the last education committee report debate, never hesitate to represent the rest of the people in the Northwest Territories.

MRS. SORENSEN: To the motion, to the motion.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Try to keep your comments to the motion, then, Mrs. Sorensen.

MR. MacQUARRIE: And it is good representation, is it not?

MRS. SORENSEN: That is for damn sure.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: It is a long and boring representation.

MRS. SORENSEN: Never boring.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Regardless, I will conclude by saying that population shifts are also a reason for having to realign some of the constituencies, or possibly create another one in Yellowknife, and on that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to finish speaking in general, but I will have some particular things to say later. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I would like to say at this time is that one of the reasons I had requested this matter be dealt with in the committee of the whole is, I think we should be aware of the implications of this decision. I have therefore arranged to have the secretary from the previous electoral boundaries commission, Mr. Terry Daniels, available to this committee at an appropriate time. I would suggest that perhaps we should let other Members express their views before we hear from Mr. Daniels. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Did the Member forward a motion on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No. I said I would await other comments from Members before requesting Mr. Daniels appear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): If there are no comments on the floor, are you asking for a recess, or something like that? Mr. Evaluarjuk, to the motion.

Not Appropriate In View Of Proposed Division Of NWT

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I am not going to give specific reasons, however, the area of electoral boundaries, I have informed my people about the electoral boundaries issue, and also I indicated in my reply to the Commissioner's Address that I will not be supporting that move. However, I feel sorry for some of the Members representing areas such as the Central Arctic. I can support the motion if there are going to be 23 Members, but if this is going to go on to 25 Members, I am not going to support it, because I have been informed by my constituency that if there is going to be a division of the Territories -- as of now, I do not think -- they agree that we should not bother to adjust the electoral boundaries.

In most of the communities, the population is growing. I know that if there were to be some hearings held in Yellowknife -- I do not think the hearing would be packed, even though Yellowknife has a large population. I think it goes like that throughout the NWT -- some of the people who are interested come to the meeting -- not all of the people come to the meeting -- and even the people in Yellowknife cannot see and hear what is going on. The representative for Yellowknife can put out information through television, and that way the residents of Yellowknife will be listening -- and to the radio also. It is for those reasons that I do not think I will be able to support that motion -- not if they are going to increase the numbers to 25. Also, another fact is that we are having a restraint program in funding, and if there are going to be some more Members I think we will all have to use a lot of funds. In this way, I want to express my concern, and I do not think I will support the motion if there are going to be 25 Members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. To the motion. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, when anybody -- the federal government, the territorial government, or this Assembly -- sets up a commission, or a committee, it is usually for the purpose of looking into something, and usually a commission is set up because there is a tough task, there are some difficulties that require answers. So it is generally a tough job. It is because of the fact that there is a tough job to be done, usually, that a commission is set up and, in creating any commission, I feel that it is important to have very clear terms of reference. I am a bit concerned with this motion, in that I do not feel it is sufficiently clear that a commission can take it from here and say, from the motion and the "whereases", that this is precisely what this Assembly wants. I am aware that from section 13 in the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Ordinance, the commission has certain general guidelines, about making boundaries based on geographic and demographic considerations, any special community and all that, but it does not say anything about the number of seats that should be created.

Wishes Of The Assembly Should Be Made Clear

In looking very closely at the motion before us, I find that there is nothing that clearly says to the commission that it ought to set up 25 seats, or 25 electoral districts. The "whereas" clauses in the motion, I guess, give the reasons or basis for the motion. When you read the "whereas" clauses there are a number of implications that are derived from them. There are such implications as -- we now have the ability to create 25, certain constituencies may be too large or too populous, and additional Members may be good to serve on the Executive Committee -- but nothing very clear. I am sure, if we set up a boundaries commission, that they would wonder why it was created, and would want some very clear terms of reference. So I would feel generally that we ought to be very bold and very direct, and say, "We are setting up a boundaries commission for the purpose of creating 25 constituencies", instead of fooling around, and hinting at it, and implying certain things. So it is a thought, and we will see how the discussion here goes today, but you can bet that when a boundaries commission is set up, they will be groping, they will be looking around for information as to what the Assembly had in mind when they created it. Do they just reaffirm the existing 22, or what? I am sure they would then look to the Hansard, because it is the best source of finding out what this Assembly thought. So, with this in mind, I will do my part, I guess, for my area of the North, to give the boundaries commission some ideas as to what one Member, at least, thinks.

One thing I really feel strongly about is that -- if this commission should be set up -- one of the things it should do is move away from naming all the constituencies in English. I think, frankly, it is an insult to the native people of the North to name everything in English. Who is the Member for Foxe Basin? Why "Foxe Basin"? Is there some long history -- was it Mr. Foxe, or Mr. Basin, that did something in that part of the North that he should be respected and so given a name? Likewise, other names in our part of the North, names like -- when you talk of Great Bear Lake, it is very simple, you say "Sah tu". In my area, people have been talking of Deh Cho. That is the name that we are adopting for our particular part of the North.

MR. CURLEY: What does it mean?

MR. SIBBESTON: Deh cho just means big river. Sah tu means precisely that -- water, or a body bear lake, or something to that effect. So that is one thing that I think I want to indicate, that if there is to be a constituency to be created in the area that I live, the Fort Simpson area, that it ought to be called Deh Cho.

Mackenzie Liard Riding Too Big

The other reason that I have for wanting the boundaries commission set up, and to have 25 seats, is that my constituency is quite big. It is one of the bigger constituencies, and inasmuch as I work reasonably hard, I believe, I cannot do that good a job. I ran out of money to do constituency work, actually in July.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: So you need more money.

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, I need more money, but it is also a very big constituency, and I cannot -- no, nothing is impossible in this world -- I guess I could work night and day and tour and do all the work necessary in the constituency, but I think everything should be more equitable in the North. When I see other constituencies in the North, some are very small. Some constituencies like Yellowknife look very appealing to represent. They are small...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Do you want it?

MR. SIBBESTON: ... and people are generally well-off, so should not have too many complaints about government. In my area, part of my constituency, Fort Providence and that area, is very interested in having their own constituency, and I must say that I am sympathetic with their request, because as long as I can remember Fort Providence and Kakisa Lake have always been on the fringe of constituencies. I can remember, back in 1970 when I first became involved in this Assembly, that Fort Providence was with the Rae-Edzo area, with the Dogribs...

---Applause

...and I do not know what kind of service they got. Eventually, after that, they were part of the Fort Simpson constituency. In all truthfulness, I can tell you that I am not serving Fort Providence as well as I should or could.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: You want to do a better job.

MR. SIBBESTON: It is one shortcoming that I must say exists, and it may be because of this that the Fort Providence people simply want their own constituency. Thus far they have been talking about their own constituency to be made up of Fort Providence, Kakisa Lake, and the Hay River Dene reserve. These areas, these little communities that I mention, are all part of the Deh Cho regional area. We all meet together on a regional basis, every so often, and at past regional meetings the Fort Providence and Hay River Dene reserve people indicated very clearly that they want their own constituency in the future. I hope that this comes to pass. I appreciate the process that will be set up, if the boundaries commission is eventually set up -- that they will advertise and ask people to tell them that they are interested in making representation, and so these communities mentioned can make their own representations, but I just wanted to mention that.

Report Possible In Time Available

Now, as to the arguments that have been raised by Members from the Eastern Arctic, that there is not enough time to set up these boundaries, or that people would be confused with the other federal boundaries commission -- I do not give in, or I do not agree with those arguments, because we can set up a boundaries commission and give it terms of reference, and time within which to report. Nothing is impossible -- surely, if we tell them to complete the work in three or four months, it could be done, and that is the kind of time that we have before us. If we work, and decide on this boundaries commission, we can have it set up virtually by the end of this week, and the commission then can have all of December, January, February and March, and perhaps report to this Assembly in the latter part of March when we would still be sitting. So I do think that if the will is there, nothing is impossible, and this Assembly has shown that kind of fast movement in the past.

Now, as to the arguments that our electoral boundaries commission would be confused, or get tangled up with the other federal boundaries commission that exists, I do not believe that is the case, because, as I understand it, the federal boundaries commission will only begin doing its work in the communities in the spring, and if we set up ours, all the work should be done by then. We do not care what happens to the federal one. Let them get confused, but ours will have been in the communities, will have done their work, and so there would not be the confusion alluded to.

Attitude Toward The Government Has Changed

Mr. Chairman, a few years ago I guess you would not have heard me press for and talk in terms of requiring more Legislative Assembly constituencies, because when I came on the scene a few years ago there were bad attitudes, and nonacceptance of this government. Over the course of a few years, attitudes of people in my area, people in the remoter places, have changed partly because this government is getting better for them. This government is responding, and so things generally are improving for them, and now we have native leaders who are saying that there ought to be more constituencies, so they too can become involved, and have better representation for their people. I think that we should grab on, and respond to these good feelings that exist these days, and try to have in place an Assembly, that, at least better represents all of the people in the North by having more elected representatives. So I strongly urge all Members to support this motion here. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just going to make a brief comment. I cannot support this motion. I felt that I would have been able to support it, however, I have been informed by one of the Members that it would cost too much and funds would be lacking -- and also in Baffin region. So, I am going to support what Mr. Evaluarjuk just said. I know that some of the Members have large constituencies or large areas to represent, but in my area there are only a few and it does not seem to be a large concern to me. Right now I feel that I would support it if they would be adding one more Member, but if they are going to be adding three Members, I am not going to be in support of this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just say a little bit about the issue of timing and remind Mr. Sibbeston that when this matter came up in caucus, when we had enough time, he was one of the people who opposed any change and I am pleased that he now thinks that this government has enough credibility that there should be more seats. I am, as I have mentioned, very concerned about doing a proper job on a very difficult, delicate topic, and I, quite frankly, doubt whether any commission can have the necessary time to do a proper job, when you look at the fact that Christmas holidays are intervening, municipal elections and furthermore, the public is, I hope, in the next few months going to be hearing about a boundaries commission, which is going to be established to consider division of the Northwest Territories. That was what the people of the Northwest Territories voted for on April 14th -- the establishment of a boundaries commission to deal with the division question.

I am, quite frankly, concerned that we will not have enough time to properly explain to the public just what this is all about and I really would find myself taking a much different position if I felt we had more time. I think we were all warned in caucus by the Clerk that if we were going to initiate this process it should have happened long ago and we have sort of let three years slip by and suddenly on the, really, last year of our mandate, Members are clamouring to initiate changes. I just do not think it is fair to the public. I think it is going to be confusing and I think it is going to be particularly confusing to people who might not understand the process of government as well as some of us do. Mr. Sibbeston says he understands the process, but I am not sure how well his constituents or other constituents would understand what is going on and I am concerned about that, because I think it is important for all members of the public to participate fully in this process and I agree with Mr. Evaluarjuk, that we are about to look at dividing the Northwest Territories and that is an appropriate time for fundamental changes in distribution.

Existing Constituencies Could Be Adjusted

Mr. McLaughlin says that there are problems with existing constituencies and I can appreciate that. I realize there have been population shifts in Yellowknife, but I would say that if we are concerned about problems in existing constituencies, then maybe I would entertain a commission which would look at the existing 22 constituencies and consider redrawing the boundaries to eliminate inequities that may have arisen due to population shifts. But I believe if we are going to add three more seats, which is what the Members who have spoken in favour of this motion seem to want, then what we have to do is wipe the slate clean. It would not be fair to just look at Mr. Tologanak's riding and say, well, it looks a bit big, or to look at Mrs. Sorensen's riding and say, well, it should be moved, or to look at Mr. Sibbeston's area and say, well, there should be two seats here. We have to wipe the map clean and start afresh with 25, with no preconceptions or instructions from this House.

I am aware that a committee of this House made a report to caucus which recommended three new constituencies and I do not think it is proper for us, particularly as sitting Members, to decide where new constituencies should occur. I think the map has to be wiped clean if the job is going to be done and I think that the only fair way of doing that would be to require the same kind of full consultation that took place in setting up the 22 seats and I honestly do not believe that we have time to do a proper job, on the eve of an election.

I would also like to say that I was involved with the last boundaries commission -- at least I made a presentation to it when it was in Frobisher Bay. I was very impressed with the work the last boundaries commission did, with the time they took to listen to the public at the meeting I attended, with the efforts they made to give advance notice of their concern. They even circulated a draft map for the public to look at, well in advance of their public hearings. I think they were very ably represented by a well-respected and now, sadly, deceased constituent of Mr. Sibbeston's, Ted Trindell, by Louis Taparjuk, who represented the Eastern Arctic, and by Mr. Justice Tallis, and I feel, quite frankly, that they did a very good job and I am hesitant, after so few years following their report, to tamper with it again. I would again state, Mr. Chairman, that I would propose, at an appropriate time, to move that we hear from the secretary of the former commission, so that Members will know what they are expecting if they want this motion to be dealt with in time to introduce legislation at the next session. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Curley. To the motion.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I first of all would like our Law Clerk to advise this committee whether or not this motion is in order, because it immediately asks the Executive Committee and the Commissioner to introduce legislation and appoint an electoral boundaries commission, when in my opinion it would require money. So, may I have the Law Clerk to advise us whether or not this motion is in order?

MRS. SORENSEN: Oh, smart, smart.

MR. CURLEY: Because it required money, I made a recommendation to the government. This recommendation does not recommend to the Executive Committee or to the Commissioner. It says that it immediately appoint an electoral boundaries commission and introduce legislation. I would think that if you look at the rules, that it is really actually out of order.

MR. MacQUARRIE: It has already been ruled in order by the Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Curley. This motion has been passed in the House and the Speaker ruled it was in order. There is nothing I can do about it. The motion itself -- I have to call it in order.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, but, Mr. Chairman, I am asking the Law Clerk.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Law Clerk.

LAW CLERK (Mr. Fuglsang): Mr. Chairman, this is really a procedural matter. The Speaker of the House has already decided that the motion is in order. There is no appeal, that I am aware of, beyond that. It is not really a legal matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Law Clerk. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes. The question still is, can we actually immediately appoint a boundaries commission? You know, are we allowed to actually proceed in this fashion, without recommending to the Commissioner?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): It is normal practice to take this to the Executive Committee.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Point of order, Mr. McLaughlin.

Not Requesting That Moneys Be Spent

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Speaker has already ruled that my motion was in order, and I say to you that he did so properly, because my motion only requests that legislation be prepared. It is the legislation that will require money to be spent, so I am only asking that legislation be prepared, and I believe it is a two word amendment to the existing legislation, so I do not think that is exactly a request that money be spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I still find this motion in order. Mr. Braden, to the motion. Mr. Curley, a point of order? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, this motion is out of order, and I wish to ask the Speaker to rule on it and therefore challenge your present ruling on my question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I did not make any rule at all. This motion came into committee; we are going to deal with it. I did not make any ruling. I am just following this motion. I do not think you can challenge me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I still contend that I think there has been an oversight in allowing this motion to go through, and I would therefore further request that the Speaker of the House rule on this motion, whether it is proper or not, because I challenge that it is not in order and should be ruled out of order as such, because it is dealing with a motion that requires money, and this committee cannot urge that a commission be set up immediately without recommending to the Commissioner and to the Executive Committee, so I would think that...

MRS. SORENSEN: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CURLEY: ...a ruling should be made by the Speaker.

MRS. SORENSEN: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The Speaker himself made the decision that Motion 7-82(3) was in order. I do not think anybody can challenge the Speaker's decision, if you look in Rule 10(1).

MRS. SORENSEN: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I have Mr. Braden on my list. To the motion.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, can I speak to the motion, not the issue that Mr. Curley has raised? Is that the correct understanding?

AN HON. MEMBER: He is out of order.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Okay, so I can tell you about all the problems in Yellowknife and why we need to...

MRS. SORENSEN: Just stay away from my constituents.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Speak to the motion.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I submit to this committee that some real work has to be done in terms of the boundaries in Yellowknife.

MS COURNOYEA: Point of privilege.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Point of privilege, Ms Cournoyea.

No Conflict Of Interest In This Situation

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have some clarification. On any other matters, whenever something that is directly involved with you -- as you probably know, part of my constituency may be involved in the revamping of boundaries or setting of a new constituency.

Am I in conflict of interest if I chose to debate this on its merits? I would like to find that out because I know in other areas whenever we choose to try to speak on issues of a direct nature like this we have been cautioned in terms of conflict of interest. I would like some kind of direction on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I am going to ask the Law Clerk to explain that. Mr. Law Clerk.

LAW CLERK (Mr. Fuglsang): Yes, Mr. Chairman, in answer to the question posed by the Member for the Western Arctic, it is my view that there is no conflict of interest in discussing the motion, which relates generally to boundaries, even if you may feel that your particular boundaries may be affected. The conflict of interest provisions refer to matters of a pecuniary interest which have to do with direct financial or indirect financial interest in the discussion. So certainly there is no conflict of interest in this situation; any member can address the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion. Mr. Braden. Mr. Braden, you still have the floor.

Changes In Population Distribution

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you. Now, as I was saying, there have been some things that have taken place in Yellowknife over the last three years that have resulted in a drastic and dramatic reduction in the size of my constituency. Just to give you a few examples, some bunkhouses closed down at Giant mine, which is in my constituency, and there has been a reduction in part of the number of staff working at the mine. Finally, it is a general desire of the corporation which runs the mine to have their staff move into private accommodation. So a lot of voters have left my riding, particularly when one looks at Giant mine. Secondly, Mr. Chairman, the mayor and the city council in their wisdom moved what was known as the "dump trailer court". Many of those trailers ended up in Mrs. Sorensen's constituency, as an example of where I have lost constituents. A third factor which concerns me about my constituency, Mr. Chairman, is that growth generally in Yellowknife has been, to a certain extent in what is known as Yellowknife Centre, but by and large in Yellowknife South, so what we have is a situation where there is a distortion in the size of the constituencies in Yellowknife proper.

Constituents Living Close To Yellowknife

Now, there have been, over the past few years, Mr. Chairman, a number of people from Yellowknife who are starting to live out on the land, so to speak, at Prelude Lake, Walsh Lake, and a number of other lakes close to Yellowknife, which I believe are in Mr. Sayine's constituency, or perhaps they are in Mr. Wah-Shee's; I am not sure. This presents a difficult situation for these people, because they are not going to go to Fort Resolution or Rae-Edzo to vote; they vote in what is considered to be Yellowknife North, even though they are not legally residents of the constituency as it is spelled out in the Council Ordinance. So, Mr. Chairman, there is another anomaly which I am facing, which I would like to see corrected by examination of constituency boundaries.

Finally -- and I do not claim to know right now what the residents of Detah and Rainbow Valley want to do, but there is talk from time to time of stronger ties with the rest of the Dogrib nation to the north of town. This is an issue that I would want to work with them further on, to make sure that they are getting a good representation. I think right now they are getting pretty good representation, but they may have different ideas.

There are a couple of other points that I think perhaps should be considered in terms of Yellowknife generally, and I am not a strong advocate of Yellowknife having another seat. I think that the three Yellowknife MLAs currently and in the future are a sufficient number for the city, even though one could make some arguments on the population factor. So I would just like everybody to know that is where I am coming from with respect to Yellowknife. I think that we should be looking at some of the other larger communities which we anticipate will be growing in the future, and if there are to be extra seats, you know, maybe some place like Rankin Inlet should get another seat, or Norman Wells, or Inuvik, or Tuk. I do not know, but that would be something for the review to consider.

More Equitable Distribution Needed In Yellowknife

I guess that is basically all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. I really feel that I have one significant interest in this whole thing, and that is to get the boundaries of Yellowknife redrawn so that there is a more equitable distribution. Right now, Mr. Chairman, I think I have about 500 or 600 voters in my riding, and Lynda Sorensen, Mr. Chairman, I believe, has what? About 2500? Is that accurate?

MRS. SORENSEN: More than that. About 3000.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: About 3000.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: About the same size as my constituency.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: So there is a bit of an imbalance in respect to Yellowknife, and I think that perhaps with not much work the boundaries of Yellowknife could be redrawn to provide for a more representative population between three seats. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Tologanak, to the motion.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the motion. I have been listening very intently and patiently to some of the arguments for and against having an electoral boundaries commission study the existing size and the boundaries in a number of electoral districts that we have. The last House before us was given the necessary mandate to set up an electoral boundaries commission to look at the size of the Territories and just how well the East and the West are being represented in this House.

MR. CURLEY: You are part of the East.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you.

---Laughter

One of the things that are important to remember, we are not just talking about Yellowknife and its anomalies, we are not just talking about Mackenzie Liard and its anomalies, we are not talking about the Central Arctic and its anomalies. I think it is in our mandate as elected representatives for the people of the Northwest Territories, to give the people of the Northwest Territories the opportunity and a chance -- we may be sitting in what is our last year, and we may be looking at this as a last minute type of a deal; that has been suggested by my colleague from Frobisher Bay -- but we do have a mandate, if we wish to take it, to increase the House to 25 or just to realign some of the boundaries that may not be as representative as they should be. What we are doing is giving -- like the last House did -- giving the people and the future of this House a chance to take a look again at the boundaries in which we are elected. I know during the formal session when the motion came up, I talked about the Kitikmeot region -- some people want to call it Central Arctic, which means the same thing, which has the same definition, if you have language like I do. I talked about how the people -- and we talked about this in the caucus as much as two years ago, about electoral boundaries -- and there are those that have been fighting it down at every opportunity and setting it aside on the agenda during the caucus meetings. But I would urge the Members, this House -- we are not seeking to increase to 25; we are seeking to ask the electoral boundaries commission to be set up, to at least take a look at our situation in the Northwest Territories, as was set down in October, 1978, by the previous House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think that the work of past Houses -- the Seventh and Eighth, primarily -- recognized the principle that people in the Territories needed better representation in the Legislature. The Seventh House moved to have fully elected Members. The Eighth House worked hard to get better representation for peoples of the Territories and was able to change the NWT Act to allow for representation anywhere from 15 to 25 and I think those two Houses made great strides in trying to get this kind of representation to where we are now. There were three criteria that were the basis of this kind of representation: population, communication routes and community interests; and it was the wisdom of the then commission to come up with 22. That commission was set up, made its report and the Eighth Assembly verified that particular report.

We have the time remaining to do something about getting even better representation of the peoples of the Northwest Territories. The criteria still hold. We have two more sessions to do this work. I think that we should have the right to determine our own numbers. I was never satisfied with putting a maximum on it, but that was as far as we were able to get. There may well be in the eyes of a number of people some constituencies that are too large or too small, but that is beside the point. People are being represented in this House. I think we should be able to get better representation. I am not all hung up on the business of increasing committee sizes -- committees of any kind -- but the motion simply indicates that a commission be appointed to examine the existing size and number of electoral districts and present the recommendations to this Assembly.

If the commission is set up, this House can still question, can still debate the report. It does not have to accept the report of this commission, but it will give a review of the existing boundaries of the electoral districts, it will give a review of whether there should be a greater appreciation of the communication routes and community interests, and I do not think that that would be irresponsible or gerrymandering, in any sense of the words, for this House to ask a commission to look at the existing electoral districts. I think that we have the time.

Present House Should Ensure The Best Possible Representation

I am not going to debate whether, in fact, one particular constituency is too large or too small, but I think that we would be more than irresponsible if we did not, in the life of this House, look at better representation or the existing representation that this House has. We may be a long way from responsible government, but surely in 1982 we can ensure that the people have representative government and since we, as an Assembly, recognize that there is more than one criterion to getting these seats -- it is not just population, it is not just communication routes, it is not just community interests, but a combination of all three. If we were not that way, if past Houses were not that way, we would not have the representation that we have now. I believe that it would be incumbent upon this particular House to ensure that the next Legislature has the best possible representation of people in the Northwest Territories. If Members were to vote against this particular recommendation to establish a commission to review the existing electoral districts, then I say that would be irresponsible and I think we should not let the opportunity pass us by, in order to do that. Surely, we can leave some kind of a legacy to the next House and if it cannot be responsible government in all its forms, then it should be representative government. Thank you.

MR. CURLEY: Very good, very good.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

Mandate Would Not Give Sufficient Time

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am quite amazed with the arguments to appoint an electoral boundaries commission to study the existing size and number of electoral districts. Why are we concerned about the number of electoral districts? Why are we rushing too quickly to do the work, to set up an electoral boundaries commission and give them a mandate to present a report and consult with the constituencies and hold public hearings in a month and a half? Surely the Commissioner understands that it is not easy to carry out work like this, because he has been involved in a number of commissions. I remember Commissioner Parker being involved in the Carrothers Commission. Surely he would not want to accept that this commission should be given a dictatorial type of a mandate and say, you have only got a month and a half to produce a report. That is not fair. No, I would not think any of the Members would be able to accurately and decently prepare a report regarding the present districts, and if you are thinking of redistribution, surely you are going to need more than a month and a half, particularly at a time when Christmas holidays are coming around the corner. If we are going to be sitting in November, surely you are not just interested in serving your own selfish reasons for wanting to reconsider the size of the present electoral districts. Surely, if you mean what democracy is -- that you give a fair and responsible mandate -- you will not act irresponsibly and say, "Look, you need to produce a report in a month and a half." Surely, you know, to ask them to produce a report and hold public hearings throughout the 22 electoral districts in a month and a half would be irresponsible. My! The Minister for the Housing Corporation cannot get around to each region and communities, for goodness sake, in three years time, since he has been a Minister. He cannot do it.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I was in Rankin. I was there, anyway. I went to ITC.

MR. CURLEY: When I was here, he did not even give me a courtesy call or a written letter of notice that he was coming. When he arrived in Rankin he said, when I was in town, that I was on holidays.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: On a point of order...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order! Order, please. To the motion, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Order. Order, he says.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: No, I did not say order. I said point of privilege.

MR. CURLEY: You are delaying the important vote coming, so you had better keep quiet, so that we can get on with the...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: You know what happens when you start making statements like that.

MRS. SORENSEN: Order, please, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CURLEY: What did he say?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: You know what happens to you when you start making statements like that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order! Order, please. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: ...before going back.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Hey, hey, hey. Do not say that to me again, okay. I am chairing this House. Please, please!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Keep it going then. Keep him on the subject.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not mind a little bit of delay at all in this...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I would not either. Keep it going.

MRS. SORENSEN: To the motion, please, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking to the motion. In order to do justice, surely the Member for Yellowknife Centre and those that are supporting this motion can understand that it is not only, I think, not legally possible...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Question of privilege. Question of privilege, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CURLEY: ...but humanly possible to...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Just hold on. A point of privilege, Mr. MacQuarrie?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I was just named by the honourable Member for Keewatin South as being in support of this motion. I think he has no idea at all, since I have not spoken on it yet, whether I will be supporting it or not, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every little delay helps. Thank you.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, I say that not only is it going to be not legally possible, I think, to try and come up with the legislation -- to enact legislation -- but I think it would be irresponsible just to try and serve the interests of the few who say that their constituencies are too large and impossible. In some parts of the North they are; you know, I realize it is very difficult to get around. But I think it would be irresponsible and I think it would be humanly impossible to try and select a commission in so short a time and expect them to come forth with recommendations in the February session and table them in the 1983 winter session, so that we would come forth with new legislation to try and implement the recommendations.

Motion Addresses More Than Redistribution

I think that if the Members are only interested in the redistribution, we should address it simply as a case to establish a commission to redistribute the present electoral districts, but the preamble and the motion does not address simply the present electoral boundaries. I think that

some Members, like Yellowknife North, who says his constituency could have more population -- but it is not impossible to represent -- and I think that is a responsible suggestion. Although our constituencies are smaller in nature and population, not in geography, my inclination would be that we study first the present electoral districts, because not only should -- the majority in terms of population should have the convenience. I think that if we are going to represent the people, we should not only represent them in terms of population only. We should be interested in representing the Territories and, therefore, maybe should consider expanding the present ridings in Yellowknife to include other smaller communities surrounding the southern Mackenzie. I do not think that would be an impossible task at all. I do not think the Member for Yellowknife South should have to represent Ottawa, which is about 2000 miles away.

---Laughter

Surely she could do a better job in representing some communities that are outside her riding. So, I think if we are actually concerned with redistributing the present electoral boundaries, we should state it like it is. I do not think we want to be unfair to the commission and give them a mandate and say to them, "Look, you have only got a month and a half to write a report and then we want you to make a substantial recommendation which, in effect, would consider increasing the size of the Assembly from 22 to 25." This Assembly has always disagreed with the positions of the federal government. The federal government has unilaterally sort of suggested to the NWT people that 25 is the maximum and now what you guys are telling me is that Ottawa is the answer. We have got to abide by Ottawa's legislation. This particular motion does not at all convince me that redistributing the present electoral boundaries would give any more possibility of increasing the Executive Committee, because it says in the preamble, the third paragraph says, "Whereas an increase in the number of MLAs would permit better representation of the electorate and would provide additional Members to serve on the Executive Committee...." There is no guarantee at all.

There is no guarantee that increasing the present Legislature to 25 would provide additional Members to serve on the Executive Committee. We have no indication from Ottawa that they are prepared to increase the Executive Committee from seven to nine, so therefore this motion -- as much as it is out of order, the Speaker really should have read it carefully. I cannot support it...

MRS. SORENSEN: To the motion.

MR. CURLEY: ...and I will be asking for amendments, and not only will I do that, I have other suggestions that I will be making right after coffee break, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion, Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I will make this brief statement. I was very excited about the exchanges that have been going around the House, but I will try to speak of my own concerns about that area. We are representatives, and we want to do our part for our people and in accordance with government services, but we have done our mandate to our people, and there is more yet that we have to do. You will be doing your part to your people, and you will agree with that -- although I did not understand what the Minister responsible for Housing said about employment being better. However, I have my own belief that if we do our part for people in our jobs and also if we support the organizations well because we want them to have powers -- and we have some Baffin regional organizations over there, and then there are some central organizations, also, in the Keewatin -- perhaps our mandate would be easier to carry. That is the question, whether we can give them more authority or more powers. However, I will be very concerned about the natives. I would be surprised if other natives vote for an increase, if they want to help their organizations to have more powers. That is their concern. I will be very surprised if we have to increase our Members. The organizations can do a good job if we give them authority. I am very concerned about that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Let us take 15 minutes for coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The Chair recognizes a quorum. I had Mr. Patterson on my list. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to move that Mr. Terry Daniels be invited into committee of the whole. I would request the agreement that Mr. Daniels be invited to explain how the previous boundaries commission worked.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): What does the committee wish? Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you bring Terry Daniels to the House? Thank you. Terry Daniels, welcome to the House. I have Mr. McLaughlin on my list. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I believe there are other Members who would like to speak who have not spoken yet, so I would defer to them.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to support the motion. If I were the party whip for the eastern caucus I would feel the same thing, in regard to maintaining the status quo. However, I feel that there ought to be a review in terms of the membership of this House, and I would also like to indicate, Mr. Chairman, that the commission will have more time to consult with the various areas of the Territories. The commission can be set up in November, and they will have about three months to consult with various residents or groups, which is the same length of time that was given to the last boundaries commission which took approximately three months. So this insinuation that the commission will only have a month and a half to consult and put their report together is not correct, and so therefore, I feel that there is some realignment that has to be made, some adjustment to the existing constituency boundaries. There appear to be some disparities in that area but, at the same time I think that this commission will basically look into whether the increases are in order, and I am sure that there will be all kinds of criteria that this commission will have to look into. So it will be in the interest of the general population as a whole to do a review of the existing representation.

This should not in any way create a problem in regard to the creation of two separate territories, if that is what the fear is. However, I must say that the present membership of this House serves their constituents quite well.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I think they ought to be commended for the fine job that they have done so far. However, I think that the issue that we are dealing with is basically whether there should be a review of some of the problems the MLAs may be having within their existing constituency boundaries. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I will be supporting this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

Procedure Of An Electoral District Boundaries Commission

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for the procedures people, or for the Law Clerk. It is a hypothetical question, but I believe that we can take the precedent from the last boundaries commission that was established. Mr. Chairman, if the boundaries commission were to recommend an additional seat for the Central Arctic, an additional seat for Mackenzie Liard, and a fourth seat for Yellowknife in their report -- first of all, what would happen to that report? Where does it go, and to whom does it go to? Second, if it comes into the Legislature, does this Legislature have the opportunity to amend the report, change it, reject it, or manipulate it in any way? Can I have an answer to that, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CURLEY: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would disagree with the Member that the staff, the Clerk, ought to be answering hypothetical questions, and questions that are political in nature.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: A point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, we just agreed to invite Mr. Daniels in, secretary of the former boundaries commission, to answer questions about how a boundaries commission works, and I would suggest the question should be directed to the secretary of the former commission.

MRS. SORENSEN: A point of privilege, Mr. Chairman. I asked a question that I have asked the Chairman to respond to, and I would like an answer to it, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Do you want to respond to it, Mr. Law Clerk?

LAW CLERK (Mr. Fuglsang): Mr. Chairman, I am not attempting to answer a hypothetical question, but there is, under the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Ordinance, a procedure which is to be followed when the commission has completed its report, and section 19 and 20 of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Ordinance covers it. If you would like me to read those sections:

Subsection 19(1) says, "The commission shall complete the report within four months of the coming into force of this ordinance." Well, I do not know how they can do that. Subsection (2) says, "The commission shall forthwith, after completion of its report: (a) file its report with the Speaker; and (b) transmit its records and documents to the Speaker." Subsection (3) says, "Copies of the report filed with the Speaker shall be made available to the public at the offices of the Clerk of the Council for inspection during office hours." Subsection (4) says, "The Clerk of the Council shall transmit copies of the report to each Member of the Council." Subsection (5) says, "The Speaker shall, after receiving the report of the commission, forthwith lay the report before the Council, if the Council is then in session or, if the Council is not in session, then within five days after the opening of the next following session."

Subsection 20(1) says, "Forthwith after receiving the report of the commission, the Speaker shall notify the Commissioner, and the Commissioner shall forthwith summon the Council into session." Subsection (2) says, "If the Council, by resolution approves or approves with alterations the proposals of the commission, the Commissioner shall prepare a bill to carry out the provisions of the resolution and the bill shall be introduced to Council at the same session at which the resolution is made."

So that is the procedure, and to answer the question, "Can the Council alter it after it has been presented to them?" -- the answer is "yes".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

No Guarantee Of Fourth Seat In Yellowknife

MRS. SORENSEN: Well, clearly, Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly then would have the opportunity to amend or reject all of or parts of the report of the boundaries commission, an historical fact in this House is that the Members of this House are not at all in sympathy with the Yellowknife situation. Therefore, while a boundaries commission may in all honesty and in all sincerity recommend that Yellowknife obtain a fourth seat in any redistribution, the fact is that when it might come onto this floor, I have no confidence whatsoever that MLAs would vote in favour of a fourth seat. So what I would perceive as happening is that we would accept a second seat for the Central Arctic and a second seat for Mr. Sibbeston's constituency and reject the fourth seat for Yellowknife. We have already heard Mr. Braden, an MLA from Yellowknife, not one half hour ago say that he was soft on a fourth seat from Yellowknife, so we have no guarantee that we would get Mr. Braden's vote, and I have no guarantee that Mr. Nerysoo, who now says -- well, he has not said anything, so I do not know what he is saying...

---Laughter

...who now appears to be supporting this airy-fairy fourth seat for Yellowknife, and Mr. Wah-Shee, who said he supports a fourth seat for Yellowknife -- I have no guarantee that they are going to vote, in the final analysis six months down the road for a fourth seat for Yellowknife. So clearly, the argument that the western Members are giving -- and Mr. McLaughlin as well, who has some frenzy about getting another seat for Yellowknife -- clearly that is not the issue.

Now, let us look at the other situation. All the Members who have spoken, particularly from the West, have said, "Poor Lynda. She has too many people in her constituency." I have never complained about the size of my constituency -- not once. I have never said to this House, nor to any Members of this House, that my constituency is too large and that I need a redistribution. Not once. Nor have any of my constituents complained about the fact that I am not ably representing all 3000 of them. I have never heard that, so what could be the reason for this? It is beyond me, except that Mr. Tologanak clearly would like to have another seat because his people are asking for it, and I accept that, because I have also heard the people of the Central Arctic asking for that; and I have also heard...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Point of order. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the motion says "to study the existing size and number of electoral districts and to present the recommendations regarding any changes before the next session of the Assembly". It does not talk about particular constituencies, and I submit to you, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable Member now is referring to particular constituencies. The motion calls to study the existing size and number, and I submit to you, sir, that it is out of order.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, then, Mr. Tologanak and Mr. Sibbeston were out of order, too.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Somebody should have called them...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order, please. Order. Thank you, Mr. McCallum. I agree with you. Mrs. Sorensen. To the motion.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I certainly was not the first one to raise the issue of Mr. Tologanak's constituency, nor was I the first to raise the issue of Mr. Sibbeston's constituency; they raised them, and therefore I truly believe that I have the right to respond to their...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Two wrongs do not make a right...

MRS. SORENSEN: ...heartfelt plea for additional Members, but, Mr. Chairman, I really do feel that we do have a balance in this House right now. Sincerely, I do feel that, and that voting for this motion is definitely not going to mean an extra seat for Yellowknife, even though Mr. McCallum may wish to run in Yellowknife...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Ohhhhh, hold it, hold it, hold it, hold it...

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: I have no intention of helping to create another...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: A point of privilege.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of privilege. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I want to make it explicitly known to the Member -- my next-door neighbour -- she should be under no apprehension that I am going to run against her, or against Mr. MacQuarrie or against whoever else is going to run in Yellowknife. I am not from Yellowknife; I am from Fort Smith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion, please. Mrs. Sorensen. Directly to the motion, please.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes. I will stick to the motion.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Apologize to me. Come on, Harriet, I would to you.

MRS. SORENSEN: I would not want to give my colleague a heart attack at his age.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: What the hell are you talking about? I can stand a lot more stress than you could dear and I shall prove it to you if you want to come along...

MRS. SORENSEN: Do you want to step outside?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yeah, right now. Or right here, if you want to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Well, keep on the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order!

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I apologize. I will behave.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Ah! Thank you.

MRS. SORENSEN: I do want to respond to those Members from the Eastern Arctic who have ad nauseam talked about the fact that we do not have enough time to review this very important issue. The fact is that this issue has been raised in caucus three times, and it was the Eastern Arctic Members who each time set it aside, saying, "Oh, we have lots of time for that", and "Let us not consider that now; we have got more important issues", for the very reason that if they could delay as long as possible, then they could use that argument in the dying moments of the Ninth Assembly, so...

MR. CURLEY: And what did Lynda say?

1978 Electoral Boundaries Commission

MRS. SORENSEN: ...you know, I am not naive; I may be from Yellowknife, but I am not naive in the methods and the political tactics that are used by the Eastern Arctic Members. So clearly, timing has -- and Mr. Daniels certainly can attest to that -- the timing of the last territorial boundaries; and so I will end by asking Mr. Daniels a question with respect to how long it took from the inception of the territorial boundaries commission to when it tabled its report with the Speaker as per the legislation -- Mr. Daniels.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Mr. Chairman, the first meeting of the previous boundaries commission was on June 9th, 1978. It submitted its report to the Speaker on October 10th of 1978.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Let the record show that means four months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, with your permission I would like to ask Mr. Daniels a few more questions. I would like to know where the commission travelled; I would like to know how many public hearings were held; I would like to know what staff the commission had; what the commission cost; and finally, what sort of -- maybe this is a difficult question -- but what sort of time commitment was required of commission members, if that is possible to answer?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Mr. Chairman, the committee from the start said that it would travel anywhere in the North that a meeting was requested by people locally to discuss the boundary question. Perhaps it should be noted that the first business of the commission was to send out a proposed boundary proposal, if you will, for discussion in the communities, and that proposal was based on a report submitted by a committee of the Assembly at that time. However, the commission made it very clear that in basing its initial proposal, which was for discussion purposes, on the findings of that committee, that the commission was in no way bound by those recommendations, but they were used to develop maps with lines on them for discussion purposes, and this accompanied by a lot of information published in English, Inuktitut, and Slavey, explaining what the issue was about.

So based on requests received, the commission travelled to and held hearings in Repulse Bay, Igloolik, Lake Harbour, Frobisher Bay, Norman Wells, Spence Bay, Arctic Bay, and Pond Inlet.

Now Pond Inlet was particularly important because at that time there was a meeting of the Baffin Regional Council being held there, so all communities participated in that debate. Now, in terms of what it cost, I can only give you figures from memory, and as I recall the budget that we prepared was somewhere between \$200,000 and \$240,000. The final cost was somewhat less than that, and this, of course, was because there was much less travel than anticipated. You can see from the places we went to that most of the requests were from the Eastern Arctic, but we did not travel in the West as much as was budgeted for.

In terms of the staff, as you are aware I was the executive secretary; in addition to myself, there was a full-time recording secretary. However, the Commissioner at that time issued a directive to all departments requesting priority from within the administration in terms of any assistance the commission may require, and we drew heavily on certain areas: the office of the Clerk of the Council; as I recall, the statistics people; and people in wildlife and legal services. The advertising aspect of the commission's work, which was quite significant, was done under contract to a local firm in Yellowknife.

The time commitments, particularly by the chairman of that commission, were substantial. He recognized the limited time available to his commission and he cleared his calendar, if you will, of other activities so that he was virtually available for most of the time. The other members spent considerable time -- in terms of attending meetings and so on. I cannot give you an exact figure on how much time they spent, but it was significant.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Time Frame For Enactment Of Legislation For Next Election

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note that the time of year when the last commission carried out its work was during the summer and early fall, but that if this commission were to be established, it would be attempting to work in the winter and over the Christmas season. So I have a question that I will put to the chairman, and perhaps the chairman can get the answer from the Clerk, and that is, what is the time frame within which we would have to work in order to have the legislation enacted so that there could be a change for the next election? In other words, when would we have to have the legislative change made, and therefore presumably sometime before that the commission would have to have its work concluded?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Remnant.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Chairman, the provisions of the Elections Ordinance require that any legislative changes to apply at an election must be assented to and in force a minimum of six months prior to the issue of writ for that election. If this Assembly lives out its term to October 31, the writ could issue on November 1st, 1983, which means therefore that you go back six months from that date -- therefore, the legislation would have to be in force by April 30th.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I just had another question for Mr. Daniels, or the Clerk, Mr. Chairman, and that is, what was done with the last commission's report? Once the recommendations were complete, how was it dealt with by this House? Also, I would like to know more about the report that came from the Assembly to the commission. Who prepared this report with recommended changes? How was that done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Daniels.

Preliminary Workings Of 1978 Commission

MR. DANIELS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I will answer that in parts. The first half of the question can be better handled by the Clerk. In terms of the committee within the Assembly -- I could be wrong, but Tom Butters, I believe, was chairman of that committee, and they submitted a wealth of information, including statistics and so on, and it was dealt with in terms of the preliminary proposal, by the commission -- much as any other presentation would have been. We felt it important to start with something, because of the time constraints, we wanted to have something that people could talk about, otherwise we were concerned we would not make the deadline. After the commission completed its report, it was submitted to this House for debate, and accepted by the House. What happened to it after that -- I think you have to refer to your Clerk.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Chairman. If my memory serves me correctly, the report was tabled in the House on October 16th, 1978. It was considered in committee of the whole on October the 23rd, 1978, and was approved by the Assembly as presented. At that same session, the amendments to the Council Ordinance, revising the electoral district boundaries to reflect the recommendations of the boundaries commission, were introduced into the Assembly and adopted.

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

Creation Of 22 Seats In 1978

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If I may, another question for Mr. Daniels or the Clerk. I would like to know how we ended up with 22 seats. The Northwest Territories Act says "up to 25". Did the last electoral boundaries commission have the option of recommending 25 seats -- and opted for 22? Or was their term of reference confined to creating 22 seats?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: As I recall, the legislation in existence at that time restricted the House to 15 seats. The legislation change was requested with Ottawa -- which consequently became 25, and I am not sure of the timing on this but, in terms of the commission's activities, which I am most familiar with, the proposal from the Eighth Assembly was for 21 seats. Now, it is interesting that the decision to recommend 22 was the commission's. The commission made that recommendation, and it really came out of a debate over how to handle the Hudson Bay area, Sanikiluaq. There were many submissions, and much debate, how to best serve that area -- and the Keewatin -- and it was in the discussion relevant to that area that the decision, the weight, went for 22.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Daniels. To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask Mr. Daniels a question on the matter of communications. When the commission was first put into place, in getting the information out to the communities so that they knew what was going on and the opportunities available to them, how successful was that at the beginning? How long did it take before you began having responses, or you felt that people knew enough that they could have input into this redistribution?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Daniels.

Community Communication Process In 1978

MR. DANIELS: We prepared an information package which included a large full-scale map of the Territories, with the boundaries as recommended -- based on the information that came from the committee of this House. We sent with that a number of pieces of literature which went into a package, which I have pieces of here on my table. It went out to every community and every special interest group, any possible group we could get it to. We also advertised in every newspaper publishing in the North, the same information, and this was in terms of full-page ads and so on, with all the information on what was in the proposal, plus how you could get back to the commission. We also have Anik Info information ads prepared, which were very successful. Also, in the Mackenzie Valley, we used tapes for local radio stations.

As I recall it, it took about six weeks for us to get that information together and to get it out into the communities, and then a couple of weeks or so had to pass while people got together at community meetings and so on. The key to the communication process was the fact that a large package was sent to each hamlet office -- we relied heavily on the hamlet offices to display this information in a conspicuous place -- and to hunters' and trappers' associations, and organizations such as COPE and the Dene Nation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Just the second part of my question: How long did it take? You know, you put the information out, but how long before you felt that you were getting adequate response? The reason I ask you that question is because, at that time, I was employed with the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, and working in conjunction with Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and we

were requested at a certain time -- the commission was a little concerned about, the lack of communications coming back. I was just wondering how long that took, once you got it out, to feel comfortable that you felt people knew enough about it that they wanted to respond.

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

MR. DANIELS: Well, as I recall, it took longer than we had hoped. The first three or four weeks the response was very slow. As we got closer and closer to our deadline, of course, there was more and more response. In fact, if I recall correctly, most of our committee hearings were held in the latter weeks of the commission's life.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Communications, to me, is one of the most important aspects of doing anything you want to do comfortably in this area. Did you make any recommendations, from your committee, that should be taken into consideration in terms of communications?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Well, no, the commission, as I recall, did not make any specific recommendations. However, it was a primary concern of the commission that everybody be as aware of what was taking place as possible -- and this was certainly a priority concern of the commission all during its work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin, to the motion.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. FRASER: Question.

Issue Is Proper Representation Of People Of The North

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I think that Members should bear in mind that the last time the boundaries commission had the problem of establishing an additional seven seats. That was a 50 per cent increase. Here we are only dealing with either no increase -- because the motion does not say there have to be 23, 24, or 25 seats, so there is a possibility of no increase -- or at most a 15 per cent increase. So that alone is going to make the problems of the commission less. Most of the Members, in debate so far, have said that in their own particular riding -- they are happy with it -- so maybe there will not be a massive appeal from everywhere in the Territories to look into this, if they do not have to look at individual seats and only have to look at the general principle of expansion.

I would like to answer Mr. Evaluarjuk that definitely the formal motion does not ask to expand to 25 seats. It just asks that the boundaries commission look at whether we should have 22 seats, or more seats -- and I think Members are getting too particular about getting their input in here. Now, they are going to have lots of chance to have input when the bill comes into the House, after the boundaries commission reports back to here. It is the public hearings that count. It is the people in the Northwest Territories that are the people that should say whether they think they are properly represented by the 22 seats as they are now. I do not think it is we who should say that. The issue that is important, that is being dealt with is whether this House would be better representative of the people in the Northwest Territories with 22, 23, 24 or 25 Members -- or, if we keep 22 Members, should there be some boundary changes in order to best represent the people of the Northwest Territories? They are the people, through public hearings, that should determine that fact, and I think that the Members who vote against this motion, and in so doing are being unfair and self-centred, because they will be preventing an impartial body from making recommendations to the House. Obviously, this is not an impartial body -- I am not, you are not, on this particular issue. That is why the last House did not just carve up the boundaries and do whatever they wanted. They created an impartial boundaries commission -- they even had to pass an ordinance in order to define what that commission's role was.

So I think that we, as an Assembly, would not be fair to the people of the Northwest Territories by being self-centred in this. It is a fair and impartial body that is proposed here, and we should give the people of the Northwest Territories a chance. Members across, and Members in this House on this side, were very responsive to the need that there should be a Member for

Keewatin North, because we had a resignation. We responded immediately to make sure that takes place. If Members on this side, for example, did not want that representation, we could have prevented it from happening, but we thought it was best for the people in Keewatin North to change the Elections Ordinance immediately -- and we did it in about four days -- so that we could have a replacement for Mr. Noah, so the whole people of the Territories could be represented by 22 instead of 21 people.

So I would urge some of the Members there to reconsider what they are doing. The judge that will be appointed, and the two other people appointed to this commission, are going to be doing public hearings, and I believe that is the best way to determine how the people in the Northwest Territories think they are being represented. They are not going to go up to you, Mrs. Sorensen, and say to you, "You are doing a terrible job". Those are the people that do not come to their MLA.

I would like to urge Members on the other side who are worried about this to really consider the impartiality and important principle here that we should not determine that our seats are going to be the same in the next Assembly -- that we should not be fixing things up for ourselves by keeping them the same. What we should be doing is letting the people of the Northwest Territories tell a judge and his impartial committee what they think, and then we should respond to that commission's report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

No Need To Increase Present Assembly

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, as much as I can understand the appeal from Pine Point, I am not convinced that there is a need to increase the present Assembly. It may be that there are strong individuals out there that would like to get an opportunity to get into this House, but I say that if they are committed they can defeat the existing Members from the East -- from the West, particularly in the southern Mackenzie. If they are so strongly in favour of new Members, maybe some Members can voluntarily step aside and allow those people who would commit themselves to step in. I think George Braden has done that. He ought to be commended for that.

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: Congratulations, George.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Why not do the same, Tagak?

MR. CURLEY: If some Members from -- maybe Pine Point probably could do that too, so that there could be strong representatives in the chamber...

MRS. SORENSEN: He is probably going to run in Yellowknife, too.

MR. CURLEY: ...but, you know, we, from the other side, I think we are doing fairly well. We represent our constituencies and we know that even if we want to increase the size of the electoral district in the East, no dice -- not a chance -- that is not going to happen, because the simple rule is, majority rules, and we do not have a majority population. So, we are really asking endorsement for the tradition that the West ought to continue to have a majority. That was the reason the issue of expanding the size of this Legislature was initially brought into the caucus some time ago -- because of the continuing experience with this Legislature of experiencing that traditional practices change. The majority control of the West has not been as smooth as it used to be, because presently if you are active and representing your constituency, there ought to be no problem today, particularly when the communications have improved. The telephone service is pretty good.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Agreed, agreed!

MR. CURLEY: The transportation system is pretty good and I cannot understand why we have to rush this bill and recommendations in the time frame that -- I do not think it is fair. So I would think that this case is not fairly reflecting the present desire of the people of the NWT. We have constitutional issues that are not...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: How do you know? You will not let them be heard.

MR. CURLEY: ...even, that are not solved. We have set up a number of committees in terms of the constitutional development, constitutional reforms, that are calling for a study into the division issue. To try and come up with the recommendations in terms of the Legislature, to expand the size of it, would only please Ottawa, that the people of the NWT are pleased with their government. You know, sure, they acted in a responsible way by increasing the present size of the Legislature to 25. Ottawa would love to see that, because it would give them a reason to delay further -- any reasons for ever making a decision on the division of the NWT.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Garbage, garbage!

Party Politics Real Reason For Wanting Increase In Seats

MR. CURLEY: If I was representing one community, a very small town, I probably would urge the same thing. You know, let us have more Members, because that would allow you to play the old traditional game, that the more population you have in some centres, your case is stronger...

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: You are playing old traditional games. It is called Inuit games.

MR. CURLEY: ...but I am not convinced that this particular implementation of this commission, if it were to ask for increasing the size, would not do any good for the Eastern Arctic, anyway, or would it do any good to the people of the Eastern Arctic? It would not do any good. You already have about 14 Members from this area. Now, if you could only get your act together and act as a team sometimes, rather than one going off in the other direction...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Party whip!

MR. CURLEY: ...or running against each other head-on...

MRS. SORENSEN: To the motion, Mr. Chairman. This is not a school.

MR. CURLEY: ...Mr. Chairman, I would think that you would be getting what you want, by organizing.

MRS. SORENSEN: We do not need a lecture, Tagak.

MR. CURLEY: The more numbers you get, possibly -- you know, you hope that you would get a majority control and possibly the real reason for increasing the...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion, please.

MR. CURLEY: ...present size would be that we are actually calling for party politics.

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: You are bringing politics into it now -- into the division.

MR. CURLEY: I have a question to the former secretary of the boundaries commission. I would like to know, Mr. Daniels, how the decisions were made whether to hold public meetings in particular communities. I remember receiving some information, but was not convinced that one request would either convince the commission to travel to Rankin or not -- so I did not even know whether to communicate to them. So, I would like to find out from you what criteria were established as to whether we should hold a public hearing in a certain community. Did the community council or hamlet have to do the requests or could a number of individuals or an individual alone convince the commission to travel to a certain community?

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

MR. DANIELS: The commission chairman made it very clear that he would travel to any community where there were a group of people -- but he never did specify how small that group or how large it should be -- wanted to meet with them and that was the only guideline that existed, as I recall. For example, it did not have to come from a hamlet or from any specific group -- simply notice that a group of people wanted to meet with them. What we attempted to do was to schedule those meetings in such a way that we could maximize travel. For example, meetings in the Eastern Arctic were set up so that they ran together, so we could get to as many as we could. The only criterion as I recall, that existed was that there be a request from people for a meeting.

A lot of people submitted written briefs and comments, which were duly considered by the commission -- even phone conversations from some isolated communities, where they did not want the commission to come to visit and hold meetings, but they got together and made their views known by telephone to the commission. So, it was really whatever could possibly be done to accommodate input from people of the North -- the commission made very effort to meet that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Tologanak. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Accepting Report Of Commission Ahead Of Time

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I have a question and, again, I am not sure whether it is one of procedure or law, but I will put the question and they can sort it out. Could this Assembly bind itself ahead of time to unequivocally accept the report of the commission?

MRS. SORENSEN: Good point.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Good point.

MR. SIBBESTON: We could, but we will not.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Could we do that?

MRS. SORENSEN: That is a good compromise.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Who is the question to, Mr. MacQuarrie?

MR. MacQUARRIE: I am not really sure. I can see that it might have legal implications, but also, procedural in an Assembly, so perhaps the Clerk and the Law Clerk could discuss it between them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I am going to ask the Law Clerk to answer that question, please.

LAW CLERK (Mr. Fuglsang): Mr. Chairman, I believe that it is a basic principle of parliamentary government that the parliament cannot bind itself into the future and I believe that rule would apply here -- that other than sometimes in constitutional law, there are provisions which may slow down matters to be dealt with by a future Assembly or by the same Assembly at a later date, but I do not think this type of a matter would come into that category, so my view would be that, no, the Assembly cannot bind itself.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Curley a while back suggested that we in the West should get our act together and I say to him, this is precisely what we are doing.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SIBBESTON: We in the West are getting together...

---Applause

...but we are getting resistance from the East. I want to say, too, that we, in doing this -- in trying to get more elected people, are actually helping out the East, because we want to alienate you easterners so that the movement toward Nunavut can happen quicker and much more seriously, with a great deal of emotion and determination.

No, Mr. Chairman, these are not the reasons. My reason for supporting this motion is so that there can be more elected people sitting, representing the people of the North, and particularly I am concerned about the people of the rural parts of the North. Who knows what the distribution of constituencies will be, but I am truthfully very hopeful that in my area there will be another constituency created, so that the rural communities can be better represented than now. Mr. Curley mentioned something about whether -- well, I will just say that my constituency is very big, it has nine or 10 communities, and I really do feel the personal burden of having to represent such a large area and that many communities, and besides, we could create three more jobs in the North.

---Laughter

Question To Witness, Ruled Out Of Order

I would like to ask Mr. Daniels if, in his view, the work of the boundaries commission can be accomplished in four months or three months.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. Patterson.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: All of a sudden we do not like the answers the witness may give.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, that is the judgment.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the witness is being put in an unfair position of having to answer the very question that is being debated in the House.

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, he is an expert. That is why you brought him in here.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No, I told him when he came in here that he would be...

MR. MacQUARRIE: He is going to do what I tell him to do.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I invited Mr. Daniels here and I told him that the reason I would move that he be invited here is to answer factual questions -- that this was a highly emotional political debate and that I did not think Members would get him embroiled in the issues. I would respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the witness should not be expected to answer questions that are, in effect, not factual matters and that are, in effect, the subject of this debate, to be resolved at a political level. Thank you.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I am going to call that question out of order. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think I know the answer, but I would like to ask -- has there been any report from any committee of this House which could guide a boundaries commission? We have heard that there was a report given from a committee of this House to the former boundaries commission. I was not even a Member at that time. Is there a report from a committee of this House which could be given to any boundary commission that might be established as a result of this motion, and if so, could that report be produced to this committee?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I am sorry. There is no report at all. To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

Numbers Do Not Make Better Representation

MS COURNOYEA: I guess I am a little bit confused with all this stuff that is going on, and if I am going to be out of order, just someone tell me, because it seems to be an overall situation that we are embarking on right now. At the beginning of this Legislature, I took it upon myself to support a majority of people who elected to say that this was an interim government arrangement, and I have been fairly consistent in supporting that attitude until some very large constitutional issues were resolved. I have no objection to redistribution of boundaries, staying within the 22 present constituencies; however, I would like to say unequivocally that numbers do not necessarily make better representation. It is the dignity and good will and hard work of each individual person as he is elected, from wherever he comes from, and the amount of time and dedication they put into the job that they are about to do. So you can have just as many groups of people or individuals who will not represent them whether you are elected or not. Being elected does not make you pure.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: Now, I would like to state that to presume on many other constituencies that it is not necessary that 25 electoral districts would be made out of this hearing -- I think that is a

naive statement, and it is presumptuous, because I believe that if you offer people something -- the commission -- they will find ways and means to do that; and the way I see that increase coming is certainly in the West, and I certainly see it mainly in the southern Mackenzie area, and I do not know whether the individuals who are proposing that -- that you will have better representation by redistribution, because you really never know who is going to run in an election. I am not comfortable with the reasons why -- particularly Mr. Sibbeston all of a sudden is in love with the government when he spoke so hard to convince us that he was so poorly represented, and the East, or the Inuit, were getting all the services and not he. So I would like to hear more from him why all of a sudden that he feel this government is no longer an interim arrangement, and that we should increase to 25 Members, and then, consequently, also take the position or the interests of the Dene, who are striving for a certain kind of regime -- I would like to understand better from him why he has changed. I mean, I do not mind if he tells me he has two more SSHAG houses or stuff like that; I would like to find out from him the fundamental reasons why he feels comfortable after making such a strong statement that it was an interim arrangement government. I would like to better understand why he has changed his philosophy and he feels comfortable with the position he is taking now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion, Mr. Curley.

Motion To Amend Motion 7-82(3)

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion, and I would like to move an amendment on the resolution part on the fourth line right after the word "existing"; the words "size and number of" be deleted, and we put the figure "22" electoral districts; and further, on the last paragraph, I would add just before "recommendations" the word "redistribution".

MR. McLAUGHLIN: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The amendment is in order. A point of order, Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: A point of order, Mr. Chairman. The clear intent of the motion is to allow the boundaries commission to make the recommendations on the size and the number, and that changes the intent; and if you rule that that is in order, I shall challenge your ruling.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: He has already made his ruling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We will, then, report progress.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF MOTION 7-82(3), ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee was dealing with the Motion 7-82(3), Electoral Boundaries Commission, and my ruling was challenged.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. We shall take a 10 minute recess; I shall have to phone Don Stewart on this.

---Laughter

---SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

I call the House to order. The Speaker's ruling. The Chair has examined the amendment and the motion being amended, and finds that as the amendment does not propose to alter the intent of the main motion, the amendment therefore is in order. Thank you. We will resume in committee of the whole with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MOTION 7-82(3), ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this committee will come back to order. I would ask Mr. Curley to speak to his amendment. To the amendment.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. Tologanak?

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. With the way the motion was read, I would like to get a copy of the motion, please, with the amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think I am going to ask the Clerk to read it for me. The copies are not available at the moment. Let the Clerk read that amendment first.

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Hamilton): The amendment is to add in the "now therefore" clause on the fourth line, after the word "existing" to take out "size and number of" and replace it with the figure "22", "to study the existing 22 electoral districts"; and in the last clause, after the words "to implement the", adding the word "redistribution"; so it would read: "...the winter session 1983, to implement the redistribution recommendations of the electoral boundaries commission".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. MacQuarrie, clarification?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. The amendment was ruled in order, so I am interpreting what that must mean, then, and I believe I see it, and I would just ask for clarification if this is what it means: that we now say that the commission is to study the existing 22 electoral districts -- and that is what there are; there are 22 electoral districts -- and to present its recommendations regarding any changes before the next session of the Assembly. Therefore, the commission could decide that there should be changes to the size and number, and that therefore, the amendment has not really changed the intent of the initial motion. Is that the correct interpretation of the ruling? Thank you.

MRS. SORENSEN: What did you tell them for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Curley, do you want to speak to your amendment?

Changes Do Not Necessarily Mean More Ridings

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, in order to study the redistribution of any ridings, whether they be federal, provincial, or territorial -- electoral boundaries -- in order to redistribute those existing boundaries, you simply just cannot do it without setting up a commission, I think; so I put there that the commission should study the existing 22 electoral districts. I am in favour of that because in my riding there are people who are calling for changes. They would like to include some other communities, because the northern riding does not quite fit in with some other communities, so I would think that if this recommendation goes through, then there would be an opportunity to review that.

Otherwise, the motion is not calling for increasing the size to 25. I was not able to support that; that is why my amendment calls for deleting the words "size and number of" electoral districts, and replaces it with the specific figure of "22"; and that would allow the commission to even improve the present ridings in some areas to include other communities. For instance, I really believe that Yellowknife could possibly include some of the rural communities, so that they are represented. I do not know. Frobisher Bay could likely be the same. I am not convinced that just because centralized, populated areas have more population that they are...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the amendment, please.

MR. CURLEY: ...single representatives, so I believe in regional representation. I think the Territories has to remain that way; but once communities have developed to more of an urban type of communities, we tend to have accepted the fact that they ought to have just one Member, and not include other isolated communities. So I think my amendment would prevent that from happening, if we approved the present 22 electoral districts to adjust them in such a way that maybe that way we can serve the interests of everybody. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

Existing Boundaries Should Be Readjusted

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that this is a very important issue. I have said it before, I believe that in matters of electoral redistribution, when sitting Members are expressing opinions on constituencies, particularly their own constituencies, it is incumbent

upon all Members to ensure that fairness prevails, and I have been very concerned about the notion of increasing seats, because quite frankly, I have heard Members who support this motion say that their real reasons are for example to get more Dene in the House; and while this is a laudable objective, I do not think it is a reason to tamper with existing boundaries.

I would say, Mr. Chairman, that another major concern of mine has at least been partially answered by this amendment, in that I am very concerned about the size of the task that will be presented to this boundary commission; the fact that they are going to have to work very quickly at a very busy time of year, over the holiday season. I was very concerned that it would be impossible to do the job of looking at all 22 constituencies and somehow creating 25 or 24 or 23 out of this. I understand this amendment to clearly confine the numbers to be increased to nil; that is, we will simply look at adjustments in the existing 22 seats. I must say, I have been opposed to any increases in seats since the matter first came up in caucus, because I believe that this is a well balanced House. I believe that the first commission and -- the last commission did an excellent job. It did a thorough job and a fair job, and although there have been some changes in population shifts, I do not think anything has substantially changed since the commission did its work.

So I would say generally that I think this amendment is at least a compromise in that it would present a commission with a much more manageable task. I would also observe, Mr. Chairman, that this commission is clearly not going to have the benefit of a report from a committee of this House like the former commission had; we simply do not have such a report, nor do we have time to strike a committee to do the kind of work that the last committee of the House did. I am aware that the previous committee did a great deal of work, and did a very responsible job, but we do not have such a report now. We have no advice we can offer whatsoever to the new boundary commission, so I think it is all the more important that if we look at a change at this point, that we should confine it to readjusting the existing boundaries rather than creating new constituencies.

A Question Of Cost

I cannot understand Mr. MacQuarrie's question of clarification, because my understanding, Mr. Chairman, is that the amendment removed the words "size and number of" in the "now therefore" clause, so there is no ambiguity in this amendment as I see it. The amendment reads, "...to study the existing 22 electoral districts and to present its recommendations regarding any changes"; not changes in number, but changes in the boundaries. That is how I understand the motion to read. Mr. Curley clearly said the words "size and number of" were to be deleted. So there is no confusion in my mind; so I am inclined to support the motion, and I guess the amendment, although still with some reluctance, because I really wonder where we are going to find the money to pay for this commission. The Nunavut constitutional forum and the western constitutional forum have...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the amendment, please, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, I am talking about cost...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): That is not part...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, the cost is going to be reduced by a smaller task for the commission.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: He is still talking cost, Mr. Chairman. Out of order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Anyway, I was unsure whether we were going to be able to easily find a quarter of a million bucks -- it is probably \$300,000 now -- but especially at a time when we have just approved recommendations in other areas that will draw on our funds. But I do think that this lesser task will require perhaps less consultation in all parts of the Territories, in that they will probably look at the constituencies where the public and Members are complaining about their boundaries; and I would say that even my own constituency needs a little redefinition in that it includes Port Burwell, which is a community that the Northwest Territories has abandoned since the last election. So even in my constituency I can see a need for sort of updating things, but I do not see that it would cost as much as the previous commission, because we would just be looking at the more difficult constituencies. Just in closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask that the amendment be typed and translated before we vote on it. Thank you.

---Laughter

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Filibuster.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: It takes one to know one.

Restricted To 22 Members

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if our Law Clerk could clarify whether our understanding, or my understanding, of this motion -- that it does in fact restrict us to dealing with 22, if the intent of the amendment actually does the job?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Otherwise, it would be out of order.

LAW CLERK (Mr. Fuglsang): Could you just give me a second on this? Mr. Chairman, I think, in all fairness to your Law Clerk, that this is a motion and it is not law. It is not a legal opinion you require here, and if I were to offer an opinion as to the meaning of the motion -- other than the plain meaning that it represents -- I would feel that I am being drawn into the debate, and I really do not think that that is my position. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Law Clerk. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I do not know who can answer the question, but there seem to be some tickles across the way. The other day we did go into a ticklish situation, if you want to call it that, when people were calling "progress" and all that stuff, so I really would like to know from somebody whether the wording of this amendment is in fact limiting us to only deal within the 22 present seats, or does the motion with the amendment actually read now that we can have more? I would like to have an opinion on that. I do not know where you would get it from that, but I would like to have an opinion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard would like to answer that question.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I do believe that the Law Clerk is avoiding his responsibility. I believe what he is being asked is for an interpretation of the motion and I feel that it is part of his duties to tell us what the motion means. It is simply not asking for a legal opinion or an opinion that is not justified. Pure and simple, some of us do not understand some of these big fancy English words that are in the motion. Please tell us, in simple language, what does the motion say? Surely somebody can provide that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, in response to that question, after the Speaker's ruling was made, I offered an interpretation which seemed to be the only possible logical conclusion as to why the Speaker would rule that the amendment did not change the intent, and that conclusion was that the words "any changes" must mean that the commission could alter number and size. When I made that statement, and asked if that was a correct interpretation, the chairman, I believe, said "yes".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, I am more confused than ever, Mr. Chairman. Can the Law Clerk please indicate what is the meaning of the motion made, in pure simple ordinary language?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Ask the amender.

MR. SIBBESTON: As amended. I do not understand, what is so difficult?

MR. CURLEY: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I just do not think that there should be an opinion given to an amendment that has not been voted on. Certainly I think the question should be clear -- whether or not the question

relates to the original motion, prior to amendment being introduced. I think there have to be two opinions given, one to the original motion as presented, and the other one if the amendment were to be approved by this committee.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. McLaughlin?

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Defeated

MR. McLAUGHLIN: No, I would like to make a motion that we extend the sitting hours today to deal with this issue.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: No, it is too late.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The motion is in order, and not debatable. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard, a point of order?

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege, then. Mr. Chairman, my privilege as a Member has been affected, simply because I do not fully understand the meaning of the motion. We have people hired up there, who are supposed to be able to provide Members who do not understand what something means, legal or otherwise, -- to tell us what a motion is. I am simply asking you or one of your advisers, to tell the Assembly, what does the motion mean, so I can be in a position to vote yes or no on it.

MR. CURLEY: You have to be a lawyer to understand.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recognize the clock.

MR. CURLEY: Report progress.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Progress. At least we can all agree on that.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: You get everybody confused when you say, "Report progress."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order, please! Order, please. We are going to deal with that point of order for tomorrow. Now it is 6:00 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF MOTION 7-82(3), ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Motion 7-82(3), Electoral Boundaries Commission, and I wish to report progress.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. There is a meeting at 6:15 p.m. tonight in room 211 of the subcommittee of the special committee on division. Tomorrow, Tuesday, November 16, 9:30 a.m., Katimavik A, a caucus meeting. Members will recall that they have a luncheon engagement at Akaitcho Hall tomorrow, 11:30. I believe Akaitcho Hall is making transportation arrangements. At 12:00 noon tomorrow, the standing committee on rules and procedures meets in room 211.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, Tuesday, November 16, 1:00 p.m.

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: Motion 7-82(3); Bills 6-82(3), 12-82(3), 1-82(3), 3-82(3), 10-82(3), 13-82(3), 14-82(3), 16-82(3), 18-82(3)
14. Orders of the Day

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November the 16th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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